

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

FIELD MANUAL 3-23.24 (FM 23-24)

# **M47 DRAGON MEDIUM ANTITANK WEAPON SYSTEM**

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**M47 DRAGON  
MEDIUM ANTITANK WEAPON SYSTEM**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Preface</b> .....	iv
<b>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION</b>	
1-1. Major Components.....	1-1
1-2. Technical Data .....	1-6
<b>CHAPTER 2. OPERATION AND FUNCTION</b>	
2-1. Inspection .....	2-1
2-2. Carrying Techniques .....	2-1
2-3. Preparation for Firing .....	2-1
2-4. Firing Positions .....	2-5
2-5. Target Acquisition and Evaluation .....	2-5
2-6. Missile Flight and Control .....	2-6
2-7. Failure to Fire .....	2-7
2-8. Restoration to Carrying Configuration .....	2-8
2-9. Adverse Weather Conditions .....	2-8
<b>CHAPTER 3. TRAINING EQUIPMENT</b>	
3-1. Precision Gunnery Training System .....	3-1
3-2. Dragon Gunnery Trainer .....	3-2
3-3. Dragon Field Tactical Trainer .....	3-3
<b>CHAPTER 4. UNIT TRAINING</b>	
4-1. Training Strategy .....	4-1
4-2. Commander's Responsibility .....	4-2
4-3. Training Program Goals .....	4-2
4-4. Instructor Selection .....	4-2
4-5. Gunner Selection .....	4-3
4-6. Matching the Training Program to the Unit .....	4-3
4-7. Leader Training .....	4-3
4-8. Gunner Training .....	4-4

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\* This publication supersedes FM 23-24, 3 April 1990.

	<b>Page</b>
4-9. Team Training .....	4-6
4-10. Collective Training .....	4-7
4-11. Evaluation .....	4-7
<b>CHAPTER 5. INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE TRAINING</b>	
5-1. Training Program Schedule .....	5-1
5-2. Individual Instruction .....	5-1
5-3. Training Sequence .....	5-1
5-4. Firing Positions .....	5-2
5-5. M113 Instructional Techniques .....	5-4
5-6. Sighting, Aiming, and Firing .....	5-4
5-7. Breath Control .....	5-5
5-8. Tracking Exercises .....	5-5
5-9. Range Procedures .....	5-5
<b>CHAPTER 6. GUNNER QUALIFICATION PROGRAM</b>	
6-1. Requirements .....	6-1
6-2. Program of Instruction .....	6-1
<b>CHAPTER 7. SUSTAINMENT TRAINING PROGRAM</b>	
7-1. Gunner Sustainment Training .....	7-1
7-2. Collective Training .....	7-1
<b>CHAPTER 8. EMPLOYMENT</b>	
Section I. Employment in the Defense .....	8-1
8-1. Firing Positions .....	8-1
8-2. Movement .....	8-2
8-3. Selection of Fighting Positions .....	8-2
8-4. Preparation of Fighting Positions .....	8-3
8-5. Preparation of Range Cards .....	8-7
8-6. Target Identification .....	8-9
8-7. Target Recognition by Type .....	8-11
8-8. Thermal Identification .....	8-12
Section II. Target Engagement .....	8-13
8-9. Engagement Range .....	8-13
8-10. Range Determination .....	8-13
8-11. Time and Space .....	8-15
8-12. Vulnerable Points of Armored Vehicles .....	8-17
8-13. Fire Control .....	8-17
8-14. Limited Visibility .....	8-21
APPENDIX A. TRAIN-THE-TRAINER TASKS FOR THE DGT AND DFTT .....	A-1
APPENDIX B. DRAGON GUNNERY TRAINER .....	B-1

	Page
APPENDIX C. DRAGON FIELD TACTICAL TRAINER .....	C-1
APPENDIX D. FIRING TABLES FOR DRAGON PRECISION GUNNERY TRAINING DEVICES .....	D-1
APPENDIX E. M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER .....	E-1
APPENDIX F. SAFETY .....	F-1
APPENDIX G. GUNNER'S PERFORMANCE TEST .....	G-1
APPENDIX H. DECONTAMINATION AND DESTRUCTION PROCEDURES .	H-1
APPENDIX I. THERMAL TARGET RECOGNITION, IDENTIFICATION, AND ENGAGEMENT .....	I-1
GLOSSARY .....	Glossary-1
REFERENCES .....	References-1
INDEX .....	Index-1
DA FORMS	

