

Lets Look: The IFT

Description



In a recent game, my opponent said something like this: “This is a 6 +1. Basically, a four even shot.” To be fair, I have heard this said far and wide by players at all skill levels. Let’s look and see how accurate this really is. For this discussion, we will ignore cowering. Let’s get stuck in.

<u>A7</u> INFANTRY FIRE TABLE (IFT)											
	Backblast dr ATR	MOL				Pfk C37			PF sN	C75	C105
DR/FP	1/20	2/30	4/37	[A-P Minefields]		12/70	16/80	20/100	24/120		
★Vehicle	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
≤ 0	1KIA	2KIA	2KIA	3KIA	3KIA	3KIA	4KIA	4KIA	5KIA		
1	K/1	1KIA	1KIA	2KIA	2KIA	2KIA	3KIA	3KIA	4KIA		
2	1MC	• K/1	• K/2	•‡• 1KIA	•‡• 1KIA	••‡• 1KIA	•‡‡• 2KIA	•‡‡• 2KIA	•‡‡• 3KIA		
3	1MC	1MC	2MC	• K/2	• K/2	‡• K/3	••‡• 1KIA	••‡• 1KIA	•‡‡• 2KIA		
4	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC	2MC	3MC	‡• K/3	‡• K/4	••‡• 1KIA		
5	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC	2MC	3MC	4MC	‡• K/4		
6	—	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC	2MC	3MC	4MC		
7	—	—	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC	2MC	3MC		
8	—	—	—	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC	2MC		
9	—	—	—	—	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC	2MC		
10	—	—	—	—	—	PTC	NMC	1MC	1MC		
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	PTC	NMC	1MC		
12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	PTC	NMC		
13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	PTC		
14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
≥ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

Shifting Left, Positive DRM

Examining the IFT table above, it is easy to spot why people think of a +1 DRM as equivalent to a one column shift to the left. On a 8 column shot, an Original DR of 7 yields a NMC (with the +1 DRM included). On the 6 column, the same Original 7 yields a NMC (with the +1 DRM **IGNORED** due to shifting). For this shift, the approximation holds up pretty nicely.



For those still clinging to the belief a **+n** DRM is the same as a **+n** column shift to the left, consider a 12 +2 shot. The believers would say this shot is essentially a 6 even shot. Comparing an Original DR 2 on both columns. The Final DR is a 4. A 4 on the 12 column is a 3MC. A 4 on the 6 column is a 2 MC.

Don't be fooled. The shots aren't equivalent just because the same DR yields a NMC on each column. The lower end of the bigger column will almost always be more dangerous than the smaller column. This is especially true when shifting more than one column.

Shifting Right, Negative DRM

By now, you can probably expect these shifts are also not equivalent. The possibility of a 1KIA or more significantly increases with negative DRM. Consider a 6 -1 shot. An Original DR 2 is a 2 KIA on the 6 column. There is no 2 KIA when considering an 8 even shot. More clearly, on the 6 -1 there is 1/12 chances to get a 1 KIA or better. On the 8 even shot, there is only 1/36 chances to get only a 1 KIA. If we extend this to include the K/# result, a 6 -1 yields a 1 in 6 chance of a K/2 or better. An 8 even yields a 1 in 12 chance for a K/3 or better.



It significantly increases the potential for havoc when applying negative DRM to IFT die rolls. The lower the Original DR is, the more possible havoc there is. The more negative DRM that applies, the greater the risk. I know this does not surprise many, but do yourself a favor and stop thinking in terms of column shifts. Doing so blinds you to the increased danger you already assume is there. It's way worse than you think!

Conclusion

I know this article feels a little pedantic. In some aspects, it is, but I cringe every time I hear someone mention DRM and column shifts. Shifting the columns makes the original shots look a lot less deadly than they actually are, particularly when rolling low Original DR. If you're one of those doing this, I hope this forces you to take a moment and think it through. Until next time. - jim