

U.S. ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY (BSNCOC)

W106

JUN 99

DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS

PRERESIDENT TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE

WAR FIGHTERS



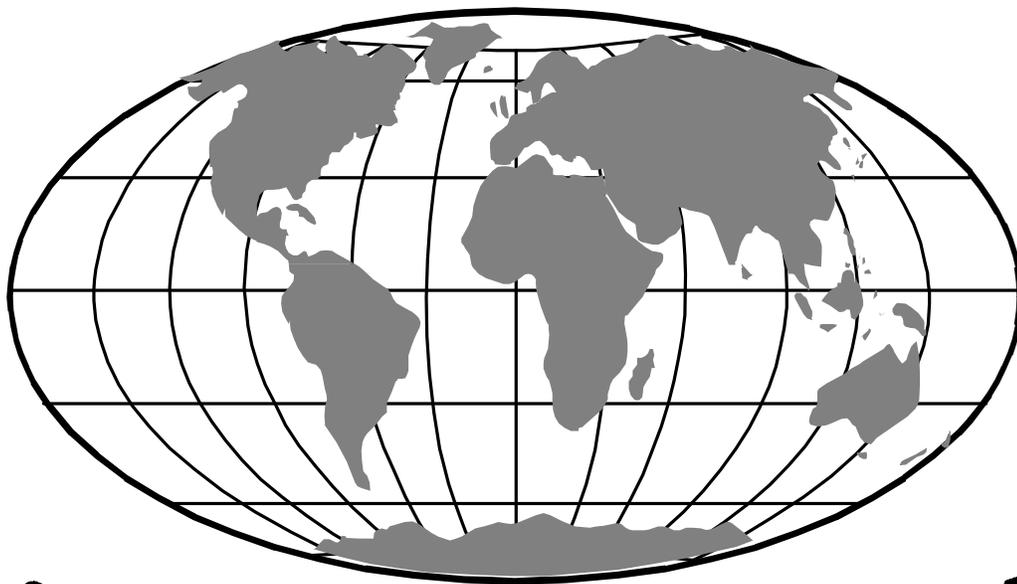
Sergeant Major



Master Sergeant



Sergeant First Class



Staff Sergeant

OF THE 21ST CENTURY

PRERESIDENT TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE

TSP Number/ Title	W106 Defensive Operations
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**This TSP
Contains**

The following table list the material included in this TSP:

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**Gender
Disclaimer**

Unless otherwise stated, the masculine gender of pronouns refers to both men and women in this publication

SECTION I ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**Task(s)
Trained**

This lesson trains the tasks listed in the following table

Task Number:	None.
Task Title:	Assist in the planning of a defensive operation.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standards:	In accordance with FM 71-2, FM 71-3, FM 100-5, and the material provided in this Training Support Package.

**Tasks(s)
Reinforced**

This lesson reinforces the task(s) listed in the following table:

Task Number	Task Title
878-400-5ABR	Apply current tactical and operational doctrine.
878-400-5ABT	Plan brigade tactical operations.
878-400-5ABS	Plan battalion/task force operations.

Prerequisite Lessons None

Clearance and Access There is no security clearance or access requirement for this lesson.

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References The following table lists the reference(s) for this lesson:

Number	Title	Date	Para No.	Additional Information
FM 71-2 w/Change 1	The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Battalion Task Force	Aug 94	NA	NA
FM 71-3	The Armored and Mechanized Infantry Brigade	Jan 96	NA	NA
FM 100-5	Operations	Jun 93	NA	NA

Equipment Required None

Materials Required None

Safety Requirements None

Risk Assessment Level Low

Environmental Considerations None

Lesson Approval The following individuals have reviewed and approved this lesson for publication and incorporation into the Battle Staff NCO Course:

Name/Signature	Rank	Title	Date Signed
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SECTION II INTRODUCTION

Terminal Learning Objective

At the completion of this lesson, you will

Action:	Assist in the planning of a defensive operation.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	IAW FM 71-2, FM 71-3, and FM 100-5.

Evaluation

Prior to being enrolled into Phase II of the Battle Staff Course you must take a Phase I Exam that includes questions on material from this lesson. You must correctly answer 70% of the multiple choice questions to receive a "GO" on the Phase I exam. A "GO" is required for enrollment into Phase II.

Instructional Lead-in

As a battle staff NCO, you must assist the commander and his staff in understanding the different defensive missions. This lesson will provide you with instruction on the planning, preparation, and execution of defensive operations.

SECTION III PRESENTATION

ELO 1

Action:	Define the Fundamentals of defensive operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 100-5.

Learning Step/ Activity (LS/A 1) ELO 1, Introduction

Army doctrine stresses the importance of gaining the initiative and imposing the commander's will upon the enemy through offensive action to defeat him. The purpose of defensive operations are to defeat an enemy attack. Army forces conduct defensive operations as part of major operations and campaigns in combination with offensive operations.

For a force projection Army, defensive operations by forces already in theater or early arriving forces at the tactical level support the campaign plan and maintain operational initiative for the joint or combined team. For example, if conditions do not support simultaneous operations to defeat an enemy rapidly, the mission of the initial entry forces might be to defend the forces, air bases, and seaports in the lodgment area to provide time for the joint force commander to build forces in the theater for future operations.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, In such cases, initial–entry forces would include sufficient combat power to deter an attack or defend successfully while the buildup continues.
Introduction,
continued

In other cases of offensive operations, commanders may require defensive operations by air assault, airborne, or amphibious forces. These forces would conduct an economy-of-force mission until a larger force could link up. Nonetheless, the preferred method is to conduct operations simultaneously throughout the depth and space of the Area of Operations (AO). This method requires defensive operations in some areas.

Purpose of
Defense

Although commanders win battles with offensive operations, it is often necessary, even advisable, to defend. Commanders choose to defend when they need to buy time, to hold a piece of key terrain, to facilitate other operations, to preoccupy the enemy in one area so friendly forces can attack him in another, or to erode enemy resources at a rapid rate while reinforcing friendly operations. Commanders make this choice and create the conditions for a smooth transition from offense to defense or defense to offense, as the situation allows. Understanding the commander’s intent is especially key in the defense since the defense normally requires more precise synchronization and thus closer teamwork.

An effective defense consists of active and passive components combined to deprive the enemy of the initiative. It uses all arms and services in the most effective combinations to fight the defense so that the enemy losses mount rapidly and the defender can quickly attack the enemy’s vulnerabilities. As in the offense, passage of lines will be frequent, moving in all directions—rearward, forward, and laterally. Even in the defense, commanders seek greater freedom of maneuver while degrading or denying the enemy’s freedom of maneuver.

The defender withstands and holds the enemy while continuously seeking every opportunity to assume the offensive at the appropriate time. With each engagement or battle, commanders seek conditions that favor future operations. They try to reduce options available to the enemy and increase their own, thereby seizing the initiative. They take risk to gain the initiative. There may be few opportunities in the early phases of an engagement or battle to assume the offensive. As the battle develops, such opportunities become more numerous. This is especially true during lulls in the battle when the defender should take steps to uncover enemy vulnerabilities and attack and destroy them if possible. Whatever the immediate purpose, the greater intent of the defense is to force the attack to culminate, to gain the initiative for friendly forces, and to create the opportunity to shift to the offensive.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, The five characteristics of defensive operations are:
 Characteristics
 of Defense

- Preparation.
 - Security.
 - Disruption.
 - Mass and concentration.
 - Flexibility
-

Preparation

The defender arrives in the battle area before the attacker, making the most thorough preparations that time allows. In the early stages of battle, the defender capitalizes on the advantage of fighting from prepared positions of his selection. Defense always includes a point of main effort. Preparations involve positioning forces in depth, improving terrain to favor the defender, wargaming plans, organizing the force for movement and support, rehearsing, and taking measures to protect the force, such as mounting reconnaissance and surveillance operations forward of the defended area, conducting security operations to deny the enemy effective reconnaissance, and preparing deceptions to mislead the enemy are equally important tasks. During the course of the battle, the defender looks for opportunities to wrest the initiative from the attacker. He prepares for this by designating counterattack forces and rehearsing counterattack plans for the eventual transition to the offense.

Security

Defending forces provide security. Since a force defends to conserve combat power for use elsewhere, or at a later time, commanders must provide protection of their force. They do this through deception and physical means in the defended area. Defending units want to deceive the enemy as to their strengths and weaknesses. Normally, commanders designate a security area with a covering force. The purpose of these measures is to coordinate and synchronize the defense, to provide early warning, and to begin disrupting the integrity of the enemy attack early and continuously.

