

TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE (TSP)

TSP Number / Title	W225 / Combat Operations
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

07-3-1009	Conduct a Squad Deliberate Attack
7-3-9103	React to Contact
7-3-9104	Break Contact
7-3-9105	React to Ambush

This TSP
Contains

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**Combat Operations
W225 / 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>	
	07-3-1009 (*)	Conduct a Squad Deliberate Attack
	7-3-9103 (*)	React to Contact
	7-3-9104 (*)	Break Contact
7-3-9105 (*)	React to Ambush	

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>
	Test	2 hrs / Conference / Discussion
	Test Review	3 hrs / Practical Exercise (performance)
		0 hrs
	Total Hours:	5 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>
	W224	Occupy An Assembly Area

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.
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References			
<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
FM 7-8	INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD	22 Apr 1992	W/CH 1, 1 Mar 2001

Student Study Assignments

Before class--

- Read Student Handout 1, Appendix D, for reading and study assignments.

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
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

* Before Id indicates a TADSS

Materials Required**Instructor Materials:**

- TSP
- Any equipment required by the NCOA's SOP

Student Materials:

- Advance sheet in Appendix D
- Pen or pencil and writing paper
- Any materials required by the NCOA's SOP
- See Appendix C, PE-1 for additional equipment. SGLs may determine when the students will bring the TSP and NCOA required equipment

NOTE: Issued to students during inprocessing.

Classroom, Training Area, and Range Requirements

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.

- This TSP has questions throughout to check learning or generate discussion among the group members. You may add any questions you deem necessary to bring a point across to the group or expand on any matters discussed.
 - You must know the information in this TSP well enough to teach from it, not read from it. Also be able to demonstrate the tasks taught.
 - This TSP presents references at the beginning of some of the paragraphs. This allows you to inform your students of where they should look in the reference to follow your instruction.
 - SGL's will walk soldiers through and demonstrate the tasks taught in this lesson.
-

Proponent Lesson Plan Approvals

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Joralmon, Grace	CIV	Training Specialist	01 Oct 2003
Barnes, Ronnie G.	MSG	Course Chief	01 Oct 2003
Lawson, Brian H.	SGM	Chief, NCOES	01 Oct 2003
Mays, Albert J.	SGM	Chief, CDDD	01 Oct 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 Regardless of your MOS or job assignment, you may find yourself in a situation where you will lead soldiers in combat. This lesson provides you with some basic techniques and procedures used to employ a team/squad-size element in contact with the enemy. What you learn here may be the difference between your team/squad’s mission success or failure.

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:	Lead a team/squad in basic combat operations.
Conditions:	In a classroom environment culminating in a situational training exercise and given a team/squad.
Standards:	Led a team/squad in basic combat operations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reacting to contact. • Breaking contact. • Reacting to an ambush. • Conducting a hasty attack. IAW FM 7-8.

Safety Requirements None

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 Inform student that the evaluation will be done in the form of a non-graded practical exercise.

**Instructional
Lead-In**

The STX that you will participate in at the end of the course will provide you with an opportunity to use all the material covered in this lesson, coupled with your experiences, to lead soldiers in a tactical environment. During this block of instruction you will learn basic drills and how to react by employing METT-T coupled with fire and maneuver. This will afford you enough time to make a sound and timely decisions.

SECTION III. PRESENTATION

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

A. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

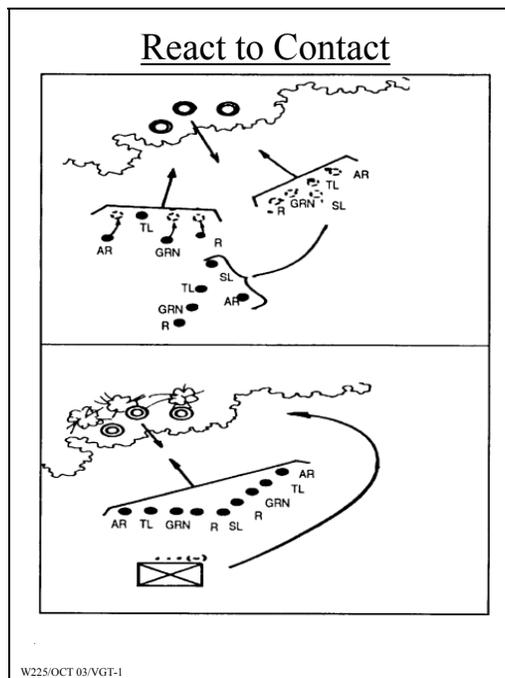
ACTION:	Discuss elements of react to contact.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment using the material contained in this lesson.
STANDARDS:	Discussed the elements of react to contact IAW FM 7-8.

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. React To Contact

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

You are a squad/team leader in a combat environment. Your mission is to lead a quartering party and establish an assembly area. While en-route to the tentative location, your element is suddenly engaged with small arms fire. How should you react? We'll begin our discussion with the squad's initial reaction.

SHOW VGT-1, REACT TO CONTACT



Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-6 and SH-2-7

Required Actions:

1. Soldiers immediately take up the nearest covered position and return fire in the direction of enemy contact.

2. The team leaders locate and engage known or suspected enemy positions with well-aimed fire and pass on information to the squad leader.

3. Fire team leaders control fire using standard fire commands containing the following elements:

- a. Alert
- b. Direction
- c. Description of target
- d. Range
- e. Method of fire
- f. Command to commence firing

4. Soldiers must maintain contact with the soldiers on their left and right.

5. Soldiers maintain contact with their team leaders and report the location of enemy positions.

6. Leaders check the status of their personnel.

7. Squad leader maintains contact with the platoon leader.

8. Squad leader--

a. Moves up to fire team in contact and links up with its leader. The trailing team leader moves up to the front of his team.

b. Determines whether or not his squad must move out of the engagement area.

c. Determines whether or not he can gain and maintain suppressive fires with his element already in contact. He bases this on the volume and accuracy of the enemy fire against the team in contact.

d. Makes an assessment of the situation by identifying--

- Location of enemy positions and obstacles.
- Size of the enemy force.
- Vulnerable flanks.
- Covered and concealed flanking routes to the enemy position.

e. Determines the next course of action.

f. Reports the situation to the platoon leader and begins to maneuver.

g. Calls for and adjusts indirect fire (mortars or artillery). Squad leaders relay request through the platoon leader.

9. Team leaders lead their teams by example; for example, "Follow me, do as I do."
10. Leaders relay all commands and signals from the platoon chain of command.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), pages SH-2-6 and SH 2-7

REMOVE VGT-1

CHECK ON LEARNING: Conduct a check on learning and summarize the ELO.

QUESTION: What is your initial reaction upon contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Seek cover and return fire.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-6, Required Actions, para 1

QUESTION: As the squad leader, you must make your assessment of the situation by identifying what factors?

ANSWER:

- The location of enemy position and obstacles.
- The size of the enemy force (the number of automatic weapons, vehicles, indirect fire, are indicators of enemy strength).
- Vulnerable flanks.
- Covered and concealed flanking routes to the enemy position.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-6, Required Actions, para 8d.

B. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Discuss breaking contact.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment using the material contained in this lesson.
STANDARDS:	Discussed breaking contact IAW FM 7-8.

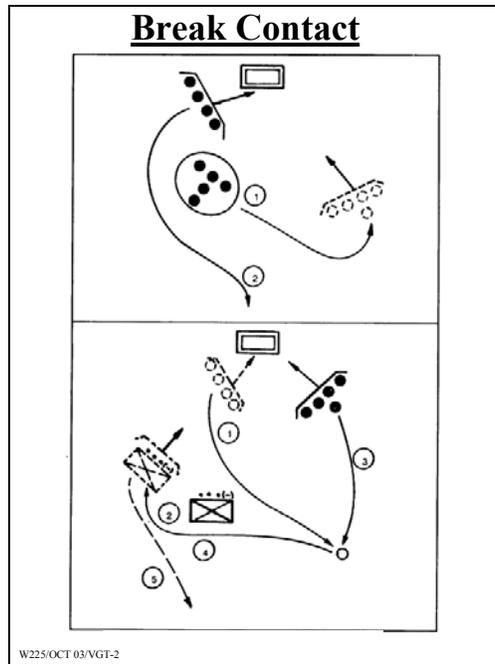
1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Break Contact

Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
 Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
 Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
 Time of Instruction: 15 mins
 Media: VGT-VGT-2

We just discussed what the squad and team leaders must do when they encounter contact with the enemy. You learned that the squad leader must make a decision what to do; for example, assault, fire and movement, or break contact. He may base his decision on his orders or on the strength of the enemy. If the squad leader determines that the squad must

break contact with the enemy, then he, his team leaders, and squad must perform certain actions.

SHOW VGT-2, BREAK CONTACT



Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-9

If your squad is under enemy fire and you have decided that you must break contact, you must ensure that you and your squad accomplish the following actions:

1. The squad leader directs one fire team in contact with the enemy to support the disengagement of the remainder of the squad.
2. The squad leader orders a distance and direction, or terrain feature, or last objective rally point for the movement of the team not in contact.
3. The base of fire from the fire team continues to suppress the enemy.
4. The moving element uses grenades and smoke to mask its move.
5. The moving team takes up the designated position and engages the enemy position.
6. The squad leader directs the base-of-fire team to move to its next location using fire and movement techniques based on the terrain and the volume and accuracy of enemy fire.
7. The squad continues to bound away from the enemy until (the squad must continue to suppress the enemy as it breaks contact)--

- a. It breaks contact.
- b. It passes through a higher level support-by-fire.
- c. Its fire teams are in the assigned position to conduct the next mission.

8. The squad leader should consider changing the direction of movement once contact is broken, reducing the ability of the enemy to place effective indirect fires on the squad.

9. If the squad becomes disrupted, soldiers will stay together and move to the last designated rally point.

10. Squad leader accounts for soldiers, reports, reorganizes as necessary, and continues the mission.

REMOVE VGT-2

CHECK ON LEARNING: Conduct a check on learning and summarize the ELO.

QUESTION: Which movement technique does the squad use when breaking contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Bounding overwatch.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-8, Required Actions, para 6 and 7

QUESTION: What does the moving team use to mask its movement?

