The Warrior Ethos and Soldier Combat Skills

JANUARY 2008

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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Foreword

Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.

General Douglas MacArthur, on receiving the Sylvanus Thayer Medal at the US Military Academy, 12 May, 1962
The Warrior Ethos
and
Soldier Combat Skills

Contents

Preface................................................................................................................................................. xii
Summary of Change.......................................................................................................................... xiii

PART ONE. WARRIOR ETHOS

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION............................................................................................................... 1-1
  Operational Environment .............................................................................................................. 1-1
  Army Values ................................................................................................................................. 1-2
  Law of Land Warfare .................................................................................................................. 1-3
  Warrior Culture ............................................................................................................................ 1-3
  Battle Drill .................................................................................................................................... 1-3
  Warrior Drills ............................................................................................................................... 1-3

Chapter 2 INDIVIDUAL READINESS........................................................................................... 2-1
  Predeployment ............................................................................................................................. 2-1
  Legal Assistance .......................................................................................................................... 2-1
  Personal Weapon ......................................................................................................................... 2-3

Chapter 3 COMBAT CARE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE..................................................... 3-1
  Section I. COMBAT CASUALTY CARE ...................................................................................... 3-1
    Combat Lifesaver ..................................................................................................................... 3-1
    Lifesaving Measures (First Aid) ............................................................................................... 3-2
    Casualty Evacuation ................................................................................................................. 3-28
  Section II. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE ..................................................................................... 3-38
    Clothing and Sleeping Gear ....................................................................................................... 3-39
    Mental Health and Morale ......................................................................................................... 3-40

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*This publication supersedes FM 21-75, 3 August 1984.
# Contents

## Chapter 4  ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. DESERT</td>
<td>4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types</td>
<td>4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>4-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Section II. JUNGLE | 4-5 |
| Types | 4-5 |
| Preparation | 4-7 |

| Section III. ARCTIC | 4-9 |
| Types | 4-9 |
| Preparation | 4-9 |

## PART TWO. SOLDIER COMBAT SKILLS

## Chapter 5  COVER, CONCEALMENT, AND CAMOUFLAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>COVER, CONCEALMENT, AND CAMOUFLAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. COVER</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Cover</td>
<td>5-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man-Made Cover</td>
<td>5-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Section II. CONCEALMENT | 5-4 |
| Natural Concealment | 5-4 |
| Actions as Concealment | 5-4 |

| Section III. CAMOUFLAGE | 5-5 |
| Movement | 5-5 |
| Positions | 5-5 |
| Outlines and Shadows | 5-5 |
| Shine | 5-5 |
| Shape | 5-5 |
| Colors | 5-6 |
| Dispersion | 5-6 |
| Preparation | 5-6 |
| Individual Techniques | 5-7 |

## Chapter 6  FIGHTING POSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>FIGHTING POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover</td>
<td>6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concealment</td>
<td>6-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camouflage</td>
<td>6-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectors and Fields of Fire</td>
<td>6-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasty and Deliberate Fighting Positions</td>
<td>6-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Man Fighting Position</td>
<td>6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Man Fighting Position</td>
<td>6-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close Combat Missile Fighting Positions</td>
<td>6-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Cards</td>
<td>6-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Chapter 7  MOVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>MOVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Movement Techniques</td>
<td>7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Actions while Moving</td>
<td>7-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire and Movement</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement on Vehicles</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 8  URBAN AREAS ........................................................................................................8-1

Section I. MOVEMENT TECHNIQUES ...........................................................................8-1

Avoiding Open Areas .................................................................8-1
Moving Parallel to Buildings ......................................................8-1
Moving Past Windows ...............................................................8-2
Crossing a Wall ........................................................................8-3
Moving Around Corners ............................................................8-4
Moving Within a Building .......................................................8-5

Section II. OTHER PROCEDURES .............................................................................8-6

Entering a Building .................................................................8-6
Clearing a Room .......................................................................8-10

Section III. FIGHTING POSITIONS ......................................................................8-12

Hasty Fighting Position ............................................................8-13
Prepared Fighting Position .....................................................8-15

Chapter 9  'EVERY SOLDIER IS A SENSOR' ...............................................................9-1

