**FORT BENNING**
**SUPPLEMENTAL**
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**US Army Armor School**
**Fort Benning, GA, April 2015**

# TANK PLATOON SOP

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

# PREFACE

**Role of SOP in platoon readiness**

Every leader holds a responsibility for improving and maintaining combat readiness of his unit. Fundamental to achieving this goal are thorough knowledge and complete understanding of the unit 's SOP. This SOP standardizes routine procedures for combat operations, CS, and CSS within the tank platoon. It applies at all times except when modified by platoon or higher orders.

**Scope of SOP coverage**

All platoon personnel should read, understand, and comply with the provisions of this SOP. As a minimum, all TCs should maintain a copy of the SOP at all times.

**Adapting and using the SOP**

You may adapt any part of this tank platoon SOP as needed to fit your unit 's mission requirements. The SOP, however, is not a substitute for demanding, realistic tactical training. Use it as a supplement to ARTEP 1 7-237-10-MTP and other materials to enhance your training programs.

**Instructional and doctrinal information**

This publication is provided for resident and nonresident instruction at the US Army Armor School. It reflects the current thought of the school and conforms to published Department of the Army doctrine.

## PREFACE (continued)

**Ordering the SOP**

Information on obtaining this publication is available at the following address:

Commander, US Army Armor School
ATTN: ATZK-AR
Fort Benning, GA 31905-9997
Phone Number: (706) 545-6001

**Comments on the SOP**

Users of this SOP can make suggestions on how to improve it. Record comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 and send the form directly to the following address:

Commander, US Army Armor School
ATTN: ATZK-AR
Fort Benning, GA 31905-9997
Phone Number: (706) 545-6001

**Genera l information**

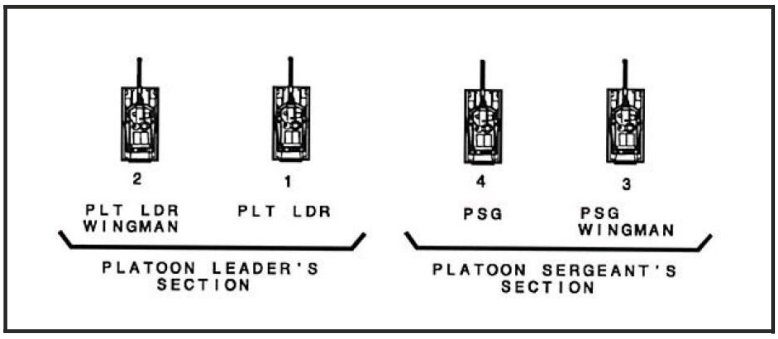
Unless otherwise stated, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men. This publication supersedes FKSM 17-1 5-3, February 1989.

# PART I
# Battle Command

## ORGANIZATION AND SUCCESSION OF COMMAND

**Platoon organization**

The platoon is organized as shown in the accompanying illustration.




**Platoon succession**

Under normal conditions, platoon succession of command is as follows:

- Platoon leader.
- PSG.
- Senior wingman TC.
- Junior wingman TC.
- Platoon leader's gunner.
- PSG's gunner.

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## ORGANIZATION AND SUCCESSION OF COMMAND
(continued)

**Assuming command**

During combat, any member of the platoon may be required to assume command. The following table list s steps that the new leader must take when such a change becomes necessary. Foremost, keep in mind this simple guideline for any soldier who must assume command:

When in charge, TAKE CHARGE!!

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Inform higher headquarters (commander or CP) of the change immediately. |
| 2 | Reestablish the chain of command and inform the platoon of the change. |
| 3 | Change user ID for digital systems (MIA2). |
| 4 | Check the platoon's equipment and personnel status. |
| 5 | Confirm positions of all elements. |
| 6 | Assess the platoon's ability to continue the mission and report assessment results to higher headquarters. |
| 7 | Continue the mission. |

## TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES

STEP 1 - Receive and analyze the mission

The platoon leader's analysis covers the following:

- Commander's intent and purpose; task identification (specified, implied, and essential).
- Coordination requirements.
- Dissemination of pertinent information from commander's order to the platoon.
- Initial METT-T analysis, including limitations and constraints and OAK-OC factors.
- Reverse planning schedule (using the one-third/two-thirds rule).

STE P 2 - Issue the warning order

The WO may cover the following:

- Task organization.
- Situation (friendly and enemy).
- Updated graphics (platoons equipped with digital systems send new overlays).
- Nature of operation, including commander's intent and platoon and company missions.
- Tentative timeline and delegation of preparatory tasks to the PSG and TCs, including (but not limited to) the following:

  - Earliest time of movement
  - REDCON level.
  - Requirements for coordination, reconnaissance, CSS, training, rehearsals, and PCI.
  - Time and location at which platoon OPORD will be issued.
  - Graphics production and terrain model preparation.

NOTE: If immediate movement is not required, the platoon can begin priorities of work at this point.

## **TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES** (continued)

STEP 3. Make a tentative plan

The following table lists actions the platoon leader takes in developing his tentative plan.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct detailed METT-TC analysis. |
| 2 | Using the IPB process, develop course(s) of action that address all specified, implied, and essential tasks. |
| 3 | Identify reconnaissance requirements. |
| 4 | Identify other coordination requirements. |
| 5 | Choose tentative course of action. |
| 6 | Develop or adjust the reverse planning schedule for selected course of action. |

STEP 4. Initiate movement

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes when movement is necessary before troop-leading procedures are completed.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Direct platoon to assume the appropriate REDCON level. |
| 2 | Dispatch quartering party (if necessary). |
| 3 | Begin priorities of work. |
| 4 | Conduct a time-distance check to the SP (lAW OPORD/FRAGO). |
| 5 | Position the platoon in an advantageous location to prepare for the mission. |

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## **TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES** (continued)

STEP 5. Conduct reconnaissance and coordination

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes to conduct reconnaissance and coordination.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct ground, air, and/or map reconnaissance based on METT-TC. |
| 2 | In the offense, reconnoiter routes to the SP/LD and the area just beyond the LD. |
| 3 | I n the defense, reconnoiter the following:<br>• Engagement area.<br>• All platoon BPs.<br>• Routes to be used in the defense. |
| 4 | Coordinate the following with other platoon leaders/elements:<br>• Routes and movement speed.<br>• Sectors of observation and fires. |

STEP 6. Complete the plan

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes in finalizing details of his maneuver plan.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Select final course of action based on METT-TC analysis and reconnaissance. |
| 2 | Complete details of how the platoon will accomplish each required task. |
| 3 | Further refine platoon graphics as needed. |
| 4 | Integrate fire support plan. |
| 5 | Develop communications plan. |
| 6 | Integrate CS and CSS elements into plan. |
| 7 | Continue to update plan. |

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## **TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES** (continued)

STEP 7. Issue the OPORD

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes in developing and issuing the OPORD.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Use the five paragraph OPORD format. |
| 2 | Based on METT-TC. Use one of the following methods in issuing the order:<br>• On or overlooking actual terrain.<br>• Terrain model.<br>• Sketches/drawings.<br>• Map and overlay(s). |
| 3 | Ensure that each TC has accurately posted overlay graphics. |
| 4 | Ensure that each TC understands the following areas:<br>• Intent of the commander two levels up.<br>• The enemy and friendly situation.<br>• The tasks they must execute to support the mission. |
| 5 | Perform confirmation briefings. |
| 6 | Perform walk-through rehearsals (IAW M ETT-TC). |

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## TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES (continued)

STEP 8. Supervise and refine

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes to ensure the platoon is fully prepared for the operation.

| STE P | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Ensure crews are briefed on details of the operation. |
| 2 | Conduct platoon rehearsals (based on METT-TC). |
| 3 | Conduct rearm/resupply operations. |
| 4 | Direct crews to conduct precombat checks and prepare for the PCI. |
| 5 | Conduct PCI (with PSG). |
| 6 | Continue to supervise/refine as necessary until the operation begins. |

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## ORDERS

**Orders group**

Ideally, the orders group comprises all members of the platoon. When METT-TC factors dictate, it should include, as a minimum, all TCs, leaders of attached elements, and gunners from the platoon leader's and PSG's tanks.

**Warning order**

As a minimum, the WO includes the following information:

• Updated enemy situation.
• Company and platoon mission.
• Commander's intent (if available).
• A tentative timeline, to include the following:
- Earliest time of movement.
-Specific instructions for preliminary actions (movement and coordination requirements, security, reconnaissance, rehearsals, rest, training, maintenance, resupply).
-Time and location at which the platoon OPORD will be issued.

**Operation order**

The OPORD is normally issued in the standard five-paragraph format. The sample platoon OPORD format that begins on the following page includes a variety of operational factors and considerations. Leaders can adapt it to the unique requirements of each operation.

**ORDERS** (continued)

Sample OPORD format — The following example lists elements of the five-paragraph OPORD format.

**TASK ORGANIZATION (company).**

**PARAGRAPH 1. SITUATION.**

a. Weather and light data.

(1) Light conditions: BMNT:___, Sunrise:____,
Sunset:____; EENT:____,
Moonrise:___, Moonset:____;
Percent Illumination:___.

(2) Weather forecast for the operation.

(3) Effects of weather and light conditions on the operation.

(a) Trafficability.

(b) Visibility.

(c) Effect on lasers/thermals

b. Terrain.

(1) Obstacles, hills, valleys, road types and conditions, streams, rivers, bridges, built-up areas.

(2) Avenues of approach.

(a) Size unit that can be supported.

(b) Start and end point.

(c) Objective.

(3) Key terrain (discuss how friendly and/or enemy forces may attempt to use it to their advantage).

(4) Observation and fields of fire.

(5) Cover and concealment.

(6) Engagement areas.

(7) Overall effect of terrain on the operation.

*(continued on next page)*

**ORDERS** (continued)

Sample OPORD format (continued)

c. Enemy forces.
(1) Identification.
(2) Activity.
(3) Location.
(4) Disposition.
(5) Strength.
(6) Composition, to include type and capabilities of equipment.
(7) Other enemy information critical to the upcoming operation, to include the following:
(a) Chemical, nuclear, FA, and obstacle capabilities.
(b) ADA.
(c) Aviation, including helicopters.
(d) Electronic warfare.
(8) Enemy courses of action (discussion should focus on identifying enemy's most probable courses of action).

d. Friendly forces (include the following items as applicable).
(1) Mission of higher headquarters (company team/troop), including commander's intent and scheme of maneuver. (This may include a review of the task force or squadron scheme of maneuver or commander's intent.)
(2) ID/mission of adjacent units (left, right, front, rear).
(3) ID/mission of reserves in higher headquarters.
(4) ID/mission of supporting units with a direct support/ reinforcing role to higher headquarters (FA, combat engineers, ADA).
(5) Which higher headquarters element has priority of fires.
(6) CAS allocated to higher headquarters, including number of sorties available.

e. Attachments and detachments to the platoon and higher.

*(continued on next page)*

Sample OPORD format (continued)

**PARAGRAPH 2. Mission.** This is the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY of the operation. State essential task(s) to be accomplished by the entire unit, to include on-order missions. Clearly define the platoon's objective.

**PARAGRAPH 3. Execution.**

a. Intent. Using the commander's intent as a guideline, the platoon leader defines the purpose, method, and end state of the operation. The purpose defines the WHY of the operation. The method describes how the platoon leader visualizes achieving success with respect to the company/troop mission as a whole; it also outlines, in general terms, how he plans to use any combat multipliers. The end state specifies the final disposition of forces and explains how the end state will facilitate future operations.

b. Concept of the operation. The concept statement further explains and expands on the platoon leader's (and/or commander's) intent, particularly his vision of HOW he will conduct the operation and WHO he will assign to execute it. The platoon leader uses the concept statement when he feels more detail is necessary to ensure subordinates will take the appropriate actions in the absence of additional communications or further orders. (NOTE: The platoon leader will often combine the intent and concept statements.) The sequence of subparagraphs is as follows:

(1) Scheme of maneuver. This is how the platoon will maneuver to kill the enemy or to accomplish its mission. It conforms with the commander's intent. In offensive operations, it specifies the platoon's formation, movement technique, routes or avenues of advance, and plans for direct fire and overwatch. In defensive operations, it specifies the platoon engagement plan, battle positions, orientation of weapons, and the plan for movement to subsequent positions.

*(continued on next page)*

Sample OPORD format (continued)

(2) Fires.
(a) Purpose for FA and mortar fires (how fires will be used to support the maneuver).
(b) Priority of fires within the platoon/company.
(c) Allocation of FPF.
(d) Preparation starting time and duration of fires.
(e) Triggers (trigger line/point or event).
(f) Enemy fires landing in the area of operations.
(g) Allocation/use of other fires (smoke/illumination/CAS).
(h) Restrictions.

(3) Engineer support (obstacles, mines, fortifications).
(a) Priority of engineer effort (mobility, countermobility, survivability).
(b) Priority of engineer support.
(c) Obstacle overlay and obstacle list.
(d) Logistical constraints.
(e) On-order missions.

c. Specific instructions. List specific missions, in "battle sequence," for each tank, including attached elements. Include movement techniques, flank coordination requirements, other details, and be- prepared missions.

d. Coordinating instructions.

(1) Time schedule for critical events.
(a) Rehearsals and confirmation briefings (back-briefs).
(b) PCI.
(c) First movement.
(d) Arrival of any attachments/detachments.
(e) Boresighting.

(2) Movement instructions.

(3) Passage of lines.
(a) Contact points and passage points.
(b) Lanes, to include identification/markings.

*(continued on next page)*

Sample OPORD format (continued)

(4) Actions at danger areas.

(5) Actions on expected contact.

(6) Rally points.

(7) ROE.

(8) IR and PIR.

(9) Air defense warning and weapon control status.

(10) MOPP level and OEG data.

(11) Changes regarding battlesight/battlecarry ranges.

(12) Be-prepared tasks or other information not provided in concept of the operation or specific instructions.

**PARAGRAPH 4. Service Support.**

a. Location and movement plan of the company/troop trains (initial and subsequent grids).

b. Material and services.

(1) Supply.
- (a) Priorities of supply.
- (b) Resupply points and prestock sites.
- (c) Ration cycle
- (d) Location of task force trains.

(2) Transportation.
- (a) Supply routes.
- (b) LRPs.
- (c) Priorities established on MSRs.

(3) Services. Handling of KIAs.

(4) Maintenance.
- (a) Maintenance procedures.
- (b) Vehicle evacuation.
- (c) Task force UMCP location.

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Sample OPORD format (continued)

c. Medical evacuation and treatment.
(1) Location of company/troop medics, battalion/squadron aid station, and ambulance exchange points.
(2) Procedures for treatment and evacuation of WIAs.
(3) Aeromedical evacuation information.
(4) Handling of contaminated WIAs.

d. Personnel.
(1) Handling and disposition instructions for EPWs.
(2) EPW guard instructions.
(3) Location of EPW collection point.
(4) Instructions for interaction with local civil populace (based on applicable ROE).
(5) Number of expected replacements.
(6) Cross-leveling procedures.

e. Miscellaneous.

**PARAGRAPH 5. Command and Signal.**

a. Command.
(1) Location of the platoon leader during the operation, as well as location of commander, XO, TOC, and/or TAC CP.
(2) Succession of command.

b. Signal.
(1) SOI index and edition in effect.

(a) Key frequencies.
(b) Key call signs.
(c) Current item number identifier.

(2) KY-57 fill and changeover data.
(3) Listening silence instructions.
(4) Challenge and password.
(5) Special signals, to include use of pyrotechnics.
(6) Code words.
(7) Digital traffic instructions (digital systems only}.
(8) Actions to counteract jamming or "hot mike" situations. TIME CHECK (for synchronization).

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**Fragmentary Order**

A FRAGO implements timely changes to existing orders. It provides pertinent extracts from more detailed orders or provides instructions until a detailed order is developed. The following considerations apply to development and use of the FRAGO:

- There is no specific format for a FRAGO. For simplicity and complete clarity, it normally follows the five-paragraph OPORD structure.
- The FRAGO contains only information required for subordinates to accomplish their mission:
  - Updated enemy and friendly situation.
  - Mission (ensure platoon tasks and purpose are clear).
  - Scheme of maneuver.
  - Specific instructions as necessary.
- Digitally equipped platoons can develop FRAGO graphics quickly and transmit them instantly.

## REPORTING LOCATIONS

**Reporting friendly locations**

The following methods are available when the platoon must report friendly locations to higher headquarters or other maneuver elements:

- Shift from a previously issued graphic control measure, such as a checkpoint.
- Terrain index reference system. In employing the TIRS, the commander or platoon leader designates a series of grid intersections as reference points from which to shift.

**Reporting enemy locations**

The following methods are available when the platoon must report enemy locations to higher headquarters or other maneuver elements:

- Shift from a TRP.
- A 6- or 8- digit grid coordinate.

**Precaution graphic when using a shift**

When identifying a location using a shift from a control measure or TRP, do not use the reference point from which the shift is made more than two times on an unsecured net.

## COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

**Communications procedures**

Follow these general guidelines in establishing and maintaining effective communications:

- During mission planning and preparation, make maximum use of secure communications (person to person, hot loops, and/or other means IAW unit SOPs).
- During mission execution, maximize the use of visual signals.
- Be prepared to take immediate action whenever radio communications are disrupted. Refer to the following for more information:
  - Discussion of MIJI conditions (next page).
  - Format for MIJI reporting (Appendix C)
  - Contingency plan for loss of communications (Appendix D)

**Loss of SOI**

Immediately report loss of SOI to the commander or XO by secure means.

**Authentication procedures**

Authentication is required under the following conditions:

- When entering or leaving the net.
- When challenged by the NCS.
- When lifting or imposing radio listening silence.
- When suspicious instructions are received from an unknown source.
- When a change of mission is given.
- Whenever the sender's identity is in doubt.

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## COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES (continued)

**Meaconing, Intrusion, Jamming, and Interference**

Use the following procedures when MIJI conditions exist or are suspected:

- On FM radios, use the lowest power necessary to get the call through.
- Report interference or imitative deception in the MIJI format (see Appendix C).
- If jamming is suspected, take steps outlined in the following table:

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Disconnect the antenna to determine if the interference is coming from within the vehicle. |
| 2 | Shift to maximum power. |
| 3 | Continue operations. |
| 4 | Relocate if possible. |
| 5 | Change frequency based on OPORD |

**Use of platoon nets**

The platoon leader takes all necessary measures to maintain communications with the NCS and the command net at all times. These guidelines apply:

- Platoon net. All tanks in the platoon must have the ability to monitor and transmit on this net at all times.
- Company/troop command net. Platoon leaders and PSGs monitor this net to keep abreast of the current tactical situation from reports of the commander, XO, and other platoon leaders.

## ATTACHMENTS AND DETACHMENTS

**Attachments to the platoon**

When additional assets are attached to the platoon, the platoon leader takes the actions listed in the following table.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Provide guides/liaison personnel as needed to assist in coming elements upon their arrival in the platoon position. |
| 2 | Brief leaders of the incoming elements on these subjects:<br><br>• Platoon organization and current status.<br>• Overlays and graphic control measures (M IA2-equipped elements can use digital systems).<br>• OPORD.<br>• SOP(s). |
| 3 | To ensure effective support, assist the incoming element leaders in their planning process. |

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## ATTACHMENTS AND DETACHMENTS (continued)

**Platoon detachment to another unit**

The following table lists steps the platoon leader should take when the platoon is detached from its parent unit and attached to another unit.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Ensure that all vehicles are refueled and rearmed before attachment to the new unit. |
| 2 | Physically report to the CP/TOC of the new unit as soon as possible. |
| 3 | Coordinate the following with appropriate CP/TOC personnel:<br>• Organization and status of weapons, logistics, and personnel.<br>• Enemy situation.<br>• Friendly situation.<br>• Service support requirements. |
| 4 | Obtain and/or provide necessary tactical information, to include the following:<br>• The maneuver plan, including graphics (traditional and digital) and sketch cards.<br>• Command and control information, including TSOP and SOI. |

**NOTE:** When an M1A2-equipped platoon is attached to a non-digitized element, the platoon will have to submit many reports by FM voice. The capabilities of the M1A2 will still aid you in fighting your platoon; however, you will not have a digital interface with higher headquarters.

# PART II
# Tactical Operations

## QUARTERING PARTIES

**Composition** The commander establishes the quartering party IAW unit SOP. The platoon leader/PSG usually sends the designated NBC tank (normally tank 3) or two personnel (PSG's gunner and the loader from the platoon leader's wingman) with the quartering party.

**Equipment** The 1SG specifies uniform and special equipment requirements, such as the following:

- DR-8/RL-39.
- WD-1 communication wire.
- TA-1 or TA-312 (two pieces).
- Signal flags.
- Engineer tape.
- U-shaped pickets.
- Flashlights with colored lenses.
- Chemical lights.
- NBC monitoring equipment.

**Activities** Quartering party activities include the following:

- Assisting in assembly area reconnaissance.
- Improving and marking entrances, exits, and internal routes.
- Marking obstacles and mines.
- Selecting platoon position and tentative vehicle positions.
- Maintaining surveillance and security of the assembly area.

