CHAPTER 3

THE "HOW" OF FIRE SUPPORT PLANNING

Section I. INTRODUCTION

General

The goal of fire support planning is to know the maneuver commander's guidance, intent, and scheme of maneuver and to coordinate fire support assets to support the operation. This chapter offers considerations to use in planning offensive and defensive operations. It does not address the commander's intent or factors of METT-T. Therefore, each FSO from company through brigade must add those two items to the considerations to adequately plan and coordinate fire support for an operation. The product of fire support planning is the fire support plan, a key component of the commander's operation plan. The plan must be simple flexible, and descriptive. It must support the scheme of maneuver and the commander's intent.

Maneuver Tactics and Fire Support

In the process of integrating fire support into opperations, the most important considerations are adequacy, flexibility, and continuity. The FSO ensures that these primary considerations are observed by carefully weighing the fire support tasks required for each maneuver operation.

Offense

The primary purpose of the offense is to destroy the enemy. The fire support tasks associated with offensive operations are as follows:

- Provide responsive fires to maneuver.
- Attack deep targets with massed indirect fires and TACAIR.
- Use aggressive counterfire.

Before the attack, soften enemy defenses by attacking–

- Indirect fire systems.
- Reserves and command and control facilities.
- Logistical centers.
- Assembly areas.
- Communication centers.
- Frontline troops.

During the attack, provide support by using all available fire support (including TACAIR) to destroy, neutralize, or suppress high-payoff targets that could slow or react to the attack.

During consolidation, plan fires (including TACAIR)–

- To protect friendly units as they reorganize.
- To break up enemy counterattacks.
- To prevent enemy reinforcement, disengagement, or resupply.

Defense

The primary purpose of the defense is to defeat an enemy attack and destroy enemy forces. Other objectives may be to retain a piece of terrain, to gain time, to concenrate elsewhere, and to wear the enemy down before offensive operations. The main fire support tasks to support the defense are as follows:

- Integrate indirect and direct fires in support of the operation.
- Disorganize, delay, and weaken the enemy before the attack begins.
- Strip away enemy AD and reconnaissance (recon) elements.
- Strike the enemy as he attacks.
- Deny the enemy avenues of approach.
- Canalize the enemy.
- Suppress the enemy fire support system.

Section II. FIRE SUPPORT PLANNING FOR THE OFFENSE

Offensive Operations

The primary purpose of an offensive operation is to destroy the enemy. Critical to the success of offensive operations are gaining and retaining the initiative and forcing the enemy to tight and react at a time and place not of his choosing. This section describes fire support considerations for the following offensive operations and techniques:

- Movement to contact.
- Hasty attack.
- Deliberate attack.
- Exploitation.
- Pursuit.

Movement to Contact

Description

A movement to contact is an offensive operation designed to gain initial ground contact with the enemy or to regain lost contact. It is used to develop the situation early to provide an advantage before decisive engagement. The primary consideration in preparing for a movement to contact is anticipating enemy actions during the movement. Such anticipation provides for friendly deployment in a manner that affords the greatest possible security to the main body while facilitating quick strong reaction when the contact is made.

Fire Support Considerations

Immediately responsive fires are provided initially to the lead element and then to the lead company as contact develops. Responsive tires are provided by-

- Assignment of priorities of fire.
- Allocation of priority targets to the company and/or team performing a mission requiring responsiveness.
- Responsive repositioning of firing batteries by the artillery S3 as the movement to contact progresses.
- Effective positioning by forward observers and/or COLTs.
- Integration of additional assets, such as the immediate response of mortars on contact with the enemy.

Responsive fires are also provided by effective assignment of forward observers to the available communications nets. Assignment can give specific observers priority of response. The quick fire net and the exclusive net are options. They do not prevent the firing unit from answering calls for fire from other than the specific observer.

- A **quick fire net** (voice) authorizes direct association of an observer with a selected weapon system (normally field artillery). Although the designated observer is not the only observer on the net, he has the highest priority for calls for fire. In a voice net, the net control station (NCS) (normally the FDC) will restrict all other net traffic immediately on receiving a request for fire from the priority observer. In a quick fire net (digital), the designated observer maybe given priority in the tactical fire direction system (TACFIRE) or the observer may be allowed to communicate directly with a designated battery computer system (BCS). (See TC 6-40A.)

NOTE: In either digital case, the operators must diligently and continuously review input queues to ensure immediate actioning of the priority call for fire.

- An **exclusive net** is a fire direction net to be designated (as a field expedient) for exclusive use for a limited period of time by the observer and the appropriate FDC. No other subscriber will enter the net except in an emergency. This procedure will be used only for special situations. The commander, considering the factors of METT-T, must determine that absolute responsiveness to a specific unit is mandatory. This procedure requires frequencies

and radio equipment that are normally not readily available. For example, the FDC may not be able to monitor a normally required net for the limited period of time designated, but it will always monitor its normal fire direction net.

On the basis of the commander's guidance, schedule fires on deep targets with massed fires and TACAIR. Plan fires on and around reserves and logistics sites to hinder their movement onto the battlefield. Plan fires on flanks to protect the flanks and to reduce the number of maneuver forces committed to the flanks.

Plan fires on the terrain to be traversed and on the flanks to protect the force. As maneuver forces move, fire immediate suppression missions to help the maneuver forces get within range of the enemy direct fire weapon systems. Fire immediate smoke to obscure OPs, screen friendly movement, and help maneuver forces breach obstacles. COLTs may be positioned forward near the advance guard in an overwatch position (pm) to provide responsive fires when contact is made. Once contact with the enemy is made, the FSO must be prepared for either a hasty attack or a defense.

Place coordinated fire lines (CFLs) well forward of friendly maneuver forces. Plan on-order (O/O) CFLs on phase lines so that CFLs can be quickly lifted and shifted.

Hasty Attack

Description

The main goal of a hasty attack is to seize the initiative. A hasty attack is usually conducted after a movement to contact, during a counterattack, or when unexpected enemy contact is made. The commander attacks quickly from his existing dispositions to gain the upper hand or to keep the enemy from organizing resistance. Planning time is extremely limited.

Fire Support Considerations

Develop fire plans to concentrate fires on forward enemy elements. If time permits, use quick fire planning techniques to plan fires. Fires should be massed on the forward units and are continuous until the final coordination line is crossed or as directed by the commander.

Suppress direct fire weapon systems to allow friendly maneuver forces to get within range of the enemy direct fire weapon systems for engagement.

Use screening smoke to provide an artificial camouflage for friendly forces moving to the enemy. Use obscuring smoke to obscure enemy OPs and direct fire weapon systems.

Isolate the enemy force being attacked by the use of deep fires. FASCAM may be used around enemy reinforcements and logistic sites and on approaches leading into the immediate battle area Dual-purpose improved conventional munitions (DPICM) may be used to inflict damage on soft-skinned vehicles in assembly areas and logistic sites.

Deliberate Attack

Description

A deliberate attack is characterized by thorough detailed planning, rapid concentration of forces, timely exploitation of enemy weaknesses, violent execution, and positive aggressive leadership at all echelons of command. It involves overcoming strong enemy forces in established positions and is undertaken after thorough reconnaissance acquisition and development of targets, and analysis of all other factors affecting the situation.

Fire Support Considerations

During the attack, provide immediately responsive fires to the lead company by assigning priority of fire support. COLTS may be placed forward on prominent terrain to engage targets early.

Throughout the operation, plan for the attack of deep targets to block movements of reserves and follow-on forces into the close-in battle area. Plan FASCAM to limit enemy movement but not to interfere with friendly maneuver. As targets are acquired, forward

them to the higher FS cell for engagement, if necessary. The brigade FSO will inform the FS cell of the current FLOT and radiation exposure state (RES) status to expedite the employment of a division nuclear subpackage to support deliberate attack. Additional nuclear considerations are in Appendix H.

Plan fires to support maneuver phases of the operation. When determining the number of targets to be planned, balance the need for fires with the reality of time and resources available. Plan groups and series to support the movement. Plan fires –

Ž On the flanks to protect the force.

Ž On the way to the objective to engage enemy OPs, enemy direct fire systems, and enemy elements that might be bypassed.

Ž To screen friendly movement and support minefield breaching.

Ž On the objective to suppress, neutralize, and destroy targets.

Ž Beyond the objective to prevent counterattacks, help consolidate the objective, and prevent reinforcement of the objective area by the enemy.

Support consolidation on the objective. Plan fires to prevent reinforcement of the enemy on the objective (obj) and to defeat enemy counterattacks (groups, series, designated priority targets, and FPFs). Plan for a hasty attack or defense.

Preparation fires may be planned and delivered.

To deceive the enemy into thinking an attack is taking place elsewhere, plan and deliver fires in support of the deception plan. These may be massed fires and smoke delivered before the attack begins on forward enemy elements not in the main attack.

Plan CFLs well forward to keep the maneuver forces from outrunning the CFLs and to give the forces enough room in which to move. Additionally, the brigade FSO must use on-order CFLs to rapidly place new CFLs in effect.

Plan suppressive fires on enemy overwatching direct fire systems to help maneuver direct fire systems engage the enemy systems. Plan smoke to screen movement, obscure enemy OPs, and help in breaching operations.

Plan massed fires at breakthrough points to create holes in enemy defenses. Also, plan heavy suppressive fires on the other side of the intended breakthrough.

Plan for a hasty defense.

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK

The 1st Bde commander received the mission to conduct a deliberate attack from the division commander, While at the division CP, the brigade commander and FSCOORD were briefed on fire support for the operation. Fire support assets allocated to the brigade are described below.

FA missions

2-78 FA (155, SP): DS 1st Bde

3-17 FA (155, SP): GSR 2-78 FA

Status

2-78 FA: 89 percent personnel strength, 16 howitzers operational

3-17 FA: 92 percent personnel strength, 17 howitzers operational

Required supply rate (RSR)

2-78 FA: 240 rounds per tube per day

3-17 FA: 230 rounds per tube per day

Controlled supply rate

The CSR for 1st Bde for the next 24 hours is as follows:

Munitions	107 mm	155 mm
HE	60	35
DPICM		150
Smoke	20	10
Copperhead		16
Area denial artillery munition (ADAM)		4
Remote antiarmor mine system (RAAMS)		8
Illuminating (illum)	15	17

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

TACAIR missions

The brigade is allocated the following TACAIR missions:

Number	Type	Available	Mission	Remarks
2	A-10	0530 to 1030	CAS	Ground alert
2	F-16	0830 to 1230	CAS	Ground alert
2	A-7	1030 to 1430	CAS	Ground alert

No corps or division fire support coordinating measures are in effect.

Short-duration FASCAM is under the control of the division commander. Long-duration FASCAM is kept under the control of the corps commander. There are enough mine munitions for the DS battalion to provide one 400- by 400-meter, short-duration, high-density RAAMS minefield, if approved by division. No division preparation (prep) fires are planned; brigades may plan their own, if required.

Target list

The division FS cell has complied the division target list. Targets (extracted from TACFIRE) located in the brigade sector or affecting the brigade mission are as follows:

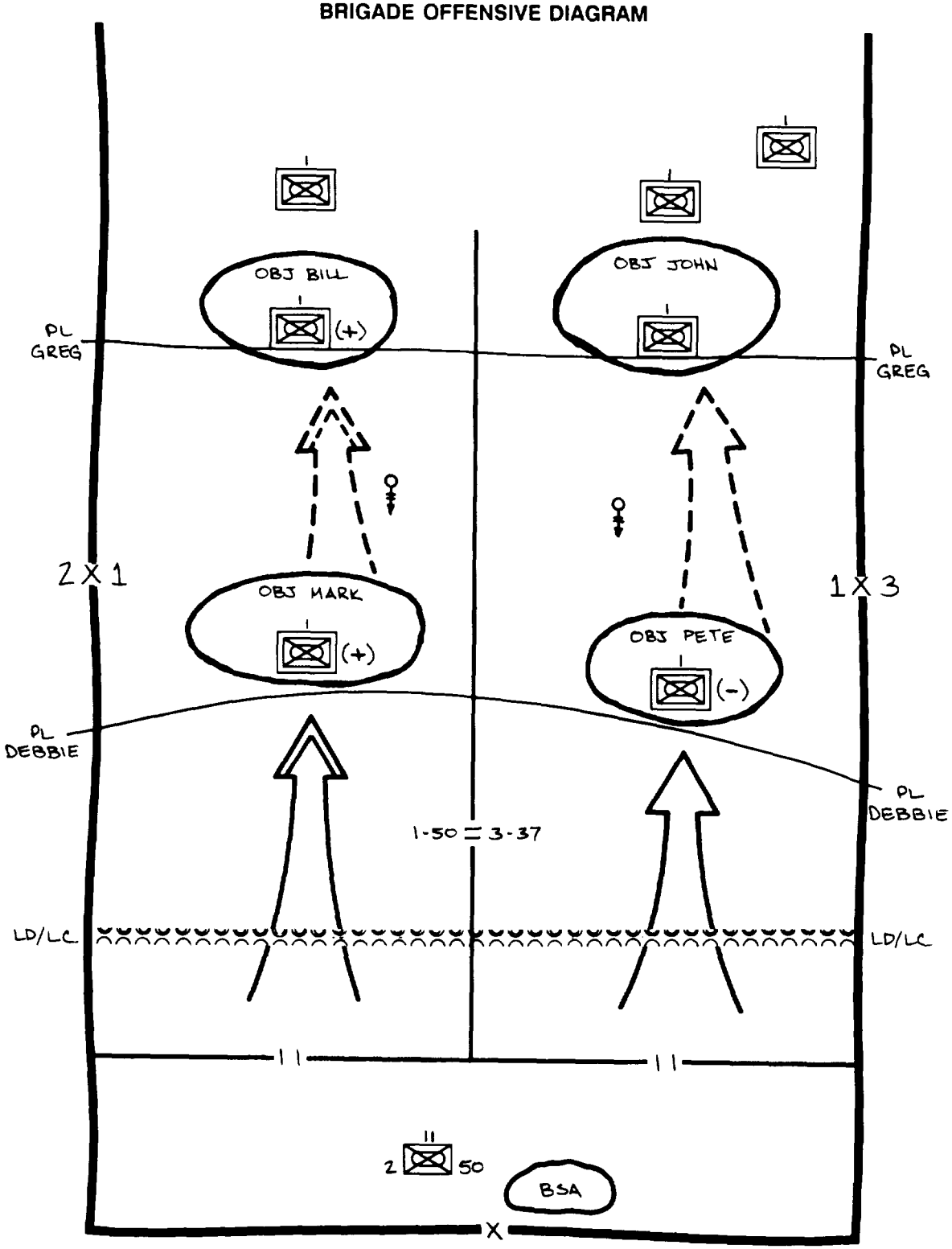
Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
38	AA0072	Mortar position	Air reconnaissance	Counterfire program
39	AA0073	Howitzer battery	Air reconnaissance	Counterfire program
40	AA0076	Mortar position	Air reconnaissance	Counterfire program

The brigade commander's initial planning guidance is as follows:

"The brigade will attack at 0600 tomorrow (16 hours from now). Division has assigned intermediate and find objectives for us to take. As it looks, the 1-50 Mech zone is going to be the area of greatest resistance. We've got to take those objectives quickly. "I want a prep to start the battle to surprise the enemy. I don't think he can recover in time to a difference. As my battalions move to the objective, I want smoke. Because of the open terrain, I want to ensure that enemy antitank weapons are killed or at least suppressed as soon as possible by artillery and mortars."

