

FM 6-50
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Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Field Artillery Cannon Battery



U.S. Marine Corps

PCN 143 000004 00

FOREWORD

This publication may be used by the US Army and US Marine Corps forces during training, exercises, and contingency operations.

General, USA
Commanding
Training and Doctrine Command

Lieutenant General, USMC
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command



PREFACE

This publication is designed primarily for the cannon battery. It is a how-to-train manual intended to provide general guidance to the commander and his principal subordinates. It is designed for battery leaders and should be used in conjunction with equipment technical manuals, Marine Corps combat readiness evaluation system (MCCRES), Marine Corps individual training standards (ITS), Army training and evaluation program (ARTEP) mission training plans (AMTPs), soldier manuals, and trainer's guides.

This publication sets forth suggested duties and responsibilities of key personnel and addresses doctrine and procedures for cannon battery operations and training. It is based on current tables of organization and equipment (TOE) and provides a starting point from which each commander can adjust his battery operations and training based on his modification tables of organization and equipment (MTOE); actual personnel and equipment till; local training scenario; and mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T).

This publication presents standardized procedures relevant to cannon battery operations (Appendix A). These procedures are denoted in text by an asterisk (*).

This publication implements the following North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) standardization agreements (STANAGs) and quadripartite standardization agreements (QSTAGs):

STANAG 2934, Edition 1, Chapter 13, *Artillery Procedures*, and QSTAG 503, Edition 2, *Bombing, Shelling, Rocketing, Mortaring and Location Reports*.

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STANAG 2113, Edition 5, *Denial of A Unit's Military Equipment and Supplies to an Enemy*.

STANAG 2154, Edition 5 and QSTAG 539, Edition 1, *Regulations for Military Motor Vehicle Movement by Road*.

As used throughout this publication, the words *howitzer*, *gun*, *cannon*, *weapon*, and *piece* are synonymous.

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:

Commandant
US Army Field Artillery School
ATTN: ATSF-DD
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-5600

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

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No. 6-50
MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING PUBLICATION
No. 3-1.6.23

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Washington, DC, 23 December 1996

Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for
THE FIELD ARTILLERY CANNON BATTERY

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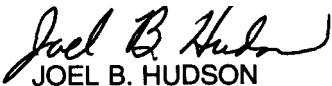
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Official:


JOEL B. HUDSON
*Administrative Assistant to the
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DENNIS J. REIMER
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PAUL K. VAN RIPER
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia

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CHAPTER 1

MISSION, ORGANIZATION, AND KEY PERSONNEL

Section I

MISSION AND GENERAL ORGANIZATION

1-1. MISSION

a. The mission of the field artillery (FA) is to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket, and missile fires and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations.

b. The field artillery cannon battery is the basic firing element of the cannon battalion regardless of how the battery is organized. The battery's capability is enhanced through the flexibility and survivability provided under an organization based on platoons. In no way should the references to platoon- or battery-based organizations be construed as the structure for operational employment. Rather, the terms pertain solely to organizational structure.

Note: For tactics, techniques, and procedures for the M109A6 (Paladin), see FM 6-50-60.

1-2. FIELD ARTILLERY ORGANIZATION

The field artillery is organized into light, medium, and heavy artillery on the basis of weapon caliber.

a. Each light artillery (105-mm M102, M101A1, or M119A1) battery has a headquarters section and six howitzer sections.

b. Each medium (155-mm M109A2-A6 and M198) battery is organized in one of two ways:

(1) A platoon-based unit has a headquarters and two firing platoons of three or four howitzer sections each. This organization allows for platoon operations.

Note: The M109A5 howitzer battery organic to the regimental armored cavalry squadron is designed to function independently and to perform most of its own support functions. It is organized, trained, and equipped to operate in direct support of the squadron.

(2) A battery-based unit has a headquarters section and six howitzer sections.

c. Organization does affect employment. In a unit organized with a single six-gun battery, the battery is employed as a single unit under the direct control of the battery commander. In a platoon-based unit, the battery may be employed in one of the following ways:

- As two platoons under the control of the battery commander (BC).
- As a single unit, with the platoons merged.
- As two separate platoons directly controlled by the battalion S3, through the BC, with the battery commander providing reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of position (RSOP) and logistical support.

This last employment option is the least desirable. It is used only when the tactical situation permits no other means of command and control.

Note: AH battalions in the US Marine Corps are organized into three six-howitzer batteries.

1-3. COMMAND AND CONTROL OF BATTERIES

a. The FA cannon battalion issues movement instructions and other orders to the battery, regardless of whether the battery is battery- or platoon-based. Orders are issued to the battery commander or his operations center. These orders specify the artillery requirements of the fire support coordinator (FSCOORD) rather than trying to specify how the commander is to accomplish the mission. The BC selects platoon positions within the larger battery area selected by the S3. The battery commander will also determine which platoon is better able to move at any given time. The functions of the FA battalion tactical operations center (TOC) are to position and control the fires of the batteries. The BC positions and controls the fires of his platoons. The battalion TOC should be involved with directly controlling platoons only when no other option is available.