## PREFACE

This manual provides guidance for using and employing the M47 Dragon, a medium-range, antiarmor, surface-attack, guided missile weapon system. It provides information about the M47 Dragon's characteristics, nomenclature, and functions. The training program provided helps develop, evaluate, and maintain the proficiency of Dragon gunners. Tactical employment procedures described herein do not cover all situations.

Leaders and members of units equipped with the M47 Dragon should use this manual to train and test individual gunners or teams. This manual also discusses five key elements for maintaining combat proficiency with the Dragon:

- Technical and tactical information.
- A training program that stresses command involvement.
- Centralized training.
- Gunner selection.
- Development of qualified trainers.

The proponent of this publication is the United States Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to the Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-INB-O, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5594 or to [lusanoh@benning.army.mil](mailto:lusanoh@benning.army.mil).

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

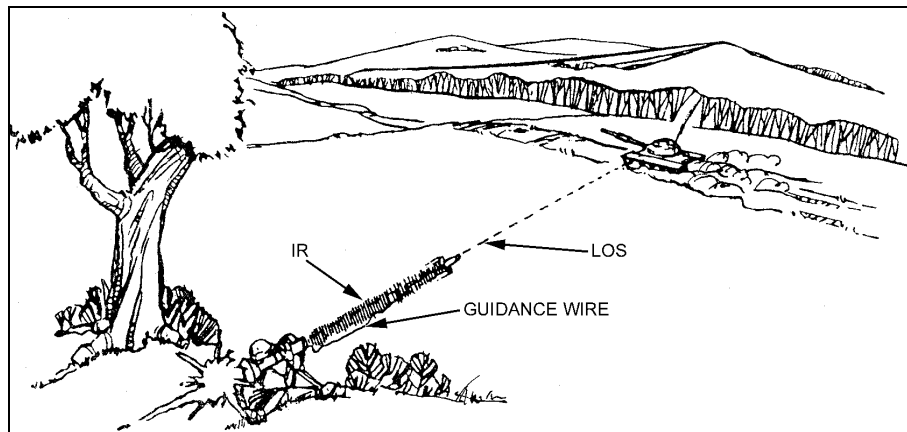
*This chapter describes the M47 Dragon and its components and provides pertinent technical data. The Dragon is a surface-attack, wire-guided, man-portable, shoulder-fired, medium antitank weapon system. It can defeat armored vehicles, fortified bunkers, concrete gun emplacements, and other hardened targets. The individual soldier or a two-man team can operate this weapon. Mechanized infantry gunners can use the Dragon with the M175 guided missile launcher mount. This mount provides a stable platform on either the M113 APC or on the M3 or M122 machine gun tripod. The Dragon can engage targets in daylight (with the daysight) and in limited visibility conditions, such as smoke, fog, or darkness (with the nightsight).*

### 1-1. MAJOR COMPONENTS

The Dragon weapon system consists of a daysight, a nightsight, and a round of ammunition.

a. **Daysight.** The daysight is an electro-optical sight that determines the position of the missile relative to the gunner's line of sight (LOS).

(1) The daysight generates signals that travel by wire to the missile control system. The missile control system fires the appropriate rocket thrusters to keep the missile heading along the gunner's LOS (Figure 1-1).



**Figure 1-1. Daysight line of sight.**

(2) The daysight attaches to and removes quickly from the round (Figure 1-2, page 1-2). The daysight's aluminum housing assembly contains the lens, infrared receiver assembly, and control signal comparator. The firing mechanism, located on the right side of the daysight's housing, consists of a trigger safety plunger and trigger lever bar. A rubber boot seals out moisture from the firing mechanism and safety plunger.

(3) A connector cover provides both mechanical and moisture protection for the electrical connector. A lanyard attaches the cover to the daysight.

(4) Shock absorbers surround the forward and rear ends of the daysight to protect it and its lens. The lens cover is attached to the daysight by a lanyard.