Definition ..................................................................................9-1
Resources ..................................................................................9-1
Forms of Questioning ..............................................................9-3
Report Levels ...........................................................................9-3
SALUTE Format ..........................................................................9-4
Handling and Reporting of the Enemy ......................................9-5
Operations Security .................................................................9-7
Observation Techniques ..........................................................9-8
Limited Visibility Observation ...................................................9-9
Range Estimation ........................................................................9-14

Chapter 10 COMBAT MARKSMANSHIP ..................................................................10-1

Safety .......................................................................................10-1
Administrative Procedures .......................................................10-1
Weapons ...................................................................................10-2
Fire Control ..............................................................................10-14
Combat Zero .............................................................................10-16
Mechanical Zero .......................................................................10-16
Battlesight Zero .........................................................................10-17
Shot Groups ...............................................................................10-19
Borelight Zero ...........................................................................10-21
Misfire Procedures and Immediate Action .................................10-31
Reflexive Fire ............................................................................10-33

Chapter 11 COMMUNICATIONS ..............................................................................11-1

Section I. MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS .........................................................11-1

Messengers ..............................................................................11-1
Wire ..........................................................................................11-1
Visual Signals ............................................................................11-3
Sound .......................................................................................11-3
Radio ..........................................................................................11-3
Figure 3-12. Opening of casualty’s mouth, tongue-jaw lift ............................................................... 3-12
Figure 3-13. Opening of casualty’s mouth, crossed-finger method .................................................... 3-12
Figure 3-14. Use of finger to dislodge a foreign body ..................................................................... 3-13
Figure 3-15. Emergency bandage .................................................................................................... 3-14
Figure 3-16. Application of pad to wound ......................................................................................... 3-15
Figure 3-17. Insertion of bandage into pressure bar ......................................................................... 3-15
Figure 3-18. Tightening of bandage .................................................................................................. 3-15
Figure 3-19. Pressure of bar into bandage ......................................................................................... 3-15
Figure 3-20. Wrapping of bandage over pressure bar ....................................................................... 3-16
Figure 3-21. Securing of bandage .................................................................................................... 3-16
Figure 3-22. Grasping of dressing tails with both hands .................................................................... 3-16
Figure 3-23. Pulling open of dressing ................................................................................................ 3-17
Figure 3-24. Placement of dressing directly on wound ....................................................................... 3-17
Figure 3-25. Wrapping of dressing tail around injured part ............................................................... 3-17
Figure 3-26. Tails tied into nonslip knot ............................................................................................ 3-17
Figure 3-27. Application of direct manual pressure ........................................................................... 3-17
Figure 3-28. Elevation of injured limb .............................................................................................. 3-18
Figure 3-29. Wad of padding on top of field dressing ........................................................................ 3-19
Figure 3-30. Improvised dressing over wad of padding .................................................................... 3-19
Figure 3-31. Ends of improvised dressing wrapped tightly around limb .......................................... 3-19
Figure 3-32. Ends of improvised dressing tied together in nonslip knot ........................................... 3-19
Figure 3-33. Digital pressure (fingers, thumbs, or hands) .................................................................. 3-20
Figure 3-34. Band pulled tight ........................................................................................................... 3-22
Figure 3-35. Improved first aid kit .................................................................................................... 3-23
Figure 3-36. Tourniquet above knee .................................................................................................. 3-24
Figure 3-37. Rigid object on top of half knot ..................................................................................... 3-24
Figure 3-38. Tourniquet knotted over rigid object and twisted ............................................................ 3-25
Figure 3-39. Free ends tied on side of limb ......................................................................................... 3-25
Figure 3-40. Fireman’s carry ............................................................................................................. 3-30
Figure 3-41. Alternate fireman’s carry ............................................................................................... 3-32
