

**Training**  
**MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT TRAINING**

---

**History.** This is the second printing of FORSCOM Regulation 350-870, dated 1 December 1985.

**Summary.** This regulation explains military history detachment training requirements. It outlines a 3-year training cycle and preparation of unit training programs.

**Applicability.** This plan applies to the Active Army, the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and the Army National Guard (ARNG). It applies to personnel occupying the officer and enlisted positions within a military history detachment. It also clarifies information for subordinate command headquarters to which military history detachments may be attached for annual training or are affiliated with under unit training associations or WARTRACE.

**Supplementation.** Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited.

**Changes.** Changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Command, Control, Communications and Computers, FORSCOM. Users will destroy changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

**Suggested improvements.** This plan was developed by the Military History Office, Headquarters, Forces Command. Comments and suggested improvements may be sent to CDR, FORSCOM, ATTN: AFSG-MH, 1777 Hardee Avenue, SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062.

**Restrictions.** Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL: JOHN M. PICKLER  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Chief of Staff

SIGNED//  
WILLIAM H. RUSS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for  
Command, Control, Communications  
and Computers

**DISTRIBUTION** is intended for command level C.

**Copies furnished:**

HQ TRADOC, HQDA (DAMO), HQDA (DAMH), NGB, USARC, Special: Military History Detachments, HQ FORSCOM (AFCI-A) (record copy).

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2-2. FORSCOM Command Historian</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Introduction</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1-1. Purpose</b>	<b>2</b>	<i>Policy and Procedure</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>1-2. References</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3-1. Continuing Training Program</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1-3. Explanation of Terms</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1-4. Objectives</b>	<b>2</b>	<i>Sample Training Schedule for Assistance Visit to MHD Home Station</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>APPENDIX B</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Responsibilities</i>	<b>2</b>		
<b>2-1. DA Chief of Military History</b>	<b>2</b>		

*Sample Training Schedule for MHD Training at FORSCOM HQ* 6

**APPENDIX C** 8

*Agenda for Total Army MHD Training Course* 8

**APPENDIX D** 9

*Sample Schedule for MHD Training at Combat Training Centers* 9

---

**Chapter 1**  
*Introduction*

**1-1. Purpose**

This plan outlines the training of Reserve Component military history detachments (MHD).

**1-2. References**

**AR 870-5** (dtd 12 July 1993, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies, and Procedures)

**Final Draft Version, Military FORSCOM ARTEP 20-17-MTP** Final Draft Version, (dtd February 1998, Military History Detachment)

**1-3. Explanation of Terms**

a. Individual training. Individual training to perform duties of the military occupational specialties (MOS) that are found in MHD Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE).

b. Military historian position. Each detachment is authorized a military historian with MOS 01A005X. The minimum education requirement for this position is a master of arts degree in history or a related discipline.

c. Military history detachments commander. The MHD commander, as used in this plan, refers to the commanding officer of an MHD organized under TOE 20017C000.

d. Staff training. Military history staff training prepares MHD personnel for their responsibility of advising the commander, commander's staff, and other personnel on their military history responsibilities.

e. Unit training. The MHD unit training prepares assigned personnel for their mobilization assignments.

**1-4. Objectives**

The objectives of MHD unit and staff training are to:

a. Develop and maintain the proficiency of the MHD to perform its primary mission of collecting information, interviewing, and saving documents for future historians to use in writing finished products.

b. Develop an MHD that will meet its mobilization mission requirements with a minimum of post-mobilization training.

c. Develop and maintain military proficiency in individuals assigned to MHDs.

**Chapter 2**  
*Responsibilities*

**2-1. DA Chief of Military History**

The DA Chief of Military History provides staff supervision over Army history field operations, including doctrinal and organizational (MTOE) pronency for military history detachments (MHDs).

