

Tactics for the Field Artillery

Field artillery platoon and/or battery in offensive 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 7.

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 4 - 5.

Field artillery platoon and/or battery in offensive operations

Educational objective:

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

Field artillery platoon and/or battery in offensive operations

Content:

- 1) Place and role of FA battery in offensive tactical activities
- 2) Fire support tasks in the course of attack
- 3) Combat formation
- 4) Maneuver in the course of attack
- 5) Tactics and procedures in the course of attack
- 6) Relief in place and replacement of troops
- 7) Battery command in the course of attack
- 8) Tactics and procedures for other offensive activities and specific terrain or conditions.

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

Offensive tactical activities are activities led by units to achieve their goals, usually by offensive actions.

The main objective is to defeat the enemy in combat in order to break his will and capability to fight, and seize the key terrain. This usually includes:

- physical destruction of Eny troops, and/or/also
- seize terrain and/or part of territory,
- take over combat initiative,
- isolate, confuse, fix or erode the adversary coherence

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

Attack

- by planning
 - hasty attack,
 - deliberate attack,
- by the way of conduct
 - on Eny out of direct contact (unfold attack from own depth),
 - on Eny in direct contact (after relief in place/replacemet)

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

In the course of attack, FA primarily delivers:

- preparatory fires (in support of assault)
- covering fires (in support of displacement and assault)
- counter-battery fires

Assignment of FA Bty to BnTF is on specific occasions only

- FA general support (GS) tactical mission in attack
- FA direct support (DS) tactical mission in attack
- Mortar units mission and tasks

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2) Fire support tasks in the course of attack

Key planning factor for attack (offensive ops) is TIME

- **Time H** – time for Line of Attack crossing

Conduct of offensive battle - Concept of operation

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

General rules of using FA in attack

2) Fire support tasks in the course of attack

Standard FS tactical tasks in the course of attack

- artillery cover of unfolding (relieving/replacing) troops,
- artillery preparation of assault
- artillery escort of attack
 - 1st stage: fire assault
 - 2nd stage: fire escort of attack in Eny depth

3) Combat formation

Zone of attack is smaller in width than occupied to defend area.

Positioning Area for Artillery (PAA) is of limited size.

- Main PAA – for main DS tasks
 - Tube artillery: 2 – 4 kms from FLOT (LA)
 - Mortar units: 1-2 kms from FLOT (LA)

3) Combat formation

- Alternate PAA
 - In case of FA unit is forced to leave Main PAA
- Temporary PAA
 - in case of involvement – Reinforcing – GS tasks
 - aside of main effort
- Planned (follow on) PAA
 - planned behind the Eny lines for FS Escort of attack in Eny depth

4) Maneuver in the course of attack

To ensure FS effects on set time, FA units must be pre-positioned to PPAs. Once the attack started, FS of launching troops should not be stopped.

Maneuver between PAA

- on order or in consent of superior (TF) COM
 - sequenced relocation of PAA
 - FS should not be stopped (coordination with mortar units)
 - tactical move – 3 kms per minute

Maneuver within PAA

- based on Eny threat (air, airborne, arty CBT)
- under command of Bty COM
 - calculation of all available options

5) Tactics and procedures in the course of attack

Bty activities by Standard FS Tactical Tasks for an attack:

- artillery cover of unfolding (relieve in place/replacing) troops,
- artillery preparation of assault (ArtyPA)
 - standard ArtyPA
 - ArtyPA with maneuver of firing units
 - shorten ArtyPA
 - decentralized ArtyPA
- artillery escort of attack
 - 1st stage: fire assault
 - 2nd stage: fire escort of attack in Eny depth

6) Relief in place and replacement of troops

Relief in place and replacement of troops will be usually preceding any attack of troops in direct contact with enemy.

- Relief of troops
- Replacement of troops

6) Relief in place and replacement of troops

FA units during RIP and replacement of troops

- do RIP in place at the end, if ever
 - massing of artillery for the assault preparation
- provide for covering fires to RIP/replacing troops
- incoming FA units readiness prior to RIP of out coming FA
- ones recognized firing positions by Eny is forbidden to occupy again
- continuation of Arty Recce TA has to be ensured

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

7) Battery command in the course of attack

FA units in the course of attack

- FA Bty – organic to ArtyBn (standard option),
- FA Bty - assignment to BnTF (specific task option),
- M Bty – organic to MechBn.

7) Battery command in the course of attack

FCSS (FSCOORD) tasks and responsibilities for FS planning and coordination

- COM's recce at battlefield front lines.
- FS and Arty fires planning,
- Annex E – Fire Support.

Battery CO tasks and responsibilities in preparation for an attack

- recce on terrain and Eny front lines WarO,
- planning for engagement – OPORD,
- preparation of subordinate unit and terrain to occupy..

8) Tactics and procedures for other offensive activities and specific areas or conditions

- urban area ops
- night time ops
- feint attack
- break through
- forced crossing of water obstacle
- tactical airdrop

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Tasks for individual work:

- 1) Characterize tactical offensive activities.
- 2) Clarify place and role of FA and mortar battery in fire support to attack.
- 3) Clarify fundamentals for the planning of an attack.
- 4) Discuss standard FS tactical tasks for the attack.
- 5) Characterize and discuss FA combat formation for attack.
- 6) Characterize relive and replace of troops and discuss specifics for artillery units.
- 7) Discuss FA commanding procedures for an attack.
- 8) Discuss tactics and procedures of FA for other selected offensive activities and for specific areas or conditions.