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

BRIGADE OFFENSIVE DIAGRAM



EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

The brigade S2 makes his analysis and determines the enemy strength within the brigade sector to be approximately 70 percent. He also determines that the most Iikely course of action is for the enemy to defend tenaclously in the brigade sector. The enemy has had several days to prepare positions, and he is dug in with overhead cover in many places.

The weather is favorable for the attack. The ground is solid and provides good avenues of approach into the area. The open terrain gives the enemy good fields of fire.

The brigade S3 reviews the division OPORD and guidance given by the brigade commander. After reviewing the information provided by the S2, the S3 recommends the boundaries as shown in the brigade offensive diagram. The brigade wiII attack with two battalions on Iine and a third battalion in reserve.

From the brigade commander's briefing and fire support planning guidance, the brigade FSO determines the following information:

- The brigade will be attacking with two battalions on Iine. Available fire support assets will be spread thin. Therefore, the FSO must prepare to forward targets to the division for engagement, if required.
- Priority of fire (POF) should be to the 1-50 Mach.
- Suppressive fires on antitank guided missiles (ATGMs) and counterfire are critical to the operation.
- A need for smoke, beyond that normally carried by FA battalions, exists. Currently the DS artillery battalion can provide about 10 minutes of smoke. The FSO notifies the FA battalion of the additional ammunition requirement. Also, he notifies the S3 and engineer representative of this shortage so that other smoke sources can be used (such as smoke pots, mortars, and tanks).

After evacuating the brigade commander's guidance and the resources available, the brigade FSO makes the following recommendations to the brigade commander:

"Sir, ammunition poses a problem in the support of the prep. With our Iimited CSR, I recommend that we do not fire a prep. Instead, I recommend that we fire groups of targets and a counterfire program to support the operation. Also, I recommend that we only suppress targets instead of destroying them, which would require considerably more ammunition. We just need to keep the enemy's head down long enough for the battalions to get within direct fire range. Further, I recommend that we plan to use two of the allocated CAS missions, the F-16s and the A-7s, on the final objectives to prevent the enemy from reinforcing the intermediate objectives.

"With our most difficult sector being that of the 1-50 Mech, I recommend giving it priority of fire.

"I recommend that we have an initial CFL on PL DEBBIE with an on-order CFL on PL GREG."

The brigade FSO also reviews the target list with the brigade commander.

After being briefed by the rest of his staff, the brigade commander approves the brigade S3's scheme of maneuver. He calls his battalion commanders together at his CP to issue the operation order:

"The brigade will attack at 0600 with two battalions, 1-50 Mech and 3-37 Mech, abreast to seize Intermediate Objectives MARK and PETE and, on order, continue the attack to seize Objectives BILL and JOHN. The 2-50 Mech will be the brigade reserve, On order, it will pass through 1-50 Mech and continue the attack.

"Within each battalion zone is a motorized rifle battalion. Each battalion has had several days to prepare its positions. The strength of the motorized rifle regiment is much less than ours (70 percent compared to our 92 percent). However, I expect taking the positions to be difficult, as they are well dug in with obstacles. The strongest resistance will be in the 1-50 Mech zone. I want the priority of fire support to go to that battalion.

'Terrain poses no significant problems, although it is constricting in some places. Our movement is not hindered by weather, urban terrain, or soft ground. Throughout the sector, the enemy has open fields of fire and can engage our systems before we get in range. Therefore, I want to seize those objectives quickly.

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

"If all goes as planned, the operation should last less than a day. Although we're only a supporting attack for the division attack, our failure to secure those objectives could jeopardize the division mission."

After the brigade commander's briefing, the brigade FSO briefs the brigade fire support plan:

"When the attack starts, both battalions will have 100 percent of their basic load. Direct support FA smoke is limited to 10 minutes total; therefore, other sources of smoke must be used.

"Neither the division nor the brigade will fire a prep. However, I have planned groups of targets (Al C and A2C on Objective MARK A3C and A4C on Objective BILL) and a counterfire program to support the operation.

"The 1-50 Mech is allocated two platoon priority targets as long as it has priority of fire. The 3-37 Mech will have one platoon priority target.

"The brigade has been allocated three CAS missions (six sorties) for the day. The sorties will be on ground alert and available during these time periods: 0530 to 1030, 0830 to 1230, and 1030 to 1430.

"The 1-50 Mech will receive two CAS missions for use on Objective BILL. The other mission will remain under brigade control. Remember to plan for engagement of planned CAS targets by alternate means if CAS is diverted or unavailable.

"Two COLTS will be allocated to the 1-50 Mech. The third COLT will go to the 3-37 Mech. The two COLTS, priority of fires, and two priority targets of the 1-50 Mech will be given to the 2-50 Mech, if that unit Is committed.

"Fire support coordinating measures consist of a brigade CFL initiaily on PL DEBBIE and an on-order CFL on PL GREG."

The FSO then briefs the allocation of fire support assets and the fire support plan for the 3-37 Mech attack.

The brigade FSO prepares his target list by initially reviewing the artillery target intelligence (ATI) file. He then tails the division FS cell and specifies the types of targets he needs for his plan – enemy maneuver forces located on the objectives and any deep targets within range of fire support assets available to the brigade not already planned for engagement by the division. Listed below is that part of the target list affecting the 1-50 Mech (the focus of the example) with tentative schedules.

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
14	AC0016	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A1C
15	AC0017	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A1C
16	AC0018	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A2C
17	AC0019	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A2C
18	AC0020	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A3C
19	AC0021	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A3C
20	AC0022	Squad pos	Air reconnaissance	Group A4C
21	AC0023	Pit pos	GSR	Group A4C
22	AC0024	Squad pos	GSR	Group A4C
41	AC0025	suspected OP		
42	AC0026	Road junction		

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

The brigade FSO selects Targets AC0077, AC0078, and AC0080, located in the brigade rear area, for the purpose of supporting the brigade support area. This target list is submitted to the forward support battalion commander. The target list is also submitted to the battalion FS cells, as combat trains from the maneuver battalions will use the roads around the BSA.

After the briefing, the commander of the 1-50 Mech returns to the battalion CP. The battalion commander issues to the staff his initial planning guidance, which is the mission he received from the brigade commander.

The 1-50 Mech S3 divides Objective MARK into Objectives RUBY, EMERALD, and TOPAZ. He further divides the brigade Objective BILL into Objectives DIAMOND, COOKE, and STONE. The S3, FSO, and other members of the FS cell begin formulating their courses of action.

The 1-50 Mech commander gives the battalion FSO the following guidance:

"We need to be able to get to both the intermediate and final objectives quickly. Keep the enemy heads down while we are out in the open.

"We're going to have some real problems taking and retaining those intermediate objectives if the enemy on the final objectives moves to support the intermediate objectives. You need to stop the reinforcement if those enemy forces try to move."

The battalion FSO determines that fire support must do the following:

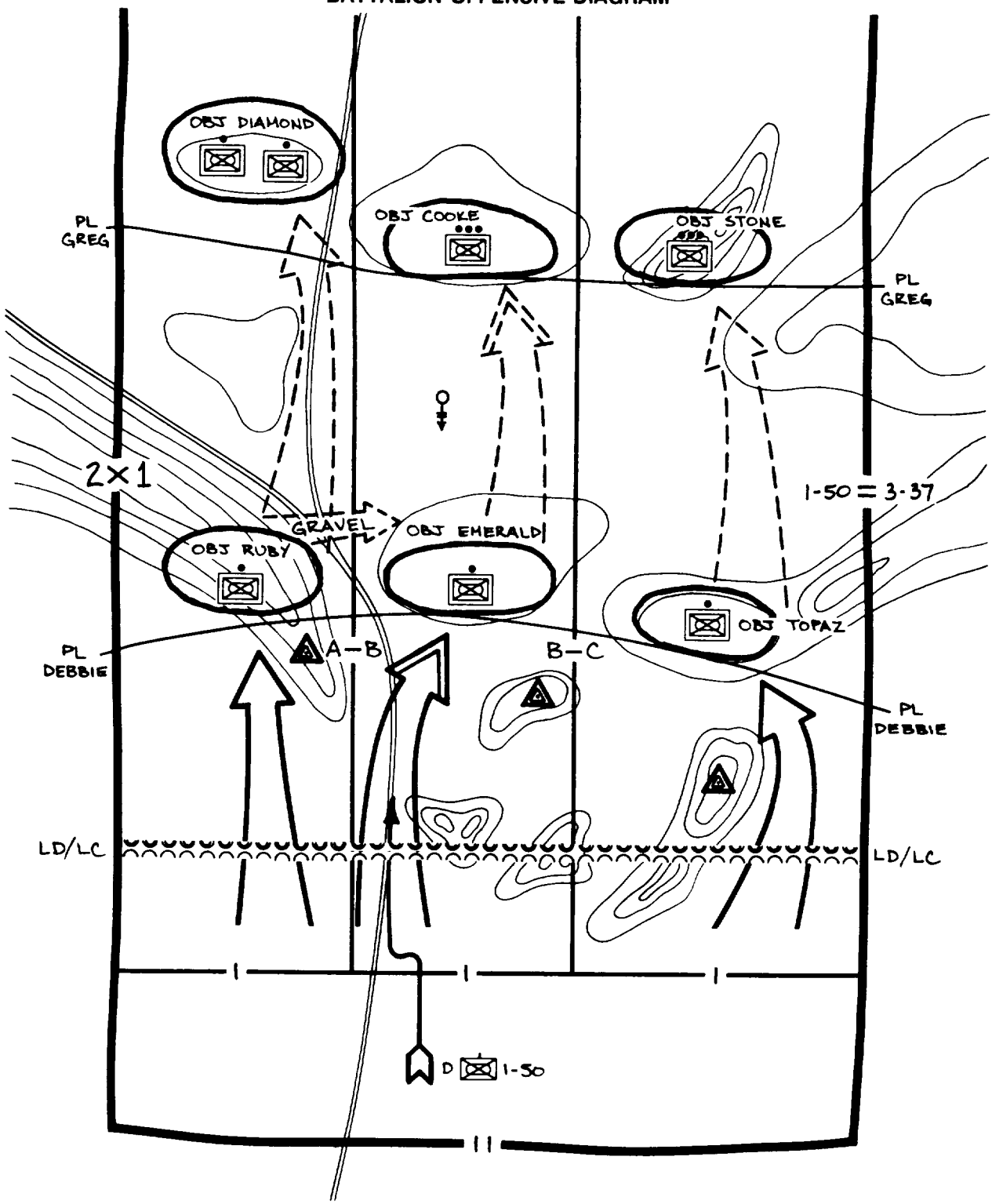
- it must at least suppress the enemy forces on the final objective.
- It must prevent these enemy forces from reinforcing an intermediate objective if they try to do so.

The battalion FSO reviews the brigade fire support plan and extracts the pertinent information (allocation of fire support assets, the CSR, fire support coordinating measures, and special instructions concerning the employment of those assets). From that, the S3, FSO, and other members of the FS cell work together to determine the requirements for fire support to support the operation.

The battalion FSO reviews the brigade target list by plotting the targets that support the battalion operation. He also determines how many battalion-generated targets will be required.