Figure 3-42. Supporting carry .......................................................................................................... 3-33
Figure 3-43. Neck drag ...................................................................................................................... 3-34
Figure 3-44. Cradle drop drag .......................................................................................................... 3-35
Figure 3-45. Two-man support carry ................................................................................................ 3-36
Figure 3-46. Two-man fore-and-aft carry .......................................................................................... 3-37
Figure 3-47. Two-hand seat carry .................................................................................................... 3-37
Figure 3-48. Rules for avoiding illness in the field ........................................................................... 3-39
Figure 3-49. Care of the feet ............................................................................................................. 3-40
Figure 5-1. Natural cover .................................................................................................................. 5-1
Figure 5-2. Cover along a wall .......................................................................................................... 5-2
Figure 5-3. Man-made cover ............................................................................................................. 5-2
Figure 5-4. Body armor and helmet.....................................................................................................5-3
Figure 5-5. Protective cover against chemical/biological warfare agents........................................5-3
Figure 5-6. Concealment .....................................................................................................................5-4
Figure 5-7. Soldier in arctic camouflage............................................................................................5-6
Figure 5-8. Camouflaged Soldiers.......................................................................................................5-7
Figure 5-9. Camouflaged helmet.........................................................................................................5-8
Figure 5-10. Advanced camouflage face paint ..................................................................................5-9
Figure 6-1. Man-made cover..............................................................................................................6-1
Figure 6-2. Cover.................................................................................................................................6-2
Figure 6-3. Prone position (hasty). ......................................................................................................6-6
Figure 6-4. Establishment of sectors and building method. ...............................................................6-8
Figure 6-5. Two-man fighting position (Stage 1). ..............................................................................6-9
Figure 6-6. Placement of OHC supports and construction of retaining walls. ...............................6-10
Figure 6-7. Two-man fighting position (Stage 2). ............................................................................6-10
Figure 6-8. Digging of position (side view). ......................................................................................6-11
Figure 6-9. Placement of stringers for OHC. ....................................................................................6-11
Figure 6-10. Two-man fighting position (Stage 3). .........................................................................6-12
Figure 6-11. Revetment construction .................................................................................................6-12
Figure 6-12. Grenade sumps. ..........................................................................................................6-13
Figure 6-13. Storage compartments .................................................................................................6-13
Figure 6-14. Installation of overhead cover .....................................................................................6-14
Figure 6-15. Two-man fighting position with built-up OHC (Stage 4).............................................6-15
Figure 6-16. Two-man fighting position with built-down OHC (top view). ....................................6-16
Figure 6-17. Two-man fighting position with built-down OHC (side view). ....................................6-17
Figure 6-18. Position with firing platforms .......................................................................................6-18
Figure 6-19. Grenade sump locations ...............................................................................................6-19
Figure 6-20. Machine gun fighting position with OHC .................................................................6-20
Figure 6-21. Standard Javelin fighting position. ............................................................................6-21
Figure 6-22. Primary sector with an FPL .......................................................................................6-24
Figure 6-23. Complete sketch with PDF .........................................................................................6-25
Figure 6-24. Data section ..................................................................................................................6-26
Figure 6-25. Example completed data section ................................................................................6-27
Figure 6-26. Example completed range card ..................................................................................6-28
Figure 6-27. Reference points and target reference points .............................................................6-30
Figure 6-28. Maximum engagement lines ......................................................................................6-31
Figure 6-29. Weapon reference point .............................................................................................6-32
Figure 7-1. Low and high crawl. .....................................................................................................7-2
Figure 7-2. Rush ...............................................................................................................................7-3
Figure 7-3. Fire team wedge ..............................................................................................................7-5
Figure 7-4. Following of team leader from impact area ....................................................................7-6
