

Headquarters,
Department of the Army

FIELD MANUAL

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Visual Information Operations

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Visual Information Operations

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Preface

This manual is a reference guide for understanding and using visual information (VI) assets, systems, and forces to support task force operations from the operational through the tactical levels of war. It encompasses the concepts of battlefield visualization outlined in TRADOC PAM 525-5 and TRADOC PAM 525-69 and provides the doctrinal foundation for VI support to the warfighter at all echelons. It reflects the certainty that technological advances and force redesign will result in VI activities playing an increasingly important role in operational success. This manual describes the capabilities and components of VI assets and defines the organizational structure and responsibilities of VI activities at each level. When applicable, the reader is referred to supporting publications for more detailed information.

The proponent for this publication is the United States Army Signal Center. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to Commander, United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, ATTN: ATZH-CDF (Doctrine Branch). Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905-5075 or via E-mail to doctrine@gordon.army.mil. Key comments and recommendations to pages and lines of text to which they apply. Provide reasons for your comments to ensure complete understanding and proper evaluation.

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

Chapter 1

Army XXI

Joint and enemy forces with capabilities that have increased since the Cold War, or even the Persian Gulf War, will man the battlefield of the future. This chapter discusses the operational environment, technological advances, battlefield visualization, visual information (VI) support, and the operational impact.

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

1-1. Within the next few years, the Army may find itself involved in operations in a variety of sophisticated environments. Soldiers will conduct activities ranging from battles against major regional powers to stability operations within failed states dominated by competing paramilitary factions. Conflict, wherever it may occur, will share several characteristics: expanded areas of operations, urban and other complex terrain, and multidimensional operations.

1-2. The Army may also face threats from urban-based paramilitary groups, state-sponsored terrorists, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), offensive information operations (IO), and diplomatic actions before open hostilities begin. Through doctrine development, experimentation, simulation exercises, and experience, the operational concepts of Army XXI have evolved. These concepts are designed to meet these threats and achieve full spectrum dominance on the battlefield of the future.

BATTLEFIELD CHARACTERISTICS

1-3. The battlefield of the future will be increasingly complex. The nature of future operations and the battlefield they will be waged on are best described as—

- **Multidimensional.** Existing throughout the height, width, and depth of the area of operations and electromagnetic spectrum.
- **Precise.** Taking full advantage of the capabilities inherent in digitized information systems; strategic, operational, and tactical sensors; and simulations to execute operations with pinpoint accuracy.
- **Noncontiguous.** Encompassing a fluid concept of decisive, shaping and sustainment operations, which change as the factors of mission, enemy, terrain and weather, time, troops available, and civilian considerations (METT-TC) change.