

WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject: Artillery Tactics
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Topic: T9: Combat use of the artillery platoon and battery (6p + 2c + 2s + 2k)
Objective: Place and role of the field artillery battery (platoon) in fire support to a task force.

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1) Basics of the artillery support to task forces

In order to provide complex and effective Fire support the Field artillery is grouped by superior commander.

Massing of artillery means:

- assignment of FA units for the standard Indirect Fire Support (IFS) tactical missions (DS, GS, GSR);
- reinforcement of combat (maneuver) formations/TF by FA;
- displacement of FA to combat formation.

Massing of FA established before combat is changing in the course of the combat, depending on development of tactical situation and tasks.

Reinforcement of combat (maneuver) formations/TF by FA is organized by commanding officer superior to both, and it can be:

- assignment - DS usually;
 - o under direct control of TF COM;
 - o TACOM;
- allocation for support (attachment for specified support tasks - GS, GSR);
 - o remains under control of its FA COM;
 - o provides FS to FT COM in tasked areas, time or targets;
 - o OPCOM.

Grouping of FA for ACR Task forces

- 4th/7th BCT – assignment of Arty Bn incl. FSCC
- Bn TF – assignment
 - o up to FA firing battery
 - o always FSC cell + Arty Recce TA Platoon
- Coy TF – assignment of Arty Recce TA Squad + mortar/arty firing unit

2) Combat assembly

Combat formation is structured displacement (system) of elements of artillery units (formations) necessary for the preparation, direction and execution of both artillery fire and maneuver.

To deploy into a combat formation the artillery unit commander is to usually determine:

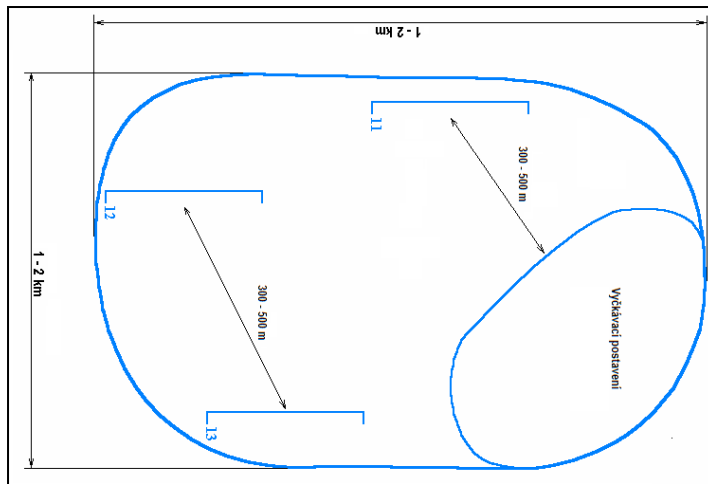
- firing areas,
- command post areas
- observation post areas for Arty Recce TA means under his/her command

Combat formation of ArtyBn = ArtyBn PAA + Arty Recce TA means:

- main CP including FDC,
- combat formation of its firing batteries,
- observation post areas of directly commanded Arty Recce TA means,
- rear Bn area (CSS - logistic and medical support).

Combat formation of Firing/mortar Bty = Bty PAA:

- CP by Bty FDC
- 1-3 up to 4 firing positions
- covering position
- covering position for ammo and/or towing vehicle



Tactical norms for PAA

- Arty Bn - 3-6 by 3-6 kms, 1 km between Bty`s, 2-6 kms behind FEBA
- Arty Bty – 1-2 by 1-2 kms, 2-6 kms behind FEBA
- SpM Bty – 1-2 by 1-2 kms, 1-4 kms from FEBA
- M Bty – 1 by 1.5 kms, 1-4 kms from FEBA

Battery Firing Position

- line of terrain prepared and/or occupied by firing unit to launch fire,
- prepared or unprepared,
- covered or uncovered against the ground optical recce,
- occupied by unit just for (before) launching the fire,
- shoot and scoot tactics
- disposition of Bty covering position,
- set up and distribution of Fire Support Elements – BnTF and BCT,
- disposition of Arty Recce TA Squads and METEO teams
- disposition of ARTHUR plt
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3) Combat capabilities

Combat capabilities refer on the ability of an artillery unit (firing batteries) to meet the requirements for fire support of combat units.

- calculated by FSO (FSCoord) at FSCC,
- reported to own Arty and supported COM,
- used for FS planning and Bty tasks management.

Combat capabilities division in ACR Arty:

1. maneuver and tactical movements capabilities
2. firing capabilities
3. Arty Recce TA capabilities
4. Arty C2IS capabilities

References

Basic

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Recommended

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