**NOTE:** In an M1A2 platoon, the quartering party can use digital systems to send information back to the platoon concerning locations of tanks and obstacles, if found.

## ASSEMBLY AREAS

**Movement** The platoon conducts tactical movement to the RP, links up with the platoon guide, and follows his instructions to the assembly area.

**Occupation** Upon reaching the assembly area, the platoon occupies its positions using the procedures for hasty occupation of a BP. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in occupying the assembly area.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Follow directions from the guide and move into marked vehicle positions (using ground guides as necessary). |
| 2 | Orient weapon systems to cover sectors of responsibility. |
| 3 | Following proper cool-down procedures, shut down engines |
| 4 | Designate TRPs, trigger lines, and disengagement criteria/plan. |
| 5 | Quartering party briefs the platoon leader on the organization of the |
| 6 | Keep the commander informed of status of the assembly area. |

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## ASSEMBLY AREAS (continued)

**Local security**

The platoon leader establishes local security as specified in the OPORD. Procedures include the following:

- Establish OPs (as necessary).
- Establish sectors of fire to ensure overlapping fields of fire.
- Reduce dead space to a minimum by emplacing hasty obstacles and plotting areas for indirect fire.
- Maintain radio listening silence IAW OPORD/FRAGO/unit SOP.
- Camouflage vehicles and equipment.
- Establish wire communications IAW unit SOP.
- Enforce noise, light, and litter discipline.

**Priorities of work**

The platoon leader establishes priorities of work to ensure readiness and survivability for the next mission. Procedures include the following:

- Designate REDCON level based on the situation and the commander's guidance.
- Prepare platoon fire plan, taking these steps:
  - Coordinate with adjacent units.
  - Ensure that fire plans and supporting fires overlap.

**Resupply**

The platoon leader coordinates and conducts platoon resupply, including refueling and rearmament.

**Sleep plan**

The platoon leader develops and implements a sleep plan.

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## ASSEMBLY AREAS (continued)

**Maintenance preparations**

The platoon leader establishes maintenance priorities to ensure his crew perform necessary vehicle and equipment maintenance. Procedures include the following:

- Report equipment deficiencies through the chain of command.
- Within capabilities, recover or evacuate vehicles and equipment.
- Perform emergency repairs and operator maintenance as necessary.
- Perform and/or assist with scheduled maintenance.
- On order from the commander, destroy vehicles and equipment that cannot be recovered or evacuated.

**Field sanitation**

The platoon performs field sanitation operations as necessary. Procedures include the following:

- Maintain an adequate supply of potable water.
- Establish latrine and hand-washing facilities.
- Perform personal hygiene activities.
- Establish a mess facility and ensure safe food preparation, storage, and disposal.

**Troop-leading procedures**

As time permits, the platoon leader continues troop-leading procedures until the platoon is ordered to move to the next position. Procedures include the following:

- Perform a thorough METT-TC analysis.
- Maintain contact with the commander and adjacent/supporting units.
- Keep the platoon informed of any changes in the mission.
- Continue to supervise and refine mission-related plans and preparations.

## TACTICAL ROAD MARCHES

**March speed**

March speed is normally based on the slowest type of vehicle in the march. If the platoon is marching independently or if all vehicles within the march are capable of maintaining the prescribed interval, the normal march speed is 25 mph and the catch-up speed 30 mph unless otherwise designated in the OPORD.

Guidelines

The following table shows guidelines for march speed.

| Conditions | March speed (mph) (day/night) | Catch-up speed (mph) (day/night) |
|---|---|---|
| Open road | 25/20 | 30/25 |
| Built-up areas | 20/15 | 25/20 |
| Interstate/autobahn | 30/25 | 40/30 |

**Interval**

The prescribed interval will vary based on the factors of METT-TC.

Guidelines

Guidelines for interval during the road march are shown in the following chart.

| Conditions | March speed (mph) (day/night) |
|---|---|
| Open road | 100/50 |
| Built-up areas | 25/25 |
| Interstate/autobahn | 100/50 |

*(continued on next page)*

## TACTICAL ROAD MARCHES (continued)

**Scheduled halts**

These are designated in the OPORD. A maintenance halt of 15 minutes is usually taken after the first hour of the march, with a 10-minute break every two hours thereafter. The following table lists the steps the platoon takes in conducting a scheduled halt.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Execute a herringbone formation or perimeter defense in accordance with the OPORD or FRAGO or the factors of METT-TC. |
| 2 | TCs establish and maintain local security. |
| 3 | TCs post guides to direct traffic as necessary. |
| 4 | Crewmembers perform during-operation maintenance. |
| 5 | Conduct refueling, if scheduled. |
| 6 | TCs update POS digital systems (M1 A2 platoons). |
| 7 | Platoon leader sends updated status reports to the commander. |

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## TACTICAL ROAD MARCHES (continued)

**Unscheduled halts**

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes if an unscheduled halt becomes necessary.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Clear the march route and establish a herringbone formation or perimeter defense IAW METT-TC. |
| 2 | TCs establish local security. |
| 3 | Platoon leader/PSG identify cause of halt. |
| 4 | Platoon leader reports halt to the commander, giving as much information as possible about e cause of the halt. |
| 5 | Eliminate the cause of the halt, if possible. |

**NOTE:** Keep unscheduled halts as brief as possible.

**Vehicle breakdown**

The following table lists steps a tank crew takes if its vehicle becomes disabled during the road march.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | If possible, move vehicle off the road (the rest of the platoon continues to move). |
| 2 | TC posts guides as necessary. |
| 3 | TC establishes local security. |
| 4 | TC reports vehicle status to platoon leader, who reports status to the commander. |
| 5 | Conduct operator-level troubleshooting and repair, then rejoin rear of the column. |
| 6 | If crew cannot repair vehicle, TC reports to platoon leader, waits for maintenance personnel, and rejoins rear of the column when vehicle repairs are completed. |

**NOTE:** The platoon leader may have to jump (move) to his wingman's vehicle if his vehicle must be repaired or becomes disabled.

## CONVOY ESCORT

**Troop-leading procedures**

When the platoon is tasked to protect a convoy during combat operations, the platoon leader conducts troop-leading procedures, with emphasis on verifying the following information:

- Command relationship with the escorted unit and security force commander, as applicable.
- Frequencies and call signs of the escorted element.
- Convoy composition (number/type of vehicles) and order of march.
- Primary and alternate route of march.
- Availability of a strip map and/or graphic control measures of the primary and alternate routes (if possible, provide these for each TC).
- Positioning of the platoon (lead, flank, or trail clement or integrated in the convoy body).
- Fire coordination measures.
- Actions at halts.
- Actions on contact.
- Actions in case of vehicle breakdown
- Time and location of linkup with the escorted unit (if appropriate).
- Visual signals (far and near recognition signals, if appropriate).
- ROE for the area of operations.

**Linkup**

The platoon conducts linkup with the convoy. It takes the following steps:

- Use far and near recognition signals as appropriate.
- Occupy covered and concealed position at the linkup site.

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## CONVOY ESCORT (continued)

**Tactical movement**

The platoon conducts tactical movement to its designated position and begins movement with the convoy as directed in OPORD/FRAGO.

**Linkup**

The platoon conducts actions at halts as directed by the security force commander/OPORD/FRAGO and/or based on METT-TC. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting a halt.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Move off the route, with vehicles positioned at least 100 meters beyond the convoy element. |
| 2 | Execute a herringbone formation. |
| 3 | Establish local security. |
| 4 | Platoon leader reports to the security force commander. |
| 5 | Remain in REDCON-1 status. |
| 6 | Update digital systems (as applicable for M1A2 units), if METT-TC allows. |
| 7 | Obtain further guidance from the security force commander. |

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## CONVOY ESCORT (continued)

**Actions on contact/ battle drills**

The platoon executes actions on contact and/or appropriate battle drills.

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing actions on contact.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Assume a covered and concealed position between the enemy and the convoy. |
| 2 | Return fire to destroy/suppress the enemy. |
| 3 | Send SITRE Ps (voice or digital) to the security force commander as necessary and as METT-TC allows. |
| 4 | Continue to engage the enemy to allow the convoy to move beyond the kill zone. |
| 5 | Continue to engage or bypass the enemy IAW the security force commander's guidance. |

**Conclusion of escort mission**

The platoon takes the following actions to complete convoy escort activities:

- Move through the RP.
- Move to the designated position as directed by the security force commander or the OPORD/FRAGO.

## OBSERVATION POSTS

**Function**

The platoon deploys Ops to cover routes, lanes, and enemy avenues of approach whenever it stops, whether briefly or for extended periods.

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**Dismounted OPs**

A dismounted OP provides local security whenever the platoon occupies positions from which the terrain does not allow observation or early warning of enemy activities. The OP is initially manned by the loaders from the wingman vehicles.

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**Mounted OPs**

The platoon can position one or more vehicles to cover mounted and dismounted avenues of approach.

Employment considerations

When deciding whether to employ a mounted OP, the platoon leader must consider fuel usage and noise discipline along with METT-TC factors.

Advantages

Employment of a mounted OP allows the platoon leader to take advantage of the vehicle's communications, sights, and weapon systems. In particular M1A2 tanks have enhanced target acquisition capabilities, allowing the gunner to scan one avenue of approach with the gunner's primary sight and the TC to scan another avenue with the CITV.

Limited visibility

During periods of limited visibility, the TC of an OP vehicle can dismount a crewman to set up a listening post.

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## OBSERVATION POSTS (continued)

**Employment procedures** The following table lists steps the platoon takes in employing the dismounted OP.

**W**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader/PSG designate OP personnel and brief them on the following:<br>• When and how to report.<br>• When and how to withdraw.<br>• Challenge and password.<br>• When they will be replaced. |
| 2 | Platoon leader/PSG ensure OP personnel have the following equipment:<br>• Individual weapon and M4 rifle.<br>• Communications equipment (wire with TA-312 or TA-l, flag set, flashlight, or radio with SOI data).<br>• Seasonal uniform with LBE and appropriate MOPP gear.<br>• Binoculars or night vision goggles.<br>• Compass and map with mission graphics.<br>• Paper and pen/pencil for making a sector sketch. |
| 3 | Platoon leader designates the OP location; TC emplaces the OP. |
| 4 | OP personnel improve their position as follows:<br>• Establish communications.<br>• Camouflage the position and routes back to the vehicles.<br>• Prepare a sector sketch.<br>• Dig in to provide cover from direct/indirect fires. |

## ASSISTING A PASSAGE OF LINES

**Platoon role**

The platoon takes the steps outlined here when it assists other units in conducting a passage of lines. It provides such assistance while it is in stationary defensive positions. This can occur after the platoon has consolidated on an objective or has occupied a BP.

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**Analyze the order**

Platoon leader analyzes the OPORD/FRAGO as part of troop-leading procedures, with emphasis on verifying and/or designating the following:

- Enemy situation.
- Passing unit designation, composition, type, and number of vehicles.
- Passing unit arrival time(s).
- Obstacle types and locations.
- Passage points and/or passage lanes (primary and alternate).
- Contact points and guide information.
- Fire support plans (for direct and indirect fires), including RFLs and BHLs.
- Visual signals (including far and near recognition signals) and SOI information (including digital linkup, if applicable).

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**Designate/brief guide personnel**

The platoon leader designates guide personnel and briefs them on the following:

- Enemy situation.
- Attack positions or assembly areas.
- RP.
- Contact points and passage lanes.
- Recognition signals.
- Appropriate SOI information.

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## ASSISTING A PASSAGE OF LINES (continued)

**Move and begin support**

Guide personnel move to appropriate positions and begin activities to support the passage. Procedures include the following:

- Establish contact points and/or passage points as directed by the platoon leader and/or higher headquarters.
- Establish overwatch positions.
- Reconnoiter and mark route for passing unit.

**Link up with passing unit**

If acting as the liaison, platoon leader conducts linkup with the passing unit and accomplishes the following:

- Coordinate, exchange, and/or confirm operational information and signals, either as specified in OPORD/FRAGO (see "Analyze the order" on the previous page) or IAW unit SOP (refer to Checklist 4 in Appendix E).
- Pass the information to the platoon.

**Guide the passing unit**

Guides take the following actions in assisting the passing unit:

- Direct the passing unit along specified routes to designated location(s) beyond the passage lane.
- Overwatch the passage and provide security as needed.

**Complete the passage**

The platoon takes the following actions when the passage is completed:

- Report completion of the passage to the commander.
- Close passage lane and any lanes through obstacles as required.

## CONDUCTING A PASSAGE OF LINES

**Platoon role**

The platoon takes the steps outlined here when it conducts a passage as the passing unit.

**Analyze the order**

The platoon leader analyzes the OPORD/FRAGO as part of troop-leading procedures, with emphasis on verifying and/or designating the following:

- Location of attack positions or assembly areas.
- Recent enemy activity.
- Location of RP.
- Location of contact point and passage lanes.
- Order of march.
- Actions to be taken in case of enemy contact.
- Mission of stationary unit, to include OPs, patrols, and obstacles.
- Supporting direct/indirect fires, as available.
- NBC conditions.
- Location of the BHL.
- Available CS/CSS and location of these assets.
- Recognition signals.
- Communications information.
- Chain of command.
- Timeline of linkup and passage.
- Additional procedures for the passage.

**Move to the contact point**

The platoon conducts tactical movement to the contact point, observing the following guidelines:

- To the maximum extent possible, use covered and concealed routes
- Use the most advantageous formation and movement technique based on METT-TC
- Based on formation, maintain proper weapons orientation to ensure 360-degree security.

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## CONDUCTING A PASSAGE OF LINES (continued)

**Link up with stationary unit**

If acting as the liaison, platoon leader conducts linkup with the stationary unit and accomplishes the following:

- Coordinate, exchange, and/or confirm operational information and signals, either as specified in OPORD/FRAGO (see "Analyze the order" on the previous page) or IAW unit SOP (refer to Checklist 4 in Appendix E).
- Pass the information to the platoon.

**Move through contact point**

The platoon leader directs the platoon to move through the contact point, observing the following guidelines:

- Ensure all vehicles display recognition signal.
- Report arrival time at the contact point to the commander (voice or digital).
- Ensure the platoon passes through the contact point without halting or blocking it.

**Move along passage lane**

The platoon moves along the passage lane, observing the following guidelines:

- Conduct tactical movement through the passage lane.
- Orient gun tubes in the direction of known or suspected enemy contact.
- Do not stop in, block, or deviate from the passage lane.
- Follow guides' direction at traffic control points.

**NOTE:** In the event of a vehicle breakdown, the platoon takes steps of a scheduled or unscheduled halt.

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## CONDUCTING A PASSAGE OF LINES (continued)

**Inform the commander**

The platoon leader keeps the commander informed (by voice or digital means), observing these guidelines:

- Report graphic control measures for the passage.
- Send SITREPs as necessary during execution.
- Send a report when the passage is complete.

**Complete a forward passage**

If the passage is forward, platoon crosses the BHL and continues the mission, observing these guidelines:

- Maintain proper positions in the designated formation.
- Maintain proper weapons orientation and prepare to engage enemy elements.

**Complete a rearward passage**

If the passage is rearward, platoon crosses the BHL and takes specified actions, observing these guidelines:

- Move to the location designated in the OPORD without halting or blocking the passage lane.
- Conduct steps for hasty occupation of an assembly area or for troop-leading procedures as specified in the OPORD.

## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – TACTICAL MOVEMENT

**Platoon role**

The platoon normally executes tactical movement using the formation and movement technique specified in the company team OPORD. The platoon leader has the responsibility for recommending a different formation and/or technique if the change will allow the platoon to perform its assigned missions more effectively. At all times during tactical movement, the platoon leader positions himself where he can best control the platoon.

**Formations**

The platoon executes tactical movement using six basic formations:

- Column formation.
- Staggered column formation.
- Wedge formation.
- Echelon formation.
- Vee formation.
- Line formation.

**Techniques of movement**

Depending on the likelihood of enemy contact, the platoon leader can employ one of three movement techniques:

Traveling
Characterized by continuous movement of all elements and providing minimal security, the traveling technique is used when speed is desirable and contact is unlikely.

Traveling overwatch
This technique provides additional security when contact is possible but speed is still desirable. The lead element moves continuously. The trail element moves at various speeds and may halt periodically to overwatch the lead element.

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – TACTICAL MOVEMENT (continued)

**Techniques of movement (continued)**

Bounding overwatch

Bounding overwatch is used when contact is expected. It is the slowest but the most secure technique. Only one section moves at a time. The platoon leader designates which bounding technique (alternate or successive) will be used.

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing bounding overwatch.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Vehicles come on line and then stop. |
| 2 | The PSG's section begins overwatch by designating TRPs and sectors of observation. |
| 3 | The platoon leader's section identifies routes to the next overwatch position. |
| 4 | The platoon leader's section moves as quickly as possible to its next position and establishes overwatch. |
| 5 | The PSG's section moves forward as quickly as possible to its next position, either past the overwatch section (alternate bounds) or abreast of the overwatch (successive bounds). |

**NOTE:** The platoon repeats the steps for alternate or successive bounds until it makes contact or reaches its objective.

## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – FOLLOW AND SUPPORT

**Platoon role**

The platoon executes follow and support operations in support of mounted or dismounted infantry, scout platoons, and (sometimes) mechanized forces.

**Employment procedures**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing the follow and support mission.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct tactical movement to the linkup point. |
| 2 | Link up with the adjacent unit. |
| 3 | Platoon leader coordinates the following information with the adjacent unit leaders:<br>• Platoon organization and weapons, logistics, and personnel status.<br>• Friendly and enemy disposition.<br>• Tentative maneuver plan.<br>• Use of guides, as necessary.<br>• Control of direct and indirect fires.<br>• Close-in protection for the tanks.<br>• Communications and signal information. |
| 4 | Time permitting, platoon leader conducts a map and/or ground reconnaissance to identity the following:<br>• Primary and alternate routes.<br>• Firing positions.<br>• Danger areas, including possible ambush sites.<br>• Dominant structures/terrain along the route.<br>• Locations for guides or markings. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – FOLLOW AND SUPPORT (continued)

**Employment procedures (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 5 | Platoon leader briefs the platoon on the plan. |
| 6 | Executes an offensive and/or defensive course of action as discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 of FM 17-15. These courses of action may include, but are not limited to, the following:<br>• Tactical movement.<br>• Attack by fire.<br>• Support by fire.<br>• Hasty attack or assault on the enemy position.<br>• Hasty defense or perimeter defense.<br>**NOTE:** If the platoon moves to a firing position, infantry should be used to provide close-in security. |
| 7 | Platoon leader sends a SITREP (voice or digital) to the commander once the enemy position is destroyed. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – ACTIONS ON CONTACT

**Platoon role**

Contact occurs when any platoon member or vehicle observes enemy personnel or vehicles, observes or receives direct or indirect fire, or encounters any situation (including reports of enemy contact) that requires an active or passive response to the enemy. The platoon leader uses the following four steps:

- Deploy and report.
- Evaluate/develop the situation
- Choose a course of action.
- Recommend/execute a course of action.

**Deploy and report**

When the platoon makes contact, it responds according to the situation. The tank making initial contact reacts as appropriate and alerts the rest of the platoon. The platoon leader then deploys the platoon and sends a contact report and follow-up SPOTREP to the commander. Deployment options include the following:

- Initiate appropriate battle drill (see list below).
- Order the platoon to seek the best available covered and concealed position.
- Direct the platoon to react as appropriate according to the nature of the contact, taking the steps listed in the following discussion.

Battle drills

The platoon executes seven basic battle drills, which can be modified as necessary to fit a particular situation. The battle drills are the following:

- Change of formation drill (battle drill 1).
- Contact drill (battle drill 2).
- Action drill (battle drill 3).
- React to indirect fire drill (battle drill 4).
- React to air attack drill (battle drill 5).
- React to a nuclear attack drill (battle drill 6).
- React to a chemical attack drill (battle drill 7).

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – ACTIONS ON CONTACT (continued)

**Deploy and report (continued)**

Direct fire contact

The following table lists actions the platoon takes in reacting to direct fire contact with an enemy element that has tank-killing capability.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Return fire (if contact involves enemy antitank fire). |
| 2 | Alert the rest of the platoon with a contact report. |
| 3 | Activate on-board smoke or missile countermeasure device as appropriate. |
| 4 | Take one of the following actions:<br>• Execute the appropriate battle drill.<br>• Take evasive actions and/or seek cover and concealment. |

Indirect fire contact

The platoon responds by conducting a react to indirect fire battle drill.

