

ORGANIZATION. Artillery battalions in support of, or attached to, the brigade may be further deployed by battery or platoon to support widely dispersed maneuver units. Artillery employed in smaller than battery-size units (platoon, section) will require additional security forces from the supported commander.

OPERATIONS. The decentralized nature of IDAD operations increases the requirement for extensive coordination of fire support below brigade level. For detailed discussion of fire support planning and coordination principles, see FM 6-20, FM 6-20-1, and FM 6-20-2. Also, consideration must be given to the restrained application of fire because of the principle of “minimum essential force” designed to protect the civil populace.

■ **FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION.** The artillery commander is normally the fire support coordinator for the tactical commander. FM 6-20 gives information on fire support coordination for indirect fires and fires from armed aircraft. Fires must be closely coordinated not only with tactical operations in the area, but also with civilian activities. Counter guerrilla operations normally will dictate - -

■ A greater decentralization of organic, attached, and supporting fire support.

■ A reduced capability for brigade-level control and coordination of fires within the operational area.

■ Greater security requirements for firing positions of direct fire weapons to include planning of direct fires for defense.

■ A requirement to fire in all directions.

■ Provision for support to local defense forces and static security posts.

■ Discriminate use of fire support to avoid noncombatant casualties which will alienate the population and produce hostile attitudes toward US units and the host government.

■ Close coordination with host country officials in the operational area.

■ **FIRE SUPPORT PLANNING.** Lack of time may preclude the preparation of a formal coordinated and integrated fire support plan for every contingency; however, SOP should provide for all likely contingencies. Close liaison and continuous contact between the supported commander and the fire support coordinators provide the required coordination; however, in operations involving extensive employment of maneuver and support forces, such as in the final phase of an encirclement, coordination measures must be used to insure that converging friendly units do not call fire upon one another.

■ **OBSERVATION.** The requirement to provide fire support for isolated static defensive positions as well as mobile forces throughout a 360° zone of action may exceed the artillery organic observation capabilities. Training selected members of the supported forces for artillery observation and fire adjustment should be considered (see FM 6-20). Fire support teams (FIST) can assist in this training.