

From the Commandant's desk

2017 Fires Conference Wrap Up

“We must continue to focus on the sophisticated and elegant design of the battlefield...”

“Thank you” to all those who attended the 2017 Fires Conference, either in person or virtually.

This year’s conference focused on what we are doing now and our efforts to expand the capabilities of Cross Domain Fires in support of Multi-Domain Battle. If you missed the conference, the slides and DCO recordings are available on FKN at URL <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/47887390>. During our Field Artillery Breakout session we engaged in presentations by fellow Redleg warriors. These included COL Marcus Jones, the 8th Army Chief of Fires, who gave us a rundown on what’s happening on the Korean peninsula and how our forces conduct operations; COL Dave Lee, Commander, the 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment and U.S. Army Europe FSCOORD, talked about what it’s like to work closely with NATO partners in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve; and COL Tom Bolen, Commander, 11D DIVARTY, gave us an great update on operations in Iraq and how the Field Artillery supports Operation Inherent Resolve. We closed out the session with COL Andy Rendon’s rundown of how the Strategic Management System, tied to DTMS, can provide near real-time provide quantitative feedback on unit training and readiness.

Throughout our discussions, one topic of note which continues to be a challenge is how we must get better at managing the balance between air control measures (ACMs) and fire support coordination measures (FSCMs); regardless of theater or level of conflict, we must standardize the complexity of air-space management through doctrine, training, and technology.

We must continue to focus on the sophisticated and elegant design of the battlefield, to include FSCMs and ACMs, the electromagnetic spectrum that enables permissive cannon and rocket fires, and air support at critical times and locations to allow the maneuver commander to bring all assets to bear simultaneously

at a time and place of their choosing.

All these moving pieces do not synchronize themselves by accident. It takes a deliberate and concerted process and a lot of practice. There was a time when this was “old hat” for our force. Going forward, we must continue to get reps and sets under our belts so designing the battlefield will again become second nature. To do this, we must train hard and repetitively to rebuild muscle memory. We must also share lessons learned throughout the force, while we train and while we fight.

In closing, I want to assure you that we are a Field Artillery force who genuinely cares about getting better at what we do. We will never settle for the status quo, nor will we allow ourselves to stagnate.

We are the world’s premier Artillery force - modernized, organized, trained, and ready to integrate and employ Army, Joint, and Multinational fires because of the tremendous efforts of you, our Soldiers,

24/7/365,
Regardless of weather,
In any terrain,
Quickly, Accurately, and Danger Close! 

BG Stephen J. Maranian

