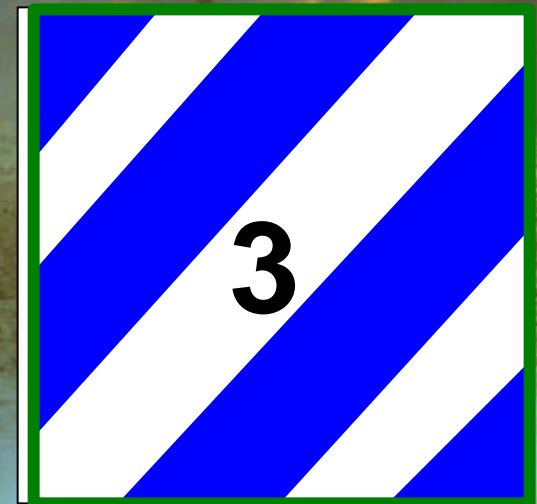


*Fires in the Close Fight:
OIF Lessons Learned*





Purpose

- **Inform Senior Infantry Leaders on Lessons Learned During OIF From a BCT Perspective**
- **Generate Discussion on Implications for the Future**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Panel Members

- **3BCT FSCOORD/1-10 FA CDR**
- **Commander TF 1-15 IN**
- **Commander TF 2-69 AR**
- **3BCT ALO**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



A 3BCT TTP

*“Prep with Steel, Lead with Lead,
Count the dead”*

3/3ID BCT CDR



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Bottom Line

“Tell them Joes to get the lead out!!”

Audie Murphy, *To Hell and Back*

Universal Pictures Inc 1955

**Well...during OIF We Got the Lead Out...
Effectively Employing, Artillery, Mortars, & CAS
During 6 Battles Over 21 Days.**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Context

- **3BCT Was Extremely Well Trained Due to a 6 Month ODS Rotation and Other Pre-combat Training**
- **ODS Allowed for Rigorous Combined Arms Training That Included PLT Through BCT Live Fires**
- **Task Force and Co Commanders Had Seen the Effects Of Fires in These Live Fires and Had Gained Confidence in Their Fire Supporters**
- **After ODS (Oct 02) Crews and Leaders Stabilized**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winners

- **Maneuver/ Fire Support Personnel Cohesion**
- **M7 BFIST**
- **Paladin**
- **Maneuver Shooters-- LRAS3**
- **Voice Call for Fire/Digital Fire Direction**
- **CAS (Especially A-10s!)**
- **SADARM/HE**
- **DIVARTY & Counterfire**
- **Use of Mortars**
- **Boundaries & FSCMs**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Losers

- **Dud Producing Rounds**
- **A2C2 of EAB Assets in BDE Zone/sector**
- **NTC Type Employment of Colts**
- **FBCB2 for Fire Supporters or ABCS integration**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: Maneuver/Fire Support Personnel Cohesion

- **Fire Support Officer Assignment Methodology**
 - **CO FSO--former Platoon Leader**
 - **TF FSO--former Battery Commander**
 - **BDE FSO—senior Major/2nd BQ Job**
- **Longevity--experts on the BFIST**
- **All Had Executed Numerous Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises**
- **BFIST Allowed the FSO to Fight His Way Into His OP**
- **Un-parrelled Maneuver Commander Emphasis on Fires**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: M7 BFIST

- Truly Revolutionary...allows the FIST to Keep Up; Provide Own Force Protection and Acquire Targets (10digit @10kms)
- The Days of the FSO Following the Company CO Are Over!
- 3BCT Generally Used BFIST As a BDE/TF Observer...
Positioned by CO CDR to Meet BDE/TF Observer Plan...
Linked to EFSTs
- 1st Round Fire for Effect Was the Norm



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Co-responsibility for Training the CO FSE

TF CDR

- M2 Gunnery
- Bradley Maneuver
- TF Drills/plays
- EA Development Etc..

DS BN CDR

- Pre-gunnery
- Use of MEP (Turn It Into a M7)
- Occupation of OP
- Development of Tactical & Technical Triggers
- CFF



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: PALADIN

- **Fire Mission Times Under 2 Minutes...always Ready to Fire**
- **Great OR Rate; Never an Issue Keeping up. (Stop, Shoot, Move)**
- **Can Shoot From Anywhere in Any Weather**
- **Very Accurate...1st Round FFE**
- **Provided Crew Adequate Force Protection...used MK19/M2**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: Maneuver Shooters— LRAS3

- 3 BCT invested time into the maneuver shooter program
- Scouts/BRT particularly proficient..Executed numerous live fires During ODS
- LRAS3 extremely accurate...tested to under 10m accuracy
- Sight 45X Mag...can acquire targets beyond 10k
- Better sight than COLTs
- During Battle of Karbala BRT biggest killer with indirect
- 3BCT did not have ODS Bradleys



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: Voice Call for Fire/Digital Fire Direction

