

MCWP 3-43.1  
(Formally FMFM 7-32)

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# Raid Operations

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

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ERRATUM

To

MCWP 3-43.1

RAID OPERATIONS

1. Change the publication's short title on inside text to read "MCWP 3-43.1."

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Headquarters United States Marine Corps  
Washington, DC 20380-0001

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FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 7-32, *Raid Operations*, explains doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures (DTTP) for raid operations conducted by Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs). It highlights the advantages, disadvantages, and other critical factors every commander and staff member must consider during planning and execution of a raid operation.

2. SCOPE

This FMFM is intended for use by commanders and their staffs. DTTP, planning guidance, and execution principles apply to amphibious and nonamphibious raids. However, planning requirements and execution techniques are situation-dependent and vary according to each mission.

3. SUPERSESSION

None.

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—

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5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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## RECORD OF CHANGE

<b>Change No.</b>	<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Date of Entry</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Signature</b>

# Raid Operations

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# Chapter 1

## Raid Design

"Nothing is so devastating as to pounce upon the enemy in the dark, smite him hip and thigh, and vanish silently into the night."

Brigadier Orde Charles Wingate  
Burma, 1943

A raid is an operation, usually small scale, involving a swift penetration of hostile territory to secure information, confuse the enemy, or to destroy his installations. It ends with a planned withdrawal upon completion of the assigned mission. Raids may be conducted as separate operations or in support of other operations. Examples of separate operations include raids for psychological purposes, destroying enemy assets not susceptible to other action, harassment, to gain combat information, as spoiling attacks to keep enemy forces off balance, and to recover or rescue friendly personnel and equipment.

### OBJECTIVES

Raid design must be understood by all. The commander will articulate the specific objective and end state to be achieved by the raid force.

Raids in support of larger air, land, naval, joint, or combined operations include those planned as events within a deception story or to destroy key facilities that may influence the larger operation. Raids have recognizable characteristics whether conducted as separate operations or as part of larger campaigns. The raid force may employ a variety and combination of

transportation assets such as helicopters, transport aircraft, ground vehicles, and surface/subsurface watercraft to enter or exit the objective area. Raids may be conducted by aviation, artillery, infantry, reconnaissance, combat engineers, or any other group with skills and equipment suited for the mission. Raid forces depend on surprise, detailed intelligence, timeliness of mission execution, and violence of action at the objective to ensure success.

### **Psychological**

A raid may be conducted solely for psychological reasons; e.g., to lift the morale of friendly military and civilian personnel or demoralize the enemy. This may be necessary at the outset of hostilities, after extended periods of inactivity, or after tactical or operational setbacks. Raids conducted under such circumstances help maintain an offensive mind-set within the force.

### **Destruction**

Raids may be required to destroy targets of such importance that indisputable confirmation of destruction is essential. Targets not easily destroyed by other means may be subject to destruction by a raid force. Political concerns regarding civilian or cultural collateral damage may also necessitate a raid mission tasking. Targets for destruction may include military or industrial installations, personnel, communication and energy facilities, and transportation nodes such as rail and port facilities, bridges, and tunnels. Raids aimed at destruction may have strategic, operational, or tactical significance.

### **Harassment**

Enemy plans and activities can be disturbed by repeated attacks and pressure. Raids provide one method of applying this