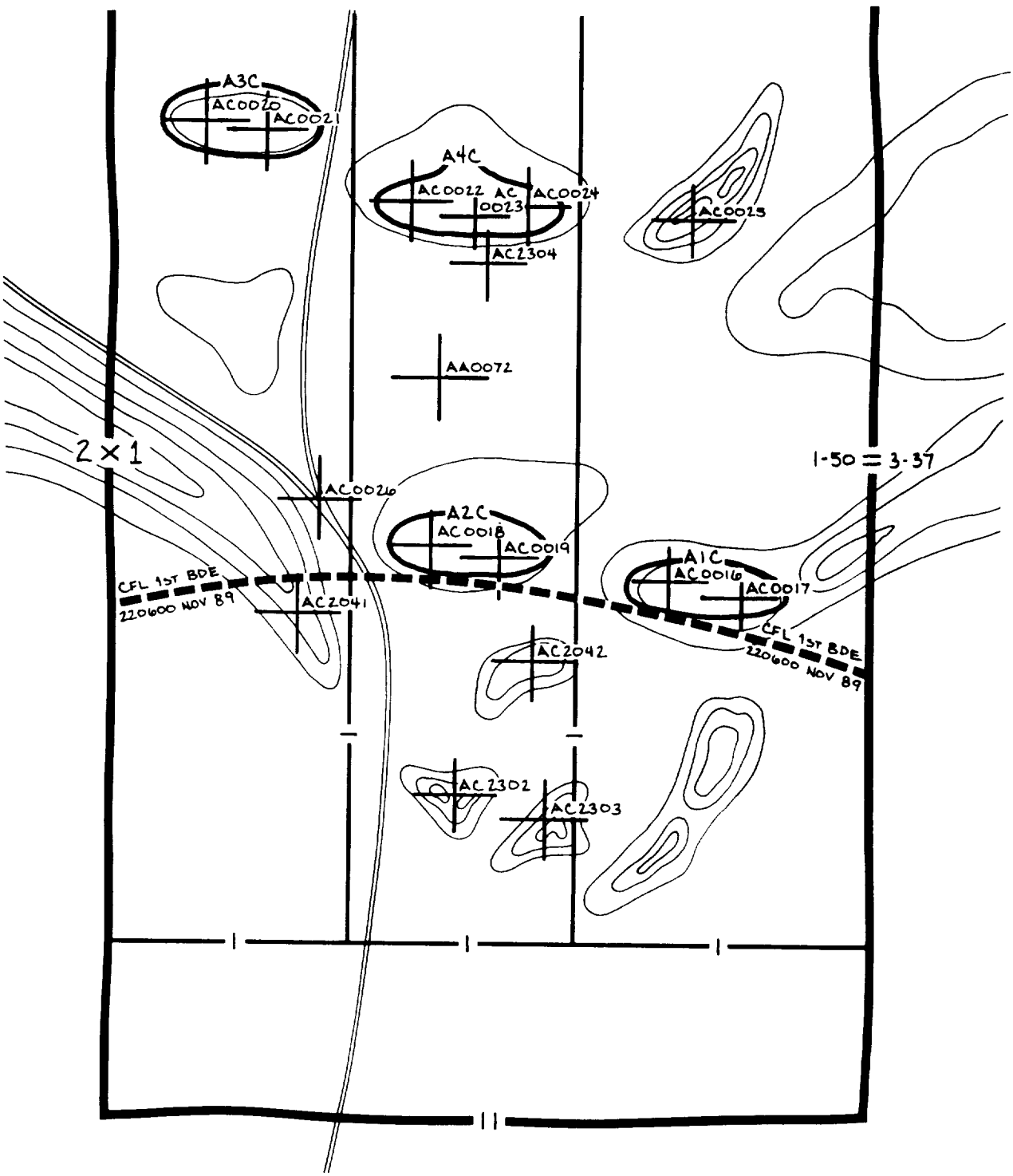
EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

BATTALION OFFENSIVE DIAGRAM



EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

BATTALION TARGET OVERLAY



EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

BATTALION FIRE SUPPORT EXECUTION MATRIX

	AA LD/LC	PL DEBBIE	PL GREG	FINAL OBJECTIVE	
A	MORT 2 POF	MORT 2 POF O/O FA POF	MORT 2 POF O/O FA POF MORT 2 PRI TGT AC0026	MORT 2 POF	5
B	FA POF MORT 1 POF	FA POF MORT 1 POF 155 PRI TGT AC2042 GP A2C	FA POF 155 PRI TGT AA 0072	FA POF	4
C		GP A1C			3
D			O/O FA POF		2
BN	←	2 COLTs	→	GP A3C, A4C F-16(GROUND ALERT) 0830-1230	1
	A	B	C	D	E

Using available target acquisition assets, the battalion FSO-plans the following targets:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
29	AC2041	Pit pos	GSR	Group A1C
30	AC2042	Pit pos	GSR	Group A1C

All targets will be fired with DPICM. If possible, planned CAS will be delivered simultaneously on Objectives COOKE and STONE between 1030 and 1230. If the two missions are not used by 1230 and 1430 respectively, they will be lost and alternate fires will have to be used.

After being presented with possible courses of action by his staff, the battalion commander makes his decision. He then briefs his company commanders and FSOs on his concept of operation and intent. The battalion commander's guidance to the company commanders is as follows:

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

"The battalion will attack at 0600 tomorrow (11 hours from now) with three companies abreast to seize Intermediate Objectives RUBY, EMERALD, and TOPAZ. On order, the battalion will attack to seize final Objectives DIAMOND, COOKE, and STONE. I want to move to those objectives quickly. Also, I want Company A to be prepared to help Company B in taking Objective EMERALD by moving along Axis GRAVEL to flank Objective EMERALD after taking Objective RUBY.

"The objectives in the Company B sector are going to be the most difficult to take. The largest enemy force and best prepared defenses in the battalion sector are located around Objective EMERALD. Additionally, the enemy forces on the objectives can provide mutual support, Objective RUBY is the only objective we have that cannot be supported by enemy forces from other positions. I am concerned that the forces on Objective COOKE will move to support either EMERALD or TOPAZ.

"Before the attack on the primary objectives, I want smoke fired in front of Objectives COOKE and STONE. Without a screen, the enemy will be able to engage us long before we get in range. I want the priority of fires to go to Company B. If we move to the intermediate objectives slowly, the enemy is likely to move forward to support the intermediate objectives. There is a possibility that enemy forces will be shifted to the Company A sector as we try to take Objective RUBY. Therefore, I want on-order priorities of fire to Company A.

"The 2-50 Mech is the brigade reserve. It has an on-order mission of passing through our sector and continuing the attack."

The battalion FSO briefs the company FSOs on the battalion fire support plan as follows:

"Company B will have the priority of fires. Company A will have on-order priority of fire. With the assets available, company FSOs should develop fire plans that provide suppressive fires to support the operation. Field artillery smoke will be needed to help the maneuver forces get to the primary objectives. Since FA smoke is Iimited, plan on using mortar smoke on the intermediate objectives. I have planned two CAS missions on Objectives COOKE and STONE. The aircraft are on ground alert and are available 0830 to 1230 and 1030 to 1430, respectively. Plan an alternate engagement means on COOKE and STONE if the CAS missions aren't used during these periods or are otherwise unavailable.

"We are allocated two priority targets from brigade, These will go to Company B. A mortar priority target goes to Company A.

"I will position both COLTS throughout the operation. The COLTS will be behind the LD/LC initially. On my order, one COLT will move to the first hill mass (just across the LD/LC) in the middle of the Company B zone. That COLT will provide observation of the high-speed avenue of approach and provide overwatch while the second COLT and Company B move forward. When the first COLT is in position, the second COLT will move forward on my order behind Company A to Objective RUBY and position to observe the high-speed avenues into the battalion zone. When Company B consolidates on Objective EMERALD, the first COLT will move forward to a position on Objective EMERALD to complement the other COLT overwatch of the high-speed avenues of approach into our zone and support the attack of the primary objectives. On brigade order, the COLTS will chop to the 2-50 Mech.

"If Company A attacks along Axis GRAVEL, I will clear all indirect fires into the Company B sector.

"Should either forward company FSO not be able to fire on a target or take a required action from the fire support execution matrix, I will automatically do it. It is critical that company FSOs coordinate early and comprehensively for mutual support"

Fire support coordinating measures are disseminated, as are the organization for combat, fire support asset status, CSR, and target lists.

Each company FSO returns to his company CP and reviews the target list and schedules sent by the battalion FSO.

Using acquisition assets available, the commander designates targets for engagement on the objective (to suppress it as his forces move toward it). To protect his force from observation, the commander desires fires to suppress an OP and screen the movement of his force.

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

Company A forwards the following additional targets to the battalion:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
02	AC2201	Pit pos	Scouts	DPICM
03	AC2202	OP	3d Pit	DPICM
04	AC2203	Road	Company FSO	Smoke

The Company B commander and FSO formulate their plan for the operation. They review target lists and determine that Groups A2C and A4C support the operation. The commander and FSO plan fires on the OP and smoke targets to facilitate the movement to the Intermediate and final objectives.

Company B forwards the following additional targets to the battalion:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
01	AC2300	Squad pos	Scouts	Group A2C
30	AC2301	Pit pos	Scouts	Group A2C
31	AC2302	OP	FO	
32	AC2303	Suspected OP	Company FSO	Smoke
33	AC2304	Forward pos	Company FSO	Smoke
40	AC2311	Pit pos	Scouts	Group A2C

The Company C commander and FSO formulate their plan for the operation. They review target lists and determine that Group AIC supports the operation. They add only three targets – two targets to screen the company movement with smoke and one target on the OP. Company C forwards these additional targets to the battalion:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
01	AC2441	OP	1st Pit FO	DPICM
02	AC2444	Road	Company FSO	Smoke
03	AC2445	Pit pos	Company FSO	Smoke

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DELIBERATE ATTACK (CONTINUED)

The battalion FSO plots all targets, resolves target duplications, and notifies affected company FSOs, The battalion FSO notifies the brigade FSO that the fire plan is complete.

The brigade FSO reviews the target lists to ensure they support the brigade mission and approves the schedules. He resolves any target duplications, ensures the affected battalion FSOs are notified of changes, and identifies possible conflicts over the use of the limited fire support assets. He checks the status of the fire support assets to see if ammunition and delivery systems are available to support the operation.

Exploitation

Description

Exploitation is an offensive operation that follows a successful attack to take advantage of weakened or collapsed enemy defenses. Its purpose is to prevent reconstitution of enemy defenses, to prevent enemy withdrawal, to secure deep objectives and to destroy enemy forces. An exploitation is conducted with two forces, the direct pressure force and the follow-and-support force.

The follow-and-support units clear the overrun area of pockets of resistance and expand the zone of exploitation. Follow-and-support units are assigned missions to help exploiting forces by relieving them of tasks that would slow their advance, such as preventing the enemy from closing a gap in a penetration and securing key terrain gained during a penetration or envelopment. As the exploiting brigade advances farther into the enemy rear areas, the follow-and-support units secure lines of communication and supply, support the exploiting elements of the brigade, destroy pockets of bypassed enemy, and expand the area of exploitation from the brigade axis.

Depending on the situation and its task organization, the brigade can exploit its own success. It can be used as an exploiting force for a higher echelon or it can follow and support another exploiting force. Subordinate battalions normally maneuver as in a movement to contact.

Fire Support Considerations

The FSO must be prepared to provide flexible fire support to both the direct pressure force and the follow-and-support force. On-order priorities of fire must be designated to rapidly shift priorities to units within the direct pressure force and/or to the follow-and-support force if necessary. Fire planning must be flexible. It must encompass fires not only in front of the force (on choke points and to canalize the enemy) but also to the flanks and rear. COLTS must be employed to support the force as a whole. Quick fire planning techniques may be necessary to provide responsive support planning. As the enemy force retreats, it will be necessary to slow it down for the encircling force to catch up. Also, it will be necessary to prevent the enemy from reinforcing the retreating force either logistically or with combat personnel. Plan massed fires on enemy choke points and key terrain to canalize, slow, and block the enemy movement. Multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) fires and DPICM are suitable for slowing down targets. FASCAM may be employed on escape routes. TACAIR on ground alert and attack helicopters employed in a fire support role can provide rapid engagement of hard or mobile targets and can provide massed fires for area targets. Smoke may be used to slow and disrupt the retreat. Fix bypassed pockets of resistance until follow-on forces can engage. Use suppressive fires. DPICM is suitable for slowing down vehicles and fixing the force.

Plan for hasty attack.

Plan CFLs well forward, Use on-order CFLs so they can be quickly emplaced and moved.

Pursuit

Description

If it becomes apparent that enemy resistance has broken down entirely, either an attack or an exploitation may give way to pursuit. The pursuit is ordered when the enemy can no longer maintain his position and tries to escape. The commander exerts unrelenting pressure to keep the enemy from reorganizing and preparing defenses. A direct pressure force places pressure on the enemy while another highly mobile encircling force cuts the enemy retreat to intercept and destroy him. Hasty attacks may take place with little or no preparation.

The mission of a direct pressure force is to prevent enemy disengagement and subsequent reconstitution of the defense and to inflict maximum casualties. Lead elements move rapidly along all available roads to contain or bypass small enemy pockets, which are reduced by follow-and-support forces. At every opportunity, the direct pressure force envelops, cuts off, and destroys enemy elements if such actions do not interfere with its primary mission. The enemy is not allowed to break contact.

The mission of the encircling force is to get behind the enemy and block his escape so that he can be destroyed between the direct pressure and encircling forces.

Fire Support Considerations

Responsive fire support must be provided to both the direct pressure and encircling forces. Priorities of fires may be designated for both forces. Because of distance considerations, the encircling force may get priority of field artillery, while the direct pressure force gets priority of the mortars. The decision to assign priorities of fire to one force or both forces at the same time will depend on the tactical situation. COLTS may be positioned to support both forces. As the enemy retreats, it will be necessary to slow him down for the encircling force to catch up. Also, it will be necessary to keep the enemy from reinforcing the retreating force, either logistically or with combat personnel. Plan massed fires on enemy choke points and key terrain to canalize, slow, and block the enemy movement. MLRS fires and DPICM are suitable for slowing targets. FASCAM may be employed on escape routes and to slow the retreat and prevent reinforcement. TACAIR and attack helicopters employed in a fire support role can attack hard targets. Smoke may be used to slow and disrupt the retreat.

Air support must be responsive to the needs of the force to effectively slow the retreat of the enemy. Air or ground alert may be necessary to provide the degree of responsiveness required. Also, ALOs, ETACs, and/or AFACs should be positioned forward to respond in a timely manner.

Fix bypassed pockets of resistance until follow-on forces can engage. DPICM delivered on vehicles may significantly reduce the enemy movement. Suppressive fires may be delivered to hinder the movement of bypassed forces.

Both direct pressure and encircling forces must plan for hasty attack.

Place CFLs well forward. Use on-order CFLs so they can be quickly shifted and lifted, Plan a restrictive fire line (RFL) between converging forces.

Section III. FIRE SUPPORT PLANNING FOR THE DEFENSE

Purpose of Defensive Operations

The purpose of any defense is to destroy the enemy, gain time, concentrate forces, or slow or weaken the enemy before the conduct of offensive operations. Friendly forces must retain the initiative to keep the enemy off-balance. The key to this type of defense is depth. Fire support considerations discussed in this section apply to any type of defensive operation.

