Chapter 2

FIRE SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITIES

"Our goal must be to enable combined arms commanders to fight fire support systems with the same skill and vigor with which they employ direct fire systems."

MG Fred F. Marty, Chief of Field Artillery, June 1992

2-1. You have a Fire Support Coordinator (FSCOORD) at each echelon of command from company through brigade. At company and battalion levels, he is the fire support officer (FSO). At brigade level, the DS battalion commander is the FSCOORD; his full-time assistant is the brigade FSO. The FSCOORD’s and FSO’s first obligation is to enable combined arms commanders to synchronize fires with maneuver. They accomplish this by understanding your intent, translating your guidance into essential fire support tasks, advising you and your staff on the proper employment of fire support means and actively managing the execution of the fire support plan. Each time you sit down with your S3 to discuss current or future plans, concepts or courses of action, your FSCOORD or FSO should be there. While the FSCOORD and FSO are the primary fire support coordinators, virtually everyone on a brigade or battalion staff has a role in the synchronization challenge, as described in the remainder of this chapter.

MANEUVER COMMANDER

2-2. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- **Synchronize** fire support with the scheme of maneuver.

- Ensure the FSCOORD and FSO understand your fire support guidance. Use doctrinal terms per FM 101-5-1 and FM 3-40 or more descriptive language, but state the TASK(s) and PURPOSE(s) in no uncertain terms. Focus on the what, where, when (and for how long) and why – your FSCOORD/FSO will come back and recommend the how.

- Ensure your staff integrates reconnaissance and surveillance (R&S), maneuver, fires (including offensive IO and other non-lethal means if applicable), A2C2 and obstacles. Have someone responsible for “overlaying the overlays” – whether analog or electronic.

- Approve the fires paragraph, High Payoff Target List (HPTL), Attack Guidance Matrix (AGM), Target Selection Standards (TSS), or a Target Synchronization Matrix (TSM) that combines the preceding three, the Essential Fire Support Tasks (EFST) and their logical execution sequence.

- Approve Fire Support Coordinating Measures (FSCMs).

- Clear fires in zone. Normally this is executed at the TOC with the FSO or FS Plans Officer leading the staff through a clearance of fire battle drill. (More on clearance of fires in Chapter 4).

- Train company and team commanders to know, understand and execute targets in their zone. Train the staff and Brigade Reconnaissance Team commander on proper tactical employment of the Striker Platoon.

2-1
MANEUVER XO

2-3. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Integrate the targeting process into the MDMP and normal brigade/battalion battle rhythm.

- Conduct targeting meetings. Supervises the DECIDE function of targeting. (More on targeting meetings in Chapter 4)

MANEUVER S3

2-4. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- In the absence of the XO, integrate targeting into the MDMP and conduct targeting meetings.

- Based on the FSO’s recommendation, integrate all fire support assets into the concept of the operation.

- Select, with the commander, combined arms engagement areas to kill the enemy.

- Develop the synchronization matrix that includes fire support.

- Develop a decision support template (DST) with input from the FSO.

- Integrate fire support actions and the execution of EFSTs into the combined arms rehearsal.

- Approve positioning of field artillery and other fire support assets.

- With input from the staff, especially the S2 and FSO, decide the HPTs that will be presented to the commander for approval.

MANEUVER S2

2-5. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Identify High Value Targets (HVTs).

- Participate in the targeting meeting.

- Develop an R&S plan that synchronizes targeting requirements with collection assets. Supervises execution of the DETECT and ASSESS functions of targeting.

- In conjunction with the staff, especially the FSO and Targeting Officer, develop targets.

- Recommend HPTs. Provide input to the FSO on TSS.

TTP TIP

Give all battle staff officers/NCOs the responsibility of assisting the S2 with IPB. At a minimum, each can contribute in refining situation templates for high-value targets within their BOS. The S2 will benefit from collective staff knowledge on the enemy; the staff will benefit from greater insights on the effects of IPB on their friendly BOS systems.
BRIGADE/BATTALION ENGINEER
2-6. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Plan SCATMINE - including those FA-delivered. Coordinate with the S3, S2 and FSO for emplacement.
- Coordinate fire support coverage of designated mine fields and other obstacles.
- Determine SCATMINE safety box and disseminate the scatterable mine report.
- In conjunction with the S2 and FSO continuously adjust target locations as planned locations become emplaced obstacles.

