

TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP)

TSP Number / Title	W224 / OCCUPY AN ASSEMBLY AREA
Effective Date	01 Oct 2003
Supersedes TSP(s) / Lesson(s)	F200, Field Training Exercise, Mar 00. F200-RC, Field Training Exercise, Jun 01.
TSP Users	400-PLDC Primary Leadership Development Course. 400-PLDC PH II, Primary Leadership Development Course, Phase II.
Proponent	The proponent for this document is the Sergeants Major Academy.
Improvement Comments	Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028, <i>Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms</i> . Completed forms, or equivalent response, will be mailed or attached to electronic e-mail and transmitted to: COMDT USASMA ATTN ATSS-D BLDG 11291 BIGGS FIELD FORT BLISS TX 79918-8002 Telephone (Comm) (915) 568-8875 Telephone (DSN) 978-8875 E-mail atss-dcd@bliss.army.mil
Security Clearance / Access	Unclassified
Foreign Disclosure Restrictions	FD5. This product/publication has been reviewed by the product developers in coordination with the USASMA foreign disclosure authority. This product is releasable to students from all requesting foreign countries without restrictions.

PREFACE

Purpose

This Training Support Package provides the instructor with a standardized lesson plan for presenting instruction for:

Task Number

Task Title

Individual

071-326-0513	Select Temporary Fighting Positions
071-326-5704	Supervise Construction of a Fighting Position
071-326-5705	Establish an Observation Post
071-331-0852	Clear a Field of Fire
071-430-0002	Conduct a defense by a squad
07-3-5063	Occupy an Assembly Area

This TSP
Contains

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**OCCUPY AN ASSEMBLY AREA
W224 / Version 1
01 OCT 2003**

SECTION I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

All Courses Including This Lesson	<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Version</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
	400-PLDC	1	Primary Leadership Development Course
Task(s) Taught(*) or Supported	<u>Task Number</u>	<u>Task Title</u>	
	<u>Individual</u>		
	071-326-0513 (*)	Select Temporary Fighting Positions	
	071-326-5704 (*)	Supervise Construction of a Fighting Position	
	071-326-5705 (*)	Establish an Observation Post	
	071-331-0852 (*)	Clear a Field of Fire	
	071-430-0002 (*)	Conduct a defense by a squad	
	07-3-5063 (*)	Occupy an Assembly Area	
Reinforced Task(s)	<u>Task Number</u>	<u>Task Title</u>	
	None		
Academic Hours	The academic hours required to teach this lesson are as follows:		
		<u>Resident Hours/Methods</u>	
		2 hrs 5 mins / Conference / Discussion	
		1 hr 45 mins / Practical Exercise (Performance)	
	Test	0 hrs	
Test Review	0 hrs		
	Total Hours:	4 hrs	
Test Lesson Number		<u>Hours</u>	<u>Lesson No.</u>
	Testing (to include test review)	_____	N/A
Prerequisite Lesson(s)	<u>Lesson Number</u>	<u>Lesson Title</u>	
	W223	Conduct Movement	
Clearance Access	Security Level: Unclassified Requirements: There are no clearance or access requirements for the lesson.		
Foreign Disclosure Restrictions	FD5. This product/publication has been reviewed by the product developers in coordination with the USASMA foreign disclosure authority. This product is releasable to students from all requesting foreign countries without restrictions.		

References

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
ARTEP 7-8-MTP	MISSION TRAINING PLAN FOR THE INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD	01 Oct 2001	
FM 7-8	INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD	1 Mar 2001 (Chg 1)	

Student Study Assignments

Before class--

- Read FM 7-8 (SH-2), paragraphs 1-8, 1-9, 2-2, 2-6, Section V.
- Study ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).

During class--

- Participate in classroom discussion.

After class—

- Turn in recoverable references after the examination for this lesson.

Instructor Requirements

1:8, SSG, PLDC graduate, ITC, and SGITC qualified.

Additional Support Personnel Requirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stu Ratio</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Man Hours</u>
None			

Equipment Required for Instruction

<u>ID Name</u>	<u>Stu Ratio</u>	<u>Instr Ratio</u>	<u>Spt</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Exp</u>
559359 SCREEN PROJECTION	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
6515-00-137-6345 EAR PLUGS, SET	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
673000T101700 PROJECTOR, OVERHEAD, 3M	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
7110-00-132-6651 CHALKBOARD	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
7110-00-T81-1805 DRY ERASE BOARD	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
7510-01-424-4867 EASEL, (STAND ALONE) WITH PAPER	1:8	1:1	No	1	No
*7530-00-619-888 Pad, Easel	1:8		No	2	No

* Before Id indicates a TADSS

Materials Required

Instructor Materials:

- TSP

Student Materials:

- SH-1, Advance Sheet.
- SH-2, Extracts from FM 7-8.
- SH-3, Extracts from ARTEP 7-8-MTP.

NOTE: Issue handouts to students during inprocessing:

- Pen or pencil and writing paper.
-

**Classroom,
Training Area,
and Range
Requirements**

BIVOUAC AREA
CLASSROOM (40X40 PER 16 STUDENTS)

**Ammunition
Requirements**

<u>Id</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Exp</u>	<u>Stu Ratio</u>	<u>Instr Ratio</u>	<u>Spt Qty</u>
None					

**Instructional
Guidance**

NOTE: Before presenting this lesson, instructors must thoroughly prepare by studying this lesson and identified reference material.

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Before class—

- Read and study all TSP material and be ready to conduct the class.
- This TSP has questions throughout to check on learning or generate discussion among the group members. You may add any questions you deem necessary to bring a point across to the group.
- You must know the information in this TSP well enough to teach from it.
- This TSP presents references to allow you to inform your students where they would look in the reference to follow your instruction.
- Instructor: Read all TSP material.

During class—

- Conduct the class IAW this TSP.

After class—

- Report any lesson discrepancies to the Senior Instructor.
 - Conduct an after action review for the lesson.
-

**Proponent
Lesson Plan
Approvals**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/Joralmon, Grace /t/Joralmon, Grace	CIV	Training Specialist	5 Jun 2003
/s/Barnes, Ronnie G. /t/Barnes, Ronnie G.	MSG	Chief, PLDC	5 Jun 2003
/s/Lawson, Brian H. /t/Lawson, Brian H.	SGM	Chief, NCOES	5 Jun 2003
/s/Mays, Albert J /t/Mays, Albert J.	SGM	Chief, CDD	5 Jun 2003

SECTION II. INTRODUCTION

Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
 Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
 Instructor to Student Ratio is: 1:8
 Time of Instruction: 5 mins
 Media: None

Motivator

At some point in time all units in today’s Army may occupy a new assembly area in order to sustain current operations or to execute new ones. Squad size elements normally occupy assembly areas as part of a company or platoon. The ability of the squad to accomplish their portion of occupying and defending an assembly area is critical to the safety of its soldiers and the overall success of their unit.

Terminal Learning Objective

NOTE: Inform the students of the following Terminal Learning Objective requirements. At the completion of this lesson, you [the student] will:

Action:	Identify the procedures required to occupy an assembly area.
Conditions:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a Field Training exercise, given a Team/Squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
Standards:	Identified the procedures required to occupy an assembly area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing to occupy an assembly area. • Moving into an assembly area and establishing security. • Occupying and securing the assembly area. • Defending the assigned sector. IAW FM 7-8 (SH-2) and ARTEP 7-8 MTP (SH-3).

Safety Requirements

- Instructors act as safety observers during training to ensure students observe safe practices at all times.
- Instructors must ensure the use of Local SOPs.

Risk Assessment Level

Low

Environmental Considerations

NOTE: It is the responsibility of all soldiers and DA civilians to protect the environment from damage.
None

Evaluation

At the completion of this lesson you will participate in a practical exercise. The practical exercise will not affect your academic rating for the course. However, your ability to interpret and apply the material contained in this lesson will contribute to the squad's success when you occupy an assembly area during the STX.

Instructional Lead-In

The process of occupying an assembly area is basically the same for all units in the Army. Units may identify an assembly area by another name depending on the type of unit, but the basic procedures for occupying an area are still the same. These procedures involve moving from a current area of operations and establishing a new one capable of supporting current or future unit missions. In this lesson we will use the task 07-3-5063 from ARTEP 7-8-MTP as a basis for our understanding of occupying an assembly area. This lesson will give you an **overview** of the general procedures and concepts of this important and complex collective task. Leaders must understand the concepts and the procedures and then be ready to execute them in accordance with their unit's SOP. Careful planning, preparation, coordination, and rehearsals will enable a unit to safely and effectively move to and establish a new area of operations on the battlefield.

SECTION III. PRESENTATION

NOTE: Inform the students of the Enabling Learning Objective requirements.

A. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Prepare to occupy an assembly area.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a field training exercise, given a team/squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
STANDARDS:	Prepared to occupy an assembly area IAW ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3) and FM 7-8 (SH-2).

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Prepare to occupy an assembly area.

Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion

Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)

Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8

Time of Instruction: 20 mins

Media: VGT-1 and VGT-2

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-2, Task Step 2

Occupying an assembly area begins with the platoon leader receiving an operations order (OPORD), fragmentary order (FRAGO), or warning order (WARNO) that directs the occupation of a new area. The platoon leader conducts a mission analysis to identify any requirements contained in the order not addressed in the established unit SOPs. Based on his analysis he prepares and issues a WARNO to the squad leaders.

At this time squad leaders typically initiate predetermined actions outlined in the unit or platoon SOP to prepare for movement. These actions may include--

- Maintenance of equipment
- Inventory supplies (Base loads)
- Conducting pre-combat inspections

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-2 and SH-3-3, Task Step 3; FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-15 and SH-2-16

The platoon leader completes his plans using troop-leading procedures.

The platoon leader conducts at a minimum an initial map reconnaissance. If time and the tactical situation allow, the platoon leader and the squad/section leaders conduct a ground reconnaissance of the route and of the new assembly area. Let's look at the route first.

NOTE: When you show the next slide, uncover bullet comments one at a time and select students to read each comment.

SHOW VGT-1, ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

- **Identify tactically significant terrain along movement route.**
- **Identify tentative rally points along route.**
- **Identify platoon release point.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-1

NOTE: Define a rally point at this time.

A rally point is a predetermined location where an element moves to after enemy contact to perform consolidation and re-organization activities.

NOTE: Define a release point at this time.

A release point is typically the last significant terrain feature along the movement route that allows cover and concealment for elements to organize prior to entering the new assembly area.

REMOVE VGT-1

SHOW VGT-2, RECONNAISSANCE OF NEW ASSEMBLY AREA

RECONNAISSANCE OF NEW ASSEMBLY AREA

- **Identify Key Terrain features:**
 - **Enhances or degrades platoon's mission.**
 - **Enhances or degrades defense of platoon.**
- **Identify likely enemy avenues of approach.**
- **Identify tentative Squad/Section areas.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-2

Next, let's look at the reconnaissance of the new assembly area.

Reconnaissance of the platoon's new area should identify--

- Key terrain features that enhance or degrade the platoon's ability to execute its mission and/or to defend the new area.
- Likely avenues of approach that the enemy may use.

NOTE: Have a student read FM 7-8 (SH-2), page SH-2-15 para 2-2c(3)(e) and resolve any question on avenues of approach or potential squad/section operating areas

REMOVE VGT-2

Based on the reconnaissance, the platoon leader identifies direct fire responsibilities; plans and coordinates indirect fire-support and/or close air support if available. He also plans for actions on contact in case contact with the enemy is made.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-3, Task Steps 6 and 7

The platoon leader continues to prepare his plans and keeps the squads informed of the current situation. One consideration is how to move the platoon from the current area of operations to the new assembly area. There are many ways to move a unit from one location to another on the battlefield. Normally, units move in elements. Some basic types of elements are--

Quartering Party: A quartering party is an element that moves to the new area and conducts clearing and security operations in advance of other unit elements arriving. It is normally made up of representatives of all squads or sections from each platoon in the company.

Main Body: The main body is made up of the remainder of the company. It is typically the largest element and contains the bulk of the unit's operating capability and the majority of its offensive and defensive power.

The platoon leader assigns personnel for each of the elements and identifies their duties IAW the operations order and/or the SOP. Most units use a company or platoon SOP to predetermine the make up of personnel, weapons, and equipment for each element that they typically use.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-3, Task Steps 6, 7, 8; FM 7-8 (SH-2) p SH-2-16 and SH-2-17, para 2-2 h (1)

The platoon leader completes his plan and issues an operation order to the squad leaders. Squads/sections or teams conduct rehearsals to support the mission requirements identified in the OPORD.

NOTE: Have a student read from FM 7-8(SH-2), page SH-2-17, para 2-2h(1). Facilitate a short discussion of rehearsals and the squad/section leader responsibilities in conducting rehearsals.

The platoon leader issues FRAGOs, as necessary to address changes to the plan identified during the rehearsals.

CHECK ON LEARNING:

QUESTION: Why do leaders use rehearsals?

ANSWER: They use rehearsals to:

- Practice essential tasks (improve performance).
- Reveal weaknesses or problems in the plan.
- Coordinate the actions of subordinate elements.
- Improve soldier understanding of the concept of operation.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), page SH-2-16, para 2-2h(1)

B. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Move to an assembly area and establish initial security.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a field training exercise, given a team/squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
STANDARDS:	Moved to an assembly area and established immediate security IAW FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Move to an assembly area and establish security
 Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
 Technique of delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
 Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
 Time of Instruction: 35 mins
 Media: VGT-3 thru VGT-12

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-3, Task Step 9

The quartering party departs the current operating area and clears the release point (RP) IAW the OPORD. The quartering party then moves into the new assembly area.

NOTE: Diagram on the blackboard the old assembly area, the route, and the new assembly area to enhance their understanding of the following bullets.

Some of the typical actions accomplished by a quartering party may include—

- Conducting a detailed reconnaissance of the movement route.

- Conducting initial NBC survey and clearance of the new area.
- Establishing initial security by—
 - Positioning primary weapons and identifying positions for all other platoon weapons.
 - Identifying or establishing observation posts.
- Establishing an initial command post and establish communications with the observation posts and higher headquarters.
- Improving and marking entrances, exits, and internal routes.
- Maintaining security of the area until the arrival of the main body.
- Preparing to receive main body by marking tentative locations for platoon vehicles and equipment, weapons, and dismounted team positions IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP.
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- Maintaining security of the area until the arrival of the main body.
- Preparing to receive main body by marking tentative locations for platoon vehicles and equipment, weapons, and dismounted team positions IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP.
- Posting guides in covered and concealed positions to guide the main body to their initial positions without halting outside the established perimeter.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-3, Task Steps 9e & f, 10, 11

Once the quartering party secures the assembly area, it prepares to receive the main body.

The main body departs the old operating area IAW the unit's OPORD and SOP. As the main body arrives at the designated release point, they are met by the quartering party personnel who will guide them to their pre-determined locations in the new assembly area. The platoon orients its weapon systems to cover sectors of responsibility and simultaneously shuts down vehicle engines. At this time soldiers perform the necessary security activities and after-operation PMCS.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-18, para 2-6)

A unit occupying an assembly area is most vulnerable just as it moves into place. Upon arrival at the assembly area, the first step is to establish initial security. The techniques you use to establish security must be automatic and executed as part of your unit's SOP.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-18, para 2-6

Security measures are both active and passive. They allow us to avoid detection or deceive the enemy and deny his ability to gather reconnaissance information. Active measures you will use include establishing observation posts and patrolling.

We have discussed the use of OCOKA to analyze terrain in previous lessons. The key terrain features and the potential enemy avenues of approach that you identify, show you where to place your observation posts and your primary weapons.

SHOW VGT-3, OBSERVATION POSTS

NOTE: Use the bullet comments to highlight the information in the manual. Uncover the bullets one at a time while you briefly elaborate.

OBSERVATION POSTS

- **Secure adjacent key terrain to prevent enemy use.**
- **Cover avenues of approach to provide advanced warning of enemy movement.**
- **Platoon leader designates the general location.**
- **Squad leader establishes the specific observation post (OP).**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-3

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-18, para 2-6b

REMOVE VGT-3

SHOW VGT-4, OBSERVATION POSTS (CONT)

OBSERVATION POSTS (CONT)

- **Minimum manning is two soldiers per OP.**
- **When covering a large area, the platoon establishes more than one OP, and the squads patrol in between them.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-4

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-18, para 2-6d

REMOVE VGT-4

Along with the active defensive measures, you will incorporate passive measures that deny the enemy information about your defense.

SHOW VGT-5, PASSIVE MEASURES.

NOTE: Uncover the bullets one at a time while you briefly elaborate. If the students require clarification on the next two slides, refer them to FM 7-8 (SH-2), p 2-18.

PASSIVE MEASURES

- **Observation by passive devices such as night vision devices, including—**
 - **Thermal sights.**
 - **Early warning devices such as ground sensors.**
- **Camouflage of personnel, equipment, and positions.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-5

REMOVE VGT-5

SHOW VGT-6, PASSIVE MEASURES (CONT)

PASSIVE MEASURES (CONT)

- **Movement control that denies the enemy the ability to count personnel.**
- **Noise, light, and sound discipline to prevent the enemy from pinpointing locations.**
- **Radiotelephone discipline to deny the enemy operational information.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-6

REMOVE VGT-6

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-32, para 2-20a through c

In establishing security, the primary concern for the unit is to occupy fighting positions. Based on the platoon leader's guidance, the squad leader will assign each soldier a fighting position and sector of fire. Depending on the anticipated time you will be in the area, alternate and supplementary fighting positions should also be designated and secondary sectors of fire assigned.

SHOW VGT-7, TYPES OF POSITIONS.

NOTE: Uncover the bullets one at a time.

NOTE: As you present the next three VAs, ask students to elaborate on what a Primary Position is. Allow a short discussion for group consensus. If students require clarification, refer them to FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-32, para 2-20.

TYPES OF POSITIONS

Primary Position:

Provides a soldier, weapon crew, or unit the best means to accomplish the assigned mission.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-7

REMOVE VGT-7

SHOW VGT-8, TYPES OF POSITIONS (CONT)

TYPES OF POSITIONS (CONT)

Alternate Position:

Allows coverage of the same sectors as the primary positions when the primary positions become untenable.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-8

REMOVE VGT-8

SHOW VGT-9, TYPES OF POSITIONS, CONT

TYPES OF POSITIONS (CONT)

Supplementary Position:

Provides the best means of accomplishing a task that you cannot accomplish from the primary or alternate positions, such as covering additional enemy avenues of approach and to protect flanks.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-9

NOTE: If further clarification of the types of positions is necessary as to their use and placement, encourage a short discussion among the group.

REMOVE VGT-9

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-32, para 2-20 and page SH-2-33, para 2-21

The characteristics of the positions that the squad leader selects should meet certain requirements. With time at a premium, the less time your soldiers spend modifying their positions to meet the requirements, the better.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33, para 2-21

As a guideline, squads can physically occupy a front of about 100 meters, with two man fighting positions approximately 20 meters apart laid out in a "lazy W"

configuration. One-man fighting positions may be located closer together to occupy the same area of frontage.