**2-2. FORSCOM Command Historian**

The FORSCOM Command Historian is responsible for staff and technical supervision of MHDs assigned to FORSCOM and for supervising and monitoring the training of ARNG MHDs.

a. Staff assistance visits to home stations. When and as conditions may require, visits to MHDs will be made to evaluate the effectiveness of staff and unit training. These staff assistance visits also present additional training opportunities for the MHDs. The MHD-specific ARTEP tasks covered during these staff assistance visits are tailored to the desires of the unit. A sample schedule for this type of assistance visit is at **Appendix A**.

b. For USAR MHDs, these staff visits will be coordinated with the appropriate numbered Army and the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) and the respective Reserve Support Command. In the case of the ARNG MHDs, staff visits will be coordinated with the National Guard Bureau and respective State adjutant general.

c. The MHD training at FORSCOM Headquarters. The MHDs which are newly activated, or MHDs which have experienced a

100% personnel turnover, may train at the FORSCOM Headquarters. This training must be coordinated with the FORSCOM Command Historian. This three-day training program will cover every MHD ARTEP task. A sample schedule for this training is at **Appendix B**.

### **Chapter 3** ***Policy and Procedure***

#### **3-1. Continuing Training Program**

Unit training programs consist of individual training, unit training and annual training.

a. Individual training.

(1) Individuals assigned to a MHD will become MOS qualified.

(2) Individuals assigned to a MHD will achieve proficiency in operating TOE equipment.

b. Unit training. This prepares the MHD for mobilization and their mission as field historical detachments in support of commands in combat, from the theater Army level down to and including separate brigade or Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) levels. The MHD must be able to:

(a) Know where and how to secure pertinent factual data within the supported command to supplement the written record.

(b) Prepare professional quality operational historical records (narrative, oral, and photographic) of combat operations.

(c) Advise tactical commanders on the historical adequacy and maintenance of operational reports, journals, and historical files.

(d) Add to or establish historical sections, as directed, from theater Army down to separate brigades or ACRs.

(e) In the absence of an Army Historian at its assigned headquarters, assume the responsibilities of that position.

c. Annual training.

(1) Forces Command and the Center of Military History (CMH) have agreed on a 3-year cycle of training that should coincide with the 3-year command tour for MHD commanders. The 3-year training cycle will consist of a one-week Total Army MHD Training Course for the initial year of training, a rotation at a combat training center during the second year, and AT with the respective unit training association affiliate or WARTRACE unit in a major exercise during the third year.

## **FORSCOM Regulation 350-870**

(2) A one-week Total Army MHD Training Course of specialized training for MHDs is conducted by the FORSCOM Historian as the first part of the cycle. Enrollment at least once every three years is mandatory for USAR MHDs and invitational for ARNG MHDs. The course will be conducted each year because all MHD command tours do not coincide. The MHDs attend the course as units; however, individual attendance may be coordinated on a case-by-case basis. During this course, units will train on every task in the MHD ARTEP manual. The agenda for this course is at **Appendix C**.

(3) The AT in the second year will be conducted at a combat training center. Ideally, the MHD will work with a unit training association affiliate or WARTRACE unit at the combat training center. It is recommended that the AT coincide with the final portion of the unit rotation at the CTC. A sample schedule for participation in a combat training center rotation is at **Appendix D**.

(4) The AT in the final year of the 3-year training cycle will be mission related. The MHDs should perform this AT with their unit training association affiliate or WARTRACE unit. Every attempt should be made to schedule AT to ensure participation in a command post exercise, field training exercise, or joint training exercise involving battalion-sized units or higher. For maximum training value, training schedulers at all levels and components should attempt to schedule the MHD for exercise orientation, preliminary background, and early operational efforts during the first week of AT. The MHD may then use the second week to complete its collection effort of the material pertaining to the exercise. Technical and general staff assistance in all aspects of MHD scheduling, training, and evaluation may be obtained by the pertinent historical officers or training officers of the training affiliate or other AC major combat organization from the Command Historian, Forces Command.

d. The MHD Historical Services. The assignment of other research, writing, and command administrative projects should be

permitted only when the overall readiness condition and operational efficiency of the respective MHD is such that it can readily assume this additional unprogrammed burden. Such assignments must be coordinated with the FORSCOM Command Historian. In particular, MHDs will not be used to prepare Annual Command Histories or Annual Historical Summaries.

e. Training Affiliation. Unit Training Association is set up in FORSCOM Reg 350-4. This regulation bases training association on geographic proximity of units. Unit training associations ensure the WARTRACE unit and the supporting MHD receive the fullest possible advantages from field historical operations.

f. Preparation of Unit Training Programs.