Fire Support Considerations

Attack the Enemy Deep

Fires will always be planned to attack the enemy before he reaches the main battle area (MBA), These fires are planned–

- To disorganize, delay, and weaken the enemy.
- To strip away the enemy reconnaissance elements.
- To impair the enemy vision by causing him to button up. Use of variable time (VT) and time (ti) fuzes will also destroy some of the vehicle optics and antennas.

Plan Fires to Support Scouts

Fires also must be planned to support the scouts deployed forward to provide intelligence. These fires are planned –

- To screen scout movements with smoke.
- To suppress enemy units engaging the scouts.
- Along avenues of approach.

The purpose of the scouts is to report the enemy size, configuration, and direction of attack. Therefore, the scouts can provide much valuable information. This includes the following:

- Speed of enemy formations to trigger points and selection of trigger points.
- Dispersal of enemy formations.
- Amount and location of artillery and mortar assets.
- Locations of command, control, and communications (C3) cells.

Because the scouts belong to the task force commander and may have other information requirements, consider attaching forward observers with the scouts. Besides reporting specific information wanted by the FSO, the FOs can control indirect fires against the enemy force. Also, under emergency combat conditions the FOs can control fires delivered by CAS assets if the ALO, ETAC, or AFAC is not available.

Consider emplacing COLTS forward on prominent terrain to acquire specific high-value targets the commander wants destroyed. These high-value targets are normally determined by a target value analysis and included in the commander's guidance. High-value targets may include C3 cells, armored vehicles, combat support (CS) elements, and combat service support (CSS) elements.

Separate the Enemy Infantry From Armor

Plan fires where friendly units engage the enemy with direct fires. As the enemy deploys his infantry, the indirect fires will slow the infantry and cause the armor to outdistance the infantry support.

Airburst munitions, such as those delivered with VT and time fuzes, will be most effective against deployed troops in the open.

Support the Obstacle Plan

Plan fires in front of, on top of, to the sides of, and behind obstacles to maximize their effect as combat multipliers.

Plan fires far forward of obstacles to disrupt enemy formations, to separate attacking echelons, and to force enemy deployment into forward engagement areas. As the enemy approaches an obstacle, massed fires and priority targets maximize casualties on enemy elements halted or bunched by the obstacle.

Plan fires 0n top of obstacles to hinder breaching attempts by destroying breaching teams or equipment, including lane markers. When deciding to fire on top of an obstacle, the commander must consider the effects of these fires on the obstacle itself.

Plan fires to the sides of obstacles to hinder enemy attempts to bypass obstacles.

Plan fires behind the obstacle to destroy the enemy piecemeal as he passes through the obstacle, to support the withdrawal of friendly elements, and to force the enemy into another engagement area.

Consider using smoke to support the obstacle plan. Fired in front of the obstacle, smoke obscures the obstacle from the enemy. Smoke fired on top and to the sides of the obstacle hinders breaching or bypassing efforts and silhouettes the enemy for overmatching elements if the enemy succeeds in breaching or bypassing.

The exact location of each obstacle must be determined after the obstacle is emplaced. COLTs can be used to provide exact location if time permits

Consider using FASCAM if available. (Use of FASCAM must be coordinated with the engineers.)

Devise an observation plan that provides for continuous observation (to include periods of limited visibility) from multiple vantage points. Designate redundant responsibilities for executing fires in support of obstacles. Also designate primary and alternate communications means.

Support Disengagements

The commander's concept of the operation may state that friendly units are to disengage at a certain time to move to successive positions. Therefore, the fire plan must include fires to support the disengagement. The FSO must plan–

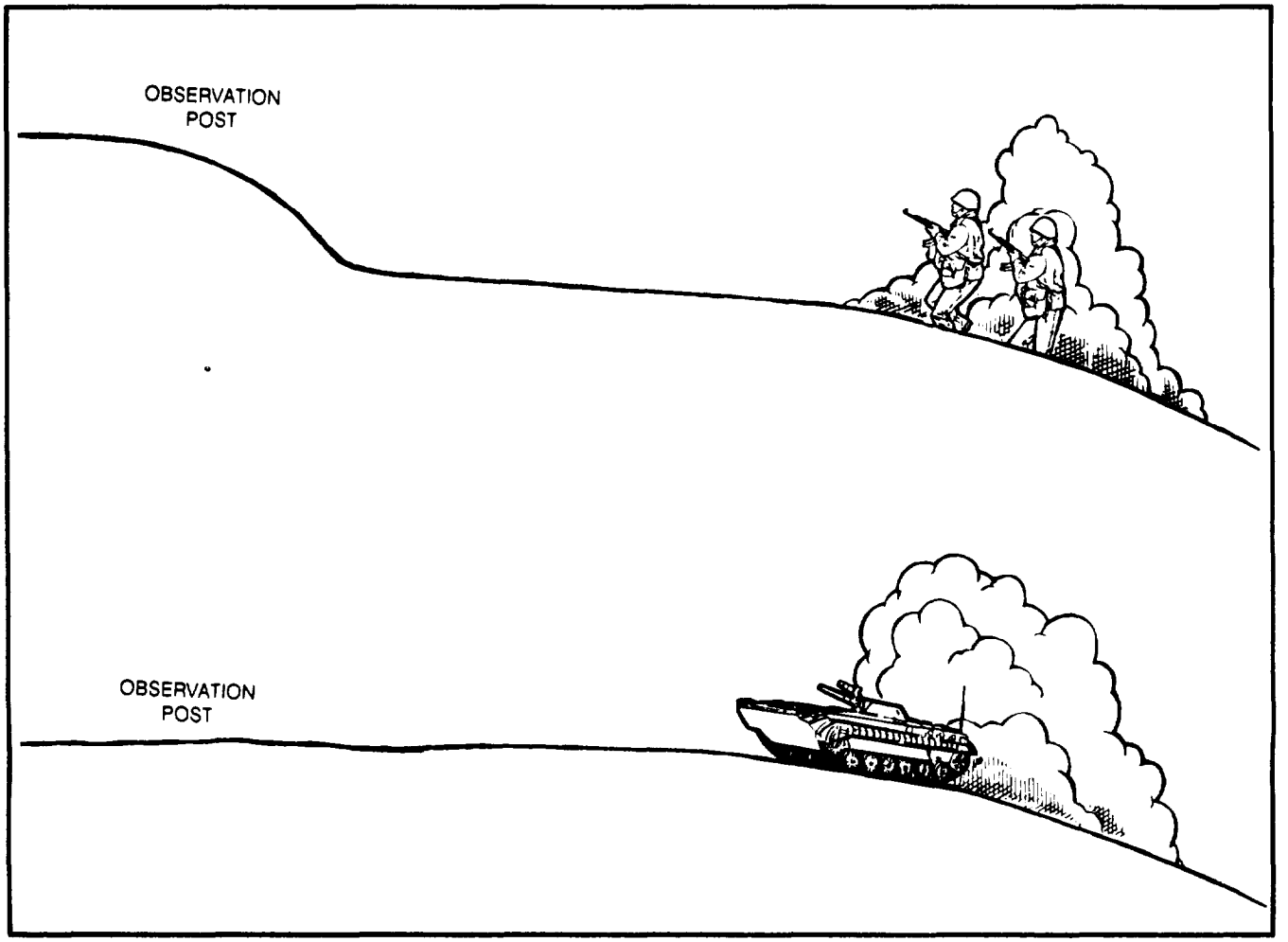
- On-call suppressive fires at the point where the unit will disengage.
- Smoke to screen the movement of friendly elements and obscure the enemy vision.
- Targets along the route to the next position.

Plan Smoke and Illumination

Because the enemy has the advantage of choosing when to fight, the FSO must be prepared to implement the fire plan both day and night, Smoke and illuminating munitions can be used to silhouette the enemy and thus provide more visible targets to direct fire systems. The commander must decide if and how he wants to employ smoke and illuminating munitions, Considerations for employing these munitions are as follows:

- Smoke used to screen friendly movements and obscure the enemy vision may also obscure the vision of adjacent friendly elements.
- Illuminating munition burning on the ground behind the enemy at night is also effective. Illumination will ruin the night vision of friendly units and, if not properly coordinated, can injure friendly observers looking through night vision devices.
- Units in the defense normally have the advantage of knowing the terrain better than the attacking force, The use of illumination may negate this advantage.
- Smoke deployed on the ground behind the enemy is effective during daylight.
- To create these silhouettes, the terrain must be either level or gently sloping with no crests between the munitions and the enemy.

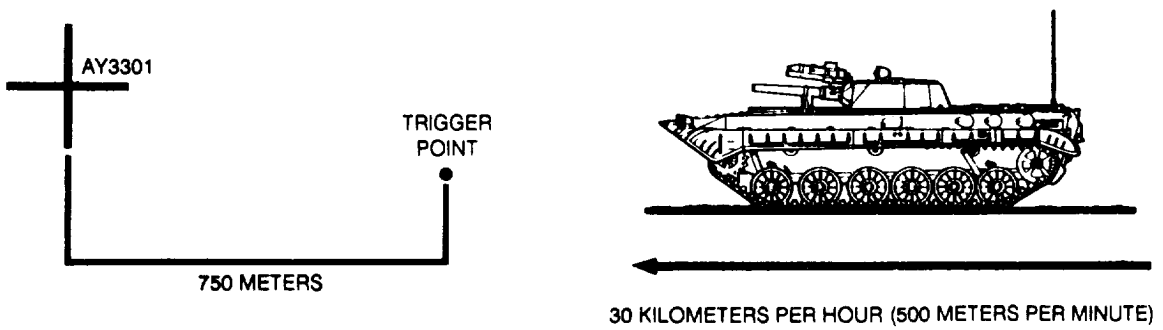
SMOKE USED TO SILHOUETTE



Use trigger points to determine when to engage moving targets with indirect fires. Trigger points are identifiable points (natural or man-made) on the ground. The enemy arrival at a trigger point signals the FOs to initiate a call for fire. The sequence for determining when to intiate a call for fire is as follows:

- Determine the position on the ground that you want fires to impact on the enemy or to silhouette the enemy.
- Determine the enemy rate of movement (speed). This may be done by estimation, on the basis of past experience, from doctrinal literature, or from scout reports or enemy speed. The best way is from scout reports.
- Determine the time of flight of the rounds from the weapon system firing the mission.
- Determine processing time (transmission time plus FDC time equals total processing time [TPT]).
- Determine total mission time (TOF plus TPT equals total mission time [TMT]).
- Back up the trigger point the required distance on the basis of computations based on total mission time and rate of speed as shown.

TRIGGER POINT DETERMINATION



TOTAL PROCESSING TIME = 60 SECONDS
TIME OF FLIGHT = 30 SECONDS
TOTAL MISSION TIME = 90 SECONDS (1.5 MINUTES) X SPEED OF ENEMY
1.5 MINUTES X 500 METERS PER MINUTE = 750 METERS

SEND THE CALL FOR FIRE FOR TARGET AY3301 WHEN TANKS REACH TRIGGER POINT.

Plan Fire Support Coordinating Measures

Fire support coordinating measures must be flexible to facilitate a changing situation and must not be too restrictive.

- A coordinated fire line may be employed to allow the attack of the enemy by all surface-to-surface systems. The CFL should be placed close to the front of the main battle area.
- Restricted fires areas (RFAs) may be employed around scout positions in forward areas.
- Remember that unit boundaries are also fire support coordinating measures in that fires from one unit may not cross boundaries into another unit sector without coordination.

To emplace fire support coordinating measures, consider wartime minimum safe distances of the munitions to be fired.

Plan Final Protective Fires

Plan final protective fires as they would be planned for any defensive operation. Final protective fires must be planned at blocking positions (if any) selected by the commander.

- Place FPFs along the most likely approach by the enemy into a friendly position.

- Place FPFs close enough to the friendly position to augment the direct fire weapons – normally no more than 300 meters in front of the position.
- Fire FPFs only when needed and end them only on order. The FPF may be initiated by a code word or target number or by calling specifically for the FPF. However, when this is done, such initiation should be a matter of SOP and should be coordinated carefully.

Allocate Mortars

The battalion FSO must recommend which company will receive priority of mortar fires. The priority of fires can change according to time, event, or threat so that during an operation, each company is provided priority of fires. The following considerations can be used to determine priority of fires.

- Priority is usually assigned to a forward security force initially.
- Priority may be subsequently assigned to weight a critical sector or battle position. The commander may state that a specific position, terrain feature, or event is vital to the success of the defense.
- Priority is changed as required to meet the threat. The enemy may not always attack where expected.
- Priority may be assigned to increase the effectiveness of the unit direct fires. For example, the effectiveness of ATGMs can be increased by forcing armor to button up and by canalizing the enemy.

The allocation of priority fires must –

- Provide fires to support the scheme of maneuver and/or commander's intent.
- Enhance response to anticipated on-call fires.
- Provide continuous indirect fire support.

The cavalry troop FSO recommends priority of fires for the troop mortars similarly. In certain circumstances and terrain, those mortars may not be able to support the entire troop front. The commander must decide to whom priority of fires will be provided. The commander must determine –

- Where the enemy will most probably deploy his infantry and attack.
- Likely enemy avenues of approach.
- What position or positions must be held to ensure the success of the defense.

Allocate Field Artillery Fires

The brigade FSO must allocate priority of FA fires from the supporting FA direct support battalion. Like the mortar allocation of fires, the FA priority of fires –

- Is usually assigned initially to a forward security force.
- IS subsequently assigned to weight a critical sector or battle position.
- Is changed as required to meet the threat.
- Can increase the effectiveness of direct fires of a unit.

Plan Close Air Support

The FSO (in coordination with the S3 air, S2, and ALO) recommends targets for engagement with preplanned CAS. Preplanning permits the most effective and efficient use of TACAIR assets. Preplanned requests permit ordnance to be precisely matched to the target. Mission planning can be more complete. CAS missions can be integrated into the

operations to ensure timely mission accomplishment. Preplanned missions facilitate the ALO, ETAC, and/or AFAC control of aircraft; the planning and employment of airspace control procedures; and SEAD planning.