Observation of the enemy

The following table lists actions the platoon takes when a member of the platoon observes an enemy element.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Alert rest of platoon with a contact report. |
| 2 | Initiate battle drill(s) or issue a FRAGO. |
| 3 | Initiate direct/indirect fires to destroy or suppress the enemy based on the ROE. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – ACTIONS ON CONTACT (continued)

**Deploy and report (continued)**

Report of enemy contact

The following table lists actions the platoon takes when it receives or monitors a report of enemy contact.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Attempt to identify the contact. |
| 2 | Maintain assigned weapons orientation. |
| 3 | Initiate battle drill(s) or issue a FRAGO. |

**Evaluate/ develop the situation**

After deploying the platoon and sending his reports, the platoon leader must begin to evaluate the situation and, as necessary, develop it. The following table lists steps he takes in this procedure.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Determine and/or confirm the nature of the enemy force, using these factors:<br>• Size (inferior or superior).<br>• Composition (available weapon systems).<br>• Activity.<br>• Orientation. |
| 2 | Analyze how obstacles and terrain will affect enemy and friendly operations. |
| 3 | Further develop the situation as necessary to obtain required tactical information using one or more of the following:<br>• Fire and maneuver.<br>• Indirect fire.<br>• Reconnaissance by fire.<br>• Dismounted surveillance. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – ACTIONS ON CONTACT (continued)

**Choose a course of action**

After the platoon leader develops the situation, he selects a course of action that both meets the commander's intent and is within the platoon's capabilities. He uses one of the following options:

- Direct the platoon to execute the original plan (course of action) specified by the commander in the OPORD.
- Issue FRAGOs to refine the plan, ensuring that it supports the commander's intent.
- Report situation and recommend an alternative course of action. The following platoon tactical tasks are available as courses of action:
  - Destroy an inferior force.
  - Attack by fire.
  - Overwatch/support by fire.
  - Assault.
  - Bypass.
  - Reconnaissance by fire.
  - Hasty defense (hasty occupation of a BP).
  - Hasty/in-stride breach.
- If additional information is needed, direct the platoon to execute tactical movement to further develop the situation.

---

**Recommend/ execute a course of action**

As the situation dictates, the platoon leader recommends new courses of action to the commander, then directs the platoon to execute the course of action the commander selects. He must be prepared to alter the course of action or recommend a new one during execution. The platoon continues to execute the selected or refined course of action until in accomplishes the original mission, receives a FRAGO changing the mission or course of action, or is ordered to execute consolidation and reorganization on the objective.

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – COURSES OF ACTION

**Platoon role** When actions on contact become necessary during offensive operations, the platoon can execute one of the following courses of action.

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**Bypass** The following table lists steps the platoon takes in bypassing an enemy element or obstacle.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Based on analysis of METT-TC factors, conduct a reconnaissance to locate a bypass route if one is not designated by the commander. |
| 2 | Conduct tactical movement along the bypass route. |
| 3 | After completing the bypass, take appropriate actions:<br>• Report to the commander (voice or digital).<br>• Continue the mission or execute overwatch/support by fire to allow follow-on units to bypass. |
| 4 | If a bypass route is not found, platoon leader sends a SITREP to the commander and takes actions as directed. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – COURSES OF ACTION (continued)

**Reconnaissance by fire**

This course of action is used before or after the platoon makes contact; it is conducted when the situation is vague or when additional information is necessary and the ROE permit the reconnaissance by fire.

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes in executing the reconnaissance by fire.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader identifies suspected enemy locations and designates them as platoon TRPs. |
| 2 | Occupy an overwatch position. |
| 3 | Employ indirect fire, if available. |
| 4 | If indirect fire is not available or did not force the enemy to maneuver, fire short bursts of caliber .50 and/or coax machine gun rounds and take these steps:<br>• Use the observed fire technique. Observing tanks destroy any enemy elements forced to maneuver from the position.<br>• Execute actions on contact as necessary. |
| 5 | Platoon leader announces "CEASE FIRE" after the enemy has been destroyed or if no enemy is observed. |
| 6 | Platoon leader sends SITREP to the commander as necessary. |
| 7 | Continue the mission IAW commander's guidance, OPORD/FRAGO, or unit SOP. |

*(continued on next page)*

## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – COURSES OF ACTION (continued)

**Destroy an inferior force**

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes to destroy an inferior enemy force.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader issues the FRAGO designating the following as required:<br>• An overwatch element, as appropriate.<br>• TRPs, sectors of fire, and covered and conceal routes. |
| 2 | Platoon leader/PSG calls for indirect fires and smoke (as necessary IAW OPORD/FRAGO). |
| 3 | Conduct tactical movement or assault through the objective, using these guidelines:<br>• Employ all weapon systems to defeat the enemy in detail.<br>• Lift and shift indirect fires as necessary.<br>• Continue through the objective to occupy defensible terrain, or continue to move along assigned axis (IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or commander's guidance). |
| 4 | Platoon leader sends a SPOTREP/SITREP to the commander. |
| 5 | Consolidate and reorganize IAW OPORD/FRAGO or unit SOP. |
| 6 | Continue the company team mission. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – COURSES OF ACTION (continued)

**Attack by fire** The following table lists the steps the platoon takes in executing an attack by fire.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Move to an attack by fire position that incorporates weapon standoff and/or terrain that offers cover and concealment and firing positions. |
| 2 | Platoon leader designates sectors of fire, TRPs, and tentative firing positions. |
| 3 | Conduct the attack by fire, taking these steps:<br>• Use main gun and machine gun fire to suppress/destroy visible targets.<br>• Call for and adjust indirect fire, if available. |
| 4 | Sustain the attack by fire by maintaining a continuous and consistent rate of fire on the enemy position until all enemy elements are destroyed or suppressed or the order to lift fires is received. |
| 5 | Move to alternate firing positions as necessary. |
| 6 | Platoon leader announces "CEASE FIRE" once the enemy is destroyed or on order of the commander |
| 7 | Platoon leader sends SITREP to the commander. |

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## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – COURSES OF ACTION (continued)

**Overwatch/support by fire**

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes in conducting overwatch/support by fire operations.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Move to a position that incorporates weapon standoff and/or terrain that offers cover/concealment and firing positions. |
| 2 | Platoon leader designates sectors of fire, TRPs, and tentative firing positions. |
| 3 | Crews scan sectors of fire designated by the platoon leader. |
| 4 | Use direct and indirect fires to suppress known and suspected enemy positions, adjusting fires as necessary and using the friendly (supported) unit's movement and signals to prevent fratricide. |
| 5 | Move to alternate firing positions as necessary to avoid becoming decisively engaged. |
| 6 | Maintain situational awareness of friendly and enemy unit locations through visual contact and cross-talk |

**Additional courses of action**

As discussed in FM 17-15, other courses of action available to the platoon are an assault, a hasty defense (hasty occupation of a BP), and a hasty/in-stride breach. Hasty occupation/defense is outlined in the section on defensive operations (see pages 66 and 67). Hasty breach procedures can be adapted from those covered in the following discussion of breaching operations.

## BREACHING OPERATIONS

**Elements in the breaching operation**

Breaching operations entail the coordinated efforts of three task organized elements: the support force, the breach force, and the assault force.

**Platoon role**

The tank platoon may be designated to execute the functions of any of the three breach elements.

**SOSR principle**

At the most basic level, a breach includes actions summarized by the abbreviation SOSR (suppress, obscure, secure, reduce). The following table summarizes these actions, which are covered in more detail in the discussion of the support force, breach force, and assault force.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Suppress** enemy elements. |
| 2 | **Obscure** breach force operations. |
| 3 | Create and proof a lane and **secure** the far side of the obstacle. |
| 4 | **Reduce** the obstacle for follow-on forces. |

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## BREACHING OPERATIONS (continued)

**Support force** The following table lists steps the platoon takes as the support force in a breaching operation.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Move to covered and concealed areas and establish support by fire positions. |
| 2 | Send a report to the commander with information on obstacle location and complexity, enemy forces overwatching the obstacle, and possible bypasses. |
| 3 | Suppress enemy elements with direct and indirect fires: use smoke to screen the breach force as necessary. |
| 4 | Lift and shift supporting fires as breach and assault forces execute their missions. |
| 5 | Move to alternate positions as necessary to avoid becoming decisively engaged and/or to maintain effective fires on the enemy. |
| 6 | Initiate and maintain cross-talk with the assault and breach forces to ensure all elements have the following information:<br>• Current enemy situation.<br>• Actions taken by the enemy to counter the breaching operation. |

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## BREACHING OPERATIONS (continued)

**Breach force** The following table lists steps the platoon takes as the breach force.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Equip platoon vehicles with mine plows or rollers in this order: 3, 2, 4, 1. |
| 2 | Move to the designated breach position. |
| 3 | Nonbreaching vehicles support by fire to cover breaching and proofing vehicles. |
| 4 | Conduct the breaching operation, taking these actions:<br>• Create lane(s) using the mine plow,<br>• Proof lane(s) using the mine roller (if available).<br>• Mark entrances, exits, and sides of lane(s) using Pathfinder, paint, oil, CLAMMS, engineer tape, wooden stakes, a combination of the items listed, or other field-expedient means (as specified in unit SOP). |
| 5 | Move through the cleared lane and establish overwatch/support by fire positions to cover the assault force. |
| 6 | Platoon leader reports to commander when breach is completed and platoon is set to provide overwatch/support by fire. (**NOTE:** Use secure means to report grid locations of entrances and exits of lanes.) |
| 7 | Use direct fire to support the assault force. |
| 8 | Maintain cross-talk with support and assault elements to provide or obtain enemy information (situation and enemy actions (situation and enemy actions to counter the breach). |

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## BREACHING OPERATIONS (continued)

**Assault force**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes as the assault force in a breaching operation.

Analyzing the order

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes in analyzing the OPORD or FRAGO directing the platoon to secure the far side of the obstacle.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Determine location of the objective. |
| 2 | Determine location of the assault position (the last covered and concealed position before the objective) if METT-T allows and if not specified in the FRAGO. |
| 3 | Determine covered and concealed routes to the assault position (if not specified in the FRAGO). (**NOTE:** M1A2 platoon leader plots waypoints and sends them to the platoon to assist in navigation.) |
| 4 | Identify covered and concealed routes from the assault position to the objective. |
| 5 | Identify commander's direct/indirect fire scheme of maneuver (who has indirect fire control: when to lift and shift fires). |
| 6 | Coordinate with supporting elements (as necessary). |
| 7 | Issue a FRAGO to the platoon |

*(continued on next page)*

**Assault force (continued)**

Preparing for the assault

The following table lists steps the platoon takes as it prepares to secure the far side of the obstacle.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader directs platoon to occupy assault position. (**NOTE:** M1A2 crews use steer-to function to assist in navigation.) |
| 2 | All vehicles come on line within the assault position (in turret-down or hull-down positions if METT-T allows) |
| 3 | Scan the objective to determine type/size/location of enemy elements/obstacles. |
| 4 | All crews conduct final checks of vehicles, weapons, and equipment and report to the platoon leader when prepared to assault. |
| 5 | Platoon leader develops estimate of the situation IAW METT-T; he determines additional courses of action required by platoon and/or company team prior to and after the assault if these were not in the commander's original OPORD/FRAGO. |
| 6 | Platoon leader determines composition and disposition of the enemy force occupying the objective and identifies route(s) into enemy flanks and /or bypass routes around any known obstacles. |
| 7 | Platoon leader sends SPOTREP/SITREP to commander with recommendations on courses of action and relays information from the commander to the TCs. |

*(continued on next page)*

**Assault force (continued)**

Executing the assault

The following table lists steps the platoon takes during the assault to secure the far side of the obstacle.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | If platoon is unable to occupy an assault position, platoon leader must determine or designate the following information and relay it to the platoon and/or commander while en route to the objective:<br>• Updated enemy situation based on information from TCs, overwatch/support force(s), and commander.<br>• TRPs, targets, and routes through the objective. |
| 2 | On order of commander, platoon leader orders platoon to assault. |
| 3 | All vehicles move out on line, employing all weapon systems to destroy/suppress enemy elements on the objective. |
| 4 | Maintain forward momentum along designated route(s) IAW OPORD/FRAGO or in conjunction with other company team forces. |
| 5 | PSG ensures that any supporting fires are shifted as necessary. |
| 6 | Occupy defensible positions and continue to use direct/indirect fires as necessary to destroy enemy fires. |
| 7 | Platoon leader submits SITREP or SPOTREP to the commander. |
| 8 | On order, conduct consolidation and reorganization. |

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – PREPARATION OF A BP/SELECTION OF FIGHTING POSITIONS

**Platoon BP preparation**

The company team commander assigns the level of preparation for the platoon BP. The platoon leader may raise the level of preparation, but may not lower it.

**Levels of preparation**

The following are the three levels of preparation for a platoon BP:

- **Reconnoiter.** The platoon leader conducts the steps necessary for a ground reconnaissance (or a map reconnaissance, if less time is available) during the planning phase.
- **Prepare.** This level includes steps conducted during the planning and preparation phases for deliberate occupation of a BP.

**NOTE:** If the situation and time permit, engineers can enhance the platoon's survivability by improving the hide, turret-down, and hull-down positions. Each TC is responsible for ensuring that the location, orientation, and depth of the "hole" in the position are correct before the engineer departs for the next fighting position.

- **Occupy.** This is the complete preparation of the BP from which the platoon will initially defend. Positions designated at this level have first priority for reconnaissance and preparation prior to the "defend not later than" time specified in the OPORD.

**Fighting positions**

The platoon's primary concern in selecting fighting positions is its ability to concentrate and mass lethal fires into designated sectors of fire.

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP

**Conditions for deliberate occupation**

Based on the results of the platoon leader's reconnaissance, the platoon can conduct deliberate occupation of a BP when all of the following conditions exist:

- Adequate time is available.
- The enemy is not expected or has not been located within direct fire range.
- A friendly element forward of the BP provides security for the platoon.

**Moving to the hide position**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in preparing to conduct the deliberate occupation.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct tactical movement to a hide position behind the BP. |
| 2 | Assume a herringbone formation and establish local security (coordinating with dismounted infantry for OP support, if necessary). (**NOTE:** M1A2-equipped platoons may employ a mounted OP to take advantage of the vehicle's digital systems.) |
| 3 | Vehicles occupy positions and shut down simultaneously. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Preparing for reconnaissance**

After moving into the hide position, the platoon must reconnoiter the BP. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in preparing for the reconnaissance.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader designates and briefs reconnaissance group (usually PSG, TCs, and security element). |
| 2 | PSG designates, briefs, and inspects the security element (if platoon vehicles cannot provide security). |
| 3 | Platoon leader designates NCOIC of the platoon element remaining in the hide position (usually his gunner) and briefs him on the following:<br>• Security and maintenance procedures.<br>• Contingency plans covering actions to be taken in the event of enemy contact during the reconnaissance (see Appendix D of this SOP). |
| 4 | Platoon leader, PSG, TCs, and security element move to the BP. |

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## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Conducting reconnaissance**

After moving into the hide position, the platoon must reconnoiter the BP. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in evaluating the position.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader, PSG, TCs, and security element conduct reconnaissance and mark the BP, covering the following physical aspects of the positions:<br>• Engagement area (where the platoon leader expects to kill the enemy).<br>• General layout of BP and surrounding terrain. If possible, the group uses a vantage point to view the BP from the enemy's perspective, then moves through engagement area and BP.<br>• Key terrain corresponding to platoon/company team graphic control measures (engagement area, TRPs, and BPs).<br>• OP positions to cover possible enemy avenues of approach.<br>• Existing obstacles and possible locations for reinforcing obstacles.<br>• Key locations in the BP and engagement area, which are marked using limited visibility materials and recorded using eight digit grid coordinates. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Conducting reconnaissance (continued)**

| 1 | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 2 | Following reconnaissance of the BP and surrounding area, platoon leader confirms, reviews, and/or briefs the following:<br>• Company team scheme of maneuver.<br>• Platoon scheme of maneuver, to include trigger points, break points, and disengagement/displacement criteria.<br>• Platoon sector of fire (as it relates to company engagement area) and primary/alternate/supplementary fighting positions.<br>• Covered and concealed routes into, out of, and within the BP and to subsequent BPs. |
| 3 | Platoon leader emplaces OPs necessary, assigning member(s) of the security element to man the positions. He briefs OP personnel on the following:<br>• Overwatch responsibilities.<br>• Contingency plans, covering actions to be taken in case the platoon does not return on time or enemy contact occurs.<br>• Displacement criteria and signals. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Conducting reconnaissance (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 4 | Platoon leader coordinates with adjacent units. He confirms, identifies, and/or designates the following:<br>• Locations of Ops and patrols.<br>• Overlapping sectors of observation and direct fire<br>• Locations of adjacent units' vehicles, BPs, and firing positions.<br>• Dead space.<br>• Locations and types of obstacles.<br>• Indirect fire data<br>• Communications information and procedures.<br>• Routes into, out of, and between platoon and adjacent unit BPs. |
| 5 | • Reconnaissance group moves back to the platoon hide position. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Occupying the BP**

Following reconnaissance, the platoon leader directs occupation of the BP. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting the deliberate occupation.

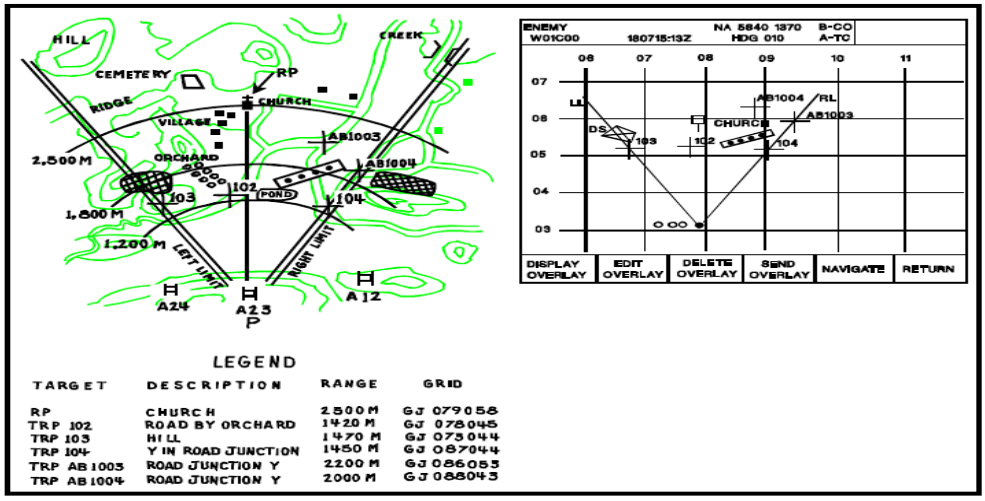
| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Vehicles start simultaneously and, on platoon leader's order, move on covered/concealed routes to their hide positions. |
| 2 | On platoon leader's order, vehicles move simultaneously into turret-down (LOWSKY) positions and scan the platoon's sector for enemy activity. |
| 3 | On platoon leader's order, vehicles move simultaneously into hull-down (TOPHAT) positions. |
| 4 | TCs and gunners develop vehicle sketch cards. (**NOTE:** Digitally equipped platoons complete both hard-copy and digital sketch cards. See the illustration on the following page for examples of a traditional hand-drawn sketch card and a digital, IVIS-generated version.) |
| 5 | Once sketch cards are complete, individual vehicles back down to hide positions and shut down their engines. (**NOTE:** IAW METT-T factors/unit SOP, M1A2 platoons may designate a vehicle to remain in turret-down OP positions to take advantage of its digital capabilities.) |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Occupying the BP (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 6 | TCs provide copy of sketch cards to the platoon leader (messenger and/or digital). |
| 7 | Platoon leader consolidates the sketch cards and finalizes the platoon fire plan. |
| 8 | Platoon leader reports "ESTABLISHED" to the company team commander and sends him the platoon fire plan by messenger or digital transmission. |




**Traditional sketch card** **IVIS sketch card**

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## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Improving the BP**

Following initial occupation of the BP, the platoon leader directs improvement of the position. The following table lists steps involved in this procedure.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader updates the platoon and commander on changes to the occupation plan and implements actions to complete occupation, including the following:<br>• Changes as a result of coordination and the commander's guidance.<br>• Vehicle maintenance and prepare-to-fire checks |
| 2 | Platoon leader directs and/or supervises improvement activities, including the following:<br>• Establish thermal TRPs IAW unit SOP.<br>• Select locations of M8/M8A1 chemical alarms IAW the OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP.<br>• Select locations for PEWS IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP.<br>• Direct emplacement of obstacles IAW commander's guidance.<br>• Direct emplacement of decoys, if available. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Improving the BP (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 3 | PSG conducts improvement activities, including the following:<br>• Supervise camouflaging of vehicles and equipment.<br>• Ensure emplacement/installation of wire communications equipment IAW OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP.<br>• Direct emplacement of the platoon's prestock ammunition and other supplies. |
| 4 | TCs conduct improvement activities, including the following:<br>• Ensure vehicle positions afford clear fields of fires<br>• If engineers are available, supervise and proof construction of dug-in fighting positions.<br>• Direct emplacement of M8/M8A1 chemical alarms IAW platoon leader's guidance. |

*(continued on next page)*

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – DELIBERATE OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Completing the occupation**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to complete the deliberate occupation.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct rehearsals IAW the OPORD, FRAGO, or SOP and as time is available. Rehearsal techniques include the following:<br>• Special rehearsal (individual/crew tasks).<br>• Map rehearsal.<br>• Communications rehearsal.<br>• Key leader rehearsal.<br>• Sand table/terrain model rehearsal.<br>• Force-on-force rehearsal.<br>• Rehearsal with all crews observing a designated platoon vehicle as it moves in the engagement area. |
| 2 | Complete occupation activities and priorities of work (OPSEC and surveillance; maintenance; resupply) |
| 3 | Complete the occupation to ensure the platoon is prepared to defend by the time specified in OPORD/FRAGO. |
| 4 | Execute the defense. |

## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – HASTY OCCUPATION OF A BP

**Procedures for hasty occupation**

The platoon conducts hasty occupation of a BP in a variety of situations, such as during a movement to contact, during movement to subsequent or supplementary BPs, or in response to a FRAGO directing a change of mission. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting a hasty occupation.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Approach the BP from the rear or flank and orient weapons toward the last known or suspected enemy direction. |
| 2 | Depending on the terrain, assume a modified line formation facing the engagement area prior to moving into turret-down positions. |
| 3 | On order, vehicles move simultaneously into turret-down positions within the limits of the BP. |
| 4 | Based on METT-T factors, platoon leader identifies and/or designates the following:<br>• TR's, engagement area, and/or sector of fire for each primary and supplementary fighting position.<br>• Tentative locations for vehicle primary and supplementary fighting positions.<br>• Covered and concealed routes into and out of the BP and displacement routes to subsequent BPs (if necessary). |

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## DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS – HASTY OCCUPATION OF A BP (continued)

**Procedures for hasty occupation (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 5 | Based on METT-T factors, TCs adjust their positions as necessary to cover the engagement area, designating the following:<br>• Alternate fighting positions.<br>• Covered and concealed routes between their vehicles' primary, supplementary, and alternate positions. |
| 6 | On order, vehicles occupy primary fighting positions by moving into hull-down positions from which they can scan their sectors of fire and engage and destroy the enemy |
| 7 | As time permits, platoon leader identifies trigger line, engagement criteria, fire pattern, break point, and disengagement criteria/plan. |
| 8 | Platoon leader reports "ESTABLISHED" to commander. |
| 9 | Continue to prepare the position and conduct the steps for deliberate occupation of a BP as time permits. |

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## FIRE SUPPORT

**Fire support plan**

The company-level fire support plan specifies the use of indirect fires to support the company team scheme of maneuver. The commander develops the plan using information provided by his FIST and subordinate leader, including the tank platoon leader.

