

TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES FOR
OBSERVED FIRE

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PREFACE

The purpose of this publication is to explain observed fire procedures used by units in combat and to explain how observed fire training is conducted in peacetime to meet combat requirements. The material presented herein applies to both nuclear and nonnuclear warfare.

This publication discusses observed fire procedures, with the firing unit using both manual and automated fire direction techniques. The observed fire procedures are usually the same; only those instances in which differences occur are indicated. Digital and automated observed fire procedures are discussed in the appendixes. This publication covers only technical observed fire procedures. The operational and organizational aspects of employing observers are discussed in other publications, particularly in the FM 6-20 series manuals.

The target audience for this publication is the field artillery fire support team (FIST) personnel and other fire support observers, to include aerial fire support observers (AFSOs), combat observation/lasing teams (COLTs), infantry scouts, and personnel who may become involved in rear area combat operations.

This publication is fully compatible with the Army's AirLand Battle doctrine and is consistent with current joint and combined doctrine.

This publication implements the following international agreements (standardization agreements [STANAGs] and quadripartite standardization agreements [QSTAGs]):

- QSTAG 224, Edition 2, *Manual Fire Direction Equipment Target Classification, and Methods of Engagement*,
- QSTAG 225, Edition 3, *Call for Fire Procedures*.
- QSTAG 246, Edition 3, *Radio Telephone Procedures for the Conduct of Artillery Fire*.
- QSTAG 503, Edition 1, *Bombing, Shelling, Mortaring, and Location Reports*.
- QSTAG 505, Edition 2, *Adjustment of Artillery Fire*.
- STANAG 1034, Edition 8, *Allied Spotting Procedures for Naval Gunfire Support*.
- STANAG 2088, Edition 6 and QSTAG 182, Edition 2, *Battlefield Illumination*.
- STANAG 2934, Edition 1, *Artillery Procedures*.
- STANAG 3736 Edition 7, *Offensive Air Support Operations*.

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

CHAPTER 1

FIELD ARTILLERY EFFECTIVENESS

1-1. FIELD ARTILLERY TEAM

The fire support gunnery problem is solved through the coordinated efforts of the field artillery team (Figure 1-1). This team consists of the observer, the fire direction center (FDC), and the firing unit—all linked by an adequate communications system. Doctrine requires team members to operate with a sense of urgency and to continually strive to reduce the time required to execute an effective fire mission.

a. Observer. The observer serves as the “eyes” of all indirect fire systems. He detects and locates suitable indirect fire targets within his zone of observation. To attack a target, the observer transmits a request for indirect fires and adjusts the fires onto the target when necessary. An observer provides surveillance data pertaining to his fires. See Chapter 2 for a discussion of the fire support team and the observer.

b. Fire Direction Center. The FDC serves as the “brain” of the system. It receives the call for fire from the observer, determines firing data, and converts them to fire commands (technical fire direction). The FDC transmits

the fire commands to the sections designated to fire the mission. Because of the great distance between artillery units on the battlefield and requirements for improved responsiveness, technical fire direction normally is conducted by the battery FDC. The battalion FDC does the following:

- Provides tactical fire direction (how to attack a target).
- Monitors all fire nets.
- Provides technical fire direction assistance to battery FDCs; for example, fire plan firing data and fire direction backup.

c. Firing Unit. The firing unit serves as the “brawn” of the system. It consists of the firing unit headquarters and the firing sections. The normal function of the firing section is to deliver fires as directed by the FDC. See the FM 6-20 series for a discussion of the fire support system, TC 6-40 and TC 6-40A for a discussion of field artillery (FA) fire direction, and FM 6-50 for a detailed discussion of the cannon battery.

Figure 1-1 THE FIELD ARTILLERY TEAM

