Fire Support Team (FIST) Certification Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. **A _____ is a target upon which fires or other actions are scheduled for prosecution at a specified time.**
   - **A. Scheduled Target**
   - **B. Specified Target**
   - **C. Time Sensitive Target**
   - **D. Priority Target**

2. **What is one of the responsibilities of the team leader during an observation post operation?**
   - **A. Take charge of all surveillance equipment.**
   - **B. Ensure that all team members are familiar with equipment usage.**
   - **C. Communicate directly with the enemy.**
   - **D. Establish the operational area alone.**

3. **Do Army Attack Aviation or AC-130 engagements necessitate terminal attack control?**
   - **A. Yes**
   - **B. No**
   - **C. Yes, under all circumstances**
   - **D. No, unless a CAS 9-Line is passed**

4. **If target length, or length and width are given, what additional information must the observer provide?**
   - **A. Depth**
   - **B. Attitude**
   - **C. Radius**
   - **D. Altitude**

5. **What is the closest range bracket after which an observer must send refinement corrections for mortars if the last round is within a specified distance?**
   - **A. 50 meters**
   - **B. 100 meters**
   - **C. 25 meters**
   - **D. 75 meters**

6. What type of control is used when the JTAC/FAC cannot visually acquire the attacking aircraft or target?

A. Type 1 Control

B. Type 2 Control

C. Type 3 Control

D. Type 4 Control

7. During the time portion of precision registration, what command is given once the observer achieves a measurable airburst?

A. Repeat

B. 2 Rounds Repeat

C. 3 Rounds Repeat

D. 4 Rounds Repeat

8. True or False: Precision fire is used for Final Protective Fires (FPF) and destruction missions.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for destruction missions

D. Only for FPF

9. Which correction in the sequence pertains to the type of munitions being used?

A. Fuze

B. Projectile

C. Danger Close

D. Distribution

10. What type of munition corrects for ballistic conditions using guidance and control up to the aimpoint or dispenses submunitions with terminal accuracy less than the lethal radius of effects?

A. Heat Seeker

B. Cluster Munition

C. Precision Munition

D. Joint Fire Unit

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. C

Explanations

1. A _____ is a target upon which fires or other actions are scheduled for prosecution at a specified time.

A. Scheduled Target

B. Specified Target

C. Time Sensitive Target

D. Priority Target

The term "Scheduled Target" refers to a specific target that has been identified for engagement or action at a predetermined time. This allows for coordinated and planned fire support operations, ensuring that strikes occur when most appropriate for operational success. Scheduling is crucial in military operations, as it facilitates the synchronization of actions across various units and resources involved in the engagement. In scenarios where timing is essential, such as when air support or artillery needs to be employed at a specific moment, identifying a target as scheduled ensures that all parties involved are prepared and can execute their roles effectively at the designated time. This enhances operational efficiency and effectiveness, contributing to the overall success of the mission. Other terminologies, such as "Specified Target," "Time Sensitive Target," and "Priority Target," denote different concepts within military operations, focusing on characteristics such as urgency, specificity, and priority in engagement rather than the scheduled timing aspect inherent to "Scheduled Target."

2. What is one of the responsibilities of the team leader during an observation post operation?

A. Take charge of all surveillance equipment.

B. Ensure that all team members are familiar with equipment usage.

C. Communicate directly with the enemy.

D. Establish the operational area alone.

One of the key responsibilities of the team leader during an observation post operation is to ensure that all team members are familiar with the equipment usage. This is crucial because effective communication and coordination among team members are essential for mission success. The team leader must guarantee that every member understands how to operate critical surveillance and communication equipment, which allows for efficient gathering of intelligence and timely dissemination of information back to command. By making sure that the team members are trained and comfortable with their roles, the team leader fosters a cohesive and effective unit capable of operating under the high-pressure conditions typical of observation posts. This preparation minimizes the risk of mistakes and enhances the overall effectiveness of the observation mission.