**Means of indirect fire**

Mortars and FA are the primary means of indirect fire support available to the platoon.

**Two types of planning**

Two distinct, but related, processes provide the foundation for execution of effective fire support: fire support planning and fire planning. Although both are conducted mainly at company level, the platoon leader has a key role in each process.

**Fire support planning**

The following considerations apply to the fire support planning process.

Definition

This is the continuous process of analyzing, allocating, and scheduling fire support. (**NOTE:** A critical aspect of fire support planning is the fire planning process, in which targets are designated and allocated. Refer to the discussion on the next page.)

Platoon role

The platoon leader's goal is to effectively integrate and synchronize fire support with his own maneuver plan to optimize the platoon's combat power. He provides input to the commander throughout the operation.

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## FIRE SUPPORT (continued)

**Fire support planning**

The following considerations apply to the fire planning process.

Definition

This is the continuous process of selecting targets on which fires are prearranged to support the scheme of maneuver.

Target data

Based on input from the FIST and platoon leaders, the commander designates and numbers targets such as personnel, equipment, material, or terrain for future reference and firing. The commander also allocates targets for firing by FA and mortar assets.

Platoon role

The platoon leader plans targets that allow him to use fires, smoke, and illumination to support his scheme of maneuver. He designates targets for all known and suspected enemy forces and on avenues of approach along which he intends to make contact as the enemy moves through the sector. As noted, the commander allocates targets based in part on input from the platoon leader, who can ask the commander to designate additional targets as necessary as operations continue.

**Fire effects**

The platoon leader must determine what effect is required on designated targets. There are three types of fire effects: destruction, neutralization, and suppression.

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## FIRE SUPPORT (continued)

**Simplified call for fire**

When time is critical, the platoon leader issues a simplified call for fire to call for immediate suppression (see the following example). The simplified call for fire contains three elements:

- Identification of observer.
- Warning order.
- Target location.

"**E6T83, THIS IS D3W45, IMMEDIATE SUPPRESSION, STATIONARY TANKS IN THE OPEN, OVER."**

"D3W45, THIS IS E6T83, AUTHENTICATE ALPHA-GOLF-TANGO, OVER."

**"I AUTHENTICATE MIKE, OUT"**

**Standard call for fire**

The platoon leader uses a standard call for fire in all situations except immediate suppression. It contains the following six elements sent in three transmissions (refer to the next page for an example and a chart showing how elements are grouped for transmission):

- Identification of observer.
- Warning order.
- Target location, using one of these methods:
  - Grid.
  - Shift from a known point.
  - Polar plot.

  **NOTE:** An accurate target location is a must for massed target destruction.
- Description of target.
- Method of engagement.
- Method of fire and control.

*(continued on next page)*

**Example/explanatory chart** The top illustration shows an example of a standard call for fire, including authentication. The chart at the bottom provides more in-depth information on the elements of the call for fire.

"**E6T83, THIS IS D3W45, FIRE FOR EFFECT, OVER."** (First transmission includes identification of observer and warning order.)

**"GRID ES 317445, OVER."** (Second transmission includes target location.)

**"4 TANKS AND 3 BMPS STATIONARY IN THE OPEN, DPICM IN EFFECT, OVER."** (Third transmission includes target description, method of engagement, and method of fire and control.)

"D3W45, THIS IS E6T83, AUTHENTICATE ALPHA-GOLF-TANGO, OVER."

**"I AUTHENTICATE DELTA, OUT."**

| TRANSMISSION | ELEMENT | CONTENT |
|---|---|---|
| First | Identification | Call signs |
| | Warning order | Type of mission, method of target location, any request for increased volume of fire |
| Second | Target location | Grid, shift from a known point, or polar plot method |
| Third | Target description | Verbal "picture" of what the observer sees |
| | Method of engagement | Recommendations for types of ammunition, sheaves, and trajectory |
| | Method of fire and control | "AT MY COMMAND": "TIME ON TARGET": "REQUEST SPLASH" (If no method of fire control is desired, this element may be deleted) |

## AIR DEFENSE

**Reporting**

Report all enemy air activity using SPOTREP format (refer to Appendix C of this SOP).

**Local air defense warnings**

There are three levels of local air defense warnings:

- **DYNAMITE.** Aircraft are inbound or attacking locally.
- **LOOKOUT.** Aircraft are in the area but are not threatening.
- **SNOWMAN.** There are no aircraft posing a threat at this time.

**Two types of passive air defense**

There are two categories of passive air defense measures: attack avoidance and damage-limiting measures.

**Attack avoidance**

These are actions taken to prevent the enemy from detecting the platoon. They include the following:

- Cover and concealment.
- Camouflage.
- Deception.
- Obliteration of vehicle track marks into the position.
- Covering of all shiny and reflective objects.

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## AIR DEFENSE (continued)

**Damage limiting measures**

These are actions taken to limit or reduce the effects of enemy munitions. They include the following:

- Dispersion.
- Movement to covered and concealed positions (if possible).
- Stopping, if the vehicle is in the open.
- Use of natural and manmade cover.

**Active air defense**

The platoon uses massed, coordinated volume of fire, directed at an aim point, to destroy enemy aircraft. The decision to engage is based on the situation and the capabilities of the platoon's organic weapon systems; the platoon leader must weigh these factors against the capabilities and vulnerability of the attacking aircraft. Depending on the type of attacking aircraft, the platoon may use either machine gun or main gun fire.

**Air defense weapon control status**

The three levels of weapon control status are the following:

- **WEAPONS FREE.** Crews may fire at any aircraft that are not positively identifies as friendly
- **WEAPONS TIGHT.** Crews may fire only at aircraft that are positively identified as hostile.
- **WEAPONS HOLD.** Crews may fire only when ordered or in self-defense.

## MOBILITY AND SURVIVABILITY

**Platoon role**

In operations supported by the engineers, the platoon first conducts linkup with the supporting element. It then provides overwatch during all phases of engineer activity.

**Mobility**

Mobility operations entail the following:

- Obstacle reduction.
- Reinforcement of terrain and existing obstacles.

**Countermobility**

Countermobility operations entail the following:

- Obstacle construction
- Reinforcement of terrain and existing obstacles

**Survivability**

Survivability operations entail the following:

- Construction of hull-down fighting positions. The following steps apply:

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader designates position priority |
| 2 | After construction is complete, TC proofs the fighting position. |
| 3 | TC escorts engineers to the next position. |

- Construction of dug-in positions with overhead cover.

## LIMITED VISIBILITY OPERATIONS

**Operations security**

The following OPSEC procedures and considerations apply during limited visibility operations:

- The platoon leader ensures adequate security is provided to the front and flanks at all times.
- The platoon leader coordinates with infantry for local security and/or increases the number of OPs (mounted and/or dismounted).
- Platoon leader directs and/or coordinates use of trip flares IAW SOP or commander's guidance.
- With the approval of the commander, platoon leader directs the employment of hasty protective minefields (antipersonnel mines) to cover dismounted approaches; TCs supervise emplacement of minefields.
- Platoon leader directs employment of PEWS; TCs supervise emplacement of the system.
- Platoon leader ensures that each TC knows the designated vehicle markings within the platoon and in adjacent units.

**Command and control/movement**

The following procedures and considerations apply to command and control and movement in limited visibility operations:

- In M1A2-equipped platoons, the platoon leader, PSG, and TCs use the CITV to assist in navigation and to enhance command and control of the platoon.
- To assist in controlling the platoon, the platoon leader plots waypoints along the planned route/axis prior to movement.
- TCs use night vision goggles to assist in navigation.

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## LIMITED VISIBILITY OPERATIONS (continued)

**Fires**

The following procedures and considerations apply to fire control during limited visibility operations:

- Gunners use the gunner's primary sight thermal channel at 3-power (3x) magnification for observation and scanning and at 10x for target engagements.
- In M1A2 platoons, TCs use the CITV sight for target detection and engagements.

**Illumination**

In preparing for limited visibility operations, the platoon leader coordinates for preplanned illumination.

## NBC OPERATIONS – MOPP LEVELS AND MASKING

**MOPP levels**

The platoon leader can increase the MOPP level for his platoon when required by the tactical situation. MOPP equipment is used as shown in the accompanying chart.

| MOPP LEVEL | SUIT | BOOTS | MASK/HOOD | GLOVES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | available | available | carried | available |
| 1 | worn * | carried | carried | carried |
| 2 | worn * | worn | carried | carried |
| 3 | worn * | worn | worn ** | carried |
| 4 | worn | worn | worn | worn |

***** Suit is worn open or closed based on temperature.

** Hood is worn open or closed based on temperature.

**Masking criteria**

Platoon crewmen immediately mask under the conditions:

- When sprayed by an aircraft.
- When an alarm is activated.
- When smoke from an unknown source is detected.
- When any odor, liquid, solid, or dust of unknown or suspicious origin is detected.
- When the platoon enters a suspected contaminated area.
- When any crewman exhibits one or more of the following symptoms:
  - Unexplained runny nose.
  - Choking; tightness in chest/throat.
  - Dimming or blurring of vision.

## NBC OPERATIONS – ORGANIZATION FOR COMBAT

**Chemical detection teams**

The platoon leader designates a dedicated NBC vehicle. The TC of this vehicle is responsible for training all platoon personnel in operating the chemical detector kit and chemical agent alarms. Wingman vehicle crews emplace and operate the alarms. The chemical detection team should be equipped with the following:

- One M8A1 chemical alarm (M43A1 detector and M42 alarm unit) on each wingman vehicle.
- M273 maintenance kit for seven days of continuous operation.
- A spool of WD-1/TT wire on each vehicle for remote operation of the alarm.
- Two BA-3517U batteries and four BA3030 batteries per M8A1 chemical alarm.
- One M256/M256A1chemical agent detector kit, with a minimum of six sampler detectors, on each vehicle.
- One M274 NBC marking set on NBC vehicle.

**Radiological survey and monitoring teams**

Each wingman tank is responsible for measuring total dose radiation with the IM-93/UD dosimeter. The designated NBC vehicle is also responsible for monitoring the dose rate for a specific area using the IM-174- series or AN/VDR-2 radiacmeter.

**Decontamination equipment**

Each individual must carry an M291 decontamination kit to decontaminate himself and personal equipment. Each vehicle must carry two M292 decontamination kits for immediate decontamination operations. First priority for immediate decontamination should be crewmen operating controls, followed by ammunition storage racks, sights, hatches, and paths to engine access covers.

## NBC OPERATIONS – RESPONSIBILITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protective masks** | TCs inspect their crewmen's protective masks for accountability, serviceability, and proper fit. They immediately report any deficiencies to the PSG. The PSG forwards these reports to the 1SG. |
| **Chemical detection teams** | The platoon's chemical detection teams perform the following duties:<br>• They advise the platoon leader on specific chemical hazards and the presence or absence of chemical agents in the area of operation.<br>• They initiate chemical detection procedures whenever a chemical attack is suspected. These considerations and procedures apply:<br>- Teams can begin detection activities in response to a variety of situations, such as when they observe artillery impact, aircraft-delivered spray, smoke or fog, or dead wildlife whose cause of death is suspicious.<br>- Platoon leader designates locations for the chemical alarms. TCs on wingman vehicles designate one crewman each to emplace the alarms IAW the platoon leader's guidance.<br>- For maximum coverage in a stationary position, chemical detectors should be placed no more than 400 meters upwind from the platoon and should be monitored at all times. The maximum distance between detectors is 300 meters.<br>- During tactical movement, the chemical detectors are attached on the outside of the wingman vehicles and are positioned so the TC and loader can observe them. |

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC OPERATIONS – RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chemical detection teams (continued)** | • When a chemical agent is detected by either the alarm or M8 detector paper, the chemical detection team alerts the platoon. All platoon members go to MOPP 4; TCs activate vehicle overpressurization systems (if available).<br>• The designated NBC vehicle sends and NBC-1 chemical report to the platoon leader and/or company NBC NCO.<br>• The chemical detection team then determines the type of contamination using the M256A1 chemical detection kit and/or M8 detector paper and sends an NBC-4 chemical report (refer to Appendix C of this SOP). |
| **Radiological survey and monitoring teams** | The platoon's radiological survey and monitoring teams perform the following duties:<br>• They advise the platoon leader regarding specific radiation hazards and the presence or absence of radioactive contamination in the area of operations.<br>• They normally initiate monitoring for radiation whenever any of the following occurs:<br>- A fallout warning is received.<br>- A nuclear blast is seen or heard or has been reported<br>- The unit begins to move through a nuclear-contaminated area.<br>- A reading of 1 cGy/hr or more is obtained. |

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## NBC OPERATIONS – RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Radiological survey and monitoring teams (continued)** | • Survey and monitoring teams conduct periodic monitoring when one of the following occurs:<br>- The dose rate falls below 1 cGy/hr.<br>- The dose rate has remained below 1 cGy/hr for two hours after a nuclear strike.<br>- A friendly nuclear strike is canceled.<br>• The teams conduct continuous monitoring when one of the following conditions exist:<br>- Periodic monitoring detects a dose rate of 1 cGy/hr or more.<br>- An NBC-3 nuclear report is received.<br>- After a nuclear attack has been seen, heard, or reported.<br>- During tactical movement.<br>- Beginning five minutes before a friendly nuclear attack.<br>- On order. |
| **Friendly nuclear attack preparation** | Following STRIKEWARN notification of an impending nuclear attack, TCs ensure personal weapons, individual equipment clothing, and other sensitive items are secured inside vehicles. Explosives and flammable materials should be removed from the vehicle, if possible, or secured in protected locations. |

## NBC OPERATIONS – CROSSING A CONTAMINATED AREA

**Chemical/biological contamination**

When the platoon identifies chemical or biological contamination, each tank must make adequate preparations before entering the contaminated area and then take appropriate actions while crossing the area. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in executing this procedure.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Platoon leader directs wingman crews to mount the M8 or M8A1 alarms on their vehicles. |
| 2 | Platoon leader directs each crew to mount 6-to-12-inch strips of M9 paper on the vehicle, normal at designated external locations that are visible from within the tank. These locations include, but are not limited to, the following:<br>• Antennas.<br>• Rear of the ballistic shield.<br>• Loader's M240 machine gun mount.<br>• TC's caliber .50 mount.<br>• Driver's headlight guards.<br>• Skirts (to be seen by wingman vehicles).<br>• Turret sponson boxes. |
| 3 | Crews stow external equipment inside vehicles or cover it with available materials (such as a tarp). |

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## NBC OPERATIONS – CROSSING A CONTAMINATED AREA (continued)

**Chemical/biological contamination (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 4 | Platoon leader directs crews to assume MOPP 4. |
| 5 | TCs activate vehicle overpressurization system (if available). |
| 6 | Platoon leader directs platoon to cross the contaminated area, taking all necessary precautions, including the following:<br>• Use the appropriate technique of movement IAW METT-T.<br>• Increase interval between vehicles to 125 meters and reduce speed to 5 mph.<br>• Avoid low ground, overhanging branches, and brush to the extent allowed by the mission.<br>• Observe other personnel for signs of chemical poisoning.<br>• Monitor M8/M8A1 alarms and M9 paper. |
| 7 | Platoon crosses the area as quickly and carefully as possible. |

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC OPERATIONS – CROSSING A CONTAMINATE AREA (continued)

**Radiological contamination**

Preparations and procedures for crossing an area affected by radiological contamination are similar to those for the chemically/biologically contaminated area. The following additional considerations apply:

- Vehicles should be buttoned up, with their NBC overpressurization system (if available) activated and cargo covered.
- Limit speed and extend vehicle interval to minimize exposure to contaminated dust.
- Use the quickest and most direct route.
- The designated NBC vehicle takes dose rate readings every 15 minutes from a short halt and records readings on DA Form 1971-1-R (radiological data monitoring sheet), if available. Dose rates should be closely monitored to ensure compliance with the applicable OEG. The RES should be updated daily.

**Exiting a contaminated area**

The platoon leader directs the platoon to take the following actions after it has completed its crossing of the contaminated area:

- Check for casualties and administer first aid as necessary.
- Perform immediate decontamination of personnel and vehicles.
- Perform unmasking procedures, if applicable.
- Replace contaminated protective mask filters.
- At the earliest opportunity, request permission from commander to conduct an unscheduled halt; check for residual chemical/radiological contamination and conduct operational (hasty) decontamination as necessary.
- Continue the mission.

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC OPERATIONS – ARTILLERY OR AIR ATTACK

**Responding to an attack**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to check for and respond to contamination after an artillery or air attack.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Once the attack has ended, all crews continue to perform their missions. |
| 2 | Platoon leader directs one vehicle (usually the NBC tank) to open hatches, but to remain in MOPP 4. |
| 3 | Chemical detection teams check for contamination using the M256 kit and M8 paper and report results to platoon leader. |
| 4 | If no contamination is found, the platoon leader takes the following actions:<br>• Recommend unmasking procedures when he submits the report to the commander.<br>• When he receives permission directs the NBC tank crew to conduct proper unmasking procedures and report the results. |

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC OPERATIONS – ARTILLERY OR AIR ATTACK (continued)

**Responding to an attack (continued)**

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 5 | If results of unmasking are positive, platoon leader takes the following actions:<br>• Directs treatment of casualties.<br>• Directs platoon to continue mission until negative results are recorded and the "ALL CLEAR" is given. |
| 6 | If the crew reports negative symptoms, platoon leader reports results to commander and recommends that the order for "ALL CLEAR" be given. |
| 7 | If the platoon leader receives permission, he signals "ALL CLEAR" on platoon net. |
| 8 | When "ALL CLEAR" is signaled, platoon unmasks and continues the mission. |

## NBC OPERATIONS – DECONTAMINATION AND UNMASKING

**Decontamination procedures**

The following table lists the actions the platoon takes when decontamination is necessary.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Begin immediately decontamination of skin and/or eyes (personal decontamination) within one minute of contamination. |
| 2 | Perform decontamination of personal equipment when personal decontamination is completed. |
| 3 | After completing the immediate decontamination procedures, perform operator's spraydown with the M11 or M13 decontamination apparatus.<br>**NOTE:** DS2 should be left on the equipment for 30 minutes and scrubbed with brushes, if possible. Spraydown should focus on removing or neutralizing contaminants on surfaces that operators must touch frequently to do their jobs, such as hatch handles, steering mechanisms, operator controls, engine covers, and tools. |

**Unmasking procedures**

Permission to unmask may be given only by the commander through the platoon leader. When he receives a message to assume "ALL CLEAR" status, the platoon leader must always require authentication unless he has made face-to-face contact with the commander. Unmasking procedures are outlined in FM 17-15.

## CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION

**Consolidation in the offense**

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes to conduct consolidation following offensive operations.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Eliminate enemy elements and secure EPWs. |
| 2 | Occupy/reestablish defensible positions as designated in the OPORD/FRAGO and inform the commander of the new positions. |
| 3 | Establish OPSEC and mutual support between adjacent platoons. |
| 4 | Prepare for enemy counterattacks. |

**Consolidation in the defense**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes to conduct consolidation following defensive operations.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Eliminate remaining enemy resistance IAQ commander's intent. |
| 2 | Check sectors of fire to eliminate gaps and dead space. |
| 3 | Secure EPWs. |
| 4 | Reestablish OPSEC. |
| 5 | Replace or repair obstacles. |
| 6 | Improve positions and establish priorities of work. |
| 7 | Prepare for continued enemy attacks. |

*(continued on next page)*

## CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION (continued)

**Reorganization** Offensive and defensive reorganization procedures are substantially the same. Each leader in the platoon has specific responsibilities as outlined here.

Tank commanders. TCs take these actions:

- Reload weapons and redistribute ammunition.
- Provide first aid to WIAs, move them to a covered position, and request evacuation.
- Forward a SITREP to the PSG.
- Conduct essential maintenance.
- Continue to improve the position.

Platoon sergeants. The PSG takes these actions:

- Compile SITREPs from the TCs and submit a consolidated SITREP to the 1SG (voice) and the platoon leader (voice, digital, or messenger).
- Oversee consolidation and evacuation of WIAs.
- Consolidate KIA remains and coordinate with the 1SG for evacuation.
- Direct cross-leveling of supplies within the platoon.
- Direct cross-leveling of ammunition within the platoon.
- Coordinate movement of EPWs to the EPW collection point.

Platoon leader. The platoon leader takes these actions:

- Forward consolidated SITREP (voice or digital) to the commander.
- Redistribute crewmen; reestablish platoon chain of command.
- Reestablish communications with elements that are out of contact.

# Part III
# Service Support

## RESUPPLY AND RELATED SERVICES

**Trains**

The following considerations apply regarding the trains from which the platoon obtains supplies and support:

- Combat trains are normally positioned one terrain feature behind the company team.
- Field trains will locate with task force trains in the brigade support area.

**Supply classes**

The following considerations apply regarding critical supply classes.

Class I

Each vehicle maintains a three-to-five day supply of rations and a minimum of 10 gallons of water.

Class III

Each vehicle maintains five gallons of engine and transmission oil, one can of hydraulic fluid, and one can of GAA. Report to the PSG when fuel levels are between one-half and three-quarters of a full tank. Emergency resupply is usually available upon request.

Class V

Each TC is responsible for maintaining his vehicle's basic load of ammunition. He reports ammunition status to the PSG after each major engagement and/or when the basic load is under 60 percent. Emergency resupply is usually available upon request.

*(continued on next page)*

## RESUPPLY AND RELATED SERVICES (continued)

**Pre-positioning (prestock)**

The following table lists the steps the platoon takes in conducting prestock resupply operations.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Verify prestock locations during reconnaissance and rehearsals. |
| 2 | If the tactical situation permits, conduct a replenishment drill, using these steps:<br>• When tanks 2 and 4 expend 50 percent of ready ammunition, they move to a turret-down or hide position and conduct replenishment from semiready ammunition.<br>• Tanks 2 and 4 return to fighting positions when transfer is complete.<br>• On order, tanks 1 and 3 conduct replenishment in the same manner. |

**Refuel on the move**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting a ROM operation.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Move to the ROM site and establish local security (herringbone formation or hasty perimeter defense). |
| 2 | Vehicles refuel IAW OPORD/FRAGO. (NOTE: The OPORD/FRAGO should designate location, time, and amount of fuel for each vehicle.) |
| 3 | As time is available, crews conduct during-operation maintenance checks and replenish POL supplies. |
| 4 | Platoon leader reports status to commander. |

*(continued on next page)*

## RESUPPLY AND RELATED SERVICES (continued)

**Routine resupply**

Routine resupply covers Classes I, III, V, and IX, mail, and other items as requested. It is conducted daily as the tactical situation permits. The PSG and 1SG may prioritize the order in which vehicles are resupplied according to the platoon's supply requirements. The following discussion focuses on the two methods of routine resupply: tailgate and service station. (**NOTE:** The platoon can also employ a combination of the two methods, such as refueling one section by tailgate resupply while the other section moves to a designated location to rearm and receive other supplies by the service station method.)

Tailgate resupply

When enemy contact is unlikely, the tailgate method will be used. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting tailgate resupply.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | PSG coordinates with the 1SG for linkup with the LOGPAC. |
| 2 | Platoon or other elements provide security for LOGPAC activities based on guidance from the commander or in accordance with company SOP. |
| 3 | Platoon vehicles resupply as the 1SG brings the LOGPAC to the rear of individual positions. |
| 4 | PSG coordinates with the 1SG for additional requirements. |
| 5 | Platoon leader keeps the commander informed on status of resupply operations. |

*(continued on next page)*

**Routine resupply (continued)**

Service station resupply

When enemy contact is possible, the 1SG will use the service station method, resupplying one section or tank at a time. The following table lists steps the platoon takes in conducting service station resupply.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | When the LOGPAC arrives, the 1SG directs the platoon to move to the resupply point. |
| 2 | Platoon leader and his wingman move to the refuel point; PSG and his wingman move to the rearm point. |
| 3 | PSG reports to the 1SG with actual and anticipated logistics requests. |
| 4 | Turn WIA and KIA personnel over to the medics and supply sergeant, respectively. |
| 5 | Each section conducts resupply at the rearm or refuel point, then moves to the other point and conducts resupply. |
| 6 | Move to maintenance and mess holding area, complete maintenance and feeding, and draw additional supplies from the supply sergeant as required |
| 7 | PSG reports status to the platoon leader and 1SG |
| 8 | Returns to the BP. |

*(continued on next page)*

## RESUPPLY AND RELATED SERVICES (continued)

**Emergency resupply**

The following table lists steps the platoon takes in requesting and conducting emergency resupply.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conduct immediate redistribution and/or cross-leveling among platoon vehicles. |
| 2 | Request resupply through the commander or 1SG |
| 3 | Battalion support platoon brings emergency supplies forward. |
| 4 | Based on the enemy situation, the platoon may have to conduct resupply while in contact with the enemy. Two techniques are used to resupply platoons in contact:<br>• Limited supplies are brought forward to the closest concealed position, where the tailgate method of resupply is used.<br>• Individual vehicles or sections disengage, move to a resupply point, obtain their supplies, and then return to the fight. |

*(continued on next page)*

## MEDICAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

**First aid and evacuation**

The following considerations apply when the platoon requires medical services during an operation:

- Platoon members and combat lifesavers must be prepared to administer immediate first aid as required.
- The PSG transmits MEDEVAC reports using FM voice or by IVIS (M1A2).
- An armored ambulance or MEDEVAC helicopter will be dispatched to the platoon's location if support is available.
- If MEDEVAC is not available, the platoon consolidates WIA personnel on one tank and evacuates them if the tactical situation permits.

**Personnel killed in action**

The PSG coordinates the remains of KIA personnel and notifies the 1SG of their location using an eight-digit grid. The PSG keeps one ID tag belonging to each KIA.

**Personnel services**

The following considerations apply regarding personnel services for the platoon:

- The PSG monitors the platoon's personnel status and forwards reports to the platoon leader and 1SG as required.
- Submit recommendations for awards through the PSG to the 1SG.
- Submit requests for Class VI resupply through the PSG to the 1SG.

*(continued on next page)*

## MEDICAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES (continued)

**Enemy prisoners of war**

The following considerations and procedures apply when the platoon captures EPWs:

- The PSG's vehicle is the EPW holding location.
- The capturing vehicle crew must disarm EPWs and then implement the "five-S" handling procedures (search, segregate, silence, speed, and safeguard). Refer to FM 17-15 for additional information on handling of EPWs.
- The PSG notifies the 1SG that the platoon has captured EPWs.
- The PSG ensures that EPWs are tagged, listing the capturing unit and the date, time, place, and circumstances of capture.
- Captured documents are tagged with the same information (AE Form 1301 can be used).
- Protective masks and clothing, ID cards, and personal items of no tactical value are returned to EPWs after they are searched.
- EPWs are transported under guard to the company combat trains, where the 1SG assumes responsibility for them.

## MATERIAL SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maintenance** | TCs request maintenance assistance for individual vehicles through the PSG. The platoon leader and/or PSG then request company-level maintenance assistance through the XO or 1SG. Crews remain with their vehicles unless otherwise ordered. |
| **Destruction of material** | Equipment and documents can be destroyed only by permission of the platoon leader or when there is imminent danger of enemy capture. The priority of destruction is as follows:<br>• Classified equipment/documents.<br>• Communications equipment (including IVIS on the M1A2).<br>• Weapons.<br>• Vehicles.<br>• Supplies of potential tactical value, especially those in Classes III and V. |

## APPENDIX A

# Alarms and Signals

## AIR ATTACK

| | |
|---|---|
| **Radio/Vocal** | The alarm is given as "CONTACT, BANDITS, (cardinal direction)." Example: "CONTACT, BANDIT, EAST, OUT." |
| **Visual** | Use the hand-and-arm signal for an air attack. Refer to the skill level 1 soldier's manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM). |

## CHEMICAL

| | |
|---|---|
| **Radio/Vocal** | The alarm is given as "GAS, GAS, GAS." |
| **Visual** | Put on protective mask, and use the hand-and-arm signal for an NBC attack. Refer to the skill level 1 soldier's manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM). |
| **Audible** | The alarm is rapid beating of metal on metal or sounding of the M8 alarm horn. |

## NUCLEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| **Radio/Vocal** | The alarm is given as "FALLOUT, FALLOUT, FALLOUT." |
| **Visual** | Use the hand-and-arm signal for an NBC attack. Refer to the skill level 1 soldier's manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM). |
| **Audible** | The alarm is rapid beating of metal on metal. |

## ALL CLEAR

**Radio/Vocal** The signal is given as “ALL CLEAR.” The “ALL CLEAR” signal must be authenticated in all cases when given over a nonsecure radio.

**Visual** The signal is unmasking by an authorized individual.

## ENEMY CONTACT (GROUND)

**Radio/Vocal** The alarm is given as “CONTACT, (type), (cardinal direction).”

Example: “CONTACT, BMP, NORTH, OUT.”

**Visual** The alarm is given using a red flag or the hand-and-arm signal for a contact or action drill (as appropriate). Refer to the skill level 1 soldier’s manual for MOS 19K (STP 17-19K1-SM).

**Digital** The signal is an enemy icon plotted on the tactical display.

## APPENDIX B

# Operations Security

## COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

**Operational guidelines**

The following procedures and considerations apply when the platoon must take counterintelligence measures:

- The sign and countersign are changed at noon daily. Challenge unknown personnel at all times and all personnel after dark.
- The PSG personally checks the platoon area prior to departure to ensure no material of intelligence value is left behind.
- SOI and maps with overlays will be in personal possession of the TC at all times.
- Crewmen will not keep diaries and will self-censor their outgoing mail.
- Require authentication of all directives or orders received over the radio from unknown sources. Immediately report the following to the platoon leader:
    - Known or suspected compromise of operational material and loss of maps, SOI, overlays, and other items of tactical value.
    - Known or suspected enemy agents.
    - Attempts to subvert unit personnel.

## SECURITY READINESS CONDITIONS

**REDCON-1 (full alert; unit ready to move and fight)**

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- OP personnel are recalled and mounted on vehicles.
- All personnel are alert and prepared for immediate action.
- Vehicles are loaded and secured, and weapons are manned.
- Digital linkup is complete, if applicable.
- Engines are running, and vehicles are ready to move.

**REDCON-1(-)**

This level is the same as REDCON-1 except that engines are shut down.

**REDCON-2 (full alert; unit ready to fight)**

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- Equipment is stowed (except for wire and telephone gear, if used).
- Vehicles and weapons are manned.
- Digital linkup is complete, if applicable
- Ops and M8A1 alarms are still employed.
- Vehicles ready to move within 15 minutes (engines are shut down).

*(continued on next page)*

## SECURITY READINESS CONDITIONS (continued)

**REDCON-3 (reduced alert)**

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- Fifty percent of each crew stand down for feeding, rest, and maintenance.
- Remaining personnel man vehicles, weapons, and OPs; monitor radios; and continue the operation.
- Vehicles are ready to move within 30 minutes.

**REDCON-4 (minimum alert)**

The following conditions and procedures apply:

- Seventy-five percent of each crew stand down for feeding, rest, and maintenance.
- One vehicle's crew-served weapons are manned.
- If applicable, platoon leader/PSG maintain the digital link with the commander.
- Ops are deployed.
- Vehicles are ready to move within one hour.

## SIGNAL SECURITY, SPARES, AND WARNING CODES

**Signal security**

Levels of signal security are as follows:

- **HUSH-1.** Free net; all FM and digital stations can transmit as necessary.
- **HUSH-2.** Direct net; FM and digital stations are allowed to transmit only when contacted by the platoon leader or higher headquarters.
- **HUSH-3.** Radio listening silence (all stations). No FM traffic; digital transmissions only.
- **HUSH-4.** Radio/digital silence (no traffic of any type).

**Use of spares**

Preplanned terms, called spares and taken from the SOI, may be used if no other operational term will convey the desired message. For example, in issuing the OPORD, the platoon leader says that "XBE" will signal the platoon to make lateral contact with adjacent units. During the operation, he transmits the following: "RED 2, THIS IS RED 1. XBE, CP 2, OVER." The platoon then makes contact with units at contact point 2.

**Warning color codes**

Color codes are used to indicate the likelihood of enemy contact or attack. Formerly associated with ADA, the following color codes now apply to all combat operations:

- **WHITE.** Attack or contact is not probable.
- **YELLOW.** Attack or contact is probable.
- **RED.** Attack or contact is imminent or in progress.

# APPENDIX C
# Reports

## TYPES OF REPORTS AND CONTENTS

**Available reports**

The following list is both an outline of the various reports available to the tank platoon and a table of contents for this appendix.

## REPORT GUIDELINES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Focus on speed AND accuracy** | Each report has a prescribed format to ensure the completeness of the information to be transmitted. At the same time, however, users must remember that timely reporting, especially of enemy activity, is critical in fast-moving tactical situations. Do not delay reports for the sole purpose of assuring the correct format; **report accurate information as quickly as possible!** |
| **Use appropriate formats and resources (M1A2 platoons)** | To take full advantage of their vehicle' advanced technology, platoons equipped with the M1A2 must use correct digital reporting formats. Refer to the following for information on digital reports:<br>• TM 9-2350-288-10 (volumes 1 and 2).<br>• FKSM 17-15-1.<br>In addition, when they must operate with elements that are not digitally equipped, M1A2 platoons must be prepared to take the following steps:<br>• Employ means of communications (such as FM voice and messenger) available to both them and the other elements.<br>• Prepare and send reports using formats outlined in this appendix. |
| **DO NOT repeat information** | Send only the parts or lines of a report that contain new information or changes. Do not overload radio nets by repeating information. |
| **Use the correct time zone** | Use the local time zone for all reports unless directed otherwise. |

# BLUE REPORTS (OPERATIONS)

## BLUE-1 – SPOT REPORT (SPOTREP)

**When used**

The platoon sends a SPOTREP when crewmen observe enemy activity or suspect the presence of enemy elements, when they observe any characteristic of the area of operations likely to affect the accomplishment of the mission, or when required by the OPORD. Always send enemy information in the clear. A SPOTREP takes priority over all other routine traffic.

**Format**

State "SPOTREP" or "UPDATE SPOTREP," followed by pertinent information on these lines:

- **Line ALPHA:** Observer or source (omit if it is the calling station; use call signs or description otherwise).
- **Line BRAVO:** The activity or characteristic being observed. Use SALUTE format as shown in the following chart:

| ELEMENT | DESCRIPTION | RADIO TRANSMISSION |
|---|---|---|
| **Size** | Number sighted | "NINE TANKS" |
| **Activity** | What enemy is doing | **"**MOVING, EAST" |
| **Location** | Grid coordinates | "BJ4096372" |
| **Unit** | Patches, signs, markings | "114TH GUARDS DIVISION" |
| **Time** | When activity was observed | "1100 HOURS" |
| **Equipment** | Associated with activity | "Wearing MOPP 4" |

*(continued on next page)*

## BLUE-1 – SPOT REPORT (SPOTREP) (continued)

**Format (continued)**

- **Line CHARLIE:** Actions you have taken as well as your recommendations. Such actions usually involve the platoon leader conducting additional reconnaissance to determine the complete enemy situation or recommending and executing a specific course of action.
- **Line DELTA:** Self-authentication (if required and/or for units not equipped with SOI).

**NOTE:** Report the center of mass of identical, closely grouped items. Otherwise, report muiltiple grid coordinates of traces, using this format: "FROM _____ TO _____").

**Example**

"BLACK 6, THIS IS RED 1, SPOTREP, OVER. ONE BRDM, STATIONARY, ORIENTED SOUTH AT GRID MS289546; 1700 HOURS. ENGAGING WITH MAIN GUN, OVER."

## BLUE-2 – SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

**When used**

The platoon sends a SITREP to a higher element following a SPOTREP to describe friendly actions in relation to enemy activity. SITREPs are also submitted daily at 0600 hours, after significant events, or as otherwise requested or directed by the platoon leader.

**Format**

State "SITREP," followed by pertinent information on these lines:

- **Line 1:** The as-of DTG
- **Line 2:** Brief summary of enemy activity, casualties inflicted, and prisoners captured.
- **Line 3:** Grid coordinates or graphic control measures.
- **Line 4:** Combat vehicles operational.
- **Line 5:** Defensive obstacles (encoded using codes, control measures, or TRPs). The following can be listed
  - Type and location of obstacles. Abbreviations can include MF (minefield), TD (tank ditch), AB (abatis), RC (road cater), and CW (concertina wire).
  - Type and location of executed demolition targets.
  - Type and location of reserved demolition targets.

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## BLUE-2 – SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)(continued)

**Format (continued)**

- **Line 6:** Personnel strength, classified using the following status levels:
  - **GREEN:** full strength; 90% or more fit for duty.
  - **AMBER:** reduced strength; 80% to 89% fit for duty.
  - **RED:** reduced strength; 60% to 79% fit for duty; the unit is mission-capable.
  - **BLACK:** reduced strength; 59% or less fit for duty.
- **Line 7:** Status of Class III and V supplies available for combat vehicles. Status levels for ammunition and fuel are the same (GREEN, AMBER, RED, or BLACK) as for personnel strength, with percentages referring to the amount of basic load supplies available. Refer to the explanation of Line 6 above for a description of the status levels.

**NOTE:** If an item is reported as status level BLACK on lines 6 or 7, the appropriate yellow report (logistics) must follow.

- **Line 8:** Summary of tactical intentions.

**Example** Refer to line-by-line entries listed in the following chart.

| LINE | DESCRIPTION | RADIO TRANSMISSION |
|---|---|---|
| **Line 1** | As-of date-time group | "160815SMAY95" |
| **Line 2** | Brief summary of enemy activity | "DESTROYED FOUR TANKS" |
| **Line 3** | Friendly locations | "1 SET QDI-BCONTVHL" |
| **Line 4** | Operational combat vehicles | "FOUR" |
| **Line 5** | Defensive obstacles | "NONE" |
| **Line 6** | Personnel strength status | "GREEN" |
| **Line 7** | Status of fuel (Class III) and ammunition (Class V) | "CLASS THREE BLACK; CLASS FIVE RED" |
| **Line 8** | Summary of tactical intentions | "CONTINUING MISSION, OVER" |

## BLUE-2A – MODIFIED SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

**When used**

Like the regular SITREP, the modified SITREP is sent to a higher element to report contact and to describe friendly actions taken in response to enemy activity. The modified SITREP is also used to update information provided in previous reports.

**Format**

State "SITREP," followed by pertinent information on these lines:

- **Line 1:** As-of DTG (may be omitted if the report applies to the current time).
- **Line 2:** Immediate action taken by the platoon (such as enemy elements destroyed, engaged, or observed).
- **Line 3:** Location of enemy elements.
- **Line 4:** Enemy action (such as stationary, moving, dug in, or engaging).
- **Line 5:** Friendly action (such as overwatching, bounding, set, or moving).
- **Line 6:** Equipment/personnel status (such as "BENT" or "MISSING" for equipment; status levels are GREEN, AMBER, RED, and BLACK for personnel, as described for a SITREP on page C-6).
- **Line 7:** Status of Classes III and V supplies available for combat vehicles (report changes in status only; status levels are GREEN, AMBER, RED, and BLACK, as described for a SITREP on page C-6).

*(continued on next page)*

## BLUE-2A – MODIFIED SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

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**Example** Refer to line-by-line entries listed on the accompanying chart.

| LINE | DESCRIPTION | RADIO TRANSMISSION |
|---|---|---|
| **Line 1** | As-of date-time group (may by omitted if report applies to current time) | "160815SMAY95" |
| **Line 2** | Immediate friendly action taken | "ENGAGING FOUR TANKS" |
| **Line 3** | Enemy location | "HM 305982" |
| **Line 4** | Enemy action | "STATIONARY, RETURNING FIRE" |
| **Line 5** | Brief summary of friendly activity | "A SECTION SET AT ATK 3; B SECTION BOUNDING TO ATK 3" |
| **Line 6** | Equipment/personnel status | "A24 BENT; PERSONNEL STATUS AMBER" |
| **Line 7** | Changes in status for Class III and Class V | "CLASS THREE BLACK; CLASS FIVE RED" |

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## BLUE-3 – CONTACT REPORT

**When used**

The platoon uses a contact report to report initial enemy contact. It usually sends this report at the same time it is returning fire and deploying. The Blue-1 (SPOTREP) is the preferred method of reporting enemy contact; however, when time is critical, the Blue-3 provides a means of sending the information quickly.

