

# **WRITTEN PREPARATION**

<b>Subject:</b>	Artillery Tactics
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<b>Lecturer:</b>	CPT Jan IVAN, Ph.D.
<b>Topic:</b>	T14: Joint fire support – planning (4p + 2c + 2k)
<b>Objective:</b>	To get acquainted with the principles and clarify the way of planning and coordination of fire support of the task force.

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### **1) Joint Fire Support planning**

Fire support planning and coordination is a continuous process.

Key aspects in fire support planning are:

- provide adequate support to the deployed units (combat units must have sufficient means of fire support to fulfill the combat task).
- to allow the concentration of fire (centralization of command of weapons, delegation of fire control to the lowest possible level).
- support the main effort (proportional allocation of more combat potential to the main effort area than for other activities).
- to support follow-up operations (occupying the premises so that they are suitably deployed for follow-up combat activities and timely provision of adequate ammunition supplies).

The tasks of fire support are based on a uniform "way of fulfilling the tasks" (intention, concept) of the commander of the ÚU (unit, unit) for fire support. "Unity" means the unified intention of the maneuver of combat units and its support by means of fire support.

The commander may and, as a general rule, delegates the authority to design the concept of fire support, plan and coordinate fire support and ensure the safety of fire in the operation to the chief of the workplace of fire support coordination.

However, the ultimate responsibility of the commander for ensuring the co-operation of fire support with the activities of combat units and the safety of fire remains indivisible.

To this end, a firing plan (Fire Support Plan) is being prepared by the staffs of the task forces (Chief of the MLP / SKP).

**The fires plan** is created in parallel with the planning of the battalion's combat (task force) and serves as a basis for the issuance of the BR commander of the task force.

- Conceptual matters elaborated in the Firing Plan serve as a basis for a unified "Intent to fulfill the task" (CONOPS) - point 3.a, BR command of the task force
- Details on the combat use of artillery and other fire support providers are then elaborated in Appendix "E" Fire Support BR Commander ÚU.

The fires plan is not a strictly formalized document and usually includes:

- **Text part**
  - o on the intention of the method of implementation of fire support (starting point of point 3.a BR) - expression of the will of the commander of the task force, what the means of fire support must meet,
  - o Fire support priorities - reflects the commander's instructions on the priorities of setting targets and acting on them (targeting effort), clarifies the availability of fire support resources in each phase of the operation and how and for whom they should be used in each phase of the operation
  - o on the tasks of artillery and other means of fire support (starting point of point 3.c and Annex "E" of the BR).
- **Graphic part** - map and oleates with the planned use of artillery and fire support
  - o on the deployment and possibilities of artillery of the ÚU (capability overalls),
  - o on the efforts of the superior artillery in favor of the UU,
  - o Fire support coordination measures.
- **Fires table** - for individual periods (tasks) of fire support.
- **Destination list** - list of all objects included in the destination list.

The firing plan is prepared by the staffs of the task forces and can be issued as a separate document. In this case, it is signed by the commander of the task force.

Units subordinate to the task force only process Fire Tables and Target Lists. For the needs of the commander of the task force (battalion, company), the chief of the fire coordination element will further prepare the Fire Support Execution Matrix, which simply demonstrates the connection of the combat unit maneuver with the fire support.

## **2) Joint Fire Support Planning – Fires Plan**

Artillery support planning is the main content of artillery planning. It is part of fire support planning and follows the same principles and guidelines. It is carried out by elements of fire coordination (FEM, SKP) in cooperation with its artillery commanders and the staff of the ÚU.

Artillery support planning includes:

- fire planning - fire planning,
- movement maneuver,
- Artillery reconnaissance, and
- ensuring the activities of units (units) in combat.

Firing planning (firing planning) is performed in order to create a system in space, time and purpose of coordinated firing. It is divided into general, specific and detailed fire planning.

- General fire planning is carried out on the basis of knowledge of the organization and armament of the enemy and information about its likely grouping and capabilities. General planning is performed by higher staffs, staffs of task forces, or artillery regiment.
- Specific fire planning is carried out on the basis of current reconnaissance data about the enemy. It is carried out by commanders and staffs of brigade and battalion task forces and the commander and staff of the artillery division or independent battery.
- Detailed firing planning is carried out on the basis of the coordinates of the enemy's objects and is carried out by the centers and places of coordination of fire and the centers and places of fire control.

The planning of the artillery maneuver is carried out in order to ensure the timely completion of firing tasks in close cooperation with the maneuver of the supported units.

The staff of the task force determines the areas for the deployment of artillery, the axes of movement for the capture of the combat formation, the areas of firing positions, coordination lines to begin the maneuver and standby time.

Artillery commanders and staffs determine:

- the method of moving and developing subordinates into a combat formation,
- the premises of the command posts (unless designated by the All-Army Commander),
- spaces of firing positions of subordinate units and spaces of elements of support and security,
- the premises of directly controlled means of artillery reconnaissance,
- about the axes of the maneuver in individual spaces,
- the method of relocation during the fight,
- Relocation times and standby times
- signals.

The planning of artillery reconnaissance is carried out with the aim of providing intelligence to the combat activity of artillery and to determine the reconnaissance data for the preparation of shooting and fire control (survey data).

The planning of securing the activities of artillery units is carried out with the aim of ensuring the combat activity of artillery, especially its ballistic, topographic and meteorological preparation necessary for the preparation of shooting and fire control and comprehensive logistical support.

## **References**

### Basic

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### Recommended

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