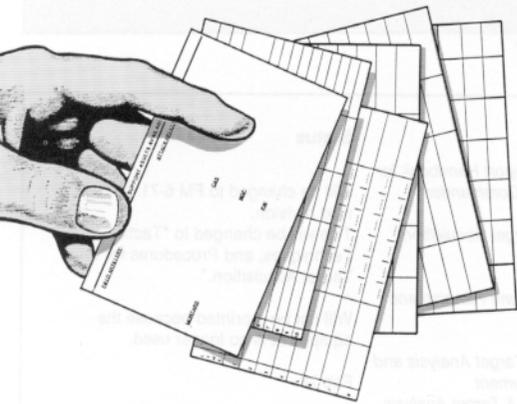


# The Hasty Fire Plan



by Colonel Joseph P. Monko, Jr.

**L**ight forces, especially those involved in air assault operations, need a quick, easy means of planning, developing, communicating and implementing a fire plan. The speed at which air assault operations are conducted and the large distances covered require the fire support system to be uniquely flexible.

Light fire supporters often operate with the materials and equipment they can personally carry, which leaves out most of the automated equipment currently available. The "Quick Fire Plan" from Paragraph 2-6 of *FM 6-20-50 Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support for Brigade Operations (Light)* is useful in some instances. However, it does have severe restrictions. The principal one is it takes the direct-support battalion tactical operations center (TOC) and the other fire support officers (FSOs) out of planning and execution. The Hasty Fire Plan is a by-product of those requirements and concerns.

The original idea for the Hasty Fire Plan came from the "Forward Observation Officer's Notebook" used by our British and Canadian friends. Although the Plan was initially developed for air assault forces, it can help fire supporters from other units as well.

## Pocket-Sized Notebook

Physically, the Hasty Fire Plan is a collection of the elements needed to complete a basic fire plan in a fill-in-the-blanks format. The various forms are covered with "combat acetate" to permit reuse, and they're small enough to be carried in the battle dress uniform (BDU) cargo pockets, ideally in a small notebook such as a flight crew checklist book.

A key point is that each fire supporter should build his own Hasty Fire Plan notebook based on his unit, mission and position in the fire support hierarchy. For example, a company FSO may have only one target list sheet, but a battalion FSO might have three—one for each of his companies.

As such, I won't try to tell you exactly what *your* Hasty Fire Plan notebook should look like, but I'll show you what probably are the minimum necessary items. You

then can build your own tailored to your situation. At the minimum, formats should include fire support assets available, target list, schedule of fires, priority targets and final protective fires, coordination measures and at least one execution matrix.

FIRE SUPPORT ASSETS AVAILABLE	
<b>FIELD ARTILLERY:</b>	<b>ATTACK HELICOPTERS:</b>
2-377 FA DS 1BDE 32.30 W57 3,000 HE; 1,000 ICM; 30 MIN. SMK; 25 MIN. ILL	2 X AHI
6-119 FA (155T) R 2-377 32.50 T57 1,000 HE; 2,000 DPICM; 20 MIN. SMK; 15 MIN. ILL	2 X A10 (ON CALL) 1 X AC130 (ON CALL)
6 COPPERHEAD	
<b>MORTARS:</b>	<b>NGE:</b>
81 FLT 47.75 A57	NONE
	<b>EW:</b> NONE COLT 21 ATTACHED HNB FIST 37.75 J88

Figure 1: The Fire Support Assets Available format is a compilation of available, on-call or on-order assets. The amount and type of information included depends on the needs of the fire supporter completing the format. Some items you might consider including are units, radio frequency and call sign information, amount and type of ammunition available, missions by phase, limitations on use or anything non-standard.

FIRE PLAN	SUPPORTING	ORIGINATOR	MODIFICATIONS BY		
MARK	B/2-527 IV				
H-HOUR	SHEET	OF	DATE-TIME GROUP		
020525			011630 JAN 90		
TARGET INFORMATION					
L I N E	TARGET NUMBER (a)	DESCRIPTION (b)	LOCATION (c)	ATTITUDE (d)	REMARKS (e) (PRIORITY)
1	AC 3301	BUNKER	428840		COPPER HEAD
2	AC 3302	ROAD GATE	415852		PRI 1
3	AC 3303	ADA GUNS	428830		PRI 1
4	AC 3304	ADA GUNS	421814		PRI 1
5	AC 3305	ADA RADAR	424823		COPPER HEAD
6	AC 3306	BARRACKS	429825		PRI 2
7	AC 3307	HANGAR	414835		PRI 3
8					
9					
10					

Figure 2: The Target List is a copy of the one used in the Quick Fire Plan. A useful addition is to include a priority in the remarks column for each target.

