



Victory Through Training

from CAC-T Deputy Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles Lombardo

Army rolls out new training doctrine FM 7-0 with pivotal changes



Training Management Directorate

The U.S. Army delivered its new training doctrine publication, [Field Manual \(FM\) 7-0, Training](#), on the Army's 246th birthday, June 14, 2021.

In 1779, 242 years ago, Baron von Steuben published the first official training manual of the United States Army, after the Continental Army's crucible training at Valley Forge.

Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles Lombardo said the new FM took about a year and a half to develop and that it is important to the Army as a foundational document.

"We wanted it to be an enduring document," Lombardo said.

Training and Leader Development

FM 7-0 emphasizes the inextricable link between training and leader development. Leaders must invest time and resources to train subordinates. At the same time, training provides one of the best avenues to develop leaders. The experiences gained and lessons learned during training form a solid foundation for effective leadership.

Training Transformation

The new FM 7-0 represents a transformation of the Army's approach to training doctrine, introducing several changes from the previous edition. It is written

in clear and concise language so leaders and Soldiers at all levels can understand and implement the doctrine.

"We tried to streamline it as much as we could, we came up with a very clear and concise base document which is about 25 pages long," said Col. Paul Callahan, Director of the Training Management Directorate. "Then, we included 11 detailed appendices which contain the expanded, how-to details."

Training Management Cycle

One of the most significant changes is the reintroduction of the Training Management Cycle as the core framework for unit training. It replaces the complex operations/planning processes and Mission Command Philosophy as the Army's training mechanism. The Training Management Cycle is the process of identifying training requirements by Planning and Preparation, Execution, and the Evaluation and Assessment of training.

Callahan said the reintroduction of the Training Management Cycle also really helped streamline the new FM.

Leader Roles in Training Process

FM 7-0 also emphasizes the vital role of senior leaders and non-commissioned officers in the training process. Senior leaders develop and publish training guidance to focus the training efforts of their subordinates

and provide the resources necessary to meet training requirements.

Commanders retain the responsibility as the primary trainers of their units. Non-commissioned officers give input to the development of training guidance, the prioritization of tasks, and the development of training schedules. NCOs also prioritize individual and collective tasks for training.

"I think 7-0, as it's written today, really focuses on the quality of training, putting leaders and noncommissioned officers back in charge of the training," Lombardo said.

Callahan said the team also updated the principles of training, adding a new principle called 'Fight to Train.'

"That training principle basically says that it's the commander's duty to fight through distractions and protect training and that it is the higher echelon commander's responsibility to defend their subordinate organizations approved training and underwrite associated risks to lower priority missions," Callahan said.

The changes FM 7-0 introduced were all based on lessons learned and the needs of the Army. It marks a path forward for the Army to continue to strengthen readiness. The Army's long-tradition of training—first established at Valley Forge in 1778—endures and remains focused on building capability to meet the demands in today's complex and evolving operational environments.

Also check out the [Army Training Network \(ATN\)](#). It is an excellent tool to identify training and leader development resources. It provides a single secure gateway to access information, tools, and education to make training and training management more efficient.

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