Disruption

The defender disrupts the attacker's tempo and synchronization by countering his initiative and preventing him from massing overwhelming combat power. Defending commanders also use disruption to attack the enemy's will to continue. They do this by defeating or misleading enemy reconnaissance forces, separating the enemy's forces, isolating his units, and breaking up his formations so that they cannot fight as part of an integrated force. The defender interrupts the attacker's fire support, logistics support, and Command and Control (C²).

LS/A 1, ELO 1, He deceives the enemy as to his true dispositions and intentions, unravels the coordination of the enemy's supporting arms, and breaks the tempo of the offensive operations. The attacker is hit with spoiling attacks before he can focus his combat power.

Mass and Concentration The defender seeks to mass the effects of overwhelming combat power where he chooses and shifts that mass repeatedly in accordance with his point of main effort. To obtain an advantage at decisive points, the defender economizes and takes risks in some areas; retains and, when necessary, reconstitutes a reserve; and maneuvers to gain local superiority at the point of decision. The defender may have to surrender some ground to gain the time necessary to concentrate his forces.

The defender normally masses effects and concentrates forces repeatedly during battle. He does so swiftly, since periods that allow them to develop superior combat power will be brief. Commanders accept risks in some areas to concentrate forces for decisive action elsewhere. Obstacles, security forces, and fires can assist in reducing these risks. Since concentration of the force increases the threat of large losses from weapons of mass destruction, commanders use deception and concealment to hide this vulnerability from the enemy. They also protect their forces with strong air and missile defenses to decrease the threat from weapons of mass destruction.

Flexibility Defensive operations epitomize flexible planning and agile execution. In exercising the initiative, the attacker initially decides where and when combat will take place. The defender who is agile enough to counter or evade the attacker's blow can then strike back effectively. Tactical flexibility stems from detailed planning, particularly in Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB). The plan enables commanders to shift their point of main effort quickly without losing synchronization. Commanders add flexibility to their basic plans by designating supplementary positions throughout the battlefield, designing counterattack plans, and preparing to assume the offensive.

Once the defender controls the attacker's thrust, he can operate against the enemy's exposed flanks and rear. The defender, under the cover of his own fires, can then maneuver over previously reconnoitered terrain against extended elements of the attacking force. The defender's fires cover all approaches and accommodate changes in priority and in sequencing targets and effects. Reserve commanders prepare for movement. They formulate counterattack plans that address their on-order and be-prepared missions and likely contingencies.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, The two primary forms of defensive operations are mobile and area defense. Forms of Defensive Operations These apply to both the tactical and operational levels of war. Mobile defenses orient on the destruction of the attacking force by permitting the enemy to advance into a position that exposes him to counterattack by a mobile reserve. Area defenses orient on retention of terrain by absorbing the enemy in an interlocking series of positions and destroying him largely by fires.

Although these descriptions convey the general pattern of each type of defense, both forms of defense employ static and dynamic elements. In mobile defenses, static defensive positions help control the depth and breadth of enemy penetration and ensure retention of ground from which to launch counterattacks. In area defenses, commanders closely integrate patrols, intelligence units, and reserve forces to cover the gaps among defensive positions, reinforcing those positions as necessary and counterattacking defensive positions as directed. Defending commanders combine both patterns, using static elements to delay, canalize, and ultimately halt the attacker and dynamic elements (spoiling attacks and counterattacks) to strike and destroy enemy forces.

Mobile Defense

Mobile defense orients on the destruction of the enemy force by employing a combination of fire and maneuver, offense, defense, and delay to defeat his attack. The commander commits the minimum force possible to pure defense and places maximum combat power in a striking force dedicated to the defense. A mobile defense requires mobility greater than that of the attacker. Commanders maximize the use of terrain in depth, obstacles, and mines while employing firepower and maneuver, at the right time and place, to wrest the initiative from the attacker.

Area Defense

Commanders conduct an area defense to deny the enemy access to designated terrain or facilities for a specified time. In a theater campaign, selective use of an area defense can be part of a theater's mobile defense. Those elements designated to conduct area defense must understand their role in the larger campaign plan. In an area defense, the bulk of defending forces deploy to retain ground, using a combination of defensive positions and small, mobile reserves. Commanders organize the defense around a static framework provided by defensive positions, seeking to destroy enemy forces with interlocking fires. Commanders also employ local counterattacks against enemy units penetrating between defensive positions. A security area or covering force is also part of an area defense.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, To make maximum use of the depths of their AO, commanders weigh all the Area Defense, factors of METT-T (Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops, and continued Time Available) and use the defensive pattern that offers the best advantage. A position defense in depth provides positions throughout the battlefield that provide mutual support and force the attacker to expose his force in the attack of one position after another.

Commanders position their forces in platoon, company, or battalion battle positions on suitable terrain, with a specific orientation and direction or sector of fire. On occasion, commanders may also direct the construction of a strongpoint in order to deny key terrain to the enemy and force his movement in a different direction. The construction of a strongpoint requires considerable time and combat engineer support. In some cases, because of terrain restrictions, requirements to hold specific terrain, or when enemy forces are weak and disorganized, area defenses without much depth may be necessary, requiring the main effort to be well forward.

Operations in A concise and comprehensive in-depth concept of operations is the basis for a Depth successful defense. Simultaneous application of combat power—throughout the depth of the battle area. Quick, violent, and simultaneous action throughout the depth of the defender’s battle space can hurt, confuse, and even paralyze an enemy just when he is most exposed and vulnerable. Such actions weaken the enemy’s will and do not allow his early successes to build confidence. Operations in depth prevent the enemy from gaining momentum in the attack. The three elements of operations in depth are:

- Deep operations.
- Close operations.
- Rear operations.

Deep In the defense, commanders plan deep operations to achieve depth and Operations simultaneity and to secure advantages for future operations. Deep operations disrupt the enemy’s movement in depth, destroy High-Payoff Targets (HPT) vital to the enemy, and interrupt or deny vital enemy operating systems such as command, logistics, or air defense at critical times. As deep operations succeed, they upset the attacker’s (enemy) tempo and synchronization of effects as the defender (friendly) selectively suppresses or neutralizes some of the enemy’s operating systems to exploit the exposed vulnerability. As the defender denies freedom of maneuver to the attacker with deep operations, he also seeks to set the terms for the friendly force transition to offense.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, Deep operations provide protection for the force as they disrupt, delay, or
 Deep Operations, destroy the enemy's ability to bring combat power to bear on friendly close
 continued combat forces. To synchronize the activities that encompass both deep and
 close objectives, commanders integrate and prioritize reconnaissance,
 intelligence, and target acquisition efforts to focus fires and maneuver at the
 right place and time on the battlefield.

Close
 Operations

Close operations are the activities of the main and supporting efforts in the defensive area to slow, canalize, and defeat the enemy's major units. The defending commander may do this in several ways. Often, he fights a series of engagements to halt or defeat enemy forces. This requires him to designate a main effort, synchronize effects to support it, then shift it to concentrate forces and mass effects against another threat. The commander may do this repeatedly. Maneuver units defend, delay, attack, and screen as part of the defensive battle.

Security operations warn commanders of the enemy's approach and attempt to harass and to slow him. One type of security operation is a covering force. A covering force—

- Meets the enemy's leading forces.
- Strips away enemy reconnaissance and security elements.
- Reports the attacker's strengths and locations.
- Gives the commander time and space to react to the enemy.

Reserves give the commanders the means to seize the initiative and to preserve their flexibility; they seek to strike a decisive blow against the enemy but prepare to conduct other missions as well.

Rear
 Operations

Rear operations protect the force and sustain combat operations. Successful rear operations allow commanders freedom of action by preventing disruption of command and control (C²), fire support, logistical support, and movement of reserves.

Enemy forces may threaten the rear during establishment of the initial lodgment and throughout the operations in the theater. In the first case, close and rear operations overlap due to necessity to protect the buildup of combat power. In the second case, deep, close, and rear operations may not be contiguous. When this situation occurs, rear operations must retain the initiative and deny freedom of action to the enemy, even if combat forces are not available.

LS/A 1, ELO 1, Commanders assess threat capabilities, decide where they will accept risk, and then assign the units necessary to protect and sustain the force. Unity of Rear Operations, command facilitates this process.
continued

Regardless of the proximity or separation of elements, the commander always integrates defense of the rear with the deep and close fight. Simultaneous operations defeat the attacking enemy throughout the battlefield and allow an early transition to the offense.