3. Do Army Attack Aviation or AC-130 engagements necessitate terminal attack control?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Yes, under all circumstances

D. No, unless a CAS 9-Line is passed

Army Attack Aviation and AC-130 engagements do not inherently require terminal attack control as part of their operational procedures. This is primarily because these platforms utilize direct fire capabilities and are often controlled by their own onboard personnel who have the training and authority to execute engagements without external terminal attack control. Terminal attack control is more commonly associated with close air support (CAS) missions where coordinated strikes are necessary, and a detailed understanding of the tactical situation is essential to manage the risks of friendly fire and to ensure precision targeting. In contrast, the operational dynamics of Army Attack Aviation and AC-130 missions often allow for a more autonomous execution of their firepower, relying on internal systems and judgements. In cases where detailed coordination is not necessary, the requirement for a terminal attack controller is diminished. This means that while there may be situations when having terminal attack control could enhance safety and precision, it is not a universal necessity for all engagements involving these platforms.

4. If target length, or length and width are given, what additional information must the observer provide?

A. Depth

B. Attitude

C. Radius

D. Altitude

In the context of targeting and fire support operations, if the observer has already provided information concerning the length and width of a target, the next important piece of information needed is the target's attitude. Attitude refers to the orientation of the target in relation to the ground or the observer's location, often described in terms of its azimuth or bearings. This information is critical because understanding how a target is oriented helps in determining the best approach for engagement and ensures that the munitions will impact where they are intended to. In fire support operations, providing a complete and accurate picture of the target's physical dimensions and orientation allows for more effective coordination and engagement, minimizing the risk of collateral damage while maximizing the effectiveness of the fire support.

5. What is the closest range bracket after which an observer must send refinement corrections for mortars if the last round is within a specified distance?

A. 50 meters

B. 100 meters

C. 25 meters

D. 75 meters

The correct answer pertains specifically to the standard practices for adjusting mortar fire. After the last round of fire, observers must send refinement corrections if the target distance falls within a specified range bracket. This range is important because it ensures that the observer quickly adjusts to maintain accuracy, which is crucial for effective fire support. In this context, 100 meters is the closest range bracket that necessitates sending refinement corrections. This means that if the last round was fired within 100 meters of the target, it is vital for the observer to provide adjustments to account for any inaccuracies and to ensure that subsequent rounds land on target. This practice helps avoid collateral damage and ensures that the mortar fire is effectively neutralizing the intended threat. The chosen answer reflects the standard operating procedure for determining when an observer needs to make refinements to ensure effective fire support is provided to ground troops in close proximity to the target area.

6. What type of control is used when the JTAC/FAC cannot visually acquire the attacking aircraft or target?

A. Type 1 Control

B. Type 2 Control

C. Type 3 Control

D. Type 4 Control

Type 2 Control is utilized when the Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) or Forward Air Controller (FAC) is unable to visually acquire either the attacking aircraft or the target. This type of control allows for a level of flexibility and effectiveness in situations where visual contacts cannot be established, which is common in dynamic combat environments or when using airborne platforms obscured by terrain or weather conditions. In Type 2 Control, the JTAC or FAC can provide targeting information and clearance for airstrikes based on their situational awareness using other means, such as digital communications or the relaying of targeting data. This approach maintains safety while ensuring that the attack is coordinated effectively. Furthermore, the distinctions among the types of control methods emphasize the various levels of visual acquisition and responsibility that the controller has. Type 1 Control requires the controller to have visual contact with both the aircraft and the target, while Type 3 Control allows for engagement with no restrictions but still involves the controller maintaining situational awareness. Type 4 Control refers to restricted or planned attacks where the controller has no responsibility for deconfliction of ordnance. Each type serves a specific operational need and helps ensure effective and safe coordination of air support.

7. During the time portion of precision registration, what command is given once the observer achieves a measurable airburst?

