

MISSISSIPPI ARMED FORCES MUSEUM

CAMP SHELBY

Welcome to Wargaming

In wargaming, a battle typically has two applications. In the first use, it is used to mimic a battle that has not yet occurred. Wargames of this type help real military commanders understand potential battlefield problems and logistical requirements before actual men and material are employed and expended.

In the second form of wargaming, historical battles are recreated in miniature to discover what happened. Lessons regarding what went wrong or right occur. Players also gain a perspective of the capabilities of various organizations and pieces of equipment. By analyzing past battles, participants learn what could have been done differently to change the outcome. Learning from events in the past helps avoid the same mistakes in the present.

Wargame participants and planners must be able to comprehend the game scale and game mechanics. When looking at a terrain board or game table, the players must be able to convert the scales of time, distance, and unit capabilities represented, to have a chance at winning.

Civilian wargamers often select a published set of rules which provides all of the game scale information. In addition to the game scale, technical information regarding unit capabilities is provided. All gamers are governed by one set of rules that replicate actual capabilities of units given the game scale being used.

Combat resolution is solved with mathematics probability values and a random variable. A shooting solution is arrived at by asking three questions: what is the range to the target for the firing unit, what is the firing unit actually doing at the time it fires, and what is the target information? Once these questions have been referenced on the game charts, a die is rolled that will conclude the fire's effects to the target.

In short, everyone involved in wargaming is learning and continually evolving the way in which he/she thinks. The interactive nature of the wargame provides a constantly changing battlefield where an opponent is constantly attempting to defeat your thinking.