

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Operations Group  
National Training Center  
Fort Irwin, California 92310**

AXTY-BT

07 Aug 01

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Rotational Field Artillery Battalion

SUBJECT: Brigade and Task Force Fire Support Training.

1. On behalf of the brigade and task force fire support training teams, we look forward to working with you during your upcoming rotation. We are dedicated to ensuring that your fire supporters train hard, improve with every training day, and redeploy home fully prepared to train so that they can fight and win on the modern battlefield.
2. The O/C Coordination memorandum is a general schedule of key meetings with O/Cs for the TF and BCT FSOs during RSOI, you will get more information on these meetings during your initial O/C in-brief. Also enclosed is a list of current trends in the fire support BOS at the NTC. Review, and if there is anything that we can assist you with in your train-up don't hesitate to give us a call.
3. If you have any questions feel free to call me at DSN 470-5546 or email [Bronco27@irwin.army.mil](mailto:Bronco27@irwin.army.mil).
4. Train the Force!

BRENT PARKER  
MAJ, FA  
Brigade Fire Support Trainer

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**Operations Group**  
**National Training Center**  
**Fort Irwin, California 92310**

AXTY-BT

07 Aug 01

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Rotational Field Artillery Battalion

SUBJECT: Observer/Controller (O/C) Pre-Rotation Coordination Schedule

1. Ensure required personnel from your unit attend the following coordination meetings with the Brigade and Task Force Fire Support Trainers.
2. Coordinate any changes to this schedule with the appropriate fire support trainer.

<u>O/C</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Bldg/Room</u>
Bronco 27	Counterpart Interview BDE FSO	Mon	1300	592/8
Bronco 27C	COLT PL/COLT PSG	Mon	1300	592/8
Scorpion 27	Counterpart Interview TF FSO/TGT OFF/FSNCO	Mon	1100	594
Cobra 27	Counterpart Interview TF FSO/TGT OFF/FSNCO	Mon	1100	591/12
Tarantula 27	Counterpart Interview TF FSO/TGT OFF/FSNCO	Mon	1100	595
Lizard 27	Live Fire Safety BDE FSO/AFSO/TGT OFF/ COTM FSOs/COLT PL/ALO/ ETAC/ BDE&TF Operations Planners	Tue	1430	598

3. Come prepared to discuss the following during initial counterpart interviews:
  - a. BDE /TF Fire Support Training Level Assessment. Discuss tasks to sustain and improve proficiency during the rotation.
  - b. BDE /TF Fire Support Training Objectives.
  - c. Training and Preparation for Deployment to the NTC.
  - d. Proficiency at Accurately Acquiring Targets.
  - e. Fire Support Personnel Status. Be prepared to discuss personnel by duty position, length of time in position, and previous NTC experience by position and rotation.
  - f. Fire support integration and synchronization into the BDE and TF planning processes.

AXTY-BT

SUBJECT: Observer/Controller (O/C) Pre-Rotation Coordination Schedule

- g. Status for both home station and ITT equipment.
  - h. **Ensure you bring the following to the counterpart interview:**
    - (1) **NTC PRE Rotational Survey (filled out)**
    - (2) **A copy of unit your SOP and any additional ES documents (ANNEX D)**
    - (3) **A copy of your personnel roster for BDE FSE, STRIKER/COLTS, with standard name line, SSN, and sensitive items (w/serial number) listing for each soldier.**
  - i. Concerns and Issues.
4. The initial interview will be your first interaction with the fire support training teams at the NTC. Arrive prepared to discuss the above topics.
5. Points of Contact.
- a. Brigade/Regiment. Bronco 27/27A: MAJ Brent Parker/CPT Jay Soupene, DSN 470-5546; E-Mail Bronco27@irwin.army.mil.
  - b. Task Force/Squadron.
    - (1) Armor. Cobra 27: CPT James McGovern, DSN 470-6498; e-mail Cobra27@irwin.army.mil.
    - (2) Mechanized Infantry. Scorpion 27: CPT Ryan Laporte, DSN 470-4279, email Scorpion27@irwin.army.mil.
    - (3) Light Infantry. Tarantula 27: CPT Andrew Rendon, DSN 470-5560, email Trantula27@irwin.army.mil
6. Train the Force!

BRENT PARKER  
MAJ, FA  
Brigade Fire Support Trainer

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**Operations Group**  
**National Training Center**  
**Fort Irwin, California 92310**

AXTY-BT

07 Aug 01

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Rotational Field Artillery Battalion

SUBJECT: Fire Support Trends

1. We recommend that you read and become familiar with FM 6-40-40, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Fire Support Brigade Operations, 1 May 2000. This publication thoroughly discusses the fire support planning process, and more importantly, the fire support products required for and resulting from, each step of the planning process. FM 6-20-40 addresses many of the planning issues discussed below.

2. Trends and observations: Fire Support Planning.

a. Improve targeting team effort during mission analysis. FSOs do not develop a clear scheme of fires. At time of issue, the brigade and TF fire support plans and annexes lack sufficient detail to allow subordinate fire supporters to complete their planning process and initiate troop leading procedures.

b. Observation planning is not a total staff effort. BDE/TF planners fail to wargame their observer insertion plan and its execution is not synchronized with the R&S plan (BDE or TF). All observation assets available are either considered or utilized (scouts, maneuver shooters, or aviation). Operations planners are unfamiliar with COLT/FIST equipment capabilities and limitations. Frequently, planned or designated OPs do not support the required task or purpose because of equipment limitations (specifically, the use of nightsights, MELIOS vs. G/VLLD for target location, and laser designator range limitations).

c. Poor communications planning. Brigades and task forces do not consider specific line of sight requirements and range limitations for employing digital communications equipment.

d. Most BDE and TF FSEs do not utilize their personnel efficiently. We often see poor interaction between BDE and TF FSEs, insufficient or no battle drill, and no SOP for FSE operations. FSEs are not information managers, do not know what information to track, and do not know what to do with the information they have. Subordinates are not required to submit status reports to higher. FSEs do not routinely check with subordinates and most units have no plan to update COLTs or FISTs deployed in sector.

e. Fire support rehearsals tend to have no format, task, or purpose. Generally, they include a review of published target lists and schemes of fire. They do not serve to synchronize fires or focus preparation for execution. TFs rarely conduct fire support rehearsals.

3. COLT trends. The most common and recurring COLT deficiencies seen on the NTC battlefield include:

a. Ability to see the battlefield. COLTs deploy without graphics, target lists, and execution matrices. Observed deficiencies indicate general training weaknesses in call for fire procedures, tactical use of terrain and OP occupation drill, and identifying and executing tactical triggers.

b. High attrition rate. Poor CASEVAC planning and evacuation procedures result in extremely high died of wounds rates.

AXTY-BT

SUBJECT: Fire Support Trends

c. COLTs, and especially operations planners, are unfamiliar with equipment capabilities and limitations. G/VLLD to FED cables, use of night-sights, MELIOS vs. G/VLLD for target location, laser designator range limitations.

4. Risk management. Units fail to adequately identify risks, both tactical and accidental, and then determine and implement controls.

5. POC is CPT Jay Soupene, at DSN 470-5546 or E-Mail [Bronco27A@irwin.army.mil](mailto:Bronco27A@irwin.army.mil).

6. Train the Force!

BRENT PARKER  
MAJ, FA  
Brigade Fire Support Trainer