BRIGADE/BATTALION CHEMICAL OFFICER
2-7. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Recommend smoke and riot-control agent use.

MANEUVER S3 AIR
2-8. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Coordinate and process close air support and JAAT requests.
- Advise the USAF TACP of the ground tactical situation and other information as requested.
- At brigade, supervise the A2C2 element.

ALO/TACP
2-9. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Supervise the TACP.
- Coordinate and monitor requests for CAS and air interdiction.
- Keep the S3 and FSO informed of the current status of available air support.
- TACPs assist in the integration and synchronization of air support, coordination of preplanned and immediate air requests, and in the coordination of A2C2 issues.
- Battalion TACPs are responsible for terminal attack control.

FSCOORD/DS BATTALION COMMANDER
2-10. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Plans and coordinates fire support for the maneuver brigade. Is the principal advisor on fire support matters to the brigade commander. Collocate with the brigade commander as necessary, but normally during mission execution.
- Commands the unit providing primary fire support to the force.
- Participates as feasible with the brigade orders group and during targeting meetings. Assists in the synchronization of fires and maneuver.
- Provides accurate, timely and effective FA fires.
- Approves the DS battalion Field Artillery Support Plan (FASP). Ensures the plan provides executing instructions for assigned Essential Field Artillery Tasks.
(EFATs). As the DS Battalion Commander, provides an intent statement (1st subparagraph of paragraph 3 of the FASP) for his field artillery staff, subordinate commander’s and soldiers.

**BRIGADE FSO**

2-11. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Assists in the planning and coordination of fire support for the maneuver brigade. In the FSCOORD’s absence is the principal advisor on fire support matters (assets, capabilities, limitations, and missions) to the brigade commander and his staff.

- Assists in the synchronization of fires and maneuver.

- Coordinates the DELIVER function of targeting. Directs the attack of targets by fires IAW the priorities and effects established by the maneuver commander.

- Keeps the maneuver commander, FSCOORD and staff informed of the current status and activity of all fire support assets.

- In conjunction with the Targeting Officer and DS Battalion S2, keeps the maneuver S2 informed of enemy indirect fire capabilities and limitations.

- Participate in the MDMP and targeting process, keeping the DS battalion S3 informed throughout. Develop for approval: the fire support plan with EFSTs and supporting products (HPTL, AGM, TSS, TSM, Fire Support Execution Matrix [FSEM]). Disseminate approved plans and products to the DS artillery battalion, battalion FSOs, division FSE, and Divarty.

- Ensures battalion FSOs are aware of assigned EFSTs and are refining targets IAW top-down fire planning. Produces the Brigade Target List.

- Acts upon and coordinates requests for fire support from battalion FSOs. Continually assess fire support asset availability and recommends priorities and allocation of fire support.

- Resolves duplication on planned target lists.

- Manages the clearance of fire battle drill within the TOC.

- Recommends FSCMs.

- Assists the S3 in terrain management for fire support assets.

- Coordinates with the ALO and S3 Air for use of CAS and with the S3 Air for A2C2 actions.

- Coordinates with the IEW, IO, CA, PSYOP and other non-lethal representatives as appropriate for the non-lethal attack of targets and integration of information operations (IO) into the concept of the operation.

- ICW the engineer plans fires to support mobility and countermobility operations.
• During the MDMP and targeting meetings, recommends ICW the S2 and S3, what targets to attack, when and where to attack them, and with what assets (lethal/non-lethal).

• Anticipates changes during mission execution and recommends and coordinates revisions to the fire support plan.

• ICW Divarty, the maneuver S2, Targeting Officer, battalion FSOs and DS battalion S3 and S2, plans for the employment of Firefinder radars and the establishment and managing of radar zones.

• Plans COLT and Striker employment.

• ICW the ALO and the ADA representative plans to suppress or destroy enemy air defense as necessary during CAS and Army aviation employment.

• Participates in combined arms rehearsals and conduct fire support rehearsals.