**Note:** Refer to FKSM 17-15-1 for information on sending report, including contact reports, using digital systems (IVIS and appliqué digital)

**Format**

The contact report consists of these lines:

- Platoon color and/or call sign of the observer.
- The word "CONTACT."
- Brief target description.
- Cardinal direction.

**Example**

"WHITE, THIS IS WHITE FOUR, CONTACT, TANKS, EAST, OUT."

*(continued on next page)*

# GREEN REPORTS (INTELLIGENCE)

## GREEN-2 – SENSITIVE ITEMS REPORT (SENSEREP)

**When used**

This report is sent daily at 0600 and 1800 hours to report results of a serial-number check of the following equipment.

- Machine guns.
- Submachine guns.
- Pistols.
- Rifles.
- Night vision goggles.
- Binoculars.
- Radiacmeters.
- Dosimeters.
- SOI extracts.
- MBD.
- GPS.
- Special equipment assigned to the platoon for particular observation devices or mine detectors.

**Format and example**

State "SENSEREP," followed by pertinent information on the lines illustrated in the following chart.

| LINE | DESCRIPTION | RADIO TRANSMISSION |
|---|---|---|
| **Line ALPHA** | Reporting unit | "WHITE" |
| **Line BRAVO** | Results of sensitive items check | "DOWN ONE BINO" |
| **Line CHARLIE** | Initials of person sending report | "ABG, OVER" |

**NOTE:** Use the term "UP" if all sensitive items are accounted for after the inventory. Use "DOWN" for a missing sensitive item, followed by the quantity missing and the name of the item.

## GREEN-5 – MEACONING, INTRUSION, JAMMING, AND INTERFERENCE REPORT

**When used**

MIJI reports cover various forms of electronic warfare. Whenever reception of radio signals is hindered confused, or prevented as a result of any type of disruption, the radio operator first follows unit SOP to confirm that the disruption results from an external signal (refer to Appendix D of this SOP for contingency plans covering loss of communications). Upon confirmation, the operator must immediately report the incident to the troop/battalion TOC, which forwards the report to the S2 and signal officer. The MIJI report also covers incidents in which imitative deception is suspected (especially when instructions are received from a source that cannot be authenticated).

**Format and example**

To send this report, state "MIJI," followed by pertinent information on the lines shown in the following chart.

| LINE | DESCRIPTION | RADIO TRANSMISSION |
|---|---|---|
| **Line 1** | Unit identification | "Q9H25" |
| **Line 2** | Type of interference | "022 ENCRYPTED, LT ABC" |
| **Line 3** | Location | "1 SET KJ, I SEND BCVNMKGS" |
| **Line 4** | "ON" time (DTG when interference started) | "17052" |
| **Line 5** | "OFF" time (DTG when interference stopped) | "17382" |
| **Line 6** | Equipment of operations affected by interference | "ONE RADIO" |
| **Line 7** | Frequency/frequency range | "1 SET FE, I SEND LJFSM" |
| **Line 8** | Additional information | "MOUNTAIN TOP" |
| **Line 9** | Authentication | "I AUTHENTICATE TANGO" |

# YELLOW REPORTS (LOGISTICS)

## YELOW-1 – EQUIPMENT STATUS REPORT (ESTAT)

**When used**

Each TC sends a current Yellow-1 report to the PSG by messenger, voice, or digital means between 1200 hours and 1300 hours daily.

**Designators**

Use the following designators to indicate operational status of equipment in the Yellow-1 report:

- **ALPHA:** operational.
- **BRAVO:** inoperative.
- **CHARLIE:** combat loss.

**Format**

Use the following line numbers, with the designators described above to report equipment status.

Weapons

- **Line 1:** Bayonet knife, with scabbard, for M16A1.
- **Line 2:** Pistol, 9-mm, automatic, M9, or caliber .45, M1911A1.
- **Line 3:** Rifle, 5.56-mm, with equipment.
- **Line 4:** Launcher, grenade, 40-mm, single shot, rifle-mounted, detachable, with equipment.
- **Line 5:** Machine gun, M2, caliber .50, HB.
- **Line 6:** Machine gun, 7.62-mm, light flexible.
- **Line 7:** Squad automatic weapon, M249.
- **Line 8:** Grenade launcher, 40-mm, MK19

*(continued on next page)*

## Yellow-1 – EQUIPMENT STATUS REPORT (ESTAT) (continued)

---

**Format (continued)**

Weapons (continued)

- **Line 9:** Submachine gun.
- **Line 10:** Machine gun, 7.62-mm, fixed M24OC RH feed F/FVS.
- **Line 11:** Launcher, grenade, smoke, screening, RP M250.
- **Line 12:** Mortar, 4.2-inch, on mount.
- **Line 13:** Command launch unit, AA WS-M.

**NOTE:** Lines 14, 15, and 16 are used as needed for additional weapons assigned to the platoon and/or vehicle.

Vehicles and vehicle equipment

- **Line 17:** CFV, M3.
- **Line 18:** Carrier, 107-mm mortar, self-propelled (less mortar), M106.
- **Line 19:** Carrier, personnel, full-tracked, armored, M113.
- **Line 20:** HMMWV, M1025/M1026.
- **Line 21:** Tank, M1-series/M8-AGS.

**NOTE:** Lines 22, 23, and 24 are used as needed for additional vehicles and/or vehicle equipment assigned to the platoon and/or vehicle.

NBC equipment

- **Line 25:** Alarm, chemical agent, automatic, portable, for full-tracked APC and ARV.
- **Line 26:** Alarm, chemical agent, automatic, portable, with power supply, for track, utility, ¼ ton.
- **Line 27:** Charger, radiac detector PP-1570/PD
- **Line 28:** Mask, chemical-biological, multipurpose.

---

*(continued on next page)*

## Yellow-1 – EQUIPMENT STATUS REPORT (ESTAT)(continued)

---

**Format (continued)**

NBC equipment (continued)

- **Line 29:** Radiacmeter, IM-185/UD.
- **Line 30:** Alarm, chemical agent, automatic, portable, manpack.
- **Line 31:** Radiacmeter, IM-93/UD.
- **Line 32:** Radiacmeter, IM-174/PD.
- **Line 33:** Radiacmeter, AN/VDR-1.

**NOTE:** Lines 34, 35, and 36 are used as needed for NBC equipment assigned to the platoon and/or vehicle.

Radios

- **Line 37:** Radio set, AN/GRC-160.
- **Line 38:** Radio set, AN/VRC-46.
- **Line 39:** Radio set, AN/VRC-47.
- **Line 40:** Radio set, AN/VRC-64.
- **Line 41:** Radio set, AN/PRC-77.
- **Line 42:** Radio set, AN/VRC-12.
- **Line 43:** Secure set, AN/PRC-91.
- **Line 44:** Secure set, AN/PRC-126.
- **Line 45:** Secure set, KY-57.

**NOTE:** Lines 46, 47, and 48 are used as needed for additional radios assigned to the platoon and/or vehicle.

Miscellaneous equipment

- **Line 49:** Demolition set, explosive, initiating, nonelectric.
- **Line 50:** Detecting set, mine, portable, metallic and nonmetallic.
- **Line 51:** Detecting set, mine, portable, metallic, AN/PSS-11.

---

*(continued on next page)*

## Yellow-1 – EQUIPMENT STATUS REPORT (ESTAT)(continued)

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**Format (continued)**

Miscellaneous equipment (continued)

- **Line 52:** Night vision goggle, AN/PVS-5.
- **Line 53:** night vision sight, crew-served weapon, AN/TVS-5.
- **Line 54:** Night vision sight, individual-served weapon, AN/PVS-4.
- **Line 55:** PEWS, AN/TRS-2(V).
- **Line 56:** Binoculars, modular construction, military scale reticle, 7x50-mm, with equipment.
- **Line 57:** Telescope, straight, military.
- **Line 58:** Detector, radar signal, AN/PSS-10.
- **Line 59:** Position locating/reporting system, basic user unit.
- **Line 60:** Position locating/reporting system, surface vehicle installation kit.

**NOTE:** Lines 61, 62, and 63 are used as needed for any other equipment assigned to the platoon and/or vehicle.

---

**Example**

"THIS IS RED 3. YELLOW ONE. LINE 12: ALPHA. LINE 33: BRAVO. LINE 38: CHARLIE. LINE 55: CHARLIE. OVER."

---

## Yellow-2 – AMMUNITION STATUS REPORT

---

**When used**

This report is transmitted once daily at 1300 hours or immediately upon completion of enemy contact.

---

**Format**

Use the following status codes to report ammunition status in this report:

- **GREEN:** 90% or more on hand, all ammunition types.
- **AMBER:** 80% to 89% on hand, all ammunition types.
- **RED:** 60% to 79% on hand, all ammunition types.
- **BLACK:** 59% or less on hand, all ammunition types.

**NOTE:** BLACK status in a Yellow-2 report signals a requirement for immediate resupply.

---

## Yellow-2A – AMMUNITION REQUEST

---

**Format**

To submit a Yellow-2 report, request the required quantity of each type of ammunition using the following line numbers:

- **Line 1:** Report as-of DTG.
- **Line 2:** 120-mm, APFSDS.
- **Line 3:** 120-mm, HEAT-MP.
- **Line 4:** 105-mm, HEAT.
- **Line 5:** 105-mm, HEP.
- **Line 6:** 105-mm, APERS.
- **Line 7:** 105-mm, WP.
- **Line 8:** 105-mm, APDS.
- **Line 9:** 40-mm, HEDP.
- **Line 10:** Caliber .50 (M85).
- **Line 11:** Caliber .50 (M2).
- **Line 12:** 25-mm.
- **Line 13:** 7.62-mm (coax).
- **Line 14:** 4.2 inch, HE with fuze.
- **Line 15:** 4.2 inch, WP with fuze.
- **Line 16:** 4.2 inch, illumination with fuze.
- **Line 17:** 81-mm, HE with fuze.
- **Line 18:** 81-mm, WP with fuze.
- **Line 19:** 81-mm, illumination with fuze.
- **Line 20:** Fuze, prox (4.2-inch).
- **Line 21:** Fuze, PD (4.2-inch).
- **Line 22:** Fuze, prox (81-mm).
- **Line 23:** Fuze, PD (81-mm).
- **Line 24:** Fuze, blast, time.
- **Line 25:** Blasting cap, nonelectric.
- **Line 26:** Fuze, igniter.

---

*(continued on next page)*

## Yellow-2A – AMMUNITION REQUEST (continued)

**Format (continued)**

- **Line 27:** 5.56-mm, ball.
- **Line 28:** 5.56-mm, tracer.
- **Line 29:** Red-eye, XM41E2.
- **Line 30:** Grenade, fragmentation.
- **Line 31:** Grenade, smoke.
- **Line 32:** Grenade, thermite.
- **Line 33:** Grenade, 40-mm, HE.
- **Line 34:** Grenade, 40-mm, WP.
- **Line 35:** Grenade, 40-mm, AP.
- **Line 36:** Cartridge, caliber .45, ball.
- **Line 37:** Cartridge, 9-mm, ball.
- **Line 38:** M72 LAW.
- **Line 39:** Dragon.
- **Line 40:** TOW.
- **Line 41:** Stinger missile.
- **Line 42:** Mine, AT.
- **Line 43:** Mine, AP.
- **Line 44:** Mine, Claymore.
- **Line 45:** 25-mm, HE.
- **Line 46:** Fuze25-mm, AP.
- **Line 47:** 165-mm, HE (CEV).

**NOTE:** All Yellow-2A requests are for the quantity of ammunition require by the platoon unless otherwise specified.

**NOTE:** When sending a Yellow-2A report, use only the lines required for specific requests. Use additional lines (beginning with Line 48) to request any other types of ammunition required by the platoon. Attached units should coordinate with the S4 for additional line numbers for their ammunition requirements.

**Example**

"BLACK 7, THIS IS RED 4. YELLOW TWO ALPHA, BREAK. LINE 1: 091100 GHJ _____. LINE 2: 20. LINE 11: 1000"

## Yellow-3 – POL STATUS REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| **When used** | This report is sent twice daily or as required. |
| **Format** | Use the following status codes in reporting the platoon's POL status:<br>• **GREEN:** 90% or more on hand.<br>• **AMBER:** 80% to 89% on hand.<br>• **RED:** 60% to 79% on hand.<br>• **BLACK:** 59% or less on hand. |
| **Example** | "BLACK 7, THIS IS RED 4. YELLOW THREE, AMBER, OVER." |

## Yellow-3A – POL REQUEST

**Format**

Request the required quantity of each type of POL product using the following line numbers:

- **Line 1:** Report as-of DTG.
- **Line 2:** MOGAS (gal).
- **Line 3:** Diesel (gal).
- **Line 4:** Oil, OE-10 (gal).
- **Line 5:** Oil, OE-30 (gal).
- **Line 6:** Oil, OE-50 (gal).
- **Line 7:** Oil, OE-90 (gal).
- **Line 8:** Antifreeze (gal).
- **Line 9:** Brake fluid (gal).
- **Line 10:** Hydraulic fluid, OHA (qt).
- **Line 11:** Hydraulic fluid, OHT (qt).
- **Line 12:** Hydraulic fluid, FRH (qt).
- **Line 13:** Oil, penetrating (qt).
- **Line 14:** Oil, PL-special (qt).
- **Line 15:** Oil, PL-medium (qt).
- **Line 16:** Bore cleaner (gal).
- **Line 17:** Oil, LSA (qt).
- **Line 18:** Grease, GAA (lb).
- **Line 19:** Grease, wheel bearing (lb).
- **Line 20:** Solvent (gal).

**NOTE:** Additional lines (beginning with Line 21) are used to request any other POL products required by the platoon or attached elements.

**Example**

"BLACK 7, THIS IS RED 4. YELLOW THREE ALPHA, BREAK. LINE 1: 112000Z NOVEMBER. LINE 3: 900. LINE 18: 15"

# RED REPORTS (PERSONNEL)

## RED-2 – PERSONNEL BATTLE LOSS REPORT

---

**When used**

A Red-2 report is transmitted to the task force or troop TOC as casualties occur. The unit must also complete DA Form 1156, with witness statements, and DA Form 1155 and submit them to the 1SG, Red-2 is an interim report to update information sent in the last Red-1 report.

---

**Format**

Provide all pertinent information using the following lines:

- **Line 1:** battle roster number.
- **Line 2:** PDTG of the incident.
- **Line 3:** Location of the incident (encoded).
- **Line 4:** Type of casualties, encoded by letter as follows:
  - **ALPHA:** KIA, hostile action.
  - **BRAVO:** KIA, nonhostile action.
  - **CHARLIE:** Body recovered.
  - **DELTA:** Body not recovered.
  - **ECHO:** Body identified.
  - **FOXTROT:** Body not identified.
  - **GOLF:** MIA.
  - **HOTEL:** Captured.
  - **INDIA:** WIA, slight, hostile action.
  - **JULIET:** WIA, serious, hostile action.
  - **KILO:** WIA, slight, nonhostile action.
  - **LIMA:** WIA, serious, nonhostile action.
  - **MIKE:** Accident.
- **Line 5:** Location to which casualties are evacuated.

---

## RED-3 – MEDICAL EVACUATION REQUEST

---

**When used**

The platoon uses a Red-3 report to request MEDEVA support, sending the report to the medical team on the company/troop command net.

---

**Ground evacuation format**

Provide pertinent information on the following lines:

- **Line 1:** State "EVAC."
- **Line 2:** Location for pickup (encoded).
- **Line 3:** Number of casualties.
- **Line 4:** Category of patient condition, encoded by letter designation as follows:
  - **ALPHA:** Urgent.
  - **BRAVO:** Priority.
  - **CHARLIE:** Routine.

**NOTE:** Use the letter designation with the number of patients in each category; for example, "TWO ALPHA" indicates that two patients require evacuation on an urgent basis.

---

**Air evacuation format**

Use a format as prescribed in the appropriate SOI, or use the ground evacuation format as above, specifying air evacuation.

---

# NBC REPORTS

## PURPOSE, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROCEDURES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Purpose** | The platoon uses NBC reports to provide the TOC with accurate and timely information on all shelling and NBC activity within the battalion/squadron area of operations. The reports are used for these specific purposes:<br>- **NBC-1:** Used by the observing unit to report initial and subsequent data of an NBC attack.<br>- **NBC-3:** Used for immediate warning of expected contamination.<br>- **NBC-4:** Used to report NBC hazards detected as a result of monitoring, survey, or reconnaissance.<br>- **NBC-5:** Used to report locations of NBC contamination or hazards. |
| **Responsibilities** | The battalion/squadron S3 is responsible for collecting, monitoring, and distributing shelling and NBC information. The chemical officer and chemical NCO are responsible for evaluating NBC reports, formulating NBC reports for lower and higher units, and recommending courses of action to the commander. |
| **Reporting procedures** | All shelling and NBC reports are forwarded to the TOC over the command net. |

## NBC-1 – OBSERVER'S INITIAL REPORT

**Format**

State "NBC ONE" and give the type of NBC incident (nuclear, biological, or chemical). Other information that may be sent includes precedence of the report, date and time of the report (ZULU time), and security classification with "from" and "to" times the classification is applicable. Provide all pertinent information on the following lines:

- **Line ALPHA:** Strike serial number (if known).
- **Line BRAVO:** Position of observer (UTM coordinates or name of place).
- **Line CHARLIE:** Grid or magnetic bearing (specify which is used) or azimuth of attack from observer (in degrees or mils; specify which is used).
- **Line DELTA:** DTG when attack started (ZULU).
- **Line ECHO:** Illumination time in seconds (for a nuclear burst); time the attack ended (toxic agent attack only).
- **Line FOXTROT:** Location of the attack (UTM coordinates) and/or vicinity of attack (actual or estimated; specify which is given).
- **Line GOLF:** Means of delivery (if known).
- **Line HOTEL:** Type of burst (air, surface, unknown), type of toxic agent, or type of attack.
- **Line INDIA:** Number of shells; other data (toxic attack only).
- **Line JULIET:** Flash-to-bang time (in seconds).
- **Line KILO:** Crater present or absent; diameter in meters (if know).

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC-1 – OBSERVER'S INITIAL REPORT (continued)

**Format (continued)**

- **Line LIMA:** Cloud width 5 minutes after burst (degrees or mils; specify which).
- **Line MIKE:** Cloud height (Top or bottom; specify which) 10 minutes after burst (degrees or mil; specify which).
- **Line Sierra:** DTG of reading (local or ZULU time).

**NOTE: Do not delay reports** in an attempt to provide complete format information. Omit information that is not applicable or available. Items that must always be reported are the type of report; lines B, D, and H; and either line C or line F.

**NOTE:** Carefully specify the units of measure used (such as degrees, mils, or grid azimuth).

**Examples**

The following examples illustrate radio transmissions of the NBC-1 report:

- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6, THIS IS RED 1. NBC ONE, NUCLEAR. LINE BRAVO: 1 SET DX, IMNUWS. LINE DELTA: 020945 ROMEO. LINE HOTEL; AIR. LINE LIMA: 100 MILS, ESTIMATED."
- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6, THIS IS RED 1. NBC ONE, CHEMICAL. LINE DELTA: 261003 ROMEO. LINE FOXTROT: NB 783089. LINE GOLF: ARTILLERY. LINE HOTEL: VAPOR."

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC-1 – OBSERVER'S INITIAL REPORT (continued)

**Examples (continued)**

The following chart provides a side-by-side comparison of sample NBC-1 report transmissions for the three types of NBC attack. Note that some lines are omitted when the information is not applicable or available.

| LINE | NUCLEAR | CHEMICAL | BIOLOGICAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| **B** | "TU 440810" | "MARBERG" | |
| **C** | "GRID, 242 DEGREES" | "MAGNETIC, 2650 MILS" | |
| **D** | "270400MAY95 ZULU" | "270400MAY95 ZULU" | "270400MAY95 ZULU" |
| **E** | | "270410 ZULU" | "270410 ZULU" |
| **F** | | "TU459830, ESTIMATED" | "OBERG, ACTUAL" |
| **G** | | "ROCKET" | "AERIAL" |
| **H** | "UNKOWN" | "NERVE" | "BIOLOGICAL" |
| **I** | | "135" | |
| **J** | "65" | | |
| **K** | | | |
| **L** | "100 MILS" | | |
| **M** | | | |
| **S** | | "270445 ZULU" | "270430 ZULU" |

## NBC-3 – IMMEDIATE WARNING OF EXPECTED CONTAMINATION

**Format**

This report is sent by radio. State "NBC THREE," followed by pertinent information on these lines:

- **Line ALPHA:** Strike serial number (if known).
- **Line DELTA:** DTG when attack started.
- **Line FOXTROT:** Location of attack (actual or estimated; specify which).
- **Line PAPA:** Area of expected contamination.
- **Line YANKEE:** Bearing or azimuth of left then right radial lines (specify degrees or mils; use 4 digits for each line).
- **Line ZULU:** Effective downwind speed (in kmph; use 3 digits), downwind effective distance of zone (in km;use 3 digits). And cloud radius (in km; use 2 digits).

