

## **STEP 15 - DEVELOP THE FA COMMANDER'S INTENT**

4-30. After reviewing the mission analysis briefing and approving the restated mission, the commander finalizes his intent statement. The FA commander's intent is his personal expression (in broad terms) of:

- The tasks to be executed (e.g., counterfire, destroy dismounts, cover obstacles; attrit/disrupt first echelon, etc.)
- The purpose of the FA fires in support of the supported force (e.g., delay second echelon to allow attrition of first echelon, destroy lead elements C2 to cause confusion, protect the force with counterfire to allow freedom of maneuver, etc.)
- The methods used by the FA battalion to assist the supported force in reaching the end state (e.g., initially position observers and firing units forward to delay lead elements with DPICM fires, destroy C2 elements with Copperhead fires, fire FASCAM and smoke to delay and disrupt the second echelon, etc.)
- The end state or criteria for success (e.g., enemy unable to mass his direct and indirect fires against the brigade and we are in position to support the follow-on mission, etc.).

4-31. The FA commander's intent provides linkage between his vision of the end state and the FA concept of operations (details of the "how to" written by the staff).

## **STEP 16 - ISSUE THE COMMANDER'S GUIDANCE**

4-32. After the commander approves or issues the restated mission and states his intent, he must provide additional planning guidance to the staff. The intent of the commander's guidance is to establish guidelines and implant his vision of the operation into the minds of his staff to enable them to plan the FA operations consistent with his and the supported commander's (and/or higher FA HQ) intentions. When time is not significantly limited, this guidance can be general in nature, therefore, providing the staff maximum latitude. As time becomes more constrained, this guidance must be more specific and directive. Commander's guidance should address (but not be limited to) the following:

- Prioritize EFATs.
- FA COAs to consider.
- Enemy FS COAs to consider.
- CSS priorities.
- Type of order to prepare.
- CCIR.
- Positioning priorities.
- Munitions mix (combat-configured loads [CCLs]).
- C2 arrangements.
- Radio retransmission (retrans) guidance.
- Survey priorities.
- Risk guidance.
- Rehearsal guidance. (See Section IV for additional information on rehearsals.)