LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD J. MORGAN, JR.

Mounted maneuver in a mechanized infantry division, to be effective, requires some kind of standardization of techniques and operational terms among the units involved. In an effort to establish such standardization, the 3d Infantry (Marne) Division in Germany has published a pamphlet called *Marne Maneuver* — the result of more than a year of study, testing, and revision.

This pamphlet, coupled with the standard tactical terms established in the division's tactical SOP and in other sources, forms the basis for small-unit tactical training in the division. It establishes a basic fighting philosophy for mechanized infantry that stresses fighting mounted whenever it is practical to do so, with all crew-served weapons manned. It specifies techniques that are applicable to the M113 and the current MTOE and that also provide a natural bridge to the Bradley IFV and the Division 86 structure. In addition, it incorporates the essential infantry attitude that is needed to conduct combined arms tactical training with the Abrams tank.

The standardization of maneuver techniques and operational terms at division level provides the flexibility the division needs to cross-attach its battalions freely with little concern for the variance in tactical SOPs.

The small-unit maneuver formations most commonly employed in the division are the platoon wedge, and at company level, the combat V, an incremental approach to bounding overwatch. The combat V formation incorporates mutual support, flexibility, maximum firepower forward, and command and control. It is the basic fighting formation at company level for virtually all modern armies, including Israel and the Soviet Union.

With the V, a company's elements displace automatically without relying strongly on their FM radios, which makes "silent running," or moving without any radio transmissions, possible. The V also allows commanders to vary their formations, frees them from the movement of individual vehicles, and allows them to anticipate future actions. Although the V is not a cure-all for all tactical situations, it does give a unit a basic maneuver capability.

This is how the V formation works: Basically, a company maneuvers its platoons by mutually supporting bounds while the base of fire elements at the apex follow the lead elements automatically, keying on their bounds. At platoon level, this formation changes to the combat wedge (Figure 1).

The first point element reports, "SIX, THIS IS RED; MOVE, OUT," then moves, establishes its bound position, and reports, "SIX, THIS IS RED; SET, OUT." The point element moves automatically when the first element reports SET. Then the second reports, "SIX, THIS IS WHITE; MOVE, OUT," establishes its bound position, and reports, "SIX, THIS IS WHITE; SET, OUT." Then, rhythmically, the first element reports and moves automatically when the second element reports "SET," and so on. The apex element keys its advance and automatically displaces on the advance of the point element.

