

PREFACE

This publication is intended for you, the combined arms brigade or battalion commander, and your staffs to help you synchronize fires with your scheme of maneuver. You know from experience that combat forces must be employed as part of the combined arms team. Maneuver and fires must be synchronized and orchestrated by the combined arms commander to realize the full potential of each arm and maximize the combat power of the combined teams team. The same applies in principle to firepower. Mortars, artillery, naval gunfire (NGF), air support, and Army aviation (employed in a fire support [FS] role) are various means to deliver fires. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Each provides a measure of capability the others lack: responsiveness, flexibility, and accuracy from mortars and artillery; precision and destructiveness from close air support (CAS). Using all of these means in combination creates a synergistic effect—the whole system is far more lethal than its parts. However, the proper application of fires requires as much skill and orchestration from the fire support coordinator (FSCOORD) as does the synchronization of combined arms from the combined arms commander. This is what this publication is about, to clarify the art of applying fires at the right time and place on the battlefield.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Send comments, and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to—

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.