LS/A2, ELO 1, Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 1](#).
Lesson exercise
1

ELO 2

Action:	Define Planning and Conducting Defensive Operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 100-5.

LS/A 1, ELO 2, Normally, operational-level defense is a combination of area and mobile Introduction defense. The design of an operation that lays out where, what, and in what sequence to conduct each form of defense is operational art. That design is largely conditioned by METT-T (Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and Time Available) and imperatives to attempt to gain the initiative early. Doctrine provides commanders great freedom in formulating and conducting their defense consistent with mission requirements. Commanders may elect to defend well forward with strong covering forces by striking the enemy as he approaches, or they may opt to fight the decisive battle well forward within the Main Battle Area (MBA).

A simple concept of operations flexible enough to meet the enemy wherever he chooses to attack is essential to success. Commanders tailor their defensive concept to their specific situation; they pay particular attention to their mission, operations against the enemy in depth, and the efficient and effective use of available time.

LS/A 1, ELO 2, Planning the defense begins when commanders receive a mission or perceive a requirement to defend. The results of the defense should satisfy the intent of the next two higher commanders and set the terms for future operations. Defending commanders must use terrain wisely and designate a point of main effort. They choose defensive positions that force the enemy to make costly attacks or conduct time-consuming maneuvers to avoid them. As in offense, defense should achieve surprise. As commanders conduct their estimates of how to meet the requirements of the mission, they consider the factors of METT-T.

Mission Mission is the first consideration in defensive planning. It defines the parameters of the defense or the force to defeat and logically flows from the concept of operations of the higher headquarters. Assignment of missions to subordinates is one way commanders influence the outcome of the defense. Defending broad frontages forces commanders to take risks and accept gaps, while defending shallow sectors or positions reduces flexibility and requires commanders to fight well forward. Narrow frontages and deep sectors increase the elasticity of the defense and the number of options available.

Enemy Commanders consider the enemy's doctrine, equipment, recent or past tendencies, intent, and probable courses of action (most likely and most dangerous) in planning the defense. Commanders and units respect enemy capabilities but do not become paralyzed by them. Defending commanders view themselves and their sectors through the enemy commander's eyes to anticipate whether the enemy will orient on seizure of terrain or destruction of forces. They analyze the enemy and determine the critical points in time and space for enemy and friendly vulnerabilities during the battle by answering a series of questions:

- Where and when is the enemy most vulnerable?
 - When, where, and how can the defender exploit those vulnerabilities?
 - What are the specific conditions that trigger the exploitation of those vulnerabilities?
 - What is the worst thing the attacker can do to the defending force?
-

LS/A 1, ELO 2, To determine the enemy's vulnerabilities and effective countermeasures to their attack, defending commanders conduct a thorough IPB. Then the commanders and their staffs can anticipate the enemy's objectives and courses of action and determine what control measures are needed.

Enemy,
continued

The foundation of a defensive plan is locating, containing, and defeating the attacker's main and supporting efforts. Commanders use every resource available to offset the attacker's numerical advantage, to identify dangerous threats, and to mass combat power against the vulnerabilities of the enemy force.

Terrain and
Weather

The defender must decide where he can best kill the enemy and plan accordingly. A study of the terrain that the enemy must traverse to conduct his attack gives valuable information. This study indicates the probable positions of assembly areas, logistics dispositions, artillery locations, ground favoring armored and mechanized attack, and an area most advantageous for the main attack. Defenders engage the attacker at points where the terrain puts the attacker at the greatest disadvantage. Defending commanders use man-made obstacles to improve the natural impediments, to slow or canalize enemy movement, and to protect friendly positions and maneuver. Some terrain may be so significant to the defense that its loss would prove decisive. When terrain is a critical factor in a defense, commanders make it a focal point of their plan.

Weather and visibility affect how defenders organize the terrain. In periods of adverse or limited visibility, commanders plan for the impact on weapons systems and optical devices. A defensive plan that succeeds in clear conditions may be less effective in periods of bad weather.

Troops

Commanders consider the composition of their force. They also consider teamwork, state of training, and experience of leaders when they assign missions. The mobility, protection, morale, and training of their troops determine to some extent how they defend. Differences in mobility, training, and leadership make some units more suitable for some missions than for others.

LS/A 1, ELO 2, The amount of time to prepare is a crucial factor in organizing a defense.
Time Available The defense is far more effective when time is available to conduct reconnaissance and deliberately occupy positions; designate security and main battle areas; fortify the ground; plan fires; install obstacles; coordinate maneuver, fires, and logistics support; and rehearse. To gain time for organization of the battle area, commanders may order a delay by a covering force or a spoiling attack by ground or air units. Time is a critical element the defender cannot waste.

Preparing the Defense Commanders and battle staffs take advantage of all the time available in preparing the defense. Just as in the offense, commanders have subordinates demonstrate their understanding of the commander's intent and order by restating the commander's missions in their own words. This should be done immediately after the order is issued.

Preparations should begin as early as possible and continue until the battle begins. As staffs prepare plans, leaders conduct personal reconnaissance. Among the most important activities are designation of security and main battle areas; rear areas; reconnaissance of the sector; preparation of routes, positions, and obstacles; and coordination of maneuver with direct and indirect fire support. As a result of preparation activities, commanders make adjustments at each echelon. The higher echelon refines its orders to achieve better synchronization, while lower echelons are still in the deliberate planning process.

Commanders and battle staffs continue to wargame their plans and are flexible enough to amend them based on their analyses. They take advantage of preparation time to develop alternate routes and positions, to time movements between positions and along routes, and to rehearse counterattacks.

Preparation for the defense also entails the stocking of forward supply points, liaison with civilian officials, adjustment of air defense coverage, and security of installations in the rear area. If time permits, units prepare alternate sites for command posts, artillery firing positions, and logistics facilities.

Commanders determine the mission, composition, and size of the reserve and counterattack forces. Reserves by definition are uncommitted forces. However, reserve forces are not uncommitted if the commander's concept of defense depends upon their employment as a counterattack force to strike a decisive blow.

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Preparing the
Defense,
continued

Mobile defenses sometimes rely on reserves to strike the decisive blow. Mobile defenses require a large, mobile, combined arms reserve. When conditions favoring counterattack occur, the main effort shifts to the reserve, which then strikes with overwhelming combat power. Area defenses are more likely to use reserves to block and reinforce at lower tactical levels, leaving major counterattacks to divisions, corps, and higher echelons.

In planning a counterattack, commanders carefully consider the enemy's options and the likely locations of his follow-on echelons. Commanders then decide where to position their reserves, what routes and avenues of approach to use, what fire support is necessary, and what interdiction or deep attack will isolate the enemy's forces.

Reserves may be air or ground maneuver units. Divisions, brigades, and battalions become reserves as part of their higher commander's defense. When counterattacking, they conduct hasty or deliberate attacks. Air assault and air attack forces can respond rapidly as reserves.

Commanders tend to be more stationary in the defense, yet they should anticipate and provide for the means to command and control on the move in the defensive area. To minimize the vulnerability of rear operations, C² and support facilities in the rear area are redundant and dispersed. Air defense elements provide defense in depth by taking positions to cover air avenues of approach and vital assets. When rear battle response forces are insufficient, tactical combat forces prepare to respond rapidly against rear area threats and prepare to move to their objectives by multiple routes.

Conducting the
Defense

Forces conduct the defense aggressively. Commanders continuously seek opportunities to take advantage of the enemy's errors or failures. The objective of the defense is to gain and maintain the initiative rapidly. The integrity of the defense depends on maneuver and counterattack, as well as on the successful defense of key positions. During the battle, commanders track battle damage to know how much combat power remains as a prerequisite to exploiting opportunities.

Battle command in the defense differs from the attack. Defensive operations tend to be more closely synchronized, thus commanders tend to monitor the battle in more detail.

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Conducting the
Defense,
continued

AOs extend far enough forward to give commanders time to react to approaching enemy forces, to assess their options, and to execute operations accordingly.

Operations in depth begin before the enemy closes with maneuver forces and are an integral part of the defense. Commanders use them to create opportunities for decisive action. Simultaneous operations in depth are commander's means of ensuring the success of their decisive engagements and counterattacks by limiting the enemy's options, disrupting his coordination, and affecting the closure times of his follow-on elements.

As enemy formations enter their battle space, commanders monitor their activities and movement and locate the elements of the enemy force most threatening to their plans.

Commanders position and employ fire and maneuver to control or repel enemy penetrations. They employ reserves to block penetrations, to destroy penetrating enemy formations, and to regain the initiative. The force responsible for the most critical sector normally receives priority in the initial allocation of artillery, engineer, and close air support.

