

TRAINING REGULATIONS,
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COAST ARTILLERY CORPS

THE FIRE COMMAND

Prepared under direction of the
Chief of Coast Artillery

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SECTION I

DEFINITION

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Definition.....	1

1. **Definition.**—A fire command is a tactical unit within a fort command. It consists of two or more battery commands, together with such additional structures, equipment, and personnel as are necessary to permit of its employment as a unit.

SECTION II

ORGANIZATION

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2. **Fire command.**—Each fire command consists of the fire commander and his staff, the fire command section, the stations and accessories for their use, and two or more battery commands.

3. **Fixed fire commands.**—Fire commands composed of permanently emplaced batteries are numbered serially in each coast defense command. For brevity and convenience in giving orders by telephone, fixed fire commands are designated F₁, F₂–F₅.

4. **Mobile fire commands.**—Fire commands composed of mobile batteries are given serial numbers in continuation of those given the fire commands of the permanent installation.

5. **Manning tables.**—A manning table for the fire command, exclusive of the battery commands, should be posted at the command post of the fire commander and in the quarters of the battery of which the fire command section forms a part. This table exhibits the permanent assignment of each officer and each enlisted man for duty in the fire command section.

SECTION III

COMMANDER AND STAFF OFFICERS

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6. **Fire commander.**—*a.* The senior officer for duty in a fire command is the fire commander.

b. He is responsible for the serviceability of his armament and accessories and for the drill, instruction, training, and efficiency of his fire command.

c. He appoints the following members of his staff from officers who are assigned to his fire command: One plans and training officer, one communications officer, and such commissioned assistants as may be necessary. Due to difference in composition, stations, and accessories in fire commands, the fire commander is authorized to vary the duties of his staff officers from those prescribed herein. In small fire commands he will consolidate staff duties and will reduce the number of staff officers in so far as this can be done without injury to the efficiency of his command.

d. Command post.—(1) The command post of the fire commander is designated in the same manner as the fire command to which it pertains, e. g., F₃, or F₅.

(2) The fire commander normally exercises command from the command post of his fire command, but his activities are not limited to the vicinity of the command post and he should be free to go wherever his presence is required.

e. Before drill, practice, or action, the fire commander receives reports from his staff officers and battery commanders in regard to the

condition of the equipment in their charge. Upon the receipt of these reports he will inform the fort commander that his fire command is in order or will report defects he is unable to remedy without delay.

7. Plans and training officer.—*a.* The plans and training officer is responsible to the fire commander for the preparation of plans and orders; the reports and journal of operations; the diary; training programs and schedules of the fire command; the recording of commands, military intelligence, meteorological messages, and other orders and communications.

b. He is in charge of the plotting and observing details of the fire command section, and is responsible for their artillery instruction, training, and efficiency. He is further charged with the instruction and training of the enlisted men of the section who are concerned with clerical duties, drafting, and the keeping of records.

c. Before drills, practice, or action, he will make a careful inspection of the equipment under his charge, or in case of distant stations will receive reports thereon. He will then report to the fire commander, "Sir, equipment in order," or will report defects he is unable to remedy without delay.

8. Communications officer.—*a.* The communications officer is responsible for the prompt and accurate transmission of all commands, military intelligence, meteorological messages, and orders sent from and received at the command post, except such as may be sent or received directly by the fire commander or officers of his staff.

b. He is in charge of the maintenance, telephone, and searchlight details at artillery drill and in action, and is responsible for their artillery instruction, training, and efficiency.

c. He is charged with the care of all means of signal communication assigned to the fire command, with the emergency repair of same, and the installation of such temporary means of signal communication as may be required. He is responsible for the operation of the searchlights, their maintenance, and the maintenance of their communications in so far as pertains to the fire command.

d. Before drill, practice, or action, he will make a careful inspection of the equipment under his charge, or in case of distant stations will receive reports thereon. He will then report to the fire commander, "Sir, equipment in order," or will report defects he is unable to remedy without delay.

SECTION IV

FIRE COMMAND SECTION

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9. Fire command section.—*a. Personnel.*—The personnel of the fire command section is drawn from the battery detailed as general utility battery of the fort or coast defense to which the fire command pertains. Manning details for a fire commander's primary and secondary station are as follows:

(1) Primary station—

Fire commander.
 Plans and training officer.
 Communications officer.
 Electrician (master, technical or staff sergeant).
 Sergeant (clerical).
 Draftsman.
 Recorders (as required).
 Plotter, assistant plotter, and two arm setters, when plotting board is used.