Figure 7-5. Reaction to ground flares .............................................................................................7-7
Figure 7-6. Reaction to aerial flares................................................................. 7-8
Figure 7-7. Mounting and riding arrangements................................................. 7-10
Figure 8-1. Soldier moving past windows......................................................... 8-2
Figure 8-2. Soldier passing basement windows............................................... 8-3
Figure 8-3. Soldier crossing a wall................................................................. 8-3
Figure 8-4. Correct technique for looking around a corner.............................. 8-4
Figure 8-5. Pie-ing a corner................................................................. 8-4
Figure 8-6. Movement within a building..................................................... 8-5
Figure 8-7. Lower-level entry technique with support bar......................... 8-7
Figure 8-8. Lower-level entry technique without support bar.................... 8-7
Figure 8-9. Lower-level entry two-man pull technique............................... 8-8
Figure 8-10. Lower-level entry one-man lift technique............................... 8-8
Figure 8-11. M433 HEDP grenade.............................................................. 8-10
Figure 8-12. Some considerations for selecting and occupying individual fighting positions......................................................... 8-12
Figure 8-13. Soldier firing left or right handed........................................... 8-13
Figure 8-14. Soldier firing around a corner.................................................. 8-14
Figure 8-15. Soldier firing from peak of a roof............................................ 8-15
Figure 8-16. Emplacement of machine gun in a doorway............................ 8-17
Figure 9-1. Potential indicators................................................................. 9-2
Figure 9-2. Example captured document tag.............................................. 9-6
Figure 9-3. Rapid/slow-scan pattern.......................................................... 9-8
Figure 9-4. Detailed search.......................................................................... 9-9
Figure 9-5. Typical scanning pattern.......................................................... 9-10
Figure 9-6. Off-center viewing..................................................................... 9-11
Figure 9-7. AN/PVS-7 and AN/PVS-14....................................................... 9-12
Figure 9-8. AN/PAS-13, V1, V2, and V3.................................................... 9-13
Figure 9-9. AN/PAQ-4-series and the AN/PEQ-2A..................................... 9-13
Figure 9-10. Mil-relation formula............................................................ 9-16
Figure 10-1. M9 pistol................................................................. 10-3
Figure 10-2. M16A2 rifle................................................................. 10-4
Figure 10-3. M4 carbine........................................................................ 10-5
Figure 10-4. M203 grenade launcher...................................................... 10-6
Figure 10-5. M249 squad automatic weapon (SAW).................................. 10-7
Figure 10-6. M240B machine gun......................................................... 10-8
Figure 10-7. M2 .50 caliber machine gun with M3 tripod mount.............. 10-9
Figure 10-8. MK 19 grenade machine gun, Mod 3.................................... 10-10
Figure 10-9. Improved M72 LAW......................................................... 10-11
Figure 10-10. M136 AT4........................................................................ 10-12
Figure 10-11. M141 BDM................................................................. 10-13
Figure 10-12. Javelin........................................................................ 10-14
Figure 10-13. M16A2/A3 rifle mechanical zero........................................ 10-17
Figure 10-14. M16A4 and M4 carbine rifle mechanical zero. ......................................................... 10-17
Figure 10-15. M16A2/A3 rifle battlesight zero. ............................................................................. 10-18
Figure 10-16. M16A4 rifle battlesight zero. ..................................................................................... 10-18
Figure 10-17. M4 rifle battlesight zero. .......................................................................................... 10-19
Figure 10-18. Final shot group results. ......................................................................................... 10-20
Figure 10-19. Example zeroing mark. ........................................................................................... 10-22
Figure 10-20. Borelight in the start point position. ....................................................................... 10-23
Figure 10-21. Borelight in the half-turn position. ......................................................................... 10-23
Figure 10-22. Examples of start point, half-turn, and reference point. ........................................... 10-24
Figure 10-23. Blank 10-meter boresight target and offset symbols. ............................................. 10-25
Figure 10-24. Backup iron sight. ................................................................................................... 10-25
Figure 10-25. M68 close combat optic. ........................................................................................ 10-26
Figure 10-26. Example TWS zeroing adjustments. ..................................................................... 10-28
Figure 10-27. Example shot group adjustment with strike zone. ................................................ 10-29
Figure 10-28. Ready positions. .................................................................................................... 10-34
Figure 11-1. Common prowords................................................................................................... 11-7
Figure 11-2. Automated net control device. .................................................................................. 11-9
Figure 11-3. Automated net control device keypad. ................................................................... 11-9
Figure 11-4. Call signs.................................................................................................................. 11-10
Figure 11-5. Time periods. ........................................................................................................... 11-11
Figure 11-6. AN/PRC-148 multiband intrateam radio (MBITR). ................................................... 11-12