In platoon-level movement, a pla-

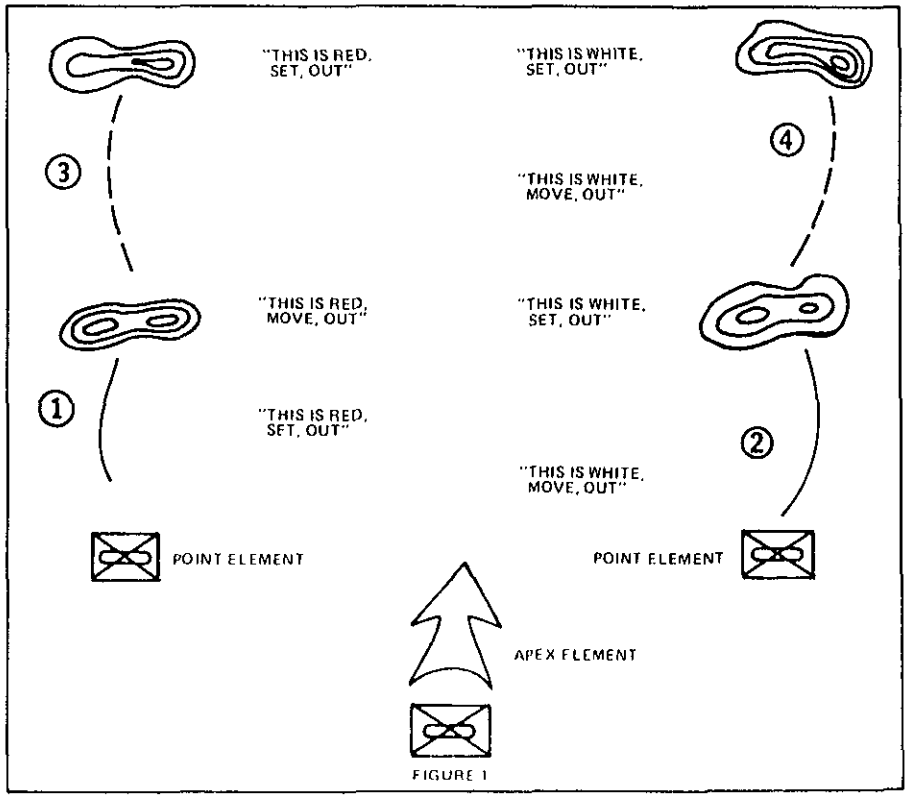

FIGURE 1

toon normally moves in a wedge formation and as a single element, except in split drill. A platoon uses split drill whenever its movement cannot be covered by another overwatch element from the company team. Most commonly, this is used in conjunction with mixed armor and infantry company team formations where the light arm of the team is directed to lead because of the METT variables.

The platoon wedge and the split drill are keyed to a two-section platoon organization, each consisting of a lead vehicle and a wing man (Figure 2). These lead vehicles are commanded by the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant. When the wedge moves as a single element, the platoon sergeant guides on the platoon leader, and each trail vehicle guides on one of the two lead vehicles. In split drill, the "SET/MOVE" sequence used for company level movement applies to the two sections of the platoon with each wing vehicle following its designated lead vehicle. Mutual support comes from within the platoon.

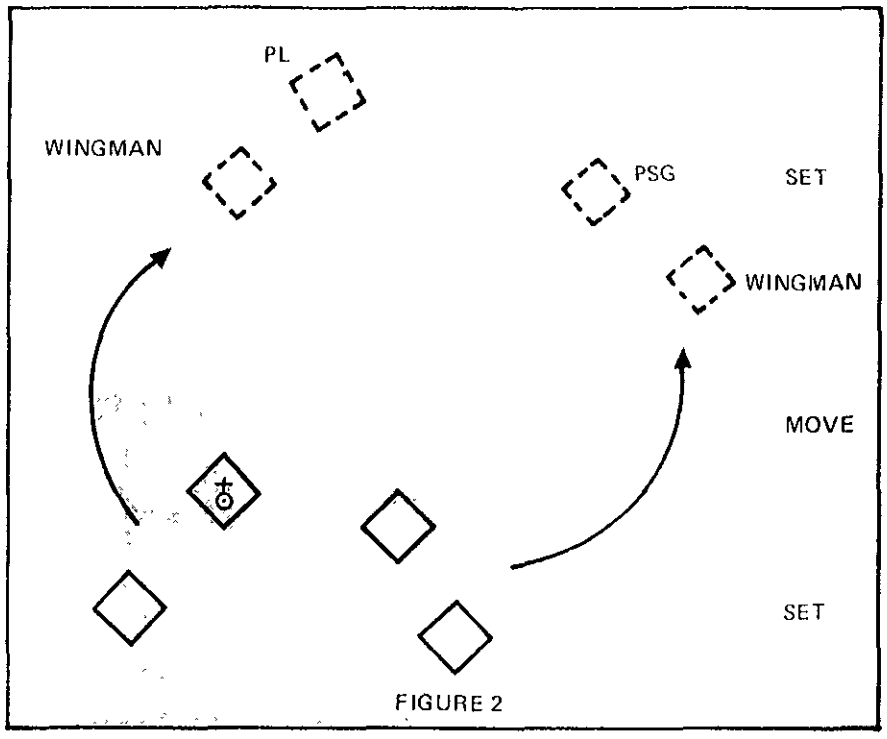

FIGURE 2

COMBINATIONS

These and other techniques described in detail in the pamphlet consider all the likely combinations of armored and infantry forces at company level. The pamphlet also incorporates numerous mounted immediate action drills to facilitate rapid execution at both the platoon and company levels. These include vehicle defile drills, which provide for the rapid securing of the shoulder of a defile and the movement through, employing "MOVE/SET" techniques; punch drills, which facilitate rapid responses to enemy troop contacts; and other drills commonly in use within the infantry community that provide for reaction to enemy artillery, aircraft, and antiarmor fire.