As they become available, target information updates or changes in target status should be forwarded to the air support operations center (ASOC) through the TACP. If the target has moved or has been destroyed or if the commander no longer wants the target to be engaged by TACAIR, the ALO must be notified so the mission can be retargeted, diverted to a higher priority mission, or otherwise used in a more effective manner.

Plan for Nuclear Operations

When the division uses a division nuclear subpackage in the defense, the brigade FSO will ensure that the division FS cell knows the latest FLOT location. The FSO will inform the brigade commander of the location of the minimum safe distance (MSD) lines and will ensure that any STRIKEWARN message is disseminated. Further information is in Appendix H.

Security Area

Description

The security area extends from the FLOT or a line designated by the force commander back to the forward edge of the battle area (FEBA). The mission of the covering force is –

- To gain and maintain contact with attacking enemy forces,
- To develop the situation.
- To delay or defeat the enemy leading fighting forces.

Control

Corps and division commanders may establish a covering force as the first echelon of a two-echelon defense. When this is done, the covering force, normally composed of tank-heavy task forces and regimental cavalry, fights a major action to destroy leading enemy formations, to cause the commitment of follow-on forces, and to force the enemy to disclose his main effort. The covering force must be prepared to conduct counterattacks or drive between echelons to isolate leading units. The corps or division will normally control the covering force.

Fire Support Considerations

Engage the enemy before he moves into the covering force area. Target enemy combat units to force the enemy to deploy, to inflict casualties, and to strip away reconnaissance elements. Isolate the attacking force by engaging second-echelon forces, C3 facilities, and logistic sites. Plan fires deep to slow and canalize the enemy.

Target enemy reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering elements (the combat recon patrol and forward security element) to lessen the capability of the enemy to gain information on friendly forces status and disposition. Laser-guided munitions directed by COLTS placed forward may be used to accomplish this task.

Counterpreparation fires should be planned and may be fired (at the commander's direction) when the threat of enemy attack is discovered.

Deceive the enemy as to the location of the MBA. Cause the enemy to deploy early and reveal his main attack. Mass fires at critical points. Have observers in position to call for those fires. Mass fires to slow and canalize the enemy to provide better

targets for maneuver direct fire systems and to cause the enemy to deploy early and thus reveal his main attack.

Support the withdrawal of the covering force. Suppress enemy direct and indirect fire weapons. Assist maneuver in moving and disengaging. Plan smoke, FPFs, priority targets, suppression fires on direct and indirect fire systems, and groups and series along withdrawal routes. Support barrier and/or obstacle plans.

Plan for hasty attack.

Keep FS cells in the MBA informed of the current tactical situation. Among the items to be forwarded to FS cells in the MBA are –

Ž Fire support coordinating measures in effect.

Ž The tactical situation.

Ž Target lists and fire plans in effect.

Place CFLs close to friendly maneuver forces and plan on-order CFLs.

Main Battle Area

Description

The main battle area extends from the FEBA back to the rear limit of the brigade area of operation. The bulk of the defending force normally is deployed in the main battle area to defeat the enemy main thrust. Fire support in the MBA is used to slow, stop, or destroy attacking forces and to enhance the use of massed fires to inflict the greatest damage.

Fire Support Considerations

Before the enemy enters the main battle area, plan deep fires to disrupt, delay, canalize, and cause casualties. TACAIR missions may be planned on known, suspected, and likely enemy locations. Also, plan fires on choke points to inflict maximum casualties. If a covering force is deployed forward of the MBA, coordination must be made to fire on the targets.

Plan fires to deny the enemy information about friendly forces and to strip away his reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering elements (the combat recon patrol and forward security element). Laser-guided munitions directed by COLTS placed forward may be used to do this.

As the enemy moves into the main battle area, use fire support to canalize him, deny him use of chosen terrain, and cause him to deploy early and thus reveal his main attack. Mass fires to delay, disrupt, and destroy the enemy throughout the sector. Counterpreparation fires may be planned and executed. Observers (to include COLTS) may be placed in key positions overmatching avenues of approach. Also, fires should be planned to support the barrier and/or obstacle plan.

Plan fires to isolate front echelons from the follow-on forces, making it easier for friendly maneuver forces to defeat the enemy. Observers must be in forward positions to call for fire, Consider using smoke and FASCAM behind forward enemy elements and in front of enemy follow-on forces. Engage high-payoff targets in the follow-on forces early to disrupt their operations.

Help maneuver forces in moving and disengaging from enemy forces as they fall back through the MBA. Suppress enemy direct and indirect fire weapons. Plan smoke, priority targets, and fires along withdrawal routes.

Make contingency plans to reallocate fire support assets once the main attack is identified to strengthen the most vulnerable area. Fires must be planned along all viable avenues of approach, and on-order priorities of fire must be designated. TACAIR missions must be planned to support the contingencies.

Plan fires on obstacles to hinder breaching attempts with the use of massed fires and priority targets. FASCAM may be used to reseed breached minefield.

Plan for hasty attack. The opportunity may appear to conduct counterattacks. The FSO must be prepared to support a hasty attack using quick fire planning techniques, as planning time will be limited. Place CFLs close to forward units to open up the area for rapid engagement of the enemy.

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE

The 7th Combined Arms Army, consisting of three motorized rifle divisions and two tank divisions is expected to launch an attack within 48 hours to seize the industrial complex of Cache. The 10th US Corps will defend in sector with two divisions abreast and one in reserve –the 40th Armd Div in the west, the 52d Mech Div in the east, and the 53d Mech Div in reserve.

The 52d Mech Div will deploy with three brigades on line and the combat aviation brigade (CAB) in reserve. The division cavalry (cav) squadron will screen forward of PL BUICK. The division commander intends to have the 1st Bde and 2d Bde defend in sector to destroy the enemy first-echelon divisions and then to hold the second-echelon division forward of PL FORD until the 3d Bde attacks the enemy flank to destroy his combat support and combat service support. The cavalry wiII withdraw through the 2d Bde and take up positions on the division eastern frank.

The CAB is in reserve and on order attacks into the flanks of the second-echelon division.

The 2d Bde commander and his FSCOORD return to the brigade CP, where the commander issues his initial planning guidance. (See the 2d Bde defensive diagram.) From the division FS cell, the brigade FSO receives the following information:

FA missions

6-14 FA (155, SP): DS 2d Bde

3-5 FA (203, SP): Reinforcing (R) 6-14 FA

C/1-12 FA (MLRS): GS

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

Status

6-14 FA: 97 percent strength, 22 howitzers operational

3-5 FA: 95 percent strength, 17 howitzers operational

C/1-12 FA: 98 percent strength, 8 launchers operational

2d Bde CSR

Munitions	107 mm	155 mm	203 mm
HE	80	35	20
DPICM		150	75
Smoke	20	20	
Copperhead		1	
ADAM		4	
RAAMS		16	
Illum	15	15	

TACAIR missions

Two CAS missions (four sorties) are allocated to the 2d Bale. The first mission Is two F-16 aircraft available between 0600 and 1100. The second mission is two A-10s available between 0900 and 1400.

FASCAM

The FA 155-mm battalion can deliver two 400- by 400-meter, medium-density, short-duration RAAMS minefieids. The division commander is executing authority for long-duration FASCAM. The brigade commander is the executing authority for short-duration FASCAM.

Fire support coordinating measures in effect are as follows:

Ž CFL (PL BUICK) is the initial CFL.

Ž CFL (PL PLYMOUTH) is on order.

Ž CFL (PL FORD) is on order.

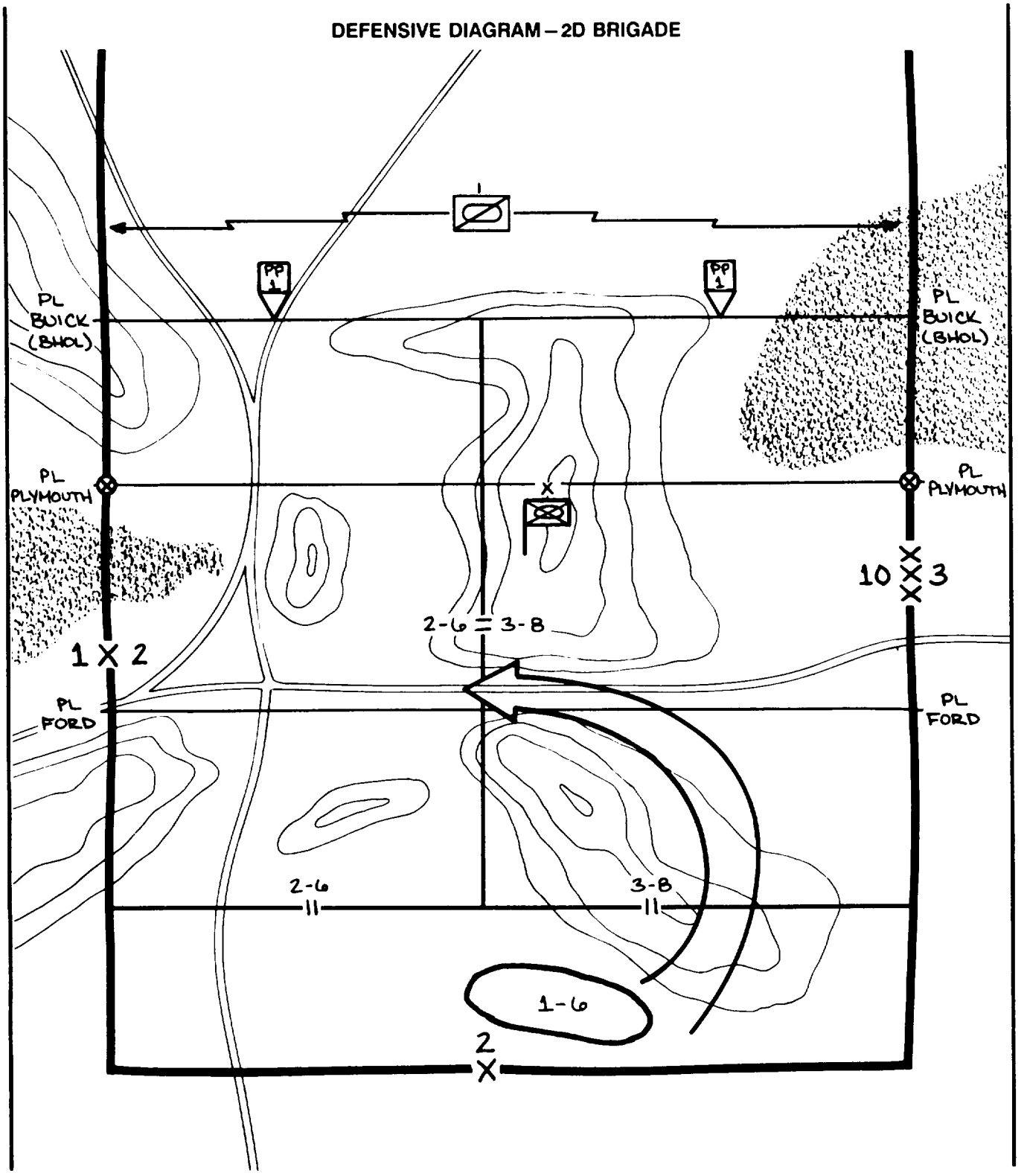
The brigade FSO requests from the division FS cell the division target list and schedules as they apply to the 2d Bale. These are as follows:

Ž The division has planned counterpreparation fires. They will last for 10 minutes, Direct support and reinforcing units will not take part in the counterpreparation. Targets for the counterpreparation will be provided by corps and division. No other schedules affecting the brigade operation have been planned.

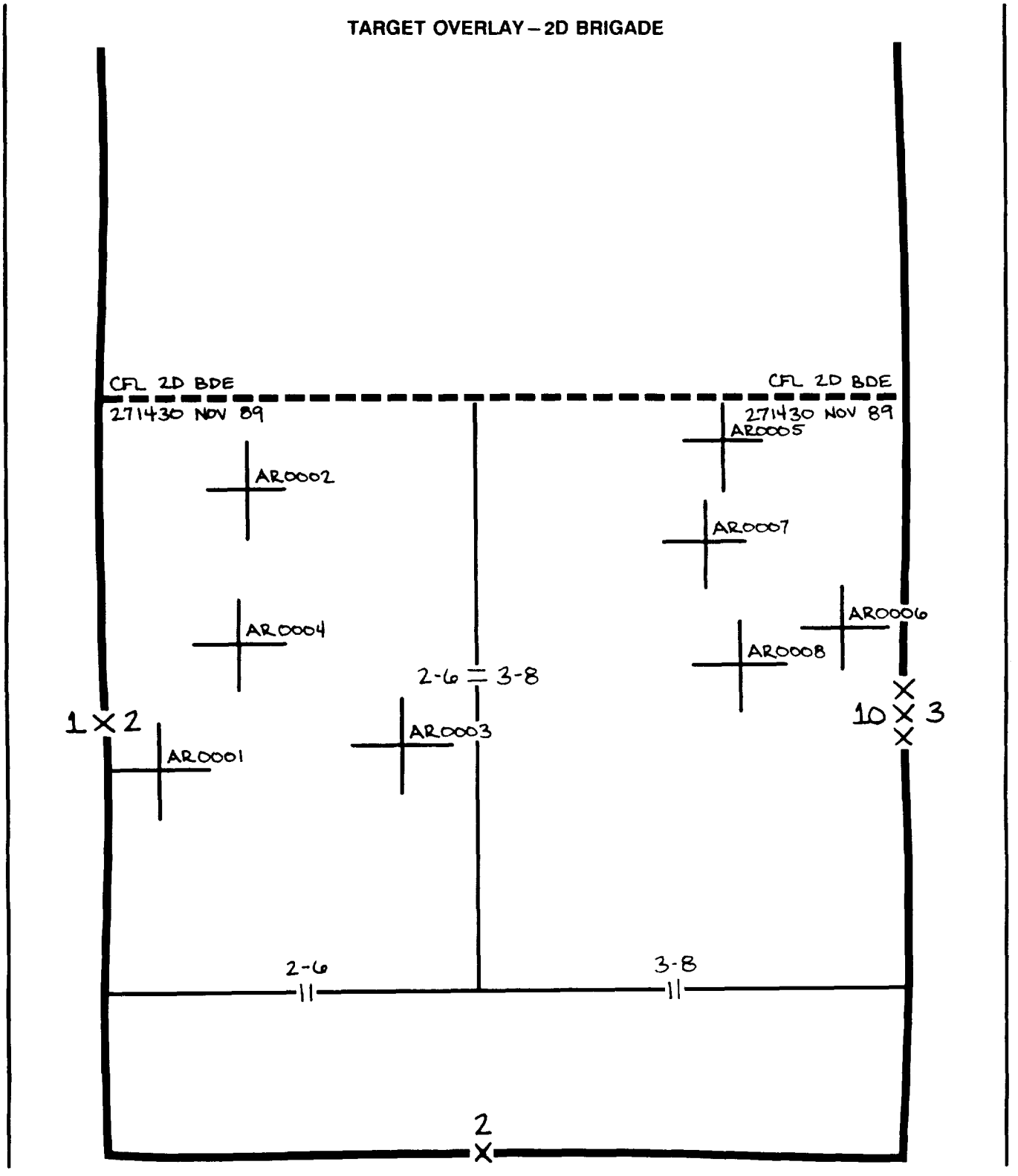
Ž The part of the division target list affecting the brigade is as follows:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
81	AN1052	First-echelon arty	Q-37	Counterpreparation
82	AN1053	First-echelon arty	Q-37	Counterpreparation

