

**Report Date:** 05 Jun 2013

**Summary Report for Individual Task  
061-266-3320  
Issue Fire Orders for Direct Fire Mission  
Status: Approved**

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DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

**Condition:** Given a howitzer section emplaced at a firing point with an identified target within range of the weapon system and ammunition prepared for direct fire. Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP.

**Standard:** Issue the initial fire commands and subsequent commands in the proper sequence until the target is destroyed IAW the technical guidance listed in FM 6-50.

**Special Condition:** None

**Special Standards:** None

**Special Equipment:**

**Safety Level:** Low

**MOPP:** Sometimes

<b>Task Statements</b>
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**Cue:** Target moving in the direct fire range of a howitzer.

<b>DANGER</b>
None

<b>WARNING</b>
None

<b>CAUTION</b>
None

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** None

## Performance Steps

### WARNING

Direct fire on targets closer than 800 meters from a 155mm and 600 meters from a 105mm howitzer will be fired on **ONLY** during combat situations. Lethal fragments can travel up to 600 meters from point of burst and cause injury to personnel.

### CAUTION

When commands for direct fire are issued, firing battery personnel must ensure that direct-fire engagements do not result in fratricide. This is the particular responsibility of the howitzer crew, Section Chief, FDO, platoon leaders, and Platoon Sergeants in a platoon-based unit and of the XO, chief of firing battery, and GSG in a battery-based unit.

(See AR 385-63 on minimum engagement ranges.)

#### 1. Prepare for direct fire.

a. Command the section to take their positions for action.

b. Announce target to the section i.e. TARGET, ROCK PILE.

c. Determine quadrant to the target from the range card. If the range card is not prepared, the quadrant may be obtained from the direct fire range plate.

d. Determine and announce the lead for moving targets in mils, by estimating the speed of the target for particular shell and charge.

#### 2. Announce Initial Fire Commands

a. Announce target location and description.

Note: The most likely direct fire targets are vehicles or dismounted personnel. Vehicles are engaged as point targets. Personnel are engaged as area targets. Direct fire priorities should be as follows.

1. Vehicles at short ranges threatening to overrun the position.
2. Stationary vehicles covering the advance of other vehicles.
3. Command and control vehicles.

b. Announce SHELL (type).

Note:

Shell/fuze combination used against armor and vehicular targets are as follows:

105mm— Shell high explosive plastic-tracer (HEP-T); shell HE with impact, mechanical time, or variable time fuzes set for superquick action; and shell WP with impact or mechanical time fuze set for superquick action.

155mm— shell HE with impact, mechanical time, or variable time set for superquick action and shell WP with impact or mechanical time fuze set for superquick action.

Shell/fuze combinations used against personnel are as follows:

105mm-antipersonnel (APERS-T) and shell HE with impact (set for delay action), mechanical time, or variable time fuzes (set for superquick action) fuze.

155mm-shell HE with impact (set for delay action), mechanical time or variable time fuzes (set for superquick action) fuze.

c. Announce CHARGE (type).

**Note:**

To produce the highest muzzle velocity and a flat trajectory, the maximum charge should always be used for direct fire.

d. Announce FUZE (type).

**Note:**

The shell, fuze, and charge to be fired should be standardized to save time. If a shell-fuze combination other than the standard is desired, the command SHELL (so-and-so), with time (if applicable), is given after the direction to target.

e. Announce LEAD in mils.

f. Announce RANGE to target.

g. Announce method of fire.

3. Issue Subsequent Fire Commands.

**Note:**

The howitzer Section Chief gives subsequent commands based on the observed effects.

a. Announce change in lead.

**Note:** During the adjustment, the lead in mils is changed to a new total lead command. Announce "Change in lead (RIGHT or LEFT [so much])".

b. Announce change in range.

**Note:** During adjustment, the range is increased by the command ADD (so many meters) and is decreased by the command DROP (so many meters). Another option is that the Section Chief announces a new range based on the desired increase or decrease in range to hit the target. Unit SOPs will dictate which technique to use.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: Ensure that all information, references, and equipment required to perform the task are available. Use the performance measures and the references to score the Soldier's performance. Brief the Soldier. Tell the Soldier what he is required to IAW the task conditions and standards.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Prepared for direct fire.			
2. Announced Initial Fire Commands.			
3. Issued Subsequent Fire Commands.			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	FM 6-50	Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Field Artillery Cannon Battery	No	No
	TM 9-1015-252-10	Operators Manual for Howitzer, Light, Towed: 105-MM, M119A2 (NSN 1015-01-482-4914) (EIC: 3WC) LIN: Z33756	No	No
	TM 9-1025-215-10	Operator's Manual for Howitzer, Medium, Towed: 155-MM, M777	Yes	No
	TM 9-2350-314-10	Operators Manual for Howitzer, Medium, Self-Propelled: 155mm, M109A6 (NSN 2350-01-305-0028) (EIC: 3FC) (Reprinted W/Basic Incl C1-4)	No	No

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but also the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination. **WARNING:** Direct fire on targets closer than 800 meters from the howitzer will be fired on ONLY during combat situations. Lethal fragments can travel up to 600 meters from point of burst and cause injury to personnel.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
061-266-2237	Direct the Preparation of Ammunition for Firing	061 - Field Artillery (Individual)	Approved

**Supporting Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
061-266-2235	Sight on a Target During Direct Fire with the Panoramic Telescope	061 - Field Artillery (Individual)	Approved

**Supported Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Collective Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
06-4-5022	Conduct Direct Fire	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved