

## II. Definitions

### A

**assault**C 1. The climax of an attack, closing with the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting. 2. To make a short, violent, but well-ordered attack against a local objective, such as a gun emplacement, a fort, or a machine gun nest. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**assault**C The culmination of an attack which closes with the enemy. (MCRP 5-2A)

**attack**C An offensive action characterized by movement supported by fire with the objective of defeating or destroying the enemy. (FMFRP 0-14)

### B

**battlespace**C All aspects of air, surface, subsurface, land, space, and electromagnetic spectrum which encompass the area of influence and area of interest. (FMFRP 0-14)

**block**C 1. A tactical task assigned to a unit that requires it to deny the enemy access to a given area or to prevent enemy advance in a given direction or an avenue of approach. It may be for a specified time. Units assigned this mission may have to retain terrain and accept decisive engagement. 2. An obstacle effect that integrates fire planning and obstacle effort to stop an attacker on a specific avenue of approach or to prevent an enemy from exiting an engagement area. (MCRP 5-2A)

**breach**C A tactical task where any means available are employed to break through or secure a passage through an enemy defense,

obstacle, minefield, or fortification. (MCRP 5-2A)

**built-up area**C A concentration of structures, facilities, and populations, such as villages, cities, and towns, that forms the economic and cultural focus for the surrounding area. (MCRP 5-2A, modified)

**bypass**C A tactical task that involves maneuvering around an obstacle, position, or enemy force to maintain the momentum of advance. Bypassed obstacles and enemy forces are reported to higher headquarters. (MCRP 5-2A)

### C

**clear**C A tactical task to remove all enemy forces and eliminate organized resistance in an assigned zone, area, or location by destroying, capturing, or forcing the withdrawal of enemy forces such that they cannot interfere with the friendly unit's ability to accomplish its mission. (MCRP 5-2A)

**combat arms**C Units who close with and destroy enemy forces or provide firepower and destructive capabilities on the battlefield. (MCRP 5-2A, modified)

**combat operations center (COC)**C The primary operational agency required to control the tactical operations of a command that employs ground and aviation combat, combat support, and combat service support elements or portions thereof. The combat operations center continually monitors, records, and supervises operations in the name of the commander and includes the

necessary personnel and communications to do the same. (FMFRP 0-14)

**combat service support (CSS)**C The essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to sustain all elements of operating forces in theater at all levels of war. Within the national and theater logistic systems, it includes but is not limited to that support rendered by service forces in ensuring the aspects of supply, maintenance, transportation, health services, and other services required by aviation and ground combat troops to permit those units to accomplish their missions in combat. Combat service support encompasses those activities at all levels of war that produce sustainment to all operating forces on the battlefield. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**combat support (CS)**C Fire support and operational assistance provided to combat elements. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**combat support (CS)**C Units that provide critical combat functions in conjunction with combat arms units to secure victory (MCRP 5-2A, modified).

**command post (CP)**C A unit's or subunit's headquarters where the commander and the staff perform their activities. In combat, a unit's or subunit's headquarters is often divided into echelons; the echelon in which the unit or subunit commander is located or from which such commander operates is called a command post. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**contain**C A tactical task to restrict enemy movement. (MCRP 5-2A)

**cover**C 1. Shelter or protection from enemy observation that reduces the effects of enemy direct and indirect fire. 2. A type of security operation that protects the force from surprise, develops the situation, and gives commanders time and space in which to respond to the enemy's actions. (MCRP 5-2A)

## D

**defend**C A combat operation designed to defeat an attacker and prevent him from achieving his objectives. It employs all means and methods available to prevent, resist, or destroy an enemy attack. Forms of defensive operations are area and mobile. Choices of defensive operations are in-depth and forward. The defensive techniques are defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a strong point. (MCRP 5-2A)

**destroy**C 1. A tactical task to physically render an enemy force combat-ineffective unless it is reconstituted. 2. To render a target so damaged that it cannot function as intended nor be restored to a usable condition without being entirely rebuilt. (MCRP 5-2A)

**disrupt**C A tactical task or obstacle effect that integrates fire planning and obstacle effort to break apart an enemy's formation and tempo, interrupt the enemy's timetable, or cause premature commitment of enemy forces, or the piecemealing of his attack. (MCRP 5-2A)

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**fire support**C Assistance to elements of the Marine air-ground task force engaged with the enemy rendered by other firing units, including (but not limited to) artillery, mortars, naval surface fire support, and offensive air support. (FMFRP 0-14)

