

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BRIGADE-STRIKE: ENHANCING CORPS-LEVEL FIRES & INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION

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THREE-PART SERIES

This series explores the concept and application of the MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BRIGADE-STRIKE (MFB-STRIKE) within the modern Field Artillery community, bridging doctrine, technology, and operational realities

PART I

Corps-level fires demand integrated, multi-domain strike capabilities to achieve decisive effects in the deep fight. The Multi-functional Brigade-Strike (MFB-Strike) concept answers this requirement by combining intelligence, air defense, CEMA, and fires under a single headquarters. Developed by III Armored Corps and 75th Field Artillery Brigade before the Army's May 2025 Transformation Initiative EXORD, MFB-Strike provided a testable framework for how the Army can close the Corps-level targeting gap.

WHAT IS MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BRIGADE STRIKE?

On May 7th, 2025, the Department of the Army published its Army Transformation Initiative EXORD which directed the Army G3/5/7 to conduct working groups and assess the integration of multifunctional brigades into future Army Structure Memorandums (ARSTRUC). The EXORD used the 'Multi-functional Brigade-Strike' (MFB-Strike) as an example to drive transformation. By the time the Army published this EXORD, the III Armored Corps (IIIAC) had already developed a concept in which to test the MFB-Strike.

MFB-Strike was developed in collaboration with the IIIAC Fire Support Element, IIIAC G-2, 504th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade (EMIB), and 75th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) with plans to test its effectiveness during IIIAC Command Post Exercise III and Warfighter (WFX) 25-04. MFB-Strike would serve as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters (FFAHQ) providing lethal and non-lethal effects for the Corps, controlled by traditional fire support coordination measures and unit boundaries to determine the Corps' deep area where its primary shaping focus would be.

MFB-Strike was a purpose-built combined fires formation under a single, consolidated brigade-echelon headquarters which provided the 75th FAB with specific organic and non-organic capabilities. This was done by augmenting the brigade with dedicated military intelligence, air defense, Cyber Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA), and signal capabilities that enhanced the brigade's strike capabilities while also providing localized air defense. This tactics-driven formation provided the Corps a dedicated strike capability.



The intelligence enablers provided deeper linkages to the overall intelligence enterprise to streamline the sensor-to-shooter process. Of note, MFB–Strike didn’t assume responsibilities for the Corps’ air and missile defense planning - only the short-range air defense augmentation to protect the brigade’s assets, namely, the Multiple Launch Rocket System and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (MLRS and HIMARS).

The embedded PED team helped both detect targets for the MFB–Strike to prosecute as well as prolong target fidelity according to Target Selection Standards by using Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) intelligence detection feeds.

