

Complex Terrain

The growth of crowded, poorly governed, or lawless areas, particularly in and around the world's littorals, will confront future commanders with the need to consider complex terrain. Complex terrain adds informational and human aspects of the battlespace to the traditional geo-physical factors. Our opponents have learned that fighting in complex terrain offers opportunities to undercut our advantages in technology, mounted maneuver, and firepower. Collateral damage in highly urbanized areas will be difficult to avoid. Densely populated areas with constricting topography and poor infrastructure will make vehicular and aerial movement readily observable and easily disrupted. Urban areas will also challenge our ability to find cover and concealment and achieve surprise.