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

Study Guide

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Questions

1. What organization assists the MAGTF commander in the planning and execution of MAGTF fires?

A. Fire Support Element (FSE)

B. Fires Element (FE)

C. Fires Cell (FC)

D. Fires and Effects Coordination Center (FECC)

2. What is an exact location at sea from which a fire support ship delivers fires?

A. Phase Line

B. Fire Support Area

C. Boundary

D. Fire Support Station

3. What is the minimum range correction for smoke?

A. 50 meters

B. 100 meters

C. 200 meters

D. 400 meters

4. What information about the target's protection should be included?

A. Size and shape of the target

B. Type of cover present

C. What the target is doing

D. Time of last sighting

5. What is a specific boundary established to prohibit fires or their effects from crossing between friendly forces?

A. Restrictive Fire Line

B. Coordinated Fire Line

C. Phase Line

D. Boundary

6. What is the rate of descent for M485A2 illumination rounds?

A. 8 meters per second

B. 5 meters per second

C. 10 meters per second

D. 6 meters per second

7. What spotting would you make if you hear the impact of a round but are unable to visually acquire it after a CFF call?

A. Doubtful

B. Unobserved

C. Lost

D. Cannot Observe

8. What is the primary concern when choosing a site for observation?

A. Proximity to enemy lines

B. Access to communication

C. Maximizing view and concealment

D. Support for artillery rounds

9. In a laser grid method during an adjust fire mission, how are adjustments sent?

A. Standard grid mission format

B. Deviation, range, and height correction

C. As a grid to the burst location

D. Only as final adjustments

10. True or False: The sequence of spottings is height of burst, range, and deviation.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Applicable

D. Uncertain

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What organization assists the MAGTF commander in the planning and execution of MAGTF fires?

A. Fire Support Element (FSE)

B. Fires Element (FE)

C. Fires Cell (FC)

D. Fires and Effects Coordination Center (FECC)

The Fires and Effects Coordination Center (FECC) plays a crucial role in assisting the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) commander with the planning and execution of fires. The FECC is tasked with integrating all available fire support assets and ensuring that they are synchronized to maximize their effectiveness on the battlefield. It operates at a higher level of command and is responsible for coordinating various elements such as artillery, naval gunfire, and air support to create a comprehensive fire support plan. The FECC not only facilitates deconfliction of fires among the units but also collaborates with other combat functions such as intelligence and logistics to optimize fire support capabilities. By focusing on coordination and integration, the FECC ensures that the MAGTF's fire support operations align with the overall mission objectives and adapt to the dynamic nature of the battlefield. While other organizations like the Fire Support Element (FSE), Fires Element (FE), and Fires Cell (FC) do contribute to fire support planning, their roles tend to be more specialized or localized as compared to the overarching coordinating function provided by the FECC. Each can assist in specific aspects, but it's the FECC that serves as the central coordinating body ensuring all fire support assets operate cohesively to support the commander's intent

2. What is an exact location at sea from which a fire support ship delivers fires?

A. Phase Line

B. Fire Support Area

C. Boundary

D. Fire Support Station

An exact location at sea from which a fire support ship delivers fires is referred to as a Fire Support Station. This term is crucial in naval operations, as it designates a specific coordinate or point from which naval gunfire or other forms of fire support can be effectively directed towards a target. Establishing a Fire Support Station ensures accurate targeting, optimal engagement of threats, and efficient coordination of fire support with ground or aerial forces. In contrast, terms like Phase Line, Fire Support Area, and Boundary refer to broader concepts in military operations. A Phase Line typically denotes a predesignated line of maneuver used to control forces, a Fire Support Area encompasses a larger geographical region where fire support assets operate and coordinate fires, and a Boundary, generally used to delineate sections of responsibility between units, does not specify an exact point for delivering fire support. These distinctions illustrate why Fire Support Station is the precise term for pinpointing the source of naval fire.

3. What is the minimum range correction for smoke?

A. 50 meters

B. 100 meters

C. 200 meters

D. 400 meters

The minimum range correction for smoke is established as 100 meters. This is due to the characteristics of smoke ammunition, which can create a significant visual obstruction for enemy forces and can also impact friendly operations. The 100-meter offset is necessary to ensure that the smoke disperses effectively and achieves the intended purpose without negatively affecting the safety or positioning of friendly troops. In practical applications, adjusting the minimum range to this distance helps to minimize the risk of accidentally impacting friendly forces while accomplishing the smoke mission. It also accounts for the dynamics of wind and other environmental factors that could alter the smoke's effectiveness and spread. Establishing a sensible buffer in terms of minimum range is critical for maintaining operational integrity during fire support operations, which is why this distance is specified in training and operational guidelines.

4. What information about the target's protection should be included?

A. Size and shape of the target

B. Type of cover present

C. What the target is doing

D. Time of last sighting

The inclusion of the type of cover present in the information about a target's protection is crucial because it directly impacts the effectiveness of potential fire support operations. Understanding the nature of the cover allows fire support teams to assess how well the target is protected from incoming fire and which munitions would be most effective in neutralizing or suppressing that target. Different types of cover, such as natural terrains like hills and urban structures, each provide varying degrees of protection, influencing tactical decisions. In contrast, while the size and shape of the target, what the target is doing, and the time of last sighting are important in their own right, they do not specifically address the protective measures in place. Information about the size and shape may aid in identifying the target, the target's activities might indicate its intent, and the timing of the last sighting can help determine its current status, but none of these directly inform the capabilities of fire support to effectively engage the target in its protected state.

