

deliver one divisional set instead of the scheduled brigade set.

Following the 1st Cavalry Division fielding, we were tasked to deliver MFCS Version 2 (V2) software 3 months ahead of schedule to support the Stryker Mortar Carrier Version B IOT in February 2004. Applying the lessons learned from the baseline MFCS program, we compressed our development and testing schedule to support the Army's newest mounted 120mm mortar weapon system. MFCS V2 was the critical element

supporting the evaluation of the effectiveness and responsiveness of 120mm mounted mortars at the company level without a dedicated fire direction center vehicle.

Today, PM Mortars is once again engaged in supporting urgent warfighter needs. Since November 2003, we have been working with the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) and the HQDA staff to accelerate MFCS fielding to support the Army Chief of Staff's modularity initiative to build additional brigades throughout the Army. We began

fielding a divisional set to 3ID in May 2004. Once fielded, MFCS will enhance 3ID's combat capability and provide them with organic battalion fires capable of responding to calls for fire in less than 1 minute following mission receipt.

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Most people think of D-day as June

6, 1944, the day of the invasion of Normandy.

But, did you know the term D-day is used for the day on which any combat attack or operation is to be initiated?

The "D" designates the day of an operation when the date hasn't yet been determined, or where secrecy is essential. The letter is derived from the word for which it stands — "D" is for the day of the invasion. There is only one D-day for all units participating in a given operation.

When used in combination with figures and plus or minus signs, the term indicates the length of time preceding or following a specific action. Thus, D-3 means 3 days before D-day; D+3 means 3 days after D-day.

Plans for large-scale operations are made up in detail long before specific dates are set. Thus, orders are issued for the various steps to be carried out on the D-day minus or plus a certain number of days. At the appropriate time, a subsequent

order is issued that states the actual day.

According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the earliest known use of this term was during World War I. *Field Order 9, First Army, American Expeditionary Forces, dated Sept. 7, 1918* stated, "the First Army that would attack on D-day with the object of forcing the evacuation of the St. Mihiel Salient."

From the U.S. Army Center of Military History

Did You Know?

