

SUPFIRE # 17
1969

ARMY COMBAT ROLE

WHPease

1.0 TACTICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Army's tactical responsibilities in the selected operational environments are:

- (1) By means of combat action to seize and secure hostile terrain to effect control of people and resources, and
- (2) Through the threat of combat action assure the control of land, its people and resources. Combat action involves the use of combat power, the combination of close combat and fire support. The resources for this action are from both the military forces of the area concerned and those from the United States.

2.0 ORGANIZATION

2.1 COMBAT POWER -- Combat power is organized in a minimum of three echelons. Each echelon consists of maneuver (close combat) elements and fire support elements. The combined fire support and close combat elements of one echelon comprise the maneuver element of the next higher echelon.

Each echelon controls an area or areas through the maneuver of its close combat elements and the fires of its fire support elements. The areas occupied by the brigades are physically in possession of the close combat elements. The zones of influence are areas that can be denied to the aggressor either through the maneuver of close combat elements or supporting fires.

The basic weapon system of U.S. forces in the scale of operations under consideration is the division, probably infantry or mechanized infantry. The division maneuver elements consist of seven to nine battalions of infantry and one or two battalions or armor task organized into three brigades. Organic fire support is comprised of 105 mm, 155 mm, and 8-inch howitzers and Honest John rocket units.

The division is the maneuver element of the Corps. Fire support of division operations and total Corps operations is provided by 175 mm gun, Sergeant missile, and 8-inch, 155 mm, and 105 mm howitzer battalions. Corps in turn are the maneuver units of the Army force or Army. This echelon has for fire support the Pershing missile and the mission support of a Tactical Air Force.

For a typical force the fire support, combat support, and combat service support combined with the division it supports total 35 to 40,000 men and approximately 100,000 tons of materiel. Approximately 1/3 of the force is close combat elements and 1/6, fire support. In a sophisticated environment where regularized forces can be employed the proportion of fire support tends to increase. In primitive environments the proportion of fire support tends to decrease.

2.2 FIRE SUPPORT

The tube and missile artillery that comprise the fire support means is organized to support the several force echelons with control centralized at an artillery command at each echelon.

The means available to each echelon permits fire delivery against enemy capabilities within the echelon's area of influence.