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

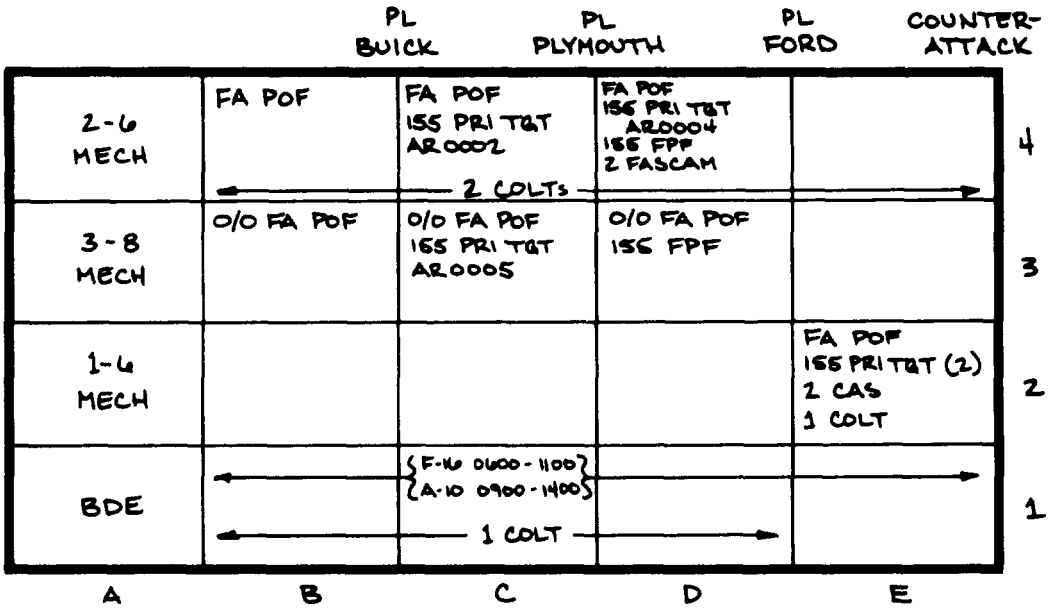


EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)



EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

FIRE SUPPORT EXECUTION MATRIX—2D BRIGADE



The brigade FSO recommends to the commander that priority of fires be given to the 2-6 Mech because Intelligence shows that the enemy main attack will be focused on that unit. Also, he recommends that an observer be positioned with each battalion scout platoon to target enemy command vehicles. Finally, after consulting with the ALO, the FSO recommends that the CAS be used against the enemy second-echelon regiment as it approaches the FLOT. The commander agrees to all the recommendations.

After the brigade S2 and the targeting officer Identify the probable enemy forces and their likely courses of action, they use target value analysis to Identify high-value targets. The targeting officer then determines which of those high-value targets can be located by acquisition sources available to the brigade. The S2 then requests that the division locate those targets the brigade doesn't have the means to acquire. The FSO and the S3 evaluate the ability of the brigade to attack the targets listed, After determining which targets will most effect friendly operations if successfully attacked, the S2 and the targeting officer consolidate them into a high-payoff target list. The refined high-payoff target list is given to the commander for his approval.

The brigade staff develops the courses of action and briefs the commander on these. He approves the following course of action:

"Initially, a cav troop from the division cav squadron will screen forward of PL BUICK and withdraw through our brigade, At PL BUICK, I want each battalion to establish its own screen to determine the enemy's main effort. The scouts will require an FO and/or a COLT; but I don't want the scouts to get decisively engaged. The FEBA is PL PLYMOUTH. Battalions will defend in sector to hold the enemy forward of PL FORD, I want two FASCAM minefields emplaced. Engineer and FSO, get back with me on the most effective and efficient way to do this. The 2-6 Mech will have priority of fires with on-order priority of fires to 3-8 Mech. If the enemy gets through the obstacles and forces us back to PL FORD, the 1-6 Mech will counterattack into the enemy flank. The emphasis must be on massed fires and the use of trigger points to properly engage moving targets. Battalions are to conduct limited counterattacks to restore PL PLYMOUTH in their sectors. We must keep the enemy from reaching PL FORD."

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

Detailed planning continues. The brigade FSO plans more targets, which are added to those that came from division. He then briefs the S3 and the the commander on how these targets support the mission, the scheme of maneuver, and the commander's intent. The targets that affect the 2-6 Mech are as follows:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
93	AR0001	Minefield	Bde FSO	FASCAM
94	AR0002	Road junction	Bde FSO	DPICM
95	AR0003	Minefield	Bde FSO	FASCAM
96	AR0004	Road junction	Bde FSO	DPICM

Targets AR0002 and AR0004 are planned along likely enemy avenues of approach in the sector. Targets AR0001 and AR0003 are planned FASCAM minefields to slow the enemy forward of PL FORD.

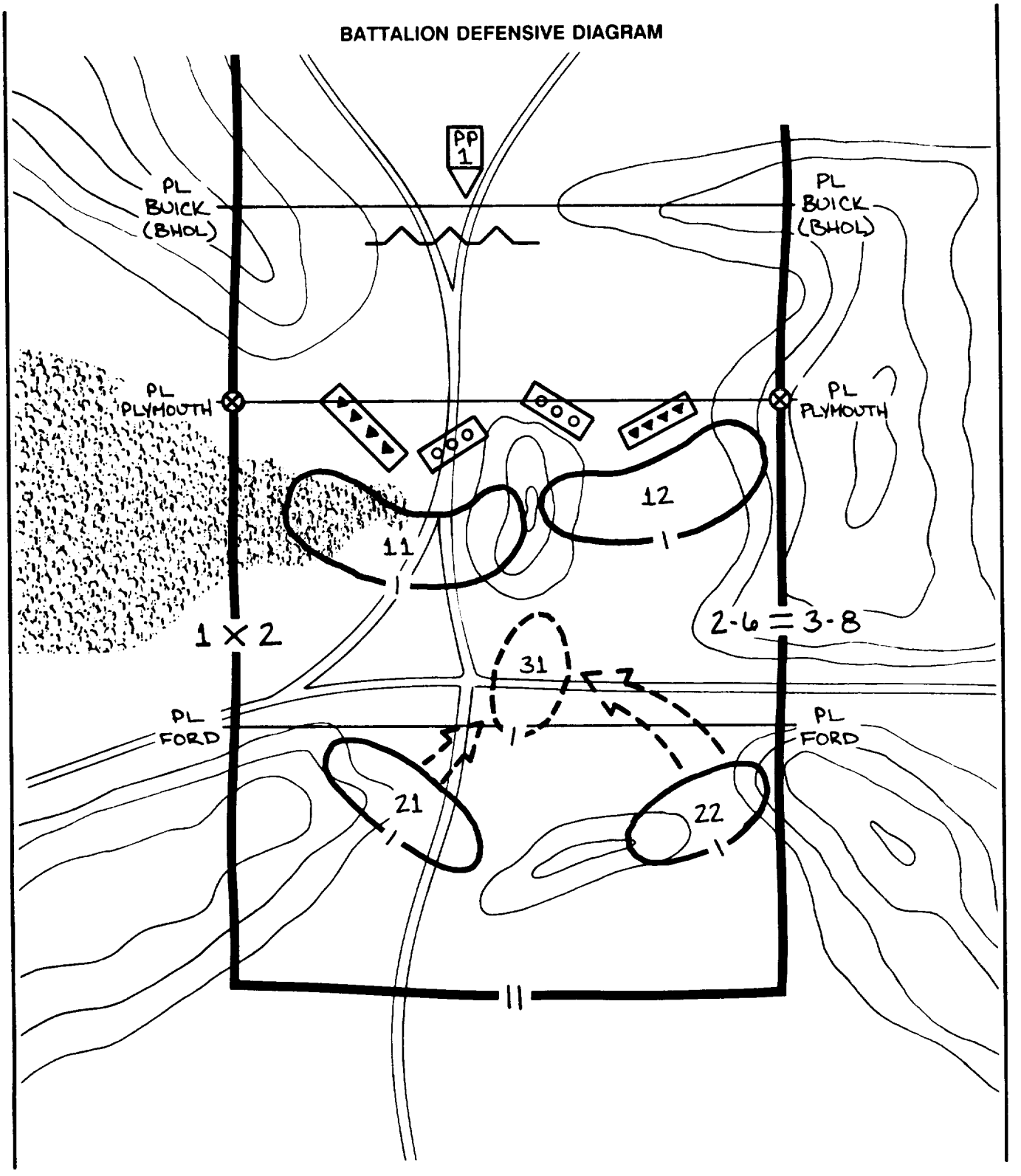
The battalion commanders and their FSOs arrive at the brigade CP and receive the OPORD. The brigade FSO passes the following Information to the battalion FSO.

- Target list (to include indication of some as priority targets) and target overlay.
- Schedules of fire.
- Fire support coordinating measures.
- Fire support assets and their Status.
- Allocation of priority of fires and FPFs
- Intelligence on the enemy.

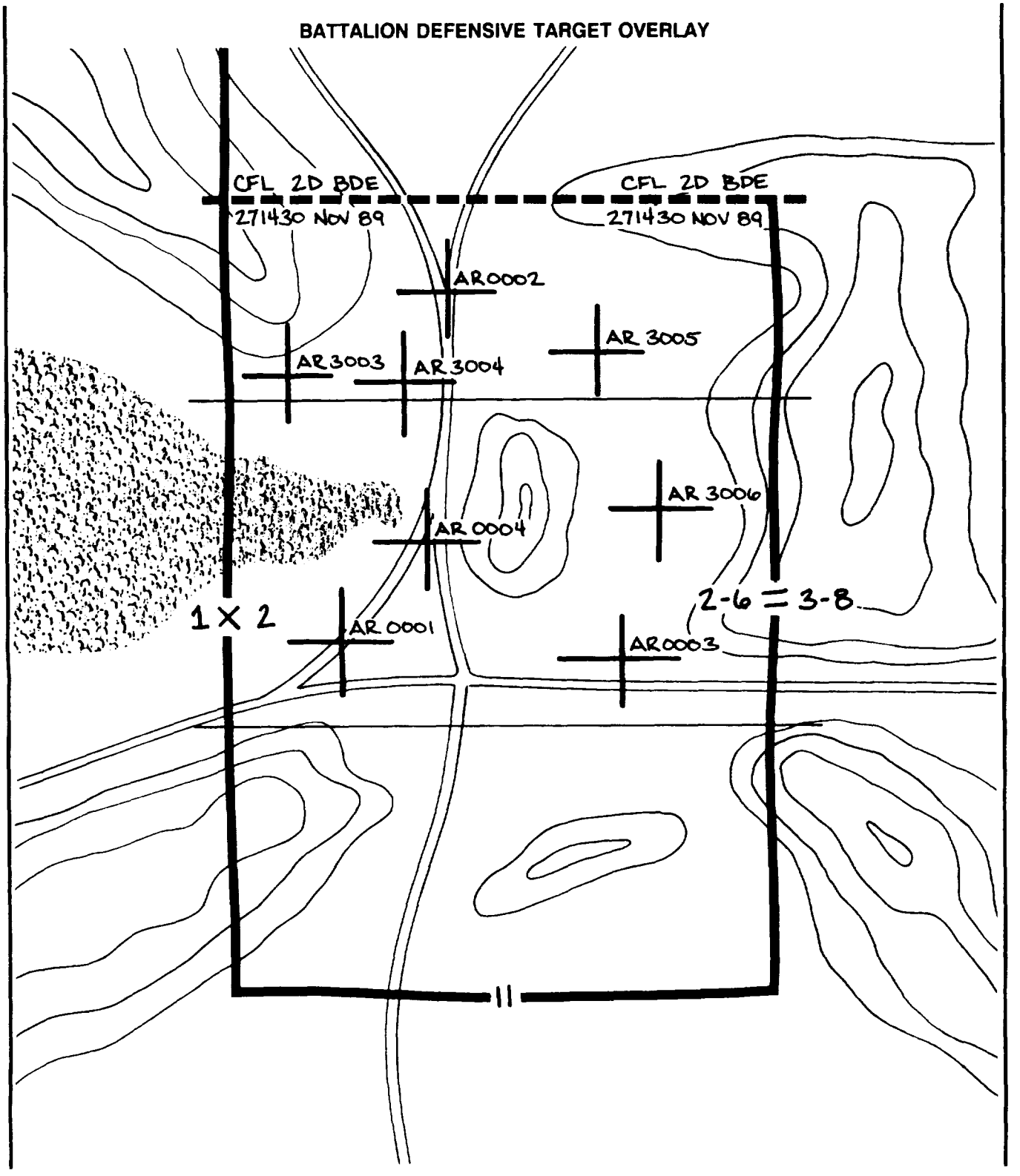
"All COLTS are operational. COLT 1 initially wilI be located with the brigade commander at the brigade CP set up between the battalion sectors. COLTS 2 and 3 will be positioned by the 2-6 Mech FSO. COLT 1 will join the 1-6 Mech when it is committed for the counterattack. Positioning will be by the 1-6 Mech FSO. A/6-14 FA has been tasked to provide the Copperhead firing unit. Try to use Copperhead against command vehicles (especially artillery command and reconnaissance vehicles) and mine-dearlng vehicles."

