

MCWP 3-1 (Formerly FMFM 6)

Ground Combat Operations



U.S. Marine Corps

PCN 139 000423 00

E R R A T U M

to

MCWP 3-1

GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS

1. For administrative purposes, FMFM 6 is reidentified as MCWP 3-1.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
Washington, DC 20380-1775

4 April 1995

FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 6, *Ground Combat Operations*, provides the doctrinal basis for the planning and execution of ground combat operations for ground forces within the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF). It establishes a common reference for operational and tactical operations routinely conducted by the ground combat element of the MAGTF.

FMFM 6 is the keystone manual for all subsequent ground combat-oriented manuals and is not intended to provide detailed tactics, techniques, and procedures for specific ground combat organizations. It provides the link between the tactics, techniques, and procedures provided in 6-series manuals and FMFM 1, *Warfighting*; FMFM 1-1, *Campaigning*; FMFM 1-2, *The Role of the Marine Corps in the National Defense*; and FMFM 1-3, *Tactics*.

2. SCOPE

FMFM 6 is designed for all Marine leaders regardless of military occupational specialty. This manual concentrates primarily on the ground combat element's warfighting capabilities, as the decisive maneuver force of the MAGTF, in the conduct of ground combat including maritime expeditionary operations and subsequent and sustained operations ashore. Its content pertains equally to combat support and combat service support organizations.

3. SUPERSESSION

OH 6-1, *Ground Combat Operations*, dated January 1988.

4. CHANGES

Recommendations for improving this manual are invited from commands as well as directly from individuals. Forward suggestions using the User Suggestion Form format to —

Commanding General
Doctrine Division (C 42)
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
2042 Broadway Street, Suite 210
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5021

5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE
CORPS

C. E. WILHELM
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia

DISTRIBUTION: 139 000423 00

Ground Combat Operations

Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter 1. Ground Combat Doctrine	
The Marine Air-Ground Task Force	1-2
The Employment of the GCE	1-4
A Doctrinal Foundation Based on the Principles of War	1-5
Fundamentals of Ground Combat	1-13
Task Organization of the GCE	1-18
Chapter 2. GCE Combined-Arms Operations: What the GCE Brings to the Fight	
Intelligence	2-1
Maneuver	2-4
Firepower	2-7
Security	2-11
Chapter 3. Command and Control	
The Commander	3-1
Command and Control Organization	3-3
Command and Control Support	3-4
The Staff	3-5
Commander's Preparation of the Battlespace	3-6
Organization of the Battlefield	3-7
Battlespace Operations	3-11

Chapter 4. Operational Maneuver From the Sea

Execution of OMFTS	4-1
Amphibious Operations	4-4
Organization for Ship-to-Objective Maneuver	4-6

Chapter 5. Offensive Operations

Types of Offensive Operations	5-2
Forms of Maneuver	5-15
Distribution of Forces	5-20
Conduct of the Offense	5-22

Chapter 6. Defensive Operations

Defensive Fundamentals	6-2
Organization of the Defense	6-7
Distribution of Forces	6-9
Types of Defensive Operations	6-13
Forms of Defensive Maneuver	6-15
Planning for the Defense	6-24
Preparing for the Defense	6-25
Conducting the Defense	6-26
Use of the Reserve in the Defense	6-28

Chapter 7. Operations Other Than War

Principles of Operations Other Than War	7-3
Operations to Deter War and Resolve Conflict	7-6
Operations to Promote Peace	7-14

**Chapter 8. MAGTF GCE Operations in a Joint
and Combined Environment**

Service Components	8-2
Functional Components	8-3
Command Relationships	8-5
GCE and U.S. Army Integration	8-8
GCE-Army Support	8-11
Combined Operations	8-12
Considerations for Combined Operations	8-13
The Campaign	8-16
Liaison	8-18
Procedures	8-20

Glossary

Acronyms	Glossary-1
Definitions	Glossary-4

Index	Index-1
--------------	---------

User Suggestion Form

From:

To: Commanding General
Doctrine Division (C 42)
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
2042 Broadway Street Suite 210
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5021

Subj: RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FMFM 6,
GROUND
COMBAT OPERATIONS

1. In accordance with the foreword to FMFM 6, which invites individuals to submit suggestions concerning this FMFM directly to the above addressee, the following unclassified recommendation is forwarded:

<u>Page</u> No.	<u>Article/Paragraph No.</u>	<u>Line No.</u>	<u>Figure/Table</u>
--------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------

Nature of Change:

- Add
- Delete
- Change
- Correct

2. Proposed new verbatim text: (Verbatim, double-spaced; continue on additional pages as necessary.)

3. Justification/source: (Need not be double-spaced.)

Note: Only one recommendation per page.

Chapter 1

Ground Combat Doctrine

Marine ground forces must be prepared to conduct operations across the spectrum of war and in any operational environment. These operations can range from those conducted in war to actions that support peace. As the number and nature of operations change and expand, the role of the ground combat element (GCE) also expands and evolves. No longer can the GCE expect to be the supported element or designated the main effort during all phases of an operation. The expanded role of the GCE may require the GCE commander to accomplish his assigned mission with fewer resources than traditionally provided by the MAGTF. As a result, the demands placed on the GCE will be greater than ever before.

FMFM 6, *Ground Combat Operations*, provides the doctrinal foundation for the expanded role of the GCE when employed in MAGTF operations. It is critical to understanding Marine Corps doctrine for ground combat and the role of the GCE as part of the combined arms MAGTF. This manual provides connectivity between the philosophy of employing the MAGTF and the tactics, techniques, and procedures disseminated by the subordinate 6-series manuals.

The Marine Air-Ground Task Force

Understanding of the principles of war and the fundamentals of ground combat has led to the Marine Corps' adoption of maneuver warfare. Maneuver warfare is a warfighting philosophy that seeks to shatter the enemy's cohesion through a series of rapid, violent, and unexpected actions which create a turbulent and rapidly deteriorating situation with which the enemy cannot cope. The MAGTF is the force that the Marine Corps employs to conduct maneuver warfare in a combined arms operation. The nature of the MAGTF—cohesion, unity of effort, flexibility, and self-sustainment—makes it equal to the requirements of combined arms warfare.

The MAGTF contains four elements that can be tailored to a combined arms operation: a *command element*, a *ground combat element*, an *aviation combat element*, and a *combat service support element*. The MAGTF draws forces from ground, aviation, and combat service support organizations of the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) to meet this requirement.

Command Element

The command element (CE) is comprised of the MAGTF commander and his principal staff, detachments from the Marine expeditionary force (MEF) and the Marine Force (MARFORPAC and MARFORLANT). The CE provides the catalyst for unity of effort. It contains a command and control (C²) system for the effective planning and execution of operations and is capable of exercising the requirements of joint force command and control warfare (C²W).