

### ART 1.6.1.3 Conduct Gap Crossing Operations

A gap crossing operation is a combined arms operation to project combat power across a linear obstacle. The obstacle is linear in that it creates a line crossing all or a significant portion of the area of operations. The obstacle can be wet gap (water obstacle) or dry gap that is too wide to overcome by selfbridging. The nature of the obstacle differentiates a gap crossing from a breaching operation. A wet gap crossing (river crossing) is also unique because the water obstacle is significantly large enough to prevent normal ground maneuver. A gap crossing generally requires special planning and support. Mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available, civil considerations factors dictate the type of crossing (hasty, deliberate, or retrograde). Gap crossing generally includes preparing access and degress routes, completing a hydrographic survey (underwater obstacle detection or reduction), employing crossing means (bridging and rafts), and operating an engineer regulating point if required. This task is measured against a river crossing, the most difficult standard of gap crossing operation. Crossing fundamentals include surprise, extensive preparation, a flexible plan, traffic control, organization, and speed. Gap crossings may be conducted in support of combat maneuver or in support of lines of communication. (FM 3-90.12) (USAES)

Note: The engineer bridge, raft, and assault boat systems percentages in this task apply to the individual ribbon bridge bays and rafts, and to individual assault boats and not to a ribbon or assault bridge set as a whole.

NO.	Scale	Measure
01	Yes/No	Unit accomplished gap crossing by time specified in order.
02	Time	That the gap or obstacle delays friendly force movement.
03	Time	To conduct area reconnaissance of the terrain surrounding the gap.
04	Time	To plan the gap crossing.
05	Time	For staff to disseminate data concerning the gap to subordinate units, higher headquarters, and laterally after determination.

06	Time	For underwater reconnaissance to be performed by dive team.
07	Time	To move engineer bridging equipment to the crossing site.
08	Time	To establish conditions necessary for success, such as suppressing enemy systems overwatching the river, breaching minefields and other obstacles barring access to the river banks, and preparing access and egress routes.
09	Time	To emplace and construct crossing assets.
10	Time	To complete gap crossing.
11	Percent	Of crossing unit that has moved to the far shore of the gap.
12	Percent	Of engineer bridge, raft, and assault boat systems that are mission capable.
13	Percent	Of crossing area seeded with obstacles, if conducting a retrograde crossing.
14	Number	Of bridges and crossing sites established.
15	Number	Of engineer bridge, raft, and assault boat systems that are mission capable.
16	Number	Of friendly casualties due to accidents and enemy action during the river crossing.
17	Number	Of obstacles emplaced in the crossing area, if conducting a retrograde crossing.
18	Rate	Per hour that personnel, tactical, and combat vehicles can cross the river.

### Supporting Collective Tasks:

Task No.	Title	Proponent	Echelon
05-1-0024	Control a Hasty Gap Crossing	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Battalion
05-3-0606	Conduct an Assault Boat Crossing	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Platoon
05-3-0622	Conduct Rafting Operations	05 - Engineers	Platoon

		(Collective)	
05-3-1006	Construct a Link-Reinforced Medium-Girder Bridge (MGB)	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Platoon
05-3-1007	Emplace a Dry Support Bridge (DSB)	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Platoon
05-5-1007	Employ a Rapidly Emplaced Bridge (REBS)	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Team (TOE)
05-6-0640	Plan Gap Crossing Operations	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Brigade
07-1-1054	Conduct a Water Crossing	07 - Infantry (Collective)	Battalion
07-6-1091	Conduct a Gap Crossing (Battalion - Brigade)	07 - Infantry (Collective)	Brigade
17-2-0332	Conduct a Gap Crossing (Platoon-Company)	17 - Armor (Collective)	Company
17-5-5755	Cross a Water Obstacle in a M1-Series Tank	17 - Armor (Collective)	Team (TOE)
17-5-5756	Cross a Water Obstacle in a Mobile Gun System Vehicle	17 - Armor (Collective)	Team (TOE)
19-1-1101	Coordinate Military Police Support to Gap-Crossing Operations	19 - Military Police (Collective)	Battalion
19-2-1101	Perform Military Police Support to Gap-Crossing	19 - Military Police (Collective)	Company
19-3-1101	Provide Military Police Support to a Gap-Crossing	19 - Military Police (Collective)	Platoon
19-6-1101	Plan MP Support to Gap-Crossing BCT PM	19 - Military Police (Collective)	Brigade