When the 2-6 Mech commander returns to the battalion CP, he issues his staff planning guidance.

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

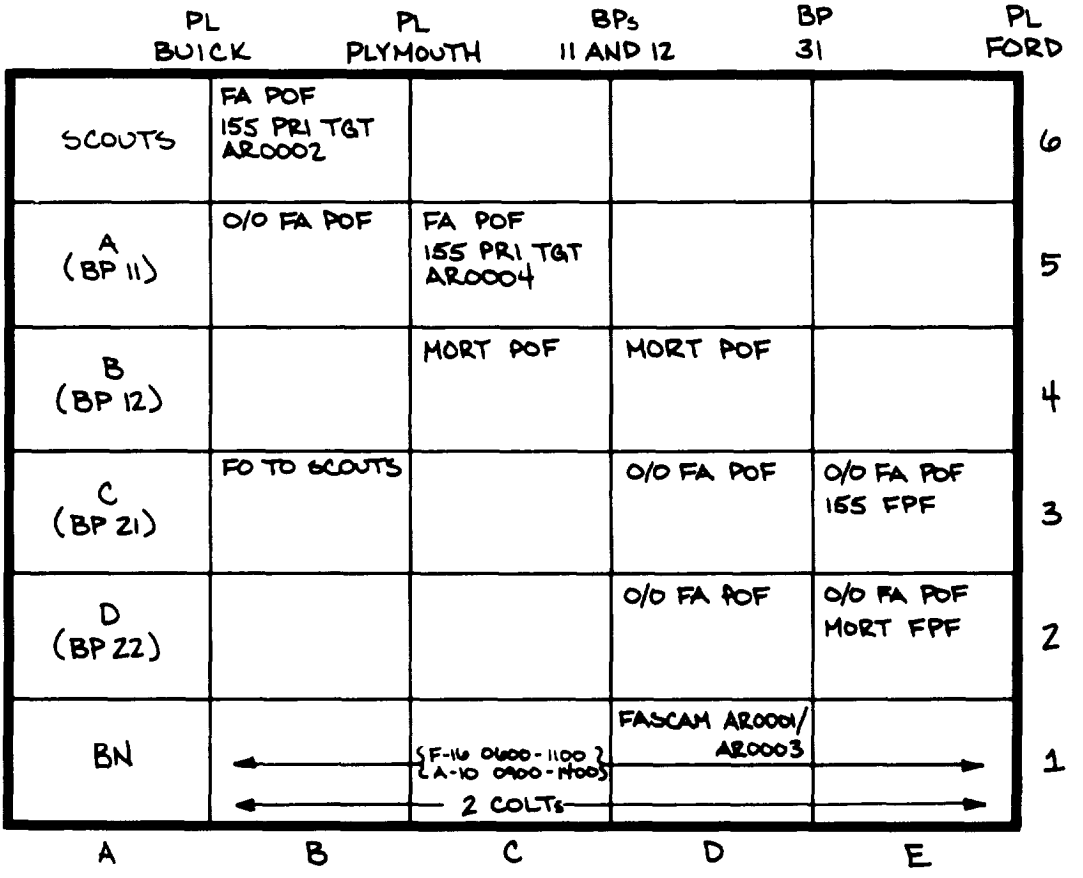


EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)



EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

BATTALION FIRE SUPPORT EXECUTION MATRIX



"I want the scouts forward to report enemy location and strength and to try to destroy enemy lead and/or recon elements, but not to become decisively engaged. Company C will provide an FO to the scouts during their screening mission. I want to engage the enemy at the maximum range of our weapons, so we'll have to coordinate with the divisional cav troop in our sector. I want to establish barriers and minefields that will slow the enemy enough to destroy him in front of PL PLYMOUTH. I envision two engagement areas in our sector– one beyond PL PLYMOUTH and the other in front of PL FORD. To hit the enemy at long range, we'll have to concentrate on indirect fires initially, with scouts providing the coverage of the initial obstacle at PL BUICK. When the scout positions become untenable after the initial engagement, the scouts are to withdraw through Company A and establish a screen between the forest and PL FORD. However, if we can't defeat the enemy at PLYMOUTH, we will continue to defend in depth."

The commander then identifies battle positions for all the companies. Company A will occupy BP 11; Company B, BP 12; Company C, BP 21; and Company D, BP 22. The commander continues his guidance.

"If the enemy penetrates either BP 11 or BP 12, then an on-order battle position will be established at 31, BP 31 will be occupied on order by Company C or D, depending on which sector is penetrated. If the enemy penetrates both BP 11 and BP 12, Companies C and D will defend from their established Positions."

EXAMPLE OF PLANNING A DEFENSE (CONTINUED)

The staff then continues the planning process. The battalion FSO develops the following target list:

Line Number	Target Number	Description	Agency	Remarks
14	AR3003	Armor company	Bn FSO	DPICM
15	AR3004	Armor company	Bn FSO	DPICM
16	AR3005	Armor company	Bn FSO	DPICM
17	AR3006	Armor company	Bn FSO	DPICM

Targets AR3003, AR3004, and AR3005 support the barriers and obstacles. Target AR0004 (brigade target) will be used to provide fires on BP 11 as the company delays. Target AR3006 is planned on top of BP 12.

The battalion staff develops the maneuver plan in accordance with the commander's guidance. The FSO develops the fire support execution matrix in support of the plan. Company commanders and their FSOs are briefed on the maneuver plan at the battalion CP.

The FSO then briefs the company FSOs on the fire support plan. He provides them with –

The battalion target list, which includes division brigade, and battalion targets, it also indicates which targets have been designated as priority targets.

- Priority of fires.
- Fire support assets available and their status.
- Fire support coordinating measures.
- Available intelligence on the enemy.
- Call signs and frequencies.

The FSO continues the briefing as fallows:

"Brigade COLTs 2 and 3 are OPCON to us. I will position COLT 2 forward of PL PLYMOUTH on the prominent terrian in the west of the brigade sector overlooking and observing beyond the initial obstacle at PL BUICK COLT 3 will position in the hill mass on the company boundary to cover the initial and subsequent obstacles and to provide continuous coverage when COLT 2 has to displace. Upon withdrawal of the scouts, COLT 2 will reposition in BP 21 and cover the obstacle at PL FORD.

"Indirect fires covering the critical initial obstacle at PL BUCK will be initiated by COLT 2 or, if it is unable, by the FO with the scouts and the scout platoon leader, in that order. Most of our fires planned in the security area in some way support the obstacle. Our long-range fires in front of the obstacle are designed not only to slow the enemy and provide our forces with additional warning of the attack but also to help canalize him into our obstacle. We've planned fires on top of and to the sides of the obstacle to hinder breaching and bypassing by the enemy. We've also planned fires behind the obstacle to attack breaching elements as they present themselves piecemeal and to help the withdrawal of our forward elements. The COLTS will aid In obtaining accurate target obstacle locations by using target area survey and their ground/vehicular laser locator designator.

"The battalion commander has directed Company C to give up a platoon FO to work with the scouts until they withdraw behind PL PLYMOUTH."

The FSO also reminded the company FSOs of the following:

- Plan smoke to separate enemy elements that encounter our obstacles from their follow-on forces.
- Plan fires to supporti the counterattack.
- Use laser range finders to accurately locate and target obstacles.
- Plan fire to the franks-the enemy may dismount infantry to cross terrain not passable with vehicles.

When the company commanders and their FSOs depart, the battalion FSO consults with the ALO and S3 concerning CAS. He believes that a CAS strike against the enemy main force is essential. The S3 and ALO agree and present their case to the battalion commander. The battalion commander agrees and tells the battalion S3 air to get approval for a CAS strike from the brigade.

Section IV. SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

This section implements STANAG 2082, Edition 5.

Delay

Description

The delay trades space for time while inflicting maximum punishment on the enemy without becoming decisively engaged. The delaying force selects positions that provide long-range observation and fields of fire. Thus, friendly forces can engage the enemy at long ranges and bring him under increasingly heavy fires as he maneuvers toward friendly positions. The delaying force seeks concealment and cover for delaying positions, assembly areas, and routes of movement. It occupies battle positions long enough to cause the enemy to deploy, allowing the delaying force to develop the situation and maneuver to an attack position. The delaying force normally deploys to the next delay position before becoming decisively engaged.

Fire Support Considerations

Fires are planned to engage the enemy early, before he gets to the battle positions, to inflict casualties and disrupt his approach to the positions. Massed fires are planned on high-payoff targets and canalizing terrain. Enemy reserves and logistic sites are engaged to reduce the ability of the enemy to support the attacking force.

All fire support assets must be used to support the delaying force as it proceeds to the rear. Priority targets are planned and designated, as are fires along the route from the old position to the next position. Observers are placed in position to support the displacing force. COLTS may be needed to provide the degree of support necessary. All assets are used to support the movement. Smoke may be used to screen the movement.

Fires must be planned in front of, on top of, and to the sides of the battle position to engage the enemy immediately before his attack of that position. Also, FPFs should be planned.

Fires must be planned for the disengagement. Specifically, massed fires on likely and known enemy positions and smoke should be planned. Use of the COLT can help in this.

At some time during the battle, the enemy may become particularly vulnerable. The commander may decide to conduct a counterattack. There may be enough planning time to use quick fire planning procedures. Otherwise, the FSO must be prepared to shift and mass fires. He must plan continuously. If the counterattack is to be more than a limited one, the FSO must be prepared to reallocate assets in support of it.

Withdrawal

Description

During a withdrawal, all or a part of a force disengages from the enemy and moves away in an organized manner. A withdrawal may occur under enemy pressure or not under pressure. It may be executed in daylight or darkness. In withdrawing from the enemy, the disengaging force must put distance between the it and the enemy as quickly as possible, preferably without the enemy's knowledge. Withdrawal is best done under the cover of darkness or limited visibility, even though command and control is more difficult. Smoke helps conceal the operation. In the case of the withdrawal under enemy pressure, the commander will leave an overmatching force, a covering force, or a detachment left in contact (DLIC) to maintain contact with the enemy and keep him from spoiling the withdrawal. The DLIC may have to perform a delay to keep enemy forces from engaging friendly forces at this critical time.

Fire Support Considerations

Withdrawal Without Enemy Pressure. Ideally, the maneuver force will be able to withdraw without enemy pressure. In such a case, the commander will want to use a deception plan to make it look as though the force is still in contact with the enemy. The withdrawal may be detected by the enemy. Therefore, the FSCOORD must be prepared to support a withdrawal under enemy pressure.

Withdrawal Under Enemy Pressure. If the force must withdraw under enemy pressure, the DLIC must be given maximum fire support to help in the disengagement. Suppression of enemy direct fire systems and the use of smoke to obscure enemy OPs must be planned. Because of terrain considerations, smoke may be required to screen friendly movement. TACAIR and attack helicopters employed in a fire support role may be used to provide effective support.

Barriers and obstacles become critical to the success of the operation. Massed fires in support of barriers and obstacles and the use of smoke can restrict enemy movement. Smoke can hinder enemy breaching attempts.

Passage of Lines

Description

A passage of lines is conducted to allow a moving unit to pass through a stationary unit. It can be conducted in offensive or defensive operations, During this passage, both units are temporarily concentrated in the same area and are, therefore, vulnerable to enemy action. The normal confusion of combat is increased by having two units in an area where only one was before. Therefore, extremely detailed planning and coordination are required. A passage of lines is rarely a specified mission; rather, it is usually an implied task.

Planning

Extremely detailed planning is required for passage of lines to avoid unnecessary casualties and damage to equipment and to deceive the enemy. The aspects of planning with which FSCOORDs of the stationary **and** passing forces must be concerned are discussed below.

Control Measures. The following data must be passed between two forces involved:

- Location of passage lanes.
- Location of passage points.
- Location of contact points.
- Recognition signals.
- Attack positions or assembly area (in a forward passage).
- Routes (start points [SPs] and release points [RPs]).
- Location of CS and CSS units (in a rearward passage).

Transfer of Control. The commanders of the two forces decide when transfer of control will be effected. Most often, it will be determined by event; however, the commanders may select a time (H-hour) to effect transfer of control. This transfer of control impacts on fire support (that is, the mission changes from DS to GS, GSR, or reinforcing or from GS, GSR, or R to DS). Also, responsibility for fire support coordination passes from the FSCOORD of the force in contact to the FSCOORD of the passing force at H-hour (or event). In a fluid situation, which will be the norm, this transfer of control will probably not occur at the same time across the front. Therefore, it must be planned for and procedures, such as collocation of DS battalion CPs, must be established to ensure smooth transition.

Targeting. Targeting is similar for forward and rearward passages of lines.

For a forward passage of lines –

- Screen enemy forward observation of passage.

- Plan groups and/or series of targets on enemy direct fire systems, command and control, indirect fire systems, TA systems, and air defense.
- Plan fires to support the deception plan.
- Plan smoke to screen friendly movement through passage points.
- Plan fires to interdict enemy counterattacks in the area of passage and reinforcements.
- Emphasize massing indirect fires.
- Ensure the stationary force supports the close battle while the passing force indirect fire assets move through.
- Ensure countefire is planned and controlled by the stationary force.
- Position COLTS of both forces to designate targets for precision guided munitions.
- Plan fire support coordinating measures.
- Use AFSOs to cover dead space and flanks.
- Ensure the passing force plans fires to support operations after the passage of lines.

