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Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for

MULTIPLE LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (MLRS) OPERATIONS

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PREFACE

This publication is designed primarily for the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) battalion, battery, and platoon. It also is a guide for corps artillery, field artillery brigade, heavy division artillery, Marine artillery regiments, and their staffs, and fire support coordinators and their supported commanders and staffs. This publication sets forth the doctrine pertaining to the organization, equipment, command and control, operations, and tactics, techniques, and procedures for the MLRS battalion, battery, and platoon. It establishes the responsibilities and general duties of key personnel by focusing on essentials of how the MLRS unit fights. It keys the MLRS battalion, battery, and platoon leaders to those areas that must be trained to win the fight. The specifics of how we train to fight are outlined in soldier's manuals and Army training and evaluation program (ARTEP) mission training plans (MTPs).

This publication is compatible with Army Operations doctrine as outlined in FM 100-5. It does not stand alone. It should be used with equipment technical manuals, soldier's manuals, and trainer's guides. It is designed to be used with the FM 6-20 series, FM 71-3, FM 71-100, FM 100-15, FMFM 2-7, FMFM 4, FMFM 6, FMFM 6-9, and FMFRP 6-17.

Tables of Organization and Equipment (TOE) 06466L000, 06467L000, and 06398L000 are based on the doctrinal tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) outlined in this publication. The approved TOEs detail manpower and equipment authorizations for United States (US) Army units. Some of the required positions outlined in Chapter 2, however, may be unresourced. Additionally, all Army units are organized under modification tables of organization and equipment (MTOEs). To determine manpower and equipment authorizations for a specific unit, refer to the authorization document (MTOE) for that unit.

This publication implements quadripartite standardization agreements [QSTAGs] 217, 269, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] standardization agreement [STANAG] 2934 (Chapters 3 and 11).

QSTAG 217, Edition 2, *(Tactical Tasks and Responsibilities for Control of Artillery).*

QSTAG 269, Edition 1, *(Survey Accuracy Requirements for Surface-to-Surface Artillery).*

STANAG 2934, Edition 1, *(Artillery Procedures, Chapters 3 and 11).*

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to:

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

CHAPTER 1

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

This Chapter Implements QSTAG 269 and STANAG 2934, Chapter 11.

The multiple launch rocket system is a highly mobile, rapid-fire, surface-to-surface, free-flight rocket and guided missle system. It is designed to complement cannon artillery; to attack the enemy deep; and to strike at counterfire, air defense, and high-payoff targets. It can supplement other fire support systems by engaging a dense array of mechanized targets during surge periods. The MLRS battalion is a corps asset and can be attached to a field artillery (FA) brigade or to division(s) within the corps. The MLRS battery is organic to armored and mechanized infantry divisions. Light infantry divisions may receive MLRS support from corps assets.

Section I
INTRODUCTION

MLRS Employment Concept

The capabilities of MLRS make it one of the most versatile FA weapon systems available for both joint and combined arms operations. Its range, mobility, and lethality allow it to execute the full spectrum of fire support -- providing close support to maneuver units, protecting the force with counterfire, and attacking operational targets for the division, corps, Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF), or joint task force commander and in support of theater missile defense (TMD).

Regardless of the tactical mission, MLRS units are positioned and fight well forward and use their shoot-and-scoot capability to improve survivability. Forward positioning is critical to accomplishing these deep missions. When providing close support in the offense, MLRS units move with the maneuver forces they support, stop to fire as required, and then move rapidly to rejoin the formation. In the defense, these systems support maneuver units by moving laterally along the forward line of own troops (FLOT). This allows MLRS units to take maximum advantage of their range to protect maneuver units from the destructive effects of the enemy's indirect fire systems. The mobility and massive firepower of the MLRS make it well-suited to augment other artillery fires supporting cavalry units engaged in operations such as screening, covering force, and movement to contact.

The 32 kilometer (km) range of the MLRS rocket and the 165 km range of the Army tactical missile system (Army TACMS) provide the division, corps, MAGTF, and joint commanders with a deep strike option. To support deep operations, MLRS units are positioned close to the FLOT and in some cases beyond the FLOT to engage the enemy at maximum ranges and to continue to attack him throughout the depth of the battlefield. The MLRS units assigned the mission of firing Army TACMS in support of a joint force commander's deep operation will often operate in a maneuver brigade area of operations. Intermixed with maneuver and cannon units, these MLRS units will find themselves continually coordinating for positions within the maneuver brigade sector.

The MLRS plays a critical role in contingency operations because it provides a massive infusion of combat power in small, rapidly-deployable force packages. The extreme lethality of the MLRS family of munitions (MFOM), coupled with the air deployability of the system on a variety of aircraft, makes MLRS units the logical choice to deep fires for initial entry forces.

System Components

The multiple launch rocket system consists of the components described below.

M270 Launcher

Each launcher has the onboard capability to receive a fire mission, determine its location, compute firing data, orient on the target, and fire. Each bay of the launcher must be loaded with the same type munition. Once laid and armed, the launcher can fire:

- Twelve rockets in less than 60 seconds at up to six aimpoints.
- Two missiles in less than 20 seconds at one or two aimpoints.