

FIREPOWER BRIEFING FOR DR STOCKFISCH

Dr Stockfisch, Dr Payne, General Rowney, gentlemen the next 30 minutes have been set aside for an informal discussion of firepower. I will start the ball rolling. However, I would like to emphasize that questions and/or comments will be most welcome at any time.

As a frame-work for our discussion I have selected three major areas: (1) Mission (2) Means, and (3) Methods. As a further breakdown I have selected these subheadings. (Show Chart #1)

I'll concentrate on artillery since this is where the bulk of the fire support is located within the division. (Discuss Chart #1)

The current mission of our composite battalion (2/42 FA Bn) is shown on this next chart (2). Our combat mission, which we must always keep in mind, is shown here. (Display Chart #3)

Our current organization, which will be fully trained and ready for the Phase I tests, is shown on the next chart (4).

For Phase II we will more than double our strength and will organize as shown here. (Display Chart #5) This increase keeps the artillery in pace with the infantry's build up to three battalions.

Finally, in Phase III, we will achieve a full strength Div Arty as shown on this chart (6).

I will now touch briefly on a few of the weapons that we now have in the artillery and some we hope to get in the near future. (Show Chart #7)

Here is the 2.75 Folding Fin Aerial Rocket mounted on a HH-19 helicopter. There are four in a platoon, twelve in a battery. They can be used for immediate support to the infantry, before, during, and after air assault landings. They will be particularly useful to reinforce the firer of the 105 howitzers and to neutralize targets that the 105's can not reach. (Show Chart #8)

Here is our 318mm Little John. There are four in a battery. This weapon provides general support firer. Launchers plus rocket weighs 1330 pounds. (Show Chart #9)

Here is the standard (M2A2) 105 howitzer. This is the one that we will use in our tests in October. When stripped of it's shields it weighs 4400 pounds, which is much heavier than we care to have a direct support artillery piece for air assault operations. Eventually we will obtain the much lighter M102 (show chart #10). This howitzer weighs 3000 pounds and will have a range of better than 16000 yards.

In addition we have 4 Italian 105mm Howitzers for comparative tests. (Show Chart #11) This weapon weighs only 2800 pounds, which makes it most attractive in the air assault role. Moreover it breaks down into 16 loads which can be man-handled.

In our search for the optimum direct fire weapon we have carefully studied several possibilities. A few of the key factors that we have scrutinized are shown on this chart. (Display Chart #12) and discuss.

~~Next, let's consider for a moment the organic weapons in the division that require a lighter degree of coordination when employed, than direct fire weapons on sound platform. (Display Chart #13).~~

~~Our plans for coordinating these weapons during the 1st Phase is illustrated on the next chart. (Display Chart #14)~~

First I'd like to discuss the 75mm Pack Howitzer.

There are only a few of these wpns left in the US--Those that remain are almost smooth bore wpns - while very light and easy to handle these wpns were never very accurate and had only 1/3 of the of the standard 105; the range is limited and these do not have a high angle capability. Also The types of ammunition available are unlimited. The currently available 4.2 mortar seems most attractive at first glance for air assault operations. Indeed for some operations it may be the best weapon for the direct support role. It has good high angle characteristics, excellent ~~lethality~~ and its weight makes it the easiest to take into an objective area with a helicopter. As the normal direct fire weapon it has three principal disadvantages.

1. Lacks Direct Fire Capability
2. Range is limited
3. Accuracy is not good

While the weapon breaks down into several loads it is not easy to man handle. The new 107 mm mortar will weigh only 300 lbs and have a maximum range of about 9000 yds.

The standard 105 is far heavier than we would like to have it. It has excellent lethality than the 4.2 when its angle of fall exceeds 64%.

It has a direct and high angle capability and is by far the most accurate of all weapons in this category. With the XM102 howitzer the weight will come down to 3000 pounds and the range will be increased to over 16,000 yards.

Without degrading the 4.2 mortar in any way because I don't believe it can be beat for the role it was designed to fill, I would like to summarize the analysis by stating that taking into consideration the number of rounds required to neutralize targets by a direct support weapon the 105 howitzer is the most efficient (and economical) light weight weapon that we have, at the moment, to do the job.

Next, let's consider for a moment the organic weapons in the division that require a higher degree of coordination when employed, than direct fire weapons on ground platforms. (Display Chart #13).

Our plans for coordinating these weapons during the 1st Phase is illustrated on the next chart. (Display Chart #14)

By way of a summary, I like to say that these are two unique fire support coordination problems 1 in air assault operations.

1st is the split - second training required. For example, from the time the enemy first hears approaching helicopters until battalion size landings are complete will be within 120 seconds.

The second problem is the variety of fires to be coordinated:

- a. Tactical Air Force Firing
- b. Armed Mohawks
- c. Aerial Rocket Units
- d. Direct Support Artillery
- e. And Little John units

Judging by the enthusiasm and thenumber of wide variety of solutions
that have already been suggested to solve these problems, I'm confident
that we will render the fire support end of the business, if you will
parden a pun, a roaring success.