Figure 11-7. IC-F43 portable UHF transceiver. .......................................................................... 11-12
Figure 11-8. AN/PRC-119A-D SIP. ............................................................................................... 11-13
Figure 11-9. AN/PRC-119E advanced system improvement program (ASIP). .......................... 11-13
Figure 12-1. SURVIVAL .............................................................................................................. 12-2
Figure 12-2. Tool for remembering shelter locations. ................................................................. 12-5
Figure 12-3. Code of Conduct. ................................................................................................... 12-7
Figure 13-1. CANA. ....................................................................................................................... 13-2
Figure 13-2. NAAK, Mark I. .......................................................................................................... 13-2
Figure 13-3. M22 ACADA. ........................................................................................................... 13-5
Figure 13-4. M22 ICAM. .............................................................................................................. 13-5
Figure 13-5. M8 chemical agent detector paper. ........................................................................ 13-6
Figure 13-6. M9 chemical agent detector paper. ........................................................................ 13-6
Figure 13-7. M256 chemical agent detector kit. .......................................................................... 13-7
Figure 13-8. Protective mask M40A1/A2 and M42A2 CVC. ......................................................... 13-9
Figure 13-9. M291 skin decontaminating kit. ............................................................................... 13-13
Figure 13-10. M295 equipment decontamination kit. ................................................................. 13-13
Figure 13-11. M100 SORBENT Decontamination System. ......................................................... 13-13
Figure 13-12. Radiac Set AN/VDR 2 ......................................................................................... 13-18
Figure 13-13. Radiac set AN/UDR 13. ....................................................................................... 13-19
Figure 14-1. M18A1 antipersonnel mine. .................................................................................... 14-3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-2</td>
<td>M7 bandoleer</td>
<td>14-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-3</td>
<td>M18A1 antipersonnel mine data</td>
<td>14-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-4</td>
<td>M-131 Modular Pack Mine System (MOPMS)</td>
<td>14-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-5</td>
<td>M-131 MOPMS deployed</td>
<td>14-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-6</td>
<td>MOPMS emplacement and safety zone</td>
<td>14-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-7</td>
<td>M21 antitank mine and components</td>
<td>14-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-8</td>
<td>MDI components</td>
<td>14-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-9</td>
<td>Priming of C4 demolition blocks with MDI</td>
<td>14-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-10</td>
<td>Priming of C4 demolition blocks with detonating cord</td>
<td>14-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-11</td>
<td>Priming of C4 with L-shaped charge</td>
<td>14-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-12</td>
<td>Preparation of M81 fuse igniter</td>
<td>14-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-13</td>
<td>M81 fuse igniter with the M14 time fuse delay</td>
<td>14-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-14</td>
<td>M81 fuse igniter with the M9 holder</td>
<td>14-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>M81 fuse igniter with the M14 time fuse delay</td>
<td>14-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>Mine probe</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>Lanes</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>Knot toward mine</td>
<td>14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-19</td>
<td>Marked mines</td>
<td>14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>Bangalore torpedo</td>
<td>14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-21</td>
<td>Priming of bangalore torpedo with MDI</td>
<td>14-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Antipersonnel, ball-type submunitions</td>
<td>15-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-2</td>
<td>Area-denial submunitions (conventional)</td>
<td>15-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-3</td>
<td>Antipersonnel/AMAT submunitions (conventional)</td>
<td>15-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-4</td>
<td>AMAT/antitank submunitions (conventional)</td>
<td>15-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-5</td>
<td>Fragmentation grenades</td>
<td>15-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-6</td>
<td>Antitank grenades</td>
<td>15-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-7</td>
<td>Smoke grenades</td>
<td>15-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-8</td>
<td>U.S. illumination grenade</td>
<td>15-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-9</td>
<td>Vehicle IED capacities and danger zones</td>
<td>15-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-10</td>
<td>Main charge (explosives)</td>
<td>15-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-11</td>
<td>Casing (material around the explosives)</td>
<td>15-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-12</td>
<td>Initiators (command detonated, victim activated, with timer)</td>
<td>15-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-13</td>
<td>IED components</td>
<td>15-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-14</td>
<td>IED transmitters and receivers</td>
<td>15-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-15</td>
<td>Common objects as initiators</td>
<td>15-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>Unexploded rounds as initiators</td>
<td>15-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Emplaced IED with initiator</td>
<td>15-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>Electric blasting caps</td>
<td>15-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>Nine-Line UXO Incident Report</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>IED Spot Report</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tables

