

August 2000

**FM 3-09.70
Tactics, Techniques, and
Procedures for
M109A6 Howitzer
(Paladin)
Operations**

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FM 3-09.70
1 AUGUST 2000

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for M109A6 Howitzer (Paladin) Operations

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Preface

Field manual (FM) 3-09.70 (6-70) is focused on Paladin-unique battalion, battery, platoon and section operations. It sets forth the doctrine pertaining to organization, equipment, command and control (C2), operations, and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for Paladin units. It establishes the duties and responsibilities of key Paladin battery personnel for field operations. FM 3-09.70 is written for the Paladin battery and platoon, as well as for the battalion commander and staff.

It is designed to be used in conjunction with the appropriate FM 6-series, FM 71-3, equipment technical manuals (TMs), Army training and evaluation program (ARTEP) mission training plans (MTPs), and soldiers' manuals.

This FM supplements doctrine and TTP outlined in FM 6-50, *TTP for the Field Artillery Cannon Battery* and FM 6-20-1, *TTP for the Field Artillery Battalion*. As applicable, those TTPs for Paladin operations which do not differ significantly from those described in FM 6-50 or FM 6-20-1 are not repeated in this manual.

FM 3-09.70 ties the doctrinal approach with the training strategies outlined in the associated ARTEP 6-037-30-MTP, *Mission Training Plan for the Consolidated Cannon Battery, M102, M119, M198, M109A5, M109A6*. Refer to ARTEP 6-037-30-MTP for specific time standards regarding Paladin operations and fire missions.

The proponent of this publication is Commandant, United States Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS). Send comments and recommendations directly to:

Commandant

USAFAS

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

Chapter 1

Mission, Organization, and System Description

This chapter provides an overview of the M109A6 howitzer (Paladin) battalion mission, organization, and description of key system components. The Paladin battalion exhibits the agility, initiative, and flexibility to provide timely and accurate fires in support of maneuver forces. The organization of the battalion and the tactics employed reinforce the principles of war and the tenants of Army operations as set forth in FM 100-5, *Operations*. Compared to earlier M109 series howitzers, the Paladin howitzer operates over more widely dispersed areas, processes on board technical firing data, and demonstrates the ability to shoot and scoot without relying on aiming circles and wire lines.

MISSION

1-1. The Paladin battalion strikes throughout the depth of enemy formations to suppress, neutralize, and destroy ground forces, direct fire weapons, indirect fires systems, and air defense systems. The battalion is organized and equipped to perform any of the four standard tactical missions (direct support (DS), general support (GS), general support reinforcing (GSR), and reinforcing (R)) or any nonstandard missions as described in FM 6-20-1, Chapter 1.

BASIC TASKS

1-2. The Paladin battalion performs tasks under the Army universal task list (AUTL) for the tactical level of war as defined for field artillery battalions in FM 6-20-1. The six major task areas for the tactical level AUTL are:

- Deploy/conduct maneuver.
- Develop intelligence.
- Employ fires.
- Perform combat service support (CSS) and sustainment.
- Exercise C2.
- Protect the force.

ORGANIZATION

1-3. The Paladin battalion is organized with a headquarters and headquarters battery (HHB), three firing batteries each with six howitzer sections (3 X 6), and a service battery (Figure 1-1). The HHB and service battery provide command, control, administrative, and service support for organic and attached elements. See FM 6-20-1 for further details on HHB and service battery configurations and functions.