Commanders slow the enemy's movement in some areas or separate their formations to deny the enemy the ability to mass or establish a tempo that will make defense impossible. Defending commanders normally have to economize or take risks in some parts of their sector to concentrate forces and fires in the areas of greatest danger.

During the defense, commanders shift their main effort to contain the enemy's attack until they can take the initiative themselves. This requires the adjustment of sectors, repeated commitment and reconstitution of reserves, and modification of the original plan. To deny the enemy passage through a vital area, commanders may order a force to remain in a strong position on key terrain. They also might leave a unit in position behind the enemy or give it a mission that entails a high risk of entrapment. Defending units may be cut off from friendly forces and encircled.

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Conducting the
Defense,
continued

An encircled force acts rapidly to preserve itself. The senior commander assumes control of all encircled elements and assesses the all-around defensive posture of the force. He decides whether the next higher commander wants the force to break out or to defend its position. He reorganizes and consolidates expeditiously. If the force is free to break out, it should do so before the enemy has time to block escape routes. If the force cannot break out, the senior commander continues to defend while planning for and assisting in a link-up with a relieving force.

Reserves preserve commanders' flexibility in the defense. They provide the source of combat power that commanders can commit at the decisive moment. Commanders may use reserves to counterattack the enemy's main effort to expedite his defeat, or they may elect to exploit enemy vulnerabilities, such as exposed flanks or support units and unprotected forces in depth.

Timing is critical to counterattacks. Commanders anticipate the circumstances that require committing the reserves. At that moment, they seek to wrest the initiative from the attacker. Once commanders commit their reserves, they should immediately begin regenerating another reserve from uncommitted forces or from forces in less threatened sectors.

During battle, protection of rear areas is necessary to ensure the defender's freedom of maneuver and continuity of operations. Because fighting in the rear area can divert combat power from the main effort, commanders carefully weigh the need for such diversions against the possible consequences and prepare to take calculated risks in rear areas.

Threats to the rear area arise throughout the battle and require the repositioning of forces and facilities. When possible, defending commanders contain enemy forces in their rear areas, using a combination of passive and active defensive measures.

Commanders protect their forces at all times. They achieve the effects of protection through skillful combinations of offense and defense, maneuver and firepower, and active and passive measures. As they conduct operations, they receive protective benefits from deep and close operations as they disrupt the attacker's tempo and blind the enemy reconnaissance efforts.

LS/A2, ELO 2,
Lesson exercise
2

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 2](#).

ELO 3

Action:	Describe Battalion/Task Force Defensive Operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-2.

LS/A 1, ELO 3,
 Framework of
 Defense

The task force normally defends as part of a larger force. The defensive framework within which corps and divisions organize and fight is organized into five elements (see Figure 1):

- Deep operations forward of the forward line of own troops (FLOT).
- Security force operations forward of and to the flanks of the defending force.
- Main battle area (MBA) operations.
- Reserve operations in support of the main defensive effort.
- Rear operations to retain freedom of action in the rear area.

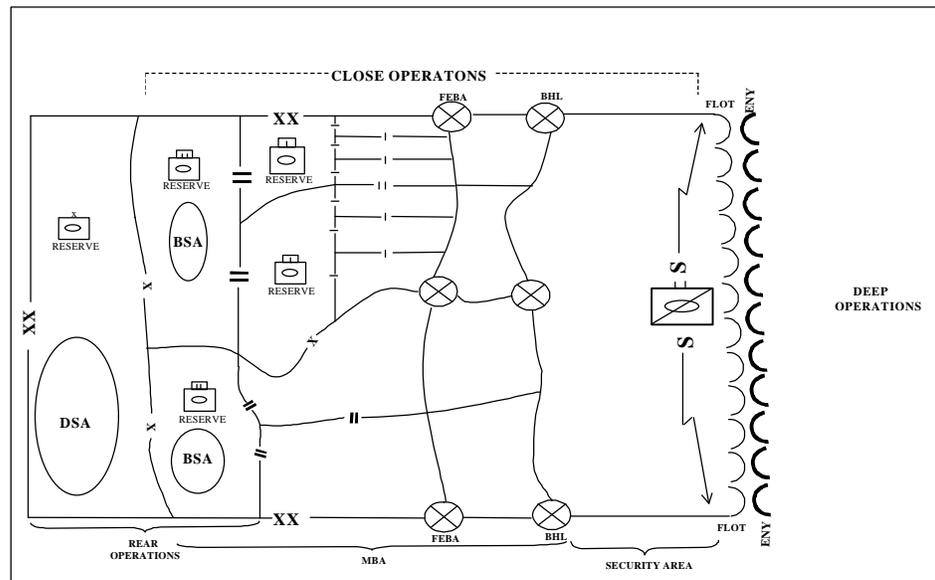


Figure 1. Organization for Defensive Operations

LS/A 1, ELO 3, Deep operations are actions against those enemy forces not yet in direct contact with the FLOT. Deep operations create opportunities for offensive action by reducing the enemy’s closure rates; separating attacking echelons; disrupting his command and control, combat support, and combat service support; and slowing the arrival times of succeeding echelons. Commanders conduct deep operations using indirect fires, Electronic Warfare (EW), Air Force and Army Aviation, deception, and maneuver forces.

Task forces have no deep operations capabilities, although they may be part of a deep maneuver operation.

Close Operations

Within close operations are security area operations, main battle area operations, and reserve operations:

<p>Security Area Operations</p>	<p>The covering force is the forward security force normally established by corps. It begins the fight against the attacker’s leading echelons in the covering force area (CFA). Covering force actions weaken the enemy; permit the corps commander to reposition forces; and deceive the enemy as to the size, location, and strength of the defense.</p> <p>A battalion task force may fight as a part of a covering force operation. When it disengages from the enemy, it becomes part of the MBA forces or reserve. MBA units assume control of the covering force battle at the battle handover line and assist covering force units to break contact and withdraw through the MBA.</p>
<p>Main Battle Area Operations</p>	<p>Based on their estimate of the situation and intent, brigade commanders assign sectors or battle positions to task forces. Normally, assigned sectors coincide with a major avenue of approach, while battle positions and attack helicopter firing positions are on the flanks of main approaches. The brigade commander designates and sustains the main effort by giving priority of artillery, engineer, air defense, and close air support assets to the force responsible for the most dangerous avenue of approach into the MBA.</p>

LS/A 1, ELO 3,
Close
Operations,
continued

<p>Main Battle Area Operations, continued</p>	<p>Task force commanders structure their defenses by deploying units in depth within the MBA. A mounted reserve of one-quarter to one-half of the task force strength provides additional depth and gives the commander a maneuver capability against the enemy.</p> <p>Commanders must anticipate and plan for penetration by enemy forces. Separation of adjacent units is likely, especially if the enemy is conducting nuclear and chemical operations. MBA forces continue to strike at the enemy's flank, and counterattack across penetrations.</p>
<p>Reserve Operations</p>	<p>The commitment of reserve forces at the decisive point and time is key to the success of a defense. When the task force has been designated as a reserve force, it can expect to receive one or more of the following missions: counterattack; spoiling attack; block, fix, or contain; reinforce; or rear operations.</p> <p>When the task force designates a reserve, the reserve is normally used in the counterattack role. The commander bases the composition, location, and mission of a reserve on the estimate of the situation and intent.</p>

Rear
Operations

The battalion task force does not have a rear operations mission within its assigned sector. However, a maneuver battalion assigned a rear mission by a higher headquarters may conduct offensive operations against enemy conventional or unconventional forces in the rear area.

Synchroniza-
tion of Defense

The success of the defense is determined by how effectively all supporting organizations are integrated into the maneuver plan. This section describes the general defensive roles, missions, and priorities of supporting organizations.

LS/A 1, ELO 3, Maneuver The task force commander arrays company or team size forces against battalion-sized avenues of approach. He organizes the defense against armored attacks around weapon systems that can maneuver and destroy the enemy.

During the defense, the scout platoon's initial mission is to coordinate the battle handover of covering force units and facilitate their orderly movement through the battalion defensive sector as battle positions.

Concurrently with this mission, the scouts identify the main effort of the enemy moving into the battalion task force sector. Subsequent missions include screening missions of flank avenues of approach and maintaining contact with adjacent units.

When the brigade employs an attack helicopter battalion, it is usually to cover gaps, to attack by fire against penetrations, to provide overwatch for counterattacking forces, or to attack enemy second echelon formations.

