

WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject:	Artillery Tactics
Guarantor:	CPT Jan IVAN, Ph.D.
Lecturer:	CPT Jan IVAN, Ph.D.
Topic:	T12: Use of the artillery in defensive operations (2p + 2c)
Objective:	Define the place and role of the task force's artillery in fire support to defensive operations.

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

Defensive tactical activities (DTA) perform units to repel the enemy, who is in superiority in an attempt to inflict losses and prevent his achievement of success in battle. Defensive tactical actions (tactics, techniques and procedures, TTPs) can weaken the enemy, but one cannot use them to achieve victory in battle. Defensive TTPs.

- defence operations ,
 - o defend in sector,
 - o defend from a battle position,
- delay operations.

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

FA fires and fire support tasks are provided with framework of the Fire Engagement System, and includes:

- defensive fires,
- covering fires,
- repelling fires
- preparation fires (before counter-attacks),
- CBT activities and fires,

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

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).

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 attacks (activities) – key enabling factor for FA acting.

3) System of fire engagement

- planning for defending operation is based on assumed enemy intended (COA),
- fires of all combat assets (incl. artillery) are planned to areas (directions) of potential Enemy 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.

Main Positioning Area for Artillery (PAA)

- Tube artillery: 3-6 kms behind own front defensive line (FEBA),
 - related Standard FS tactical tasks,
- Mortar units: 1-2 kms behind FEBA.

Alternate PAA

- In depth – at least one – 3-5 kms behind front-line maneuver battalions,
 - related Standard FS tactical tasks,
- In width – in case of defending widths front.

Temporary PAA

- nearby front defensive line (FEBA) – single batteries,
- maximum range engagement – GS task,
 - related Standard FS tactical tasks.

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 COM
- calculation of all available options

6) **Tactics and procedures in the course of defence**

Explanation of 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 to 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 ,
- task for Bty (ArtyBn) given by OPORD and Annex E – Fire Support,
 - o OPORD - FA Bty within ArtyBn,
 - o 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 enemy 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,
 - o limited time for FS planning,
 - o focus on fire safety regulations (avoid fratricide fires),
 - o heavy application fire coordination measures (avoid fratricide fires),
 - o higher number of PAA – 4-10 kms for maneuver.

FS tactical task – depends on supported TF COM CONOPS

- concentrated fires and platoon fires,
 - o to delay and effectively weaken Eny,
 - o prevent bypassing of own troops,
 - o prevent destruction of own obstacles,
- fire barrage fires – 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 ops,
- withdrawal.

References

Basic

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