

Chapter 3

Command and Control

3-1. An LA team provides C² and administrative support for three to seven fire-fighting teams and coordinates engineer fire-fighting activities within a TO. When an LA team is not deployed, the senior firefighter of an LB or LC team provides C². All fire-fighting teams depend on the unit to which they are assigned or attached for supply, food, health, religious, finance, communication-equipment-repair, legal, and administrative services.

FIRE-FIGHTING HQ TEAM (LA)

3-2. The LA team is assigned to theater Army, corps, or division and exercises operational command over all fire-fighting teams assigned to its AO. An LA team's capabilities include—

- Planning fire-fighting programs for a TO.
- Supervising rescue and fire-fighting operations during aircraft crash incidents, structural fires, vehicle emergencies, natural-cover fires, and emergency response during HAZMAT incidents.
- Planning and conducting fire-prevention operations, HAZMAT emergencies, and initial fire-ground investigations.
- Coordinating resupply of fire-fighting assets, agents, SCBA, and fuel.
- Coordinating mutual aid with other services and HN fire-protection assets.
- Providing maintenance support for technical fire-fighting equipment (MACI fire truck).

WARTIME FIRE-FIGHTING TASKS

DETERMINING MANNING REQUIREMENTS

3-3. An LA team must determine the minimum manning requirements for a continuous 24-hour operations. It must consider sleep schedules, messing, maintenance, and priority mission times. Continuous-operations factors must be added in as a mission's time increases.

ASSIGNING SHIFTS

3-4. Crews must be assigned for duty according to mission needs and threat updates. An LA team will determine the priority requirements and the standby and alert schedules for the assigned crews. Schedules will be posted in the fire communications center (FCC).

INVENTORYING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

3-5. An LA team maintains the current status of the equipment and fire-fighting supplies for continuous operations and resupply after the missions. It also recharges the SCBA and fire-fighting agents. The team must identify missing equipment and shortages of fire-fighting supplies to continue or limit operations. Status boards will be located and maintained in the FCC.

ACQUIRING THE COMMANDER'S PRIORITY LIST

3-6. Fire-fighting units will not be able to fight all fires in a combat area. A commander must determine which facilities and equipment have the highest priority regarding life safety and mission accomplishment. Once he develops this list, he must initiate changes as the mission requirements change. An LA team will use this list to assign minimum manning requirements, equipment placement, priority training, prefire plans, and fire-response plans. This list will be posted in the FCC and updated regularly.

MAKING A FIRE-FIGHTING PLAN

3-7. An LA team will develop a fire-fighting plan by using the commander's list, resource information, prefire plans, and experience. The plan will include fire-prevention initiatives, response guidance, and resource management for an overall fire-protection program.

SELECTING DISPERSAL SITES

3-8. An LA team must disperse the fire-fighting assets to protect fire-fighting equipment, agents, and personnel from being destroyed at one time. It should not split the fire-fighting teams to the point where they can no longer effectively accomplish their missions, nor should it place the teams directly at high-priority targets. Sites will be plotted on an AO's map that is located in the FCC.

DETERMINING RADIO STATUS AND CALL SIGNS

3-9. An LA team determines the radio disciplines and call signs for the fire-fighting teams on the operational radio network.

LOCATING VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL AND ASSETS

3-10. An LA team locates the maintenance-support and vehicle-recovery channels.

INITIATING AN FCC

3-11. The senior fire official (SFO) will set up an FCC for reporting emergencies, initiating responses, assigning crews, maintaining logbooks, and overseeing the normal and emergency operations of the fire-fighting teams. He will receive and record reports on fire damage; injuries; unexploded ordnance (UXO); and nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) agents from fire crews and send these reports to a higher level.

DEVELOPING MUTUAL-AID AGREEMENTS

3-12. An LA team should develop plans with the other services' fire-fighting assets. It should define the required assistance and request procedures for assistance, limitations of assistance, and security considerations. If HNS is

available, the team should develop a plan with the senior authority controlling those assets.

LOCATING FIRE-FIGHTING ASSETS AND ESTABLISHING RESUPPLY CHANNELS

3-13. A resupply of fire-fighting agents within an AO may be hard to find. An LA team must make establishing the resupply channel for more fire-fighting agents for sustained operations a priority.

INITIATING THE REQUIRED TRAINING PROGRAM

3-14. Wartime operations will require training on mission-unique equipment and facilities to ensure maximum effectiveness of fire resources. An LA team should initiate training as soon as a commander establishes his priority list and the team can accomplish prefire planning. Response routes, crew assignments, and attack strategies are all part of the training.

CONDUCTING FIRE-PREVENTION INSPECTIONS OF FACILITIES

3-15. An LA team must inspect the facilities occupied by US forces to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment. It will inspect the buildings equipped with a fire-protection system, ensuring proper operation and serviceability.

ENSURING THAT PROTECTIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO PROTECT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

3-16. An LA team must ensure that—

- The equipment is protected by a hardened position, when possible.
- The personal protective positions are built in the immediate area of the fire-fighting vehicle's position to ensure a quick response to an emergency. These positions should provide protection from direct small-arms fire and from overhead artillery.
- All personnel use camouflage materials and netting properly.

PREPARING A RESPONSE CHART

3-17. An LA team will develop a fire-response chart detailing the response routes (primary and alternate), crew and equipment assignments by targets, and backup assignments. This response plan must be updated as a commander's priorities and missions change. The team will assign fire-fighting missions according to the commander's priority list of mission-essential assets. This chart will be located in the FCC for dispatchers to use.

FIRE-FIGHTING TEAMS (LB AND LC)

3-18. These teams perform the operational task of fire fighting within their AO. The senior fire-fighting personnel assigned to an LB or LC team that deploys without a HQ team will be responsible for that team. If several teams are assigned together, the senior firefighter will take charge of the teams and perform the functions of the HQ team.

3-19. The LB (table[s] of organization and equipment [TOE] 05510LB00) and LC (TOE 05510LC00) teams depend on the HQ fire-fighting team (TOE 05510LA00) for C² and maintenance of the MACI fire truck. When that support is not available, the senior firefighter assumes the C² responsibility.

Assigned to theater Army, corps, or divisions, the LB and LC teams are allocated as follows: one per air-traffic service company and one per headquarters and headquarters company (HHC) of the CSG; two per petroleum supply company and two per petroleum-pipeline and terminal-operating company. The teams—

- Provide 24 hours of fire protection and personnel rescue and administer first aid.
- Implement a fire-protection program for the logistics-storage area (LSA), intermediate-support base (ISB), forward operating base (FOB), and aviation and major facilities. Such facilities include but are not limited to petroleum tank farms, petroleum-distribution sites, open and closed warehouse facilities or general warehouses, and enemy prisoner of war (EPW) and civilian-internee camps.
- Fight aviation fires and extricate personnel and equipment from crashed aircraft.
- Provide fire-fighting protection against grass or brush fires within their assigned area of responsibility when augmented with combat or construction engineer soldiers.
- Provide 6,000 gallons of water, per trip, to support the MACI fire truck.

3-20. An LC team will identify all bodies of water that may be used to combat a fire or resupply empty fire-fighting vehicles. It will then develop a plan that identifies the locations and the equipment needed to use these water sources. The sources should be within a camp's perimeter or within a 2-mile radius of a camp. Sources will be plotted on an AO's map that is located in the FCC.