

Fire Support in Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations 📄



U.S. Marine Corps

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

26 September 1991

FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 2-7, *Fire Support in Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations*, sets forth the doctrine for fire support in Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operations.

2. SCOPE

This manual addresses the fundamentals, the fire support means, the uses of fire support, and the doctrine for fire support coordination in MAGTF operations. The manual is designed to be read, understood, and applied when using FMFM 6-18, *Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination*.

3. SUPERSESION

FMFM 7-1, *Fire Support Coordination*, dated 23 April 1981.

4. CHANGES

Recommendations for improvements to this manual are invited from commands as well as individuals. Forward suggestions using the User Suggestion Format to:

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

5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



M. P. CAULFIELD

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Director, MAGTF Warfighting Center
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia

DISTRIBUTION: 13900013700

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 2-7, *FIRE SUPPORT IN MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE OPERATIONS*

1. In accordance with the foreword to FMFM 2-7, which invites individuals to submit suggestions concerning this FMFM directly to the above addressee, the following unclassified recommendation is forwarded:

Page	Article/Paragraph No.	Line No.	Figure/Table No.
------	-----------------------	----------	------------------

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.

(reverse blank)

Fire Support in Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations

Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter 1. Introduction	
Overview	1-1
Doctrine—1-1	
Techniques and Procedures—1-1	
Fire Support	1-1
Fire Support Coordination—1-2	
Fire Planning—1-2	
Delivery of Fires—1-2	
Marine Corps Warfighting Concept	1-2
Maneuver Warfare—1-2	
Combined Arms—1-2	
MAGTF—1-3	
Fire Support System	1-3
Target Acquisition—1-3	
Weapons System—1-3	
Command and Control System—1-4	
Fire Support Responsibilities	1-4
Command—1-4	
Control—1-5	
Coordination—1-6	
Responsibility of the MAGTF and Subordinate Commanders	1-6
MAGTF Commander—1-6	
GCE Commander—1-6	
ACE Commander—1-7	
CSSE Commander—1-7	

Responsibility in Amphibious Operations	1-8
Commander, Amphibious Task Force—1-8	
Commander, Landing Force—1-9	
FSCC—SACC Relationships—1-10	
Responsibility in Joint Operations	1-10
Chapter 2. Fire Support Means	
Artillery	2-1
Mission of Marine Artillery—2-1	
Command and Control of Artillery—2-1	
Tactical Mission—2-2	
Organization for Combat—2-4	
Artillery in Reserve—2-5	
Artillery Characteristics—2-5	
Mortars	2-9
Mission of Mortars—2-9	
Command and Control of 81 mm Mortars—2-9	
Command and Control of 60 mm Mortars—2-9	
Mortar Characteristics—2-10	
Naval Gunfire	2-11
Mission of NGF—2-11	
Command and Control of NGF—2-11	
NGF Characteristics—2-11	
Accuracy—2-12	
Marine Aviation	2-13
Mission of Marine Aviation—2-13	
Command and Control of Marine Aviation—2-13	
Characteristics of Marine Aviation—2-14	
Chapter 3. Fundamentals for Employment of Fire Support	
Firepower and Mobility	3-1
Firepower—3-1	
Mobility—3-1	
Characteristics of Fire Support	3-1
Targeting—3-2	
Allocation of Fire Support—3-3	
Mobility—3-3	
Continuity—3-3	
Fire Support Coordination—3-3	
Close Liaison—3-4	