ANSWER: Fragmentary, concussion, and smoke grenades.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-8, Required Actions, para 4

QUESTION: What actions take place in the squad once it breaks contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Account for soldiers, report, reorganize as necessary and continue the mission.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-8, Required Actions, para 10

C. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Discuss elements of reacting to an ambush.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment using the material contained in this lesson.
STANDARDS:	Discussed elements of reacting to an ambush IAW FM 7-8.

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Ambush Defined

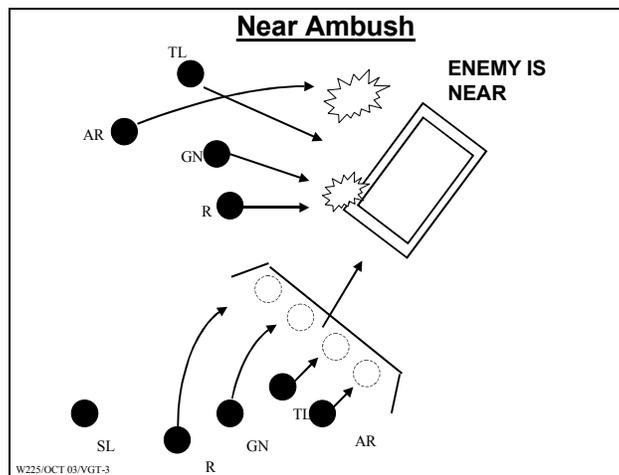
- Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
- Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
- Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
- Time of Instruction: 15 mins
- Media: VGT 3 and VGT-4

We will now discuss another type of contact with the enemy-- the ambush. The American Heritage College Dictionary--3rd edition--defines "Ambush" as, " The act of lying in wait to attack by surprise."

Therefore by definition, an ambush will be a chaotic situation for the unit ambushed.

A unit is most likely to encounter an ambush while in movement in a danger zone. Every member of a squad must know what actions to take if an ambush occurs. The enemy will likely have emplaced a casualty producing device within the ambush kill zone and will be able to place a high volume of fire on the zone. The primary objective of a team in the kill zone is to get out of the zone. If caught in an ambush, the leaders and squad must perform the following actions:

SHOW VGT-3, NEAR AMBUSH



Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10

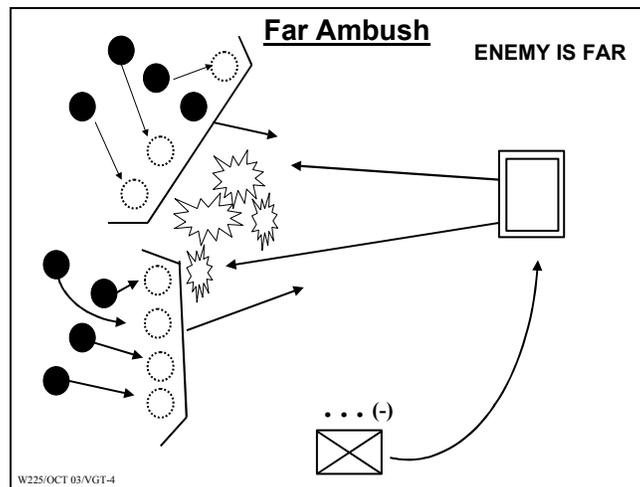
A near ambush is an ambush within hand grenade distance to the enemy. The squad must perform the following actions:

1. Upon receiving fire, the soldiers in the kill zone immediately return fire and take up covered positions and begin throwing fragmentation concussion, and smoke grenades.
2. Immediately after the grenades detonate, the soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush using fire and movement.

3. Soldier not in the kill zone immediately--
 - Identify enemy positions.
 - Initiate immediate suppressive fires against the enemy.
 - Take up covered positions.
 - Shift fires as the soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush.
4. The platoon Forward Observer (FO) calls for and adjusts indirect fires as directed by the platoon leader.
5. The squad leader reports, reorganizes as necessary, and continues the mission.

REMOVE VGT-3

SHOW VGT-4, FAR AMBUSH



Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10

We know that a near ambush is when you are within hand grenade range to the enemy. Using this logic--

QUESTION: What is the definition of a far ambush?

ANSWER: A far ambush is beyond the range of hand-grenades.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, para 2

The squad must perform the following actions if caught in a far ambush:

1. Soldiers/team receiving fire immediately return fire, take up covered positions, and suppress the enemy by--
 - Destroying or suppressing enemy crew-served weapons first.
 - Obscuring the enemy positions with smoke (M203).
 - Sustaining suppressive fires.
2. Soldiers/team not receiving fires, move by covered and concealed route to a vulnerable flank of the enemy position and assault using fire and movement techniques.
3. Soldiers/team in the kill zone continue suppressive fire and shift fires as the assaulting team fights through the enemy position.
4. The platoon FO calls for and adjusts indirect fires as directed by the platoon leader.
5. The squad leader reports, reorganizes as necessary, and continues the mission.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10

REMOVE VGT-4

CHECK ON LEARNING: Conduct a check on learning and summarize the ELO.

QUESTIONS: What defines a near ambush?

ANSWER: The enemy is within hand-grenade range.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 1

QUESTION: In a near ambush, what are the responsibilities of the team not in the kill zone?

ANSWER:

- Identify enemy positions.
- Initiate immediate suppressive fires against the enemy.
- Shift fires as the soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 1b

QUESTION: What are the responsibilities of the soldiers/team that is taking fire from the enemy?

ANSWER:

- Destroy or suppress enemy crew-served weapons.
- Obscure the enemy positions with smoke (M203).
- Sustain suppressive fire.
- Shift fires as the assaulting team fights through the enemy positions.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 2 and 2b

QUESTION: What do the soldiers/team involved in a near ambush within the kill zone do once their grenades and smoke grenades detonate?

ANSWER: Assault through the ambush using fire and movement.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 1a

Break: Time: 00:50 to 01:00

D. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ACTION:	Discuss elements of conducting a squad attack.
CONDITIONS:	In a classroom environment, using the material contained in this lesson.
STANDARDS:	Discussed elements of conducting a squad attack IAW FM 7-8.

1. Learning Step / Activity 1. Leader Actions on Contact

Method of Instruction: Conference / Discussion
Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction (SGI)
Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8
Time of Instruction: 1 hr
Media: VGT-5 thru VGT-14

We have been discussing the actions to take when coming in contact with the enemy. Now let's discuss what actions the leader should take upon contact with the enemy. Keep in mind what you have learned so far in this lesson. We will use the outline provided in Battle Drill 1A, Squad Attack, in FM 7-8, found in Student Handout 2, pages SH-2-3 through SH-2-5 to provide you guidance on the actions and decisions you may have to make in a combat situation.

The first thing to consider is your mission. Is it to conduct a reconnaissance patrol and avoid contact with the enemy, or will you conduct a movement to contact or a hasty or deliberate attack? You will have several options available to you depending on the type of contact you have with the enemy. Although your mission is strictly reconnaissance, you may still have to make a decision to attack based on the situation. For example, you learned that when your contact with the enemy is a near ambush, your actions are quite specific. You base your decision to break contact during a near ambush on the survivability and success of the soldiers/team in the kill zone.

The following are five required actions your squad conducts as part of the platoon's movement to contact or a hasty or deliberate attack. Let's briefly discuss these actions.

SHOW VGT-5, FIVE STEPS OF REQUIRED ACTIONS

FIVE REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Action on enemy contact.
2. Locate the enemy.
3. Suppress the enemy.
4. Attack
5. Consolidate and Reorganize.

W225OCT 03/VGT-5

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), pages SH-2-3 thru SH-2-5

REMOVE VGT-5

Discussion of the following steps will reinforce what you learned in the previous ELO's of this lesson.

SHOW VGT-6, STEP 1, ACTION ON ENEMY CONTACT

STEP 1, Action on Enemy Contact

- **Team in contact:**
 - Seeks cover and concealment.
 - Returns heavy volume of suppressive fire.
 - Reports known or suspected enemy positions.
 - Directs fire.
- **Team not in contact:**
 - Takes cover in concealed positions.
 - Observes flanks and rear of squad.
- **Squad leader:**
 - Reports contact to the platoon leader.
 - Moves toward the fire team in contact.

W225OCT 03/VGT-6

Ref: SH-2 (FM7-8), page SH-2-3

Step 1, Action on enemy contact: Upon contact, the team taking fire will seek cover and concealment and returns heavy suppressive fire and reports the locations of the enemy. The team leader will direct fires using tracers or standard fire commands. The trailing team or team not in contact, will take cover and take up positions to observe the flanks and rear of the squad. The squad leader will report the contact to the platoon leader and move toward the team in contact.

NOTE: Ask the students if they have any questions before moving to Step 2.

REMOVE VGT-6

Step 2, Locate the enemy: Once you make contact with the enemy, it is important that you locate their position as soon as possible.

SHOW VGT-7, STEP 2, LOCATE THE ENEMY

STEP 2, Locate the Enemy

- **Team in contact:**
 - Acquires known or suspected enemy positions.
 - Place well-aimed fire on suspected enemy positions.
- **Squad Leader:**
 - Moves to position to observe enemy and assess the situation.
 - Requests through Platoon Leader (PLDR) indirect fires.
 - Reports to Platoon Leader (PLDR) enemy size, location, other information.
- **Platoon Leader (PLDR):** Moves forward to complete squad leader's assessment of the situation.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-7

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH 2-3

As the visual aid depicts, the fire team in contact acquires the enemy's positions and begins to fire on their positions. During this time the squad leader is moving up to observe the enemy and assess the situation.

The squad leader can request indirect fire through the platoon leader and reports the enemy's size, strength and location.

NOTE: Ask the students if they have any questions about step 1 or 2.

REMOVE VGT-7

Step 3, Suppress the enemy: This is an important step; the squad leader faces a yes or no situation based on the squad's ability to suppress the enemy's fire.

The squad leader must determine if the squad can suppress the enemy. He will make his decision based on the volume and accuracy of the enemy's fire.

QUESTION: If the squad leader believes the team in contact can suppress the enemy's fire, what actions must the squad accomplish?