When selecting the placement of fighting positions, squad leaders must use the leader's analysis of the METT-TC factors.

QUESTION: What three factors must a squad leader consider when determining the distance between fighting positions?

ANSWER: See VGT-10.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33, para 2-21

NOTE: Call on students to answer the questions, showing the answers as the students respond.

SHOW VGT-10, DISTANCE BETWEEN FIGHTING POSITIONS

DISTANCE BETWEEN FIGHTING POSITIONS

- 1. Requirement to cover the squad's assigned sector by fire.**
- 2. Need for security--Prevention of infiltrations.**
- 3. Prevent enemy from using hand grenades effectively to assault adjacent positions, should he gain a fighting position.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-10

REMOVE VGT-10

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-32, para 2-20 and page SH-2-33, para 2-21

Other considerations the squad leader uses when positioning fighting positions is that each position should be in a location that at least two other fighting positions can observe and provide supporting fires. All positions should provide observation and fields of fire within the weapon's or squad's assigned sector while taking advantage of natural cover and concealment.

Break: TIME: 00:50 to 01:00

TIME: 01:00 to 01:10 (continue LS/A-1, ELO 2)

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-26 para 2-18

As you can see, there is a lot involved in the placement of fighting positions. To add to the difficulty of positioning them, you must consider the placement of various weapons organic to your squad. Let's take a look at the basic weapons the squad may have and how you should deploy them.

An important weapon assigned to the squad is the machine gun, which is the squad's primary defense against a dismounted assault. Let's take a look at some important facts about the importance of the machine gun, and its placement.

QUESTION: What does the squad primarily use the machine gun for?

ANSWER: To provide a high volume of lethal accurate fires to break up enemy assaults, provide limited effects against lightly armored vehicles, and cause vehicle crews to button-up and operate at reduced effectiveness.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-26, para 2-18a.

QUESTION: What do leaders position their machine guns to do?

ANSWER: See VGT-11.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-26, para 2-18a

NOTE: Uncover the bullet comments as the students provide the answer.

SHOW VGT-11, POSITIONING OF MACHINE GUNS

POSITIONING OF MACHINE GUNS

Leaders position machine guns to—

- **Concentrate fires where they want to kill the enemy.**
- **Fire across the squad front.**
- **Cover obstacles by fire.**
- **Tie-in with adjacent squad.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-11

Leaders assign the machine gun a primary and secondary sector of fire to include a final protective line (FPL) and a principle direction of fire (PDF).

QUESTION: What is an FPL?

ANSWER: A predetermined line along which a gunner can place grazing fire to stop an enemy assault.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-27, para 2-18(1)(c)

QUESTION: What is a PDF?

ANSWER: An assigned priority direction of fire to cover an area that provides good fields of fire or has a likely enemy avenue of approach.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-27, para 2-18(1)(d)

REMOVE VGT-11

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-28, para 2-18c

A problem inherent to machineguns is that there are areas that the gunners cannot fire into. This may be because of obstacles or low spots in the terrain. We call these areas DEAD SPACE. One way of covering dead spaces is the use and grenade launchers.

QUESTION: What does the squad leader use the grenadiers to do?

ANSWER: See VGT-12.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), page SH-2-28, para 2-18c

SHOW VGT-12, GRENADE LAUNCHERS

GRENADE LAUNCHERS

The squad leader uses the grenadier to—

- **Provide indirect fire coverage.**
- **Cover machine gun dead space.**
- **Cover protective wire obstacles.**
- **Engage lightly armored vehicles.**
- **M203 gunner also assigned a rifle sector.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-12

REMOVE VGT-12

The final weapon system the squad leader assigns positions and sectors of fire to is the squad's riflemen. The squad leader normally positions the riflemen to

support the machine guns and antiarmor weapons. He also positions them to cover obstacles, provide security, cover gaps between units, or provide observation.

NOTE: Ask the students if they have any questions.

CHECK ON LEARNING:

QUESTION: What are the two types of security measures?

ANSWER: Active and passive.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-18, para 2-6d

QUESTION: What three things must a squad leader consider when determining the distance between fighting positions?

Answer: The three things are:

- Requirement to cover the squad's assigned sector by fire.
- Need for security--Prevention of infiltrations.
- Prevent enemy from using hand grenades effectively to assault adjacent positions, should he gain a fighting position.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33, para 2-21

QUESTION: What squad weapon is the primary weapon against a dismounted enemy?

ANSWER: Machine gun.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), page SH-2-26, para 2-18a

C. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Occupy and secure the assembly area.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a field training exercise, given a team/squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
STANDARDS:	Identified the actions necessary to occupy and secure the assembly area IAW ARTEP 7-8-MTP and FM 7-8.

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Occupy and Secure the Assembly Area
Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
Technique of delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
Time of Instruction: 20 mins
Media: VGT-13 and VGT-14

Now that the entire unit has arrived, the new area needs to be made operational to support the platoon mission. It is during this phase that the leaders' actions are critical.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-5 and SH-3-6, Task Step 17

Upon arrival of the main body at the assembly area the squad leader provides a status report to the platoon leader. The platoon leader determines threat levels and security requirements and priorities of work.

NOTE: Have students turn to page SH-2-37, para 2-25 of FM 7-8 (SH-2), so they can follow along as you present the following bullets.

Priority of work is a list of tasks that the leader uses to control what gets done by whom and in what order. The SOP normally prescribes these tasks. The leader adjusts the priority of work based on his consideration of the factors of METT-TC and on the commander's intent.

Normal priority of work may include--

- Position weapons systems and assign sectors of fire.
- Position other assets attached to the platoon.
- Establish the CP and wire communications.
- Designate FPLs and PDFs.
- Clear fields of fire
- Prepare range cards

NOTE: Have the students turn to page FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2- 29, para 2-19 and facilitate a short discussion of range-cards.

Prepare sector sketches--

NOTE: Have the students turn to FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33 and facilitate a short discussion of sector sketches. Have students compare the Squad sector sketch (Fig 2-42) to the platoon sector sketch (Fig 2-43).

- Coordinate with adjacent squads to the left and right.
- Prepare primary fighting positions.
- Emplace obstacles and mines.
- Improve primary fighting positions such as overhead cover.
- Prepare alternate positions, then supplementary positions.

As you can tell from the list above, there is a lot of work to do. Now we need an understanding how the tactical situation may influence your priority of work. You can use the Readiness Conditions (REDCON) 1 through 4 to make your decisions.

QUESTION: What are the four REDCONs and their meaning?

ANSWER: See VGT-13 and VGT-14.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-5 and SH-3-6, Task Step 17

NOTE: When you show VGTs 13 and 14, uncover the bullets one at a time as the students answer the question.

SHOW VGT-13, REDCON 1 AND 2

REDCON 1 and 2

- **REDCON 1:** Full Alert. Period of Maximum preparedness. All soldiers are alert and prepare for action. All squads, OPs recalled. All weapons manned.
- **REDCON 2:** Full Alert. Equipment stowed except for wire and telephone equipment. Weapons manned, All squads, OPs, and chemical alarms still deployed.

W224/OCT 03/VA-13

REMOVE VGT-13

SHOW VGT-14, REDCON 3 AND 4

REDCON 3 and 4

- **REDCON 3:** Reduced Alert. Fifty percent of each team/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons and OPs manned.
- **REDCON 4:** Minimum Alert. Seventy five percent of each team/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons and OPs manned.

W224/OCT 03/VA-14

REMOVE VGT-14

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), p SH-3-4 and SH-3-5, Task Steps 13 through 15

The platoon leader reviews the organization of the assembly area and security requirements with the squad leaders and directs required actions. These actions include—

- Designating direct fire responsibilities for each squad/sections part of the platoon's sector of the perimeter to include location of observation posts and provides guidance on their manning.
- Positioning of other assets attached to the platoon.

Up to now the platoon conducted most of the activities. Now the emphasis changes to the squad, section, or team level. The tasks that follow are critical leader actions at these levels. Notice that these activities are very similar to some of the priorities of work identified previously. Squad activities include—

- Maintain security including (OPSEC) IAW platoon leader's guidance or SOP.
- Continue mission operations, maintenance, re-supply, and rest activities.

The Leader activities include—

- Supervise soldiers in improving the area by camouflaging equipment and by adding such things as overhead cover and camouflage to fighting positions.
- Enforce noise, light, and litter discipline IAW SOPs.
- Establish a sleep and rest plan.

Ref: ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3), page SH-3-6, Task Step 19

The platoon leader anticipates future requirements and prepares for the occupation of the next assembly area. Through anticipation and initiative, leaders at ALL levels are able to position their units on the battlefield. Combat is often a series of similar operations conducted over and over again based on the tactical situation. Occupying an assembly area is one of them. All units on the battlefield must train and prepare themselves in the complexities of occupying an assembly area so when the situations dictates, they can move to and occupy a new assembly area with little notice and difficulties.

CHECK ON LEARNING:

QUESTION: What weapons are range cards prepared for, and who prepares them?

ANSWER: Crew-served weapons, the assigned gunner.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33, para 2-23

QUESTION: How many copies of the sector sketch does the Squad leader prepare?

ANSWER: 2.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-33, para 2-23a

D. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Defend assigned sector.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a field training exercise, given a team/squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
STANDARDS:	Defended assigned sector IAW FM 7-8 (SH-2) and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Defend assigned sector.

Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion

Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)

Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8

Time of Instruction: 20 mins

Media: VGT-15 and VGT-16

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-22, para 2-15d through f

The quartering party initially establishes the security of the assembly area and the unit develops its defense continually throughout the occupation of the assembly area. Once the unit establishes the defense, the unit must prepare to actually defend the area at any time.

Prior to fighting the defense, the platoon concentrates on locating the enemy, without the enemy detecting them, by using active and passive security techniques. When detected, the platoon leader initiates actions on contact. Once you make enemy contact, your main task is to control the fight by directing the actions of your subordinates and reporting your situation and status to the platoon leader. The usual methods of directing actions are through standard commands, pyrotechnics, and prearranged signals. You direct the firing of your squad weapons through fire control and distribution. In simple terms, this means you do not have your weapons fire until the enemy is within their respective ranges or sectors of fire.

You achieve mass fires by having the maximum number of weapons firing at the most important or priority targets. The squad maintains a sustained rate of fire by having buddy teams alternate firing so that both are not reloading at the same time. As the enemy closes on your position, you shift the focus of the defense by the following actions:

SHOW VGT-15, REPEL AN ATTACK.

NOTE: Uncover the bullets on the next two slides one at a time. Have a student read each bullet and clarify any questions as they occur. Lead discussion so that this section pulls together the information from the previous two hours.

REPEL AN ATTACK

- **Repel an attack by—**
 - Shifting squad members and key weapons within the squad's positions as needed to maintain security and repel attack.
 - Rifles and AT-4s fire at designated PDF.
 - M203 gunners fire at enemy in dead space or attempting to breach wire obstacles.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-15

REMOVE VGT-15

SHOW VGT-16, REPEL AND ATTACK (CONT)

REPEL AN ATTACK (CONT)

- **If available, call for and adjust indirect final protective fires (FPF).**
- **Report the situation to the platoon leader.**
- **Reposition squad on order of platoon leader.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-16

REMOVE VGT-16

NOTE: Following any enemy contact reorganization and reconstitution activities take place. Reorganization and reconstitution actions will be covered in W225 Combat operations. Defer questions concerning these activities to W225.

CHECK ON LEARNING:

QUESTION: What is the squad's indirect fire weapon?

ANSWER: M203.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), p SH-2-28, para 2-18c.

QUESTION: How do leaders control fires in the defense?

ANSWER: Using standard commands, pyrotechnics, and other prearranged signals.

Ref: FM 7-8 (SH-2), page SH-2-23, para 2-15 f(1)(b).

Break: Time 01:50 to 02:00

2. Learning Step / Activity 2. Perform a practical exercise (TLO)
 - Method of Instruction: Practical Exercise (Performance)
 - Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
 - Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
 - Time of Instruction: 1 hr 45 mins
 - Media: PE-1

Conduct PE-1.

NOTE: There is no break scheduled during the next hour and 40 mins. SGLs will break once during the next two hours as training affords the opportunity.

NOTE: Commandants have an option in conducting this PE. He may choose to:

1. Conduct the PE outside in an area that affords enough room to conduct a walk through with the students in the occupation of an assembly area.
2. Conduct the PE on a sand table.

NOTE: The practical exercise serves as a check on learning for this lesson.

SECTION IV. SUMMARY

Method of Instruction: <u>Conference / Discussion</u>
Technique of Delivery: <u>Small Group Instruction (SGI)</u>
Instructor to Student Ratio is: <u>1:8</u>
Time of Instruction: <u>5 mins</u>
Media: <u>None</u>

Check on Learning

The just completed PE sufficed as the check on learning.

Review / Summarize Lesson

This lesson provides you with an overview and a practical application of how to occupy and defend an assembly area. Every soldier in the Army may have to move to and defend a assembly area, and as NCOs we must be able to lead soldiers in a manner that will ensure their success on the modern battlefield.

SECTION V. STUDENT EVALUATION

Testing Requirements

NOTE: Describe how the student must demonstrate accomplishment of the TLO. Refer student to the Student Evaluation Plan.

During this lesson, you will complete a practical exercise. This practical exercise will not affect your academic rating for the course. However, your ability to interpret and apply the material contained in this lesson will contribute to your squad's success when you occupy an assembly area during the STX.

Feedback Requirements

NOTE: Feedback is essential to effective learning. Schedule and provide feedback on the evaluation and any information to help answer students' questions about the test. Provide remedial training as needed.

We will conduct AARs and check on learning activities throughout the lesson to ensure you learn the material.

Enabling Learning Objective A

Learning Step 1

VGT-1, ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

- **Identify tactically significant terrain along movement route.**
- **Identify tentative rally points along route.**
- **Identify platoon release point.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-1

RECONNAISSANCE OF NEW ASSEMBLY AREA

- **Identify Key Terrain features:**
 - **Enhances or degrades platoon's mission.**
 - **Enhances or degrades defense of platoon.**
- **Identify likely enemy avenues of approach.**
- **Identify tentative Squad/Section areas.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-2

OBSERVATION POSTS

- **Secure adjacent key terrain to prevent enemy use.**
- **Cover avenues of approach to provide advanced warning of enemy movement.**
- **Platoon leader designates the general location.**
- **Squad leader establishes the specific observation post (OP).**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-3

OBSERVATION POSTS (CONT)

- **Minimum manning is two soldiers per OP.**
- **When covering a large area, the platoon establishes more than one OP, and the squads patrol in between them.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-4

PASSIVE MEASURES

- **Observation by passive devices such as night vision devices, including—**
 - **Thermal sights.**
 - **Early warning devices such as ground sensors.**
- **Camouflage of personnel, equipment, and positions.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-5

PASSIVE MEASURES (CONT)

- **Movement control that denies the enemy the ability to count personnel.**
- **Noise, light, and sound discipline to prevent the enemy from pinpointing locations.**
- **Radiotelephone discipline to deny the enemy operational information.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-6

TYPES OF POSITIONS

Primary Position:

Provides a soldier, weapon crew, or unit the best means to accomplish the assigned mission.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-7

TYPES OF POSITIONS (CONT)

Alternate Position:

Allows coverage of the same sectors as the primary positions when the primary positions become untenable.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-8

TYPES OF POSITIONS (CONT)

Supplementary Position:

Provides the best means of accomplishing a task that you cannot accomplish from the primary or alternate positions, such as covering additional enemy avenues of approach and to protect flanks.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-9

DISTANCE BETWEEN FIGHTING POSITIONS

- 1. Requirement to cover the squad's assigned sector by fire.**
- 2. Need for security--Prevention of infiltrations.**
- 3. Prevent enemy from using hand grenades effectively to assault adjacent positions, should he gain a fighting position.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-10

POSITIONING OF MACHINE GUNS

Leaders position machine guns to—

- **Concentrate fires where they want to kill the enemy.**
- **Fire across the squad front.**
- **Cover obstacles by fire.**
- **Tie-in with adjacent squad.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-11

GRENADE LAUNCHERS

The squad leader uses the grenadier to—

- Provide indirect fire coverage.**
- Cover machine gun dead space.**
- Cover protective wire obstacles.**
- Engage lightly armored vehicles.**
- M203 gunner also assigned a rifle sector.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-12

REDCON 1 and 2

- **REDCON 1:** Full Alert. Period of maximum preparedness. All soldiers are alert and prepare for action. All squads, OPs recalled. All weapons manned.
- **REDCON 2:** Full Alert. Equipment stowed except for wire and telephone equipment. Weapons manned, squads, OPs, and chemical alarms still deployed.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-13

REDCON 3 and 4

- **REDCON 3:** Reduced Alert. Fifty percent of each team/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons and OPs manned.
- **REDCON 4:** Minimum Alert. Seventy five percent of each team/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons and OPs manned.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-14

REPEL AN ATTACK

- **Repel an attack by—**
 - Shifting squad members and key weapons within the squad's positions as needed to maintain security and repel attack.
 - Rifles and AT-4s fire at designated PDF.
 - M203 gunners fire at enemy in dead space or attempting to breach wire obstacles.

W224/OCT 03/VGT-15

REPEL AN ATTACK (CONT)

- **If available, call for and adjust indirect final protective fires (FPF).**
- **Report the situation to the platoon leader.**
- **Reposition squad on order of platoon leader.**

W224/OCT 03/VGT-16

Appendix B Test(s) and Test Solution(s) (N/A)

Heat Category	WBGT Index, °F	Easy Work		Moderate Work		Hard Work	
		Work /Rest	Water Intake, Qt/hr	Work /Rest	Water Intake, Qt/hr	Work /Rest	Water Intake Qt/hr
1	78-81.9	NL	1/2	NL	3/4	40/20 min	3/4
2 Green	82-84.9	NL	1/2	50/10 min	3/4	30/30 min	1
3 Yellow	85-87.9	NL	3/4	40/20 min	3/4	30/30 min	1
4 Red	88-89.9	NL	3/4	30/30 min	3/4	20/40 min	1
5 Black	>90	50/10 min	1	20/40 min	1	10/50 min	1

- The work/rest times and fluid replacement volumes will sustain performance and hydration for at least four hrs of work in the specified heat category. Individual water needs will vary + or – 1/4 qt/hr.
- NL = no limit to work time per hour. Rest means minimal physical activity (sitting or standing) and should be accomplished in shade if possible.
- **CAUTION: Hourly fluid intake should not exceed 1 1/4 quarts.**
- **Daily fluid intake should not exceed 12 Liters.**
- **NOTE:** MOPP gear adds 10° F to WBGT Index.
- **NOTE:** Wearing Body Armor adds 5° F to WBGT Index

Easy Work	Moderate Work	Hard Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapon maintenance. • Walking hard surface at 2.5 mph, ≤ 30 lb. load • Guard Duty. • Marksmanship Training. • Drill and Ceremony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking loose sand at 2.5 mph, no load. • Walking hard surface at 3.5 mph, < 40 lb. load. • Calisthenics. • Patrolling. • Individual movement techniques. e.g. low crawl, high crawl. • Defensive position construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking loose sand at 2.5 mph with load. • Walking hard surface at 3.5 mph, ≥ 40 lb. load. • Field assaults.

