

THE TANK AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION TASK FORCE



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

FM 3-90.2 describes the tactical employment of the tank and mechanized infantry battalion task force. It specifically addresses operations for battalion task forces organized under the Army of Excellence (AOE) and the Limited Conversion Design (LCD)/Force XXI. FM 3-90.2 provides the doctrinal foundation that governs the development of equipment, training, and structure for tank and mechanized infantry battalion task forces. It provides basic doctrine, tactics, techniques of employment, organization, exercise of command and control (C2), movements and tactical operations appropriate to the battalion task force. The tactics, techniques, and procedures described herein are intended as a guide and are to be viewed as flexible in application, depending on the factors of METT-TC. Each situation in combat must be resolved by an intelligent interpretation and application of the doctrine set forth herein.

Because not all tank and mechanized infantry battalion task forces are digitally equipped, this manual addresses analog and digital operations, technology applications, and equipment. Tactical fundamentals do not change with the fielding of new equipment; however, the integration of new equipment and organizations may require changes in related techniques and procedures.

FM 3-90.2 is written for the commander, the staff, subordinate commanders, and all supporting units. It reflects and supports the Army operations doctrine as stated in FM 3-0 and FM 3-90 yet provides unique techniques specific to the audience of this manual, which are not covered in the above manuals. Examples and graphics are provided to illustrate principles and concepts--not to serve as prescriptive responses to tactical situations. FM 3-90.2 provides units with the doctrinal foundation to train leaders and staffs, guide tactical planning, and develop standing operating procedures (SOP). It applies to all tank and mechanized infantry task forces in the Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC/national guard [NG]) forces.

This field manual is available on the General Dennis J. Reimer Training and Doctrine Digital Library at www.adtdl.army.mil/atdls.htm.

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- doctrine@benning.army.mil or on DA Form 2028 directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5410.
- <http://www.knox.army.mil> or on DA Form 2028 directly to Commander, US Army Armor Center, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-CA, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5000.

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

CHAPTER 1

THE ROLE OF THE TANK AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION TASK FORCE

The role of the tank and mechanized infantry battalion task force is to fight and win engagements on any part of the battlefield. The task force combines the efforts of its company teams, combat support, and combat service support elements to execute tactical missions as part of a brigade or division operation. Mechanized infantry and armor battalions are an essential part of the Army's principal formation for conducting sustained combined arms and close combat land operations. America's tank and mechanized infantry battalions serve as a deterrent to armed conflict and are capable of deploying worldwide and conducting full-spectrum operations.

Section I. BATTALION AND TASK FORCE MISSION ESSENTIAL TASKS

This manual addresses the tactical employment and operation of the battalion task force (TF), but battalion commanders must read and understand FM 3-90.3, FM 3-0, and FM 3-90. FM 3-0 establishes the Army's keystone doctrine for full-spectrum operations with warfighting as the Army's primary focus. Although built upon global strategic responsiveness for prompt, sustained Army force operations on land, FM 3-0 provides overarching doctrinal direction for the conduct of full-spectrum operations detailed in this and other Army manuals. FM 3-90 introduces the basic concepts and control measures associated with the art of tactics, but it cannot be read in isolation. FM 3-90 must be used with FM 3-0, the concepts in FM 3-07, and the "plan, prepare, execute, and assess" cycle as it relates to the military decision-making process (MDMP) that is described in FM 101-5. Together, these publications provide the essential framework for understanding this manual.

1-1. BATTALION TASK FORCE MISSION ESSENTIAL TASK DEVELOPMENT

Tank and mechanized infantry task forces develop their mission essential tasks list (METL) based on their war plans and external directives as described in FM 7-0. Mission essential tasks are the operational expression of the tank and mechanized infantry task forces' core competencies. They describe what well-trained, superbly-led, and well-equipped soldiers do to support the Army's mission essential tasks of shaping the security environment, responding promptly to crisis, dominating land operations, and providing support to civil authorities (as described in FM 3-0).

a. **Shape the Security Environment.** National security and national military strategies establish an imperative for engagement. The US will remain politically and militarily engaged in the world and will maintain military superiority over potential adversaries. Forward basing, forward presence, and force projection enhance the ability of army forces to engage other nations--their people, governments, and militaries. Tank and mechanized infantry task forces provide an overwhelming presence to potential adversaries and allow these units to conduct full spectrum operations regardless of the