
FM 3-06 (FM 90-10)

**URBAN
OPERATIONS**

JUNE 2003

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Urban Operations

Contents

	Page
FIGURES	iv
HISTORICAL VIGNETTES	vii
PREFACE	viii
Chapter 1 URBAN OUTLOOK	1-1
The Prospect of Urban Operations	1-2
Urban Perspective	1-2
Historical Significance of Urban Areas in Warfare	1-3
Modern Army Urban Operations	1-8
Chapter 2 URBAN ENVIRONMENT	2-1
A Complex Environment.....	2-2
Urban Terrain	2-3
Urban Society.....	2-14
Urban Infrastructure	2-19
Chapter 3 URBAN THREAT	3-1
Asymmetry.....	3-2
Weapons of Mass Destruction	3-2
Threat Operational Principles.....	3-3
Urban Threat Tactics	3-6
Negative Effects of Urbanization	3-11
Chapter 4 CONTEMPLATING URBAN OPERATIONS	4-1
Necessity of Urban Operations	4-2
Characteristics of Major Urban Operations	4-7
Integration into Land Operations	4-10

Distribution Restriction: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

*This publication supersedes FM 90-10, 15 August 1979.

Chapter 5	FOUNDATIONS FOR URBAN OPERATIONS	5-1
	Urban Operational Framework	5-1
	Fundamentals of Urban Operations.....	5-12
	General Effects on Operations	5-16
Chapter 6	URBAN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS	6-1
	Purpose of Urban Offensive Operations.....	6-1
	Characteristics of Urban Offensive Operations	6-2
	Urban Offensive Operations and Battlefield Organization.....	6-6
	Forms and Types of Urban Offense	6-9
	Urban Offensive Considerations.....	6-15
Chapter 7	URBAN DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS	7-1
	Purpose of Urban Defensive Operations.....	7-1
	Characteristics of Urban Defensive Operations	7-2
	Urban Defensive Operations and Battlefield Organization.....	7-5
	Types of Urban Defense	7-5
	Urban Defensive Considerations	7-10
Chapter 8	URBAN STABILITY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS	8-1
	Purpose of Urban Stability Operations and Support Operations.....	8-2
	Characteristics of Urban Stability Operations and Support Operations	8-2
	Urban Stability Operations, Support Operations, and Battlefield Organization	8-3
	Types and Forms of Stability Operations and Support Operations	8-4
	Considerations of Urban Stability Operations and Support Operations	8-6
Chapter 9	URBAN COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT	9-1
	Urban CSS Characteristics	9-2
	Logistics Preparation of the Theater.....	9-4
	CSS Functions	9-7
	General Engineer Support	9-26
	Civil-Military Operations	9-28
Appendix A	SIEGE OF BEIRUT: AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF URBAN OPERATIONS	A-1
	Overall Strategic Situation	A-1
	Israeli Military Position	A-2
	PLO Military Position.....	A-2
	Role of Civilians	A-3
	Information Operations	A-3

	Conduct of the Urban Operations.....	A-4
	Lessons	A-6
	Summary	A-10
Appendix B	URBAN INTELLIGENCE PREPARATION OF THE BATTLEFIELD.....	B-1
	Urbanization of IPB.....	B-1
	Significant Characteristics	B-4
	Threat Considerations	B-11
	Urban IPB Tools and Products.....	B-16
Appendix C	OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA: APPLYING THE URBAN OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT AND STABILITY	C-1
	General Situation.....	C-1
	Somali Operations	C-2
	Assess	C-5
	Shape	C-7
	Dominate	C-7
	Transition.....	C-8
	Summary	C-9
Appendix D	JOINT AND MULTINATIONAL URBAN OPERATIONS	D-0
	Purpose	D-0
	Service Urban Capabilities	D-1
	Urban Functional Combatant Command Capabilities.....	D-5
	Multinational Considerations	D-10
	SOURCE NOTES	Source Notes-0
	GLOSSARY	Glossary-0
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	Bibliography-1
	INDEX.....	Index-0