ANSWER: See VGT-8

NOTE: When you show VGT-8, cover items 1 thru 4 and uncover as the students answer.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), pages SH-2-3 and SH-2-4, para Step 3 A)

SHOW VGT-8, STEP 3, SUPPRESS THE ENEMY

STEP 3, Suppress the Enemy

- Squad Leader: Determines if the team in contact can gain suppressive fire.
 - **If Yes:** Team in contact continues suppressive fire and:
 1. Destroys or suppresses crew-served weapons.
 2. Places smoke on enemy positions.
 3. Controls fire using tracers/standard fire commands—places well-aimed fires at a sustained rate with no lulls.
 4. Buddy teams reload at different times.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-8

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3 and SH-2-4

REMOVE VGT-8

We now know what actions the squad takes if the squad can suppress the enemy.

QUESTION: If the squad leader determines that the team in contact **cannot** suppress the enemy's fire, what actions must the squad accomplish?

ANSWER: See VGT-9.

NOTE: Allow students to answer prior to showing VGT-9 and uncover the three actions as the students respond.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 3 para B

SHOW VGT-9, STEP 3, SUPPRESS THE ENEMY, CONT

STEP 3, Suppress the Enemy, cont

- Squad Leader: Determines if the team in contact can gain suppressive fire.
 - **If NO: The Squad Leader:**
 1. Deploys team not in contact to establish a support-by-fire position.
 2. Reports situation to PLDR.
 3. Responds to orders from PLDR.

* Normally the squad will become the base-of-fire element for the platoon.

W225.OCT 03/VGT-9

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), pages SH-2-3 and SH-2-4

NOTE: Ask the students if they have any questions about Step 3.

REMOVE VGT-9

Step 4, Attack: If the squad leader determines that the team in contact can suppress the enemy, he goes to Step 4--another yes/no decision. Can the team not in contact with the enemy maneuver? He must make an assessment of the situation and make the decision.

QUESTION: What factors must the squad leader assess?

ANSWER:

1. Location of enemy positions and obstacles.
2. Size of force, automatic weapons, vehicles.
3. Vulnerable flank to enemy.
4. Cover and concealment of flanking route.

NOTE: When you show VGT-10, uncover the comments (a-d) one at a time as the students respond.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4, Attack

SHOW VGT-10, STEP 4, ATTACK

STEP 4, Attack

- If the fire team in contact can suppress the enemy, the squad leader—
 1. Determines if the team **not** in contact can maneuver by making the following assessment :
 - a. Location of enemy positions and obstacles.
 - b. Size of force, auto weapons, vehicles.
 - c. Vulnerable flank to enemy.
 - d. Cover and concealment of flanking route.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-10

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4

QUESTION: What enemy indicators will assist the squad leader determine the size of the enemy force?

ANSWER: The number of enemy automatic weapons, the presence of any vehicles, and the employment of indirect fires.

Ref: SH-2-1 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4, Attack

REMOVE VGT-10

If the squad leader determines the team not in contact can maneuver, there are several actions he and the team leaders perform. Let's briefly cover these actions.

NOTE: When you show VGT-11, uncover the bullet comments one at a time as the students answer the following questions.

SHOW VGT-11, STEP 4, ATTACK, CONT

STEP 4, Attack, cont

- If the answer is YES:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Directs team in contact to support movement of assault team.
 2. Leads or directs movement of assault team.
 3. Once assault team in place, signals supporting fire team to lift fires or shift fires to opposite flank of the enemy.
 - **Assaulting team Leader:**
 1. Leads team through enemy positions using fire and movement by leading from up front.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-11

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4

QUESTION: What actions does the squad leader take once he decides to attack?

ANSWER: See VGT-11.

QUESTION: What is the assaulting team leader's responsibility?

ANSWER: See VGT-11.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4 para A

REMOVE VGT-11

QUESTION: What are the squad leaders responsibilities if he cannot maneuver?

ANSWER: Show VGT-12

NOTE: When you show VGT-12, uncover the bullet comments one at a time as the students answer the following question.

SHOW VGT-12, STEP 4, ATTACK, CONT

STEP 4, Attack, cont

- If the answer is NO, or the assaulting fire team cannot continue to move:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Deploys assaulting fire team to add its fires against the enemy.
 2. Reports to PLDR and request instructions.
 3. Continues suppressing enemy positions.
 4. Responds to orders of PLDR.

W22S/OCT 03/VGT-12

Ref: SH-2 ([FM 7-8), page SH-21-5, Step 4 para B

NOTE: Ask students if they have any questions about Step 4.

REMOVE VGT-12

Step 5, Consolidate and reorganize: The fifth step the squad leader and squad accomplish is consolidate and reorganize. You consolidate and reorganize after all the actions discussed previously in this lesson; react to contact, break contact, and react to a near and far ambush, have taken place. The degree of consolidation and reorganization will vary on the situation and size of the unit. However, the following will give you a basic understanding of what you must accomplish.

NOTE: When you show VGT-13 and VGT-14, uncover the bullet comments one at a time as the students answer the following questions. Ensure students expand on their answers using the VGTs and SH-2 (FM 7-8).

QUESTION: What are the responsibilities of the squad leader during consolidation and reorganization?

ANSWER: See VGT-13 and SH-2, page SH-2-5, Step 5, para A (1) thru (6)

QUESTION: What tasks must the squad accomplish?

ANSWER: See VGT-13, and SH-2, page SH-2-5, Step 5, para B (1) thru (8)

QUESTION: What are the team leaders responsibilities?

ANSWER: See VGT-14, and SH-2, page SH-2-5, Step 5, para C

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-5, Step 5, para A thru F

SHOW VGT-13, STEP 5, CONSOLIDATE AND REORGANIZE

STEP 5, Consolidate and Reorganize

- Once the assaulting team seizes the position:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Establishes security.
 2. Prepares for counterattack.
- Squad performs following tasks:
 - Reestablish chain of command
 - Redistribute and resupply ammunition and equipment.
 - Treat and evacuate wounded.
 - Process EPWs
 - Collect/Report enemy information and material.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-13

Ref: SH-2 (FM7-8), page SH-1-5

REMOVE VGT-13

NOTE: Show VGT-14 and continue to ask the following questions.

QUESTION: What report do the team leaders create and provide the squad leader?

ANSWER: Ammunition, casualty and equipment (ACE).

SHOW VGT-14, STEP 5, CONSOLIDATE AND REORGANIZE, CONT

STEP 5, Consolidate and Reorganize, cont

- **Team Leader:** Reports ammunition, casualty, and equipment (ACE) report to squad leader.
- Squad leader consolidates ACE and passes to platoon leader.
- Squad continues mission.
- Squad leader report the situation to platoon leader.

W225/OCT 03/VGT-14

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-5

REMOVE VGT-14

CHECK ON LEARNING: Conduct a check on learning and summarize the ELO.

QUESTION: What is the responsibility of the team NOT in contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Take cover in concealed positions and observe the flanks and rear of the squad.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 1, para B3

QUESTION: What is the squad leader's responsibility upon contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Reports contact to the platoon leader and moves toward the team in contact with the enemy.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 1, para B4

QUESTION: What does the squad leader do once he moves forward to observe the situation?

ANSWER: Assess the situation.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 2, para C

QUESTION: Once the team in contact locates the enemy, who do they contact for indirect fire support?

ANSWER: Platoon Leader

Ref: SH-1 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 2, para D

QUESTION: What does the squad leader base his decision on as to whether or not the squad in contact with the enemy can suppress their fire?

ANSWER: The volume and accuracy of the enemy's fire.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 3

QUESTION: Which weapon systems should the team in contact with enemy fire try to suppress/knock out first?

ANSWER: Crew-served weapons.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-3, Step 3, para A1

QUESTION: What action does the squad leader take if he determines that the team in contact with enemy fire cannot suppress the their fire?

ANSWER: Deploys the fire team not in contact to establish a support-by-fire position and reports the situation to the platoon leader.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 3, para B

QUESTION: What does the squad leader determine if the fire team in contact with the enemy can suppress the enemy?

ANSWER: If the team not in contact can maneuver.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4

QUESTION: What factors does the squad leader assess in order to determine if the team not in contact with the enemy can maneuver?

ANSWER: 1. Location of enemy position(s) and obstacles.
2. Size of the enemy force.
3. Vulnerable flank.
4. Covered and concealed flanking route to the enemy.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4

QUESTION: What indicators assist a leader in determining the size of an enemy force?

ANSWER: The number of enemy automatic weapons, presence of any vehicles, and the employment of indirect fires.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4

QUESTION: If the team in contact with the enemy can maneuver, who selects the route to the objective and what must that route provide?

ANSWER: The team leader of the assaulting team, and a route that provides the best available cover and concealment for the team.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-4, Step 4, para (3)a

QUESTION: What action does the squad leader take If he determines that the team NOT in contact with the enemy cannot maneuver?

ANSWER: Deploys the team to add fire against the enemy and reports to the platoon leader and requests instructions.

Ref: SH-12 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-5, Step 4, para B

QUESTION: What reports do the team leaders provide the squad leader during consolidation and reorganization?

ANSWER: Ammunition, casualty, and equipment (ACE) reports.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-5, Step 5, para C

QUESTION: What does the squad leader do immediately upon the assault team seizing the enemy position and why?

ANSWER: Establishes local security in case of any enemy counterattacks.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-5, Step 5, para A

Break: Time: 01:50 to 2:00

2. Learning Step / Activity 2. Conduct Combat Operations

Method of Instruction: Practical Exercise (PE)

Technique of Delivery: Small Group Instruction

Instructor to Student Ratio: 1:8

Time of Instruction: 2 hrs 45 mins

Media: Practical Exercise (Performance)

Conduct PE-1 in Appendix C.

NOTE: Conduct breaks as instruction allows.

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>45 mins</u>
Media: <u>None</u>

Check on Learning

QUESTION: What is your initial reaction upon contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Seek cover and return fire.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-6, Required Actions, para 1

QUESTION: What does the moving element use to mask its movement?

ANSWER: Fragmentary, concussion, and smoke grenades.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-8, Required Actions, para 4

QUESTION: What actions does the squad perform once it breaks contact with the enemy?

ANSWER: Account for soldiers, report, reorganize as necessary and continue the mission.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-8, Required Actions, para 10

QUESTION: What defines a near ambush?

ANSWER: The enemy is within hand-grenade range.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 1

QUESTION: What are the responsibilities of the team not in the kill zone of a near ambush?

ANSWER:

- Identify enemy positions.
- Initiate immediate suppressive fires against the enemy.
- Shift fires as the soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 1b

QUESTION: What are the responsibilities of the soldiers/team taking fire from the enemy in a far ambush?

