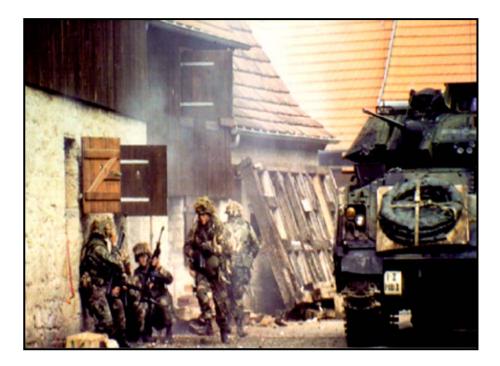
FM 3-06.11 (FM 90-10-1)

COMBINED ARMS OPERATIONS IN URBAN TERRAIN



HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

Worldwide urban growth and the shift of populations from rural to urban areas have affected Army operations. Urban areas will most probably constitute future battlefields. All major Army operations most likely include urban operations (UO) in the foreseeable future.

There is a high probability that the US Army may be engaged by threat forces that are intermingled with the civilian population. Units using the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) outlined in this manual are bound by the specific rules of engagement (ROE) issued by their headquarters and the laws of land warfare.

This manual provides brigade and battalion commanders and staffs, company commanders, small-unit leaders, and individual Infantrymen with considerations and combined arms TTP for conducting full-spectrum urban operations (offense, defense, stability, and support). Some techniques for dealing with insurgents and terrorists or similar threats are included; however, the manuals which best address these issues are FM 7-98 and FM 90-8. This manual may also be used as a reference for other combat, combat support and combat service support commanders, leaders, and staffs that will be required to support combined arms urban operations.

The proponent of this publication is the US Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations to <u>doctrine@benning.army.mil</u> or on DA Form 2028 directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5410.

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

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

"The rapid growth of the number and size of urban centers, especially in regions of political instability, increases the likelihood that US forces will be called upon to conduct MOUT."

Defense Science Board, October 1996

It is estimated that by the year 2010, seventy-five percent of the world's population will live in urban areas. Urban areas are expected to be the future battlefield and combat in urban areas cannot be avoided. This manual provides commanders, leaders, and staffs at brigade level and below with a discussion of the principles of urban operations and tactics, techniques, and procedures for fighting in urban areas.

Section I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Urban operations (UO) are not new to the US Army. Throughout its history the Army has fought an enemy on urban terrain. What **is** new is that urban areas and urban populations have grown significantly during the late twentieth century and have begun to exert a much greater influence on military operations. The worldwide shift from a rural to an urban society and the requirement to transition from combat to stability and support operations and vice-versa have affected the US Army's doctrine. The brigade will be the primary headquarters around which units will be task-organized to perform UO. Companies, platoons, and squads will seldom conduct UO independently, but will most probably conduct assigned missions as part of a battalion task force urban operation. This section provides the necessary background information that facilitates an understanding of how higher level commanders plan and conduct UO.

1-1. DEFINITIONS

Terms specific to UO are defined herein.

a. **Urban Operations.** UO are operations planned and conducted in an area of operations (AO) that includes one or more urban areas. An urban area consists of a topographical complex where man-made construction or high population density is the dominant feature. UO usually occur when—

- The assigned objective lays within an urban area and cannot be bypassed.
- The urban area is key (or decisive) in setting and or shaping the conditions for current or future operations.
- An urban area is between two natural obstacles and cannot be bypassed.
- The urban area is in the path of a general advance and cannot be surrounded or bypassed.
- Political or humanitarian concerns require the control of an urban area or necessitate operations within it.
- Defending from urban areas supports a more effective overall defense or cannot be avoided.