Observers (one for each observing instrument).

Reader.

Operator for each searchlight controller.

Operator for each telephone.

Messengers (as required).

(2) Secondary station—

Observer.

Reader.

b. Details will perform the duties as indicated by their designations. The general requirements of these duties are described in TR 435-221. The senior noncommissioned officer, other than the electrician, is chief of the section.

c. The section is formed and maneuvered in a similar way and by the same commands as those prescribed for the forming and maneuvering of sections in TR 435-220.

d. Each member of the fire commander's section on reaching his station will examine the apparatus to which he is assigned, will make the prescribed tests and adjustments, and will report to his chief of detail. On completion of the examination each chief of detail will report to the staff officer in immediate charge of his detail, "Sir— in order," or will report defects he is unable to remedy without delay.

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10. **Fire control—fire commander.**—The functions of fire control in so far as they pertain to the objective, volume, and concentration of fire are normally exercised by the fire commander except during “Battery commander’s action.” (See Section I, TR 435-221.)

11. **Fire direction—battery commander.**—The responsibility for the accuracy of fire is ordinarily a function of the battery commander, but in “Battery commander’s action” the functions of the fire commander in so far as they pertain to fire control devolve upon the battery commander in addition to his normal duties.

12. **Position-finding systems.**—The systems of position finding used by the fire command are described in TR 435-221.

13. **Commands.**—*a.* The fire commander indicates a target to his observers as follows: 1. Target. 2. Name of one of the subareas. 3. Name (or type and class) of an isolated ship, or designation of subdivision, formation, ship number — or in “number of covering illuminating light,” or any sufficient description. If, in the judgment of the fire commander, a target can not be sufficiently indicated to the battery commander by description, it may be tracked for two or three observations and its predicted position located for a convenient interval ahead. This predicted position is relocated for the battery, and the relocated range and azimuth sent to the battery commander’s station. The fire commander’s instrument is set to the predicted azimuth and “now” called over the telephone as the target crosses the vertical wire.

b. Indication and identification of targets may be accomplished by means of a grid system.

c. In giving a command to his batteries, the fire commander must include the following essential directions:

First: The batteries addressed, as **ALL BATTERIES** (or name of any battery or batteries, as **EUSTIS**, or **EUSTIS** and **CHURCH**), **TARGET**. This signifies that a target is to be assigned and has the effect of calling the particular battery or batteries to attention.

Second: The name of the subarea, as **LYNNHAVEN**. When the subarea is designated, all observers concerned turn their instruments

in the general direction of the subarea. At night, in addition to the subarea, the number of the searchlight which is covering the target should be given.

Third: Designation of target; that is, name (or type and class) of an isolated ship; or designation of division, formation, or ship number, or any sufficient description, as **SHIP NO. 2**.

NOTE.—Ships in line are numbered from the right. Ships in column are numbered from the leading ship.

Fourth: The order of fire desired, as—

COMMENCE FIRING.

FIRE WHEN IN RANGE.

FIRE WHEN AT — YARDS.

FIRE — ROUNDS, COMMENCE FIRING.

FIRE AT — INTERVALS, COMMENCE FIRING.

FIRE ON SALVO POINT NO. —.

FIRE AT SHIPS IN ORDER IN COLUMN, COMMENCE FIRING.

(This directs fire to be opened on the leading ship of the column, continuing until it is disabled, or until the fire commander commands:—**TARGET OUT OF ACTION**, then changing to the next ship in column.)

FIRE AT SHIPS IN ORDER IN LINE, COMMENCE FIRING.

(This directs fire to be opened on the right ship of the line, continuing until it is disabled, or until the fire commander commands:—**TARGET OUT OF ACTION**, then changing to the next ship in line.)

d. Other commands and examples used in designating targets are given in TR 435-221.

e. The form of commands prescribed is typical and should be followed as closely as practicable.

Other commands which are given are as follows:

CEASE FIRING.—This directs firing to cease instantly.

CHANGE TARGET.—This directs firing to cease instantly, but requires all battery commands to be in readiness to identify a new target.

CLOSE STATIONS.—This directs that all battery commands and the fire commander's manning party be dismissed. The senior chief of detail at each station sees that the instruments are secured and covered; that the switches controlling the electric circuits are left open, and that the windows and doors are closed and fastened securely.

