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Observation of Fire	Whenever possible the engagement of a target should be observed and, when necessary, the fire adjusted rather than engaging the target by unobserved predicted fire.
Observation Post	A position from which one can view a target and the enemy in general, and from which artillery fire may be directed.
Observation Post Assistant	(see: <i>Battery Commander's Assistant</i> and <i>Forward Observer's Assistant</i>)
Observation Post Officer	The Observation Post Officer (OPO) mans an observation post and calls-in fire support. However, when these posts are mobile the OPO is referred to as a Forward Observer (FO) (formally called a Forward Observation Officer (FOO)) (see: <i>Forward Observer</i>). Now known as a Joint Forces Team Commander.
Observation Post Party	A Battery Commander's Party (BC's Party) and a Forward Observer's Party (FO's Party) are made-up of the observer (the BC or the FO – a captain), an assistant (a sergeant for a BC and a bombardier for an FO) and gunner signallers (see: <i>Battery Commander</i> and <i>Forward Observer</i>).
Observed Fire	The fire which is adjusted onto a target by the observation of the fall of shot.
Obturation	The sealing of propellant gas, when the gun is fired, within the breech and barrel. The obturation is achieved by the cartridge case (or, when firing separated ammunition, a screw breech), preventing the propellant gases escaping to the rear of the barrel, whilst the projectile's driving band prevents the gases escaping to the front, over the projectile (see: <i>Driving Band</i> , <i>Screw Breech</i> and <i>Separated Ammunition</i>).
Occupied Crest	A crest which is actually held or may be occupied, or regularly patrolled by friendly troops (see: <i>Unoccupied Crest</i> , <i>Intermediate Crests</i> and <i>Local Crests</i>).
Offensive Fire	Fire, delivered by supporting units, to assist and protect a unit that is engaged in an offensive action.
Offensive Support	The fire assets that are available for an offensive support operation; these include artillery, mortars, attack aircraft and naval gunfire support.
Officer-in-Charge	A commissioned officer, warrant officer or a non-commissioned officer temporarily in charge of a party for a particular task.
On-Call Target	A planned target, other than a scheduled target, on which fire is delivered when called for.
Operational Command	The authority granted to a commander to assign missions, or tasks, to subordinate commanders, to deploy units, to re-assign

forces, and to retain or delegate operational and/or tactical control as may be deemed necessary (see: *Command*).

Operational Control	The authority granted to a commander to direct forces assigned so that the commander may accomplish specific missions or tasks, which are usually limited by function, time, or location; to deploy units concerned, and to retain or assign tactical control of these units (see: <i>Control</i>).
Operations Officer	(see: <i>Battery Captain</i> and <i>Second-in-Command</i>)
Operator Command Post	<p>A soldier (ie. one of a private rank or an NCO) who works within a unit command post. The duties include predicting fire data for the guns to engage targets, target reduction data for target records and acquiring the relevant battery survey status (normally referred to as either an OPCP, an OPCP BDR (bombardier) or an OPCP SGT (sergeant). The position was formally referred to as a Technical Assistant, Royal Artillery (TARA), and the title is now an Artillery Command Systems Operator.</p> <p>Operator command post NCOs are also assistants to battery commanders (BC's Ack (assistant) and forward observers (FO's Ack); however, the title is now a Joint Forces Team 2IC (second-in-command).</p>
Order of Battle	The identification, strength, command structure, and disposition of the personnel, units, and equipment of any military force.
Ordnance	The gun's barrel, breech and firing mechanisms. It is also a collective noun for artillery pieces.
Orientation	<p>The alignment of the director and other horizontal angle instruments, by reference to grid north, with sufficient accuracy for the necessary purpose (see: <i>Director</i>).</p> <p>Initial orientation, on arrival at a new gun position, is determined within the battery area by magnetic compass or map measurement, and then subsequently improved by the survey processes.</p>
Over	A projectile which falls beyond the target (in range) as seen from the observer (see: <i>Short</i> and <i>Target Grid Corrections</i>).