WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject: Artillery Tactics

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Topic: T15: Joint fire Support – combat documentation

                   (2p + 2c + 2k)

Objective: Describe command and control system, command and control processes and the combat documents to command an artillery battery.

Table of contents:
1) FA C2 system
2) C2 processes
3) Documents for command
4) References

1) The field artillery command system

The field artillery command system consists of:

- command authorities,
- command posts,
- devices and security elements of command and control.

System has to be effective and resistant. Within system are realized all processes of command a control.

Command and control, or C2, in a military organization is the exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commanding officer over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission. The term may also refer to command and control systems within a military system.

The 1988 NATO definition: Command and control is the exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated [individual] over assigned (resources) in the accomplishment of a (common goal).

Command and control functions are performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment, communications, facilities, and procedures employed by a commander in planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling forces and operations in the accomplishment of the mission.

To describe all command posts established in brigade system.

2) Command and control processes

Involve measures and processes during preparation and control of troops within combat.

Preparation:

- Immediately after OPORD or FRAGO.
- Result – own OPORD of field artillery commander

The Military Decision Making Process: MDMP
The Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) is a seven-step process for military decision making in both tactical and garrison environments. It is indelibly linked to Troop Leading Procedures and Operations orders.

The basic steps in the MDMP are:

a) Receipt of Mission
b) Mission Analysis
c) Course of action (COA) Development
d) COA Analysis (aka Wargaming)
e) COA Comparison
f) COA Approval
g) Orders Production

MDMP can be both slow and burdensome at lower levels, where small staffs do not have the manpower nor expertise to dissect each layer of higher headquarters' orders. The MDMP is intended as a planning tool for the primary staff of battalion sized units and larger as opposed to the "Troop Leading Procedures", which are used to guide units subordinate to battalions.

This process is not, according to doctrine, conducted below the battalion level.

3) Documents for command

OPORD
An Operations Order, often abbreviated to OPORD, is a plan format meant to assist subordinate units with the conduct of military operations. An OPORD describes the situation the unit faces, the mission of the unit, and what supporting activities the unit will conduct in order to achieve their commander's desired end state. Normally an OPORD is generated at the regimental, brigade, divisional, or corps headquarters and disseminated to its assigned or attached elements. The issuance of an OPORD triggers subordinate unit leadership to develop orders specific to the role or roles that the unit will assume within the operation. This more narrowly focused order borrows information from the original, or base, order (for example; weather, phase lines, radio frequencies, etc.) and adds additional details that pertain more to the minutiae of the actions a unit is tasked to conduct in support of the overarching operation.

A standardized five paragraph order format is used by every military troop types. An OPORD is formatted to organize an operation into five easily understood paragraphs:

1. Situation,
2. Mission,
3. Execution,
4. Sustainment (formerly Service and Support, currently referred to as Admin & Logistics by the US Marine Corps), and
5. Command and Control.

Higher echelon's OPORDs often contain extensive details. The author of the order will often move the majority of this material to an annex or appendix. These are then issued alongside the base order. The annexes and appendices allow the OPORD to be more easily read and understood by encouraging the inclusion or removal of material after its relevancy to the order's end user is determined.

References

Basic
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