

Combat Skills of the Soldier

Preface

This manual is dedicated to the soldier — the key to success on the battlefield. Wars are not won by machines and weapons but by the soldiers who use them. Even the best equipped army cannot win without motivated and well-trained soldiers. If the US Army is to win the next war, its soldiers must be motivated by inspired leadership, and they must know how to do their jobs and survive on the battlefield.

This is the soldier's field manual. It tells the soldier how to perform the combat skills needed to survive on the battlefield. These are basic skills that must be learned by soldiers in all military occupational specialties (MOS).

Users of this manual may submit recommended changes or comments, referring to the page and line(s) of the text. Reasons should be provided to insure understanding and complete evaluation. Comments should be forwarded on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) addressed to the Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-I-V-PD, Fort Benning, GA 31905.

The words "he," "him," "his," "man," and "men," when used in this publication, represent both the masculine and feminine genders, unless otherwise specifically stated.

* This manual supersedes FM 21-75, 10 July 1967.

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CHAPTER 1

Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage

GENERAL

If the enemy can see you, he can hit you with his fire. So you must be concealed from enemy observation and have cover from enemy fire.

When the terrain does not provide natural cover and concealment, you must prepare your cover and use natural and man-made materials to camouflage yourself, your equipment, and your position. This chapter provides guidance on the preparation and use of cover, concealment, and camouflage.

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COVER

Cover gives protection from bullets, fragments of exploding rounds, flame, nuclear effects, and biological and chemical agents. Cover can also conceal you from enemy observation. Cover can be natural or man-made.

TYPES OF COVER



Natural cover includes such things as logs, trees, stumps, ravines, and hollows. Man-made cover includes such things as fighting positions, trenches, walls, rubble, and craters. Even the smallest depression or fold in the ground can give some cover. Look for and use every bit of cover the terrain offers.

In combat, you need protection from enemy direct and indirect fire.

To get this protection in the defense, build a fighting position (man-made cover) to add to the natural cover afforded by the terrain.

FIGHTING POSITION WITH COVER



To get protection from enemy fire in the offense or when moving, use routes that put cover between you and the places where the enemy is known or thought to be. Use ravines, gullies, hills, wooded areas, walls, and other cover to keep the enemy from seeing and firing at you. Avoid open areas, and do not skyline yourself on hilltops and ridges.

TROOPS MOVING ALONG A RAVINE