(1) The MHD commanders will develop their training programs based on the 3-year cycle and their Mission Essential Task List.

(2) The DA Chief of Military History may issue invitations to MHD members to attend the biannual worldwide U.S. Army Historians' Conference, as well as other symposia, seminars, and conferences. Due to the official nature of these events and the opportunities they provide for individual self-development and growth, maximum attendance is encouraged.

g. Attendance of MHD personnel at symposia, seminars, and conferences sponsored by other services, government agencies, civilian groups, foundations, and educational institutions in the field of military history may be authorized by controlling subordinate headquarters.

h. Preparation for overseas movement Readiness requirements for overseas deployment apply to the equipment and supplies of MHDs as well as to personnel and training. Personnel and equipment must be ready to carry out the unit's MTOE mission immediately upon arrival in the objective area. The Office of the FORSCOM Historian will provide assistance regarding equipment and common table of allowances requirements on request.

**APPENDIX A**

***Sample Training Schedule for Assistance Visit to MHD Home Station***

**Day 1**

- 0700 Military History Detachment Operations and TO&E
- 0800 Task 870-2-100, Shoot, Develop, and Select Photographs
- 0900 Task 870-5-003, Advise on historical properties
- 1000 Task 870-5-007, Preserve Historically Significant Documents
- 1100 Task 870-5-005, Prepare Material for Transfer / Retirement
- 1200 Break
- 1300 Task 870-5-004, Prepare and Conduct Oral History / After-Action Interviews
- Preparation of Question List  
Pre-Interview Tasks
- 1600 Interviews
- 1700 Post-Interview Tasks
- 1800 Task 870-2-101, Establish a Historical Reference Service (PART I)  
Use of Internet in Military History Detachment Operations  
Introduction  
Center of Military History Links

**Day 2**

- 0700 Gulf War Declassification Brief  
(What happens when we do not manage historical records carefully)
- 0800 Task 870-5-001, Advise on the historical adequacy of journals and journal files and other historical records (Includes Practical Exercise)
- 0900 Task 870-5-002, Advise on the historical adequacy of unit reports
- 1000 Task 870-2-103, Identification of Special Tactics, Techniques, Expedients, and Improvisations in Short Studies of Immediate Value (Introduction to the Center for Army Lessons Learned)

**FORSCOM Regulation 350-870**

**APPENDIX B**

***Sample Training Schedule for MHD Training at FORSCOM HQ***

**Day 1**

1200		Arrival at Atlanta Airport 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD meets unit at gate.
1230		Lunch at Local Restaurant
1330		Check in at Fort McPherson Billeting
1400	44th MHD	Military History Detachment Operations and TO&E
1500	FC Historian	Task 870-2-102, Prepare or Supervise the Preparation of Historical Monographs
1515	FC Historian	Task 870-5-006, Supervise Preparation of the Command Report
1530	44th MHD	Task 870-2-100, Shoot, Develop, and Select Photographs
1630		Release

**Day 2**

0800	FC Historian	Task 870-2-105, Supervise / Conduct Unit Battle Analysis Seminar (optional) Film: "The Staff Ride"
0900		Depart Building 168, Battle of Atlanta Seminar Drive-by 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD coordinates van with HHC 3d Army / USAG
0930	USARC Hist.	Task 870-2-104, Supervise / Conduct Unit Staff Ride Kennesaw Staff Ride Uniform for Staff Ride: BDU
1200		Lunch from fast food restaurant delivered to Kennesaw Mountain
1230		Depart Kennesaw Mountain area to return to Fort McPherson