Marne Maneuver stresses mounted operations with all crew-served weapons manned to provide the most firepower because of the relatively small size of mechanized infantry squads and because dismounted fire and maneuver are rarely practical below platoon level. The pace of the modern battlefield and the value of combined arms maneuver also argue against using dismounted maneuver. Nevertheless, the division does recognize there is sometimes a need to fight dismounted. As a result, two types of dismounted action — hasty and deliberate — are taught and included in the pamphlet.

During a hasty dismount, only enough soldiers to accomplish the mission are dismounted. Light crew-served and antiarmor weapons can be dismounted if they are needed. The remainder of the squad should continue to fight with the vehicle and overwatch the dismounted elements.

The division teaches that a hasty dismount should be used:

- To conduct defile drills.
- To establish a screen, an LP, or an OP.
- To establish a battle position during a delay operation.
- To conduct a hasty dismount attack during a punch drill.
- To establish dismounted "hunter/killer" antiarmor teams.

During a deliberate dismount, most of the soldiers in a vehicle are dismounted, along with the crew-served weapons necessary to accomplish their mission.

A deliberate dismount, the division says, should be used:

- When conducting a position defense or when given a defense mission.
- When an objective cannot be suppressed or cleared in any other way.
- When clearing obstacles that cannot be by-passed.
- When conducting night attacks or patrols.

In training its units to use these various maneuver techniques, the division stresses, in sequence, chalk talks, dismounted simulations of simple mounted formations, and the use of MILES (multiple integrated laser engagement system) equipment in conjunction with a maneuver course.

Four basic steps are followed in the division's training program for its mounted practical exercises:

- Using an open area for the physical configuration of elements for platoon and company movement.
- Moving for short distances on simple terrain, employing set/move drills.
- Training in objective-oriented movement in dispersed formations over varied terrain.

• Employing increasingly complex maneuvers involving battle drills.

Because of a continual personnel turnover, the integrated use of the division's operational terms and its maneuver techniques is a challenge, both to a unit and to an individual soldier. But the principles employed are simple in concept and easy to learn. They provide a common basis for understanding within the Marne Division and provide an effective operational structure for mounted small-unit training. Other armored and infantry units might also find these techniques useful.

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New Zealand's Staff and Tactics Course

CAPTAIN MICHAEL W. ALVIS

The Grade II Staff and Tactics Course, the premier school in the New Zealand Army, is an intensive individual training program aimed at preparing regular army officers for field grade staff assignments and for higher levels of command.

The class is usually composed of about 15 New Zealand Army majors and promotable captains and four to six officers from such nations as the United Kingdom, Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, and the United States.

Every year since 1963 a combat arms officer from the United States has attended the course under the auspices of the Western Command based in Hawaii. Most of these have been from the 25th Infantry Division. Recently, though, officers from other units have been given an opportunity to attend. All of these officers have found the school challenging, and they have derived an additional benefit by experiencing at first hand an alternative officer development program.

The course is divided into three phases: the pre-course, the resident phase, and the final testing board.

Four months before they report for the resident course, each class member receives his pre-course requirements and a copy of the New Zealand P86 Staff Notebook.

FIRST EXPOSURE

From the written exercises the overseas student gets his first exposure to the New Zealand Army's abbreviations, overlays, staff tables, and operational message writing. (The importance of being thoroughly familiar with this material becomes apparent later in the first week of the resident phase when the officer learns that strict time limits are imposed on all exams. Additionally, he finds that great emphasis is placed on neatness and appearance in all written work.)

In the pre-course, each officer must develop a formal briefing on a subject assigned by the course's directing staff. The New Zealand officers are divided into groups on the basis of their geographical locations and assigned a military history topic. Each three- to five-man group studies a different phase of war and later presents its findings at the appropriate time in the resident course when that block of instruction is taught. The format consists of a summary of the conduct of the operation, a description of the enemy situation, and an in-depth analysis of the staff and tactical aspects.

Overseas students individually are assigned subjects of general concern to the class as a whole. The School's staff is particularly interested, for example, in the force modernization and restructuring efforts of the U.S. Army and in the multinational peacekeeping missions in the Middle East.

The most challenging pre-course assignment is a 2,000- to 4,000-word essay. The class is assigned a topic that each officer must develop in a form suitable for publication in a military or civilian professional journal. The final grade is based on the selection of the essay's aim, the logical presentation of the assumptions and arguments, and the relevance of the