Fire Support Contribution to Combat Power	3-4
Fire Support Can Complement or Supplement a Supported Activity—3-4	
Fire Support Can Reinforce the Effects of Another Activity—3-4	
Fire Support to Create Opportunity—3-5	
Fire Support as an Extension of Maneuver—3-5	
Fire Support to Cause Enemy Reactions—3-5	
Terminal Effects—the Basic Consideration	3-5
Destruction Fire—3-5	
Neutralization Fire—3-6	
Harassing Fire—3-6	
Interdiction Fire—3-6	
Illumination Fire—3-6	
Suppressive Fire—3-6	
Screening Fire—3-6	
Other Considerations	3-7
Target Selection—3-7	
Terrain and Weather—3-7	
Ability to Observe Impact of Rounds—3-7	
Stationary Target—3-7	
Provide Necessary Support With Least Possible Ammunition—3-7	
Fires in Support of the Offense—3-7	
Fires in Support of the Defense—3-8	

Chapter 4. Fire Support Coordination

Principles of Fire Support Coordination	4-1
Know and Understand the Commander's Intent—4-1	
Plan Early and Continuously—4-1	
Exploit All Available Targeting Assets—4-1	
Consider the Use of All Available Fire Support Means—4-1	
Use the Lowest Capable Echelon—4-2	
Use the Most Effective Means—4-2	
Furnish the Type of Support Requested—4-2	
Avoid Unnecessary Duplication—4-2	
Consider Airspace Coordination—4-2	
Provide Adequate Support—4-2	
Provide Rapid Coordination—4-3	
Provide for Flexibility—4-3	
Provide for the Safeguarding of Friendly Forces and Installations—4-3	
Fire Support Planning	4-3

Fire Support Planning for Amphibious Operations	4-4
Fire Support Requirements—4-4	
Special Considerations—4-4	
Coordination in Operations	4-5
Fire Support Coordination Agencies	4-6
Fire Support Coordination Measures	4-8
Boundaries—4-8	
Permissive Measures—4-8	
Restrictive Measures—4-9	
Fire Support Communications	4-9
Other Coordination Considerations	4-9

APPENDIXES:

A	Glossary	A-1
B	References	B-1

Chapter 1

Introduction

Overview

The purpose of this book is to provide doctrine for fire support in Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operations. Chapter 1 of this manual defines fire support, describes the fire support system, and identifies the fire support responsibilities. Chapter 2 identifies and provides information about each fire support means essential to its effective employment. The mission, command, control, and characteristics of each resource are addressed. Chapter 3 presents fundamentals for the employment of fire support. Chapter 4 provides an overview of fire support coordination.

Doctrine

FMFM 2-7 provides the doctrinal foundation for employment of fire support in MAGTF operations. Doctrine is the fundamental principles by which the military forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgment in application. (Joint Pub 1-02) As it is implemented, doctrine demands the ability of one to think, teach, and lead.

Techniques and Procedures

FMFM 2-7 is intended as a preface to using FMFM 6-18, *Techniques and Procedures of Fire Support Coordination*. **Techniques** are methods of accomplishing a goal or mission. Techniques enhance one's ability to accomplish a task. For example, the integration of artillery fires for

suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) in a close air support (CAS) mission. **Procedures** are a series of standardized steps for doing something. For example, the artillery call for fire, the 9-line CAS brief, and artillery gunnery computations.

Fire Support

Fire support is the assistance to elements of the ground forces engaged with the enemy rendered by other firing units, including (but not limited to) artillery, mortars, naval gunfire (NGF), CAS, and close-in fire support (CIFS). Fire support entails the collective and coordinated use of weapons. Fire support delivered by indirect-fire weapons and armed aircraft comprise one element of firepower; direct-fire weapons provide the other. The fires of indirect- and direct-fire weapons are integrated with each other, with other assets such as electronic warfare (EW), and with maneuver to produce combat power. Combat power includes the destructive and/or disruptive force a unit can apply at a given time. Combat power is optimized when it is delivered at a decisive time and place.

The term *supporting arms* is often used when referring to fire support, particularly in amphibious operations. Supporting arms are the air, sea, and land weapons of all types employed to support ground units. (Joint Pub 1-02) The terms *supporting arms coordination* and *coordination of supporting fires* are also used.

Fire support is composed of three parts—**fire support coordination, fire planning, and delivery**