

FM 4-02.4 (FM 8-10-4)

MEDICAL PLATOON LEADERS' HANDBOOK

TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

This field manual (FM) provides information on the structure and operation of all medical platoons and medical sections that are organic to combat and combat support (CS) battalions and squadrons. It is directed toward the medical platoon leader and medical platoon members. The tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) provided are not all-inclusive. They provide a way of performing a particular mission, but may require modification based on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, time available, and civilian considerations (METT-TC).

This publication provides information on the organization of the division and how medical platoons and sections organic to division units provide combat health support (CHS). It outlines the responsibilities of medical platoon/section leaders. It provides definitive information on planning, rehearsing, and conducting CHS at Echelon I. It provides TTP for directing, controlling, and managing CHS at the medical platoon/section level. It describes the troop-leading procedures for CHS operations and identifies interface and coordination requirements with other brigade medical elements. This publication provides doctrine for the Force XXI medical platoon.

This FM is not a stand-alone reference. It is a doctrine publication that speaks to the current Army of Excellence (AOE) Division and the Force XXI Digitized Division and Brigade CHS and will require the user to be familiar with FMs 4-02.21, 8-10, 8-10-1, 8-10-3, 8-10-5, 8-10-6, 8-10-7, 8-10-9, 8-10-26, 8-42, and 8-55.

This publication implements the following North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and American, British, Canadian, and Australian (ABCA) Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGs):

Title	STANAG	QSTAG
Medical and Dental Supply Procedures	2128	
Regulations and Procedures for Road Movement and Identification of Movement Control and Traffic Control Personnel and Agencies	2454	
Orders for the Camouflage of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on Land in Tactical Operations	2931	
Medical Materiel Management during Patient Evacuation		435
Minimum Labelling Requirements for Medical Materiel		436

FM 4-02.4

As the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) transitions to the 91W military occupational specialty (MOS), positions for 91B and 91C will be replaced by 91W when new unit modification table(s) of organization and equipment (MTOE) take effect.

Users of this publication are encouraged to submit comments and recommendations to improve the publication. Comments should include the page, paragraph, and line(s) of the text where the change is recommended. The proponent for this publication is the United States (US) Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). Comments and recommendations should be forwarded directly to **Commander, AMEDDC&S, ATTN: MCCS-FCD-L, 1400 East Grayson Street, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5052**, or by using the e-mail addresses on the Doctrine Literature website at <http://dcdd.amedd.army.mil/index1.htm> (click on Doctrine Literature).

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

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Defense (DOD).

CHAPTER 1

COMBAT ORGANIZATIONS**Section I. THE DIVISION****1-1. Background**

The division is the largest Army organization that trains and fights as a tactical team. Largely self-sustaining, it is capable of independent operations. The division is a unit of maneuver organizations with varying numbers and types of combat, CS, and combat service support (CSS) units. It may be armored, mechanized, light infantry, airborne, or air assault; each can conduct operations over a wide range of environments. The success of Army operations depends on the success of its divisions.

1-2. Role of the Division

Traditionally, divisions have operated as part of a US corps. In corps operations, divisions are normally comprised of 9 to 12 maneuver battalions, organic artillery battalions, and supporting CS and CSS units. Divisions perform a wide range of tactical missions and, for limited periods, are self-sustaining. The corps augments divisions, as missions require. All divisions must be able to deploy and conduct offensive and defensive operations, stability operations, and support operations.

Section II. TYPES OF DIVISIONS**1-3. Armored and Mechanized Divisions**

a. Army of Excellence. The US Army's armored and mechanized divisions (referred to collectively as heavy divisions) provide mobile, armor-protected firepower. Armored and mechanized divisions are normally employed for their mobility, survivability, lethality, and psychological effects on the enemy. These divisions destroy enemy armored forces. They can seize and secure land areas and key terrain. During offensive operations, armored and mechanized divisions can rapidly concentrate overwhelming lethal combat power to break or envelop enemy defenses or offensive formations. These divisions then continue the attack to destroy fire support, command and control (C2), and logistics elements. Their mobility allows them to rapidly concentrate, attack, reinforce, or block enemy forces. Their collective protection systems enable them to operate in a nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) environment. Armored and mechanized divisions operate best in open terrain where they gain the advantage with their mobility and long-range, direct-fire weapons. Because of strategic lift requirements, armored and mechanized forces are slow to deploy from home or staging bases into an area of operations (AO). They have high consumption rates of supplies, can deploy relatively few dismounted infantry, and have limited use in restrictive terrain. See FM 71-100 for organizational structure of the division.

b. Force XXI, Digitized Division. The Army's Force XXI Division is a redesign of our current divisions that represent a leap forward into the realm of 21st Century technology. The smaller Force XXI Division possesses greater lethality and quicker mobility, as well as the CSS imperative of