ANSWER:

- Destroy or suppress enemy crew-served weapons.
- Obscure the enemy positions with smoke (M203).
- Sustain suppressive fire.

Ref: SH-2 (FM 7-8), page SH-2-10, Required Actions, para 2 and 2b

**Review /
Summarize
Lesson**

This block of instruction covered basic combat operations: reacting to contact, breaking contact, reacting to an ambush--far and near--and conducting a hasty attack. You learned the importance of sound and timely decisions, and situational assessments during the lesson and the PE. In summary the decisions you make as a leader in a combat environment will have a lasting impact on your soldiers.

SECTION V. STUDENT EVALUATION

**Testing
Requirements**

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

There is no testing requirement for this lesson. However, the practical exercise will evaluate the students ability to understand the requirements to lead soldiers in a basic simulated combat environment.

**Feedback
Requirements**

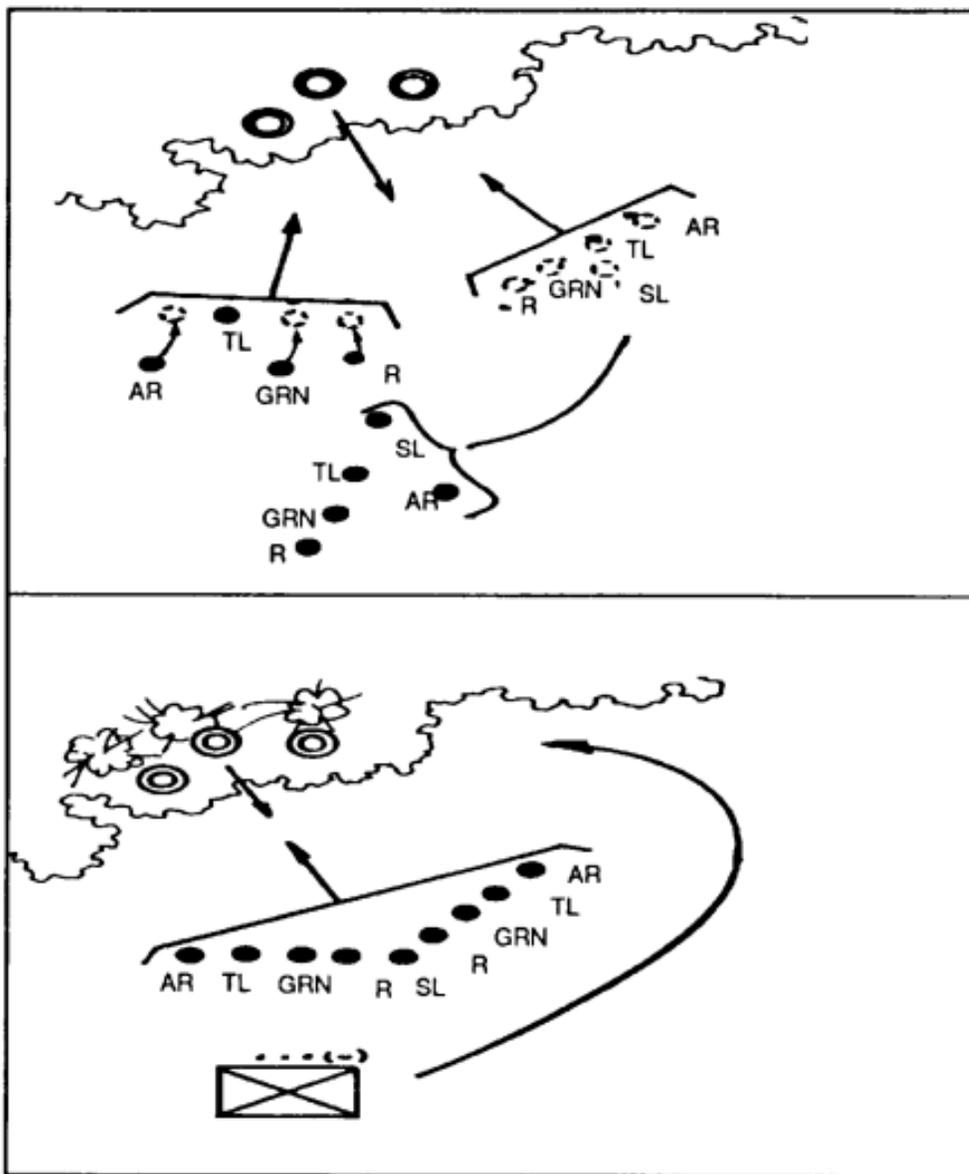
NOTE: Feedback is essential to effective learning. Schedule and provide feedback on the evaluation and any information to help answer students' questions about the test. Provide remedial training as needed.

None.

