

APPENDIX I

FIRES PARAGRAPH AND FIRE SUPPORT EXECUTION MATRIX

This appendix addresses considerations for the development of the fires paragraph and the fires support execution matrix. Examples of both are shown.

The fires paragraph and/or the FSEM should address four specific areas to best convey your scheme of fires. These areas are as follows:

- **Scheme and/or purpose** –should address exactly what you want fire support to accomplish during each phase of the battle. It should be specific in addressing attack guidance and engagement criteria. This is the most important part of the fires paragraph. The FSCOORD must articulate how fire support as a battlefield operating system will be synchronized with the other BOSs.
- **Priority** –designates POF and when or if it shifts for each phase. Include all systems when assigning POFs.
- **Allocations** –designates the allocation of FS assets to include the following:
 - Targets allocated to brigade and task forces for planning.
 - Close air support sorties.
 - Smoke, expressed in minutes and size.
 - Priority targets, PPFs, and Copperhead priority targets.
 - Combat observation/lasing teams.
- **Restrictions** –addresses FSCMs and the use of specific munitions. Some examples are critical FSCMs and specific munition restrictions such as those placed on the employment of illumination, smoke, dual-purpose improved conventional munitions (DPICM), and FASCAM.

These four areas must be addressed in the fires paragraph and/or FSEM. The most important document is the FSEM. It is normally the document used by fire supporters to execute the fire plan. It must be a stand-alone document. More importantly, specific target responsibility must be included in the brigade and TF maneuver matrix. One of the most important lessons learned is many company or team maneuver commanders will not have the FSEM posted to their situation map during execution. Normally, the only individual who posts the FSEM is the FSO, and when he becomes a casualty, fire support tends to become a nonplayer in their fight. It is this

lesson that requires the FS portion of the maneuver matrix to be filled in with responsibilities and not “see fires paragraph.”

Two examples of scheme of fires paragraphs and an FSEM are shown below. A figure that precedes the FSEM lists the abbreviations and acronyms used in it.

EXAMPLE 1

Fires (3a(2)). The purpose of fires is to initially support the counterreconnaissance battle and then provide fires in support of the brigade’s deliberate defense along the FEBA to defeat the lead regiment. On order, provide fires in support of the brigade counterattack.

Phase I (counterreconnaissance). Use Copperhead to destroy reconnaissance vehicles (HVTs). Priority of fires to TF 3-35. COLT 1 and COLT 2 are attached to TF 3-35. Use of illumination requires brigade approval during this phase.

Phase II (rearward passage of lines). A 20-minute counterpreparation will be fired in support of TF 3-35 passage of lines. Priority of fires remains with TF 3-35. Twenty minutes of artillery smoke is allocated to TF 3-35.

Phase III (MBA defense). Indirect fires will initially disrupt the lead regiment between PL WALT and PL BOB and then suppress the lead elements as they enter EA KILL. Priority of fires is to TF 2-6, on order to TF 2-8. Copperhead will destroy breaching assets (HVT). COLT 3 is attached to TF 2-6 and allocated one Copperhead priority target. FASCAM will be fired when the second echelon is committed to isolate the lead regiment in EA KILL. On order, TF 2-8 will execute four CAS sorties to attrit the second echelon regiment. TF 2-6 and TF 2-8 are both allocated one battery FPF each. ACA Blue will be implemented by the brigade FSE.

Phase IV (counterattack). Brigade FSE will plan and control a 15-minute preparation to support the brigade counterattack on OBJ EAGLE. Priority of fires to TF 2-9. The corps FSCL is PL DICK; the division CFL is PL SABER; on order, PL JAY.

EXAMPLE 2

The purpose of fires is to support the movement of the brigade to OBJ HAMMER, to provide close fires in support of 1st brigade's seizure of OBJ HAMMER, and to delay and neutralize the second echelon regiment beyond PL Yellow. Once OBJ HAMMER is seized and the defense is reestablished along PL Blue, fires will neutralize remaining elements of the 2d echelon regiments. Priority of fires to TF 3-7 during the movement to and seizure of OBJ HAMMER. On order, priority shifts to TF 1-64 in the defense. COLT 1 and priority of Copperhead is allocated to TF 3-7, on order to TF 1-64 in the defense. FASCAM is retained at division level. No DPICM will be fired on OBJ HAMMER. No smoke or illumination will be fired without the brigade commander's approval.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

bde	=	brigade
cbt	=	combat
cdr	=	commander
div	=	division
fwd	=	forward
loc	=	location
mech	=	mechanized
mort	=	mortar
MRB	=	motorized rifle battalion
MRC	=	motorized rifle company
MRR	=	motorized rifle regiment
org	=	organization
PADS	=	position and azimuth determining system
PL	=	phase line
rd	=	round
regt	=	regiment
sec	=	section
smk	=	smoke
SP	=	self-propelled
spt	=	support
vic	=	vicinity
w	=	with

FIRE SUPPORT EXECUTION MATRIX

ANNEX F: (FIRE SPT) TO OPORD		SCHEME OF FIRES: (SEE FIRES PARAGRAPH)				TM A COMMITTED	TM C BACK TO PL DUBLIN
PHASE OR EVENT	COUNTERRECON	MRR FWD OF PARIS	2 MRBs IN EA COLD	EA HOT			
TF CONTROL				2 CAS			
TM ALPHA	FA POF AB1001					MORT POF	
TM CHARLIE	FA POF2	A1B	FA POF AB1002	2 CAS FA POF2			FA POF A4B
TM DELTA			MORT POF	FA POF A3B FA PPF		FA POF A2B	
TM MECH		MORT POF	FA POF2	MORT POF FA PPF		FA POF2	
SCOUTS	OPCON TM A	FA POF AB2018					
MORTARS	SEC 1 DS TM A SEC 2 PA1 AB1003	SEC 1 PA2 AB1005 SMK SEC 2 PA3 AB1005			SEC 1 PA4 AB3001 SEC 2 PA5 AB3001		
COLT 45	OPCON TM A	POSITION VIC BP10 AB1004	CPHD AB1005 IN EA COLD				
FSCMs	PL BLUE CFL ON ORDER PL WHITE ON ORDER PL GREY			ACA BLUE ON ORDER			
FA ORG FOR CBT 2-35 FA (155, SP) DS 2 BDE 3-3 FA (155, SP) R 2-35 FA		MORTARS PA1: NB553657 AoF1800 PA2: NB554678 AoF2000 PA3: NB506629 AoF1800 PA4: NB499602 AoF2200 PA5: NB496599 AoF2000			AMMO AVAILABLE 15 BN 3 RDS CPHD IN 30 MIN (400 X 50) FA SMK 30 MIN MORT SMK 12 CPHD ENGAGEMENTS		FSO LOC: WITH TF CDR SUCCESS OF CMD: C-D-A-MECH
CAS 4 A-10 W/MAVERICK ACA BLUE ON ORDER WHEN CAS EMPLOYED (SEE OVERLAY)		HIGH-PAYOFF TARGETS CEN RECON: DIV/REGT RECON MBA: ENG BREACHING, MRC, ADA ASSETS			ATTACK GUIDANCE DESTROY: ADA, C2, RECON NEUTRALIZE: >MRC, FS		REFINEMENT CUTOFF: XX0200 SEP XX FS REHEARSAL TIME: XX0400 SEP XX

Coordinating Instructions:

1. Coordinate with TF FSO for PADS time.
2. Rehearsals will include backup observers.
3. Scout and COLT will provide grids for stay-behinds for NFAs.