**fix**C 1. A tactical task in which actions are taken to prevent the enemy from moving any part of his forces either from a specific location or for a specific period of time by holding or surrounding them to prevent their withdrawal for use elsewhere. 2. A tactical obstacle effect that integrates fire planning and obstacle effort to slow an attacker within a specified areaC normally an engagement area. (MCRP 5-2A)

### H

**helicopterborne operation**C A military action in which combat forces and their equipment maneuver about the battlefield by helicopters or vertical-landed aircraft. Aviation activities are under the control of the aviation combat element commander who is assigned in direct or general support of one or more combat element(s). (FMFRP 0-14)

**hold**C 1. To maintain or retain possession of by force, as a position or an area. 2. In an attack, to exert sufficient pressure to prevent movement or redistribution of enemy forces. (Joint Pub 1-02)

### I

**infiltration**C The movement through or into an area or territory occupied by either friendly or enemy troops or organizations. The movement is made, either by small groups or by individuals, at extended or irregular intervals. When used in connection with the enemy, it infers that contact is avoided. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**isolate**C A tactical task given to a unit to seal off (both physically and psychologically) an enemy from his sources of support, to deny an enemy freedom of movement, and prevent an enemy unit from having contact with other enemy forces. An enemy must not be allowed sanctuary within his present position. (MCRP 5-2A)

### L

**linkup**C An operation wherein two friendly ground forces join together in a hostile area. (FMFRP 0-14)

### M

**Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF)**C A task organization of Marine forces (division, aircraft wing, and service support groups) under a single command and structured to accomplish a specific mission. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT)**C All military actions that are planned and conducted on a topographical complex and its adjacent natural terrain where manmade construction is the dominant feature. It includes combat in cities, which is that portion of MOUT involving house-

to-house and street-by-street fighting in towns and cities (MCRP 5-2A, modified)

**military operations other than war (MOOTW)**—Operations that encompass the use of military capabilities across the range of military operations short of war. These military actions can be applied to complement any combination of the other instruments of national power and occur before, during, and after war. (Joint Pub 1-02)

## N

**neutralize**C 1. To render enemy personnel or material incapable of interfering with a particular operation. 2. To render safe mines, bombs, missiles, and boobytraps. (MCRP 5-2A)

## O

**occupy**C A tactical task in which a force moves onto an objective, key terrain, or other man-made or natural terrain area without opposition, and controls that entire area. (MCRP 5-2A)

## P

**peace enforcement**C Application of military force, or the threat of its use, normally pursuant to international authorization, to compel compliance with resolutions or sanctions designed to maintain or restore peace and order. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**peacekeeping**C Military operations undertaken with the consent of all major parties to a dispute, designed to monitor and facilitate implementation of an agreement (ceasefire, truce, or other such agreement) and support diplomatic efforts to reach a long-term political settlement. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**protect**C A tactical task to prevent observation of or engagement or interference with, a force or location. (MCRP 5-2A)

**pursuit**C An offensive operation designed to catch or cut off a hostile force attempting to escape, with the aim of destroying it. (Joint Pub 1-02)

## R

**reduce**C 1. A tactical task to gain control over an enemy position or objective. 2. A task to create lanes through or over an obstacle sufficient to allow the attacking force to accomplish its mission. (MCRP 5-2A)

**retain**C A tactical task to occupy and hold a terrain feature to ensure it is free of enemy occupation or use. (MCRP 5-2A)

**rules of engagement (ROE)**C Directives issued by competent military authority which delineate the circumstances and limitations under which United States forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered. (Joint Pub 1-02)

## S

**screen**C A task to maintain surveillance, provide early warning to the main body, or

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impede, destroy, and harass enemy reconnaissance within its capability without becoming decisively engaged. (MCRP 5-2A)

**search**C A systematic reconnaissance of a defined area, so that all parts of the area have passed within visibility. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**secure**C A tactical task to gain possession of a position or terrain feature, with or without force, and to deploy in a manner which prevents its destruction or loss to enemy action. The attacking force may or may not have to physically occupy the area. (MCRP 5-2A)

**seize**C To clear a designated area and obtain control of it. (FMFRP 0-14)

**suppression**C A tactical task to employ direct or indirect fires, electronic attack, or smoke on enemy personnel, weapons, or equipment to prevent or degrade enemy fires and observation of the friendly forces. (FMFRP 0-14)

## T

**terrorism**C The calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological. (Joint Pub 1-02)