Fire Support The brigade positions field artillery to support both the battalion close fight and brigade deep fight. The commander plans task force priority targets on the most dangerous enemy avenues of approach. They are then sub-allocated to units on those approaches and shifted as the battle develops. Priority of fires is initially to the forward security element during battle handover; on order, it shifts to the unit designated the main effort.

The battalion mortars normally cover the most probable dismounted enemy avenue of approach or the battalion's most critical obstacle.

Air Force deploys combat air support (CAS) with preplanned targets to support the full depth of the battlefield and the transition to the offense.

Intelligence In the defense, the positioning of Ground Surveillance Radars (GSR's) are well forward to participate in the early identification of enemy reconnaissance units and confirm enemy movement within Named Area of Interest (NAIs) and Target Area of Interest (TAIs). GSRs are most effective in these roles during limited visibility. Subsequent missions include observation of flank avenues of approach and vectoring of the reserve company/team in support of a night operation mission.

Aviation or ground units performing reconnaissance or security missions forward of the task force also provide valuable intelligence.

LS/A 1, ELO 3, The commander positions ADA assets forward to provide area coverage in support of the defensive preparations, the battle handover operation, and the initial enemy attack. Subsequent employment is area coverage throughout the battlefield with priority to counterattacking forces, choke points, river crossing sites, and other potential high payoff enemy air targets.

Mobility, Counter-mobility, and Survivability

Priority of engineer support is normally to survivability, counter-mobility, and then to mobility. The engineer assists initially in planning and emplacing obstacles to support its counter-mobility mission.

NBC operations in the defense concentrate on survivability. The employment of smoke is in mobility and counter-mobility roles.

Combat Service Support

The combat trains are as far to the rear as possible but close enough to be responsive to maneuver units. Combat trains may move frequently to support defensive operations. Commanders organize combat train operations to provide continuous support but not interfere with maneuver elements.

Before defensive operations, the support platoon brings forward barrier material. During defensive operations, the support platoon's priority of support is to Class III (Fuel) and Class V (Ammunition).

Sequence of the Defense

A battalion/task force defense will often be conducted in the following sequence of events (phases):

- Occupation.
 - Passage of the covering force.
 - Defeat of enemy reconnaissance, infiltration, and preparatory fires.
 - Approach of the enemy main attack.
 - Enemy Assault.
 - Counterattack.
 - Reorganization and consolidation.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 3, Occupation	During this phase, the scouts are usually the first to clear the proposed defensive position. They check for enemy OPs and NBC contamination. Leaders then reconnoiter and prepare their assigned areas. The commander establishes security forward of the defense area to allow occupation of positions and preparation of obstacles without compromise. During occupations, movement is minimal to avoid enemy observation.
<hr/>	
Passage of the Covering Force	The task force establishes contact with, and assists the disengagement and passage of the covering force or other security elements.
<hr/>	
Defeat of Enemy Reconnaissance, Infiltration, and Preparatory fires	Consistent with security requirements, task force elements remain in defilade, hide, and prepared positions to avoid the casualties and shock associated with indirect fires. The enemy may also attempt to infiltrate infantry to disrupt the defense or to breach obstacles. Task force security forces must defeat these efforts using maneuver and fires.
<hr/>	
Approach of the Enemy Main Attack	Task force security elements observe and report enemy approach movement. The task force commander repositions or reorients his forces to mass against the enemy's main effort. He engages enemy formations at maximum range by supporting fires and close air support to cause casualties, to slow and disorganize him, to cause him to button up, and to impair his communications. Obstacles are closed. The commander repositions direct fire weapons as required, or maneuvers to attack the enemy from the flank. The Task Force commander may initially withhold fires to allow the enemy to close into an engagement area so that at the decisive time he can concentrate fires on the enemy formation.
<hr/>	
Enemy Assault	As the enemy deploys, he becomes increasingly vulnerable to obstacles. The task force uses a combination of obstacles, blocking positions, and fires to break up the assaulting formation. The task force continues to maneuver to the enemy flanks and rear to destroy him and to increase the number of directions to which he must react. Some security elements may stay in forward positions to monitor enemy second-echelon movement and to direct supporting fires on these forces as well as on his artillery, air defense, supply, and command and control elements.

LS/A 1, ELO 3, Counterattack As the enemy assault slows or stops, the task force commander will launch his counterattack (by fire or by maneuver) to complete the destruction of the enemy forces.

Reorganization and Consolidation The task force must quickly reorganize to continue the defense. The task force conducts attacks to destroy enemy remnants, evacuate casualties, and shifts and reorganizes units to respond to losses. Ammunition and other critical items are cross-leveled and resupplied. Security and obstacles are reestablished and reports are submitted.

LS/A2, ELO 3, Lesson exercise 3 Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 3](#).

ELO 4

Action:	Describe Types of Defense used at Battalion/Task Force level.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-2.

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Introduction The battalion task force will normally defend using three basic types of defense. They are defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a strongpoint. The following table summarizes the factors a commander considers in selecting a battle position versus a sector:

FACTOR	BATTLE POSITION	SECTOR
Avenues of approach	Well defined; enemy can be canalized	Multiple avenues prohibit concentration
Terrain	Dominates avenues of approach	Dominating terrain not available
Area of operations	Narrow	Wide
Mutual support between companies	Achievable	Cannot be achieved
Higher commander's ability to control	Good	Degraded

LS/A 1, ELO 4, A defensive sector is an area designated by boundaries that define where a unit operates and the terrain for which it is responsible. Defense in sector is the most common defensive mission for the task force.

Defense of a Sector

Commanders may use sectors in both the main battle area (MBA) and covering force area (CFA). Sector boundaries never split an avenue of approach. Task force sectors are oriented on regimental avenues of approach and are used when the brigade commander wishes to allow maximum freedom of action to his task forces.

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Defend in sector is the least restrictive mission. It allows the task force commander to plan and execute his defense using whatever technique is necessary to accomplish the mission. He may use sectors, battle positions, strongpoints, or a combination of measures to accomplish his mission.

Defense of a Sector,
continued

A defense in sector requires the task force commander to –

- Allocate maneuver space by designating sectors, battle positions, or strongpoints.
 - Control direct fires using engagement areas, target reference points (TRPs), and phase lines.
 - Integrate obstacles, fire support, and air defense into the maneuver plan.
 - Position security forces forward of the FEBA, and to the flanks and rear as necessary, and maintain coordination with flank units.
 - Consider the effect of limited visibility. For example, he may move forces forward to cover TRPs, adjust TRPs closer to battle positions, or designate on-order positions closer to the engagement area.
 - Define limits of subordinate action to include engagement and disengagement criteria and counterattacks.
 - Set priorities for movement on routes during repositioning, disengagement, or counterattacks.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 4, If the commander cannot concentrate fires, he distributes his forces and fires using company sectors. For example, in (Figure 2) the commander used Defense of a Sector, continued three companies in sector because multiple avenues of approach promoted decentralization. The Task Force commander positions the reserve where he will probably use it, and the reserve force commander prepares and conducts reconnaissance of routes to on-order counterattack positions.

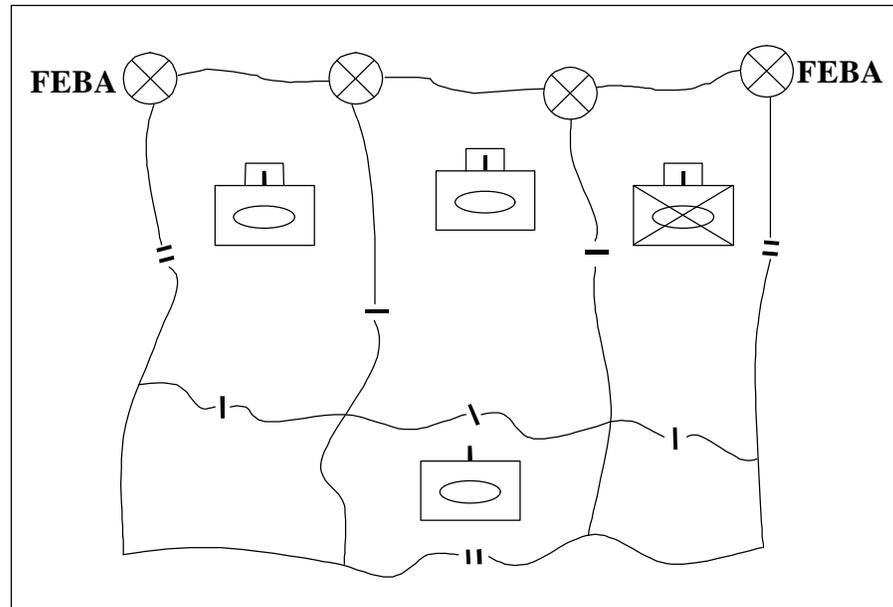


Figure 2. Battalion with three company teams in sector and a company in reserve

Defense of a
Battle Position

A battle position (BP) is a general location and orientation of forces on the ground, from which units defend. The BP can be for units from battalion task force to platoon size. A unit assigned a battle position is within the general area of the position (Figure 3 page 29). Security forces may operate well forward and to the flanks of battle positions for early detection of the enemy and for all around security. Units can maneuver in and outside of the battle position as necessary to adjust fires or to seize opportunities for offensive action in compliance with the commander's intent.