Risk Assessment Level Low

Environmental Considerations Check with local environmental office for local requirements.

Evaluation

- AAR
- This PE is a non-graded exercise.

Instructional Lead-In This PE will help prepare the students when they participate in an exercise of occupying an assembly area during the STX.

Resource Requirements

Instructor Materials:

- For Option 1, NCOA company area or local training area large enough to accommodate squad level training.

-
- For Option 2, Sand Table to accommodate a student ratio of 2 SGLs and 16 students.
 - OPORD/FRAGO. (Recommend the same OPORD/FRAGO from TSP W223, Conduct Movement, PE-1.

Student Materials:

- SH-1, Advance Sheet.
- SH-2, Extracts from FM 7-8 or FM 7-8.
- SH-3, Extracts from ARTEP 7-8-MTP.

NOTE: Issued to students during inprocessing:

- Pen or pencil and writing paper.

**Special
Instructions**

-
- The intent of this PE is not to have the squad reach task proficiency but rather that the students participate in a collective training event.
 - Annex 1, to this TSP, contains a recommended sequence for collective training and the T&EO from ARTEP 7-8-MTP. The squad level task steps and performance measures are in **bold print**, all other measures are platoon level and the NCOA staff will perform them.
 - Each SGLs will be the primary trainer for their squad. SGLs will train the squad to accomplish the squad level task steps and performance measures to support a platoon occupation of an assembly area that they may conduct during the STX.
 - Each academy will issue an OPORD to support this PE. Recommend that NCOAs use the same OPORD they developed for TSP W223, Conduct Movement, PE-1.
 - Uniform/Equipment:
 - Option 1.
 - BDUs with field cap
 - LCE with two canteens of water.
 - M16s or Rubber M16s (Optional).
 - Other uniforms/equipment requirements IAW NCOA SOP.
 - Option 2. Per NCOA SOP.

Annex 1, to Practical Exercise 1

Recommended PE Sequence

(IAW with ARTEP 7-8-MTP)

1. Move the squad to an adequate location in the academy's company area or a local field training area.
2. SGL familiarizes squad with:
 - a. Selecting temporary fighting positions.
 - b. Establishing an Observation Post.
3. Give Company/Platoon OPORD. (CI or Senior SGL). (Recommend NCOA used the same OPORD the NCOA developed for TSP W223, Conduct Movement, PE-1.

Note: One of the SGLs of the group will complete platoon level troop leading procedures (TLP) prior to the start of the PE.

4. Students demonstrate squad leader TLP:
 - a. Walk squad through identified squad task steps and performance measures from ARTEP 7-8-MTP.
 - b. Continue until squad is capable of performing task steps and performance measures to a reasonable level of proficiency to enable them to participate in a company or platoon level occupation of an assembly area.
5. Conduct AARs as appropriate.

Task Number 07-3-5063 (Extracted from ARTEP 7-8-MTP

TASK: Occupy an Assembly Area (Infantry/Mortar/Reconnaissance Platoon/Squad) (07-3-5063)

(FM 7-4 (3-21.94)) (FM 7-5 (3-21.9)) ([FM 7-7](#)) ([FM 7-7J](#)) ([FM 7-8](#)) ([FM 7-85](#)) ([FM 7-92](#))

ITERATION 1 2 3 4 5 M (circle)
 TRAINING STATUS T P U (circle)

CONDITION: The platoon is conducting operations as part of a larger force and has received an operation order (OPORD) or fragmentary order (FRAGO) to occupy an assembly area (AA) at the location and time specified. All necessary personnel and equipment are available. The platoon has communications with higher, adjacent, and subordinate elements. The platoon has been provided guidance on the rules of engagement (ROE) and or rules of interaction (ROI). Coalition forces and noncombatants may be present in the operational environment. Some iterations of this task should be conducted during limited visibility conditions.

Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP4.

TASK STANDARD: The platoon occupies the AA in accordance with the order and or commander's guidance. The platoon enters the AA without stopping or blocking the route of march, moves all personnel and equipment to their assigned positions not later than (NLT) the time specified in the order, establishes priority of work, establishes local security, and maintains appropriate readiness condition (REDCON) levels. The platoon complies with the ROE and or ROI.

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>*1. Platoon leader gains and or maintains situational understanding using information that is gathered from FORCE XXI Battle Command - Brigade and Below (FBCB2) (if applicable), frequency modulated (FM) communications, maps, intelligence summaries, situation reports (SITREPs), and or other available information sources.</p> <p>*2. Platoon leader receives an OPORD or FRAGO and issues warning order (WARNO) to the platoon using FBCB2, FM, or other tactical means.</p> <p>*3. Platoon leader plans using troop-leading procedures.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Conducts a digital and or conventional map reconnaissance.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(1) Identifies tentative rally points.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(2) Identifies likely enemy avenues of approach.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(3) Marks tentative dismount points on digital and conventional maps as appropriate.</p>		

ANNEX-1-2

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>b. Plans and coordinates indirect fire support and or close air support, if available.</p> <p>c. Identifies direct fire responsibilities.</p> <p>d. Addresses actions on chance contact with the enemy.</p> <p>*4. Platoon leader disseminates digital reports (if applicable), overlays, and other pertinent information to each squad to keep them abreast of the situation.</p> <p>*5. Platoon leader assigns personnel to perform quartering party duties IAW guidance and or TSOP.</p> <p>a. Briefs personnel on platoon requirements for the quartering party.</p> <p>*6. Platoon leader issues orders and instructions to include ROE and or ROI.</p> <p>7. Platoon conducts a rehearsal.</p> <p>*8. Platoon leader issues FRAGOs, as necessary, to address changes to the plan identified during the rehearsal.</p> <p>9. Quartering party clears the release point (RP) and moves to the AA.</p> <p>a. Assists in reconnaissance of the route and the proposed AA.</p> <p>b. Assists in improving and marking entrances, exits, and internal routes.</p> <p>c. Assists in marking obstacles, mines, and contaminated areas.</p> <p>d. Selects and marks tentative platoon vehicle, weapons, and dismounted team positions IAW OPOD, FRAGO, or SOP.</p> <p>e. Maintains surveillance and provides security of the area until the arrival of the platoon.</p> <p>f. Posts guides in covered and concealed positions to guide platoon to its initial position without halting.</p> <p>10. Platoon clears the RP and moves to AA.</p>		

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>11. Platoon performs initial occupation of the AA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follows directions from the guides and moves into marked positions. b. Orients weapon systems to cover sectors of responsibility. c. Follows proper cool-down procedures, shuts down engines simultaneously, if applicable. <p>*12. Platoon leader/platoon sergeant (PSG) initiates assembly area activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reviews organization of the AA with quartering party personnel. b. Designates section direct fire responsibilities. c. Directs section/team leaders and VCs to prepare sector sketches. d. Keeps the company commander informed of the status of the operation, taking the following steps as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Reports platoon's arrival at the AA. (2) Reports completion of initial occupation of AA positions. (3) Prepares and forwards situation reports (SITREPs) to the commander, as necessary, throughout the operation . e. Determines security procedures, REDCON level, and priorities of work. <p>13. Platoon establishes and maintains local security under direction from the platoon leader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assigns each section a sector of the perimeter to ensure mutual support and to cover all gaps by observation and fire. b. Establishes patrols to prevent infiltration and to clear possible enemy observation posts (OPs) within assigned sector (if applicable). c. Designates an OP and selects OP personnel. d. Ensures the OP has communications with the platoon. 		

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>e. Warns the platoon of any enemy approach before the platoon is attacked (OP).</p> <p>f. Camouflages equipment.</p> <p>g. Enforces noise, light, and litter discipline.</p> <p>14. Based on the priority of work established by the platoon leader, the platoon (can vary by platoon TSOP and (factors of mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops, time available, and civilian considerations [METT-TC].)</p> <p>a. Positions weapon systems and assigns sectors of fire.</p> <p>b. Positions other assets attached to the platoon.</p> <p>c. Establishes wire communications.</p> <p>d. Designates final protective line (FPL) and final protective fires (FPFs).</p> <p>e. Clears fields of fire and prepares range cards and sector sketches.</p> <p>f. Camouflages the positions</p> <p>g. Coordinates with adjacent elements left, right, forward, and to the rear, if applicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) Ensures there are no gaps between elements.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) Exchanges information on OP locations and platoon signals.</p> <p>i. Improves primary fighting positions by adding such things as overhead cover.</p> <p>j. Prepares alternate positions, then supplementary positions.</p> <p>k. Establishes a sleep and rest plan.</p> <p>l. Reconnoiters routes.</p> <p>m. Adjusts positions or control measures as required.</p> <p>n. Stockpiles ammunition, food, and water.</p>		

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>o. Digs trenches to connect positions.</p> <p>p. Continues to improve positions.</p> <p>*15. Platoon leader forwards a sector sketch to the company commander and keeps one for platoon use.</p> <p>16. Platoon performs field sanitation operations.</p> <p>a. Maintains adequate supply of potable water.</p> <p>b. Establishes latrines and hand washing facilities.</p> <p>c. Performs personal hygiene activities.</p> <p>17. Platoon assumes specified REDCON level, taking one of the following steps:</p> <p>a. Assumes REDCON-1 (Full alert). Note: A period of maximum preparedness, REDCON-1 ensures that all platoon personnel are alert and prepared for action immediately. Infantry squads, to include OPs, are recalled, and weapons are manned.</p> <p>b. Assumes REDCON-2 (Full alert). Note: Equipment is stowed except for wire and telephone equipment, if used. Platoon weapons are manned. Infantry squads, OPs and chemical alarms are still deployed.</p> <p>c. Assumes REDCON-3 (Reduced alert). Note: Fifty percent of each crew/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures.</p> <p>d. Assumes REDCON-4 (Minimum alert). Note: Seventy five percent of each crew/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons within each infantry squad are manned. OPs are manned.</p> <p>18. The platoon continues priorities of work, including operations security (OPSEC), maintenance, resupply, and rest activities.</p> <p>a. Maintains security IAW platoon leader's guidance, order and or TSOP.</p> <p>b. Increases REDCON levels progressively as required based on company commander's guidance or unit SOP.</p>		

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>*19. On receipt of further orders, the platoon leader conducts preparations for departing the AA.</p> <p>a. Reconnoiters route and or calculates time distance for departing the AA, as directed.</p> <p>b. Conducts police call to ensure no equipment, supplies, or other items of tactical or intelligence value is left behind.</p> <p>c. Increases REDCON levels progressively as required based on company commander's guidance or TSOP.</p>		
<p>NOTE: * Indicates a leader task. NOTE: + Indicates a critical task.</p>		

TASK PERFORMANCE SUMMARY BLOCK

ITERATION	1	2	3	4	5	M	TOTAL
TOTAL TASK STEPS & PERFORMANCE MEASURES EVALUATED							
TOTAL TASK STEPS & PERFORMANCE MEASURES "GO"							

SUPPORTING SOLDIER'S MANUAL TASKS

<u>031-503-2001</u>	IDENTIFY CHEMICAL AGENTS USING M256-SERIES CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR KIT
<u>031-503-2008</u>	USE AND MAINTAIN M8 OR M8A1 CHEMICAL AGENT ALARM
<u>031-503-3008</u>	IMPLEMENT MISSION-ORIENTED PROTECTIVE POSTURE
<u>052-191-1501</u>	
<u>052-192-3032</u>	
<u>052-192-3032-A</u>	
<u>071-010-0001</u>	ZERO A NIGHT VISION SIGHT AN/PVS-4 TO AN M249 MACHINE GUN
<u>071-010-0002</u>	MOUNT A NIGHT VISION SIGHT AN/PVS-4 ON AN M249 MACHINE GUN
<u>071-025-0010</u>	
<u>071-025-0010-A</u>	
<u>071-032-0006</u>	CONSTRUCT FIELD-EXPEDIENT FIRING AIDS FOR AN M203 GRENADE LAUNCHER
<u>071-311-2006</u>	CONSTRUCT FIELD_EXPEDIENT FIRING AIDS FOR AN M16A1 or M16A2 RIFLE
<u>071-312-4004</u>	LAY AN M249 MACHINE GUN USING FIELD EXPEDIENTS
<u>071-312-4032</u>	
<u>071-325-4425</u>	EMPLOY AN M18A1 CLAYMORE MINE
<u>071-325-4426</u>	RECOVER AN M18A1 CLAYMORE MINE
<u>071-326-0513</u>	SELECT TEMPORARY FIGHTING POSITIONS
<u>071-326-5502</u>	ISSUE A FRAGMENTARY ORDER
<u>071-326-5503</u>	ISSUE A WARNING ORDER
<u>071-326-5505</u>	ISSUE AN ORAL OPERATIONS ORDER
<u>071-326-5703</u>	CONSTRUCT INDIVIDUAL FIGHTING POSITIONS

ANNEX-7

071-326-5704 SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIGHTING POSITION
071-326-5705 ESTABLISH AN OBSERVATION POST
[071-326-5770](#) PREPARE A PLATOON SECTOR SKETCH
071-326-5775 COORDINATE WITH AN ADJACENT PLATOON
071-331-0801 CHALLENGE PERSONS ENTERING YOUR AREA
071-331-0852 CLEAR A FIELD OF FIRE
[071-730-0004](#) PLAN INSTALLATION OF A PLATOON EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AN/TRS-2
[071-730-0008](#) Employ Field-Expedient Early Warning Devices
113-571-1022 PERFORM VOICE COMMUNICATIONS
[113-573-0002](#) CONDUCT OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC) PROCEDURES

ANNEX 1-8

**Feedback
Requirements**

SGLs will conduct AARs as appropriate throughout the exercise.

**SOLUTION FOR
PRACTICAL EXERCISE PE-1**

Title: After Action Review.

After Action Review: Conduct an AAR upon completion of option 1 or option 2.

HANDOUTS FOR LESSON 1: W224 version 1

This Appendix Contains This appendix contains the items listed in this table:

Title/Synopsis	Pages
SH-1, Advance Sheet	SH-1 thru SH-2
SH-2, FM 7-8 Extract	SH-2-0 thru SH-2-38
SH-3, ARTEP 7-8-MTP Extract	SH-3-1 thru SH-3-7

Student Handout 1

This student handout contains the Advance Sheet

Student Handout 1

Advance Sheet

Overview

At some point in time all units in today's Army must occupy a new assembly area in order to sustain current operations or to execute new ones. Squad size units normally occupy assembly areas as part of a company or platoon. The ability of the squad to accomplish their portion of occupying an assembly area is critical to the safety of its soldiers and the overall success of their unit.

Learning Objective

Terminal Learning Objective (TLO):

Action:	Identify the procedures required to occupy and defend an assembly area.
Conditions:	In a classroom environment, culminating in a Field Training exercise given a Team/Squad and FM 7-8 (SH-2), and ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
Standard:	Identified the procedures required to occupy an assembly area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing to occupy an assembly area.• Moving into an assembly area and establishing security.• Occupying and securing the assembly area.• Defending the assigned sector. IAW FM 7-8 (SH-2) and ARTEP 7-8 MTP (SH-3).

ELO A: Prepare to occupy an assembly area.

ELO B: Move to an assembly area and establish security.

ELO C: Occupy and secure the assembly area.

ELO D: Defend assigned sector.

Assignment

The student assignments for this lesson are:

- Read FM 7-8 (SH-2), paragraphs 1-8, 1-9, 2-2, 2-6, Section V.
 - Study ARTEP 7-8-MTP (SH-3).
-

Additional Subject Area Resources

None.

Bring to Class

You must bring the following materials to class:

- FM 7-8 (SH-2).
- ARTEP 7-8-MTP (S-3).
- Pencil or pen and writing paper.
- Appropriate uniform based on which option of the PE the NCOA uses.
- Assigned M16A1A2.
- LCE with two canteens of water.

Note to Students

It is your responsibility to do the homework prior to class. We expect you to come to class prepared. You will participate in small group discussion. We expect you to participate in the discussion by providing information you learned from your study, and also your personal and observed experiences. Failure to study and read the assignments above will result in your inability to participate with the rest of the group. Not having your input affects the group's ability to fully discuss the information.

Student Handout 2

This student handout contains 37 pages of extracted material from FM 7-8.

Extract from FM 7-8, Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad

RECOVERABLE PUBLICATIONS

YOU RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT IN A DAMAGE-FREE CONDITION. DAMAGE IN ANY WAY, TO INCLUDE HIGHLIGHTING, PENCIL MARKS, OR MISSING PAGES, WILL SUBJECT YOU TO PECUNIARY LIABILITY (STATEMENT OF CHARGES, CASH COLLECTION, ETC.) TO RECOVER PRINTING COSTS.

1-8. DEFENSE

This paragraph describes the characteristics of defensive operations, the role of the commander's concept in focusing the efforts of platoons and squads in the defense, and other considerations for planning defensive operations. Defensive operations are characterized by preparation, disruption, concentration, and flexibility. Platoons and squads normally defend as part of a larger force to disrupt, disorganize, delay, or defeat an attacking enemy, deny an area to an enemy, or protect a flank. They may also defend as a part of a larger unit in a retrograde operation. The challenge to the defender is to retain the initiative, that is, to keep the enemy reacting and unable to execute his own plan.

a. **Initiative in the Defense.** Since the enemy decides the time and place of the attack, leaders seize and retain the initiative in the defense through careful planning, preparation, coordination, and rehearsal. Leaders plan and establish the defense to find the enemy first, without being found; fix the enemy with obstacles and fires; locate or create a weakness in the enemy's attack plan; and maneuver to exploit that weakness with quick violent counterattack.

(1) **Plan and prepare.** Leaders use the troop-leading procedure to make sure that all necessary steps are taken to prepare for an operation. They analyze the factors of METT-T to determine the best course of action. In the defense, they determine where best to kill the enemy with fires. They position key weapons to concentrate fires into that area, tie in fires with obstacles, position the remaining platoon and squad weapons to support and protect the key weapons, and reconnoiter and rehearse counterattacks.

(2) **Find the enemy.** Platoon leaders find the enemy by knowing how he fights, by analyzing the terrain in light of this knowledge, by positioning OPs along likely avenues of approach, and by actively patrolling to locate him.

(3) **Avoid detection.** Platoons avoid detection by securing their defensive positions or sectors early and continuously, by positioning squads and weapons away from natural lines of drift or obvious terrain features, and by employing effective camouflage and noise and light discipline.