- **We Trained to Execute CFF Digital, but Really Couldn't During OIF Because of Distances**
- **Combat Experience Showed That the CFF Must Be Voice Because:**
 - **Otherwise It Is Just Another E-mail**
 - **Voice CFF Enhances the Bond Between Guns and Observer**
 - **FDCs & Guns Must Hear and Feel the Urgency of the CFF**
 - **Voice Allows Digitally Challenged Leaders to Monitor**
- **Digital Is Superb With AFATDS for FA Battalion Fire Direction (2 to 3 Min Rounds Down Range After CFF)**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: CAS

- **DIV ALO Positioned “CAS Stack” to Support Main Effort Reducing Response Time**
- **3 BCT Received in Excess of 100 Sorties Throughout OIF**
- **Everything From B52 to A10**
- **JDAMS Very Effective but Required Longer Lead Time**
- **Easily De-conflicted Airspace Which Allowed Simultaneous Engagement**
- **A-10 Pilots Particularly Heroic**
- **USAF Re-dedicated to CAS**
- **Superb ALO, BALOs & ETACs**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: SADARM/HE

- **SADARM added to UBL just prior to LD**
 - No training on it..only had a white paper
 - Requires 1500 meter standoff
 - Very effective against Tanks/BMPs
 - 3 rounds will kill at least one tank...never missed
- **HE very effective against the Enemy we encountered**
 - 1/6 of DS BN UBL
 - Ammo of choice because of low dud rate and VT/TD function
 - Much more effective against armor than effects tables say...
Shock Effect



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army





Winner: SADARM/HE

- **SADARM added to UBL just prior to LD**
 - No training on it..only had a white paper
 - Requires 1500 meter standoff
 - Very effective against Tanks/BMPs
 - 3 rounds will kill at least one tank...never missed
- **HE very effective against the Enemy we encountered**
 - 1/6 of DS BN UBL
 - Ammo of choice because of low dud rate and VT/TD function
 - Much more effective against armor than effects tables say



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: DIVARTY & CTRFIRE

- Unlike the CTC experience... DIVARTY is a player
- DIVARTY provided superb close fire support with MLRS (MSD 1500m) & relieved the BCTs of the burden of Conterfire
- We all learned to get the radars set before an attack..thank god his artillery was inaccurate



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: Use of Mortars

- **Mortars Very Effective During OIF...They Were in the Fight**
- **Mortar Platoons Very Proficient at Hip Shoot**
- **Use of MET and Survey Significantly Increases Accuracy**
- **Allowed FA to Be Focused**
- **Used FA to Shape/Prep and Mortars to Destroy RPG Teams in Urban Areas**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Winner: Boundaries & FSCMs,

Boundaries are our Friend!

- **Boundaries Became Supremely Important in The Non-contiguous Environment**
 - **No Fratricide Because Fire Supporters Knew Who Owned the Land**
- **FSCMs Facilitated Responsiveness..As Long As Maneuver Commanders Knew Where the CFL Was, We Kept It Tight**
- **The dreaded Intervention Point problem can largely be reduced with boundaries and well placed FSCMs**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Loser:Dud Producing Rounds

- **DPICM-- Over Half of the DS BN UBL**
- **Maneuver Commanders Hesitant to Use It..But Had to**
- **Dud Rate Not Bad on Hard Surfaces, but Worse Than Expected off Roads.**
- **Not for Use in Urban Areas**
- **SADARM Preferred Killing Munition, HE for Suppression**
- **Is DPICM Munition a Cold War Relic?**



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Loser: A2C2 of EAB assets in BDE Zone/sector

- **A2C2 of BDE Assets (CAS/Mortar/Arty) Was a Success Story.**
- **MLRS and ATACMS De-confliction Was Much Harder**
 - **ACA Established Inside BDE Zone Is Not Easily Recognized at Higher Echelons (Even With AFATDS)**
 - **BDE ACA Can Shut Down the DIV Cdr's Fires**
 - **Corps ATACMS Was Not De-conflicted**
- **A2C2 Requires Constant Coordination and Cross Talk**
- **This Is Maneuver Commander's Business**

Big Sky...Little bullet is not the answer!



Infantry . . . On Point for the Army



Loser: NTC Type Employment of COLTs

- At NTC Colts Routinely Operate Independently
- During OIF Colts Attached to BRT or Scout PLT
 - Fielding of LRAS3 Made Their Sights Obsolete
 - Battle Buddy Concept...co-located With a Scout Section
 - Scout Actually Acquired the Target...colt Got the CFF Into the FA System/provided Expertise
- Colts Not Survivable Without Battle Buddy Concept



A photograph of a tank, likely a M4 Sherman, engulfed in intense orange and yellow flames. The tank is positioned in a field, and the fire is particularly concentrated on the right side, obscuring part of the turret and engine compartment. The background is a hazy, overcast sky with some smoke or mist. The overall scene is one of destruction and battle.

Conclusion

*“If there is one thing a Dogface loves,
it is artillery—His Own*

**Audie Murphy, to Hell and Back
(New York: MJF Books, 1949)**