Table 3-1. First aid...............................................................................................................................3-2
Table 5-1. Application of camouflage face paint to skin.................................................................5-9
Table 6-1. Characteristics of individual fighting positions. ..............................................................6-5
Table 6-2. Construction of two-man fighting position. .................................................................6-7
Table 6-3. Specifications for built-down overhead cover. ...............................................................6-16
Table 9-1. SALUTE format line by line. .........................................................................................9-5
Table 9-2. Appearance of a body using appearance-of-objects method. ........................................9-16
Table 11-1. Comparison of communication methods.......................................................................11-2
Table 13-1. MOPP levels............................................................................................................13-10
Table 13-2. Decontamination levels and techniques. .................................................................13-12
Preface

This field manual provides all Soldiers the doctrinal basis for the Warrior Ethos, Warrior Tasks, and other combat-critical tasks. It also updates weapon, equipment, and munitions information. This FM is not intended to serve as a stand-alone publication. It should be used with other Army publications that contain more in-depth information.

The target audience for this publication includes individual Soldiers and noncommissioned officers throughout the Army.

This book applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard (ARNG)/National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS), and the US Army Reserve (USAR) unless otherwise stated.

The Summary of Change lists major changes from the previous edition by chapter and appendix. Changes include lessons learned.

The proponent for this publication is the US Army Training and Doctrine Command. The preparing agency is the US Army Infantry School. You may send comments and recommendations by any means, US mail, e-mail, fax, or telephone, as long as you use the format of DA Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms.

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Uniforms shown in this manual were drawn without camouflage for clarity of the illustration.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns may refer to either men or women.
## Summary of Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th><strong>FM 3-21.75</strong></th>
<th>1984</th>
<th><strong>FM 21-75</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td><em>Introduction</em> (new)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td><em>Individual Readiness</em> (new)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Renamed &quot;<em>Combat Care and Preventive Medicine</em>&quot;</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td><em>First Aid and Personal Hygiene</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td><em>Environmental Conditions</em> (new)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td><em>Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage</em></td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td><em>Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td><em>Fighting Positions</em> Includes former Appendix I, <em>Range Cards</em>, and updates the range card</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Appendix 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td><em>Movement</em></td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Appendix E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td><em>Urban Areas</em>; content updated considerably</td>
<td>Appendix D</td>
<td><em>Urban Areas</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td><em>'Every Soldier is a Sensor'</em>; incorporates former Chapter 4 (Observation) and Chapter 6 (Combat Intelligence and Counterintelligence); updates report criteria and limited visibility observation and devices</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td><em>Observation</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td><em>Combat Marksmanship</em></td>
<td>Appendix G</td>
<td><em>Weapons and Fire Control</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td><em>Communications</em></td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td><em>Communications</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td><em>Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape</em>; adds Resistance</td>
<td>Appendix F</td>
<td><em>Survival, Evasion, and Escape</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td><em>CBRN Weapons</em></td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td><em>NBC Warfare</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td><em>Mines, Demolitions, and Breaching Procedures</em>; consolidates former Appendixes-- A (Mines), B (Demolitions), and C (Obstacles)</td>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td><em>Mines</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td><em>UXO and IEDs</em> (new)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Appendix H | *Field Expedient Antiarmor Devices*
Introduction

Modern combat is chaotic, intense, and shockingly destructive. In your first battle, you will experience the confusing and often terrifying sights, sounds, smells, and dangers of the battlefield—but you must learn to survive and win despite them.

1. You could face a fierce and relentless enemy.
2. You could be surrounded by destruction and death.
3. Your leaders and fellow soldiers may shout urgent commands and warnings.
4. Rounds might impact near you.
5. The air could be filled with the smell of explosives and propellant.
6. You might hear the screams of a wounded comrade.

However, even in all this confusion and fear, remember that you are not alone. You are part of a well-trained team, backed by the most powerful combined arms force, and the most modern technology in the world. You must keep faith with your fellow Soldiers, remember your training, and do your duty to the best of your ability. If you do, and you uphold your Warrior Ethos, you can win and return home with honor.