(4) **Fix the enemy.** Platoons use a combination of tactical obstacles and direct and indirect fires to disrupt the enemy attack and fix the enemy in a place where the platoon can destroy him with fires.

(5) **Find or create a weakness.** Platoons create a weakness by destroying the enemy's command and control nodes, by isolating an attacking or assaulting enemy formation from its support, by causing mounted forces to dismount and thereby slowing the attack and making the enemy vehicles more vulnerable, by use of night vision devices to gain a visibility advantage, or by the effective use of illumination to blind or expose the enemy during his attack.

(6) **Maneuver to exploit the weakness.** Having created a weakness, platoons must exploit it with counterattacks against the flank or rear of the enemy attack by fire or maneuver. Platoons must carefully coordinate and rehearse all counterattacks to ensure the proper synchronization in lifting and shifting of direct and indirect fires. They must also consider the threat of follow-on enemy forces against their counterattack.

(7) **Reorganize.** Platoons and squads must be able to reorganize quickly to continue the defense against follow-on forces.

b. **Defense on a Reverse Slope.** An infantry company or platoon can organize a defense on the reverse slope of a hill ([Figure 1-1](#)). This defense is on the part of the hill or ridge that is masked by the crest from enemy direct fire and ground observation. The platoon must control the crest by fire.

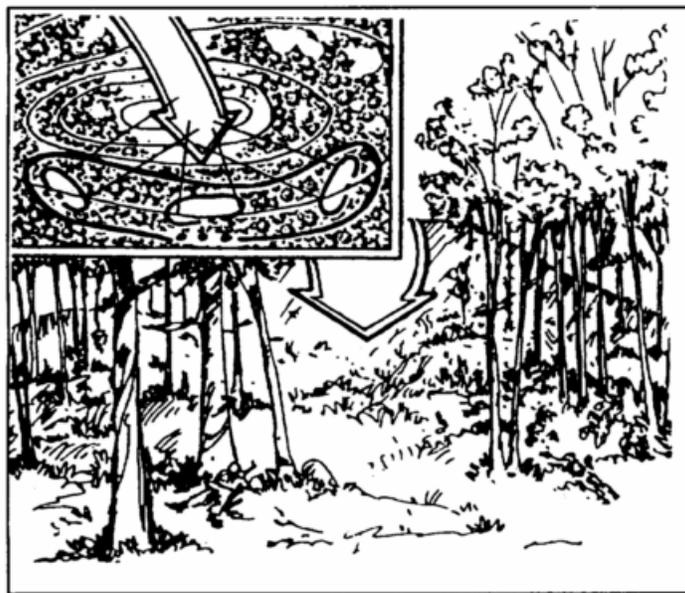


Figure 1-1. Defending from the reverse slope.

(1) The advantages of defending from a reverse slope are--

- Enemy ground observation of the position is masked.
- There is more freedom of movement in the position due to the enemy's lack of ground observation.
- Enemy direct-fire weapons cannot hit the position.
- Enemy indirect fire is less effective due to the lack of enemy ground observation.
- The defender gains surprise.
- If the enemy attacks over the crest, he will isolate himself from his supporting element(s).

- (2) The disadvantages of defending from a reverse slope may include the following: It is more difficult to observe the enemy. Soldiers can see no farther forward than the crest, making it difficult to determine just where the enemy is as he advances
- This is especially true during limited visibility conditions. OPs must be placed well forward of the crest for early warning and long-range observation.
- Moving out of the position under pressure may be more difficult.
- Fields of fire are normally short. Grazing fire may be less than 600 meters.
- Obstacles on the forward slope can only be covered with indirect fire or by units on the flanks-unless some weapons are initially placed forward.
- If the enemy gets to the crest, he can assault down the hill. This may give him a psychological advantage.
- If enough OPs are not put out or if they are not put in the right positions, the enemy may suddenly appear at close range without enough warning.

(3) The forward platoons are from 200 to 500 meters from the crest of the hills where they can have the best fields of fire and still have the advantages of the reverse slope.

(4) If it places them in supporting distance, the overmatching platoon is positioned on the forward slope of the next high ground to the rear (counterslope). Tasks assigned to the overmatching platoon include--

- Protect the flanks and rear of the forward positions.
- Reinforce the fires of the forward elements.
- Block penetrations of the forward positions.
- Cover the withdrawal of forward units.
- Counterattack.

(5) Platoon leaders plan indirect fire FPFs on or short of the crest of the hill to deny that area to the enemy and to help breakup his assault as he crosses the crest.

(6) Platoons position OPs on, or just forward of the crest to watch the entire platoon sector of fire. The OPs can vary in size from two soldiers to a squad reinforced with machine guns and antiarmor weapons.

(7) Leaders place obstacles below the crest of the hill on the friendly side. Tied in with an FPF, this can be effective in stopping or slowing an assault.

(8) The conduct of the defense from a reverse slope is the same as from a forward slope. However, the OPs forward of the position not only warn of the enemy's advance but also delay, deceive, and disorganize him by fire. OPs withdraw before they become engaged by the enemy. If machine guns are with the OPs, they withdraw first so they can occupy their primary fighting positions before the enemy reaches the crest. As the OPs withdraw, indirect fire is placed on the forward slope and on the crest of the hill to slow the enemy's advance. Soldiers in primary positions hold their fire until the enemy crosses the crest. As the enemy moves over the crest of the hill, the defenders hit him with all available fire.

(9) When the enemy assaults across the crest and is defeated, he will try to turn, bypass, or envelop the defense. To counter this, the overwatch element orients its fires to the flanks of the forward slope. Also, the defense must have appropriate supplementary positions and obstacles, as well as security elements, to warn if the enemy tries to envelop or bypass the position. Against armored, motorized, or road-bound attack, commanders and leaders should position antiarmor weapons and machine guns so their primary sectors are to the flanks of the reverse slope.

c. **Perimeter Defense.** The major advantage of the perimeter defense ([Figure 1-2](#)) is the preparedness of the platoon to defend against an attack from any direction. The main disadvantage is that combat power is not concentrated at first against an enemy avenue of approach. A perimeter defense differs from other defenses in that--

- The trace of the platoon is circular or triangular rather than linear.
- Unoccupied areas between squads are smaller.
- The flanks of the squads are bent back to conform to the plan.
- The bulk of combat power is on the perimeter. The reserve is centrally located.



Figure 1-2. Perimeter defense.

d. **Defense in Sector.** Defense in sector maximizes the combat abilities of the infantry. It allows the platoon to fight throughout the depth of the sector using dispersed small-unit tactics.

(1) The platoon is usually assigned a sector within the company sector ([Figure 1-3](#)). The platoon leader may in turn assign sectors to individual squads to permit maximum freedom of action for the squad to defend. The platoon leader must remember that the squad has no way to call for fire support other than through the platoon net. FOs may be attached, or as a minimum leaders must be prepared to assist in calls for supporting fires.

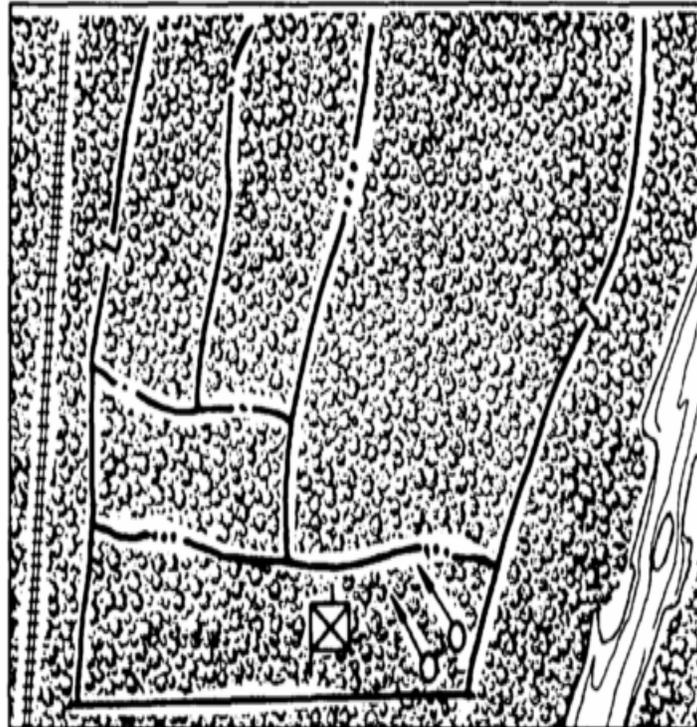


Figure 1-3. Assigned sectors.

(2) Each squad conducts detailed reconnaissance of its sector and identifies all likely enemy avenues of approach, choke points, kill zones, obstacles, patrol bases, and cache sites. They also identify all tentative positions.

(3) The platoon leader confirms the selected tentative sites and incorporates them into his concept (Figure 1-4). He designates initial positions and the sequence in which successive positions are to be occupied. He gives each squad specific guidance concerning contingency plans, rally points, and other coordinating instructions.

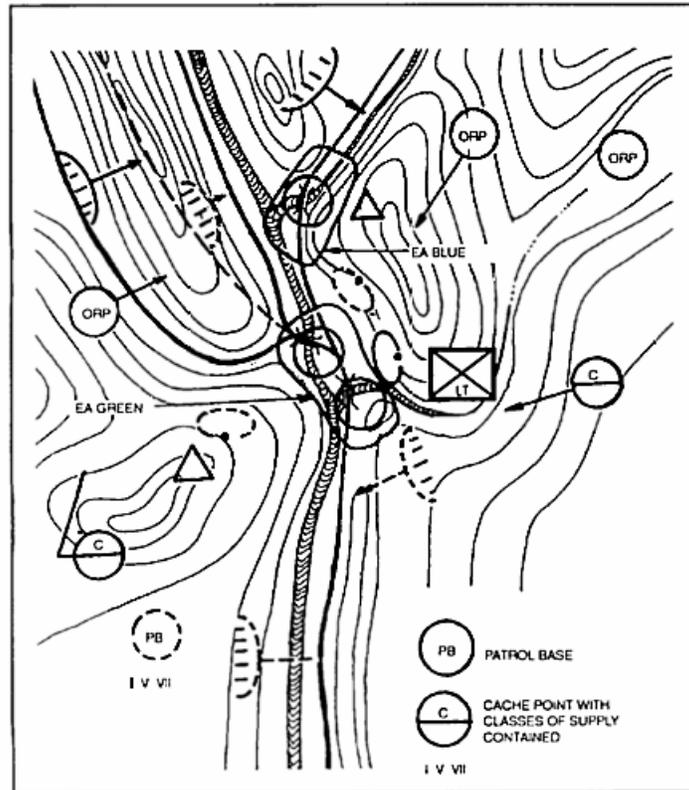


Figure 1-4. Concept of the operation for a defense in a sector.

(4) Squads then prepare the defense in the sequence designated by the platoon leader. They initially prepare the primary position and then a hasty supplementary position, and then they select the alternate position. Squads improve the positions as time permits.

(5) When Security warns of approaching enemy, the squad occupies its primary positions and prepares to engage the enemy. As the enemy moves into the choke point or kill zone, the squad initiates an ambush. It engages the enemy targets only as long as squads do not become decisively engaged. Squads then move to their next position and repeat the same process. The leader must plan the disengagement. Supporting positions, the use of smoke, and rehearsals are key to effective disengagements.

Depending on METT-T factors, the entire battle may be fought this way. Some variations of this technique include the following:

(a) Allowing the enemy to exhaust himself reacting to numerous ambushes, then conduct a violent counterattack along previously rehearsed routes to complete the destruction of the enemy. The platoon leader can do this by retaining direct control over a large portion of the platoon and committing it at the decisive moment. An alternative is to use prearranged signals to consolidate the platoon at a rally point; then to conduct the counterattack.

(b) Having the forward ambush teams hold their fire until the lead elements of the enemy formation hit another ambush deeper in the sector. Then ambush the next enemy element as it passes through the kill zone. This technique destroys the cohesion of the enemy and is especially effective if the ambush eliminates the command group of the enemy unit.

(c) Planning indirect fires to cause more enemy casualties at ambush sites along a well-defined route.

(6) Casualty evacuation and resupply of ammunition and water are particularly difficult when defending this way.

e. **Mutually Supporting Battle Positions.** Platoons and squads use this technique to concentrate firepower into a given engagement area. This technique prevents the attacker from focusing on the entire defensive scheme.

(1) Leaders must ensure that the position is organized in depth, that all likely avenues of approach are covered by fire, and that all positions have interlocking fires. Each position must be supported by another position that can deliver fires into the flank or rear of the enemy attacking it. Leaders must include obstacles in the fire plan to slow and stop the enemy in the engagement area--to include extensive use of mines. Squads patrol forward of the BP to provide security. They harass the enemy to disorganize and confuse him as to the location of the main defenses.

NOTE: Fighting positions are not located on likely avenues of approach.

(2) The positioning of squads, organization of the engagement area, and fire control measures are critical to the success of this technique. Leaders position their squads in relation to the avenue of approach. Platoon leaders use essential control measures to mass fires against the enemy within their sectors.

(3) Variations of this technique include--

- Opening fire at the same time and withdrawing on command.
- Opening fire one element at a time. As the enemy orients on each element firing at them and begins to maneuver against it, other elements open fire and the original element withdraws once it is no longer receiving enemy fire. It either moves to a new position or to a rally point.

- Maneuvering to prevent the enemy from withdrawing or reinforcing.
- Designating more than one engagement area. Leaders use supplementary and on-order positions and secondary sectors of fire to mass fire into engagement areas as required.

f. **Control Measures.** Leaders use control measures to assign responsibilities, coordinate fires and maneuver, control combat operations, and clarify their concept of the operation. Additionally, control measures ensure the distribution of fires throughout the platoon's area of responsibility and the initial positioning and subsequent maneuver of squads.

(1) Graphic control measures used in the defense include sectors, battle positions, boundaries, contact points, coordination points, forward edge of the battle area (FEBA), strongpoints, target reference points (TRP), assembly areas, phase lines, passage points and lanes, release points, and engagement areas. [FM 101-5-1](#) discusses these control measures in detail and provides examples of their use.

(2) Fire commands and control measures for individual and key weapons also constitute a type of control measure available to leaders. Weapons control measures include range cards, sectors of fire, principle direction of fire, final protective line, final protective fires, and target reference points. Most of these appear on the range card. [Chapter 2](#) describes the requirements for weapons range cards and provides examples. In addition, antiarmor gunners, machine gun teams, fire teams, squads, and platoons can be given engagement priorities and fire commands.

g. **Obstacles.** Obstacles give strength to a defense when properly employed. Platoons and squads incorporate existing and reinforcing obstacles into their defense and construct other obstacles systems with mines and wire.

(1) **Considerations.** Leaders must integrate their obstacle plans with direct and indirect fire plans and with their scheme of maneuver. Platoons and squads always cover obstacles by fire and observation. They protect obstacles with antipersonnel mines, trip flares, and warning devices. They camouflage wire or hide it in natural terrain features. [Chapter 2](#) discusses the techniques of obstacle employment most common to infantry platoons and squads.

(2) **Classification.** Wire obstacles have three classifications based on their use and location. Priority for emplacement normally goes to tactical wire. Additionally, leaders can organize their obstacles so that one obstacle can serve both tactical and protective functions.

(a) *Tactical.* Platoons site tactical wire parallel to and along the friendly side of the FPLs of their major weapons. Tactical wire holds the enemy where he can be killed or wounded by automatic rifle fire, Claymores, hand grenades, and machine gun fire.

(b) *Protective.* Squads locate protective wire to prevent surprise assaults from points close to the defense area. It normally lies just outside of hand-grenade range and well within both day and night observation.

(c) *Supplementary*. Platoons and squads use supplementary wire to disguise the exact line of tactical wire and to give continuity to the company obstacle plan.

1-9. SECURITY

Security includes any measure taken by platoons and squads against actions that may reduce their effectiveness. It involves avoiding detection by the enemy or deceiving the enemy about friendly positions and intentions. It also includes finding the enemy and knowing as much about his positions and intentions as possible. Security allows units to retain freedom of action and is an important part of maintaining the initiative. The requirement for security is an inherent part of all platoon operations. Platoons and squads secure themselves when they move, attack, and defend. As part of a larger formation, they may undertake security operations that involve patrolling; establishing squad-sized OPs on a screen line; or executing advance, flank, or rear guard missions for the main body in a movement to contact.

a. **Security During Movement.** Platoons and squads enhance security during movement by--

- Using the proper movement formation and technique.
- Moving as fast as the situation will allow. This may degrade the enemy's ability to detect the platoon or squad and the effectiveness of his fires once detected.
- Moving along terrain that offers cover and concealment.
- Enforcing noise and light discipline.
- Using proper camouflage techniques.

b. **Security in the Offense.** Security in the offense includes reconnaissance and security missions to locate the enemy and protect friendly forces from surprise while leaving them free to deploy when contact is made with the enemy. All platoons and squads are responsible for their own local security. They may also be given specific reconnaissance and security tasks as part of the company or battalion plan. Platoons and squads conduct patrols, establish OPs, and move using appropriate movement formations and techniques to accomplish both reconnaissance and security tasks.

c. **Security in the Defense.** In the defense, platoons and squads use both active and passive measures to enhance security. Platoons also add to their security by actions taken to deny enemy reconnaissance elements accurate information on friendly positions. This includes the destruction of enemy reconnaissance elements and the use of deception measures.

(1) Active measures include--

- The use of OPs and patrols.
- The establishment of specific levels of alert within the platoon. The level can be adjusted based on the METT-T situation.
- Establishment of stand-to times. The platoon's SOP should detail the platoon's activities for stand-to.

(2) Passive measures include camouflage; movement control; noise and light discipline; proper radiotelephone procedures; and ground sensors, night vision devices, and antiarmor weapons' day and nightsights

2-2. TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURE

Troop leading is the process a leader goes through to prepare his unit to accomplish a tactical mission. It begins when he is alerted for a mission. It starts again when he receives a change or a new mission. The troop-leading procedure comprises the steps listed below. [Steps 3 through 8](#) may not follow a rigid sequence. Many of them may be accomplished concurrently. In combat, rarely will leaders have enough time to go through each step in detail. Leaders must use the procedure as outlined, if only in abbreviated form, to ensure that nothing is left out of planning and preparation, and that their soldiers understand the platoon's and squad's mission and prepare adequately. They continuously update their estimates throughout the preparation phase and adjust their plans as appropriate.

STEP 1. Receive the mission.

STEP 2. Issue a warning order.

STEP 3. Make a tentative plan.

STEP 4. Start necessary movement.

STEP 5. Reconnoiter.

STEP 6. Complete the plan.

STEP 7. Issue the complete order.

