

WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject:	Artillery Tactics
Guarantor:	CPT Jan IVAN, Ph.D.
Lecturer:	CPT Jan IVAN, Ph.D.
Topic:	T11: Use of the artillery in offensive operations (2p + 2c)
Objective:	Describe the place and role of the task force's artillery in fire support to offensive operations.

Table of contents:

- 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) Relief in place and replacement of troops
- 6) Battery command in the course of attack
- 7) TTPs for other offensive activities and specific terrain and conditions.
- 8) References

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

Offensive tactical activities – key to success in combat.

- attack, pursuit raid, ambush, reconnaissance in force.

Attack – options:

- hasty attack or deliberate attack (by planning),
 - o on enemy out of direct contact (unfold attack from own depth),
 - o on enemy in direct contact (after relief in place/replacement of own troops).

In the course of attack, FA primarily delivers:

- preparatory fires and covering fires (to support of assault),
- counter-battery fires,
- FA general support (GS) tactical mission in attack,
- FA direct support (DS) tactical mission in attack,
- *assignment of FA Bty to BnTF is on specific occasions only,*
- mortar units mission and tasks.

2) Fire support tasks in the course of attack

General rules of using FA in attack – explanation. 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,
 - o maneuver of combat units,
 - o supporting fires (FS).

Standard FS tactical tasks in the course of attack

- artillery cover of unfolding (relieving/replacing) troops,
- artillery preparation of assault,
- artillery escort of attack,
 - o 1st stage: fire assault,
 - o 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 FS tasks of DS:

- Tube artillery: 2 – 4 kms from FLOT (LA),
- Mortar units: 1-2 kms from FLOT (LA).

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 in 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,
 - o sequenced relocation of PAA,
 - o FS should not be stopped (coordination with mortar units),
 - o tactical move – 3 kms per minute.

Maneuver within PAA

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

5) Tactics and procedures in the course of attack

Explanation of Bty activities by Standard FS tactical tasks for an attack:

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

FA units during relief in place and replacement of troops

- do RIP at the end, if ever,
 - o 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.

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.

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,
- night time,
- feint attack,
- break through,
- forced crossing of water obstacle,
- tactical airdrop.

References

Basic

Děl-1-1, 2018. *Bojové použití dělostřelectva armády České republiky*. Praha: Ministerstvo obrany ČR.

Pub-35-14-01. *Bojové použití dělostřelectva*. Vyškov: Odbor doktrín VeV-VA, 2013. 203 s. – kapitola 7.

IVAN, Jan, 2019. *Situační značky a zkratky pro dělostřelectvo: (vojenská symbolika a taktické značky pro dělostřelectvo dle APP-6) : studijní text*. Brno: Univerzita obrany v Brně. ISBN 978-80-7582-122-5.

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 a 5.