
CHAPTER 4

Fire Support

The platoon gets FS in the forms of indirect fires, smoke, and obstacle emplacement. FS protects the platoon while it is executing its mission. The platoon may provide survivability to FS units. The platoon leader must—

- Keep the TOC apprised of all element locations at all times. The FSO gets information on engineer unit locations from the TOC operations section (there are no FISTs with engineers).
- Work closely with the FSO or the FIST to plan and report SCATMINES, cover friendly obstacles with fire, and provide suppressive fires and smoke on locations of expected enemy obstacles.
- Keep track of the amount of artillery FASCAM allocated to the TF and still available for employment.
- Get the frequencies, call sign, and procedures needed to call for indirect fires for the platoon. Most call for fires will be done by adjusting fires from a target or known point. See *FM 5-34* for call-for-fire procedures. Two examples of call-for-fire procedures follow:
 - From your location, you will adjust fire by distance and direction from the TRP to the target. Give the distance in meters and the direction as you see it. If the target is to the left or right of the TRP as you see it, call LEFT distance in meters or RIGHT distance in meters. If the target is behind the TRP as you see it, call ADD distance in meters and if the target is in front of the TRP, call DROP distance in meters.
 - During breaching operations, you may have to call for smoke. Ensure that the FSO or the FIST knows the location and the duration of your smoked target. The call-for-fire procedures are similar to those discussed above.
- Determine if the maneuver commander plans to provide survivability positions for artillery assets and what the priority is for those positions.
- Ensure that obstacles are synchronized with the indirect-fire plan.