STEP 8. Supervise.

a. **STEP 1. Receive the Mission.** The leader may receive the mission in a warning order, an operation order (OPORD), or a fragmentary order (FRAGO). He immediately begins to analyze it using the factors of METT-T:

- What is the **MISSION**?
- What is known about the **ENEMY**?
- How will **TERRAIN** and weather affect the operation?
- What **TROOPS** are available?
- How much **TIME** is available?

(1) The leader should use no more than one third of the available time for his own planning and for issuing his operation order. The remaining two thirds is for subordinates to plan and prepare for the operation. Leaders should also consider other factors such as available daylight and travel time to and from orders and rehearsals. In the offense, the leader has one third of the time from his receipt of the mission to the unit's LD time. In the defense, he has one third of the time from mission receipt to the time the squad or platoon must be prepared to defend.

(2) In scheduling preparation activities, the leader should work backwards from the LD or defend time. This is reverse planning. He must allow enough time for the completion of each task.

b. **STEP 2. Issue a Warning Order.** The leader provides initial instructions in a warning order. The warning order contains enough information to begin preparation as soon as possible. Platoon SOPs should prescribe who will attend all warning orders and the actions they must take upon receipt: for example, drawing ammunition, rations and water, and checking communications equipment. The warning order has no specific format. One technique is to use the five-paragraph OPORD format.

The leader issues the warning order with all the information he has available at the time. He provides updates as often as necessary. The leader never waits for information to fill a format. A sample warning order is in [Figure 2-1](#). If available, the following [information](#) may be included in a warning order.

- The mission or nature of the operation.
- Who is participating in the operation.
- Time of the operation.
- Time and place for issuance of the operation order.

FORMAT	ANNOTATED FORMAT	EXAMPLE, ORAL (ATTACK)
SITUATION	Brief description of the enemy and friendly situations. Point out key location on the ground, map or sketch. Attachment and detachment to the squad/platoon	<p>“This is a warning order. Hold your question until I finish.</p> <p>“The scouts have identified a motorized rifle platoon with at least two BTRs defending Hill 876, vic GL 123456. They are digging in an it looks like they plan to defend the road junction at GL 126463. the rest of the enemy company is further to the west, around Hill 899.</p> <p>“Captain Williams just issued a warning order for the company to prepare for an infiltration at 0200, 11 July to seize Hill 876 in order to provide suppressive fires for the battalion’s main attack on Hill 899.</p> <p>“There are no attachments or detachments</p>
MISSION	Concise statement of the task and purpose (who, what, when, where, and why). If not all information is known, state which parts of the mission statement are tentative.	<p>“3d Plt attacks 11 0200 Jul 91 to seize Hill 876 (GL 123456) in order to provide fires on Hill 899 in support of the battalion’s attack.</p>
EXECUTION	brief statement of the tentative concept of the operation.	<p>“We will be one of the two assault platoon along with 2d Plt. 1st Plt will be the base of fire along with the company mortars and dragons.</p>

Figure 2-1. Example of platoon warning order

FORMAT	ANNOTATED FORMAT	EXAMPLE, ORAL (ATTACK)
<p>EXECUTION (continued)</p>	<p>Time schedule: Earliest time of move. Time and place of OPORD Probable execution time. Inspection times and items to be inspected different from SOP. Rehearsal time, location, and actions to be rehearsed.</p> <p>Tasks to subordinate key personnel: Platoon sergeant Squad leaders RATELO Aid man Attachments To soldiers helping prepare OPORD. As needed to others</p>	<p>“Time schedule is as follows: LD time is 0200. The earliest we will have to move is 2330. After 2330, we have to be ready to move within 10 minutes of the order to do so. My final inspection will be at 2300, here at the CP. We have a company rehearsal for team leaders on op at 1600 at the company CP. We will meet here at 1530 and move together. I want a platoon rehearsal for team leaders, squad leaders, the aid man, the FO, and of course, SFC Fowler (the PSG) her at our CP at 1330. We will do a full platoon rehearsal at 2100 so we can do it at least once in the dark. Platoon rehearsals will be for actions at the objective. Squads rehearse breaching and react to contact drills on your own. My OPORD will be here at the platoon CP at 1030.</p> <p>“SFC Fowler, talk to me about resupply after this warning order. I want you to plan for casualty evacuation and to give paragraph 4 of the OPORD. “SSG Crawford, you and your squad will be the lead squad. Make sure you recon the route from her to the LD. “SGT Brown (FO). I need you to get the fire plan from the FIST ASAP, so we see what additional targets we need. “SSG Steele, send SGT White and his team up here in 20 minutes to begin making the terrain model of the objective.</p>

Figure 2-1. Example of platoon warning order (continued).

FORMAT	ANNOTATED FORMAT	EXAMPLE, ORAL (ATTACK)
	Additional general instructions	
SERVICE SUPPORT	CSS tasks to be accomplished that are different from the TACSOP	“Each squad will carry four AT4s to sue against the BTRs or any bunkers we find.
COMMAND AND SIGNQAL	Location of CP succession of command (if not SOP0. SOI in effect. Signals/code words.	“No change to platoon organization. the platoon CP will stay here. SOI we have is still in effect.
		“The time now 06720. What are you quesitons

Figure 2-1. Example of platoon warning order (continued).

c. **STEP 3. Make a Tentative Plan.** The leader develops an estimate of the situation to use as the basis for his tentative plan. The estimate is the military decision making process. It consists of five steps: detailed mission analysis, situation analysis and course of action development, analysis of each course of action, comparison of each course of action, and decision. The decision represents the tentative plan. The leader updates the estimate continuously and refines his plan accordingly. He uses this plan as the start point for coordination, reconnaissance, task organization (if required), and movement instructions.

He works through this problem solving sequence in as much detail as time available allows. As the basis of his estimate, the leader considers the factors of METT-T:

(1) **Mission.** The leader considers his mission as given to him by his commander. He analyzes it in light of the commander's intent two command levels higher, and derives the essential tasks his unit must perform in order to accomplish the mission.

(2) **Enemy.** The leader considers the type, size, organization, tactics, and equipment of the enemy he expects to encounter. He identifies their greatest threat to his mission find their greatest vulnerability.

(3) **Terrain.** The leader considers the effect of terrain and weather on enemy and friendly forces using the guidelines below (OCOKA):

(a) **Observation and fields of fire.** The leader considers ground that allows him observation of the enemy throughout his area of operation. He considers fields of fire in terms of the characteristics of the weapons available to him; for example, maximum effective range, the requirement for grazing fire, and the arming range and time of flight for antiarmor weapons.

(b) **Cover and concealment.** The leader looks for terrain that will protect him from direct and indirect fires (cover) and from aerial and ground observation (concealment).

(c) **Obstacles.** In the attack, the leader considers the effect of restrictive terrain on his ability to maneuver. In the defense, he considers how he will tie in his obstacles to the terrain to disrupt, turn, fix, or block an enemy force and protect his own forces from enemy assault.

(d) **Key terrain.** Key terrain is any locality or area whose seizure or retention affords a marked advantage to either combatant. The leader considers key terrain in his selection of objectives, support positions, and routes in the offense, and on the positioning of his unit in the defense.

(e) **Avenues of approach.** An avenue of approach is an air or ground route of an attacking force of a given size leading to its objective or key terrain in its path. In the offense, the leader identifies the avenue of approach that affords him the greatest protection and places him at the enemy's most vulnerable spot. In the defense, the leader positions his key weapons along the avenue of approach most likely to be used by the enemy.

(f) **Weather.** In considering the effects of weather, the leader is most interested in visibility and trafficability.

(4) **Troops available.** The leader considers the strength of subordinate units, the characteristics of his weapon systems, and the capabilities of attached elements as he assigns tasks to subordinate units.

(5) **Time available.** The leader refines his allocation of time based on the tentative plan and any changes to the situation.

d. **STEP 4. Start Necessary Movement.** The platoon may need to begin movement while the leader is still planning or forward reconnoitering. The platoon sergeant or a squad leader may bring the platoon forward, usually under the control of the company executive officer or first sergeant. This step could occur at any time during the troop-leading procedure.

e. **STEP 5. Reconnoiter.** If time allows, the leader makes a personal reconnaissance to verify his terrain analysis, adjust his plan, confirm the usability of routes, and time any critical movements. When time does not allow, the leader must make a map reconnaissance. The leader must consider the risk inherent in conducting reconnaissance forward of friendly lines. Sometimes the leader must rely on others (for example, scouts) to conduct the reconnaissance if the risk of contact with the enemy is high.

f. **STEP 6. Complete the Plan.** The leader completes his plan based on the reconnaissance and any changes in the situation. He should review his mission, as he received it from his commander, to ensure that his plan meets the requirements of the mission and stays within the framework of the commander's intent.

g. **STEP 7. Issue the Complete Order.** Platoon and squad leaders normally issue oral operations orders.

(1) To aid subordinates in understanding the concept for the mission, leaders should issue the order within sight of the objective or on the defensive terrain. When this is not possible, they should use a terrain model or sketch.

(2) Leaders must ensure that subordinates understand the mission, the commander's intent, the concept of the operation, and their assigned tasks. Leaders may require subordinates to repeat all or part of the order or demonstrate on the model or sketch, their understanding of the operation. They should also quiz their soldiers to ensure that all soldiers understand the mission. [Chapter 5](#) provides a list of questions that leaders can ask to determine if the soldiers understand the mission.

h. **STEP 8. Supervise.** The leader supervises the unit's preparation for combat by conducting rehearsals and inspections.

(1) **Rehearsals.** The leader uses rehearsals to--

- Practice essential tasks (improve performance).
- Reveal weaknesses or problems in the plan.
- Coordinate the actions of subordinate elements.
- Improve soldier understanding of the concept of the operation (foster confidence in soldiers).

(a) Rehearsals include the practice of having squad leaders brief their planned actions in execution sequence to the platoon leader.

(b) The leader should conduct rehearsals on terrain that resembles the actual ground, and in similar light conditions.

(c) The platoon may begin rehearsals of battle drills and other SOP items before the receipt of the operation order. Once the order has been issued, it can rehearse mission specific tasks.

(d) Some important tasks to rehearse include--

- Actions on the objective.
- Assaulting a trench, bunker, or building.
- Actions at the assault position.
- Breaching obstacles (mine and wire).
- Using special weapons or demolitions.
- Actions on unexpected enemy contact.

(2) **Inspections.** Squad leaders should conduct initial inspections shortly after receipt of the warning order. The platoon sergeant spot checks throughout the unit's preparation for combat. The platoon leader and platoon sergeant make a final inspection. They should inspect--

- Weapons and ammunition.
- Uniforms and equipment.
- Mission-essential equipment.
- Soldier's understanding of the mission and their specific responsibilities.
- Communications.
- Rations and water.
- Camouflage.
- Deficiencies noted during earlier inspections.

2-6. SECURITY IN THE DEFENSE

Security in the defense includes active and passive measures taken to avoid detection or deceive the enemy and to deny enemy reconnaissance elements accurate information on friendly positions.

a. **Terrain.** Leaders consider the terrain in terms of OCOKA as they plan for security in the defense. They look for terrain that will protect them from enemy observation and fires and, at the same time, provide observation and fires into the area where they intend to destroy the enemy or defeat his attack. When necessary leaders use defensive techniques, such as reverse slope or perimeter defense, to improve the security of the defensive position. Leaders plan protective obstacles to the flanks and rear of their positions and tie them in with supplementary fires. Leaders consider adjacent key terrain that threatens the security of their positions. They secure this terrain by posting OPs and by covering it with direct and indirect fires. Finally, leaders establish OPs along the most likely enemy approaches into the position or sector to provide early warning.

b. **Observation Posts.** Each platoon should post at least one OP. The platoon leader designates the general location for the OP and the routes to and from the OP. The squad leader establishing the OP selects the specific site. [Section XII](#) provides a detailed discussion of the techniques used by platoons and squads in establishing and manning OPs. When a platoon performs a screen mission for a larger force in a defense, it may establish squad-sized OPs that are well dispersed. The squads conduct patrolling missions between these OPs to establish the screen.

c. **Patrols.** Platoons should actively patrol the area to their front and flanks while in a defensive operation. These patrols should include observation of dead space, gaps between units, open flanks, and gaps or lanes in tactical and protective wire. Patrols may also be used to establish and relieve OPs. The platoon leader must ensure that all patrols not initiated by his higher headquarters are coordinated with them. [Chapter 3](#) provides detailed discussion of patrolling techniques for platoons and squads.

d. **Passive Measures.** Platoons may be directed to cover specific areas of its sector with night vision devices, thermal sights, or early warning devices. These systems should be incorporated into the platoon sector sketch. Passive measures also include camouflage; movement control; and noise, light, and radiotelephone discipline.

e. **Deceptive Measures.** Deceptive measures includes actions that platoons and squads may take to mislead the enemy and induce him to do something counter to his interests. Platoons may employ deceptive measures for local security such as dummy positions or supplemental wire.

f. **Deception Operations.** Platoons may conduct deception operations as part of a larger force. These operations may include demonstrations, feints, displays, or ruses. In most instances platoons execute missions as normal but on a limited scale (feint), or to present a false picture to the enemy.

Section V. DEFENSE

This section describes techniques used in the planning and preparation phases of defensive operations.

2-15. CONDUCT OF THE DEFENSE

This paragraph provides a pattern of preparation, decision, and execution for platoons and squads. This pattern links the leader's critical decision points to a standard sequence of actions that a platoon takes in defensive operations. ([Figure 2-36.](#)) The standard sequence of actions are

- Prepare for Combat.
- Move to Defensive Positions.
- Establish Defensive Positions.
- Locate the Enemy.
- Initiate Contact/Actions on Enemy Contact.
- Fight the Defense.
- Reorganize

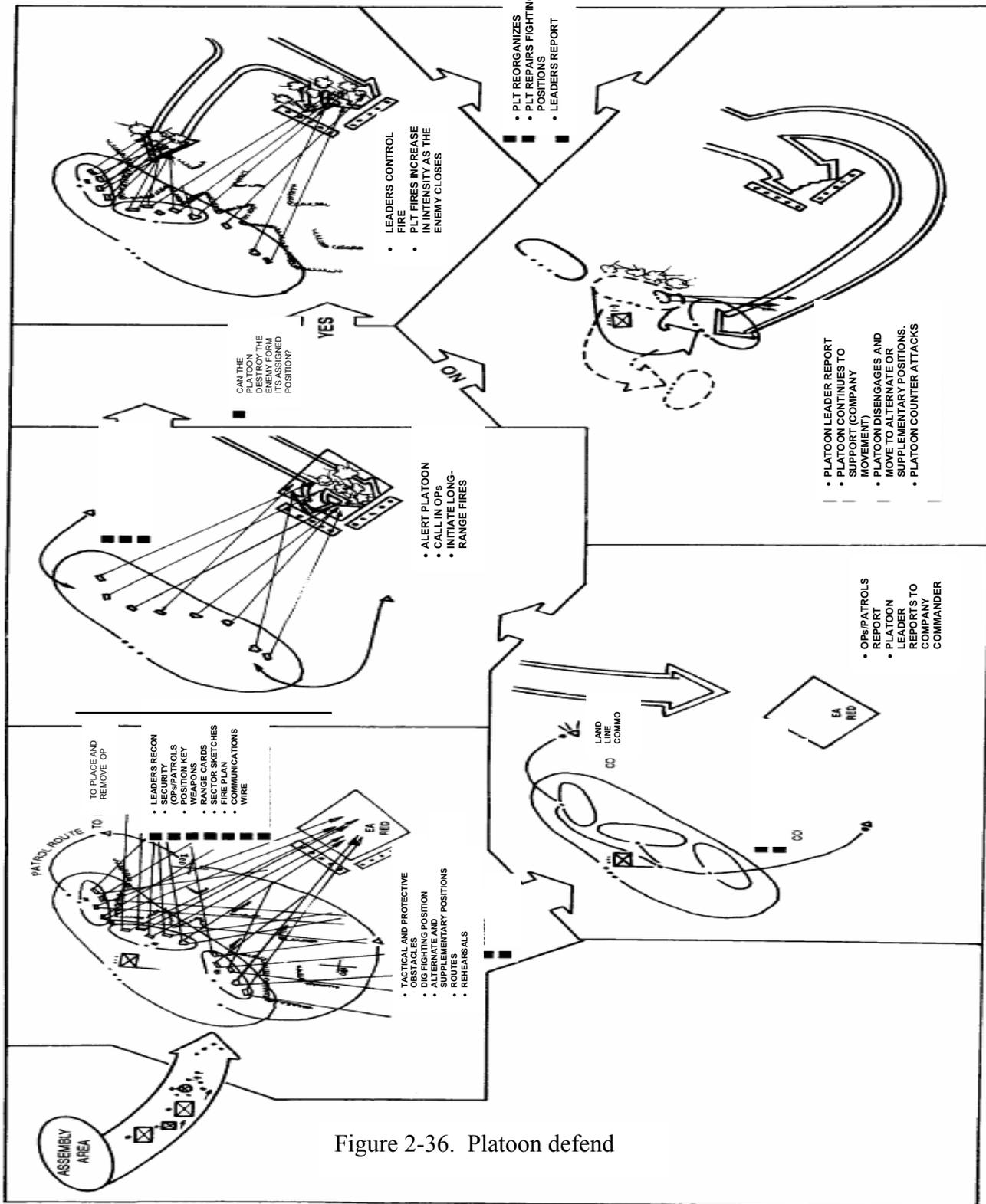


Figure 2-36. Platoon defend

a. **Prepare for Combat.** The platoon leader receives the company warning or operation order.

- (1) The platoon leader quickly issues a warning order.
- (2) The platoon leader begins making a tentative plan based on his estimate of the situation and an analysis of METT-T.
- (3) When possible the platoon leader (and squad leaders) reconnoiters the defensive position and the route(s) to it. The leader's reconnaissance party should always include a security team (minimum of two soldiers). The leader's reconnaissance--
 - (a) Maintains security.
 - (b) Checks for enemy positions, or signs of past enemy activities, obstacles, booby traps, and NBC contamination.
 - (c) Confirms/adjusts squad positions and sectors of fire from those in the tentative plan. (Normally the platoon leader assigns and adjusts machine guns and antiarmor positions.) The platoon leader revises his plan as necessary based on further assessment of METT-T.
 - (d) As the reconnaissance party returns to the platoon, the platoon leader posts guides along the route to maintain security and help the platoon move into the position.
- (4) Based on his reconnaissance, and any additional information, the platoon leader completes and issues his plan.
- (5) All squad leaders check (the platoon sergeant spot checks) weapons, communications equipment and accessories for missing items (squad and individual) and serviceability.
- (6) The platoon sergeant makes sure that the platoon has ammunition, food, water, and medical supplies on hand, in quantities prescribed by the platoon leader. (Squads and platoons should plan to prestock an additional basic load of ammunition on the defensive position.)
- (7) All soldiers camouflage themselves and their equipment to blend with the terrain.
- (8) The platoon rehearses critical tasks first.
 - (a) The platoon leader makes final inspection of weapons (test fires weapons, if possible), equipment (include communications checks), and personnel (include camouflage). The platoon sergeant closely monitors the soldiers' load to ensure that standard items are packed in accordance with the platoon SOP and that it is not excessive.
 - (b) If an advance party is used, the platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and advance party leader (normally a squad leader) review advance party activities and redistribute equipment to the advance party (for example, tripods, stakes). (See [Chapter 5](#).)
- (9) If not already moving, the platoon leader initiates the movement of his platoon.

b. **Move to Defensive Positions.** The platoon applies fundamentals of movement:

- (1) Move on covered and concealed routes.
- (2) Avoid likely ambush sites.