LINE	ORGANIZATION (f)	FIRE UNITS (g)	TIMINGS (h)						REMARKS (i)
			-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	H	
1	2-377 (105)	A, B, C	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	HE/ICM
2	6-119 (155)	A	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	COPPERHEAD
3		B & C	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	DPICM
4			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
5			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
6			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
7			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
8			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	

Figure 3: The Schedule of Fires is a copy of the form used in the Quick Fire Plan. The inclusion of this form allows the Hasty Fire Plan to be used for Quick Fire Plan development, when appropriate.

PRIORITY TGTs / FPFs				
TARGET NO.	LOCATION	FIRE UNIT	SUPPORTED UNIT	REMARKS/CODE WORD
AC 3302	415852	A/6-119	B/2-527	GEORGIE
AC 3303	428830	B/6-119	" "	SAM
AC 3304	421814	C/6-119	" "	RUTH
AC 3301	423840	A/2-377	" "	LION
AC 3306	429825	B & C / 2-377	" "	TIGER

Figure 4: The Priority Targets/Final Protective Fires format is simply a tool for keeping track of these types of targets. Using the remarks column allows you to include planned or possible targets as well as actual ones.

COORDINATION MEASURES			
MEASURE	LOCATION	ESTABLISHING UNIT	EFFECTIVE DTG
ACA INFORMAL	NO INDIRECT FIRES WEST OF AIRPORT BOUNDARY ROAD (VICTOR)	2-527 IN	020500
RESTRICTIVE FIRE AREA (RFA)	NO UNOBSERVED FIRES WITHIN 1K RADIUS OF 436860	1 BDE	020001
NO FIRE AREA (NFA)	AIRFIELD SURFACE	1 BDE	020001

Figure 5: The Coordination Measures format facilitates planning and keeping track of actual as well as on-call measures. Again, the amount of detail will depend on the fire supporter using the format. In an air assault unit, you may need to keep a separate format specifically for airspace coordination areas (ACAs).

## Planning and Briefing Tool

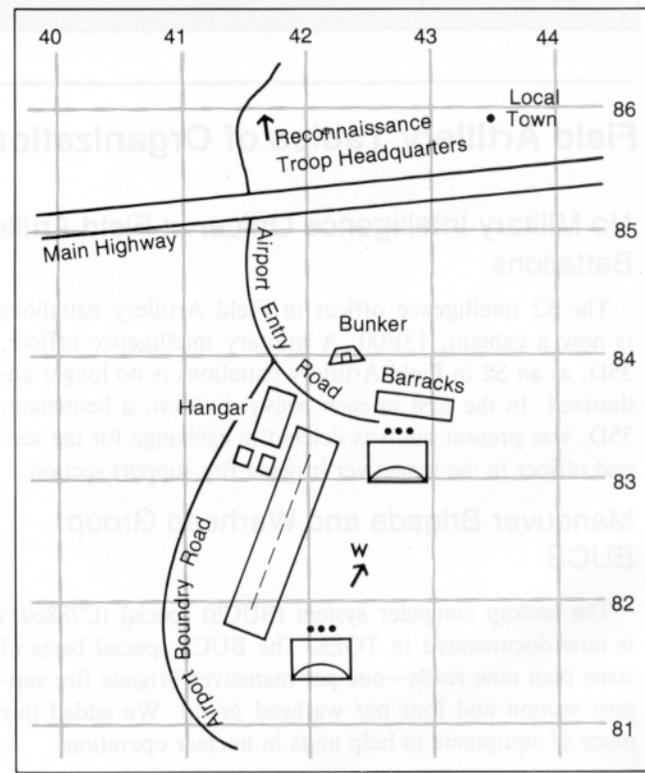
The Hasty Fire Plan is primarily a planning tool. It presents the basic elements of a fire plan in a logical sequence. You can complete these elements as the information becomes available to support a specific operation, or you

can wait until you have all the information you need to complete an entire plan. A side benefit is that it serves as a "memory jogger"—especially useful when the senses are dulled by long hours of continuous operations. Once completed, you can easily pass the information to other elements of the fire support structure.

In addition, the Hasty Fire Plan is a helpful tool in presenting briefings on the fire plan. By following the sequence of formats, you can brief the fire plan logically, ensuring you present appropriate information.