This is the Soldier’s FM. It tells the Soldier how to perform the combat skills needed to survive on the battlefield. All Soldiers, across all branches and components, must learn these basic skills. Noncommissioned officers (NCOs) must ensure that their Soldiers receive training on—and know—these vital combat skills.
PART ONE

Warrior Ethos

What is Warrior Ethos? At first glance, it is just four simple lines embedded in the Soldier's Creed. Yet, it is the spirit represented by these four lines that--

- Compels Soldiers to fight through all adversity, under any circumstances, in order to achieve victory.
- Represents the US Soldier's loyal, tireless, and selfless commitment to his nation, his mission, his unit, and his fellow Soldiers.
- Captures the essence of combat, Army Values, and Warrior Culture.

Sustained and developed through discipline, commitment, and pride, these four lines motivate every Soldier to persevere and, ultimately, to refuse defeat. These lines go beyond mere survival. They speak to forging victory from chaos; to overcoming fear, hunger, deprivation, and fatigue; and to accomplishing the mission:

THE SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.
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Chapter 1

Introduction

Military service is more than a "job." It is a profession with the enduring purpose to win wars and destroy our nation’s enemies. The Warrior Ethos demands a dedication to duty that may involve putting your life on the line, even when survival is in question, for a cause greater than yourself. As a Soldier, you must motivate yourself to rise above the worst battle conditions—no matter what it takes, or how long it takes. That is the heart of the Warrior Ethos, which is the foundation for your commitment to victory in times of peace and war. While always exemplifying the four parts of Warrior Ethos, you must have absolute faith in yourself and your team, as they are trained and equipped to destroy the enemy in close combat. Warrior drills are a set of nine battle drills, consisting of individual tasks that develop and manifest the Warrior Ethos in Soldiers.

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

1-1. This complex operational environment offers no relief or rest from contact with the enemy across the spectrum of conflict. No matter what combat conditions you find yourself in, you must turn your personal Warrior Ethos into your commitment to win. In the combat environment of today, unlike conflicts of the past, there is little distinction between the forward and rear areas. Battlefields of the Global War on Terrorism, and battles to be fought in the US Army’s future, are and will be asymmetrical, violent, unpredictable, and multidimensional. Today’s conflicts are fought throughout the whole spectrum of the battlespace by all Soldiers, regardless of military occupational specialty (MOS). Every Soldier must think as a Warrior first; a professional Soldier, trained, ready, and able to enter combat; ready to fight—and win—against any enemy, any time, any place.
ARMS VALUES

1-2. US Army Values reminds us and displays to the rest of the world—the civilian governments we serve, the nation we protect, other nations, and even our enemies—who we are and what we stand for (Figure 1-1). The trust you have for your fellow Soldiers, and the trust the American people have in you, depends on how well you live up to the Army Values. After all, these values are the fundamental building blocks that enable you to understand right from wrong in any situation. Army Values are consistent and support one another; you cannot follow one value and ignore the others. Figure 1-1 shows the Army Values, which form the acrostic LDRSHIP.

| **L**oyalty | Bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers. |
| **D**uty | Fulfill your obligations. |
| **R**espect | Treat people with dignity as they should be treated. |
| **Selfless** **S**ervice | Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own. |
| **H**onor | Live up to all the Army Values. |
| **I**ntegrity | Do what's right, legally and morally. |
| **P**ersonal **C**ourage (Physical or Moral) | Face fear, danger, or adversity. |

1-3. Performance in combat, the greatest challenge, requires a basis, such as Army Values, for motivation and will. In these values are rooted the basis for the character and self-discipline that generates the will to succeed and the motivation to persevere. From this motivation derived through tough realistic training and the skills acquired, which will make you successful, a Soldier who "walks the walk."

1-4. Army Values, including policies and procedures, form the foundation on which the Army’s institutional culture stands. However, written values are useless unless practiced. You must act correctly with character, complete understanding, and sound motivation. Your trusted leaders will aid you in adopting such values by making sure their core experiences validate them. By this method, strategic leadership embues Army Values into all Soldiers.