

## **LIAISON ELEMENTS**

### **ARMY FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS**

#### **Mission**

Responsibility for command, control, and coordination of fire support begins with the force commander. From the corps down to the company and team, all levels have fire support elements (FSEs). The FSEs assist the maneuver commander in the decision and execution process, advise on fire support capabilities, and assist in the planning and coordination of fire support.

#### **Organization**

FSEs have a fire support coordinator (FSCOORD) and a supporting staff but will otherwise vary according to the available fire support assets. An FSE will usually include an air liaison officer (ALO); representatives from such elements as the air and naval gunfire liaison company (ANGLICO); Army aviation units, and electronic warfare support elements (EWSEs); mortars; and other assets required by the force commander.

**Echelons Above Corps.** The battlefield coordination element (BCE) is the major Army organization involved in coordinating fire support. Its primary responsibility is allocating resources, especially air support assets, and the corresponding requirements for joint suppression of enemy air defenses (J-SEAD).

**Corps and Division.** The FSEs provided at the corps and division levels are similar in structure. Both are

located in the main and tactical command posts and in the rear tactical operations centers.

**Brigade and Battalion.** The FSCOORD at brigade level is usually the commander of the direct support battalion. The brigade FSCOORD establishes fire support organizations in each maneuver battalion and company. The FSEs at brigade and battalion levels are located in the maneuver tactical operations center (TOC).

**Company.** The fire support organization at company level is the fire support team (FIST). The FIST is headed by the company FSO, who is also the company FSCOORD. The field artillery and mortars provide the primary fire support to the company. The FIST coordinates these assets and, when available, coordinates CAS and naval resources through the appropriate agencies. The FIST also provides forward observer capabilities to the company.

## MARINE CORPS TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY

### Mission

The Marine TACP establishes and maintains facilities for liaison and communications between supported units and appropriate control agencies. The TACP is led by the air officer (AO), who informs and advises the ground unit commander on the employment of supporting aircraft and requests and coordinates air support missions.

## Organization

The battalion TACP has two forward air control (FAC) parties, while the regimental and division TACPs have none.

**Division.** The division TACP has 2 officers and 11 enlisted communications personnel. They assist the division AO by monitoring all immediate air support requests from supporting units, by supervising the operation of aviation nets in the division fire support coordination center (FSCC), and by keeping the fire support coordinator (FSC) advised of the general air situation and specific requests of subordinate units.

**Regiment.** The regimental TACP has one regimental air officer (RAO) and four enlisted communications personnel. The RAO advises and assists the regimental commander regarding all aviation matters, consolidates all preplanned and support requests from subordinate units, coordinates with the regimental FSC, functions as the air representative with the regimental FSCC, and facilitates the disposition of immediate air support requests if necessary.

**Battalion.** The battalion TACP has 3 officers and 12 enlisted communications personnel. The senior naval aviator/naval flight officer functions as the battalion air officer, and each of the other two officers is the leader of a FAC party.

## **AIR AND NAVAL GUNFIRE LIAISON COMPANY**

### **Mission and Employment**

The ANGLICO supports a US Army or allied division, or elements thereof, by providing the control and liaison agencies for the employment of naval surface fire and naval air support in amphibious assault or other operations. The ANGLICO is normally attached to the supported force for a joint or combined operation in which US fleet assets are employed. The ANGLICO can provide fleet firepower to help offset the lack of heavy combat support initially available in most expeditionary environments. To support airborne and special operations forces, the ANGLICO maintains an airdrop capability.

### **Organization**

The ANGLICO maintains a high degree of organizational flexibility and can task-organize to meet the needs of the supported force. A company, if fully committed, can support an entire US Army division of three maneuver brigades. An ANGLICO consists of a company headquarters and three brigade air/naval gunfire liaison platoons. The ANGLICO headquarters performs command and staff functions necessary to administer, plan, direct, and supervise the execution of assigned missions and to advise the supported commander on the employment of the company.

The company headquarters can form a task-organized division air/naval gunfire liaison team as necessary to support a division or comparable-sized allied unit. Each

platoon has one brigade liaison team to effect fire support coordination at the US Army combat brigade or equivalent level, two supporting arm liaison teams (SALTs) to effect fire support at the maneuver battalion level, and four firepower control teams (FCTs) to provide control of naval surface support, naval air support, and artillery support at the company level.

**Division Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Team.**

The division air and naval gunfire liaison team is task-organized to provide support to an Army division or comparable-sized allied unit. The division team usually attaches to the supported division headquarters FSCC, FSE, or a comparable agency for planning, liaison, control, coordination, and employment of supporting arms.

**Brigade Air and Naval Gunfire Team.** The brigade air and naval gunfire team provides support to a maneuver brigade. The air and naval gunfire teams are task-organized to support an Army maneuver battalion or comparable-sized allied unit. The brigade team usually attaches to the supported brigade TOC or comparable supporting arms for an Army brigade or comparable-sized allied unit.

**Battalion Supporting Arms Liaison Team.** SALTs provide the capability to support a battalion. They are task-organized to support an Army maneuver battalion or a comparable-sized allied unit. The SALT usually attaches to a supported battalion TOC or a comparable agency for planning, requesting, coordinating, and controlling supporting arms for an Army battalion or comparable-sized allied unit, as well as for liaison.

**Firepower Control Team.** FCTs provide terminal control of naval gunfire and USN and USMC CAS to a supported maneuver company. They are task-organized to support an Army maneuver company or a comparable-sized allied unit. Company commanders employ FCTs much as they would TACPs, FISTs, or comparable agencies— to plan, request coordinate, and provide terminal control of supporting arms for an Army maneuver company or comparable-sized allied unit—as well as for liaison.

## **AIR FORCE TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY**

### **Mission**

The Air Force TACP is a control element stationed with and supporting an Army combat unit. The TACP provides the interface between the Army unit it supports and the combat Air Force unit that provides combat air support. The TACP advises the ground commander on the capabilities and limitations of combat aircraft and weapons and assists in planning for combat air support. The airborne forward air controller (AFAC), the air liaison officer (ALO), and the enlisted terminal attack controller (ETAC) in the TACP provide final attack control for CAS missions.

### **Organization**

TACPs are located at corps, division, brigade, and battalion levels and are tailored in reaming and skills to the Army unit they support. While employed, TACPs are under the operational control of an air support

operations center (ASOC) or the senior TACP element deployed.

**Corps and Division.** At corps and division levels and sometimes at the field army level, the TACP has a senior ALO, plus the fighter and airlift liaison officers and tactical air command and control specialists (TACCSs).

**Brigade.** The brigade TACP has a brigade ALO, fighter and airlift liaison officers, and TACCSs.

**Battalion.** The battalion TACP has one ALO and two TACCSs assigned. At least one TACCS will also be ETAC-qualified.

