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Integrating Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) Capabilities Within the Maneuver Force

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Abstract: Currently, the U.S. Army does not possess an effective, agile capability to protect its maneuver force elements from rockets, artillery, or mortar threats. The Counter-Rocket Artillery Mortar (C-RAM) already protects a portion of Army land holdings and Navy ships, but the military lacks a maneuverable system to protect mobile units. The goal of this research is to determine the best way to integrate C-RAM capabilities into the maneuver force. Using an adjusted Borda count method via a survey, we collected responses from thirty-five subject matter experts. Our experts consisted of retired and active duty Air Defense Artillery officers, combat arms officers, Army acquisition personnel, and defense contract engineers. Analysis of the results allowed our capstone research team to understand varying preferences among the multitude of stakeholders and gain insight on potential solutions. This will allow future research teams to identify the optimal solution with further study.

Keywords: Counter Rockets Artillery Mortar (C-RAM), Maneuver Elements, Forward Operating Base (FOB), Combat Outpost (COP), Borda Count Method (BCM)