

WRITTEN PREPARATION

Subject: Artillery Tactics
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Topic: T19: Joint Fire Support Management (2p + 2c + 2k)
Objective: To get acquainted with the principles of management of joint fire support from the position of command posts of supported task forces.

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1) Joint Fire Support

Fire support is a decisive factor in the combat support of troops, and without its quality implementation, the success of all-army forces in combat cannot be guaranteed. It represents, in particular, the use of firepower through artillery fire, strikes by combat and armed multi-purpose helicopters, air and naval strikes or even electronic strikes by means of electronic warfare.

"Fire support is the collective and coordinated use of ground-based and sea-based indirect fire systems, armed aircraft, air force, electronic combat and non-lethal ammunition against ground targets to support combat operations at both operational and tactical levels." 31-10-02, p. 38]

The definition given here (Pub-31-10-02) emphasizes the collective and coordinated nature of fire support and associates fire support with indirect fire from ground and surface artillery weapon sets together with air fire. With this concept, it essentially meets the definition of Joint Fire Support (JFS) as given in AArtyP-5.

„JFS is the coordinated and integrated employment of all weapon platforms delivering fires to achieve the required effects on ground targets to support land operations in the full spectrum of conflict. It encompasses the integration of indirect fires and effects in order to influence the adversary forces, installations or functions. “[AArtyP-5]

Fire support must always be coordinated with the maneuvering forces of the forces in order to destroy, silence, repel the enemy or disrupt his efforts.

The fire support system consists of three elements:

- command and control subsystem (equipment and personnel to manage the procedures necessary to act rapidly and effectively on targets);
- goal setting subsystem;
- firing subsystem (weapons and ammunition - land, air, sea).

Crucial to effective fire support is the ability of the task force commander to use all available means of fire support in a coordinated manner, to synchronize their use with the combat unit maneuver and to ensure the sustainability of fire support.

Artillery support, as part of fire support is carried out by firing (firing overflows) from covered firing positions.

For the effective incorporation of fire (artillery) support into the combat plan (CONOPS) of the task force commander, its planning and coordination is carried out - in purpose, space and time.

Fire support planning is a continuous process of conducting analyzes, allocating efforts (priorities) and determining the time and place of fire support (fire action) in accordance, and to support the combat plan of the commander of the CA. It takes place at the same time as the planning of the fight.

The goal of fire support planning is to ensure that the most appropriate means of fire support from available providers are used, in the right place, at the right time to achieve the desired effect.

The basic output of fire support planning is the Fire Support Plan at the level of BÚU (PrÚU) and above. In the ACR conditions, it is usually referred to as the Firing Plan.

The main responsibility for using the available means of fire support to support his fight rests with the commander of the combat forces (UU).

Fire support coordination is a continuous process of implementing (implementing) the outputs of fire support planning and managing the use of available fire support resources to support combat units.

The aim of fire support coordination is to ensure maximum use of all available means of fire support while minimizing the negative effects of fire on one's own troops (fratricide fire) and unwanted collateral damage.

Fire Support Coordination Measures (FSCM) and Air Control Measures (ACM) are used to ensure fire safety (clearance of fire).

Planning and coordination of fire support takes place at all levels of command from the company upwards. To this end, fire support teams (FST) are assigned to combat companies, and fire support coordination elements (FSE) are assigned to task force staffs.

The conditions of the ACR are usually:

- combat company - artillery reconnaissance team with the ability of JFO (13.dp) and possibly. and the team of advanced air traffic controllers (Forward Air Controller, FAC, 22.zL)
- Battalion (PrÚÚ) - Fire Coordination Site and Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)
- Brigade (BÚÚ) - Fire Coordination Center and TACP, or the team of Air Liaison Officer (ALO)

Fire support elements are created by FS Coordination Cell (FSCC) staffs and centers in the staffs. Representatives of other fire support providers, such as naval forces, will also be included in the fire support coordination centers.

The aim of planning and coordination of fire support is to ensure the availability (rapid and effective provision) of all available means and effects of fire support at the lowest possible level, including the company. The trend, therefore, is to create integrated teams and elements of fire support at the tactical levels of command (company, battalion or even brigade), not an ad hoc solution, which is currently applied in the ACR.

The role of the chief coordinator (manager) of fire support and adviser to the commander for fire support belongs, in accordance with AArtyP-5, to the highest artillery commander or official at the given level of command. Ie. usually:

- Commander of the DPz team at the combat company,
- Chief of FEM at the battalion,
- division commanders, or to the Chief of the SKP on the brigade (BÚÚ).

The Air Control Measures (ACM) is responsible for the coordination of airspace (ACM) of the individual elements of the coordination of fire support..

2) JFS 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.

3) Artillery Support Planning

See T14.

References

Basic

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Recommended

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