5. What is a specific boundary established to prohibit fires or their effects from crossing between friendly forces?

A. Restrictive Fire Line

B. Coordinated Fire Line

C. Phase Line

D. Boundary

The concept of a Restrictive Fire Line (RFL) is crucial in managing the safety of friendly forces during military operations. An RFL is specifically established to prohibit fires, such as artillery or air strikes, from crossing into areas occupied by friendly troops. This boundary ensures that any fire support coordinated by a unit does not inadvertently harm its own personnel or assets, maintaining a clear separation that enhances operational safety. In contrast, a Coordinated Fire Line (CFL) is used to indicate a line that may be crossed by fires, where coordination is required to ensure safety but is not as strictly prohibitive as an RFL. A Phase Line serves as a reference line on the battlefield for tactical movement, and it does not specifically address the prohibition of fire. Lastly, a Boundary generally refers to the separation between different units or formations but does not enforce restrictions on fire. Understanding these nuances in terms is essential for effective fire support coordination and ensuring operational effectiveness while safeguarding friendly forces.

6. What is the rate of descent for M485A2 illumination rounds?

A. 8 meters per second

B. 5 meters per second

C. 10 meters per second

D. 6 meters per second

The rate of descent for M485A2 illumination rounds is indeed 5 meters per second. This specific rate is critical for understanding how these rounds will behave once deployed. Illumination rounds are designed to provide light over an area for target identification and surveillance purposes. Knowing the descent rate helps artillery and fire support teams calculate the time it will take for the round to reach the desired altitude and the overall effectiveness of its illumination. The rate of 5 meters per second is significant because it allows fire support teams to accurately predict the duration of illumination and ensure that it aligns with the operational needs of ground troops. Effective coordination during operations relies heavily on such precise calculations, ensuring that illumination is maintained when needed most.

7. What spotting would you make if you hear the impact of a round but are unable to visually acquire it after a CFF call?

A. Doubtful

B. Unobserved

C. Lost

D. Cannot Observe

In the scenario described, the appropriate spotting is "Unobserved." This term is used when a forward observer is unable to visually acquire the impact of the round following a call for fire. It indicates that while the observer is aware that a round has impacted (as evidenced by hearing the sound), there is no visual confirmation of the round's effects on the target. Using "Unobserved" in this situation communicates to the fire support team that the observer cannot see the outcome of the round, which is crucial for subsequent adjustments. This allows for an effective response to ensure accurate targeting in further engagements. The other options do not accurately represent the situation. "Doubtful" implies uncertainty about the effectiveness or accuracy of the fire, which would require further clarification and could lead to miscommunication. "Lost" generally refers to a situation where the observer has lost contact with the target or control of the mission, indicating a higher level of confusion. "Cannot Observe" suggests an inability to see the impact altogether, but it lacks the specificity needed in the call for fire context. Thus, "Unobserved" is the most precise term to use in the given scenario.

8. What is the primary concern when choosing a site for observation?

A. Proximity to enemy lines

B. Access to communication

C. Maximizing view and concealment

D. Support for artillery rounds

Maximizing view and concealment is the primary concern when selecting a site for observation because it directly impacts the effectiveness of surveillance and target acquisition. A well-chosen observation post allows personnel to have a broad and clear field of vision, enabling them to detect and assess enemy positions, movements, and activities. At the same time, good concealment is crucial, as it helps protect the observer from being seen or targeted by the enemy. This dual requirement ensures that the observation team can gather essential intelligence while minimizing the risk of detection, which is vital for mission success. The ability to observe effectively without compromising safety is fundamental in a combat environment, where situational awareness can significantly influence operational outcomes. While aspects like proximity to enemy lines, access to communication, and support for artillery rounds are also important considerations in the broader context of site selection, they do not overshadow the need for optimal visibility and protection that directly enhances the observer's capability.

9. In a laser grid method during an adjust fire mission, how are adjustments sent?

A. Standard grid mission format

B. Deviation, range, and height correction

C. As a grid to the burst location

D. Only as final adjustments

In a laser grid method during an adjust fire mission, the procedure for sending adjustments is designed to provide precise targeting information. The correct method involves relaying the adjustments as a grid to the burst location. This approach ensures that all coordinates and adjustments are clearly communicated, maintaining accuracy and efficiency in directing fire. Using a grid to convey the adjustments allows for specific targeting at the designated location, which is particularly important in cases where the target area may be complex or where multiple units are operating in proximity. It minimizes the risk of misinterpretation and enhances the effectiveness of the fire support being delivered. The other methods listed, while they may be relevant in other contexts or targeting methods, don't align with the specific requirements of a laser grid approach. For instance, standard grid mission format is more general and does not emphasize the precise nature of laser targeting. Similarly, providing adjustments based solely on deviation, range, and height correction might not fully incorporate the detailed grid reference needed for accurate strikes. Finally, sending the adjustments only as final adjustments would not support the iterative process of adjusting fire that the grid method facilitates, which allows for timely corrections based on real-time observations and data.

10. True or False: The sequence of spottings is height of burst, range, and deviation.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Applicable

D. Uncertain

The correct answer is true because the established sequence of spottings in fire support operations follows a specific order that prioritizes the height of burst first, followed by range, and finally deviation. This ordering ensures that each aspect of the firing solution is addressed in a logical and effective manner. The height of burst indicates how high above the target the round should explode, which is critical for ensuring shrapnel and effects reach the desired area, especially against targets that are in defilade or when accounting for terrain. Once the height is established, range is assessed to ensure that the rounds land at the correct distance from the intended target. Following that, deviation is noted to correct any lateral inaccuracies to ensure that the impact point aligns with the intended target. This structured approach optimizes the adjustments needed for effective target engagement, allowing fire support teams to swiftly and accurately direct artillery fire.