

THE INFANTRY BATTALION

Contents

	Page
Preface	viii
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	
Section I. The Role of the Infantry Battalion	1-1
1-1. The AirLand Battle	1-1
1-2. Fundamentals of the AirLand Battle	1-1
1-3. Combat Power	1-2
1-4. Mission	1-3
Section II. Operating Systems	1-3
1-5. Intelligence System	1-4
1-6. Maneuver System	1-4
1-7. Fire Support System	1-4
1-8. Mobility/Counter mobility/Survivability System	1-4
1-9. Air Defense System	1-4
1-10. Combat Service Support System	1-4
1-11. Command and Control System	1-4
CHAPTER 2. COMMAND AND CONTROL	
Section I. Command and Control System	2-1
2-1. Elements of Command and Control	2-1
2-2. Command	2-2

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

*This publication supersedes FM 7-20, 28 December 1984; and FM 7-72, 16 March 1987.

	Page
2-3. Control	2-2
2-4. Commander's Authority	2-2
2-5. Commander's Presence	2-2
2-6. Commander's Leadership	2-2
2-7. Commander's Intent	2-3
2-8. Mission Tactics	2-3
2-9. Mission Orders	2-3
2-10. Main Effort	2-4
2-11. Chain of Command	2-4
2-12. Command Relationships	2-4
2-13. Support Relationships	2-5
2-14. Organization	2-5
Section II. Command and Control Process	2-6
2-15. Planning	2-6
2-16. Decision-Making Process	2-6
2-17. Troop-Leading Procedures	2-9
2-18. Receipt of Mission	2-9
2-19. Issuance of Warning Order	2-10
2-20. Tentative Plan	2-10
2-21. Initiation of Movement	2-22
2-22. Reconnaissance	2-22
2-23. Completion of Plan	2-23
2-24. Issuance of OPORD	2-23
2-25. Supervision and Refinement	2-23
Section III. Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield	2-25
2-26. Role of IPB	2-26
2-27. Five Functions of IPB Process	2-26
2-28. Intelligence Collection Process	2-26
Section IV. Command and Control During Battle	2-27
2-29. Planning	2-27
2-30. Preparation	2-27
2-31. Execution	2-27

CHAPTER 3. OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS

Section I. Doctrine	3-1
3-1. Purpose	3-1
3-2. Characteristics of Offensive Operations	3-1
3-3. Offensive Framework	3-3
3-4. Forms of Maneuver	3-4
Section II. Offensive Planning	3-8
3-5. Scheme of Maneuver	3-8
3-6. Fire Support	3-8
3-7. Task Organization	3-8
3-8. Offensive Concept Development	3-9

	Page
3-9. Breaching Operations	3-10
3-10. Limited Visibility Operations	3-11
Section III. Movement to Contact	3-14
3-11. Planning	3-14
3-12. Approach March Technique	3-15
3-13. Search-and-Attack Technique	3-18
3-14. Actions on Contact	3-23
Section IV. Attacks	3-24
3-15. Hasty Attack	3-24
3-16. Deliberate Attack	3-25
3-17. Attack of Fortified Positions and Strongpoints	3-28
3-18. Task Organization	3-29
3-19. Sequence of Attack	3-30
3-20. The Assault	3-32
3-21. Culminating Point	3-33
3-22. Consolidation and Reorganization	3-34
Section V. Other Offensive Operations	3-35
3-23. Follow-and-Support Operations	3-36
3-24. Exploitation	3-36
3-25. Pursuit	3-36
 CHAPTER 4. DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS	
Section I. Doctrine	4-1
4-1. Purpose	4-1
4-2. Characteristics of Defensive Operations	4-1
4-3. Defensive Framework	4-2
Section II. Planning and Preparation	4-5
4-4. Commander's Intent	4-5
4-5. Development of Defensive Concept	4-6
4-6. Limited Visibility Operations	4-7
Section III. Counterreconnaissance	4-7
4-7. Planning	4-8
4-8. Execution	4-10
4-9. Displacement of the Counterreconnaissance Force	4-11
Section IV. Conduct of Operations	4-11
4-10. Occupation	4-11
4-11. Priority of Work	4-11
4-12. Sequence of the Defense	4-11
4-13. Counterattacks	4-12
4-14. Spoiling Attacks	4-13
4-15. Integration of Combat Support	4-14
4-16. Consolidation and Reorganization	4-14