Enabling Learning Objective A

VGT-1, React to Contact

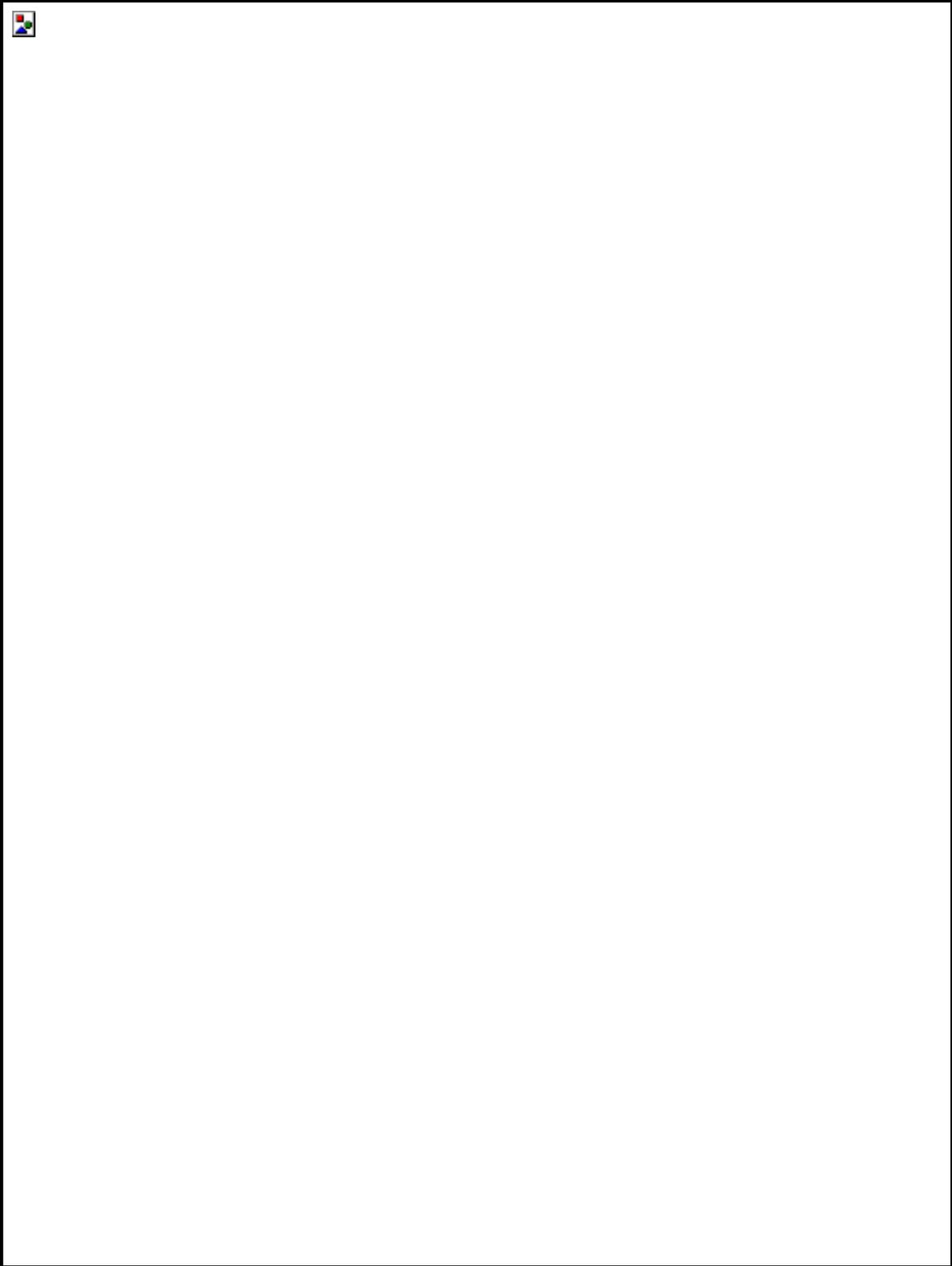
React to Contact



W225/OCT 03/VGT-1

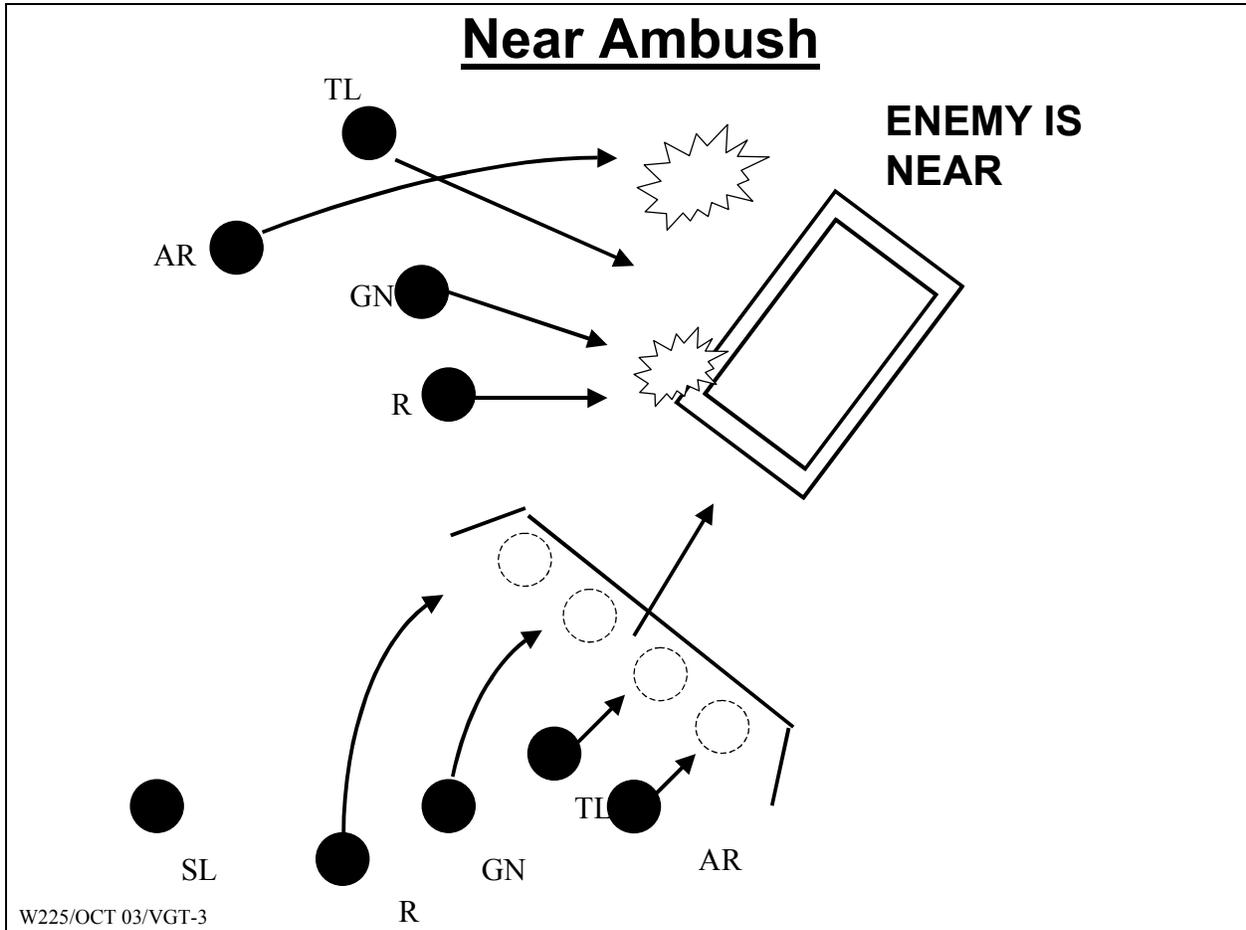
Enabling Learning Objective B

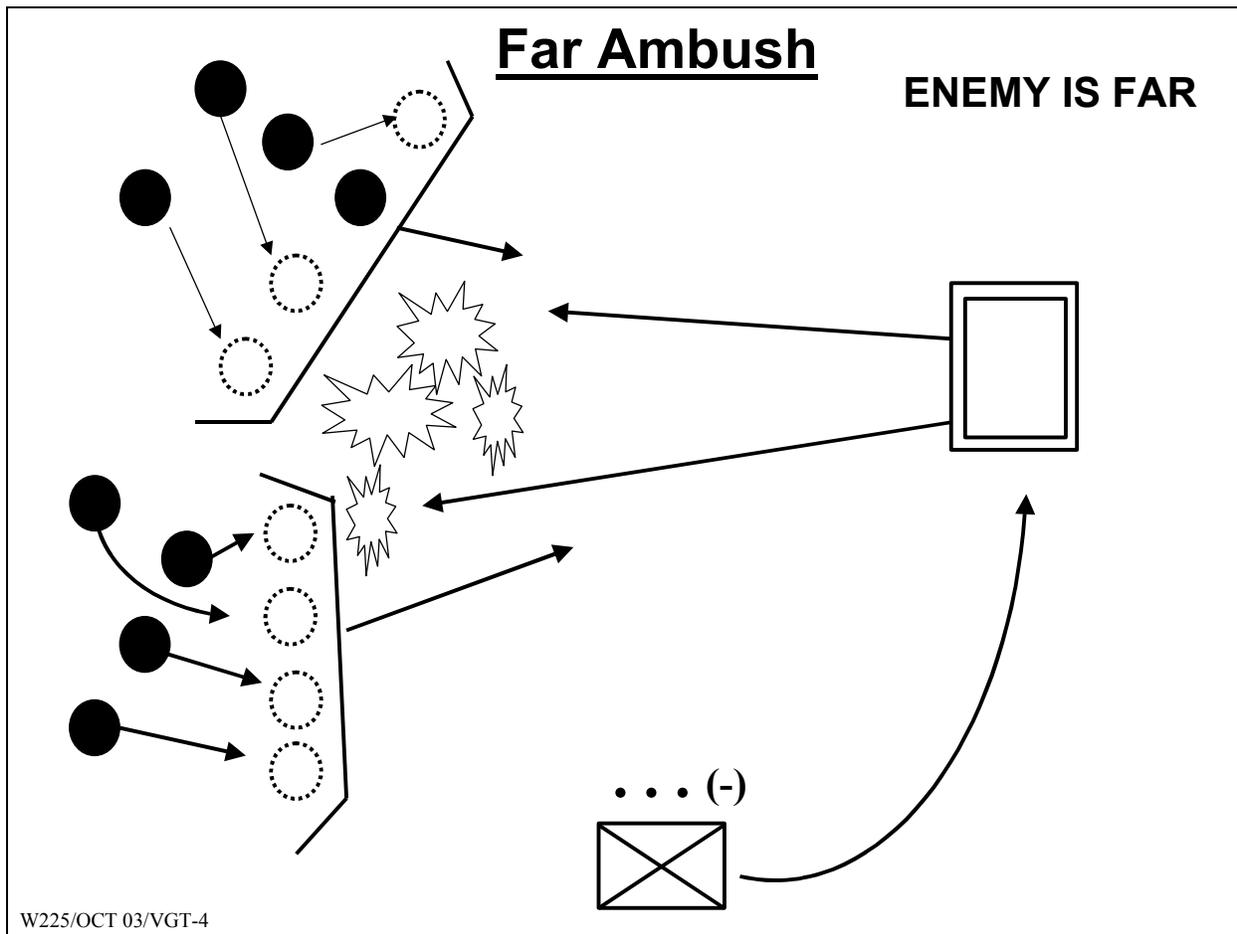
VGT-2, Break Contact



Enabling Learning Objective C

VGT-3, Near Ambush





FIVE REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Action on enemy contact.
2. Locate the enemy.
3. Suppress the enemy.
4. Attack
5. Consolidate and Reorganize.

STEP 1, Action on Enemy Contact

- **Team in Contact:**
 - Seeks cover and concealment.
 - Returns heavy volume of suppressive fire.
 - Reports known or suspected enemy positions.
 - Direct fire.
- **Team not in contact:**
 - Takes cover in concealed positions.
 - Observes flanks and rear of squad.
- **Squad leader:**
 - Reports contact to the platoon leader.
 - Moves toward the fire team in contact.

STEP 2, Locate the Enemy

- **Team in contact:**
 - Acquires known or suspected enemy positions.
 - Place well-aimed fire on suspected enemy positions.
- **Squad Leader:**
 - Moves to position to observe enemy and assess the situation.
 - Requests through Platoon Leader (PLDR) indirect fires.
 - Reports to Platoon Leader (PLDR) enemy size, location, other information.
- **Platoon Leader (PLDR):** Moves forward to complete squad leader's assessment of the situation.

STEP 3, Suppress the Enemy

- Squad Leader: Determines if the team in contact can gain suppressive fire.
 - **If Yes:** Team in contact continues suppressive fire and:
 1. Destroys or suppresses crew-served weapons.
 2. Places smoke on enemy positions.
 3. Controls fire using tracers/standard fire commands—places well-aimed fires at a sustained rate with no lulls.
 4. Buddy teams reload at different times.

STEP 3, Suppress the Enemy, cont

- Squad Leader: Determines if the team in contact can gain suppressive fire.
 - **If NO: The Squad Leader:**
 1. Deploys team not in contact to establish a support-by-fire position.
 2. Reports situation to PLDR.
 3. Responds to orders from PLDR.
- * Normally the squad will become the base-of-fire element for the platoon.

STEP 4, Attack

- If the fire team in contact can suppress the enemy, the Squad Leader:
 1. Determines if the team **not** in contact can maneuver by making an assessment of:
 - a. Location of enemy positions and obstacles.
 - b. Size of force, auto weapons, vehicles.
 - c. Vulnerable flank to enemy.
 - d. Cover and concealment of flanking route.

STEP 4, Attack, cont

- If the answer is YES:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Directs team in contact to support movement of assault team.
 2. Leads or directs movement of assault team.
 3. Once assault team in place, signals supporting fire team to lift fires or shift fires to opposite flank of the enemy.
 - **Assaulting team Leader:**
 1. Leads team through enemy positions using fire and movement by leading from up front.

STEP 4, Attack, cont

- If the answer is NO, or the assaulting fire team cannot continue to move:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Deploys assaulting fire team to add its fires against the enemy.
 2. Reports to PLDR and request instructions.
 3. Continues suppressing enemy positions.
 4. Responds to orders of PLDR.

STEP 5, Consolidate and Reorganize

- Once the assaulting team seizes the position:
 - **Squad Leader:**
 1. Establishes security.
 2. Prepares for counterattack.
- Squad performs following tasks:
 - Reestablish chain of command
 - Redistribute and resupply ammunition and equipment.
 - Treat and evacuate wounded.
 - Process EPWs
 - Collect/Report enemy information and material.

STEP 5, Consolidate and Reorganize, cont

- **Team Leader:** Reports ammunition, casualty, and equipment (ACE) report to squad leader.
- Squad leader consolidates ACE and passes to platoon leader.
- Squad continues mission.
- Squad leader report the situation to platoon leader.

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

PRACTICAL EXERCISE SHEET W225

Title Conduct Combat operations.

Lesson Number/Title W225 version 1 / Combat Operations

Introduction For the next three hours you will be the leader of a team/squad that will evaluate your ability to understand the requirements to lead soldiers in a basic simulated combat environment.

Motivator Regardless of your MOS or job assignment, you may find yourself in a situation where you will lead soldiers in combat. This PE provides you the opportunity to walk through some combat operational situations. You will go through the same situations but at full speed in a stressful environment during the STX. We will also test your ability to use the decision-making process with the skills and knowledge you learned in this course and with your past experiences and training.

Terminal Learning Objective **NOTE:** The instructor should inform the students of the following Terminal Learning Objective covered by this practical exercise.

