

MILITARY OPERATIONS ON URBANIZED TERRAIN (MOUT) UNDER RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS

Across the operational continuum, and especially during OOTW, commanders can expect to encounter restrictions on their use of firepower during MOUT. Basic doctrinal principles remain the same, but the tactics, techniques, and procedures may have to be modified to stay within established rules of engagement and to avoid unnecessary collateral damage.

G-1. HIGH-INTENSITY, PRECISION, AND SURGICAL MOUT

Infantrymen conduct MOUT under many varying conditions across the spectrum of conflict. These conditions range from large-scale, high-intensity combat, through isolated actions against armed belligerents mixed with noncombatants, to peace operations that may resemble dangerous police work more than traditional combat in built-up areas. Changes from high-intensity MOUT to precision or surgical MOUT are a result of significant alterations in the existing conditions of METT-T and of the imposition of overriding strategic political considerations. These alterations normally require that units modify the way they fight in urban areas. Unfortunately, there are no clear boundaries that delineate the change from high-intensity to precision to surgical MOUT. These terms are merely expressions used to describe the US force's degree of sensitivity to political considerations during the operation being conducted.

a. **High-Intensity MOUT.** Infantry units must be prepared at all times to conduct violent combat under conditions of high-intensity MOUT. These conditions are combat actions against a determined enemy occupying prepared positions or conducting planned attacks. High-intensity MOUT requires the coordinated application of the full combat power of the joint combined arms team. An infantry unit's mission is normally to seize, clear, or defend urban terrain, engaging and defeating the enemy by the use of whatever force is necessary. Although the changing world situation may have made high-intensity MOUT less likely, it represents the high end of the combat spectrum, and units must be trained for it. High-intensity MOUT is the most stressful of all operations in urban areas and can be casualty-intensive for both sides. Even though the full integrated firepower of the joint combined arms team is brought to bear on the enemy, commanders must still make attempts to limit unnecessary destruction and casualties among noncombatants.

b. **Precision MOUT.** Infantry units of all types must routinely expect to operate under conditions of precision MOUT, especially during OOTW. Under precision MOUT conditions, either the enemy is thoroughly mixed with the noncombatants or political considerations require that the ROE be significantly more restrictive than under high-intensity MOUT conditions.