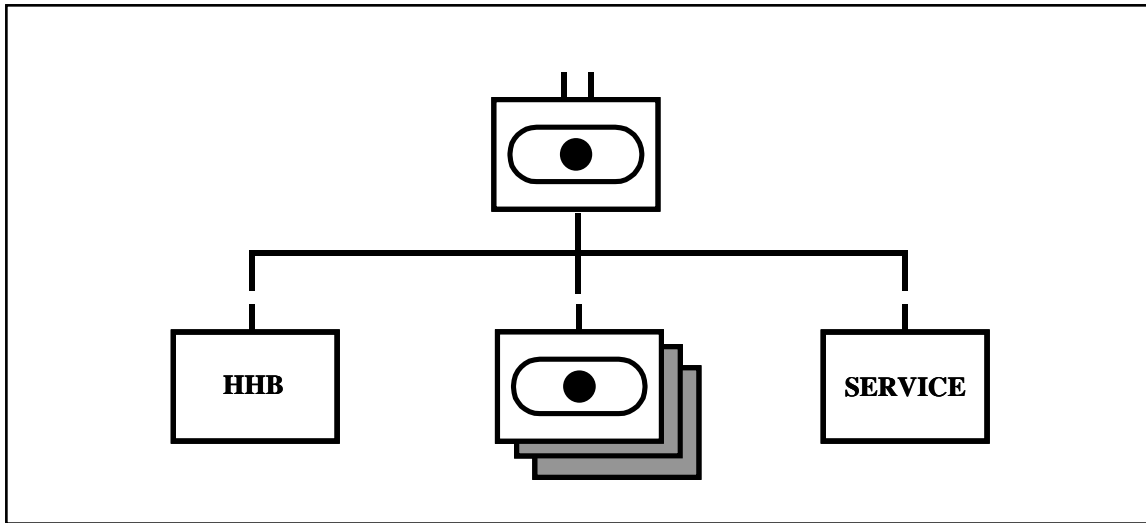


Figure 1-1. Paladin Battalion Organization

1-4. The Paladin firing battery (Figure 1-2) consists of a battery headquarters and two firing platoons. Each firing platoon consists of a platoon headquarters section, a platoon operations center (POC) comprised of fire direction center (FDC) section personnel, three firing sections, and an ammunition section.

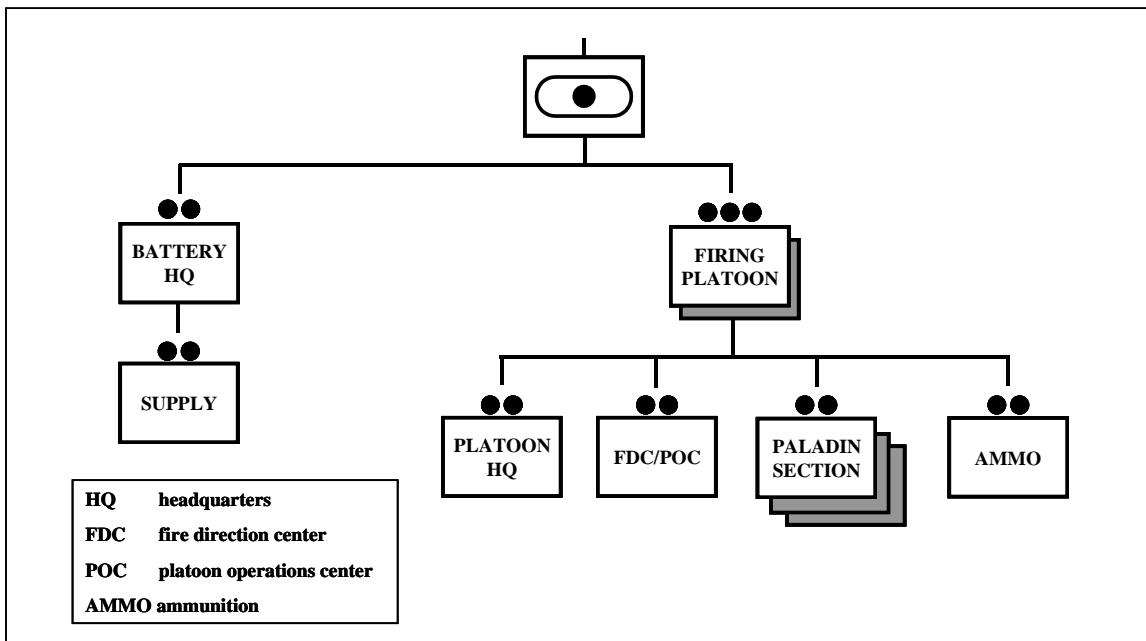


Figure 1-2. Paladin Firing Battery Organization