At the completion of this lesson, you [the student] will:

Action:	Lead a team/squad in basic combat operations.
Conditions:	In a classroom environment culminating in a situational training exercise and given a team/squad.
Standards:	Led a team/squad in basic combat operations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reacting to contact. • Breaking contact. • Reacting to an ambush. • Conducting a hasty attack. IAW FM 7-8.

- Safety Requirements**
- The Chief Instructor (CI) of PLDC at each NCOA will conduct a safety risk assessment and a safety briefing as appropriate.
 - Fluid replacement policy for warm weather training (average acclimated soldier wearing BDUs, Hot Weather).

-The Army reviewed its policy for warm weather training as the result of a soldier's death and other instances of soldier hospitalization during 1997. The determination was that these soldiers suffered from over-hydration. The revised fluid replacement chart (below) describes the revised amounts of fluid replacement and work/rest cycles for acclimatized soldiers undergoing training. Of particular note is the fact that the revised maximum **hourly** fluid intake should **NOT** exceed 1.25 quarts, and the revised maximum daily fluid intake should **NOT** exceed 12 Liters.

		Easy Work		Moderate Work		Hard Work	
Heat Category	WBGT Index, °F	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.
- The PE is a non-graded exercise.
- Some of the skills you learn during this PE, you will apply during the tactical leadership evaluations conducted during the STX.

**Instructional
Lead-In**

This PE is a culmination of all that you have learned in this lesson. You will lead and participate in a walk through using hand and arm signals taught in the previous lesson and the movement techniques learned earlier: reacting to contact, breaking contact, reacting to an ambush (near and far), and conduct an attack.

I will form you up into two fire teams to demonstrate and walk you through:

- React to contact.
- Break contact.
- React to an ambush--far and near.
- Conduct an attack.

Pay attention to the demonstrations. Some of you will lead a team using these techniques during the STX. Ask questions as I guide you through this exercise.

**Resource
Requirements**

Instructor Materials:

NCOAs may conduct this training right outside of the classroom, local parade field, or training area (any area that can accommodate all sections/squads).

Student Materials:

None

**Special
Instructions**

- The PE is not to train students to be infantrymen or to place unrealistic emphasis on tactics.
- Design the PE so that the crux of the exercise is to see how well students use the skills and knowledge they learned during the class.
- Conduct this exercise as a walk through.
- Upon completion of all walk throughs, provide some of the students with an oral OPORD/FRAGO for the squad to move. Based on the OPORD/FRAGO the SGL gives, the assigned squad leader must determine whether to break contact or attack.
- The intent of this PE is not to have the squad reach task proficiency but rather that the students participate in collective training event
- **NOTE:** The SGL must continuously evaluate and critique the students as they progress through the walk throughs.

While mission accomplishment is important, the SGLs must place their emphasis on the students' ability to lead soldiers, think, reason, organize, and communicate, not mission accomplishment. Soldiers are to learn the basic execution of the task performed.

- Uniform/Equipment:

- BDUs with field cap
 - LCE with two canteens of water.
 - 4 M16s or Rubber M16s (optional).
 - Other uniform/equipment requirements IAW NCOA SOP.
-

Student led AARs must occur whenever possible, followed by a cadre AAR to reinforce the learning process. Students and cadre may conduct these AARs at the conclusion of an event, when student leaders change, or at the end of the PE. SGLs should place their students in a relaxed posture for the AARs. This will aid in the learning process. An example of a relaxed posture is the students grounding their equipment. This of course depends on time available or the situation and is solely the SGL's call.

- Recommended sequence of events:
 - Set up areas/stations where students can walk through the tasks of reacting to enemy contact, ambushes, and where they can make a decision whether to break contact or attack.
 - Students move outside.
 - One group walks through the PE while other groups observe.
 - Conduct an AAR.
 - Second group walks through the PE while other groups observe.
 - Conduct an ARR.
 - Repeat until all groups have run through the exercises or various stations.
 - Select some students to lead a squad. Provide them with an oral OPORD/FRAGO. (**NOTE:** Not all students need to lead a walk through, as long as they participate in the walk through and the AAR following the walk through.)
 - Tell the student to select the proper movement technique and formation, and to break contact or attack based on the situation and his orders.
 - Conduct an AAR.

Procedures

None

Feedback Requirements

SGLs will conduct AARs frequently throughout the exercise.

HANDOUTS FOR LESSON 1: W225 version 1

**This Appendix
Contains**

This appendix contains the items listed in this table—

Title/Synopsis	Pages
SH-1, Advance Sheet	SH-1-1 thru SH-1-2
SH-2, Extracts from FM 7-8	SH-2-1 thru SH-2-12

Student Handout 1

This student handout contains the Advance Sheet.

Student Handout 1

Advance Sheet

Lesson Hours

This lesson consists of two hours of small group instruction and a three hour practical exercise

Overview

This lesson provides you with some basic techniques and procedures used in basic combat operation when a team/squad size element comes in contact with the enemy.

Learning Objective

Terminal Learning Objective (TLO).

Action:	Lead a team/squad in basic combat operations.
Conditions:	In a classroom environment culminating in a situational training exercise and given a team/squad.
Standards:	Led a team/squad in basic combat operations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reacting to contact.• Breaking contact.• Reacting to an ambush.• Conducting a hasty attack. IAW FM 7-8.

ELO A Discuss elements of reacting to contact.

ELO B Discuss elements of breaking contact.

ELO C Discuss elements of reacting to an ambush.

ELO D Discuss elements of conducting a squad attack.

Assignment

The student assignments for this lesson are:

- Study SH-2, Extracts from FM 7-8.

Additional Subject Area Resources

None

Bring to Class

- SH-2, Extracts from FM 7-8.
- Pencil or pen and writing paper.
- Bring equipment required for the practical exercise as directed by the SGL.

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 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 discuss fully the information.

Student Handout 2

Extract from FM 7-8, Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad, dated Apr 92 w/ch 1 dated 1 Mar 01.

This Student
Handout Contains

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

Pages	(Reading/Study) Requirement
SH-2-2 thru SH-2-12	Read
SH-2-2	Battle Drills
SH-2-3 thru SH-2-5	Battle Drill 1 Squad Attack
SH-2-6 thru SH-2-7	Battle Drill 2 React to Contact
SH-2-8 thru SH-2-9	Battle Drill 3 Break Contact
SH-2-10 thru SH-2-11	Battle Drill 3 React to Ambush
SH-2-12	Definitions

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CHAPTER 4

BATTLE DRILLS

Infantry battle drills describe how platoons and squads apply fire and maneuver to commonly encountered situations. They require leaders to make decisions rapidly and to issue brief oral orders quickly.

4-1. DEFINITION

FM 25-101 defines a battle drill as “a collective action rapidly executed without applying a deliberate decision-making process.”

a. Characteristics of a battle drill are--

- They require minimal leader orders to accomplish and are standard throughout the Army.
- Sequential actions are vital to success in combat or critical to preserving life.
- They apply to platoon or smaller units.
- They are trained responses to enemy actions or leader’s orders.
- They represent mental steps followed for offensive and defensive actions in training and combat.

b. A platoon’s ability to accomplish its mission often depends on soldiers and leaders to execute key actions quickly. All soldiers and their leaders must know their immediate reaction to enemy contact as well as follow-up actions. Drills are limited to situations requiring instantaneous response; therefore, soldiers must execute drills instinctively. This results from continual practice. Drills provide small units with standard procedures essential for building strength and aggressiveness.

- They identify key actions that leaders and soldiers must perform quickly.
- They provide for a smooth transition from one activity to another; for example, from movement to offensive action to defensive action.
- They provide standardized actions that link soldier and collective tasks at platoon level and below. (Soldiers perform individual tasks to CTT or SDT standard.)
- They require the full understanding of each individual and leader, and continual practice.

BATTLE DRILL 1. SQUAD ATTACK

SITUATION: The squad is moving as part of the platoon conducting a movement to contact or a hasty or deliberate attack.

REQUIRED ACTIONS:

STEP 1. Action on Enemy Contact.

- A. Soldiers receiving fire take up nearest positions that afford protection from enemy fire (cover) and observation (concealment).
- B. The fire team in contact immediately returns heavy volume of suppressive fire in the direction of the enemy.
 - 1) Soldiers in the fire team in contact move to positions (bound or crawl) from which they can fire their weapons, position themselves to ensure that they have observation, fields of fire, cover, and concealment. They continue to fire and report known or suspected enemy positions to the fire team leader.
 - 2) The team leader directs fires using tracers or standard fire commands.
 - 3) The fire team not in contact takes covered and concealed positions in place and observes to the flanks and rear of the squad.
 - 4) The squad leader reports contact to the platoon leader and moves toward the fire team in contact.

STEP 2. Locate the Enemy.

- A. Using sight and sound, the fire team in contact acquires known or suspected enemy positions.
- B. The fire team in contact begins to place well-aimed fire on suspected enemy positions.
- C. The squad leader moves to a position where he can observe the enemy and assess the situation.
- D. The squad leader requests, through the platoon leader, for immediate suppression indirect fires (normally 60-mm mortars).
- E. The squad leader reports the enemy size and location, and any other information to the platoon leader. (As the platoon leader comes forward, he completes the squad leader's assessment of the situation.)

STEP 3. Suppress the Enemy.

The squad leader determines if the fire team in contact can gain suppressive fire based on the volume and accuracy of the enemy fire.

- A. If the answer is YES, the fire team leader continues to suppress the enemy:
 - 1) The fire team destroys or suppresses enemy crew-served weapons first.
 - 2) The fire team places smoke (M203) on the enemy position to obscure it.

- 3) The fire team leader continues to control fires using tracers or standard fire commands. Fires must be well-aimed and continue at a sustained rate with no lulls.
 - 4) Buddy teams fire their weapons so that both are not reloading their weapons at the same time.
- B. If the answer is **NO**, the squad leader then deploys the fire team not in contact to establish a support-by-fire position. He reports the situation to the platoon leader. Normally, the squad will become the base of-fire element for the platoon. The squad continues to suppress the enemy and responds to orders from the platoon leader. (The platoon leader, his RATELO, the platoon FO, one machine gun team, and the squad leader of the next squad, as well as the platoon sergeant and the other machine gun team, are already moving forward IAW Battle Drill 1, Platoon Attack.)

STEP 4. Attack.