For a rearward passage of lines –

- Plan smoke to conceal movement through passage points.
- Plan fires to disengage forces.
- Plan fires to support the obstacle and barrier plans.
- Plan fires to support the deception plain
- Plan fire support coordinating measures.
- Ensure the stationary force supports the close battle while the passing force indirect fire assets move through.
- Ensure counterfire is planned and controlled by the stationary force.
- Plan fires on the passage points to be fired after friendly units have passed through.
- Ensure the stationary force plans fires to support operations after the passage of lines.

Positioning of Field Artillery

Positioning is a critical task in the support of a passage of lines.

Forward Passage. The field artillery of the passing force should be infiltrated from the rear assembly area to the designated primary positions to support the operation. These positions should be near the passage lanes but not so close that they interfere with the maneuver force movement. On a forward passage, position priority goes to the passing force. During the passage of lines, the passing force FS cell and/or CPs collocate with the stationary force FS cell and/or CPs. The FSCOORD must coordinate FA position areas with the maneuver commander. Position areas forward of the passage points are away from the passage points. Their selection is based on the anticipated rate of movement of the maneuver forces and terrain availability.

Rearward passage. The field artillery of the stationary force should be positioned well forward to provide deep fires to support the withdrawal of the passing force. Again, these positions should be away from passage lanes. In the rearward passage, the stationary force has positioning priority. As the passing force artillery moves through, it should position behind the stationary artillery and move laterally away from the passage lanes.

Coordination

Close cooperation and coordination of plans between the commanders and staffs of the involved forces are mandatory. Once the passage of lines is ordered, the FSCOORD of the passing force in a forward passage of lines needs to send a liaison section to the

FSCOORD of the force in contact. In a rearward passage, the FSCOORD of the stationary force needs to send a liaison section to the FSCOORD of the passing force. The FSCOORDs define and assign mutually agreed upon fire support responsibilities to facilitate the passage. It is important to remember that each unit will be in the area of responsibility of another unit for a period of time and that detailed coordination is vital to ensure that each unit understands how the other operates. The two FSCOORDs need to share information and coordinate as follows:

- Exchange unit SOPS, and resolve differences in operating procedures.
- Exchange existing targets and fire plans.
- Describe unit target acquisition assets.
- Exchange high-payoff target list, attack guidance, and casualty criteria.
- Exchange control measures in effect; for example, passage points, passage lanes, and contact points.
- Exchange fire support coordinating measures currently in effect and those that-will be in effect.
- Coordinate recognition signals.
- Provide information on obstacles and barriers,
- Coordinate position areas.
- Provide met information to passing force.
- Provide available survey control to passing force.
- Exchange SOIs, and resolve communications differences; for example, frequencies, call signs, and challenge and password.
- Coordinate security measures in effect.
- Exchange intelligence.

Deliberate River Crossing

Maneuver Tasks and Events

In the deliberate river crossing, maneuver tasks are as follows:

In the **advance to the river–**

- The crossing site must be secured.
- Control measures must be established.
- Control must be transferred from the assault force to the crossing area commander, who controls the movement within the crossing area.

In an **assault crossing of the river–**

- Support forces develop crossing sites, emplace crossing means, and control unit movement into and away from the crossing sites.
- Defensible terrain on the exit bank is secured, The area must be large enough to accommodate the assault force and essential elements.
- Follow-up forces provide overmatching direct and indirect fire support, crossing site security, and follow-and-support assistance to the assault force.

In the **advance from the exit bank–**

- Assault forces lead, making the initial assault of the river and continuing to attack from the exit bank.
- Support forces help the assault forces to the objective.
- An assault force may make a hasty or a deliberate attack from the exit bank.

In **securing the bridgehead,** CSS elements sustain the assault and subsequent advance to the bridgehead. When the bridgehead is secured, the river crossing is complete.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire Support Tasks. The following are fire support tasks in the deliberate river crossing:

- Make fires immediately available to crossing forces.
- Assign priority of fires to assault forces.
- Plan smoke and suppression fires in greater than normal amounts if necessary.
- Use smoke to screen both actual and dummy crossing sites.
- Use smoke to obscure enemy direct fire positions in the bridgehead area until the crossing forces can engage them.
- Suppress enemy forces in the bridgehead area until the assault force can provide its own suppressive fires.
- Follow river-crossing SOP in planning fire support.
- Use all available targeting assets to develop targets in the bridgehead area. A direct link between TA assets and supporting artillery should be considered.
- Use target value analysis to help develop high-value targets and facilitate effective engagement of high-payoff targets.
- Ensure that DS and reinforcing units move into the bridgehead area as soon as feasible behind the assault force. This maximizes range capability of the weapon system and enhances coordination.

NOTE: Movement by battalion is appropriate if reinforcing FA is available.

Command and Control. Maneuver forces may move into temporary defensive positions pending the crossing. The massed units at the crossing site are vulnerable to counterfire and counterattack. Fire support must be planned accordingly. Procedures to request, control, and coordinate fires must be designated to provide continuous fire support when DS artillery battalions cross the river. The following considerations apply:

- Designate and disseminate on-order fire support coordinating measures.
- Ensure that advance coordination between GS and DS units addresses C3 considerations to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Include all FS cells in the planning process.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. Plans will be commensurate with visibility conditions that prevail during the crossing. The width of the crossing area will affect the planning. The amount of time necessary to cross a river – hence, the vulnerability of the crossing force –will affect the types and volume of fires requested.

Prepare fire plans to soften enemy defenses at crossing sites and to seal off far bank positions. Fire planning should include the following:

- Fires to facilitate the assault force in securing the exit bank.
- preparations, groups, and series to support the operation as the assault force secures the bridgehead.
- On-order fire support coordinating measures.
- Interdiction fires to isolate the bridgehead area from enemy reinforcement.

Plan smoke to obscure actual and decoy crossing sites and to screen friendly movements. Mortars and artillery may be used to establish a smoke screen on the enemy side of the river. Smoke pots and generators will be required to establish large-area screens and to

sustain a smoke screen to support the operation.

NOTE: Smoke created by almost any means will pinpoint the area and draw the enemy's attention; therefore, it is important that the smoke screen extends over enough of the area so that the actual point of crossing is not obvious to the enemy.

Relief in Place

Description

Supported maneuver forces conduct a relief in place to remove units from combat. A deployed force is replaced by another unit, which assumes the mission and the assigned sector or zone of action of the outgoing unit.

The relief in place is executed in stages, from front to rear or rear to front. The incoming unit assumes the general defense plans of the relieved unit.

Secrecy is vital to success, as the operation must be conducted without weakening security. Normal patterns of activity must be maintained to deceive the enemy. The relief in place must be executed expeditiously, and it is normally conducted at night or during periods of limited visibility.

The following principles apply to all relief operations:

- The relief sector remains under the control of the outgoing commander until all his forward elements are relieved (or as mutually agreed upon or directed).
- Normally, the CP of the incoming commander is collocated with that of the outgoing commander.
- Liaison and communication are established between outgoing and incoming FS cells.
- Outgoing and incoming units exchange SOPs.
- Existing fire plans are passed to the incoming FSCOORD.
- Routes and times for withdrawal of the outgoing field artillery are established.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire Support Tasks. The following are fire support tasks in a relief in place:

- Arrange for an exchange of outgoing and incoming FS cell liaison personnel.
- Provide incoming field artillery with existing fire plans.
- Determine needs for smoke and other types of ammunition.
- Establish how the outgoing field artillery will be relieved.
- Establish how the outgoing field artillery will contribute.

Command and Control. Normally, the field artillery units will not be relieved at the same time as the maneuver forces. The change of fire support responsibilities is as agreed upon by the two FSCOORDs unless otherwise directed.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. The outgoing force passes fire plans to the incoming force so that plans can be continued. The following are specific tasks in fire support planning and coordination:

- Prepare and disseminate plans to support the incoming force.
- Make available to all concerned fire planning SOP items of the incoming force.
- Make arrangements for the incoming force to use the targeting list and means of the outgoing force.
- Ensure that fires have been planned to support or emplace a barrier or an obstacle to slow advancing enemy.

Ž Plan smoke to screen friendly movements.

Ž Support the deception plan.

Breakout by Encircled Forces

Description

A force is considered encircled when all ground routes of evacuation and reinforcement have been cut by enemy action. A force may be ordered to remain in a strong position on key terrain to deny the enemy passage through a vital choke point after an enemy breakthrough, or it may be left to hold the shoulder of a penetration. In either case, it may become encircled.

When the encirclement occurs, the senior maneuver commander within the encirclement assumes control of all forces. He must quickly establish a viable defense, and fire support must be centralized.

If there is to be a breakout, it will be attempted as soon as possible. The longer the encircled force takes to reorganize and break out, the more organized the enemy becomes. The breakout is normally conducted during periods of darkness or limited visibility. Overwhelming combat power is focused at the breakout point. Tank-heavy forces lead the attack, when terrain permits. The rest of the forces fight a delaying action or defend the perimeter during the initial stages. FA units are integrated into the formations.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire Support Tasks. Following are fire support tasks in an encirclement:

Ž Reorganize available fire support.

Ž With the force commander, determine the most critical areas in defense, future breakout plans, and the amount of outside help available.

Ž prepare for the breakout.

Command and Control. Field artillery and mortars are centralized and positioned throughout the encirclement to limit vulnerability and mass fires. Communications are reestablished with FA units and higher and lower FS cells.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. The following are fire support and coordination tasks in the encirclement:

Ž Plan fires for both the defense and the subsequent breakout.

Ž Effect fire support coordination with FS cells outside the encircled area.

Ž Use fire support for deception, if necessary.

Ž Establish fire support coordinating measures (an RFL if necessary).

Ž Use TACAIR and precision guided munitions during the breakout.

Ž Plan massed fires at breakout points to enhance momentum.

Linkup Operations

Description

Linkup operations join two friendly forces. The forces may be moving toward one another, or one may be stationary. It is a complex operation that requires detailed planning and coordination. Linkup operations often require a passage of lines. When the linkup is made, the linkup force may join the stationary force or it may pass through or around and continue the attack.

The controlling headquarters of both forces establishes the command relationship between the two forces and the responsibilities for each. It also establishes the control measures to be used.

Forces that are linking up exchange as much information as is practical before an operation. Considerations may include –

- Fire support needed before, during, and after the linkup.
- Recognition signals and communications needs from both forces.
- Future operations after the Linkup.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire Support Tasks. The following are fire support tasks in the linkup:

- Ensure that all fire support personnel know the fire control measures and recognition signals for the linkup.
- Ensure that fire support personnel are continuously aware of the progress of the l.inkup forces.

Command and Control. Centralized control is desirable.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. The following are fire support planning and coordination considerations in the linkup operation:

- Most planned fries are short of the RFL.
- Targets beyond the RFL must be cleared by the controlling headquarters.
- Smoke and illuminating fries must not cause adverse effects on the other friendly forces.
- Fires must ensure that the enemy force between the two friendly forces cannot escape. Use of FASCAM should be considered to block enemy withdrawal.
- Indirect fire weapons are positioned to allow them to mass fires at linkup points.
- Positions should afford easy access to routes to be used after the linkup.

Security Operations

Description

Security missions prevent observation, harassment, surprise, or sabotage by enemy forces. Units conducting security operations provide information about size, composition, location, and direction of movement of enemy forces. Reaction time and maneuver space gained by this information allow the main body to prepare and to deploy to engage the enemy. Security operations include –

- Screening.
- Guarding.
- Covering (discussed with defensive operations).
- Providing rear area protection.

A screening force maintains surveillance and gives early warning by maintaining contact with enemy forces without becoming decisively engaged. It will destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance units.

Guard operations protect the main body by preventing enemy ground observation, direct fire, and surprise attack. A guard force reconnoiters, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary to give the main body time to react or to continue its mission. It can be conducted to the front, rear, or flanks of the main body. It is normally done within friendly field artillery range.

Providing rear area protection protects units, installations, facilities, and lines of communication from enemy attack or sabotage and reestablishes support capabilities.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire Support Tasks. Fire support must be highly responsive to the security forces. The following are fire support considerations in a security operation:

- Fire support means must be as mobile as the force being supported.
- Fire Support communications means must be flexible.
- Secrecy will often dictate the nature of operations.

Command and Control. As security forces may operate some distance beyond the main body, field artillery may be attached to the supported security forces.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. Fires should be planned to cover the security operations of the force. The following are planning and coordination considerations:

- Fires may be used to screen movements or areas.
- Illuminating fires may be needed during night operations.
- AFSOs and sensors maybe used.
- Tactical aircraft of all types can assist in most operations by providing current visual reconnaissance information. Requests for TACAIR reconnaissance support from the Air Force are made by the S2 or S3 through normal request channels.
- Indirect fire weapons are positioned to allow massing of fires in the target areas of interest.
- COLTS in overwatch positions should be used as designators for laser-guided munitions.

Reconnaissance Operations

Description

Reconnaissance operations are used to gather information. There are three types of econnaissance operations:

- **Route reconnaissance** missions are assigned to gather detailed information about a specific route and all adjacent terrain or about an enemy force moving along a route.
- **Zone reconnaissance** is a thorough reconnaissance of all routes and terrain within specified boundaries. It is made to report the locations of all enemy forces within the unit zone.
- **Area reconnaissance** is conducted when a commander needs information about a specific area, such as a town, proposed assembly area, or other feature that may be critical to an operation.

Fire Support Considerations

Fire support contributes to the reconnaissance efforts by using aerial and ground observers, sensors, and radars to gather combat information and intelligence,

Fire Support Tasks. Fire support helps a reconnaissance force by –

- Orienting on the location or movement of the recon objective.
- Reporting all information quickly and accurately.
- Helping the force retain freedom to maneuver.
- Gaining and maintaining enemy contact.
- Developing the situation quickly.

Command and Control. Attachment of field artillery may be considered.

Fire Support Planning and Coordination. The planning and coordination parallel those for security operations.

Mobility. Fire support must be as mobile as the supported force.