	Page
Section V. Types of Defense	4-15
4-17. Defense of a Sector	4-15
4-18. Defense from a Battle Position	4-17
4-19. Reverse Slope Defense	4-19
4-20. Perimeter Defense	4-22
4-21. Linear Defense	4-24
4-22. Defense of a Strongpoint	4-25
4-23. Defense Against Infiltration	4-26
4-24. Defense Against Air Attack	4-26
 CHAPTER 5. RETROGRADE OPERATIONS	
Section I. Doctrine	5-1
5-1. Purpose	5-1
5-2. Types of Retrograde Operations	5-1
5-3. Planning	5-1
Section II. Delay Operations	5-2
5-4. Purpose	5-3
5-5. Fundamentals	5-3
5-6. Degrees of Risk	5-3
5-7. Methods of Delay	5-4
5-8. METTT Analysis	5-6
5-9. Planning	5-7
5-10. Conduct of a Delay	5-10
Section III. Withdrawal Operations	5-11
5-11. Purpose	5-11
5-12. METTT Analysis	5-12
5-13. Planning	5-12
5-14. Conduct of a Withdrawal	5-12
5-15. Withdrawal Not Under Enemy Pressure	5-12
5-16. Withdrawal Under Enemy Pressure	5-15
Section IV. Retirement Operations	5-21
5-17. Purpose	5-21
5-18. METTT Analysis	5-22
5-19. Planning	5-22
5-20. Conduct of a Retirement	5-22
 CHAPTER 6. OTHER TACTICAL OPERATIONS	
Section I. Passage of Lines	6-1
6-1. Purpose	6-1
6-2. Planning	6-1
6-3. Conduct of a Rearward Passage	6-3
6-4. Conduct of a Forward Passage	6-5

	Page
Section II. Relief Operations	6-6
6-5. Purpose	6-6
6-6. METTT Analysis	6-6
6-7. Conduct of a Relief	6-7
6-8. Liaison	6-7
6-9. Sequence	6-7
6-10. Reconnaissance and Surveillance	6-8
6-11. Locations and Types of Obstacles	6-8
6-12. Fire Support Assets/Plan	6-8
6-13. Movement Control	6-9
6-14. Passage of Command	6-9
6-15. Enemy Contact During a Relief in Place	6-9
6-16. Exchange of Equipment	6-9
6-17. Security and Deception	6-9
6-18. Relief Order	6-9
Section III. Breakout from Encirclement	6-10
6-19. Purpose	6-10
6-20. METTT Analysis	6-10
6-21. Preparation	6-11
6-22. Organization	6-12
6-23. Conduct of a Breakout from Encirclement	6-14
6-24. Support to Encircled Companies	6-17
Section IV. Linkup Operations	6-17
6-25. Purpose	6-17
6-26. Planning	6-17
6-27. Conduct of a Linkup	6-19
6-28. Stay-Behind/Hide Forces	6-19
6-29. Stay-Behind/Hide Force Scenario	6-23
 CHAPTER 7. COMBAT SUPPORT	
Section I. Indirect Fire Support	7-1
7-1. Mission	7-1
7-2. Planning	7-1
7-3. Top-Down Fire Planning	7-3
7-4. Schedules of Fires	7-4
7-5. Field Artillery	7-4
7-6. Mortars	7-5
7-7. Naval Gunfire	7-8
Section II. Tactical Air Support	7-10
7-8. Planning	7-10
7-9. Employment	7-10
7-10. Suppression of Enemy Air Defense	7-11
7-11. Joint Air Attack Team	7-12

	Page
Section III. Aviation Support	7-12
7-12. Army Aviation	7-12
7-13. Employment	7-13
Section IV. Air Defense Support	7-14
7-14. Support Relationships and Missions	7-14
7-15. Air Defense Weapons Systems	7-15
7-16. Employment Considerations	7-15
Section V. Engineer Support	7-16
7-17. Planning	7-17
7-18. Capabilities	7-18
7-19. Offensive Operations	7-18
7-20. Defensive Operations	7-20
7-21. Fighting as Infantry	7-21
Section VI. Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Support	7-21
7-22. Interrogation Team	7-21
7-23. Ground Surveillance Radar	7-21
7-24. Remote Sensor Teams	7-23
Section VII. Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical	7-24
7-25. Avoidance	7-24
7-26. Operations	7-25
7-27. Use of Smoke	7-25
Section VIII. Other Combat Support	7-27
7-28. Scout Platoon	7-27
7-29. Antiarmor Company and Platoons	7-29
7-30. MK 19 40-mm Grenade Machine Gun	7-30
7-31. MMWV Interchangeable Mount System	7-31
 CHAPTER 8. COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT	
Section I. Organizations and Functions	8-1
8-1. Categories of Combat Service Support.	8-1
8-2. Sources of Combat Service Support	8-2
8-3. S1 Section	8-2
8-4. S4 Section	8-3
8-5. Medical Platoon	8-3
8-6. Support Platoon	8-3
8-7. Maintenance Platoon/Section, Light Infantry Battalions	8-4
8-8. Maintenance Platoon/Section, Other Infantry Battalions	8-4
Section II. Planning	8-4
8-9. Principles of Combat Service Support.	8-4
8-10. Support of the Offense	8-5
8-11. Support of the Defense	8-5
8-12. Continuous Support	8-6
8-13. Battalion Logistical Estimate	8-6
8-14. Soldier's Load	8-6