If the fire team in contact can suppress the enemy, the squad leader determines if the fire team not in contact can maneuver. He makes the following assessment:

- Location of enemy position(s) and obstacles.
 - Size of enemy force engaging the squad. (The number of enemy automatic weapons, the presence of any vehicles, and the employment of indirect fires are indicators of enemy strength.)
 - Vulnerable flank.
 - Covered and concealed flanking route to the enemy position.
- A. If the answer is **YES**, the squad leader maneuvers the fire team in the assault:
- 1) The squad leader directs the fire team in contact to support the movement of the other fire team. He then leads or directs the assaulting fire team leader to maneuver his fire team along a route that places the fire team in a position to assault the enemy. (The assaulting fire team must pick up and maintain fire superiority throughout the assault. Handover of responsibility for direct fires from the supporting fire team to the assaulting fire team is critical.)
 - 2) Once in position, the squad leader gives the prearranged signal for the supporting fire team to lift fires or shift fires to the opposite flank of the enemy position.
 - 3) The assaulting fire team fights through enemy positions using fire and movement. (The supporting fire team must be able to identify the near flank of the assaulting fire team.)
 - a. The team leader selects the route that allows him to reach his objective, while providing the best available cover and concealment for his team. The team leader then leads his team, from up front, in a shallow wedge throughout the attack.
 - b. Fire team members conduct individual movement techniques as individuals or buddy teams, while maintaining their relative position in the assault formation. At the end of each move, soldiers take up covered and concealed positions and resume firing.

- B. If the answer is **NO** or the assaulting fire team cannot continue to move, the squad leader deploys the assaulting fire team to add its fires against the enemy, reports to the platoon leader and requests instructions. The squad continues suppressing enemy positions and responds to the orders of the platoon leader.

STEP 5. Consolidate and Reorganize.

- A. Once the assaulting fire team has seized the enemy position, the squad leader establishes local security. (The squad leader must quickly prepare to defeat any enemy counterattack. At the conclusion of the assault, the squad is most vulnerable.
 - 1) The squad leader signals for the supporting fire team to move up into a designated position.
 - 2) The squad leader assigns sectors of fire for both fire teams.
 - 3) The squad leader positions key weapons.
 - 4) All soldiers take up hasty defensive positions.
 - 5) The squad leader develops an initial fire support plan against an enemy counterattack. (As the platoon moves up, he hands the plan to the platoon leader for further development.)
 - 6) The squad leader posts an OP to warn of enemy activity.
- B. The squad performs the following tasks:
 - 1) Reestablish the chain of command.
 - 2) Redistribute and resupply ammunition.
 - 3) Man crew-served weapons first.
 - 4) Redistribute critical equipment (for example, radios, NBC, NVDs).
 - 5) Treat casualties and evacuate wounded.
 - 6) Fill vacancies in key positions.
 - 7) Search, silence, segregate, safeguard, and speed EPWs to collection points.
 - 8) Collect and report enemy information and materiel.
- C. Team leader provide ammunition, casualty, and equipment (ACE) reports to the squad leader
- D. The squad leader consolidates the ACE report and passes it to the platoon leader or Platoon sergeant.
- E. The squad continues the mission after receiving instructions from the platoon leader. (the platoon follows the success of the squad's flanking attack with the remaining squads as part of the platoon attack.)
- F. The squad leader reports the situation to the platoon leader.

BATTLE DRILL 2. REACT TO CONTACT

SITUATION: A squad or platoon receives fires from enemy individual or crew-served weapons.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: (Figure 4-4.)

1. Soldiers immediately take up the nearest covered positions and return fire in the direction of contact.
2. Team/squad leaders locate and engage known or suspected enemy positions with well-aimed fire, and pass information to the squad/platoon leader.
3. Fire team leaders control fire using standard fire commands (initial and supplemental) containing the following elements:
 - Alert.
 - Direction.
 - Description of target.
 - Range.
 - Method of fire (manipulation, and rate of fire).
 - Command to commence firing.
4. Soldiers maintain contact with the soldiers on their left and right.
5. Soldiers maintain contact with their team leaders and report the location of enemy positions.
6. Leaders check the status of their personnel.
7. The team/squad leaders maintain contact with the squad/platoon leader.
8. The squad/platoon leader—
 - a. Moves up to the fire team/squad in contact and links up with its leader. (The platoon leader brings his RATELO, platoon FO, the squad leader of the nearest squad, and one machine gun team. The squad leader of the trail squad moves to the front of his lead fire team. The platoon sergeant also moves forward with the second machine gun team and links up with the platoon leader, ready to assume control of the base-of-fire element.)
 - b. Determines whether or not his squad/platoon must move out of an engagement area.
 - c. Determines whether or not he can gain and maintain suppressive fires with his element already in contact (based on the volume and accuracy of enemy fires against the element in contact).
 - d. Makes an assessment of the situation. He identifies—
 - The location of the enemy position and obstacles.
 - The size of the enemy force. (The number of enemy automatic weapons, the presence of any vehicles, and the employment of indirect fires are indicators of the enemy strength.)
 - Vulnerable flanks.
 - Covered and concealed flanking routes to the enemy position.
 - e. Determines the next course of action (for example, fire and movement, assault, breach, knock out bunker, enter and clear a building or trench).
 - f. Reports the situation to the platoon leader/company commander and begins to maneuver.

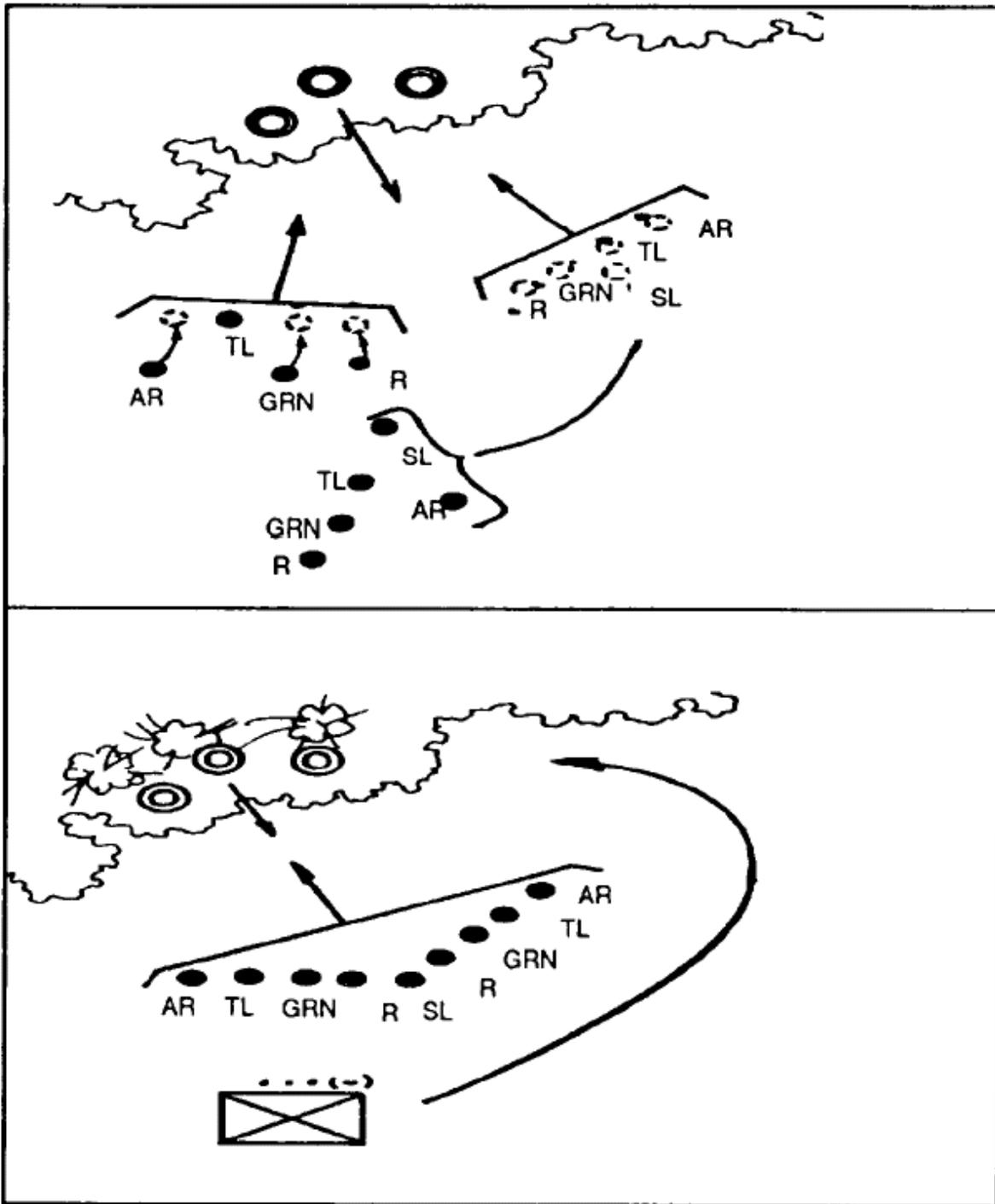


Figure 4-4. React to contact.

- g. Calls for and adjusts indirect fire (mortars or artillery). (Squad leaders relay requests through the platoon leader.)
- 9. Team leaders lead their teams by example; for example, "Follow me, do as I do."
- 10. Leaders relay all commands and signals from the platoon chain of command.

BATTLE DRILL 3. BREAK CONTACT

SITUATION: The squad/platoon is under enemy fire and must break contact.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: (Figure 4-5.)

1. The squad/platoon leader directs one fire team/squad in contact to support the disengagement of the remainder of the unit.
2. The squad/platoon leader orders a distance and direction, or a terrain feature, or last objective rally point for the movement of the first fire team/squad.
3. The base of fire (fire team/squad) continues to suppress the enemy.
4. The moving element uses fragmentation, concussion, and smoke grenades to mask its movement.
5. The moving element takes up the designated position and engages the enemy position.
6. The platoon leader directs the base-of-fire element to move to its next location. (Based on the terrain and the volume and accuracy of the enemy's fire, the moving fire team/squad may need to use fire and movement techniques.
7. The squad/platoon continues to bound away from the enemy until (the squad/platoon must continue to suppress the enemy as it breaks contact)-
 - It breaks contact.
 - It passes through a higher level support-by-fire position.
 - Its fire teams/squads are in the assigned position to conduct the next mission.
8. The leader should consider changing the direction of movement once contact is broken. This will reduce the ability of the enemy to place effective indirect fires on the unit.
9. If the squad or platoon becomes disrupted, soldiers stay together and move to the last designated rally point.
10. Squad/platoon leaders account for soldiers, report, reorganize as necessary and continue the mission.

