

Scorpion 27 – Wolf Web Page October 2001

Issue: Integration of the TF Mortars into the Fire Support Plan.

Discussion: Task Forces often do not adequately integrate their TF mortars into their scheme of fires. By not integrating the mortars, the TF does not take advantage of the only fire support asset organic to their TF, and as a result, often finds difficulty in accomplishing EFSTs. Mortar priority targets are established on several missions. Mortar positioning is difficult as many of the targets that they are responsible for are out of range.

Recommendation: Mortars must be integrated into the scheme of fires and scheme of maneuver. Mortar integration is especially important when DS FA fires are not expected. During the MDMP, identification of the targets the mortars are to shoot, triggers for mortar movement, and routes for the mortars must be made. In addition the FSO or targeting officer should look at the targets that the mortars will fire and based upon range to target by type of ammunition, should recommend positioning of the TF Mortars. During defensive operations, a registration must be conducted to ensure that the desired mass upon the enemy is achieved.