
CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Future battles will be mobile and violent, with emphasis on rapid fire capability, increased speed, and maneuverability. Light cavalry crews must be prepared to take maximum advantage of these capabilities. To defeat the threat and survive on the battlefield, light cavalry crews must be well trained.

The threat is a worthy opponent—well trained with excellent equipment. His order of battle includes the use of massive indirect-fire barrages combined with accurate and lethal direct-fire weapons. These direct-fire weapons consist primarily of large bore, high velocity tank cannons and long-range antitank guided missiles. The threat will try to neutralize allied air power with both long-range and short-range air defense weapons, deployed well forward in the battle area. A numerically larger force, the threat believes in using massed forces to overwhelm opponents.

To defeat the threat force, light cavalry crews must have a thorough knowledge of their functional capabilities, use of indirect fire, the techniques of acquiring targets, and the effective use of all crew-served weapons. In addition, light cavalry crews must develop and sustain tactical crew skills that will allow them to maneuver effectively and survive on the battlefield. This combination of crew gunnery and tactical skills is essential for total weapon system proficiency.

Purpose

This manual is designed to provide a systematic way to train light cavalry weapon system proficiency; it may also be used by combat support and combat service support units. It describes light cavalry gunnery principles, methods, and techniques and includes an application of combined gunnery skills in basic, intermediate, and advanced gunnery tables. These tables present a more complete way to train light cavalry crews and sections in gunnery. The tasks, conditions, and standards outlined in the tables should be used to evaluate individual, crew, and section gunnery proficiency.

Scope

This manual outlines light cavalry gunnery tables designed to attain and sustain crew through section gunnery proficiency.

The first nine chapters provide combat training principles, techniques, and exercises for light cavalry crews. Light cavalry gunnery skills and tactical skills are discussed in detail to promote uniformity and to maintain high standards of proficiency. Proper application of these techniques will ensure the most effective use of the weapon system in training or in combat. Descriptions include how to—

- Detect, acquire, identify, and classify targets.
- Select the correct round of ammunition to match the target.

- Use direct-fire techniques.
- Operate machine guns and an explanation of their functions and role during direct-fire engagements.
- Develop a light cavalry gunnery training program.
- Establish new training sites for light cavalry combat training.

The relationship between gunnery and tactics is shown in the following table. The tactical tasks outlined in Appendix B are used with the scout section tables (advanced gunnery tables) in Chapter 10. Integration of the tactical and gunnery tasks maximizes the training effectiveness of the tables.

Table 1-1. Light Cavalry Combat Tables.

GUNNERY TABLES		TACTICAL TASKS	
Provide:	Manipulation training	Provide:	Realistic targets
	Crew duties		Tough acquisition problems
	Standard fire adjustment		Real target signatures
	Day/night firing		Shoot-back targets
	Ammunition selection		Evasive targets (OPFOR)
	Fire commands		Tactical maneuvering
	Real target signatures		Potential to vary vulnerability
			Full 360° range