The Tactical Air Control Party in the Kill Chain

• Context
  – International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
  – Tactical Air Control Party

• Division / Brigade Operations
  – Deliberate / Time Sensitive Target (TST)

• Battalion / Company Operations
  – Equipment
  – Time Sensitive Target / Troops in Contact (TIC)
Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)

- Team of two minimum
  - JTAC and apprentice
- Advise, Assist, Control (Type 1, 2, 3)
- Critical to airpower employment in AOR
- Involved in kill chain at every step
Division/Brigade Operations

- Largely a resourcing mission
  - Facilitate the targeting solution
  - Prioritize competing demands
  - Bridge between ISAF, CENTCOM, CAOC

- Maintained own target folders
  - Often initiate kill chain, hand off to lower
  - Might engage - commander dependent
  - All target folders approved by ISAF
Division/Brigade Operations

• A success story in two parts
  – Long time target of interest
• Fixed with a combination of cueing techniques
• Tracked by FMV feed, handed off to striker
• Engaged “remotely” (Type 2 CAS)
Battalion/Company Operations
Equipment
Hampered Kill Chain
Track - Engage

• Air assault into Helmand Valley; dismounted assault to seize the city

• Three companies, scout platoon and the battalion ACP receive effective fire

• Fixed wing aircraft on station
  – Unable to deconflict friendly positions
  – AH-64 arrived and provided the necessary assistance to vector CAS fires onto enemy

• What would have helped
  – Ability to identify friendly positions without requiring grids or building numbers
  – The ability to mark day or night to provide pilots a reference point
Successful Kill Chain

- Company isolated and under heavy contact
- Fixed wing on station due to prrior TIC
- JTAC located at Battalion TOC
- Jtac provided rough coordinates to aircraft as they were inbound to tgt area and coordinated for target mark via 105mm artillery and 81mm mortars
- Pilot quickly identified target positions and engaged
- Rotary wing arrived and further enhanced effectiveness
Questions?

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Terrain
Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)
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TACP Employment

Tactical Air Direction Net (UHF/VHF-AM)

JSTARS “The Big Picture”

Army TOC Fire Support & Airspace Coordination

VHF-FM

UHF/VHF-AM

Laser Target Designation

ASOC
Air Request Net HF/SATCOM

TACP

Friendly Positions
Geography/RC-South
Geography/RC-East