LS/A 1, ELO 4,
 Defense of a
 Battle Position,
 continued

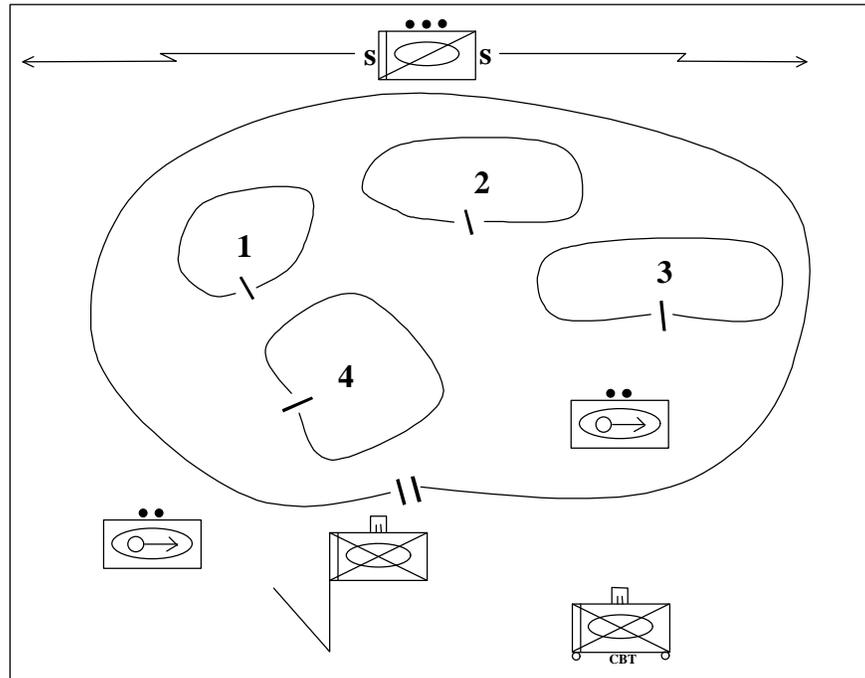


Figure 3. Disposition of forces in and around a battle position

Defense of a
 Battle Position

The commander may maneuver his elements freely within the assigned BP. When the commander maneuvers his forces outside the BP, he notifies the next higher commander and coordinates with adjacent units. Task force frequently positions security, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) assets outside the battle position with approval from the headquarters assigning the battle position.

Defense of a
 Strongpoint

The mission to create and defend a strongpoint implies retention of terrain with the purpose of stopping or redirecting enemy formations. Battalion strongpoints can be established in isolation when tied to restrictive terrain on their flanks or on armor high speed avenues of approach tied to defensive positions of units on the flanks of the strongpoints. A bypassed strongpoint exposes the enemy's flanks to attacks from friendly forces in and outside the strongpoint.

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Defense of a Strongpoint, continued

The task force pays a high cost in manpower, equipment, material, and time for the construction of a strongpoint. It takes several days of dedicated work to construct one. Strongpoints also sacrifice the inherent mobility advantage of heavy forces. Strongpoints may be on the FEBA, or in depth in the brigade MBA.

When a strongpoint cannot be easily bypassed, repeated dismounted assaults must be expected and repelled. The strongpoint will receive intensive artillery attacks and must be prepared with overhead cover. A tank-heavy task force because of the limitations placed on the unit's ability to maneuver does not normally conduct the strongpoint defense.

A task force assigned a strongpoint mission will be required to –

- Plan movement to alternative positions within the strongpoint.
- Coordinate with forces outside the strongpoint, including brigade counterattack forces.
- Plan fires in detail.
- Establish a small reserve to counter penetrations and, when appropriate, attack outside the strongpoint.
- Receive priority of fire support and plan fires in detail.

All positions within a strongpoint are mutually supporting (see Figure 4, page 31). Positioning must allow the massing of the fire of two or more units against an assault and prevent the enemy from isolating positions and defeating them. Sectors of fire are designated to coordinate fires between positions.

LS/A 1, ELO 4,
 Defense of a
 Strongpoint,
 continued

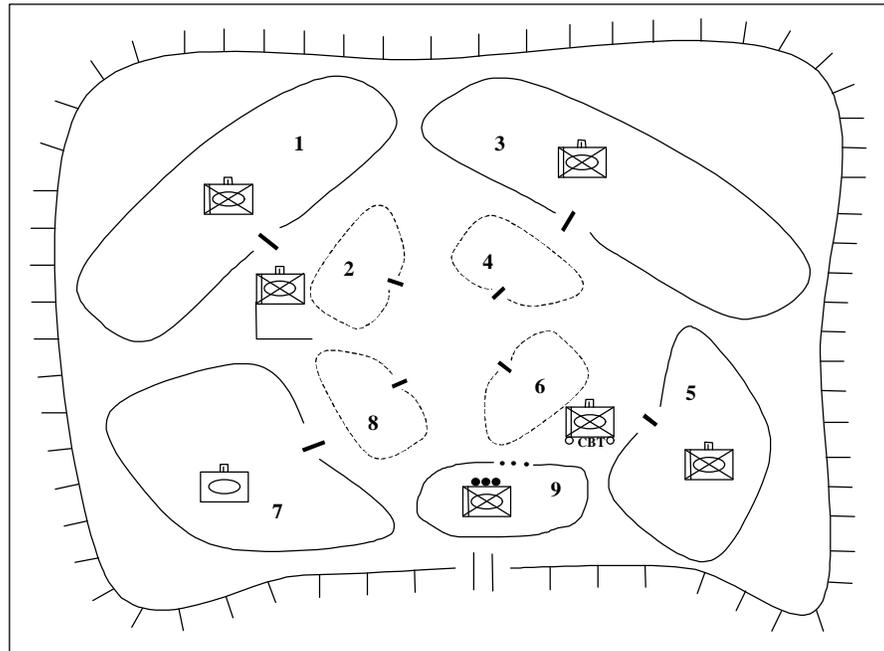


Figure 4. Battalion strongpoint with all forces within the strongpoint

LS/A2, ELO 4,
 Lesson exercise
 4

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 4.](#)

ELO 5

Action:	Describe Defensive Reserve Operations at Battalion/Task Force Level.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-2.

LS/A 1, ELO 5, When higher headquarters designates the task force as a reserve, the task force may be assigned one or more of the following missions:

Introduction

- Counterattack.
- Spoiling attack.
- Block, fix, or contain enemy forces.
- Reinforce.
- Rear operations.

Given more than one mission, the task force commander develops, plans, coordinates, and prepares for execution of his contingencies based on the priority established by the higher commander.

Counterattack

The brigade assigns counterattack planning and execution to committed and reserve task forces. Normally, more than one counterattack option is planned for and rehearsed. The task force conducts counterattacks to block an impending penetration of the FEBA, to stop a force that has penetrated, to attack through forward defenses to seize terrain, or to attack enemy forces from the flank and rear.

The counterattack begins movement early and launches before the enemy has time to consolidate local gains. The commander must give on-order missions to his units so that they are prepared to quickly counterattack should the opportunity arise. Task forces other than the reserve may also carry out local counterattacks. The offense fundamentals and techniques of the attack apply to all counterattacks.

Regardless of what type of counterattack the task force conducts, the following basic considerations apply:

- Attack one objective at a time, and weight it with all available fire support. Once committed, the counterattack becomes the main effort.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 5,
Counterattack,
continued

- Plan the battle. Determine movement times and probable LD/LCs before committing the force to the counterattack.
- Defeat the attacker before being attacked by subsequent echelons.
- Attack the enemy's flanks and rear.
- Attack from an unexpected direction at an unexpected time taking advantage of protection offered by terrain and limited visibility.

