

FIELD MANUAL

No. 17-95

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CAVALRY OPERATIONS

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PREFACE

FM 17-95 is the Army's doctrinal manual for cavalry operations. It is primarily designed to assist cavalry commanders, their staffs, and subordinate troop and company commanders in the conduct of combat operations. It also serves as a guide for corps, division, and brigade commanders, and their staffs. This manual discusses the organization, capabilities, and employment of cavalry units.

This manual applies to the armored cavalry regiment (ACR) and all division cavalry squadrons (armored, light, air). While the focus is on regiment and squadron, principles and fundamentals presented apply to all subordinate troops and companies and separate cavalry troops.

FM 17-95 sets forth doctrinal principles that guide the conduct of cavalry operations. It addresses specific tactics, techniques, or procedures as necessary to clarify or emphasize these doctrinal principles. Field manuals and mission training plans that support this manual contain more specifics on tactics, techniques, and procedures. Users must apply this doctrine within the capabilities and limitations of their units and develop standing operating procedures that address specific techniques and procedures.

This manual is fully compatible with Army doctrine as contained in FM 100-5 and is consistent with conventional (non-digitized) doctrine in FM 100-15 and FM 71-100. It assumes that the user has a fundamental understanding of FM 71-100, FM 100-5, FM 100-15, FM 101-5, and FM 101-5-1, and it does not repeat the concepts contained therein except as necessary to explain cavalry operations. It serves as a reference for personnel involved in the development of subordinate unit doctrine, combat development, materiel development, and the conduct of training.

This manual complies with the contents of NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG)/Quadripartite Standardization Agreement (QSTAG) 2025.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Commander, US Army Armor Center, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-C, Fort Knox, Kentucky 4012-5000.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

“Altogether, cavalry operations are exceedingly difficult, knowledge of the country is absolutely necessary, and ability to comprehend the situation at a glance, and an audacious spirit, are everything.”

*Maurice de Saxe
Mes Reveries, 1732*

This chapter defines the role, organizations, and missions of cavalry; describes the Threat and the battlefield cavalry units can expect; and outlines the seven battlefield operating systems commanders must coordinate and synchronize.

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Section I. The Role of Cavalry

FUNDAMENTAL ROLE

The fundamental purpose of cavalry is to perform reconnaissance and to provide security in close operations. In doing so, cavalry facilitates the corps or division commander's ability to maneuver divisions, brigades, and battalions and to concentrate superior combat power and apply it against the enemy at the decisive time and point. Cavalry clarifies, in part, the fog of battle.

Cavalry is, by its role, an economy of force. The flexible capabilities of cavalry allow the commander to conserve the combat power of divisions or brigades for