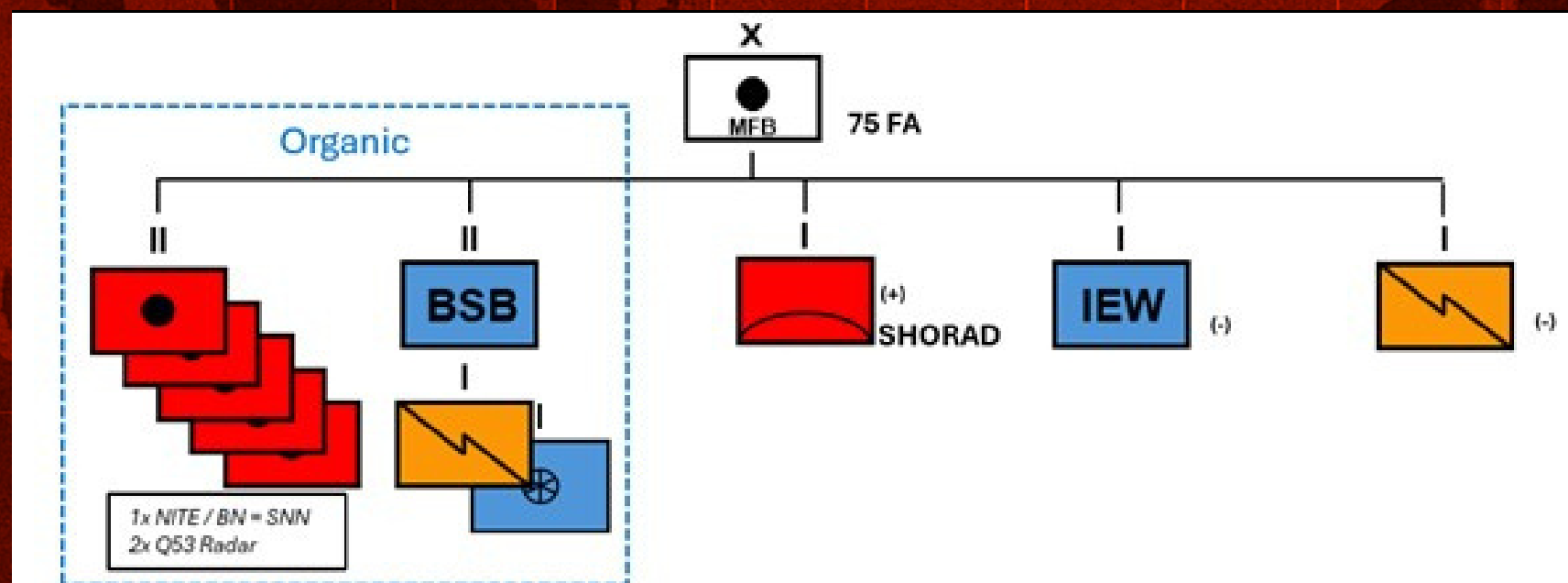


FIGURE 1. MFB-STRIKE TASK ORGANIZATION (IMAGE PROVIDED BY AUTHORS)

The 75th FAB staff modified its organization to adapt to these new capabilities. The brigade S-2 team augmented its staff with the addition of the Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (PED) team provided by the 504th EMIB. The brigade enhanced its protection cell that incorporated its Air Defense Airspace Management (ADAM) cell; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) officer, and Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) air defenders provided by the 1st Cavalry Division. Lastly, the brigade gained a Cyberspace and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) team which augmented capabilities for non-lethal effects with Terrestrial Layer System – Echelons Above Brigade (TLS-EAB) systems to increase battery and command post survivability with layered effects against target sets assigned to MFB–Strike. The integration of these effects increased MFB–Strike’s ability to find and disintegrate the enemy’s command nodes, integrated air defense systems, and integrated fires commands.

Thus, MFB–Strike's participation in IIIAC Targeting efforts were enhanced by the capabilities that provided a dedicated means to independently possess portions of the "Detect" and "Deliver" aspects of the "D3A - Decide, Detect, Deliver, Assess" targeting methodology for a given joint Air Tasking Order (ATO) day.

Subsequent discussions below focus on three aspects of MFB–Strike that were most impactful and evident of the task organization change - the PED, air defense, and how the brigade headquarters conducted mission command.

With the concept established, the next installment explores how the PED team and M-SHORAD integration shaped real-time targeting and survivability during Warfighter 25-04.

END OF PART I



ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

COL STEPHEN WALKER currently serves as the G3 for the III Armored Corps. He recently served as the Brigade Commander for the 75th Field Artillery Brigade. During his command of the 75th FAB, he participated in multiple Warfighter exercises and “Division in the Dirt” NTC rotations as part of the brigade’s role serving as the IIIAC’s Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

MAJ MATT FRANK currently serves as the Battalion Operations Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment. He recently served as the 75th Field Artillery Brigade Fire Control Officer during two Warfighter Exercises and one “Division in the Dirt” NTC rotation as part of the brigade’s role serving as IIIAC’s Force Field Artillery Headquarters. He holds a Bachelor’s of Science from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Operational Studies from the Command and General Staff Officer Course.

MAJ JEONG “JASON” HONG recently completed his third year of service with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade culminating as the Brigade Executive Officer, after serving as the Brigade S-3 and the 3-13 FAR Battalion S-3. During his time in the 75th FAB, he participated in two Warfighter exercises, two “Division in Dirt” NTC rotations as part of the brigade’s role serving as IIIAC’s Force Field Artillery Headquarters, among multiple IIIAC command post exercises. He holds a Master of Science in Education from Fordham University and a Masters of Operational Studies from the Command and General Staff Officer Course.

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