If an enemy force penetrates forward defenses, the task force may execute counterattacks by maneuver to stop the enemy's attack. This type of counterattack may be a movement to contact and meeting engagement. Based on available information, the task force moves from its assembly area using an axis to the enemy's flank. Speed is essential. Movement is by traveling or traveling overwatch with companies in column until the task force locates the enemy.

A task force counterattack to destroy enemy forces forward of the FEBA begins with the movement of company teams from the reserve assembly area along separate routes to the attack positions (see Figure 5, page 34). At the attack position, the task force may stop long enough to organize into company formations for the attack, pick up guides from the unit through which the counterattack force will pass, and receive updated intelligence information.

The task force must coordinate direct and indirect fire control measures to protect itself against both enemy and friendly fire. Brigade may establish a restrictive fire area around the battalion's axis of advance and its objective. Planning of fires must be along the axis of advance, on the objective, on the enemy force, and along the avenues of approach that the enemy second-echelon units could use.

LS/A 1, ELO 5,
Counterattack,
continued

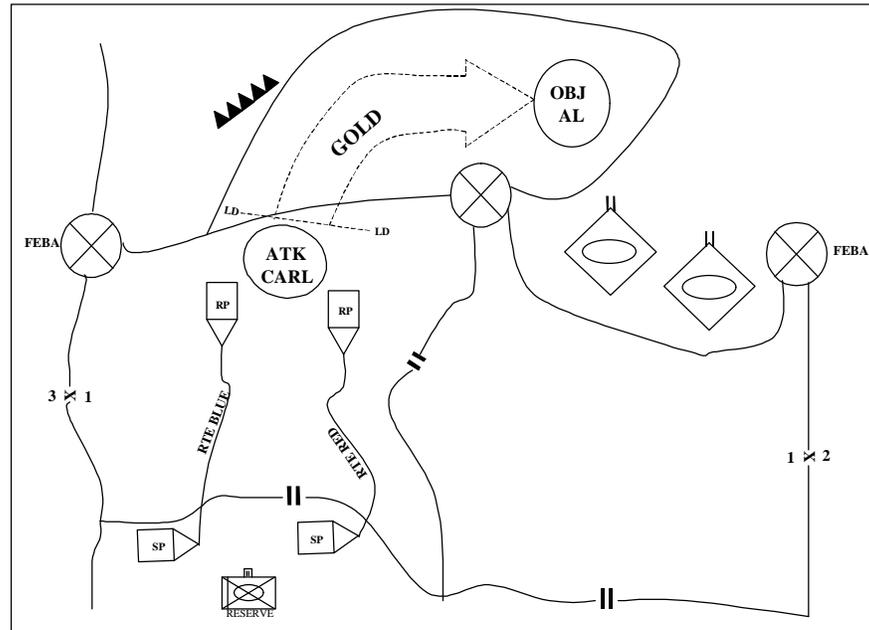


Figure 5. Counterattack by maneuver to destroy enemy forces

Spilling Attack A spoiling attack is a preemptive, limited objective attack aimed at preventing, disrupting, or delaying the enemy's ability to launch an attack. The objective of the spoiling attack is: the enemy force, not to secure terrain.

The commander often uses the reserve to conduct spoiling attacks so that forward units can concentrate on defensive preparations within the MBA. The commander normally directs spoiling attacks against an enemy force that is preparing to conduct an attack, or that has temporarily halted to rearm, refuel, or make the transition from mounted to dismounted operations. Enemy artillery is also a prime target.

Block, Fix, or Contain The commander may order the reserve to establish a hasty BP to block, fix, or contain enemy forces within a portion of the battlefield. This action may be necessary to blunt a penetration while other forces maneuver against the flanks or rear of the penetrating enemy force. An enemy force may be held in one area of the battlefield while he is defeated in another.

LS/A 1, ELO 5, Reinforce The commander may commit reserve forces to reinforce units that have sustained heavy losses or to build up stronger defenses in critical areas of the battlefield. Considerations must be given to how they will be integrated into the defensive scheme, command and control arrangements, and where they will be positioned. The techniques used to reinforce are similar to those used during a relief in place.

Rear Operations The reserve battalion may operate as a division combined arms tactical combat force and have a rear operations mission. The task force must not allow itself to become so dispersed that it cannot mass for other reserve missions. Nevertheless, the task force normally uses dispersed company positions, which both reduces the task force signature on the battlefield and helps spread its companies for the accomplishment of the rear operation. It positions forces at the locations to interdict the rear area threat. Based on the IPB, location of CS and CSS elements within the brigade rear area, and their own dispositions, the task force assigns areas of responsibility to its companies or teams. Task forces are responsible for their own security within assigned areas and also coordinate with CS and CSS base clusters for their defense, to include:

- Critical CS and CSS assets to be protected.
- IPB, to include local enemy approaches and possible LZs/DZs.
- Review of base and base cluster defensive preparations to include perimeter defensive sketches, observation post (OPs), patrols, obstacles, air defense (AD) weapons sites, and reaction forces.
- Coordination of fire support.
- Coordination for aviation operations including reconnaissance, fire support, and transport.
- Coordination with military police and other combat-capable units and base cluster reaction forces.

Events or contingencies that will trigger commitment of the task force to destroy a rear area threat.

LS/A2, ELO 5, Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 5](#).
Lesson exercise
5

ELO 6

Action:	Describe Fundamentals of Brigade Defensive Operations .
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material contained in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-3.

LS/A 1, ELO 6, As in offensive operations, the brigade commander sets the conditions for success in defensive operations. He uses all organic and supporting systems with precision and at their maximum capability. He then uses ground combat power to defeat the enemy.
Introduction

Purpose of the
Defense

The main purpose of a defensive operation is to cause an enemy attack to fail. Brigades normally conduct defensive operations as part of a division and corps-level defense. They may attack, defend, or delay as part of the security area, MBA, or reserve force. Brigades may also conduct offensive operations across the forward line of troops (FLOT) while the majority of the division or corps defends, or they may serve as a ground tactical combat force in support of rear operations. Armored brigades possess the type of combat power and mobility ideally suited for mobile defenses. While normally conducting the mobile defense as a part of division or corps operation, in a force projection army, the brigade commander may find situations where a mobile defense is the best option available at his level.

At times, the brigade may be need to retain key terrain or facilities, or conduct an attack as the striking force of a division or as a reserve force for the corps. The brigade's mission to retain key terrain may be ordered if it assists or creates an opportunity for the higher headquarters to shift to the offensive.

LS/A 1, ELO 6, Operations in Depth	The brigade commander conducts simultaneous operations in depth and organizes the battlefield into three complementary elements of deep, close, and rear operations.
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Deep Operations	Commanders direct deep operations against enemy forces and functions beyond the close battle. Generally, the brigade needs additional assets from divisions to conduct deep operations. These assets may include electronic jamming equipment and attack helicopters. The brigade commander must synchronize these additional assets to simultaneously attack the enemy throughout the depth of the battlefield. Brigades may also maneuver as part of the division's deep attack.
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Close Operations	<p>Brigades generally array the bulk of their combat power within the MBA. Normally brigades defend within the MBA, act as the higher commander's reserve, or act as part of the division or corps striking force.</p> <p>The brigade could act as the security force for the higher commander or it could provide its own security force, although this is not desirable. In either case, the brigade conducts passive and active reconnaissance and security measures throughout the depth of AOs.</p> <p>The brigade commander retains a reserve force based on the threat force assessment. He identifies the task and purpose for the brigade reserve during the wargaming process. He commits the reserve at the decisive point to ensure defeat of the enemy force.</p>
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Rear Operations	The brigade's rear operations include self-protection of its units and protection and maintenance of its line of communication (LOCs). The brigade normally designates a tactical force to react to rear threats. Rapid response ability to a rear area threat is integral to the commander's ability to sustain a viable defense. The higher commander may also task the brigade to provide tactical forces to support the higher commander's AO.
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LS/A 1, ELO 6, Mobile Defense A brigade generally does not conduct a mobile defense, but conducts area defensive of offensive operations as part of the division's defense. A mobile defense orients on the destruction of the attacking force by permitting the enemy to maneuver to a position of disadvantage that exposes him to the striking force. A brigade may conduct a movement to contact or deliberate attack as part of a division or corps striking force. See Table below:

MOBILE DEFENSE	AREA DEFENSE
Orients on the enemy (destruction or defeat)	Deny enemy access to designated terrain for a specific time
Mobility greater than or equal to the enemy	Mutual supporting positions and in depth
Defend with minimum force	Defend with maximum force
Fire and maneuver	Interlocking fires
Striking force	Smaller mobile reserve for local counterattacks
Striking force used at the decisive point	

Area Defense A brigade conducts an area defense as part of a division or corps defense. Area defense orients on retention of terrain or facilities for a specified time. When planning the area defense, the brigade commander decides the decisive point, when to concentrate his main effort, and where to economize forces based on his own estimate of the situation and the higher commander's concept. He then assigns missions; allocates forces, fires, and other support; and sets priorities for resources to fight a combined arms battle.