- (3) Enforce camouflage, noise, and light discipline.
- (4) Maintain all-round security, to include air guards.
- (5) Use formations and movement techniques based on METT-T.

c. **Establish Defensive Positions.** The platoon halts short of the defensive position in a covered and concealed position, and establishes local security.

(1) The platoon leader and squad leaders and a security team (minimum of two soldiers) move forward to link up with the security team on the position.

- (a) The squad leaders return to the platoon and move their squads forward.
- (b) The platoon occupies the designated position. Guides control the movement of the platoon into position.

(2) As the platoon occupies its position, the platoon leader ensures that all tasks are performed in the stated priority of work. Additionally, the platoon leader--

- Walks forward of positions, if possible to check camouflage and confirm dead space. The most important aspect of infantry fighting positions is that they cannot be observed by the enemy until it is too late.
- Checks on wire and mine teams. The platoon leader ensures that protective wire is outside of hand-grenade range from the fighting positions and tactical wire lies along the friendly side of the final protective line (FPL).
- Briefs the platoon sergeant on the logistics plan (include resupply and casualty evacuation routes).
- Issues finalized platoon order and checks soldier knowledge and understanding. (All soldiers must be aware of friendly units forward of the position [for example, patrols, scouts] and their return routes. They must also know the signals or conditions to initiate, shift, fire final protective, and cease-fires, and to reposition to alternate and supplementary positions.)

(3) The platoon improves the position continuously.

d. **Locate the Enemy.** The platoon establishes and maintains OPs and conducts security patrols as directed by the company commander. Patrols, OPs, and individual soldiers look and listen. They use night surveillance devices, binoculars, and PEWS to detect the enemy approach.

e. **Action on Enemy Contact.** Once the enemy is detected, the platoon leader--

- Alerts the squad leaders, platoon sergeant, and his forward observer.
- Reports the situation to the company commander.
- Calls in OPs. (The squad leader or platoon leader may decide to leave the OPs in place if the soldiers manning them can provide effective flanking fires, their positions afford them adequate protection, and or their return will compromise the platoon's position.)
- Calls for and adjusts indirect fire when the enemy is at maximum range.
- Initiates the long-range direct fires of his platoon on command from the company commander.

Leaders and individual soldiers return to their positions and prepare to fire on command from the platoon leader.

f. **Fight the Defense.** The platoon leader determines if the platoon can destroy the enemy from its assigned positions.

(1) If the answer is YES, the platoon continues to fight the defense.

(a) The platoon leader, or FO, continues to call for indirect fires as the enemy approaches. The platoon normally begins engaging the enemy at maximum effective range. It attempts to mass fires and initiate them simultaneously to achieve surprise. Long-range fires tied-in with obstacles should disrupt his formations; channelize him toward engagement areas; prevent, or severely limit his ability to observe the location of friendly positions; and destroy him as he attempts to breach tactical obstacles.

(b) Leaders control fires using standard commands, pyrotechnics, and other prearranged signals. The platoon increases the intensity of fires as the enemy closes within range of additional weapons. Squad leaders work to achieve a sustained rate of fire from their positions by having buddy teams fire their weapons so that both are not reloading them at the same time.

(c) In controlling and distributing fires, the platoon and squad leaders consider--

- The range to the enemy.
- Priority targets (what to fire at, when to fire, and why).
- Nearest or most dangerous targets.
- Shifting to concentrate fires on their own or as directed by higher headquarters.
- Ability of the platoon to engage dismounted enemy with enfilading, grazing fires.
- Ability of the platoon's antiarmor weapon to achieve flank shots against enemy vehicles.

(d) As the enemy closes on the platoon's protective wire, the platoon leader initiates final protective fires (FPF) (the following actions occur simultaneously):

- Machine guns and automatic weapons fire along interlocking principle direction of fire (PDF), or final protective lines (FPL) as previously designated and planned. Other weapons fire at designated principle direction of fires. M203 grenade launchers engage enemy in dead space or against enemy attempts to breach protective wire.
- The platoon continues to fight with Claymores and hand grenades.
- If applicable, the platoon leader requests indirect final protective fires (FPF) if they have been assigned in support of his positions.

(e) The platoon continues to defend until the enemy is repelled, or the platoon is ordered to disengage.

(2) If the answer is NO, the platoon leader--

(a) Reports the situation to the company commander.

(b) Continues to engage the enemy or repositions the platoon (or squads of the platoon) only when directed by the company commander to--

- Continue fires into the platoon sector (engagement area).
- Occupy supplementary positions.
- Reinforce other parts of the company.
- Counterattack locally to retake lost fighting positions.
- Withdraw from an untenable position using fire and movement to break contact. (The platoon leader does not move his platoon out of position if it will destroy the integrity of the company defense. All movements and actions to reposition squads and platoons must be thoroughly rehearsed.)

NOTE: In any movement out of a defensive position, the platoon **MUST** employ all direct and indirect fire means available to suppress the enemy long enough for the unit to move.

g. Consolidate and Reorganize.

(1) The platoon--

- Reestablishes security.
- Remans key weapons.
- Provides first aid and prepares wounded soldiers for MEDEVAC.
- Repairs damaged obstacles and replaces mines (Claymore) and booby traps.
- Redistributes ammunition and supplies.
- Relocates selected weapons to alternate positions if leaders believe that the enemy may have pinpointed them during the attack. Adjusts other positions to maintain mutual support.
- Reestablishes communications.
- Reoccupies and repairs positions, and prepares for renewed enemy attack.

(2) Squad and team leaders provide ammunition, casualty, and equipment (ACE) reports to the platoon leader.

(3) The platoon leader--

- Reestablishes the platoon chain of command.
- Consolidates squad ACE and provides ACE report to the company commander.

(4) The platoon sergeant coordinates for resupply and supervises the execution of the casualty and EPW evacuation plan.

(5) The platoon continues to improve positions. The platoon quickly reestablishes OPs and resumes patrolling as directed.

2-16. SECURITY

In the defense, infantry platoons attempt to surprise the enemy and initiate contact in such a way that his plan is disrupted. To capitalize on the element of surprise, infantry in defensive positions must remain undetected. A compromised position will either be bypassed or assaulted with overwhelming odds. Infantry platoons must conceal the location and preparation of their positions. They do this through the use of camouflage techniques and a strict adherence to noise and light discipline. Platoons must also provide their own security from the arrival of the leader's reconnaissance party through the execution of the defense. Platoons provide their own security through patrolling; the use of observation posts; and by detailing a percentage of the platoon to man hasty positions, while the remainder of the platoon prepares the defense. ([Chapter 3](#) provides detailed information on patrolling techniques. [Section XII](#) discusses techniques for establishing observation posts. Securing the position during preparation can be an SOP item.)

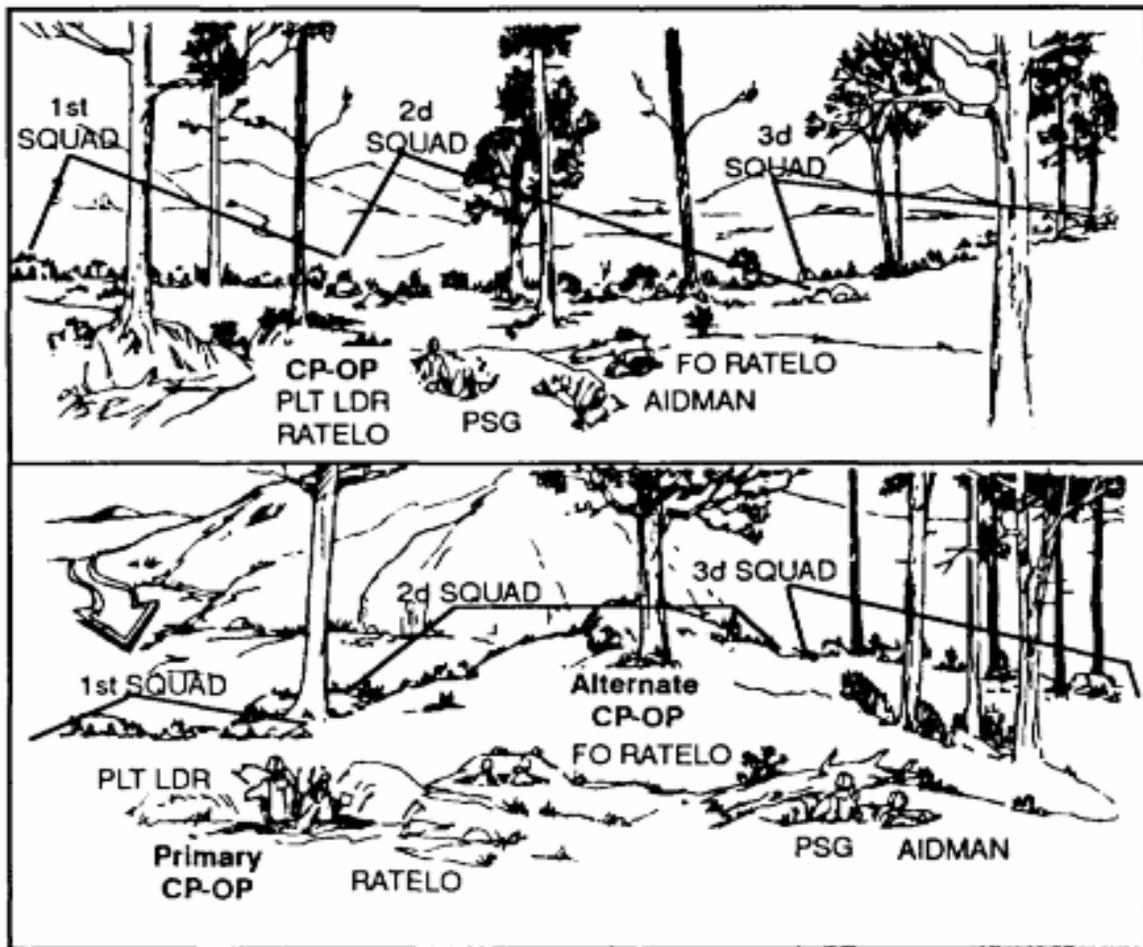


Figure 2-37. Command post-observation post.

2-17. COMMAND POST AND COMMUNICATIONS

A platoon leader sets up his CP where he can best see and control his platoon. The FO and the platoon RATELO occupy the platoon CP with the platoon leader. If the leader cannot see and control all of the platoon from one place, he sets up the CP where he can see and control the main effort. He then sets up an alternate CP where the platoon sergeant can control the rest of the platoon. The aidman normally locates with the PSG. The alternate CP bunker, with overhead cover, may be large enough to hold additional ammunition and casualties. The EPW collection point is normally near the alternate CP Excess supplies, barrier material, equipment; and KIAs are camouflaged near the alternate CP The platoon CP ties into the company wire net with a field telephone (if in the TOE) and into the company radio net with a radio. The alternate CP ties into the platoon CP with wire. The platoon has its own platoon radio and wire nets. ([Figure 2-37.](#))

2-18. WEAPONS EMPLACEMENT

The success of the defense depends on the positioning of soldiers and weapons. To position their weapons effectively, all leaders must know the characteristics, capabilities, and limitations of their weapons, the effects of terrain, and the tactics used by the enemy. Leaders should position weapons where they have protection; avoid detection; and surprise the enemy with accurate, lethal fires. In order to position the weapon, the leader must know where he wants to destroy the enemy and what effect he wants the weapon to achieve. Additionally, the platoon leader must consider whether his primary threat will be armored vehicles or dismounted infantry. When the platoon must fight armored vehicles, the platoon leader positions antiarmor weapons along the most likely armored avenue of approach first. When the primary threat is from dismounted infantry, the platoon leader should position his machine guns on the most likely dismounted avenue of approach first. The platoon leader must consider both mounted and dismounted avenues of approach. His plan should address both; one as a contingency of the other. Squad leaders position all other weapons to support these key weapons, cover dead space, and provide security.

a. **Machine Guns.** M60 (7.62-mm) and M249 (5.56-mm) machine guns are the platoon's primary weapons against a dismounted enemy. They provide a high volume of lethal, accurate fires to break up enemy assaults. They also provide limited effects against lightly armored vehicles and cause vehicle crews to button-up and operate with reduced effectiveness. Leaders position machine guns to--

- Concentrate fires where they want to kill the enemy.
- Fire across the platoon front.
- Cover obstacles by fire.
- Tie-in with adjacent units.

(1) The following definitions apply to the employment of machine guns.

(a) *Grazing fire.* Grazing fire occurs when the center of the cone of fire dots not rise more than 1 meter (about waist high) above the ground. When firing over level or uniformly sloping terrain, a maximum of 600 meters of grazing fire can be obtained.

(b) *Dead space.* Dead space is an area within the maximum effective range of a weapon, surveillance device, or observer that cannot be covered by fire and observation from a given position because of intervening obstacles, the nature of the ground, the characteristics of the trajectory, or the limitations of the pointing capabilities of the systems. The platoon covers dead space with another direct fire weapon, M203 fire, indirect fires, or mines (command-detonated Claymores). Additionally, the platoon leader should attempt to tie-in obstacles (wire and mines) and fires to cover dead space. He may also position OPs to observe dead space for another position.

(c) *Final protective line.* A final protective line (FPL) is a predetermined line along which grazing fire is placed to stop an enemy assault. Where terrain allows, the platoon leader assigns a machine gun an FPL. Once in position, one soldier from the machine gun team walks the FPL to identify both dead space and grazing fire along its length. ([Figure 2-38.](#))

(d) *Principle direction of fire.* A principle direction of fire (PDF) is a priority direction of fire assigned to cover an area, which provides good fields of fire or has a likely avenue of approach. It is also used to provide mutual support to an adjacent unit. Guns are laid on the PDF if an FPL cannot be assigned due to terrain. If a PDF is assigned and other targets are not being engaged, guns are laid on the PDF.

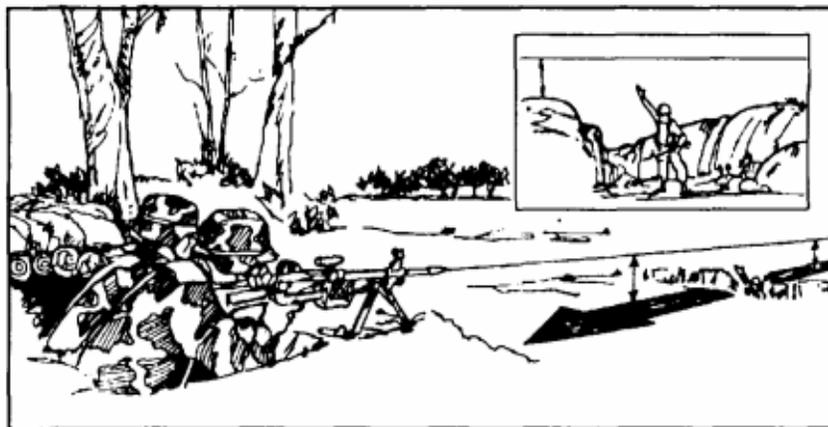


Figure 2-38. Finding dead space along an FPL.

(2) Each gun is given a primary and secondary sector of fire. Their sectors of fire should overlap each other and those of adjacent platoons. A gunner fires in his secondary sector only if there are no targets in his primary sector, or when ordered to do so. Each gun's primary sector includes an FPL or a PDF. The gun is laid on the FPL or PDF unless engaging other targets. When FPFs are called for, the gunner shifts to and engages on the FPL or PDF.

b. **Antiarmor Weapons.** The MAW is normally the antiarmor weapon that supports a rifle squad or platoon. In some units these weapons are organic to the platoon. At times, the platoon may be supported by TOWs. During planning, the leader considers the enemy vehicle threat, then positions antiarmor weapons accordingly to cover armor avenues of approach ([Figure 2-39](#)). He also considers the fields of fire, the tracking time, and the minimum arming ranges of each weapon. The platoon leader selects a primary position and a sector of fire for each antiarmor weapon. He also picks supplementary positions for them. The antiarmor leader selects alternate positions. Each position should allow flank fire and have cover and concealment. The leader can integrate the MAW thermal sight into his limited visibility security and observation plan.



Figure 2-39. Antiarmor weapon position.

c. **Grenade Launchers.** The M203 is the squad leader's indirect fire weapon. He positions it to cover dead space in the squad's sector, especially the dead space for the machine guns. The M203 gunner is also assigned a sector to cover with rifle fire. The high-explosive, dual-purpose (HEDP) round is very effective against lightly armored vehicles such as the BMP-1 and the BTR.

d. **Rifles.** The leader assigns positions and sectors of fire to each rifleman in the squad. Normally, he positions the riflemen to support the machine guns and antiarmor weapons. They are also positioned to cover obstacles, provide security, cover gaps between units, or provide observation.

2-19. RANGE CARDS

A range card is a record of the firing data required to engage predetermined targets within a sector of fire during good and limited visibility. Every direct-fire weapon gunner must prepare a range card ([DA Form 5517-R](#), Standard Range Card). Two copies of the range card are prepared. One copy stays at the position and the other is sent to platoon headquarters. Range cards are prepared for primary, alternate, and supplementary positions. Range cards are prepared immediately upon arrival in a position, regardless of the length of stay, and updated as necessary.

The range card is prepared in accordance with the FM for the specific weapon. The range card has two sections--a sector sketch section and a data section. General preparation instructions are as follows See [Figure 2-40](#) for examples of completed [DA Form 5517-R](#) for a machine gun and Dragon.