**Examples**

The following chart shows sample transmissions sent in NBC-3 reports for nuclear and chemical/biological attacks. Note that lines are omitted whenever the information is not applicable or available.

| LINE | NUCLEAR | CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | "54-1" | "23" |
| **D** | "270400 LOCAL" | "270400 ZULU" |
| **F** | "LB 187486, ESTIMATED" | "LB 206300, ACTUAL |
| **P** | | "LB 208320, LB 210320, LB 206310, LB 204310" |
| **Y** | "02700310" | "TU459830, ESTIMATED" |
| **Z** | "01902505" or "011" | |

## NBC-1 – NBC HAZARDS BY MONITORING, SURVEY, OR RECONNAISSANCE

**When used**

The NBC-4 report is used to provide information on contamination detected as a result of monitoring, survey, or reconnaissance activities. It is submitted immediately after any type of contamination is detected and thereafter as required by the OPORD.

**Format**

To send this report, state "NBC FOUR," followed by pertinent information on the following lines:

- **Line HOTEL:** Type of attack, including the following information:
  - Type of agent and/or burst.
  - Persistency classification ("PERSISTENT" or "NONPERSISTENT").
- **Line QUEBEC:** Location of the radiation dose reading; use friendly graphics or encryption. Omit this line when transmitting on a wire net.
- **Line ROMEO:** Dose rate in cGy/hr (average total dose rounded to the nearest 10 cGY). Identify the dose rate trend using the terms: INITIAL," "INCREASING," "PEAK," or "DECREASING"; specify "SHIELDED" if the dose rate was measured inside a vehicle.
- **Line SIERRA:** DTG of reading (specify time zone).

**NOTE:** Repeat lines H, Q, and S as often as necessary to report a nuclear hazard. Radiation dose rates ideally are measured in the open, one meter above the ground if the rate must be measured in a shielded location, it is converted (as accurately as possible )to a rate equivalent to one taken in the open

**Air evacuation format**

Use a format as prescribed in the appropriate SOI, or use the ground evacuation format as above, specifying air evacuation.

*(continued on next page)*

## NBC-1 – NBC HAZARDS BY MONITORING, SURVEY, OR RECONNAISSANCE (continued)

---

**Examples**

The following examples illustrate radio transmissions of the NBC-4 report:

- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6,
  THIS IS RED 1. NBC FOUR.
  LINE HOTEL: BLOOD, PERSISTENT.
  LINE QUEBEC: LB 123987.
  LINE SIERRA: 201645 ZULU."
- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6,
  THIS IS RED 1. NBC FOUR.
  LINE HOTEL: BLISTER, NONPERSISTENT.
  LINE QUEBEC: LB 123987.
  LINE SIERRA: 201715 ZULU."
- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6,
  THIS IS RED 1. NBC FOUR.
  LINE QUEBEC: LB 123987.
  LINE ROMEO: 1, INITIAL.
  LINE SIERRA: 201735 ZULU."
- "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH. BLACK 6,
  THIS IS RED 1. NBC FOUR.
  LINE QUEBEC: LB 123987.
  LINE ROMEO: 60, PEAK.
  LINE SIERRA: 201805 LOCAL."

**NOTE:** Senders of NBC-4 reports are not confined solely to the use of the letter items shown in these examples.

---

## NBC-5 – REPORT AREAS OF CONTAMINATION

**Format**

To send this report, state "NBC FIVE."Other information that may be sent includes precedence of the report, date and time of the report (ZULU), and security classification with "from" and "to" times the classification if applicable. Provide all pertinent information on the following lines:

- **Line ALPHA:** Strike serial number, if known.
- **Line OSCAR:** Reference DTG when estimated contours of contaminated areas are projected to be applicable.
- **Line SIERRA:** DTG when contamination was initially detected.
- **Line TANGO:** H+1 DTG or DTG of latest reconnaissance of contamination in the area.
- **Line UNIFORM:** Coordinates of contour lines marking dose rate of 1,000 cGy/hr.
- **Line VICTOR:** Coordinates of contour lines marking dose rate of 300 cGy/hr.
- **Line WHISKEY:** Coordinates of contour lines marking dose rate of 100 cGy/hr.
- **Line of X-RAY:** Coordinates of contour lines marking dose rate of 20 cGy/hr.

## APPENDIX D

# Contingency Plans

## PURPOSE AND BASIC PLAN

**Purpose**

Discipline, motivation, and initiative are the keys to effectively executing the mission in the absence of orders from leaders or commanders. Tank platoon members can use the contingency plans in this appendix as guidelines for continuing tactical operations whenever they are unable to contact their leaders or higher headquarters.

**Basic five-point plan**

A leader must provide subordinates with a basic five-point contingency plan whenever he detaches elements from the platoon to conduct separate operations. The contingency plan covers the following points:

- Personnel the leader will be taking with him.
- How long the leader will be gone.
- What to do if the leader fails to return.
- What to do if the leader makes enemy contact.
- What to do if the remainder of the platoon or another element makes enemy contact.

## LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Maintaining communications**

Leaders and TCs must maintain communications at all times while conducting tactical operations. They must be prepared to inform the platoon leader or PSG whenever they determine that a change in the situation or unit status has occurred. If radio contact is lost, use the procedures outlined here to determine the source of possible interference and to reestablish communications.

**Determining source of interference**

The key step in reestablishing communications is to determine whether the interference or disruption is internal or external. Use the following procedures:

- Determine if ECM are being employed.
- Initiate prescribed operator's procedures or conduct troubleshooting procedures based on the appropriate TM. Use the basic steps listed in the following table.

| STEP | ACTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | Check the ground cable. |
| 2 | Disconnect the antenna. |
| 3 | Identify the type of noise or interference. |
| 4 | Look for variations in the strength of the disturbance by moving the receiver or reorienting the antenna. |
| 5 | Tune receiver above or below the normal frequency (offset by 5 or 10 MHz). |
| 6 | Identify jamming signals, if present. |
| 7 | Employ antijamming measures if applicable. |
| 8 | Continue to operate; do not reveal in the clear the possibility or success of enemy jamming. |

*(continued on next page)*

## LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

**Determining source of interference (continued)**

- If troubleshooting and/or operator's procedures do not reveal the source of the interference, continue to operate and take the following steps as necessary:
  - Shift to higher power.
  - Relocate to higher ground (if tactically feasible).
  - Change to an alternate frequency only upon receipt of the prescribed code word.
  - If necessary, go back to the last location where a successful transmission was made.

**Reestablishing communication**

After determining the source of interference or disruption, reestablish communications as quickly as possible, observing the following guidelines:

- As noted, the platoon must continue operations at all times while taking measures to reestablish communications. Never reveal in the clear the possibility or success of enemy interference or disruption.
- If the problem proves to be internal, the platoon leader or PSG may move (jump) to another vehicle (wingman).
- Report the disruption and the tactical situation as soon as possible. (Refer to Appendix C of this SOP for information on preparing and sending MIJI reports.)

**NOTE:** If loss of communications results from operating outside normal ranges, construct a field-expedient antenna to extend your range. Refer to FKSM 17-187 for details of antenna construction.

## HANDLING OF DECEASED PERSONNEL

| | |
|---|---|
| **Handling procedures** | Use the following procedures (search, recover, record, cover, evacuate, bury) to assist in the recovery, evacuation, and/or burial of KIA soldiers and other deceased personnel. |
| **Search** | Search the area of operations for KIA soldiers. Pay special attention to these locations:<br>• Mounds.<br>• Hedges and hedgerows.<br>• Trees.<br>• Fallen logs.<br>• Stream banks.<br>• Trenches.<br>• Fighting positions.<br>• Bunkers.<br>• Ruined structures.<br>• Wrecked vehicles. |
| **Recover** | Take these steps when remains are discovered:<br>• Summon medical personnel (if available).<br>• Establish identity of each victim using all available means, including ID tags, ID cards, clothing, equipment, markings, or visual identification. |

**NOTE:** Proceed with extreme caution, looking for booby traps or antipersonnel mines on, near, or under the remains. Request EOD support if required.

**NOTE:** Ensure all items used to establish identity are left with the remains.

*(continued on next page)*

## HANDLING OF DECEASED PERSONNEL (continued)

**Record**

Record the following information for each deceased soldier:

- Name.
- Unit.
- Weapon serial number.
- Eight-digit grid coordinates.

**NOTE:** Ensure this information is evacuated with the remains or is given to the appropriate leader.

**Cover**

Shroud each deceased soldier using a body bad, the soldier's sleeping bag, or other available material.

**Evacuate**

Move all remains to a mortuary affairs collection point at the earliest opportunity.

**Bury**

When evacuation of the remains is not possible because of the tactical situation, request permission from the commander for burial. For detailed information, refer to FM 10-63-1. Follow these basic procedures:

- Prepare remains and personal effects for emergency burial.
- Ensure graves are at least 3-1/2 feet deep.
- Mark each grave site.
- Report eight-digit grid locations of burial sites and the method used to mark them to the leader or higher headquarters as soon as possible.

## APPENDIX E

# Coordination Checklists

## INTRODUCTION

**Operational considerations**

This appendix provides the tank platoon leader with checklists he can use in coordinating several types of tactical operation. Included are checklists covering the following platoon activities:

Checklist 1 – coordination with adjacent units

Coordination plays a key role in almost every tactical situation in which the platoon may be involved. Leaders should use this checklist to lay the foundation for planning, preparation, and execution of all operations.

Checklist 2 – relief in place

Effective coordination is absolutely essential to the success of this operation, which demands rapid execution by two elements with a minimum of radio communications.

Checklist 3 – observation posts

Effective employment of OPs requires coordination with the platoon's designated OP personnel to ensure both that they are properly equipped and that they understand the mission.

Checklist 4 – passage of lines

Like a relied in place, the passage of lines requires two units or elements to execute an intricate operation, involving rapid movement and effective local security, with virtually no in-progress communications.

**How to use the checklists**

Checklists are organized into functional areas covering a series of related procedures and considerations. In each functional area, a table lists these steps, with space provided to mark completion or to annotate remarks.

## CHECKLIST 1 – COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT UNITS

**Operational consideration** Coordination with adjacent units is a fundamental element of tank platoon operations. The platoon must be prepared to use the procedures and considerations covered here in a variety of tactical situations.

**Preparation for coordination** The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes to prepare for the coordination.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Confirm the contact point and linkup time (from the company team OPORD and/or through the unit TOC). |
| | Ensure that correct, current SOI information is on hand. |
| | Confirm that contact points are covered, concealed, and easy to recognize; if a point is near a danger area, call higher headquarters and obtain permission to change it. |
| | Establish tactical security of the contact point, keeping vehicles in overwatch positions or the BP (if applicable). |

*(continued on next page)*

## CHECKLIST 1 – COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT UNITS (continued)

**Recognition check**

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes in conducting a recognition check with other units:

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Initiate long-range (far) recognition via FM. |
| | Execute short-range (near) recognition with hand-and-arm signal, flags, VS-17 panels, or available means as specified in OPORD. |

**Information exchange**

The following table lists the types of information the platoon leader will exchange with other units following linkup at the contact point.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED |
|---|---|
| | Control measures, including the following:<br>• Location of contact points.<br>• Location of checkpoints.<br>• Location of OPs, BPs, and the TOC.<br>• Location of routes.<br>• Location of tentative objectives and subsequent BPs (if applicable).<br>• TRPs.<br>• SBF or ABF positions (if applicable). |
| | Tactical information, using the five paragraph OPORD format. |
| | Time and place of next coordination. |
| | Information to be report higher. |

**NOTE:** Both leaders brief the key information from the company OPORD to confirm mutual understanding of enemy and friendly situations, maneuver and support plans, and command and signal information.

## CHECKLIST 2 – RELIEF IN PLACE

**Operational considerations**

A relief in place requires detailed planning. OPSEC is critical. When time is available and the situation permits, the incoming platoon leader coordinates with the in-place platoon leader and conducts a reconnaissance to confirm details of the relief.

**Linkup**

The following table lists steps the platoon leader takes when the two units link up to coordinate the relief:

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Move to the designated linkup point. |
| | Exchange necessary information:<br>• Location of all vehicles.<br>• Enemy situation and other pertinent intelligence.<br>• Friendly obstacles.<br>• Terrain analysis.<br>• Supporting fires.<br>• Frequencies and call signs. |
| | Coordinate/exchange the following:<br>• Sketch cards/fire plans (with input for digital systems, if applicable).<br>• Fire support during relief (normally supplied by relieved platoon until transfer of responsibility).<br>• Turnover of obstacles.<br>• Routes into/out of positions.<br>• Guides (from relieved platoon).<br>• Transfer of CSS.<br>• Communications.<br>• Sequence of relief.<br>• Time of transfer or responsibility. |

*(continued on next page)*

## CHECKLIST 2 – RELIEF IN PLACE (continued)

**Reconnaissance** The reconnaissance of the position is the same as for any BP. The following table lists tactical considerations on which the incoming platoon leader should focus in scouting the position.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Engagement area, to include decision points for the occupation, indirect and direct fire trigger lines, TRPs, obstacles, and the disengagement line or break point. |
| | Primary, alternate, and supplementary fighting positions. |
| | Routes to and within the position and out of the position to supplementary or subsequent BPs. |
| | Hide positions. |
| | Location of guides. |

**Troop-leading procedures** The following table lists tactical considerations on which the platoon leader should focus.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Ensure all units involved in the relief complete troop-leafing procedures before the operation begins. |
| | Determine whether the conduct of the relief will be simultaneous or sequential. |

*(continued on next page)*

## CHECKLIST 2 – RELIEF IN PLACE (continued)

**Execution** The following table lists procedures and considerations that the platoon leader must take into account in executing the relief.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Ideally, the relief is executed under limited visibility conditions. |
| | The relieving platoon moves to the assembly area behind the relieved platoon, but not so close that it will alert the enemy as to what is taking place. |
| | The relieving and relieved platoons use the same platoon and company radio nets. The relieving platoon maintains radio listening silence during the relief (digital links are established in accordance with the OPORD/unit SOP). |
| | The relief is executed quickly and quietly, with both platoons maintaining the highest level of security. |
| | After responsibility is turned over to the relieving platoon, the relieved platoon moves to a rally point. |
| | The platoons report to higher headquarters as necessary. (Tank platoon reports completion of relief to the commander.) |

## CHECKLIST 3 – OBSERVATION POSTS

**Operational considerations**

OPs are essential in maintaining the platoon's OPSEC and in enhancing its battle space. They help to protect the platoon when long-range observation from a position is not possible. Depending on METT-T factors, OPs can be employed either mounted or dismounted.

**Selection/briefing**

The following table lists steps the platoon leader or PSG takes in preparing for employment of the OP.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Designate OP personnel (normally, this will be the loaders from wingman tanks). |
| | Brief OP personnel on the following:<br>• Enemy and friendly situation.<br>• When and how to report.<br>• When and how to withdraw.<br>• Challenge and password.<br>• When they will be replaced. |
| | Select suitable OP sites that have the following characteristics:<br>• Clear fields of observation (overlapping with adjacent OPs or units, if possible).<br>• Effective cover and concealment.<br>• Covered and concealed routes.<br>• Location that will not skyline OP personnel or attract enemy attention.<br>• Location within range of platoon small arms fire, if possible. |

*(continued on next page)*

## CHECKLIST 3 – OBSERVATION POSTS (continued)

**Equipment** The following table lists equipment OP personnel should have on hand.

| ON HAND?/ REMARKS | ITEM OF EQUIPMENT |
|---|---|
| | Seasonal uniform with supplies (MRE/water) and appropriate MOPP gear. |
| | Individual weapons and M16A2 rifle. |
| | Communications equipment (wire, flag set, flashlight, and radio). |
| | Binoculars or night vision goggles. |
| | Map with mission graphics. |
| | Paper and pencil/pen to make sector sketch. |
| | M8A1 alarm (as directed by the commander and/or based on weather conditions). |
| | Shovel and mattock/pick. |

**Emplacement/ improvement** The following chart lists steps that platoon members take in emplacing and improving the OP.

| ON HAND?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Leaders (platoon leader, PSG, or TCs) emplace OPs. |
| | As METT-T factors allow, OP personnel improve the position, taking these steps;<br>• Establish communications.<br>• Camouflage OP and routes back to the platoon's position.<br>• Prepare a sector sketch<br>• Dig in to provide cover from direct and indirect fires. |

## CHECKLIST 4 – PASSAGE OF LINES

**Operational considerations** The commander normally conducts all necessary reconnaissance and coordination for the passage. At times, he may task the XO, 1SG, or a platoon leader to conduct liaison duties for reconnaissance and coordination.

**NOTE:** Before executing a passage of lines, M1A2 platoons should receive updated IVIS operations 1 overlays with graphic control measures.

**Information exchange** The following chart lists information to be exchanged and/or coordinated for the passage of lines.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED |
|---|---|
| | Unit designation and composition; type and number of passing vehicles. |
| | Passing units' arrival time(s) |
| | Location of attack positions/assembly areas. |
| | Stationary unit's mission and plan (including OPs and patrols). |
| | Enemy situation and known locations. |
| | Location of contact points, passage points, and passage lanes (primary and alternate). |
| | Supporting direct/indirect fires (including locations of fire support control measures). |
| | Guide requirements. |
| | Routes (primary and alternate). |
| | Order of march. |

*(continued on next page)*

## CHECKLIST 4 – PASSAGE OF LINES (continued)

**Information exchange (continued)**

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED |
|---|---|
| | Actions taken in event of enemy contact. |
| | NBC conditions. |
| | Locations of available CS and CSS assets. |
| | Communications information (to include frequencies, digital data, and near and far recognition signals). |
| | Chain of command, including location of the BHL. |
| | Additional procedures for the passage. |

**Execution**

The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in executing the passage of lines.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION/CONSIDERATION |
|---|---|
| | Display proper recognition signal. |
| | Orient gun tubes in the direction of the last known enemy contact (rearward). |
| | Platoon leader reports arrival time at the contact point to the commander. |
| | Move along passage lane without stopping in, blocking, or deviating from it. |
| | Follow directions from guides at all traffic control points. |
| | Platoon leader reports all graphic control measures and completion of the passage of lines to the commander. |

## APPENDIX F

# Precombat Inspection Checklist

## INTRODUCTION

**Operational considerations**

This appendix provides the tank platoon leader with checklists he can use in preparing the platoon for tactical operations. Specifically, he can ensure that his TCs use the lists as a guide in getting ready for the PCI, which is conducted by the platoon leader and PSG before operations begin. Included are checklists covering the following areas:

Checklist 1 – individual preparation

This checklist covers uniforms, equipment, and other procedures and considerations involved in ensuring individual crewmen are prepared for upcoming tactical operations.

Checklist 2 – vehicle preparation

This checklist covers general procedures involved in vehicle preparation, as well as more specific requirements for the tank's automotive systems, armament, communications equipment, and such miscellaneous equipment as NBC materials and navigation devices.

**How to use the checklists**

Checklists are organized into functional areas covering a series of related materials and/or procedures. In each functional area, a table lists these items, with space provided to indicate readiness status or to annotate remarks.

## INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION

**Operational considerations**

Individual preparation begins with a thorough briefing of each crewman on the mission and tactical situation. Leaders then must ensure that each soldier has the proper uniform and equipment. Also included here is a list of equipment specifically needed by the TCs.

**Individual briefing**

Leaders must ensure that each crewman is briefed on the current mission and/or situation and understand his role in platoon operations.

