

MCRP 4-11.3F

Convoy Operations Handbook



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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 4-11.3F, *Convoy Operations Handbook*, addresses the fundamental principles required for the planning and execution of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) convoy operations. This manual provides an overview for convoy planning, organizations, and movement fundamentals, procedures, and techniques.

MCRP 4-11.3F provides a source of reference for commanders and their staffs on convoy operations and functions in support of the MAGTF. Specifically, it gives general planning requirements, support requirements and considerations, and procedures.

MCRP 4-11.3F consolidates and expands existing convoy operations doctrine and supersedes portions of Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 4-9, *Motor Transport*, (1992); FMFM 9-1, *Marine Corps Tank Employment* (1982); and FMFM 6-9, *Marine Artillery Support* (1993).

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

/s/

EDWARD HANLON, JR.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
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To Our Readers

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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

CONVOY OPERATIONS HANDBOOK

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CHAPTER 1. MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

Planning

For preparations to proceed smoothly and to ensure that all required tasks are completed, responsibilities and procedures are standardized to the maximum extent possible and reflected in unit standing operating procedures (SOPs). When a convoy or tactical motor march is included in the concept of operations ashore, it is included in the operation order. Tactical movements may require an appendix to annex C (Operations) to the operation order. The use of convoys by the combat service support element (CSSE), when included in the concept of combat service support (CSS), should be detailed in an appendix to annex D (Logistics/Combat Service Support). An appendix, outlining the general convoy procedures to be employed, can also be prepared for execution by issuance of fragmentary orders. The use and composition of unit logistic trains will be reflected in the unit's SOP.

Warning Order

A warning order is issued to alert units that will participate in the planned move. It states the general purpose of the convoy, the destination, the type of movement, and the approximate schedule. In addition to alerting commanders of the participating units, and the motor transport unit, the responsible staff officer should brief the designated convoy commander on the mission. The checklist in appendix A will assist the convoy commander in detail planning. Unit commanders notify their key personnel so that the preparation of vehicles, equipment, and personnel may begin. The warning order may be written or oral.

Movement Order

The movement order is issued by the commander. It covers the details for a move and contains the

instructions necessary for the orderly conduct of the planned move. An example of a movement order is in appendix B. The movement order includes sufficient detail to clearly define, as applicable to the convoy, the following:

- Current situation.
- Mission or purpose of the convoy.
- Concept of operation for the movement.
- Applicable administrative and logistic procedures and responsibilities.
- Command, control, and communications assignments and techniques that will be employed to carry out the move.

Task Organization

Convoys are task-organized to meet the requirements of the assigned mission. A transport element, an escort or security element, various support elements, and a command and control element are generally included. The specific organization is situation dependent. The tactical situation, enemy capabilities, as well as other planned options should be assessed in developing the convoy task organization.

It is essential that a clear chain of command be established within the convoy task organization.

The results of reconnaissance and liaison dictate the requirements for security and support elements. In some instances, the need for engineer support may necessitate separate tasking of engineer units to perform route maintenance prior to or in conjunction with convoy movement.

In addition to the inclusion of security to accompany the convoy, the need for artillery and air support availability is a consideration in planning for convoy security.