

WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject: Artillery Tactics
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Topic: T18: Targeting (2p + 2c)
Objective: To characterize the process of targeting ground forces within the process of planning and managing fire support of task forces.

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1) Targeting definition

Targeting means the process of selecting and prioritizing objectives and the appropriate way to act on objectives in accordance with the operational requirements and capabilities of the units. Targeting of ground forces is an integral part of the planning and decision-making process and is focused on ground operations at the brigade level (based on a brigade task force) and higher.

This process supports the commander in his decision. It is used in the whole spectrum of operations and focuses on aspects that will lead to the successful achievement of the objectives of the operation (combat mission) set by the commander with minimal use of force and maximum effect. The purpose of targeting is the efficient and effective use of own resources.

In terms of combat support, targeting is assisted by elements of combat support to ensure the activities of troops with respect to mobility, airspace protection, civil-military cooperation, psychological operations, intelligence, electronic warfare, protection against WMD and industrial hazardous substances. From the point of view of artillery and fire support of types of troops, this process is used for fire planning and for planning and synchronization (coordination) of fire support.

TARGETING must also result in due consideration of collateral damage or additional effects. The effects can spread and create unintended consequences, usually in the form of non-military damage. Planning must consider the risk of unintended consequences under normal practice with respect to the Armed Conflict Laws (LOAC) and the Code of Conduct (ROE).

2) Targeting functions

The Targeting methodology is based on four functions:

- a) decision
- b) detection and monitoring
- c) action (deliever)
- d) assess

The targeting methodology is called D3A.

The individual targeting functions intersect with each other. It is a rational and repetitive process. Targeting principles are used regardless of force components and operating conditions.

Decision function

The decide function is the initial part of the cycle. This feature is helpful in setting priorities for information gathering and efficient planning. It is usually carried out in parallel with the staff's efforts in evaluating and collecting intelligence.

Detection function

During this function, the intelligence elements of the staff oversee and coordinate the resources of the intelligence collection plan. It is essential that all available allocated systems (from master, slaves, neighboring units) are used efficiently and effectively. Duplication of effort should be avoided unless confirmed target information is required.

High Priority Targets (HPTs) must be identified in a timely and accurate manner. The information collected and processed is used, as appropriate, to update and complete the List of Particularly Important Objectives (HPTL) and AGM. The collection of intelligence should be continuous. The practical use of this function is to implement a plan for collecting intelligence.

The MONITORING function complements the detection function, but differs from it in that target tracking requires special management procedures. The monitoring of objectives will be approved during the decision phase and will be expressed in the AGM. Once particularly important targets have been identified which cannot be overflowed immediately, but overflows are planned at a later stage or need verification, they must be monitored. The reconnaissance resources assigned for monitoring will not be able to perform other tasks. When receiving information about a new target, during the implementation of intelligence collection, this target is inserted into the list of targets and, if necessary, its analysis is performed. It is important that full reports are provided on the target.

This feature should answer the following questions:

- Where are the goals?
- Who or what can find out, locate targets?
- What accuracy of finding the goal will be required for its effect?
- How long will we require action on the target from the time of its discovery?

The main implementer of the detection and monitoring function is group S - 2. Its final product within this function is intelligence and survey information collection plans and target selection standards (TSS).

Overflow function

The main activity during the execution function is to act on the targets in order to achieve the desired effect according to the AGM. Allocating lethal means to destroy conventional targets can be relatively simple, while managing the use of non-lethal means can prove more difficult. Important goals can also occur outside the planning and decision-making process. These targets are processed in the same way as planned HPTs. Objectives that are not included in the HPTL are first evaluated and then it is defined when to act on them (lead an overflow).

The final tactical decision is to confirm the choice of appropriate means to act on each target according to the AGM. For the intended purposes, this decision will be made during the term of the decision. Carrying out the inspection will ensure that the selected funds are available and can act on the objectives according to the plan. If this is not the case, the targeting team must determine the most appropriate means available to influence the selected targets. In some cases, more than one means may be used to overflow the same target.

The overflow management function should answer the following tactical and technical questions:

Tactical issues

- When should the target be attacked (attacked)?
- What is the desired effect?
- What (firing) system (with lethal / non-lethal effect) should be used?

Technical issues

- What (type of) unit will lead the attack (act on the target)?
- What number and type (type) of ammunition will be used?
- What is the reaction time of the attacking units (units acting on the target)?

The Targeting group determines (defines) how a fire attack (firing action, attack) will be performed on each target. All possible means of attack should be considered. The goals we will pursue should optimize capabilities:

- light and heavy ground forces,
- attack helicopters,
- means of indirect fire (artillery, mortars),

- engineering units (countermobility),
- direct air support (CAS),
- EB,
- psychological operations,
- civil affairs,
- deception,
- GBAD.

Assess function

Evaluation is the final function of targeting and consists in determining the effectiveness of overflows on selected targets. The evaluation is performed continuously as soon as the action is performed and the results of the action are known. Combat assessment includes combat damage assessment (BDA), Munitions 'Effect Analysis (MEA) and recommendations for countermeasures.

The intelligence elements of the staff are generally responsible for drawing up the BDA. MEA is an evaluation of the effectiveness of a selected overflow management system and is generally an operational function of the staff. The combination of BDA and MEA provides the staff with the required information to support the commander's decision.

3) Decision Making Process

Operation planning is one of the most important aspects of success in an operation. Knowledge of local conditions, terrain and intelligence assessment is the key to detailed planning of the operation and subsequently to its implementation. The evaluation of the area of operation, own forces and resources indicates to us the ability of the task force to fulfill the tasks set by the commander. In the targeting process, information about identified targets is used for analysis and subsequent assignment to resources that monitor, act, and then evaluate lethal or non-lethal effects on targets.

The planning and decision-making process is designed to create synchronization of unit activities in the operation, their security and replenishment. The planning and decision-making process intertwine and complement each other with the targeting process. The commander is responsible for targeting at each level of command. Therefore, it is important that he issues planning guidelines for the elaboration of objectives and sets their priorities. The commander may delegate the targeting management authority to a staff member with appropriate experience. A Targeting Working Group (TWG) is created for the coordination, timing and implementation of the targeting process.

In each staff, a targeting working group is created, which performs tasks related to targeting (hereinafter referred to as the "targeting group"). The members of the targeting group must be representatives of the intelligence, planning, operations department (including fire support representatives) and a lawyer. The targeting group can be expanded, if necessary, by other staff specialists (types of troops). The detailed composition of the targeting group depends on

organizational requirements and may vary according to the level of command. This group is created on an ad hoc basis at the level of the BÚU command. It is necessary to create a targeting group efficiently and coordinate it throughout the operation (task). In the conditions of the Czech Armed Forces, when creating a group, it is necessary to consider within the limits given by the organizational structure, staffing of elements of command posts and ensuring the exchange rate in the task force. Staff officers must know the planning and decision-making process and must be able to process input information so that they can transmit it in the form of contributions to the master's plan, orders and regulations.

The group meeting is governed by the instructions of the NŠ or the officer in charge of targeting management and serves to integrate targeting within the planning and decision-making process. The purpose of the meeting is to synchronize the combat power of units and resources through the targeting functions. Verification and updating of objectives, allocation of resources for action on identified objectives and tasks to means for monitoring and evaluation of effects in the objective are performed. The main task is to keep and update targeting documentation focused on the task and intention of the commander in the operation. The frequency of meetings is governed by the fighting rhythm and the operational situation.

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