The brigade commander elects to defend forward or in depth based on METT-T and the higher commander's intent. A defense in the forward part of the sector requires early commitment of the main defensive effort. The commander may select a defense in depth when missions are less restrictive, defensive sectors are deep, and key terrain lies deep in the sector. A defense in depth relies on elements in the security force area and forward elements in the MBA to identify, define, and control the depth of the enemy attack. The brigade counterattacks the flanks of the enemy main effort to isolate and destroy enemy forces in the MBA.

LS/A2, ELO 6, Lesson exercise 6 Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 6](#).

SECTION IV SUMMARY

**Review/
Summarize
Lesson**

During this lesson you have identified Defensive operations which included purpose, characteristics, types, planning, and preparation of conducting defensive operations.

The knowledge you gain from this lesson will assist you in the overall Brigade/Battalion mission.

**Check on
Learning**

The six lesson exercises that you completed during this lesson serve as the check on learning for the TLO.

**Transition to
next lesson**

None

SECTION V STUDENT EVALUATION

**Testing
Requirements**

Prior to being enrolled into Phase II of the Battle Staff Course you must take a Phase I Exam that includes questions on material from this lesson. You must correctly answer 70% of the multiple choice questions to receive a "GO" on the Phase I exam. A "GO" is required for enrollment into Phase II.



Lesson Exercise 1: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 1. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





Preparation, security, disruption, mass and concentration, and flexibility are all _____ of defensive operations.

- A. purposes
- B. characteristics
- C. requirements
- D. results





What are the two primary forms of defensive operations?

- A. Flexibility and disruption.
- B. Mass and concentration.
- C. Mobile and area.
- D. Planned and unplanned.





Which type of defense is conducted to deny the enemy access to designated terrain or facilities for a specified time?

- A. Mobile.
- B. Overwatch.
- C. Area.
- D. Passive.





What are the elements of operations in depth?

- A. Combat and combat service support operations.
- B. Deep, close, and rear operations.
- C. Fire support and deception operations.
- D. Intelligence and security operations.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Preparation, security, disruption, mass and concentration, and flexibility are all characteristics of defensive operations. PTP, Page 7.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Mobile and area. PTP, Page 9.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Area. PTP, Page 10.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Deep, close, and rear operations. PTP, Page 11.



CORRECT





Lesson Exercise 2: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 2. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





When commanders conduct their estimates of how to meet the requirements of a defensive mission they consider the factors of _____

- A. Concentration.
- B. Flexibility.
- C. METT-T.
- D. Surprise.





What is the first consideration in defensive planning?

- A. Terrain.
- B. Troops.
- C. Enemy.
- D. Mission.





Commanders and battle staffs take advantage of all the time available in preparing the defense. Just as in the offense, how do commanders have subordinates demonstrate their understanding of the commander's intent and order ?

- A. By restating the commander's missions in their own words.
- B. By graphic representation.
- C. By conducting decision briefings.
- D. None of the above.





During the defense, commanders shift their main effort to contain the enemy's attack until they can take the initiative themselves. This requires the adjustment of sectors, repeated commitment and reconstitution of reserves, and _____

- A. modification of the original plan.
- B. additional fire support assets.
- C. rehearsals.
- D. maintenance.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

When commanders conduct their estimates of how to meet the requirements of a defensive mission they consider the factors of METT-T. PTP, Page 13.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Mission. PTP, Page 13.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

By restating the commander's mission in their own words. PTP, Page 15.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

During the defense, commanders shift their main effort to contain the enemy's attack until they can take the initiative themselves. This requires the adjustment of sectors, repeated commitment and reconstitution of reserves, and modification of the original plan. PTP, Page 18.



CORRECT





Lesson Exercise 3: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 3. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





The task force normally defends as part of a larger force. Deep operations, security force operations, MBA operations, reserve operations, and rear operations comprise the _____ within which corps and divisions organize and fight.

- A. operational SOP
- B. defensive framework
- C. battle positions
- D. IPB





What three types of operations are within close operations?

- A. CSS operations, CS operations and intelligence operations.
- B. Security area operations, MBA operations, and deep operations.
- C. Security area operations, MBA operations and reserve operations.
- D. CSS operations, deep operations, and intelligence operations.





During defensive operations, the combat trains are located as far to the rear as possible but close enough to _____

- A. engage enemy recon units.
- B. be responsive to maneuver units.
- C. provide security for the support platoon.
- D. attack enemy units on the FLOT.





Which phase of the defense does the task force scouts clear the proposed defensive position and check for enemy observation post and NBC contamination?

- A. Enemy assault phase.
- B. Passage of the covering force phase.
- C. Counterattack phase.
- D. Occupation phase.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

The task force normally defends as part of a larger force. Deep operations, security force operations, MBA operations, reserve operations, and rear operations comprise the defensive framework within which corps and divisions organize and fight. PTP, Page 20.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Security area operations, main battle area operations, and reserve operations.
PTP, Pages 21 & 22.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

During defensive operations, the combat trains are located as far to the rear as possible but close enough to be responsive to maneuver units. PTP, Page 24.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Occupation phase. PTP, Page 25.



CORRECT





Lesson Exercise 4: Instructions

The following three questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 4. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





What three basic types of defense does the battalion task force normally use to defend?

- A. Defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a strongpoint.
- B. Defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a landing zone.
- C. Defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a pick-up zone.
- D. Defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a zone.





Which basic type of defense is the least restrictive mission that allows the task force commander to plan and execute his defense using whatever technique is necessary to accomplish the mission?

- A. Defend a battle position.
- B. Defend a strongpoint.
- C. Defend a zone.
- D. Defend a sector.





Which basic type of defense implies that the mission is the retention of terrain with the purpose of stopping or redirecting enemy formations?

- A. Defend a battle position.
- B. Defend a strongpoint.
- C. Defend a sector.
- D. Defend a zone.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Defend in sector, defend a battle position, and defend a strongpoint. PTP, Page 26.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Defend a sector. PTP, Page 27.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Defend a strongpoint. PTP, Page 29.



CORRECT





Lesson Exercise 5: Instructions

The following three questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 5. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





Which type of reserve mission is the task force conducting if the mission is to block an impending penetration of the FEBA, to stop a force that has penetrated, to attack through forward defenses to seize terrain, or to attack enemy forces from the flank and rear?

- A. Spoiling attack.
- B. Reinforce.
- C. Rear operations.
- D. Counterattack.





Which type of reserve mission is a preemptive, limited objective attack aimed at preventing, disrupting, or delaying the enemy's ability to launch an attack?

- A. Block, fix, or contain.
- B. Counterattack.
- C. Spoiling attack.
- D. Reinforce.





Which type of reserve mission is used to reinforce units that have sustained heavy losses or to build up stronger defenses in critical areas of the battlefield?

- A. Rear operations.
- B. Block, fix, or contain.
- C. Spoiling attack.
- D. Reinforce.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Counterattack. PTP, Page 32.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Spoiling attack. PTP, Page 34.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Reinforce. PTP, Page 35.



CORRECT





Lesson Exercise 6: Instructions

The following three questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 6. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.





The brigade commander conducts simultaneous operations in depth and organizes the battlefield into three complementary elements. What are they?

- A. Deep, MBA, and close operations.
- B. Security, close, and rear operations.
- C. Deep, close, and rear operations.
- D. Combat, combat service support, and combat support.





Which operation in depth is directed against enemy forces and functions beyond the close battle?

- A. Close operations.
- B. Security operations.
- C. Rear operations.
- D. Deep operations.





When conducting a defense in depth, which elements does the brigade rely on to identify, define, and control the depth of the enemy attack?

- A. Elements in the security force area and forward elements in the MBA.
- B. Elements in the security force area and rear operations area.
- C. Elements in the MBA and ground surveillance radar.
- D. Elements of the rear operations area.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Deep, close, and rear operations. PTP, Page 36.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Deep operations. PTP, Page 37.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Elements in the security force area and forward elements in the MBA. PTP, Page 38.



CORRECT



