
Artillery Operations



U.S. Marine Corps

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FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-16.1, *Artillery Operations*, provides an overview of fundamentals, organization, support requirements, and tactical considerations used by Marine artillery regiments, battalions, and batteries in support of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) operations.

This publication standardizes artillery procedures and provides guidelines for field artillery commanders and their staffs at all echelons of command for the efficient and effective exercise of artillery operations throughout the MAGTF. MCWP 3-16.1 also provides guidance for the assignment of artillery missions, organization for combat, fire planning, and tactical employment of artillery weapons. MCWP 3-16.1 embodies the Marine Corps' warfighting philosophy as established in Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP) 1, *Warfighting*, and MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*, to establish a dynamic, operational infrastructure that provides artillery support to Marine forces.

MCWP 3-16.1 supersedes Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 6-9, *Marine Artillery Support*, dated 29 June 1993.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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CHAPTER 1

FUNDAMENTALS AND ORGANIZATION

Mission of Marine Artillery

The mission of artillery is to furnish close and continuous fire support by neutralizing, destroying or suppressing targets that threaten the success of the supported unit. To accomplish its mission, artillery has the following responsibilities:

- Provide timely, close, accurate, and continuous fire support.
- Provide depth to combat by attacking hostile reserves, restricting movement, providing long-range support for reconnaissance forces, and disrupting threat command and control (C2) systems and logistics installations; i.e., shaping the battlespace.
- Deliver counterfire within the range of the weapon systems to ensure freedom of action of the ground forces.

Tactical Employment Considerations

Basic considerations for the tactical employment of artillery are as follows:

- Fire support requirement.
- Ability to mass.
- Exploitation of weapon capability.
- Facilitate future operations.
- Exploitation of mobility.

Combat Tasks

Artillery has the following combat tasks:

- Coordinate artillery support.
- Acquire targets.

- Deliver lethal and nonlethal munitions.
- Survive.
- Communicate.
- Maneuver (move).
- Maintain and resupply.
- Maintain trained and ready personnel.

Artillery Fire Support System

Artillery has three components that function together to create an effective fire support system: target acquisition, weapon systems, and C2 systems. Target acquisition is detecting, identifying, and locating a target in sufficient detail to effectively employ munitions. The weapon systems provide the means to engage the target. The C2 systems provide the required facilities, equipment, communications, and personnel that enable the commander to plan, direct, and control fires. See MCWP 3-16, *Fire Support Coordination in the Ground Combat Element*, for detailed information on the artillery fire support system and its individual components. See appendix A for detailed Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) information. See appendix B for artillery weapons and munitions information.

Organization for Combat

Artillery is allocated through a process called organization for combat. Organization for combat places an artillery unit within an organization; i.e., establishes a command relationship and assigns the unit a tactical mission. The supported force commander uses this process to allocate artillery assets to meet the needs of the force as a whole and the needs of the force's subordinate units.