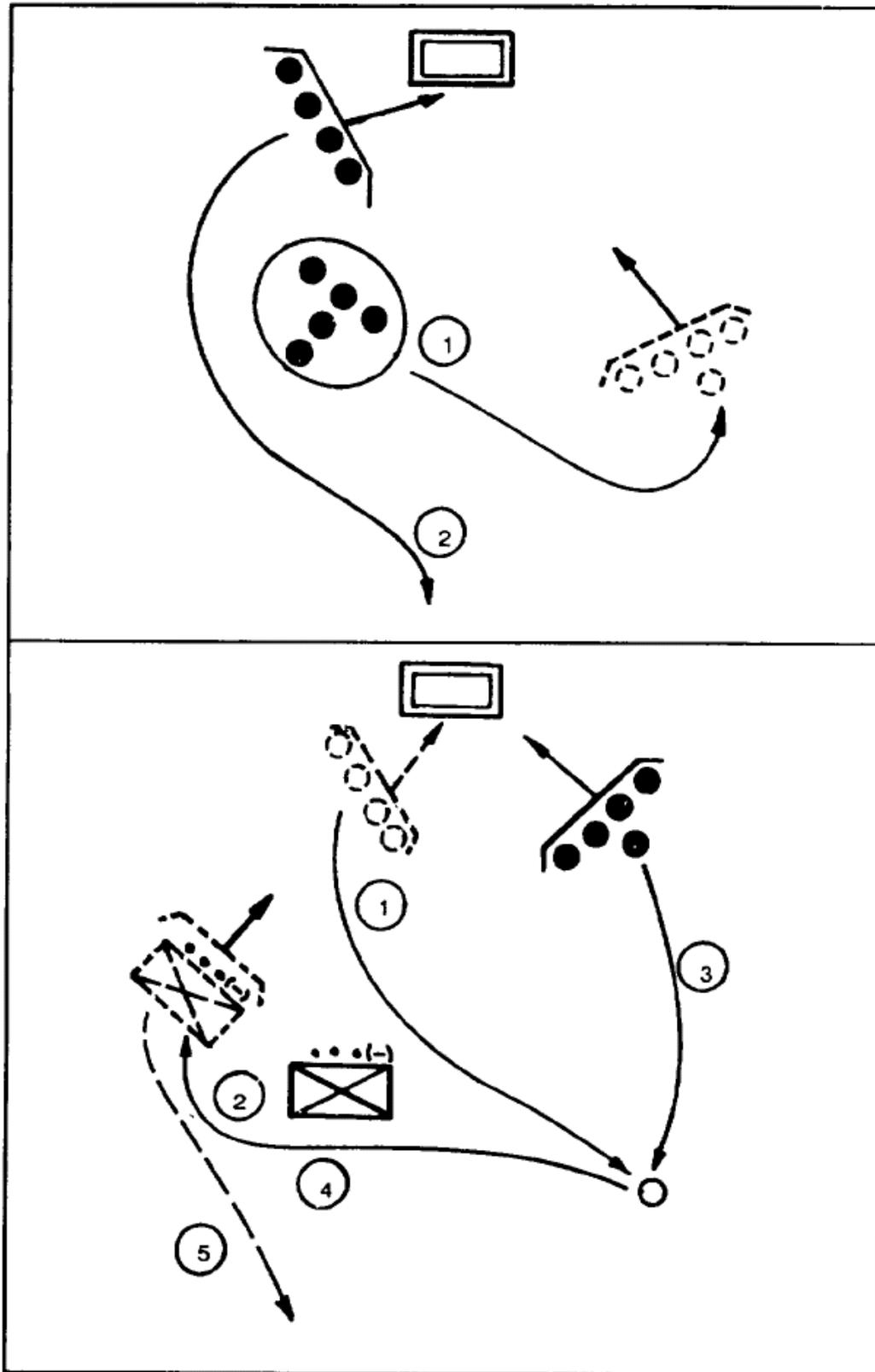


Figure 4-5. Break contact.

BATTLE DRILL 4. REACT TO AMBUSH

SITUATION: If the squad/platoon enters a kill zone and the enemy initiates an ambush with a casualty-producing device and a high volume of fire, the unit takes the following actions.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: (Figure 4-6.)

1. In a near ambush (within hand-grenade range), soldiers receiving fire immediately return fire, take up covered positions, and throw fragmentation concussion, and smoke grenades.
 - a. Immediately after the grenades detonate, soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush using fire and movement.
 - b. Soldiers not in the kill zone immediately—
 - Identify enemy positions.
 - Initiate immediate suppressive fires against the enemy.
 - Take up covered positions.
 - Shift fires as the soldiers in the kill zone assault through the ambush.
2. In a far ambush (beyond hand-grenade range) soldiers receiving fire immediately return fire, take up covered positions, and suppress the enemy by—
 - Destroying or suppressing enemy crew-served weapons first.
 - Obscuring the enemy position with smoke (M203).
 - Sustaining suppressive fires.
 - a. Soldiers (teams/squads) not receiving fires move by a covered and concealed route to a vulnerable flank of the enemy position and assault using fire and movement techniques.
 - b. Soldiers in the kill zone continue suppressive fires and shift fires as the assaulting team/squad fights through the enemy position.
3. The platoon FO calls for and adjusts indirect fires as directed by the platoon leader. On order, he lifts fires or shifts them to isolate the enemy position, or to attack them with indirect fires as they retreat.
4. The squad/platoon leader reports, reorganizes as necessary, and continues the mission.

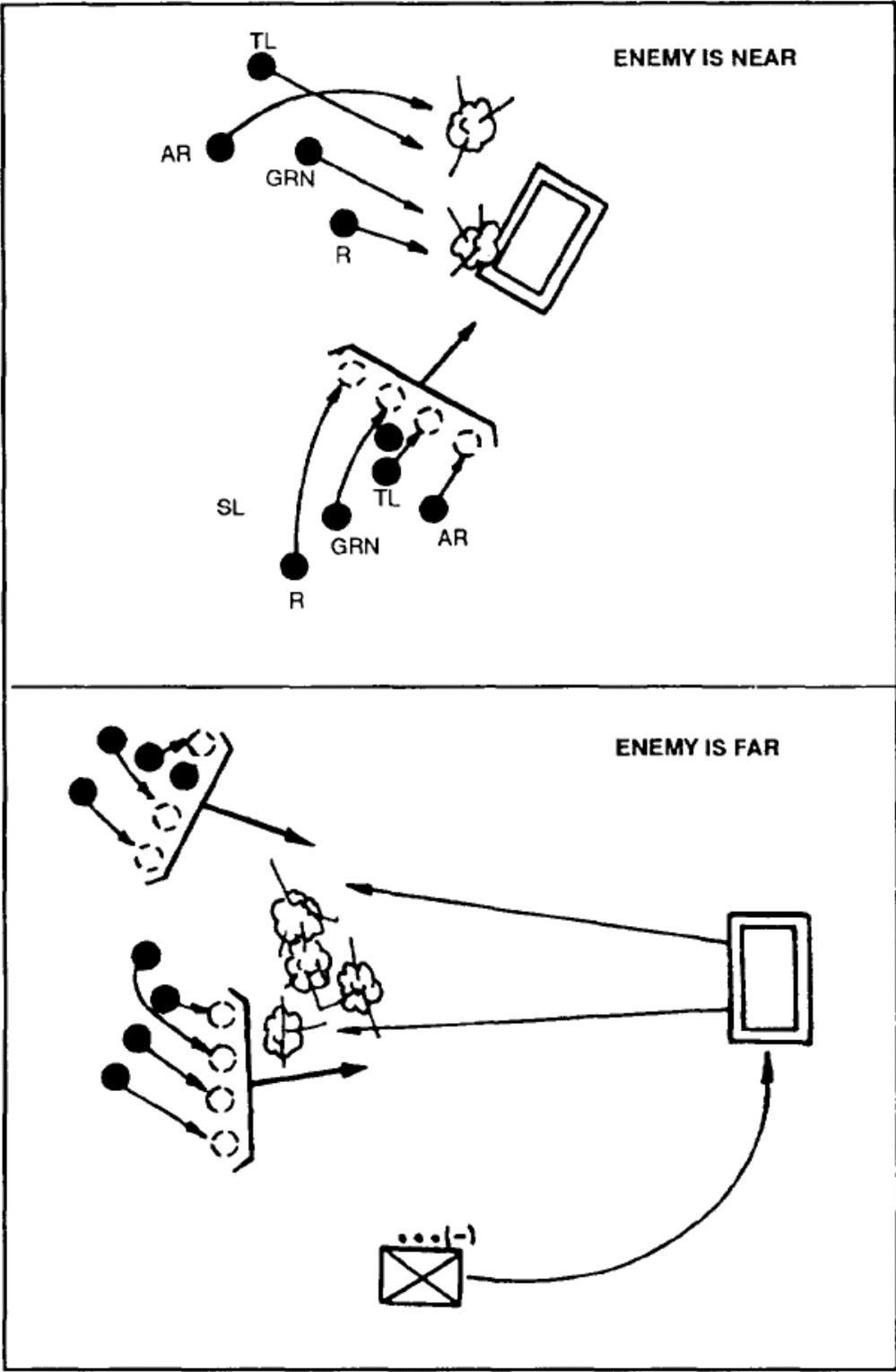


Figure 4-6. React to ambush.

Consolidation. Platoons and squads move quickly to establish security during the consolidation of an objective. They do this by establishing OPs along likely approaches and by establishing overlapping sectors of fire to create all-round security. (See Section V.)

Reorganization. Once platoons have consolidated on the objective, they begin to reorganize. Platoons reorganize to continue the attack. Reorganization involves—

- Reestablishing command and control.
- Re-manning key weapons, redistributing ammunition and equipment.
- Clearing the objective of casualties and EPWs
- Assessing and reporting the platoon status of personnel, ammunition, supplies, and essential equipment.