1300 FC Historian	Task 870-5-004, Prepare and Conduct Oral History/After-Action Interviews
1400 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Preparation for Oral History Interviews Uniform for Interviews: Class B
1500 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Interview by Detachment Member
1600 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Interview by Detachment Member
1700 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Post-Interview Tasks
1800	Release

**Day 3**

0745 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Use of Internet in Military History Detachment Operations
0830 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-5-001, Advise on the historical adequacy of journals and journal files and other historical records (Includes Practical Exercise)
0900 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-5-002, Advise on the historical adequacy of unit reports
0930 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-5-007, Preserve Historically Significant Documents
1000 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-5-005, Prepare Material for Transfer / Retirement (Includes Practical Exercise)
1030 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-2-103, Identification of Special Tactics, Techniques, Expedients, and Improvisations in Short Studies of Immediate Value (Introduction to the Center for Army Lessons Learned)
1100 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-5-003, Advise on historical properties (Includes Practical Exercise)
1130 44 <sup>th</sup> MHD	Task 870-2-101, Establish a Historical Reference Service
1200	Transportation to Airport
1300	Departure from Atlanta Airport

**FORSCOM Regulation 350-870**

**APPENDIX C**

***Agenda for Total Army MHD Training Course***

<b>Day 1 Sunday</b>	Arrival Registration Social
<b>Day 2 Monday</b>	Physical Training Role and Mission of the MHD Task # 870-5-003 Advise on Historical Properties Task # 870-2-101 Establish a Historical Reference Service Task # 870-5-006 Supervise Preparation of the Command Report Task # 870-2-102 Prepare or Supervise a Historical Monograph Task # 870-2-103 Identify Tactics and Techniques in Short Studies
<b>Day 3 Tuesday</b>	Physical Training Gulf War Records Problems Records Management Task # 870-5-001 Advise on the Historical Adequacy of Journals... Task # 870-5-002 Advise on the Historical Adequacy of Reports... Task # 870-5-005 Prepare Material for Transfer / Retirement Task # 870-5-007 Preserve Historically Significant Documents Task # 870-2-100 Shoot, Develop, and Select Photographs Task # 870-2-105 Supervise or Conduct Battle Analysis Seminar
<b>Day 4 Wednesday</b>	Staff Ride to Civil War Battlefield Task # 870-2-104 Supervise or Conduct Unit Staff Ride Photographs Practical Exercise
<b>Day 5 Thursday</b>	Physical Training Task # 870-5-004 Prepare and Conduct Oral History Interviews Building a Question List Transcribing an Oral History Interview Interviews of local military personnel / veterans
<b>Day 6 Friday</b>	MHD Specific Lane Training
<b>Day 7 Saturday</b>	After Action Review TAM Discussion and Distribution
<b>Departure</b>	

**APPENDIX D**

***Sample Schedule for MHD Training at Combat Training Centers***

**Day 1**

**Day 1** Rotational MHD and Observer Controllers arrive at CTC  
Rotational MHD receives CTC Theater Historian orientation, missions, and guidance

**Day 2** Rotational MHD links up with Tactical Rotational Unit

**Day 3** Tactical Rotational Unit completes CTC Training phase  
Rotational MHD begins interviews of Tactical Rotational Unit

**Day 4** Rotational MHD advises Tactical Rotational Unit units on records

**Day 5** Rotational MHD completes interviews of Tactical Rotational Unit

**Day 6** Rotational MHD prepares report for Cdr, Tactical Rotational Unit

**Day 7** Rotational MHD out-briefs Cdr, Tactical Rotational Unit and CTC Theater Historian

**Day 8** Rotational MHD and Observer Controllers depart CTC

**NOTE:** The Rotational MHD must produce the following items during training at a CTC:

1. Cassette tapes of 15 oral history interviews ranging from senior leaders to junior NCOs and covering all major subordinate elements.
2. Approximately 100 photographs of key personnel, key terrain, and critical equipment (to supplement the interviews).
3. A written report on the historical activities conducted during the rotation.