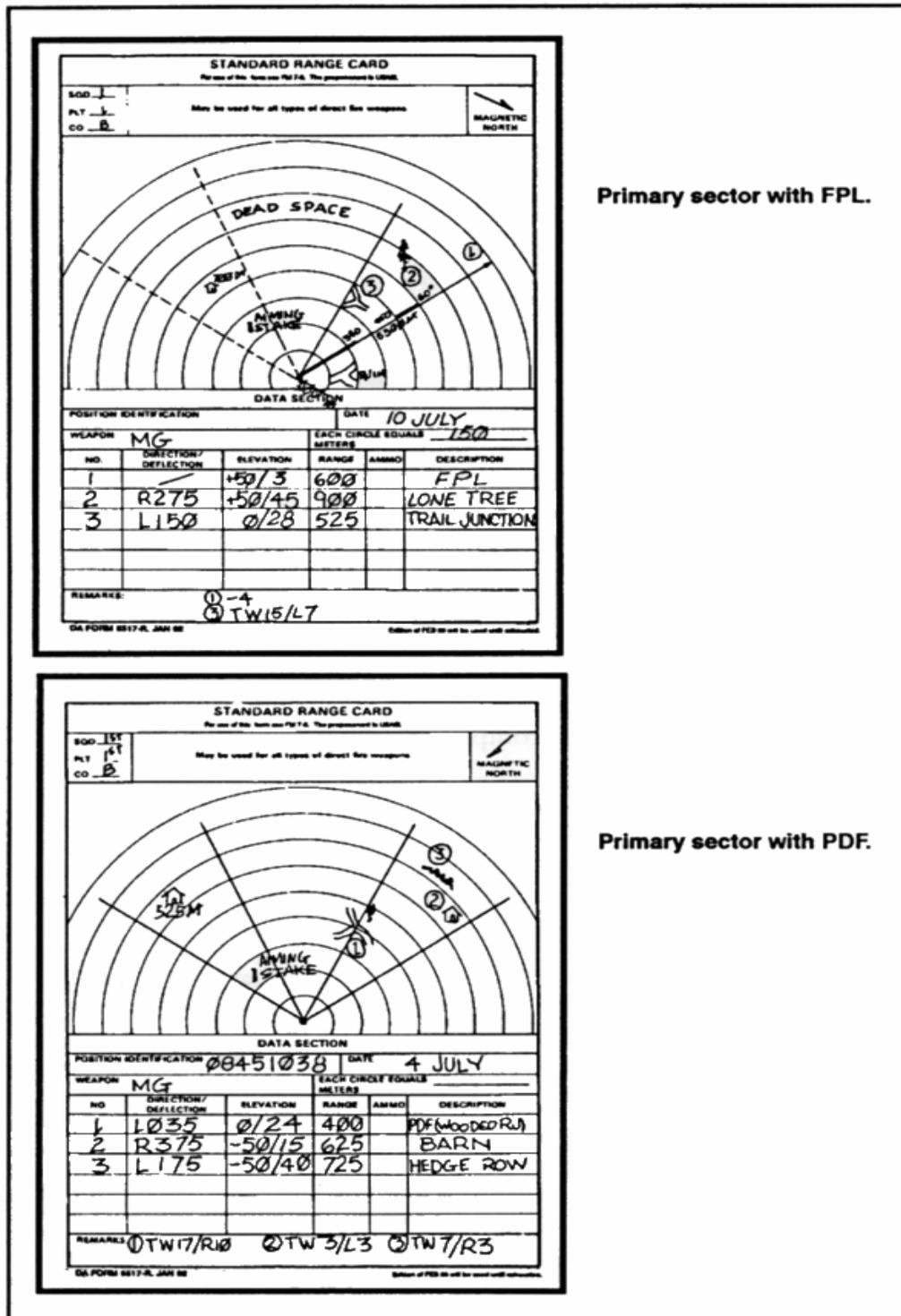
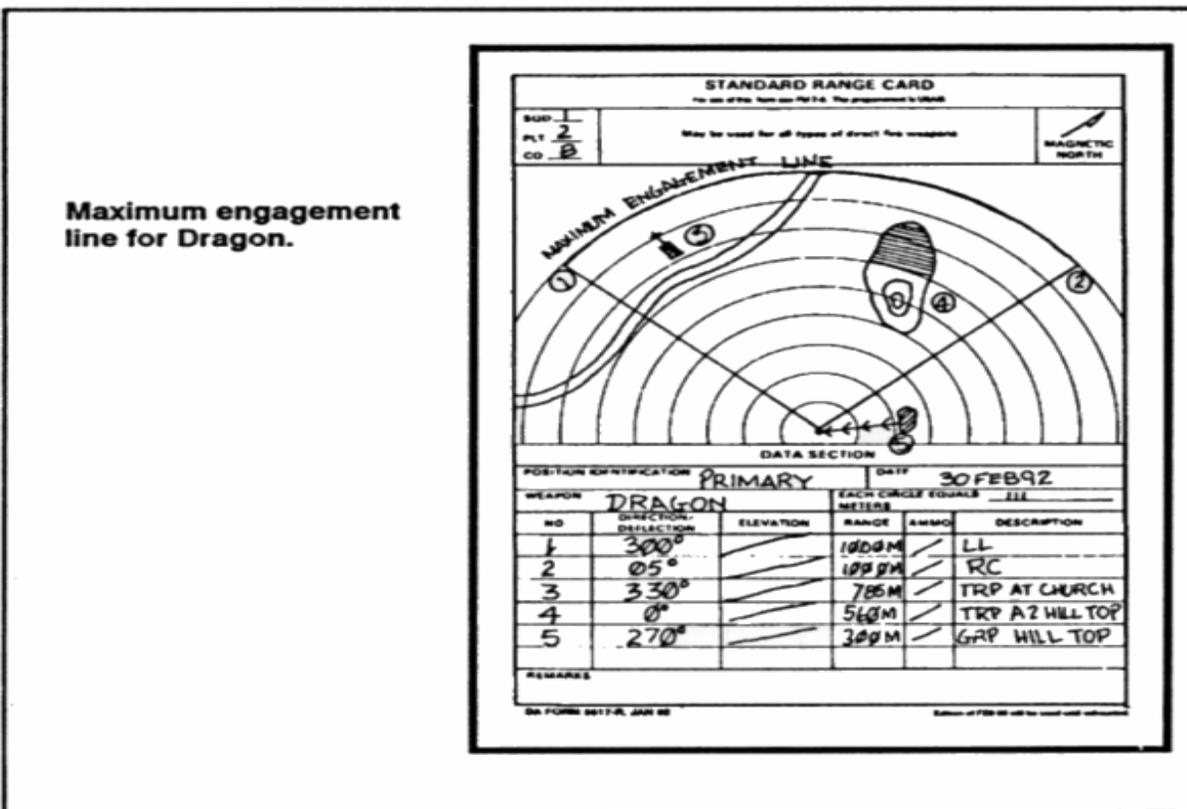


Figure 2-40. Example of completed DA Form 5517-R.



Maximum engagement line for Dragon.

Figure 2-40. Example of completed Form 5517-R (continued).

a. The marginal information at the top of the card is listed as follows.

- (1) SQD, PLT CO. The squad, platoon, and company designations are listed. Units higher than company are not listed.
- (2) MAGNETIC NORTH. The range card is oriented with the terrain and the direction of magnetic north arrow is drawn.

b. The gunner's sector of fire is drawn in the sector sketch section. It is not drawn to scale, but the data referring to the targets must be accurate.

- (1) The weapon symbol is drawn in the center of the small circle.
- (2) Left and right limits are drawn from the position. A circled "L" and "R" are placed at the end of the appropriate limit lines.
- (3) The value of each circle is determined by using a terrain feature farthest from the position that is within the weapon's capability. The distance to the terrain is determined and rounded off to the next even hundredth, if necessary. The maximum number of circles that will divide evenly into the distance is determined and divided. The result is the value for each circle. The terrain feature is then drawn on the appropriate circle.
- (4) All TRPs and reference points are drawn in the sector. They are numbered consecutively and circled.

(5) Dead space is drawn in the sector.

(6) A maximum engagement line is drawn on range cards for antiarmor weapons.

(7) The weapon reference point is numbered last. The location is given a six-digit grid coordinate. When there is no terrain feature to be designated, the location is shown as an eight-digit grid coordinate.

c. The data section is filled in as follows.

(1) POSITION IDENTIFICATION. The position is identified as primary alternate, or supplementary.

(2) DATE. The date and time the range card was completed is entered.

(3) WEAPON. The weapon block indicates the weapons used.

(4) EACH CIRCLE EQUALS _____ METERS. Write in the distance in meters between circles.

(5) NO. Starting with left and right limits TRPs and reference points are listed in numerical order.

(6) DIRECTION/DEFLECTION. The direction is listed in degrees. The deflection is listed in mils.

(7) ELEVATION. The elevation is listed in mils.

(8) RANGE. The distance in meters from the position [to the left and right limits and TRPs and reference points.

(9) AMMO. The type of ammunition used is listed.

(10) DESCRIPTION. The name of the object is listed, for example, farmhouse, wood line, hilltop.

(11) REMARKS. The weapon reference point data and any additional information is listed.

2-20. TYPES OF POSITIONS

Defensive positions may be classified as primary, alternate, or supplementary. All positions should provide observation and fields of fire within the weapon's or platoon's assigned sector. They should take advantage of natural cover and concealment even before soldiers begin to camouflage them. Soldiers improve their ability to reposition by using covered routes, communications trenches; by employing smoke; or by planning and rehearsing the repositioning by fire and maneuver. (Figure 2-41.)

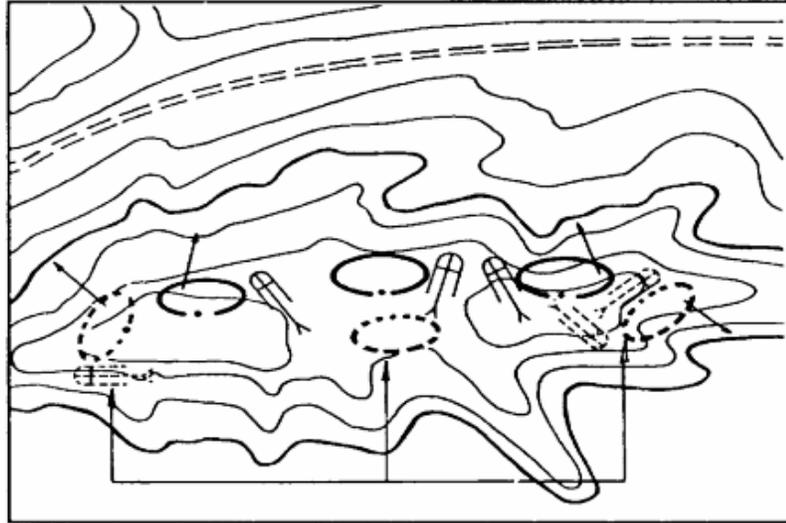


Figure 2-41. Relationship of defensive positions.

- a. **Primary.** A primary position provides soldier, weapon crew, or unit the best mean to accomplish the assigned mission.
- b. **Alternate.** Alternate positions allow soldiers, weapon crews, or units to cover the same sector of fire covered from the primary position. Soldiers occupy alternate positions when the primary position becomes untenable or unsuitable for carrying out their tasks. Soldiers may occupy alternate positions before an attack to rest and or perform maintenance, or to add the element of surprise to their defense
- c. **Supplementary.** Supplementary positions provide the best means to accomplish a task that cannot be accomplished from the primary or alternate positions. Platoon leaders normally locate supplementary positions to cover additional enemy avenues of approach and to protect the flanks and rear of the platoon position.

2-21. SQUAD POSITIONS

As a guideline, a squad can physically occupy a front of about 100 meters. From this position, it can defend 200 to 250 meters of frontage. The frontage distance between two-man fighting positions should be about 20 meters (allowing for a "lazy W" configuration on the ground; this would put fighting positions about 25 meters apart physically). Every position should be observed and supported by the fires of at least two other positions. One-man fighting positions may be located closer together to occupy the same platoon frontage. The distance between fighting positions depends on the leader's analysis of the factors of METT-T. In determining the best distance between fighting positions, the squad leader must consider--

- The requirement to cover the squad's assigned sector by fire.
- The need for security; that is, prevent infiltrations of the squad position.
- The requirement to prevent the enemy from using hand grenades effectively to assault adjacent positions, should he gain a fighting position.

2-22. PLATOON POSITIONS

The platoon leader assigns primary positions and sectors of fire to his machine guns and antiarmor weapons. He must personally check the lay of each weapon. He assigns primary positions and sectors of fire to his squads. The squad leader normally assigns the alternate positions for the squad and has them approved by the platoon leader. Each squad's sector must cover its own sector of fire and overlap into that of the adjacent squad. Flank squad sectors should overlap those of adjacent platoons. The platoon leader also assigns supplementary positions if required. The platoon leader may choose to position his squads in depth to gain or enhance mutual support.

2-23. SECTOR SKETCHES

Leaders prepare sector sketches based on their defensive plan. They use the range card for each crew-served weapon (prepared by the gunners).

a. **Squad Sector Sketch.** Each squad leader prepares a sector sketch to help him plan his defense and to help him control fire ([Figure 2-42](#)). The squad leader prepares two copies of the sector sketch. He gives one copy to the platoon leader and keeps the second copy at his position. The SOP should state how soon after occupying the position the leader must forward the sketch. The sketch shows the following:

- Squad and platoon identification.
- Date/time group.
- Magnetic north.
- The main terrain features in his sector of fire and the ranges to them.
- Each primary fighting position.
- Alternate and supplementary positions.
- The primary and secondary sectors of fire of each position.
- Maximum engagement line.
- Machine gun FPLs or PDF.
- Dragon positions with sectors of fire.
- The type of weapon in each position.
- Observation posts and the squad leader's position.

- Dead space to include coverage by grenade launchers.
- Location of NVDs.
- Obstacles, mines, and booby-traps.

b. **Platoon Sector Sketch.** The platoon leader check range cards and squad sector sketches. If he finds gaps or other flaws in his fire plan, he adjusts the weapons or sectors as needed. If he finds any dead space, he takes steps to cover it with mines, grenade launcher fire, or indirect fire. He then makes two copies of his platoon sector sketch, one for his use; the other for the company commander) (Figure 2-43). His sketch shows the following:

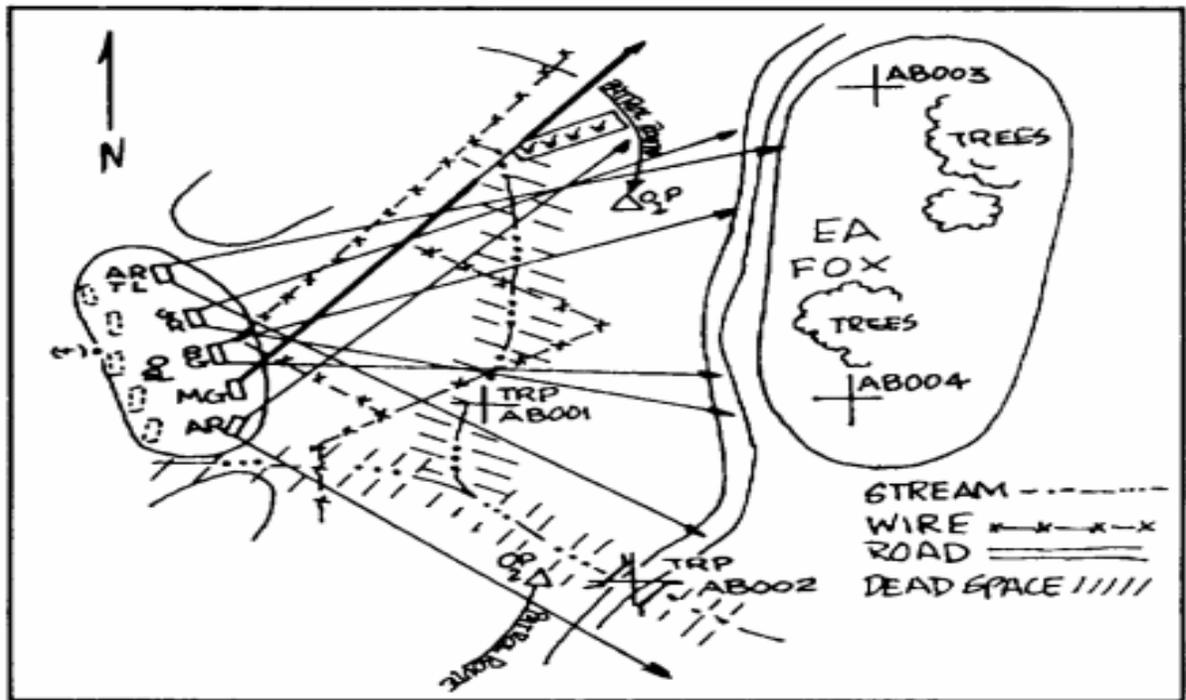


Figure 2-42. Squad sector sketch.

- Squad sectors of fire.
- Machine gun and antiarmor weapon positions and their sectors of fires, to include FPLs and PDFs of the automatic rifles/machine guns and TRPs for the antiarmor weapons.
- Maximum engagement lines for antiarmor weapons.
- Mines (Claymores) and obstacles.
- Indirect fire planned in the platoon's sector of fire (targets and FPF).
- OPs and patrol routes, if any.
- Platoon CP
- Platoon/company identification.
- Date/time group.
- Magnetic north.
- Location of casualty collection point.
- Location of NVDs/thermal sights that are part of the limited visibility security plan.
- Adjustments during limited visibility to maintain coverage of assigned TRPs.

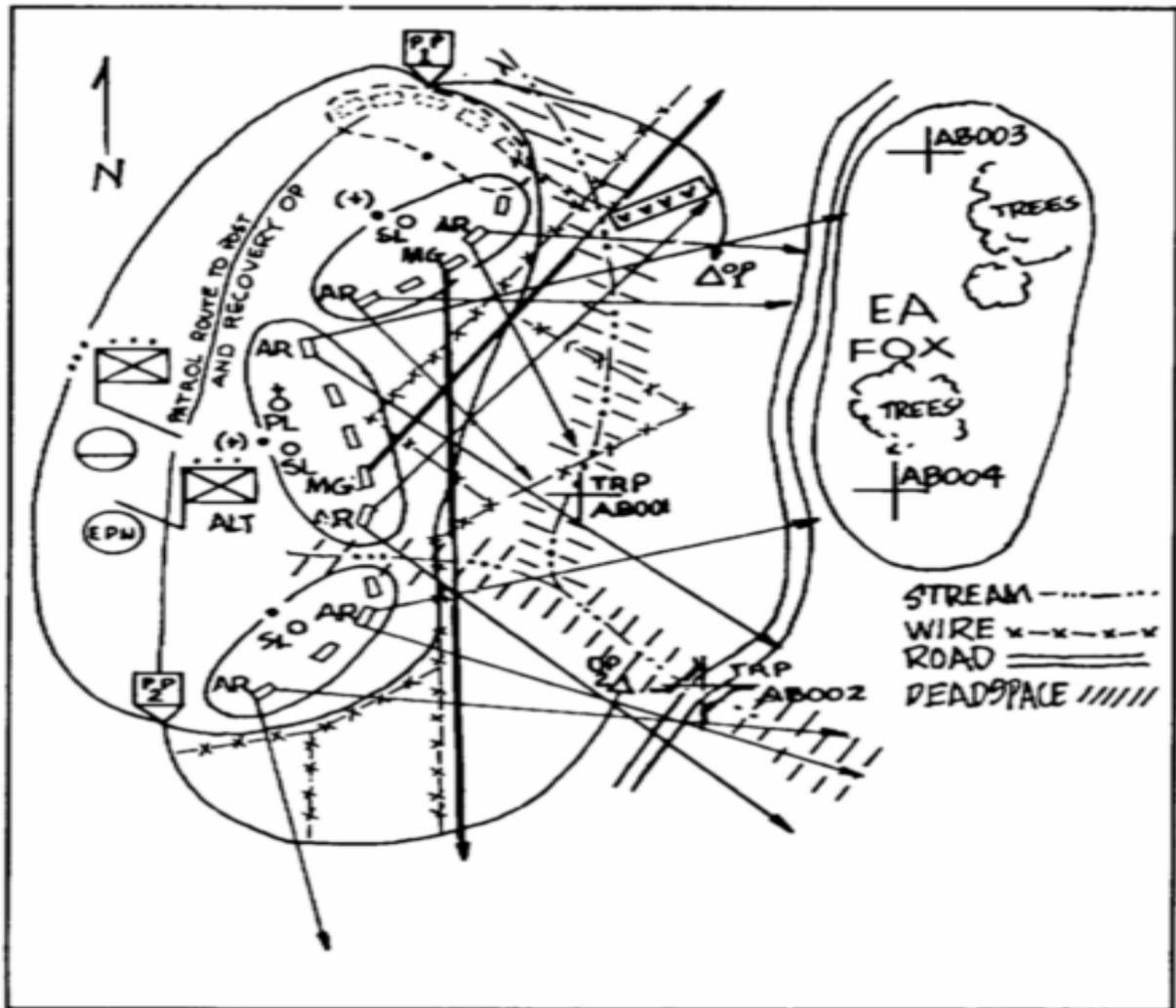


Figure 2-43. Example of a platoon sector sketch.