A. Repeat

B. 2 Rounds Repeat

C. 3 Rounds Repeat

D. 4 Rounds Repeat

When precision registration is being conducted, the objective is to refine the accuracy of artillery strikes on a designated target. During this process, once an observer identifies a measurable airburst, issuing the command for "3 Rounds Repeat" serves a critical purpose. This command instructs the firing unit to fire three additional rounds using the same data that produced the successful airburst. The rationale behind this is to ensure consistency in the observed impact. By firing three rounds after achieving measurable results, the observer can ascertain the repeatability of the artillery's accuracy and make any necessary adjustments if the impacts vary from the initial round. The three rounds offer a reliable method for confirming the impacts are consistently on target, helping refine the data further for future engagements. This command is a standard practice in precision registration, as it balances the need for sufficient data with the requirement to maintain a controlled and adaptable fire support strategy, ensuring reliability in future operations.

8. True or False: Precision fire is used for Final Protective Fires (FPF) and destruction missions.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for destruction missions

D. Only for FPF

Precision fire refers to targeted artillery or air support that is used to engage specific enemy positions with the aim of minimizing collateral damage and maximizing effectiveness. Final Protective Fires (FPF) and destruction missions utilize different types of fire support tactics. Final Protective Fires are generally pre-planned and utilized for defensive purposes, primarily to provide immediate fire support if the enemy breaches defensive lines or when troops are in imminent danger. FPF typically comprises a wide area fire mission intended to create a protective barrier rather than a precisely targeted attack. Destruction missions, on the other hand, focus on eliminating specified targets with a higher degree of accuracy, often employing precision fire techniques to achieve the desired effect while limiting unintended damage. Therefore, it is correct to state that precision fire is not typically used for FPF. Instead, it is primarily applied in destruction missions where targeting accuracy is essential. Thus, the statement is false as precision fire is not applicable to Final Protective Fires.

9. Which correction in the sequence pertains to the type of munitions being used?

A. Fuze

B. Projectile

C. Danger Close

D. Distribution

The term that pertains to the type of munitions being used is indeed projectile. In the context of fire support and artillery, the projectile refers specifically to the physical type of munition that is fired. Different projectiles have distinct characteristics, such as explosive content, weight, design, and intended use, which can significantly affect the outcome of a mission. Understanding the type of projectile is crucial for effective targeting and impact assessment, as the capabilities of different projectiles can vary widely. For example, high-explosive projectiles are intended for maximum lethal effect, while smoke rounds might be used for screening or signaling. The choice of projectile directly influences the tactical considerations in a mission, including range, effectiveness against various targets, and potential collateral damage. By focusing on the projectile, personnel can ensure that they're using the right kind of munitions for their specific objectives, reinforcing the importance of including this aspect in fire support planning.

10. What type of munition corrects for ballistic conditions using guidance and control up to the aimpoint or dispenses submunitions with terminal accuracy less than the lethal radius of effects?

A. Heat Seeker

B. Cluster Munition

C. Precision Munition

D. Joint Fire Unit

The correct answer is precision munition. Precision munitions are specifically designed to enhance accuracy and effectiveness in targeting by utilizing guidance and control systems that compensate for various ballistic conditions such as wind, altitude, and range to the aimpoint. This capability allows these munitions to strike a target with a high degree of accuracy, often described in terms of a circular error probable (CEP), which indicates the radius within which a certain percentage of munitions will land relative to the target. In addition, some precision munitions can dispense submunitions while maintaining a high terminal accuracy that's less than the lethal radius of effects. This means that they can effectively target a location without causing collateral damage beyond the intended area, as the munitions are precise enough to engage targets closely associated with the specified coordinates. The other options do not possess the same capabilities. Heat seekers rely primarily on infrared guidance and are not designed for the same level of precision or tractability against varied ballistic conditions. Cluster munitions dispense multiple projectiles but often lack the kind of guidance systems that would allow them to correct for conditions during flight with the same precision as precision munitions. Joint Fire Units refers to organizational structures rather than a specific type of munition, highlighting the