Figures

Figure	Page
1-1. Full Spectrum Urban Operations	1-3
1-2. UO and the Army Imperatives.....	1-10
2-1. Keys to Understanding the Urban Environment	2-2
2-2. The Multidimensional Urban Battlefield	2-4
2-3. Broad Urban Patterns	2-7
2-4. Basic Internal Street Patterns	2-9
2-5. An Urban Model	2-10
2-6. Toxic Industrial Chemicals and Their Industrial or Commercial Uses	2-12
2-7. Key Aspects of the Urban Society.....	2-14
2-8. Urban Areas by Population Size	2-16
2-9. Simplified Analysis of Urban Society	2-16
2-10. UO–Society Cycle of Effects	2-19
2-11. Urban Infrastructure	2-20
3-1. Threat Operational Principles.....	3-3
3-2. Urban Threat Tactics.....	3-7
3-3. Favored Threat Weapons	3-11
3-4. Negative Effects of Urbanization.....	3-12
3-5. Worldwide Population Projections	3-13
4-1. Risk Management and the Risks Associated with Urban Operations	4-2
4-2. Organization of Historic Joint Urban Operations	4-8
4-3. Urban ISR Considerations	4-16
4-4. IO Elements and Related Activities.....	4-19
4-5. Public Affairs Principles.....	4-23
5-1. The Urban Operational Framework and Battle Command	5-1
5-2. Urban Isolation	5-3
5-3. Panama	5-8
5-4. The Fundamentals of Urban Operations.....	5-11
5-5. Urban Maneuver Challenges and Means to Overcome Them	5-17
5-6. Urban Effects on Fire Support Systems.....	5-20
5-7. Methods to Overcome Urban Communications Challenges.....	5-29
5-8. Compressed Tactical Factors	5-31
6-1. Initial Attack in Brittany	6-3
6-2. Subsequent Disposition of Forces in Brittany	6-4

6-3. Envelopment Isolates an Urban Area.....	6-9
6-4. Turning Movement.....	6-9
6-5. Infiltration	6-9
6-6. Penetration	6-10
6-7. Frontal Attack.....	6-10
6-8. Metz Envelopment.....	6-11
6-9. Metz Final Assault	6-12
6-10. Required Urban Reconnaissance Capabilities.....	6-17
6-11. Shaping Through Isolation.....	6-18
6-12. Critical Sensor-to-Shooter Links.....	6-20
6-13. Reactions to Isolation	6-20
6-14. Initial Attack to Isolate Hue	6-21
6-15. Subsequent Attack to Isolate Hue	6-22
6-16. Final Attack to Isolate Hue.....	6-23
6-17. Coordination of SOF and Conventional Capabilities	6-24
6-18. Inchon-Seoul Campaign, September 1950	6-31
7-1. An Urban Area Incorporated Into a Larger Mobile Defense.....	7-6
7-2. German Attacks to Seize Stalingrad.....	7-7
7-3. German Attacks to Seize Stalingrad, September 1942	7-8
7-4. Soviet Attack Traps German 6th Army	7-8
7-5. Retrograde Through an Urban Area.....	7-9
8-1. Characteristics of Stability Operations and Support Operations	8-1
8-2. Urban Stability Operations and Support Operations	8-4
8-3. Adaptability	8-12
9-1. CSS Characteristics.....	9-2
9-2. The Urban Environment and Essential Elements of Logistic Information	9-5
9-3. CSS Functions	9-8
9-4. General Principles of the Law of War	9-25
9-5. General Engineer Support.....	9-27
9-6. Civil Affairs Functional Skills.....	9-29
9-7. ASCOPE and the Urban Environment.....	9-30
A-1. The Steps of IPB.....	A-1
A-2. Changing Relevance of Key Elements of the Urban Environment.....	A-3
A-3. Significant Urban Terrain Characteristics.....	A-5
A-4. Significant Urban Societal Characteristics	A-7
A-5. Significant Urban Infrastructure Characteristics	A-9
A-6. Civilian Threat–Friendly Continuum	A-13
A-7. Urban IPB Tools and Products	A-15