**Uniform/ equipment**

The following chart lists the uniform items and personal equipment that each crewman must have on hand.

| ON HAND?/ REMARKS | ITEM |
|---|---|
| | Complete first-aid packet. |
| | Mask with hood and M291 decontamination kit. |
| | Nerve agent antidote (prescribed quantity Is distributed to all personnel). |
| | Individual weapon and magazines. |
| | ID tags/ID card. |
| | Current military driver's license (all drivers and at least one other soldier per crew). |
| | Directed-energy protective goggles. |

*(continued on next page)*

## INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION (continued)

**Protective equipment/ procedures**

The following table lists protective gear that each crewman must have on hand.

| ON HAND?/ REMARKS | ITEM |
|---|---|
| | Complete and serviceable protective clothing. |
| | Equipment required to provide MOPP 1 protection. |

Leaders must ensure that each crewman knows how to take the protective steps outlined in the following table in the event MOPP level 1 is implemented.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | ACTION |
|---|---|
| | Attach a strip of M8/M9 paper under the camouflage band of the Kevlar helmet and on the back of the CVC helmet. |
| | Attach a strip of M8/M9 paper to the upper right arm of protective clothing. |
| | Attach a strip of M8/M9 paper to the lower left leg of protective clothing. |

*(continued on next page)*

## INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION (continued)

**Tank commander's equipment**

The following table lists equipment and materials that each TC must have on hand in preparation for tactical operations.

| ON HAND?/ REMARKS | ITEM |
|---|---|
| | Map with current overlay. |
| | Current SOI. |
| | Leader's packet, to include the following:<br>• Unit SOP.<br>• Grease pencils or waterproof markers (black, blue, red, and green).<br>• Notebook.<br>• EPW document tags.<br>• Casualty cards.<br>• Hasty protective minefield card. |
| | Recommended GTA list:<br>• GTA 17-2-13 (armored vehicle recognition cards).<br>• GTA 17-2-15 (call for fire).<br>• GTA 17-6-44 (M1A1 prepare to fire checklist).<br>• GTA 17-6-46 (boresight and zero commander's weapons station/M1A1).<br>• GTA 17-7-2 (Beale wheel, tankers).<br>• GTA 6-4-2 (TACFIRE quick reference wheel).<br>• GTA 6-5-1 (multipurpose protractor). |
| | Watch. |
| | Binoculars and night vision goggles. |
| | Compass. |

## VEHICLE PREPARATION

**Operational considerations**

Vehicle preparation must be a cooperative effort, involving every crewman under the close supervision of the platoon leader, PSG, and the TCs. Preparation activities comprise not only the vehicle's internal systems but also the operational equipment and other materials the platoon must have on hand.

**General preparation**

The following table lists a variety of general preparation activities that must be completed before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | Vehicles loaded according to unit load plan. |
| | Appropriate ammunition stowed. |
| | Fuel tanks topped off. |
| | POL package products and weapons oil on hand. |
| | Full water cans on hand. |
| | MRE rations stowed. |
| | OVM clean and serviceable. |
| | Spare track blocks on hand. |
| | First-aid kits complete. |
| | Weapon cleaning kits on hand. |
| | Operator's manuals ("-10s") on hand. |
| | Vehicles properly dispatched. |

*(continued on next page)*

## VEHICLE PREPARATION (continued)

**Automotive preparation** The following table lists preparation activities for the vehicle's automotive system that must be complete before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | DA Form 2404 on hand and updated. |
| | No fuel leaks detected. |
| | Fire extinguishers (fixed/portable) sealed, tagged, and updated. |
| | The following fluid levels correct:<br>• Engine.<br>• Transmission.<br>• Final drives.<br>• Road wheels. |
| | Batteries clean and serviceable, with levels correct and cables secure. |
| | Air filters clean and serviceable. |
| | Suspension components serviceable. |
| | Track tension correct. |
| | Lights operational. |
| | Bilge pumps operational. |
| | All gauges operational. |
| | Interior clean. |

**NOTE:** Crewmen who prepare automotive systems as outlined in the table above should adhere to this short-cut reminder during precombat operations: **CLEAN AIR, CLEAN OIL, CLEAN FUEL, WARM-UP AND COOL-DOWN.**

## VEHICLE PREPARATION (continued)

**Armament preparation**

The following table lists preparation activities for the vehicle's armaments and weapons systems that must be completed before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | Firing circuits operational. |
| | Accumulator levels correct. |
| | Recoil systems functional. |
| | All gunnery sights clean and operational. |
| | Covers off periscopes and weapons. |
| | Vision blocks clear. |
| | IVIS operational/graphics posted (M1A2). |
| | Laser range finder operational. |
| | CITV cleaned and checked (M1A2). |
| | Traversing/elevating systems functional. |
| | Safeties functional. |
| | All ammunition serviceable. |
| | Crew-served weapons meet these conditions:<br>• Clean and functional.<br>• Guns properly mounted (lock/pins).<br>• Headspace/timing set (M2 MG). |
| | Crosswind sensor serviceable/erected. |
| | Muzzle boresight device calibrated. |
| | Main gun boresighted and fire control system calibrated. |
| | Grenade launchers cleaned/loaded. |
| | Smoke generator operational. |
| | Directed-energy optic filters mounted and serviceable. |
| | DA Form 2408 updated. |

*(continued on next page)*

## VEHICLE PREPARATION (continued)

**Communications equipment preparation**

The following tables list preparation activities for the vehicle's communications systems (including the IVIS) that must be completed before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | All radio units operational. |
| | Secure mode operational. |
| | Matching units operational. |
| | CVC helmets operational. |
| | Frequencies set. |
| | Antennas tied down. |
| | All connectors and receptacles clean. |
| | Required net(s) entered. |

IVIS (M1A2). The following table lists areas of preparation.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | Screen clean and self-check complete. |
| | Position data correct. |
| | All log-on data correct. |
| | Operations overlay posted and waypoints entered, if applicable. |

*(continued on next page)*

## VEHICLE PREPARATION (continued)

**Communications equipment preparation (continued)**

Additional communications equipment. The following table lists areas of preparation.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | VIC-1 operational. |
| | TA-312/TA-1 (one per platoon leader's and PSG's tanks) meet these conditions:<br>• Complete and operational.<br>• Spare batteries on hand. |
| | AN/GRA-39 (PSG's tank) meets these conditions:<br>• Complete and operational.<br>• Spare batteries on hand. |
| | WD-1 wire and reeling equipment on hand and serviceable. |

**Miscellaneous equipment preparation**

The following table lists preparation activities for miscellaneous vehicle equipment that must be completed before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | Binoculars operational/serviceable. |
| | Camouflage nets and supports operational/serviceable. |
| | Night vision goggles (to include spare batteries) operational/serviceable. |
| | Compasses operational/serviceable. |
| | AN/PSN-11 (PLGR) meets these conditions:<br>• Complete and operational.<br>• Spare batteries on hand. |

*(continued on next page)*

## VEHICLE PREPARATION (continued)

**NBC equipment preparation** The following table lists preparation activities for NBC equipment that must be complete before the PCI.

| COMPLETE?/ REMARKS | PREPARATION ACTIVITY |
|---|---|
| | One complete/serviceable M256 chemical agent detector kit issued per section wingman. |
| | IM-174-series of AN/VDR-2 radiacmeter issued (one per platoon on tank 3). |
| | Two sets of serviceable batteries issued for each IM-174-series radiacmeter. |
| | IM-93/147 dosimeters issued (minimum of two per platoon on wingman's tanks). |
| | P-1578A/PD radiac chargers issued (one per platoon on tank 3). |
| | Contamination marking sets on hand. |
| | Primary and secondary gas filtration systems operational. |
| | Two M8A1 chemical alarms issued per platoon (tanks 2 and 3), with components:<br>• BA-3517/U.<br>• M273 maintenance kit.<br>• BA-3030 (four per alarm).<br>• WD-1 wire (1/4 mile reel, each alarm).<br>• Appropriate TMs. |
| | Vehicle NBC systems operational, to include:<br>• Filters.<br>• Alarm.<br>• Hoses and connectors.<br>• Serviceable M11/M13 decontamination apparatus (each vehicle).<br>• Two 1-1/3 quarts cans of DS2.<br>• Two M291 decontamination kits for each vehicle. |

## APPENDIX G

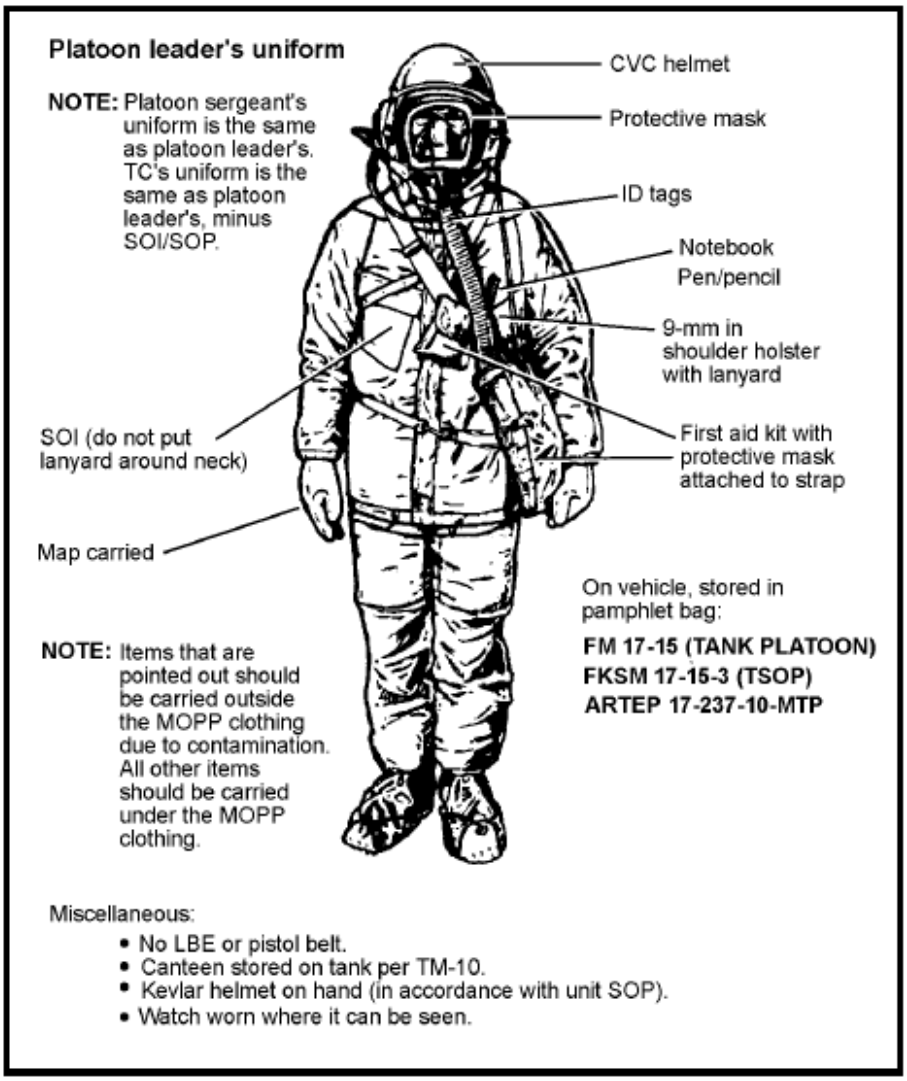
# Armor Leader Standard Uniform

### WAR AND FIELD TRAINING UNIFORM

**Components** This uniform, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, consists of the one-piece tanker's coveralls and the two-piece BDU. All pieces are made of Nomex.

## WAR AND FIELD TRAINING CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

**Components** The chemical protective uniform and related equipment are shown in the accompanying illustration.



## APPENDIX H

# Operational Terms

## PURPOSE

The following operational terms are used to shorten the length of radio transmissions. Among other benefits, this helps to prevent confusion by elimination the need for long transmissions on distorted radio nets.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **ASSEMBLE** | Call sign principals (orders group) report to specified location. |
| **BANDITS** | Enemy aircraft; observers announces the direction to bandit: "BANDITS, EAST." |
| **BEAD WINDOW** | Radio check/vehicle status. |
| **BENT** | Equipment inoperative; report problem and location |
| **BLITZ** | Move out now. |
| **BOGEY** | Unidentified aircraft; observer announces direction to aircraft: "BOGEY, WEST." |
| **BREAK** | Indicates the separation of the text from other parts of the message. Operator should release the PTT switch after transmitting 8-10 seconds, depress the PTT switch, and continue with his message. |
| **CANDLES** | Artificial illumination. |
| **CHATTER** | Communications jamming. |
| **DYNAMITE** | Aircraft are inbound or attacking locally now (air-defense warning level). |
| **ESTABLISHED** | Unit prepared to defend. |
| **FIX** | Send me your location. |
| **FLASH** | Clear the net immediately; critical traffic follows. Repeated 3 times: "FLASH, FLASH, FLASH." |

| | |
|---|---|
| **GAS, GAS, GAS** | Chemical attack/ |
| **GEAR** | Movement technique, designated as follows:<br>• Gear 1: Bounding overwatch.<br>• Gear 2: Traveling overwatch.<br>• Gear 3: Traveling. |
| **GEIGER SOUR** | Conduct radiological survey or monitoring. |
| **GEIGER SWEET** | Area monitored or surveyed is contaminated. |
| **GUIDONS** | Net call sign; requires immediate clearing of the net for passage of critical orders. The orders group will respond in the following order:<br>• 1st Platoon.<br>• 2d Platoon.<br>• 3d Platoon.<br>• XO.<br>• 1SG.<br>• FIST. |
| **HUSH** | Levels of signal security:<br>• Hush-1: Free net.<br>• Hush-2: Direct net.<br>• Hush-3: Radio listening silence.<br>• Hush-4: Radio/digital silence. |
| **LOOKOUT** | Aircraft are in the area of interest but are not threatening (air defense warning level). |
| **LOWSKY** | Turret-down position. |
| **NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER** | Actual emergency; cease fire and/or freeze; stay on radio. |
| **OUT** | Indicates the end of a transmission, with a response NOT required or necessary. |
| **OVER** | Indicates the end of a transmission, with a response required or necessary. |
| **RACEHORSE** | Displacement move is covered. |
| **RED** | Enemy direct fire contact or attack is imminent or in progress |

| | |
|---|---|
| **REDCON** | Numerically graduated system to indorm a commander of a subordinate's preparation and readiness (in terms of time) to perform an assigned mission (see Appendix B of this SOP for an explanation of REDCON levels). |
| **SET** | Used during maneuver to indicate that the sender (bounding unit) has completed its bound and is prepared to overwatch from its present position. |
| **SIDECAR** | Displacement move is not covered. |
| **SNOWMAN** | No aircraft are posing a threat at this time (air defense warning level). |
| **STATUS** | General enemy/friendly summary or commander's assessment; a quick and informal exchange of information between commanders and operations officers; not a formatted report. |
| **SWITCH** | Change to alternate frequency; specify which frequency: "SWITCH ALPHA JULIET." Example of an antijamming switch: "SWITCH N5F32" (the frequency of the unit whose commander is N5F32). |
| **THUNDER** | Move immediately in the most expeditious manner. |
| **TOPHAT** | Hull-down position. |
| **WEAPONS FREE** | Engage any aircraft not identified as friendly (air defense weapon control status level). |
| **WEAPONS HOLD** | Fire only in self-defense (air defense weapon control status level). |
| **WEAPONS TIGHT** | Engage only aircraft positively identified as enemy (air defense weapon control status level). |
| **WHITE** | Enemy direct fire contact not probable. |
| **YELLOW** | Enemy direct fire contact probable. |
| **ZAP, ZAPPED** | Not recoverable, combat loss, destroyed, or maintenance deadlined. |

# GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| **A** | |
| **AB** | abatis (in situation report) |
| **ABF** | attack by fire |
| **ADA** | Air defense artillery |
| **AGS** | (M8) armored gun system |
| **AP** | antipersonnel |
| **APC** | armored personnel carrier |
| **APDS** | armor-piercing, discarding sabot (ammunition) |
| **APERS** | antipersonnel (ammunition) |
| **APFSDS** | armor-piercing, fin-stabilized, discarding sabot (ammunition) |
| **ARV** | armored recovery vehicle |
| **AT** | antitank |
| **B** | |
| **BDU** | battledress uniform |
| **BHL** | battle handover line |
| **BII** | basic issue items |
| **BMNT** | beginning of morning nautical twilight |
| **BP** | battle position |
| **C** | |
| **CAS** | close air support |
| **CEV** | cavalry engineer vehicle |
| **CFV** | cavalry fighting vehicle |
| **cGy** | centigray(s) |
| **cGy/hr** | centigray(s) per hour |
| **CITV** | commander's independent thermal viewer |
| **CLAMMS** | cleared lane mechanical marking system |
| **co** | company |
| **coax** | coaxially mounted (usually refers to machine gun) |
| **CP** | command post |
| **CS** | combat support |
| **CSS** | combat service support |
| **CVC** | combat vehicle crewman |
| **CW** | concertina wire (in situation report) |

| **D E F** | |
|---|---|
| **DA** | Department of the Army |
| **DTG** | date-time-group |
| **ECM** | electronic countermeasures |
| **EENT** | end of evening nautical twilight |
| **EOD** | explosive ordnance disposal |
| **EPW** | enemy prisoner of war |
| **ESTAT** | equipment status (report) |
| **EW** | electronic warfare |
| | |
| **1SG** | first sergeant |
| **FA** | field artillery |
| **FIST** | fire support team |
| **FKSM** | Fort Knox supplementary material |
| **FM** | field manual; frequency modulation (radio) |
| **FPF** | final protective fires |
| **FRAGO** | fragmentary order |
| **FS** | fire support |
| **G H I** | |
| **GAA** | grease, automotive and artillery |
| **gal** | gallon(s) |
| **GPS** | gunner's primary sight; global positioning system |
| **GTA** | graphic training aid |
| | |
| **HB** | heavy barrel |
| **HE** | high explosive |
| **HEAT-MP** | high explosive antitank-multipurpose (ammunition) |
| **HEDP** | high explosive dual-purpose (ammunition) |
| **HEP** | high explosive plastic (ammunition) |
| **HMMWV** | high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle |
| **hr** | hour(s) |
| **IAW** | in accordance with |
| **ID** | identification |
| **IR** | intelligence requirements |
| **IVIS** | intervehicular information system |

| **K L M** | |
|---|---|
| **KIA** | killed in action |
| **km** | kilometer(s) |
| **kmph** | kilometer(s) per hour |
| **LAW** | light antitank weapon |
| **lb** | pound(s) |
| **LBE** | load-bearing equipment |
| **LD** | line of departure |
| **LOGPAC** | logistics release point |
| **LRP** | logistics release point |
| | |
| **m** | meter(s) |
| **MBD** | muzzle boresight device |
| **MEDEVAC** | medical evacuation |
| **METT-T** | mission, enemy, terrain, (and weather), troops, and time available |
| **MF** | minefield (in a situation report) |
| **MG** | machine gun |
| **MHz** | megahertz |
| **MIJI** | meaconing, intrusion, jamming, and interference |
| **mm** | milimeter(s) |
| **MOPP** | mission-oriented protective posture |
| **mph** | miles per hour |
| **MRE** | meals, ready to eat |
| **MSR** | main supply route |
| **N O** | |
| **NBC** | nuclear, biological, chemical |
| **NCOIC** | noncommissioned officer in charge |
| **NCS** | net control station |
| **NOD** | night observation device |
| **OAK-OC** | obstacles; avenues of approach; key terrain; observation and fields of fire; and cover and concealment (considerations in evaluating terrain as part of METT-T analysis) |
| **OEG** | operational exposure guidance |
| **O/O** | on order |
| **OP** | observation post |
| **OPORD** | operation order |
| **OPSEC** | operations security |
| **OVM** | on-vehicle material |

| **P Q** | |
|---|---|
| **PCC** | precombat check |
| **PCI** | precombat inspection |
| **PDDE** | power-driven decontamination equipment |
| **PEWS** | platoon early warning system |
| **PIR** | priority intelligence requirements |
| **PL** | phase line |
| **PLGR** | precision lightweight GPS receiver (“Plugger”) |
| **plt** | platoon |
| **plt ldr** | platoon leader |
| **PMCS** | preventive maintenance checks and services |
| **POL** | petroleum, oils, and lubricants |
| **POSNAV** | position navigation (system) |
| **prox** | in proximity of |
| **PSG** | platoon sergeant |
| **PTT** | press-to-talk (button on communications equipment) |
| | |
| **qt** | quart |
| **R S** | |
| **RBF** | reconnaissance by fire |
| **RC** | road crater (in situation report) |
| **REDCON** | readiness condition |
| **RES** | radiation exposure status |
| **RFL** | restrictive fire line |
| **ROE** | rules of engagement |
| **ROM** | refuel on the move |
| **RP** | release point |
| | |
| **SALUTE** | size, activity, location, unit identification, time, and equipment (format for reporting enemy information) |
| **SAW** | squad automatic weapon |
| **SBF** | support by fire |
| **SENSEREP** | sensitive items report |
| **SITREP** | situation report |
| **SOI** | signal operation instructions |
| **SOP** | standing operating procedures |
| **SOR** | specified orders and requests |

| | |
|---|---|
| **SOSR** | suppression, obscuration, security, and reduction (actions executed during breaching operations) |
| **SP** | start point |
| **SPOTREP** | spot report |
| **STRIKEWARN** | strike warning |
| **T** | |
| **TAC CP** | tactical command post |
| **TAI** | target area(s) of interest |
| **TC** | tank commander |
| **TD** | tank ditch (in situation report) |
| **TF** | task force |
| **TIRS** | terrain index reference system |
| **TM** | technical manual |
| **TOC** | tactical operations center |
| **TOE** | table(s) of organization and equipment |
| **TOW** | tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (missile) |
| **TRP** | target reference point |
| **TSOP** | tactical standing operating procedures |
| **TTP** | tactics, techniques, and procedures |
| **U V** | |
| **UMCO** | unit maintenance collection point |
| **US** | United States |
| **UTM** | universal transverse mercator (grid) |
| **VHR** | vertical half-rhombic (antenna) |
| **W X** | |
| **WIA** | wounded in action |
| **WP** | white phosphorus |
| | |
| **XO** | executive officer |