

Tactics for the Field Artillery

Field artillery platoon and/or battery in defensive operations

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Basic and recommended reading:

Basic:

Pub-35-14-01. *Bojové použití dělostřelectva*. Vyškov: Odbor doktrín VeV-VA, 2013. 203 s. – kapitola 8.

POTUŽÁK, L., VONDRÁK, J. Situační značky a zkratky- dělostřelectvo. Brno: UO, 2009. 49 s. [S-3082]

Recommended:

ČERMÁK, B. Použití dělostřelectva v boji mechanizované brigády. Brno: VA, 2004. 83 s. [S-2915]

Pub-31-10-02. *Taktika pozemních sil*. Vyškov: Odbor doktrín VeV-VA, 2011. 337 s. – kapitola 14 - 16.

Field artillery platoon and/or battery in defensive operations

Educational objective:

The place and role of the task force's artillery in fire support to defensive operations.

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Content:

- 1) Place and role of FA battery in defensive tactical activities
- 2) Fire support tasks in the course of defence
- 3) System of fire engagement
- 4) Combat formation
- 5) Maneuver in the course of defence
- 6) Tactics and procedures in the course of defence
- 7) Battery commanding procedures in the course of defence
- 8) Delay operations
- 9) Tactics and procedures for defence in specific conditions

1) Place and role of FA battery in defensive tactical activities

Defensive tactical activities perform units to repel the enemy who is in superiority in order to inflict losses and prevent his achievement of success in battle.

Defensive tactical actions (tactics, technics and procedures, TTPs) can weaken the enemy, but one cannot use them to achieve victory in battle.

Defensive operations

- defence operations
 - defend in sector
 - defend from a battle position
- delay operations

1) Place and role of FA battery in defensive tactical activities

Field artillery – via conducting fire support creates condition for combat forces (units) to accomplish their defensive mission given.

- FA general support (GS) tactical mission at defence
 - tube artillery
 - mortar units
- FA direct support (DS) tactical mission at defence

2) Fire support tasks in the course of defence

The determining factor in planning defensive operations is the depth of uncover of the enemy intends (course of action).

Conduct of defensive battle - Concept of operation

- division into phases
 - maneuver of combat units
 - supporting fires (FS)

2) Fire support tasks in the course of defence

Standard FS tactical tasks at the defence

- fire engagement of enemy troops advancing to own lines
- fire support in the sector of covering forces (units)
- fire support to repel assault onto main line of own defence
- fire support in the depth of own defence sector
- fire support for counter-attack

Suppression of Enemy air assets actions – key enabling factor for FA operations

3) System of fire engagement

- planning for defending operation is based on assumed enemy COA
- fires of all combat assets (incl. artillery) are planned to areas (directions) of potential Eny advance
- fire sectors (areas of engagement) are to overlap, planned in both depth and widths, supporting maneuver, covering obstacles
- FS - part of Fire Engagement System (FES)
- FES – TF COM responsibility

4) Combat formation

Positioning Areas for Artillery (PPA)

- use of max. available area to support sustainability and force protection
 - engineering (hardening) of positions
 - dispersion and maneuver
 - providing for security and self-defense in PAA

4) Combat formation

Main Positioning Area for Artillery (PAA)

- Tube artillery: 3-6 kms behind own front defensive line (FEBA)
- Mortar units: 1-2 kms behind FEBA

Alternate PAA

- into depth – at least one – 3-5 kms behind front-line maneuver Bns
- into width – in case of defending widths front

Temporary PAA

- nearby front defensive line (FEBA) – single batteries
- maximum range enegagement – GS task

5) Maneuver in the course of defence

Maneuver between Main and Alternate PAA

- on order or in consent of superior (TF) COM
 - sequenced relocation of PAA
 - (un)availability of FA fire support calculation
 - tactical move – 3 kms per minute

Maneuver within PAA

- under command of Bty CO
 - calculation of all available options

6) Tactics and procedures in the course of defence

Bty activities by Standard FS Tactical Tasks for defence:

- fire engagement of enemy troops advancing to own lines
- fire support in the sector of covering forces (units)
- fire support to repel assault onto main line of own defence
- fire support in the depth of own defence sector
- fire support for counter-attack

7) Battery commanding procedures in the course of defence

Assignment of FA Bty to a BnTF in Defend in sector/from position operation is non-standard (see concentration of force and fire principle for FA)

- tasks for FSE (FSCC – FSCOORD) as a part of TF COM recce over the front line of sector to defend
- tasks for Bty CO in the course of recce over the sector to defend
- tasks for Bty (ArtyBn) given by OPORD and Annex E – Fire Support
 - OPORD - FA Bty within ArtyBn
 - OPORD – Mortar Bty (FA Bty) within BnTF
- tasks to subordinates by a FA Plt Leader OPORD

8) Delay operations

The aim of Delay Ops is to exhaust the Eny and keep own fighting strength

- exchange of space for time
- combat power of FA has to be considerate for the future combat, in another area and time

FA in Delay Ops

- high demand on maneuver and coordination with maneuvering combat units
 - limited time for FS planning
 - focus on fire safety regulations (avoid fratricide fires)
 - heavy application fire coordination measures (avoid fratricide fires)
- higher number of PAA – 4-10 kms for maneuver

8) Delay operations

FS tactical task – depends on supported TF COM CONOPS

- concentrated fires and platoon fires
 - to delay and effectively weaken Eny
 - prevent bypassing of own troops
 - prevent destruction of own obstacles
- fire barrages – to stop (slow down) Eny advance
- covering fires – to support disengagement of own troops
- smoke fire mission

9) Tactics and procedures for defence in specific conditions

- mountains and forests ops
- urban area ops
- night time ops
- water obstacle crossing point ops
- withdrawal

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Tasks for individual work:

- 1) Clarify place and role of FA and mortar battery in fire support to defensive operations.
- 2) Discuss standard FS tactical tasks for defence.
- 3) Clarify fundamentals for the planning of defensive operations.
- 4) Discuss Fire Engagement System, its attribution to defence ops.
- 5) Characterize and discuss FA combat formation for defence ops.
- 6) Discuss FA commanding procedures for defence ops.
- 7) Characterize delay ops, discuss specifics of their FS.
- 8) Discuss tactics and procedures of FA for defence in selected specific areas and conditions.