

Space Boarding Operations

CONTENTS

	Section
PREFACE	0-1
 CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
Definitions.....	1-1
Background and Historical Context.....	1-2
 CHAPTER 2: SHIP TO SHIP BOARDING OPERATIONS	
Purpose.....	2-1
Overview of boarding operations.....	2-2
Pre-Operational Activities.....	2-3
The Five-Paragraph Field Order.....	2-4
Close Quarters Combat Planning Considerations.....	2-5
Close Quarters Combat General Principals.....	2-6
Close Quarters Combat Training Principals.....	2-7
 CHAPTER 3: TRAINING — SHOOT SHIP	
Purpose.....	3-1
Squad Level Clearing Techniques.....	3-2
Station 1: Individual and Team Task/Technique Trainer.....	3-3
Station 2: Squad and Platoon Task/Technique Trainer.....	3-4
 CHAPTER 4: TRAINING — BREACH FACILITY	
Purpose.....	4-1
Description.....	4-2
 APPENDIX:	
Excerpts From USSMC FM 7-23: Zero-Gee Combat Operations	

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release, distribution is unlimited.

*This publication supersedes USSMCFM 7-22, 30 September 2169.

PREFACE

This Field Manual provides training standards for spaceborne boarding operations. It provides guidance for leaders conducting training for spaceborne assault operations within the confines of ship-to-ship boarding operations. The focus of this Field Manual is on effective usage of the orbital mock training facilities: Shoot Ship (SH), Breach Facility (BF), and a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF). Although the primary focus of this manual is on the three primary orbital facilities, with modification it can also support spaceborne training in nonstandard or planetary facilities.

The proponent of this publication is the United States Space Marine Infantry School. Submit changes for improving this publication on USSMC Form 19/2 directly to Commandant, USSMC Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-OT, Camp Puller, New Quantico, Virginia, United States of America, Earth (Sol 3) 21390/31 -2304.

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

Point of contact for this Field Manual is:

Colonel Oliver S. Cass
HQs, USSMC Infantry School, Camp Puller
Subspace link: 11-29987-02934 — code Alpha Six Xray
Implant router: OliverC, USSMC
IntraSys SecureLink: CassO, LtCol, USSMC

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

“In peace prepare for war, in war prepare for peace. The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin. Hence under no circumstances can it be neglected.”

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

1-1 DEFINITIONS

The following includes some definitions of space-borne boarding operations:

a. **Full Spectrum Boarding Operations.** Full spectrum boarding operations (FSBO) include the procedures needed to conduct successful boarding operation of enemy combatant men-of-war. Full spectrum operations generally include detailed analysis of the enemy, a detailed boarding plan, and specific operational goals (capture, scuttle, intelligence collection, false flag modification, etc.). Full spectrum operations are usually large in scale, and can include more than one friendly operational element. *Full spectrum operations are inherently joint in nature.* Any full spectrum operation will include elements of Special Operations Forces — usually under the command of the United States Special Operations Space Forces (USSOSF), Naval forces, and, in rare instances, the United States Army. This manual will focus on low intensity boarding operations (LIBO) as defined in para 1-1b.

b. **Low Intensity Boarding Operations.** LIBO operations are defined as small unit boarding operations *not inherently joint in nature.* LIBO operations are usually conducted and coordinated by a single man-of-war and her compliment of Sailors and Marines. In rare instances, commanders may choose to use “wolf pack” tactics and coordinate small unit combat operations at the local level. This manual will concentrate on LIBO.

1-2 BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following information places this Field Manual in proper context.

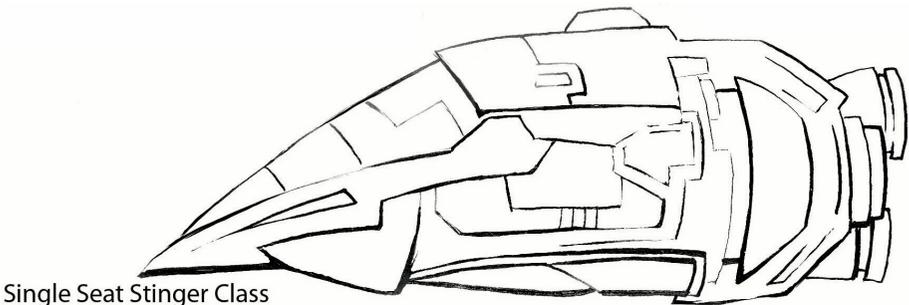
a. The pre-War of Desperation (WoD) years, 2035 - 2067.

(1) Pre-War of Desperation. Prior to the War of Desperation, the United States, as well as other major powers (e.g., the Chinese Consortium (CC), The Islamic Pact (IP), the European Union (EU)) were engaged in intraplanetary economic, religious, and military competition, with little time spent on deep space exploration. The organization once known as the “United Nations” was discredited with its repeated failures in brokering a lasting peace among New Zion (formerly Israel), the Islamic Pact, and the United States. The UN’s ultimate demise was in 2067, upon commencement of

hostilities in the War of Desperation, and the subsequent cut-off of all funding of the UN from the United States. The economic decline of the United States due to significant unfair economic competition from the Chinese Consortium, and continued military involvement within the confines of IP territory, resulted in a significant reduction of US funding for a significant deep space capability; however, visionary Marine officers continued in their quest of a small USSMC force — primarily to blunt the rapid expansion of CC merchant activity. The early pre-WoD USSMC force was large enough to protect US national economic and military interests by protecting space lanes of communication (SLCs) to US economic and military space outposts. It was not, however, adequate to stave off the WoD.

(2) The United States. In the decades leading up to the War of Desperation, the United States was known as the “world’s policeman.” Among other conflicts, it was embroiled in a continuous war of attrition with the Islamic Pact since the First Persian Gulf War in 1990. Flawed US foreign policy, as well as the aggressive growth of the Chinese Consortium, resulted in a United States weakened both economically and militarily. Nonetheless, the United States had the most capable military among the Earth’s major powers. Economically, US industry developed the first commercial space fleet — protected by four US men-of-war. The US experience in the IP wars, as well as countless other small skirmishes, resulted in a battle-hardened military capable of conducting both low- and high-intensity operations. While the United States was still a major world power; however, the writing was on the wall that it needed to end its never ending conflict with the Islamic Pact and concentrate on competing with the economic threat posed by the Chinese Consortium and the European Union. US Space Fleet order-of-battle (OB) prior to the War of Desperation:

Ship Type	Amount
Light Freighter (15,000 ton) <i>Seattle</i> Class	8
Heavy Freighter (24,000 ton) <i>Roosevelt</i> Class	3
Light Cruiser (1,400 ton) <i>Los Angeles</i> Class	2



Single Seat Stinger Class

USSMC 7-22: Space Boarding Operations