WILL PLANE AND GAS ABOLISH ARTILLERY? EXPERTS SAY "NO!"

Formidable Array of Projectiles Used by United States Military Forces Remains a Vital Factor in Armament

By Joseph Dugan

Field artillery has a long and illustrious history as a vital component of armed forces around the world. Its effectiveness in providing sustained and concentrated fire support has been a cornerstone of military strategy. However, the advent of aviation and the development of new technologies have raised questions about the continued relevance of field artillery in modern warfare.

Aviation, with its ability to deliver high-precision and high-explosive ordnance at a distance, has revolutionized the way forces engage in combat. The precision-guided munitions (PGMs) introduced in recent years have enhanced the accuracy and lethality of attacks, making it possible to strike targets with greater precision and minimize collateral damage.

Laser-designated and GPS-guided munitions have been instrumental in enabling attack aircraft to deliver direct fire support at a range beyond the effective range of conventional artillery. These technologies, combined with the increased lethality of modern ordnance, have made it possible for aviation to replace field artillery in many situations.

Despite these advances, field artillery remains a critical component of many military forces. It provides essential fire support to ground forces, enabling them to conduct operations in a variety of environments. Artillery units are still used for ground attack missions, interdiction, and in support of other ground combat units.

The question of whether aviation will replace field artillery has been the subject of much debate. Some experts argue that field artillery will continue to play a vital role, while others believe that its role will diminish.

In summary, while aviation has certainly impacted the way field artillery is used, it has not supplanted its role entirely. The combination of precision-guided munitions and conventional artillery provides a versatile mix of capabilities that can adapt to various battlefield scenarios.