**BRIGADE FIRE SUPPORT PLANS OFFICER**

2-12. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

• Assists the brigade FSO perform his duties and acts as the FSO in his absence.

• See responsibilities of FSO above.

**TARGETING OFFICER**

2-13. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

• Assist the brigade S2 with the R&S plan by providing input on radar zones and search sectors.

• Manage changes to radar zones. Coordinate with all affected elements.

• Assist in the development of targeting products.

• ICW the brigade S2 and FSO, manage the detect, deliver and assess functions on brigade high payoff targets.

**DS BATTALION S3**

2-14. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

• ICW the brigade OPORD, Divarty FASP and guidance received from the DS battalion commander, plans for the accomplishment of EFATs.

• Coordinates positioning of FA assets with the brigade S3 through the FSO.

• Participates as feasible in the brigade MDMP and combined arms rehearsals.
BATTALION FSO

2-15. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- The fire support coordinator for the maneuver battalion commander. His primary advisor on all matters pertaining to fire support.
- Perform the same or similar duties for the battalion as the brigade FSO does for brigade.
- Develops the battalion observation plan. Plans for and supervises the execution of assigned and developed EFSTs.
- Participate in brigade AND battalion combined arms rehearsals.
- Recommends to the maneuver battalion commander how to best employ and control FISTs. Options include centralized control of a “pool” of FISTs to execute brigade and battalion EFSTs; decentralized control down to company level to execute brigade, battalion and company EFSTs; or, a combination of the two.

COMPANY COMMANDER

2-16. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Ensures assigned targets are refined, observed, rehearsed and fired in according to the scheme of fires.
- Positions fire support personnel where they can best execute EFSTs.
- Ensures the company FSO participates in all combined arms and fire support rehearsals.

COMPANY FSO

2-17. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- The fire support coordinator for the maneuver company commander. His primary advisor on all matters pertaining to fire support.
- Assists the company commander plan for and supervise the execution of assigned and developed EFSTs.
- Refines brigade and battalion targets assigned to the company.
- Participates in combined arms (brigade through company) and fire support rehearsals.
COLT TEAM CHIEF and STRIKER PLATOON LEADER

2-18. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Execute brigade EFSTs.
- Initiate fires on targets within target areas of interest (TAI), engagement areas (EA) or trigger points.
- ICW with information received from brigade reconnaissance observation of named areas of interest (NAI), act as the brigade commander’s “killer” of targets outside of battalion direct fire/scout range.

INTELLIGENCE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE STAFF OFFICER

2-19. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Advise the commander and staff on the electronic attack of HPTs.
- Advise the commander and staff of possible IEW actions to help achieve non-lethal targeting guidance/desired effects during the MDMP and targeting meetings.

STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

2-20. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Advise the commander and staff on the legal ramifications of the attack of each HPT.
- Provide ROE advice and expertise during planning and execution.

PSYOP REPRESENTATIVE

2-21. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Keep the commander and staff informed of psychological operations that could impact the unit.
- Advise the commander and staff on possible psychological operations to help achieve non-lethal targeting guidance/desired effects during the MDMP and targeting meetings.

CIVIL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

2-22. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Keep the commander and staff informed of civilian activities that could impact the unit.
- Advise the commander and staff on possible civil affair operations to help achieve (targeting) guidance during the MDMP and targeting meetings.

INFORMATION OPERATIONS (IO) COORDINATOR

2-23. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Keep the commander and staff informed of all IO that could impact the unit.
- Advise the commander and staff on possible IO actions to help achieve non-lethal targeting guidance during the MDMP and targeting meetings.
MI COMPANY COMMANDER

2-24. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Keeps staff informed on status of organic and attached collection and electronic attack assets.
- Ensure assigned Detect, Deliver (if applicable), and Assess tasks are planned and prepared for and executed IAW the concept of the operation, R&S Plan, and Target Synchronization Matrix (if applicable).

AVIATION LNO

2-25. Major responsibilities for fire support include:

- Advise the commander and staff on the use of attached/OPCON aviation assets.
- Assist in A2C2 management.
- Exchange targeting information with parent headquarters during the MDMP and immediately following targeting meetings.