2-24. FIRE CONTROL MEASURES

Normally, antiarmor fires (except LAWs) are part of the battalion or company fire plan. One leader controls all antiarmor weapons firing from a single position or into a single engagement area. Platoon leaders normally control the fires of machine guns. Squad leaders and team leaders control, automatic rifles, grenade launchers, and rifle fire. Platoon and squad leaders use the following fire control measures to ensure the proper concentration and distribution of fires.

- a. **Sectors.** Leaders use sectors of fire to assign responsibility and ensure **distribution** of fires across the platoon and squad front. Sectors should always overlap with adjacent sectors.
- b. **Engagement Areas.** Leaders use engagement areas to concentrate all available fires into an area where they intend to kill the enemy. When conducting ambushes, units refer to the engagement areas as a KILL ZONE.

c. **Fire Patterns.** These include front, cross, and depth fires. These patterns describe the relationship between the weapons and the targets. The intent is to ensure that weapons do not waste ammunition firing on the same target, while other targets remain unengaged.

d. **Engagement Priorities.** These designate the priority for engaging key targets to include leaders, RATELOs crew-served weapons, and engineers. The following is an example of an engagement priority.

(1) ***MAW gunners fire--***

- At the most threatening armored vehicle.
- At armor in the kill zone or primary sector.
- At armor in the secondary sector.
- At armored vehicles beyond 200 meters.

(2) ***Machine gun gunners fire--***

- The FPL or PDF, if signaled to do so.
- At groups of five or more in the primary sector (from farthest to closest).
- At crew-served automatic weapons.
- At groups of five or more in the secondary sector.
- At unarmored vehicles.

(3) ***Automatic riflemen fire--***

- Along the FPL, if signaled to do so.
- At groups of five or more in the primary sector (closest to farthest).
- At soldiers in the primary sector.

(4) ***Grenadiers fire--***

- At light armored vehicles in sector.
- At groups of three or more in sector.
- At groups of three or more in secondary sector.
- At individual soldiers in sector, using M16 rifles.
- At dead space in sector (if occupied by the enemy).
- At other targets as directed by squad or team leader (illumination or smoke on order).

(5) ***Riflemen fire--***

- In their primary and secondary sectors.
- Nearest to farthest, starting on flank and working toward the center --
 - At leaders.
 - At RATELOs.
 - At individual soldiers.

(6) ***LAW gunners fire--***

- In two-soldier volleys on direction of the team or squad leaders.
- At nearby threatening vehicle.

e. **Rate of Fire.** Some weapon system FMs specify rates of fire by name--others do not. The doctrinal terms should be used when possible; others are addressed by SOP.

2-25. PRIORITY OF WORK

The platoon's priority of work is a list of tasks that the leader uses to control what gets done by whom and in what order in the preparation of the defense. These tasks are normally prescribed in the SOP. An example of priority of work tasks by duty position is in [Chapter 5](#). The leader adjusts the priority of work based on his consideration of the factors of METT-T and on his and the higher commander's intent. The platoon's normal priority of work is--

- Establish local security
- Position antiarmor weapons, machine guns, and squads and assign sectors of fire.
- Position other assets attached to the platoon.
- Establish the CP and wire communications.
- Designate FPLs and FPFs.
- Clear fields of fire and prepare range cards and sector sketches.
- Coordinate with adjacent units--left, right, forward, and to the rear.
- Prepare primary fighting positions.
- Emplace obstacles and mines.
- Mark or improve marking for TRPs and other fire control measures.
- Improve primary fighting positions such as overhead cover.
- Prepare alternate positions, then supplementary positions.
- Establish a sleep and rest plan.
- Reconnoiter routes.
- Rehearse engagements, disengagements, and any counterattack plans.
- Adjust positions or control measures as required.
- Stockpile ammunition, food, and water.
- Dig trenches to connect positions.
- Continue to improve positions.

2-26. COORDINATION

Coordination between adjacent platoons/squads is normally from left to right and from front to rear. Information exchanged includes the following:

- Location(s) of leaders.
- Location of primary, alternate, and supplementary positions and sectors of fire of machine guns, antiarmor weapons, and subunits.
- Route to alternate and supplementary positions.
- Location of dead space between platoons and squads and how to cover it.
- Location of OPs and withdrawal routes back to the platoon's or squad's position.
- Location and types of obstacles and how to cover them.
- Patrols to be conducted to include their size, type, times of departure and return, and routes.
- Location, activities, and presage plan for scouts and other units forward of the platoon's position.

- Signals for fire and cease fire and any other signals that may be observed.
- Engagement and disengagement criteria.

2-27. FIGHTING POSITIONS

This paragraph discusses techniques for the construction of infantry fighting positions. Infantrymen use hasty; one-, two-, and three-soldier; machine gun; medium and light antitank; and 90-mm recoilless rifle positions. Soldiers must construct fighting positions that protect them and allow them to fire into their assigned sectors.

a. **Protection.** Fighting positions protect soldiers by providing **cover** through sturdy construction, and by providing **concealment** through positioning and proper camouflage. The enemy must not be able to identify the position until it is too late and he has been effectively engaged. When possible, soldiers should site positions in nonobvious places, behind natural cover, and in an easy to camouflage location. **The most important step in preparing fighting position is to make sure that it cannot be seen.** In constructing fighting positions, soldiers should always--

- Dig the positions armpit deep.
- Fill sandbags about 75 percent full.
- Revet excavations in sandy soil.
- Check stabilization of wall bases.
- Inspect and test the position daily, after heavy rain, and after receiving direct or indirect fires.
- Maintain, repair, and improve positions as required.
- Use proper materiel. Use it correctly.

NOTE: In sandy soil, vehicles should not be driven within 6 feet of the positions.

b. **Siting to Engage the Enemy.** Soldiers must be able to engage the enemy within their assigned sectors of fire. They should be able to fire out to the maximum effective range of their weapons with maximum grazing fire and minimal dead space. Soldiers and leaders must be able to identify the best location for their positions that meet this criteria. Leaders must also ensure that fighting positions provide interlocking fires. This allows them to cover the platoon's sector from multiple positions and provides a basis for final protective fires.

c. **Prepare by Stages.** Leaders must ensure that their soldiers understand when and how to prepare fighting positions based on the situation. Soldiers normally prepare hasty fighting positions each time the platoon halts (except for short security halts), and only half of the platoon digs in while the other half maintains security. Soldiers prepare positions in stages and require a leader to inspect the position before moving on to the next stage. See FM 7-8, page 2-87 for examples of fighting positions.

Student Handout 3

This student handout contains 6 pages of extracted material from ARTEP 7-8-MTP.

Extract from ARTEP 7-8-MTP

RECOVERABLE PUBLICATIONS

YOU RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT IN A DAMAGE-FREE CONDITION. DAMAGE IN ANY WAY, TO INCLUDE HIGHLIGHTING, PENCIL MARKS, OR MISSING PAGES, WILL SUBJECT YOU TO PECUNIARY LIABILITY (STATEMENT OF CHARGES, CASH COLLECTION, ETC.) TO RECOVER PRINTING COSTS.

07-3-5063

TASK: Occupy an Assembly Area (Infantry/Mortar/Reconnaissance Platoon/Squad) (07-3-5063)

(FM 7-4 (3-21.94)) (FM 7-5 (3-21.9)) ([FM 7-7](#)) ([FM 7-7J](#)) ([FM 7-8](#)) ([FM 7-85](#)) ([FM 7-92](#))

ITERATION 1 2 3 4 5 M (circle)
 TRAINING STATUS T P U (circle)

CONDITION: The platoon is conducting operations as part of a larger force and has received an operation order (OPORD) or fragmentary order (FRAGO) to occupy an assembly area (AA) at the location and time specified. All necessary personnel and equipment are available. The platoon has communications with higher, adjacent, and subordinate elements. The platoon has been provided guidance on the rules of engagement (ROE) and or rules of interaction (ROI). Coalition forces and noncombatants may be present in the operational environment. Some iterations of this task should be conducted during limited visibility conditions.

Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP4.

TASK STANDARD: The platoon occupies the AA in accordance with the order and or commander's guidance. The platoon enters the AA without stopping or blocking the route of march, moves all personnel and equipment to their assigned positions not later than (NLT) the time specified in the order, establishes priority of work, establishes local security, and maintains appropriate readiness condition (REDCON) levels. The platoon complies with the ROE and or ROI.

TASK STEPS and PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO GO
<p>*1. Platoon leader gains and or maintains situational understanding using information that is gathered from FORCE XXI Battle Command - Brigade and Below (FBCB2) (if applicable), frequency modulated (FM) communications, maps, intelligence summaries, situation reports (SITREPs), and or other available information sources.</p> <p>*2. Platoon leader receives an OPORD or FRAGO and issues warning order (WARNO) to the platoon using FBCB2, FM, or other tactical means.</p> <p>*3. Platoon leader plans using troop-leading procedures.</p> <p> a. Conducts a digital and or conventional map reconnaissance.</p> <p> (1) Identifies tentative rally points.</p> <p> (2) Identifies likely enemy avenues of approach.</p> <p> (3) Marks tentative dismount points on digital and conventional maps as appropriate.</p> <p> b. Plans and coordinates indirect fire support and or close air support, if available.</p>		

- c. Identifies direct fire responsibilities.
 - d. Addresses actions on chance contact with the enemy.
- *4. Platoon leader disseminates digital reports (if applicable), overlays, and other pertinent information to each squad to keep them abreast of the situation.
- *5. Platoon leader assigns personnel to perform quartering party duties IAW guidance and or TSOP.
- a. Briefs personnel on platoon requirements for the quartering party.
- *6. Platoon leader issues orders and instructions to include ROE and or ROI.
7. Platoon conducts a rehearsal.
- *8. Platoon leader issues FRAGOs, as necessary, to address changes to the plan identified during the rehearsal.
9. Quartering party clears the release point (RP) and moves to the AA.
- a. Assists in reconnaissance of the route and the proposed AA.
 - b. Assists in improving and marking entrances, exits, and internal routes.
 - c. Assists in marking obstacles, mines, and contaminated areas.
 - d. Selects and marks tentative platoon vehicle, weapons, and dismounted team positions IAW OPOD, FRAGO, or SOP.
 - e. Maintains surveillance and provides security of the area until the arrival of the platoon.
 - f. Posts guides in covered and concealed positions to guide platoon to its initial position without halting.
10. Platoon clears the RP and moves to AA.
11. Platoon performs initial occupation of the AA.
- a. Follows directions from guides and moves into marked positions.
 - b. Orients weapon systems to cover sectors of responsibility.
 - c. Follows proper cool-down procedures, shuts down engines simultaneously, if applicable.
- *12. Platoon leader/platoon sergeant (PSG) initiates assembly area activities.
- a. Reviews organization of the AA with quartering party personnel.

- b. Designates section direct fire responsibilities.
- c. Directs section/team leaders and VCs to prepare sector sketches.
- d. Keeps the company commander informed of the status of the operation, taking the following steps as necessary:
 - (1) Reports platoon's arrival at the AA.
 - (2) Reports completion of initial occupation of AA positions.
 - (3) Prepares and forwards situation reports (SITREPs) to the commander, as necessary, throughout the operation .
- e. Determines security procedures, REDCON level, and priorities of work.

13. Platoon establishes and maintains local security under direction from the platoon leader.

- a. Assigns each section a sector of the perimeter to ensure mutual support and to cover all gaps by observation and fire.
- b. Establishes patrols to prevent infiltration and to clear possible enemy observation posts (OPs) within assigned sector (if applicable).
- c. Designates an OP and selects OP personnel.
- d. Ensures the OP has communications with the platoon.
- e. Warns the platoon of any enemy approach before the platoon is attacked (OP).
- f. Camouflages equipment.
- g. Enforces noise, light, and litter discipline.

14. Based on the priority of work established by the platoon leader, the platoon (can vary by platoon TSOP and (factors of mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops, time available, and civilian considerations [METT-TC].)

- a. Positions weapon systems and assigns sectors of fire.
- b. Positions other assets attached to the platoon.
- c. Establishes wire communications.
- d. Designates final protective line (FPL) and final protective fires (FPFs).
- e. Clears fields of fire and prepares range cards and sector sketches.
- f. Camouflages the positions

g. Coordinates with adjacent elements left, right, forward, and to the rear, if applicable.

(1) Ensures there are no gaps between elements.

(2) Exchanges information on OP locations and platoon signals.

i. Improves primary fighting positions by adding such things as overhead cover.

j. Prepares alternate positions, then supplementary positions.

k. Establishes a sleep and rest plan.

l. Reconnoiters routes.

m. Adjusts positions or control measures as required.

n. Stockpiles ammunition, food, and water.

o. Digs trenches to connect positions.

p. Continues to improve positions.

*15. Platoon leader forwards a sector sketch to the company commander and keeps one for platoon use.

16. Platoon performs field sanitation operations.

a. Maintains adequate supply of potable water.

b. Establishes latrines and hand washing facilities.

c. Performs personal hygiene activities.

17. Platoon assumes specified REDCON level, taking one of the following steps:

a. Assumes REDCON-1 (Full alert). Note: A period of maximum preparedness, REDCON-1 ensures that all platoon personnel are alert and prepared for action immediately. Infantry squads, to include OPs, are recalled, and weapons are manned.

b. Assumes REDCON-2 (Full alert). Note: Equipment is stowed except for wire and telephone equipment, if used. Platoon weapons are manned. Infantry squads, OPs and chemical alarms are still deployed.

c. Assumes REDCON-3 (Reduced alert). Note: Fifty percent of each crew/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures.

d. Assumes REDCON-4 (Minimum alert). Note: Seventy five percent of each

<p>crew/squad stands down for feeding, rest, maintenance, or troop leading procedures. Crew-served weapons within each infantry squad are manned. OPs are manned.</p> <p>18. The platoon continues priorities of work, including operations security (OPSEC), maintenance, resupply, and rest activities.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Maintains security IAW platoon leader's guidance, order and or TSOP.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Increases REDCON levels progressively as required based on company commander's guidance or unit SOP.</p> <p>*19. On receipt of further orders, the platoon leader conducts preparations for departing the AA.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Reconnoiters route and or calculates time distance for departing the AA, as directed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Conducts police call to ensure no equipment, supplies, or other items of tactical or intelligence value is left behind.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c. Increases REDCON levels progressively as required based on company commander's guidance or TSOP.</p>		
<p>NOTE * Indicates a leader task. NOTE + Indicates a critical task.</p>		

TASK PERFORMANCE SUMMARY BLOCK

ITERATION	1	2	3	4	5	M	TOTAL
TOTAL TASK STEPS & PERFORMANCE MEASURES EVALUATED							
TOTAL TASK STEPS & PERFORMANCE MEASURES "GO"							

SUPPORTING SOLDIER'S MANUAL TASKS

- [031-503-2001](#) IDENTIFY CHEMICAL AGENTS USING M256-SERIES CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR KIT
- [031-503-2008](#) USE AND MAINTAIN M8 OR M8A1 CHEMICAL AGENT ALARM
- 031-503-3008 IMPLEMENT MISSION-ORIENTED PROTECTIVE POSTURE
- 052-191-1501
- 052-192-3032
- 052-192-3032-A
- [071-010-0001](#) ZERO A NIGHT VISION SIGHT AN/PVS-4 TO AN M249 MACHINE GUN
- [071-010-0002](#) MOUNT A NIGHT VISION SIGHT AN/PVS-4 ON AN M249 MACHINE GUN
- 071-025-0010
- 071-025-0010-A

[071-032-0006](#) CONSTRUCT FIELD-EXPEDIENT FIRING AIDS FOR AN M203
GRENADE LAUNCHER

[071-311-2006](#) CONSTRUCT FIELD_EXPEDIENT FIRING AIDS FOR AN M16A1 or
M16A2 RIFLE

[071-312-4004](#) LAY AN M249 MACHINE GUN USING FIELD EXPEDIENTS

071-312-4032

[071-325-4425](#) EMPLOY AN M18A1 CLAYMORE MINE

071-325-4426 RECOVER AN M18A1 CLAYMORE MINE

071-326-0513 SELECT TEMPORARY FIGHTING POSITIONS

[071-326-5502](#) ISSUE A FRAGMENTARY ORDER

[071-326-5503](#) ISSUE A WARNING ORDER

[071-326-5505](#) ISSUE AN ORAL OPERATIONS ORDER

071-326-5703 CONSTRUCT INDIVIDUAL FIGHTING POSITIONS

071-326-5704 SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIGHTING POSITION

071-326-5705 ESTABLISH AN OBSERVATION POST

[071-326-5770](#) PREPARE A PLATOON SECTOR SKETCH

071-326-5775 COORDINATE WITH AN ADJACENT PLATOON

071-331-0801 CHALLENGE PERSONS ENTERING YOUR AREA

071-331-0852 CLEAR A FIELD OF FIRE

[071-730-0004](#) PLAN INSTALLATION OF A PLATOON EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
AN/TRS-2

[071-730-0008](#) Employ Field-Expedient Early Warning Devices

113-571-1022 PERFORM VOICE COMMUNICATIONS

[113-573-0002](#) CONDUCT OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC) PROCEDURES