

## ART 7.2 Conduct Defensive Operations

Defensive operations are combat operations conducted to defeat an enemy attack, gain time, economize forces, and develop conditions favorable for offensive or stability operations. The defense alone normally cannot achieve overarching mission objectives. However, it can create conditions for a counteroffensive that allows Army forces to regain the initiative. Defensive operations can also establish a protective barrier behind which stability operations can progress. Defensive operations counter enemy offensive operations. They defeat attacks, destroying as much of the attacking enemy force as possible. They also preserve control over land, resources, and populations. Defensive operations retain terrain, guard populations, and protect critical capabilities. They can be used to gain valuable time and economize forces to allow execution of offensive tasks elsewhere. Three tasks are associated with the defense: mobile defense, area defense, and retrograde. Defending commanders combine the three tasks to fit the situation. (FM 3-0) (USACAC)

NO.	Scale	Measure
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### Supporting Collective Tasks:

Task No.	Title	Proponent	Echelon
05-1-0015	Fight as Infantry	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Battalion
07-6-1028	Conduct a Defense (Battalion - Brigade)	07 - Infantry (Collective)	Brigade