SECTION VI

TRAINING

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14. **General provisions.**—The general principles, methods, systems and objects of training are given in TR 10-5. The training of the battery command (fixed) is given in TR 435-220 and fire control and position finding are given in TR 435-221. To be efficient the fire command must be trained for combined action with higher units, to act as a self-contained unit, and to insure that each of its elements is prepared to function separately. The fire commander supervises the training of the different units of the fire command and coordinates their work, leaving the actual conduct of training of each unit to its commander, holding the latter to a strict accountability for results. He prepares programs and schedules in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 55, TR 10-5. Instruction will include—

a. Drills and inspections.—(1) Drills must be frequent and of such a nature as to insure the efficiency of each unit (both by day and by night) in the performance of its duties when the fire command is functioning as a whole.

(2) The fire commander will make inspections of the units of his command as prescribed in TR 435-220. These inspections will be of sufficient frequency to enable the fire commander to have full knowledge of the condition of the matériel of his fire command and of the state of instruction of the personnel thereof.

b. War condition period.—During this period, war conditions are simulated in so far as possible; instruction is intensified. Elements of the fire command are manned at such times as the fire commander or higher authority may direct and all available boats are used to simulate naval vessels.

c. Subcaliber and service practice.—(1) Fire command subcaliber practice should be held after battery commands have demonstrated their efficiency in subcaliber practice; the object of subcaliber firing is to instruct gun pointers in their duties on the sighting platform and to exercise the fire-control personnel in teamwork.

(2) Fire command service practice may be held utilizing a part of the ammunition allowance authorized for the batteries of the fire command, but this practice should not ordinarily be held until the batteries have demonstrated their efficiency in firing. The

object of the practice is to test the fire command, in so far as it is possible to do so, in simulated battle action.

15. **Training of officers.**—The scope of training which the officers of a coast artillery battery command should receive is given in TR 435-220. Additional training for the fire command staff officers should be prescribed by the fire commander or given in schools under the direction of higher authority. This training should include the preparation of programs and schedules, the writing of orders, the keeping of records, and the duties connected with the maintenance of the fire-control apparatus. The fire commander should assure himself that the officers of his command are receiving the required instruction. He conducts schools and prescribes courses of reading where necessary.

16. **Training of enlisted men.**—In addition to the general basic instruction given to all soldiers and to the instruction given to each man in regard to his particular duties in his organization, all non-commissioned officers and selected privates should be carefully instructed in the duties that might devolve upon them in the case of casualties. At least two men of each squad should be able to perform any particular duty devolving upon a member of that squad.

The training of personnel of the batteries is prescribed in TR 435-220 and 435-221. The training of the fire command section will be under the immediate direction of the fire commander and will, in general, follow the lines laid down for similar training in the battery command.

SECTION VII

TACTICAL EMPLOYMENT

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17. **Fire commands.**—The coast defense command may include both fixed and mobile fire commands. The tactics employed by mobile fire commands, after their emplacement, are the same as for a fixed fire command of similar armament. The emplacement and tactical employment of coast artillery in harbor defense are given in TR 435-20.

18. **Missions.**—While groups of armament may be placed for specific missions, fire commands are usually emplaced for general utility over a considerable, though delimited, area. Fire commands must be regarded as component units of a fort command to be em-

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ployed by the fort commander in accordance with the plans of defense; they will be assigned their specific missions as the situation develops.

19. **Fire command functions.**—*a.* During fort commander's action the fire commander executes the orders of the fort commander, identifies and indicates targets, and in general controls the action of his batteries. At night he controls any searchlights which may be assigned to him.

b. During fire commander's action the fire commander becomes responsible for the subarea which has been previously assigned to him. When possible, the fire commander should employ his units in conformity with the previously prepared plans of the fort commander covering the character of action in progress.

c. During battery commander's action the fire commander may retain responsibility for the employment of any searchlight which may have been assigned to him for action.

20. **Action against a landed force.**—The employment of a fire command against a landed enemy force will be similar to the action prescribed for a battalion of mobile artillery against such a force. Mortars and mobile fire commands of the secondary armament may be employed for this purpose.

SECTION VIII

FIRE-CONTROL AND POSITION-FINDING APPARATUS

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21. **Fire-control and position-finding apparatus.**—*a.* For detailed list of equipment see Circular No. 16, War Department, 1921 (Basic Allowances of Equipment Special for Coast Artillery Troops—Table IV-G, Fixed Armament), as amended by Section II, Circular No. 8, War Department, 1923.

b. For a description of this apparatus and its use see TR 435-221.
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