B-1. USAF E-8 JSTARS Platform..... B-1
B-2. USN MK45 Lightweight Gun System B-4
B-3. USN MK V Special Operations Craft B-9
B-4. USAF AC-130 Gunship B-9
C-1. The City of Beirut..... C-0
C-2. Initial Conduct of the Urban Operation..... C-3
C-3. Israeli Probe of PLO Defenses..... C-3
C-4. Initial Israeli Attack C-4
C-5. Final Israeli Attack C-4
D-1. Phases of US Involvement in Somalia..... D-1
D-2. Map of Somalia D-3

Historical Vignettes

	Page
Rome: A Microcosm of Urban Warfare	1-4
Seeing the Urban Area and Its Parts.....	2-26
Tempo.....	3-4
Identifying Soldiers from Civilians	3-8
Information and the Media.....	3-10
Cultural and Religious Instability	3-14
Food and Water Shortages	3-14
Urban Insurgencies	3-16
Crime and Criminal Organizations	3-18
Applying the Urban Operational Framework: Panama – December 1989.....	5-7
Example of Simple Communications Innovation: Israel’s Six-Day War – 1967	5-30
The Operational Context of Urban Operations: Brittany Ports – August to September 1944	6-2
Forms of Attack in the Urban Offense: Metz – 1944	6-11
Isolating the Urban Area: Hue City – January to February 1968	6-21
Creative Task Organization: Using Artillery in the Direct Fire Role	6-27
Bold Operational Maneuver to Seize an Urban Area: Inchon and Seoul, Korea – September 1950	6-30
Urban Defense in a Major Operation: Stalingrad – August 1942 to January 1943	7-7
Defensive Combat Power: Suez City, Egypt – October 1973.....	7-13
Assessment of Security and Force Protection: Belfast, Northern Ireland.....	8-9
Support of and Coordination with Civilian Authorities: The 1992 Los Angeles Riots.....	8-13
Base Security: Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam and Tet 1968	9-3
Combat Stress: Chechnya—1994 to 1996.....	9-19
Analysis of an Urban Area’s Underlying Terrain: Mitrovica, Kosovo	A-6
Shifting Civilian Interests and Intent.....	A-13
The Siege of Beirut: An Illustration of the Fundamentals of Urban Operations.....	C-0
Operations in Somalia: Applying the Urban Framework to Stability and Support..	D-1

Preface

Doctrine provides a military organization with a common philosophy, a language, a purpose, and unity of effort. To this end, FM 3-06 discusses major Army operations in an urban environment. This environment, consisting of complex terrain, a concentrated population, and an infrastructure of systems, is an operational environment in which Army forces will operate. In the future, it may be the predominant operational environment. Each urban operation will be distinct from any other—any other urban operation as well as similar types of operations in other environments. Each operation will differ because of the multitude of combinations presented by the threat, the urban area itself, the major operation of which it may be part (or the focus), and the fluidity of societal and geo-political considerations. Therefore, there will always exist an innate tension between Army doctrine, the actual context of the urban operation, and future realities. Commanders are responsible to strike the proper balance between preparing for future challenges and maintaining the capability to respond to current threats.

PURPOSE

This manual provides the analytical tools for evaluating an urban operation to determine if the operation is necessary for overall mission success. It also provides the means to understanding and determining the impacts of the urban environment on military operations and provides information on managing, taking advantage of, and mitigating the effects of those impacts as appropriate. As such, this manual demonstrates how to apply the doctrinal principles in FM 3-0 to this unique environment.

SCOPE

Chapter 1 introduces theoretical and historical perspectives of urban operations that serve as the underlying basis for the rest of the manual. Chapter 2 discusses the characteristics of urban centers and populations as well as their impact on operations. It is unlikely that Army forces will ever operate in a benign urban environment; therefore, Chapter 3 discusses the varied nature of potential urban threats. An understanding of the complexities of the urban environment and the nature of the enemy is essential to sound decisionmaking. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss the potential costs of urban operations as well as the effects on each battlefield operating system that the commander and his staff consider early in their planning. These chapters also outline an urban operational framework and specific urban considerations that create the foundations necessary for successfully applying operational doctrine to an urban environment.