	PRE A ASLT	PREP	A ASLT	ASSAULT	CONSOLIDATION
1 PLT				FA PRI TGT AC 3302	A10 #AC130 ON CALL
2 PLT				FA PRI TGT AC 3301	
3 PLT				FA PRI TGT AC 3306	
BN SCOUTS			AH 1 ON CALL	BN MORTARS	FA PRI TGT AC 3303 AC 3304
PATH-FINDERS	COLT 2 / AC 130 ON CALL	DESIGNATE AC 3301 & AC 3305			

Figure 6: The Execution Matrix is the final format, simply a blank form you can use to complete an execution matrix. Experience will soon tell if you need one or more of these forms in your notebook.



This map shows the targets on the sample Quick Fire Plan forms in Figures 1 through 6.

## Conclusion

In the execution of the plan, the Hasty Fire Plan is an easy-to-carry, quick reference. It lends itself to easy up-

dating as the operation and forms the basis for the follow-on fire plan. Including the Quick Fire Plan formats from FM 6-20-50 ensures you can implement this option rapidly, if needed.

The Hasty Fire Plan is not a replacement for a detailed "full-up" fire plan generated by all the automated devices available. You should always prepare detailed fire plans when time and resources are available. But hasty plans are handy, useful tools for light forces to use in the environment they're likely to operate in.



Colonel Joseph P. Monko, Jr., is Chief of Staff of the US Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Until recently, he was Chief of the Surety and Management Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Washington, D.C. He also served as Chief of the Field Artillery Assignments Branch of the total Army Personnel Command (PERS-COM), Alexandria, Virginia. He has commanded five batteries and the 2d Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In his 22 years on active duty, Colonel Monko has commanded units for almost eight years. He's scheduled to take command of the Field Artillery Training Center, Fort Sill, in July.

## BATTLEKING Tactics, Training and Doctrine

BATTLEKING has received more than 256 ideas from unit-level personnel. This has resulted in more than 178 money-saving modifications to equipment or other methods and devices. While these changes are exciting, they represent only one aspect of BATTLEKING. Now that Field Artillerymen are getting comfortable with the concept of sharing good ideas about equipment, the time is right to examine those ideas that could enhance tactics, doctrine and training.

In these areas, as in all of BATTLEKING, anyone can submit an idea. Format is not important. What is important is to capture your ideas for improving tactics, training and doctrine so as to improve the Field Artillery.

When writing with your idea, give us an address and telephone number so we can contact you about your idea, if necessary. Send ideas, suggestions or proposals to President, TEXCOM Field Artillery Board, ATTN: ATCT-FAO (BATTLEKING), Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-6100.

## Field Artillery Tables of Organization and Equipment (TOEs)

### No Military Intelligence Officer in Field Artillery Battalions

The S2 intelligence officer in Field Artillery battalions is now a captain, 13E00. A military intelligence officer, 35D, as an S2 in Field Artillery battalions is no longer authorized. In the past in each heavy division, a lieutenant, 35D, was present but was deleted in exchange for the second officer in the maneuver brigade fire support section.

### Maneuver Brigade and Warhead Group BUCS

The backup computer system (BUCS) special (C788691) is now documented in TOEs. The BUCS special basis of issue plan now reads—one per maneuver brigade fire support section and four per warhead group. We added this piece of equipment to help units in nuclear operations.

### 13Bs Replace Most 77Fs and 88Ms in Field Artillery Battalions

A recent Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) decision will result in the removal of MOS 77F Petroleum Supply Specialist and 88M Motor Transport Operator from Field

Artillery battalions. The CSA directed the conversion of 88M and 77F to the primary combat MOSs in US Army, Europe's (USAREUR's) armor, Field Artillery, mechanized battalions, armored cavalry regiments and divisional cavalry squadrons. Conversion in USAREUR will begin in FY 91. Forces and Western Commands will convert at a later date.

In Field Artillery battalions, MOS 13B will replace all 77F and 88M as petroleum vehicle and heavy vehicle operators except for the following: one 77F E4 or E5 will be documented in each Field Artillery battalion TOE and one 88M E5 will be documented in each ammunition section. These two are necessary to provide continued expertise in petroleum operations and heavy vehicle operations.

### More Information

If units have questions about these TOE changes, call the Documentation Branch, Organization and Personnel Division, Directorate of Combat Developments, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, at AUTOVON 639-3702 or commercial (405) 3702.