

PREFACE

This manual describes the doctrinal and tactical employment of the tank and mechanized infantry battalion task force on the AirLand Battlefield. FM 71-2 is the doctrinal foundation for and governs the development of equipment, training, and structure as pertains to tank and mechanized infantry battalions.

This manual reflects and supports the Army's AirLand Battle doctrine as stated in FM 100-5. It emphasizes synchronization of the battalion task force fight through the integrated planning and coordinated employment of all combat support and combat service support assets. The tank and mechanized infantry battalion task force is organized and equipped for combat specifically to destroy enemy forces by mounted combat or by a combination of mounted and dismounted combat.

This manual is written for the battalion task force commander, his staff, company commanders, organic specialty platoon leaders, and supporting units. Readers should be familiar with FM 100-5, FM 101-5, FM 101-5-1, FM 71-3, and FM 71-1. Tactical principles are provided to guide the effective employment of the battalion task force. Examples are provided to illuminate principles, not to serve as prescriptive responses to factual situations. The principles and tactics in this manual have been validated over time through the experiences of countless units and individual soldiers.

*This publication implements the following international agreements: QSTAG 506 and 567; STANAG 2014 (Edition 5); STANAG 2041 (Edition 3), paragraph 6; STANAG 2082 (Edition 5), paragraphs 5a-c and 6, and Annex A, and STANAG 2129 (Edition 3), paragraph 6c(1).

*Throughout this manual, the term "heavy force" should be changed to "mechanized infantry and armored force."

*The proponents of this publication are US Army Infantry School and US Army Armor School. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905; or Commandant, US Army Armor School, ATTN: ATSB-SBD-D, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121-5211.

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