The second half of the manual (Chapters 6 – 9) discusses how urban operations are conducted and resourced. Urban operations include major offensive and defensive operations in urban environments as well as stability operations and support operations ranging from peace operations and combatting terrorism to domestic support operations and foreign humanitarian assistance. For the different types of operations—offense, defense, stability, and support—the purpose, characteristics, organization, and considerations are discussed. However, com-

manders consider that most urban operations will involve some aspect of all four types of operations (although one may dominate) and plan accordingly.

APPLICABILITY

This manual is intended for commanders and their staffs at the brigade through corps level. It addresses the range of operations (both violent and nonviolent) throughout the spectrum of conflict that Army units will execute in urban settings. However, users should also consult JP 3-06 for specific joint information. Additionally, users should be familiar with FM 3-06.11, TC 90-1, and urban operations chapters, appendices, or sections found in other infantry, armor, combined arms, and proponent field manuals for the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) and appropriate proponent information necessary to conduct tactical urban operations at the brigade level and below.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Chapter 2 defines “city” according to a the population size. However, in historical vignettes and accounts, the term “city” is applied in its common usage without specific regard to size to maintain conformity with most other historical reports.

In this manual, the term “threat” is applied broadly to include an enemy force (conventional or unconventional), an armed belligerent in a peace operation, antagonistic or unfriendly elements of the civilian population, or some other hazardous condition in the urban environment that negatively influences mission accomplishment. The term “hostile” is used as a subset of the threat and denotes a particular element of the urban population (individual, group, or organization) or one or more opposing armed factions in a peacekeeping operation. Both an enemy and a hostile have the *intent* to exploit Army vulnerabilities and negatively affect the urban operation. A hostile, however, is not engaging Army forces in protracted combat operations.

The term military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) is replaced by urban operations (UO). MOUT is an acronym from FM 90-10 *Military Operations on Urban Terrain* that is superseded by this manual.

Otherwise, the glossary lists most terms used in FM 3-06 that have joint or Army definitions. Where Army and joint definitions are different, (*Army*) follows the term. Definitions for which FM 3-06 is the proponent manual (the authority) are marked with an asterisk (*). The proponent or amplifying manual for other terms is listed in parentheses after the definition.

The manual attempts to incorporate historical vignettes into each chapter where the account supports the doctrinal line of reasoning. Two historical vignettes, however, were included as appendices (A and C) because of their longer lengths.

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

This publication contains copyrighted material.

The proponent for this publication is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommended changes directly to Commander, US Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate, ATTN: ATZL-FD-CD, Futures Development and Integration Center, 1 Reynolds Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-1352.

Chapter 1

Urban Outlook

The ambiguous nature of the operational environment requires Army leaders who are self-aware and adaptive. Self-aware leaders understand their operational environment, can assess their own capabilities, determine their own strengths and weaknesses, and actively learn to overcome their weaknesses. Adaptive leaders must first be self-aware—then have the additional ability to recognize change in their operating environment, identify those changes, and learn how to adapt to succeed in their new environment.

FM 1

Given the prevalence of large cities throughout the world, Army forces, division size and larger, will likely be required to conduct operations in and around large urban areas. These operations will be in support of a joint force commander (JFC) conducting military operations pursuant to United States (US) national security policy. This manual is designed to facilitate the planning and conduct of the full range and spectrum of land operations in a complex urban environment. Each urban environment and urban operation is unique; prescribing specific doctrinal “solutions” for situations is impossible. Instead, this manual provides a framework to commanders and their staffs for understanding the urban environment, for analyzing and deciding whether urban operations (UO) are necessary or feasible, and for applying operational doctrine to this complex environment. It also provides historical vignettes to help develop a refined analytical perspective and some planning points and tactics and techniques to assist in preparing for and conducting UO. Together, this information provides a foundation for approaching major UO, which, combined with other joint and Army doctrine, will help commanders and their staffs learn to adapt and succeed in this challenging environment.

CONTENTS

The Prospect of Urban Operations	1-2	Modern Army Urban Operations.....	1-8
Urban Perspective.....	1-2	Major Theater War	1-8
Historical Significance of Urban		Smaller-Scale Contingencies	1-9
Areas in Warfare.....	1-3	Peacetime Military Engagements	1-9
Strategic Importance of Urban		Preparing for Future Urban Operations .	1-9
Areas	1-4		
US Army’s Experience in Urban			
Operations	1-6		