	Page
Section III. Missions and Operations	8-7
8-15. Battalion Trains	8-7
8-16. Resupply Techniques	8-8
8-17. Trains Security	8-10
8-18. Command and Control	8-11
8-19. Communications	8-11
Section IV. Supply System	8-12
8-20. Operations	8-12
8-21. Classes	8-12
Section V. Maintenance Support	8-15
8-22. Terminology	8-15
8-23. Categories of Maintenance	8-15
8-24. Maintenance Program	8-15
Section VI. Field Services	8-17
8-25. Mortuary Affairs	8-17
8-26. Clothing Exchange and Bath Services	8-17
8-27. Salvage	8-17
8-28. Laundry and Renovation	8-18
8-29. Airdrop	8-18
Section VII. Personnel Support	8-18
8-30. Personnel Services Support	8-18
8-31. Religious Support	8-20
8-32. Legal Services Support	8-21
8-33. Finance Support	8-21
8-34. Public Affairs Support	8-22
8-35. Health Services Support	8-22
8-36. Disposition of Enemy Prisoners of War	8-24
 APPENDIX A. BATTALION TACTICAL STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE	 A-1
APPENDIX B. COMMAND AND CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FACILITIES	B-1
APPENDIX C. THE INFANTRY BATTALION IN LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT	C-1
APPENDIX D. MECHANIZED-ARMOR/LIGHT AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES	D-1
APPENDIX E. SNIPER EMPLOYMENT	E-1
APPENDIX F. CASUALTY EVACUATION	F-1
GLOSSARY	Glossary-1
REFERERENCES	References-1
INDEX	Index-1

PREFACE

This manual presents doctrine for the infantry battalion to use in combat. Rather than try to solve every tactical situation, this manual establishes a common base of tactical knowledge from which specific solutions to battalion-level tactical problems can be developed. This manual is designed to increase the effectiveness of battalion-level operations by providing doctrinal principles and selected battlefield-proven tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The target audience for this manual includes battalion commanders and staffs, company commanders, and special platoon leaders for all infantry battalions—light, air assault, airborne, ranger, and H-edition (Reserve Component). It also includes service school, ROTC, and military academy instructors, and others who require a single-source reference to dismounted infantry battalion operations. The concepts are based on FM 100-5. Terms and graphics used conform to those in FM 101-5-1. ARTEP 7-20-MTP provides training standards used to prepare the battalion to execute the operations in FM 7-20.

Tough, realistic preparation for combat is dangerous. Commanders and subordinate leaders must instill an awareness of individual and unit safety. Soldiers must be constantly alert and careful in situations that could result in injury or death. They must know the capabilities, functioning, limitations, and hazards of their equipment to use it safely. Risk must be balanced against requirements. Hazardous conditions must be monitored and controlled. **THE WELFARE OF SOLDIERS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN ALL SITUATIONS.**

The provisions of this publication are subject to two international agreements:

STANAG 2082 Relief of Combat Troops
STANAG 2129 Identification of Land Forces on the Battlefield

The proponent for this publication is US Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5410.

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

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

AirLand Battle doctrine has produced great changes in the Army. It has affected everything from equipment to the way we fight. Commanders need to understand these concepts and how they affect the employment of an infantry battalion. This chapter introduces AirLand Battle doctrine and explains its effect on battalion-level tactical doctrine.

Section I THE ROLE OF THE INFANTRY BATTALION

The infantry battalion serves many roles on the airland battlefield. It engages most often in close battles and may conduct raids or stay-behind operations as part of deep operations. The battalion may participate in rear battle as part of a tactical combat force. Also, due to their rapid deployability by air, infantry units are ideally suited for executing strategic contingency plans and establishing lodgements. Limited visibility is the basis for infantry battalion operations. It is the environmental condition that the US military seeks to take advantage of its technology and training. Darkness, fog, heavy rain, and falling snow all limit visibility. A combination of technical ability (afforded by NVDs) and tactical prowess (afforded by training) allows the infantry battalion to operate routinely during these conditions. Limited visibility operations strike the defender when the range of his weapons and the mutual support between his positions are reduced.

1-1. THE AIRLAND BATTLE

Infantry forces can operate effectively in low-intensity, mid-intensity, or high-intensity conflict and in most terrain and weather conditions.

a. Infantry may dominate in low-intensity conflicts due to its rapid strategic deployability and its ability to meet the enemy on equal terms.

b. Mid-intensity to high-intensity conflicts may be chaotic, intense, and destructive. Such operations rarely maintain a linear character. The speed with which forces can concentrate and the high volumes of supporting fires they can bring to bear make the mixing of opposing forces almost inevitable.

c. The AirLand Battle is the doctrinal basis for meeting these challenges. It involves

maneuver at all levels and tries to use the full potential of US forces. It is offensively oriented so commanders may go to the offense as soon as possible. No matter what level the conflict, the side that keeps the initiative through offensive action forces the other side to react rather than to act. The thrust of AirLand Battle doctrine is to disrupt the enemy's synchronization, preventing him from applying combat power at a decisive point; and to create opportunities for US forces to destroy his force.

1-2. FUNDAMENTALS OF THE AIRLAND BATTLE

FM 100-5 states that success on the modern battlefield depends on commanders at all levels understanding and implementing the basic tenets