

together, back to the location chosen for the battery.

After insuring that all personnel are out of the area, connect the trigger device and then place the blasting cap into the last claymore mine. Then follow the firing circuit wire back to the battery location, take cover, and connect the battery. Recover in reverse order. **THE BATTERY MUST ALWAYS BE CONNECTED LAST AND RECOVERED FIRST.**

It is a good idea to remain near the ambush to detect any tampering. Don't forget that the mechanical ambush cannot distinguish between friend and foe; make sure that the person who emplaced the device also recovers it, and that he uses landmarks to orient himself during the recovery process.

Anyone recovering a mechanical ambush must use extreme caution. If the am-

bush has been detected, there may be a counterambush or a booby trap waiting. And if the ambush has exploded, there may be wounded enemy soldiers to deal with.

The following are some combat tips that will increase the effectiveness of a mechanical ambush:

- Waterproof the trigger device if possible with a small plastic bag. Tape all bare wires and use a PRC-77 battery bag to waterproof the power source.

- Camouflage all components of the ambush well. Instead of using issue tripwire, use a small, strong vine and arrange it so that it appears to be random growth.

- A tripwire with some slack in it is preferable to a taut one, especially when fighting an enemy who is likely to be barelegged and therefore sensitive to it. Vary the height of tripwires, but remem-

ber that generally a slack tripwire at knee level is less likely to be detected.

- Augment the effectiveness of the claymore mines by hanging a white phosphorus grenade on the front of the mine; don't forget to camouflage the grenade.

- Aim all claymore mines and make sure their fires are overlapping. It is generally better to aim low and use the effect of rocks and dirt to inflict further casualties.

Soldiers should be allowed to use their imagination, but strict control and safe handling of the component parts of a mechanical ambush are essential.

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Moving to An Alternate CP

CAPTAIN ROBIN P. SWAN

A tactical operations center (TOC), because of its role as a task force's command, control, communications and intelligence center, is a major source of electromagnetic and infrared energy, and this makes it an easy target for the enemy to locate and highly susceptible to attack by indirect fire. Units have developed many techniques for reducing the likelihood of enemy attack, such as moving the TOC frequently, using camouflage, remoting radio platforms, and masking the antennas.

If a TOC is attacked, however, and rendered incapable of performing its mission, the task force administration/logistic center (ALC) must quickly assume the functions of the TOC and help the task force commander with the command and control of the current operation. The complexity of this task can be

reduced considerably if TOC and ALC personnel have been trained in the actions they must take in the event the TOC is attacked.

GUIDE

The following procedural guide for meeting such a situation was developed by the 3d Battalion, 41st Infantry, and practiced during several training exercises. Other units may find it a starting point from which to prepare their own guides that conform to their standing operating procedures.

Step 1. The TOC is neutralized. Survivors assess the damage and treat the casualties. A surviving radio platform (if available) is used to pass operational control to the ALC. (This report in-

cludes a damage and casualty assessment.) The ALC assumes TOC duties and responds to radio calls using the TOC call sign.

Step 2. The ALC assumes control of operations and switches radio frequencies in the ALC M577 to operate in the brigade operations/intelligence (O/I), task force command, and task force administration/logistics (A/I) FM radio nets. ALC personnel monitor the brigade command and brigade A/L nets from the S-4's HMMWV (high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle) or M151. The ALC informs the brigade net control station (NCS) that the TOC has been neutralized.

Step 3. The ALC dispatches a medical evacuation vehicle to the TOC site. TOC survivors continue treating casualties. The senior TOC survivor takes

charge and designates which survivors will shift to the ALC.

Step 4. TOC survivors take the following actions before leaving the TOC site:

- Secure KYK-13, KYK-15, DMD, CEOIs, and RC-292 antennas.
- Zero all KYK-57 devices and switch radio frequencies on battle damaged M577 command post vehicles.
- Burn VFMED tapes and destroy remaining VFMED elements if the fire support element (FSE) M577 is damaged or destroyed.
- Secure operations map, intelligence overlays, and fire support overlays.
- Load casualties, equipment, and survivors on any vehicles that are left. Establish a casualty collection point for the wounded who cannot be loaded on the surviving vehicles. The most seriously wounded soldiers are evacuated first.
- Destroy remaining equipment.

Step 5. TOC survivors move to the ALC. Immediately upon their arrival, casualties are taken to the task force aid

station. The task force executive officer (XO) (or the task force S-4 if the XO is not available) supervises the ALC's transition to the TOC. He directs the following actions:

- The surviving TOC personnel are updated on the current situation by the ALC shift NCO in charge. Information displays are moved into the ALC, and operations, intelligence, and fire support information is updated.
- Radio platforms in the ALC M577 are reconfigured to operate in the task force command, brigade O/I, and division air defense early warning nets. The brigade command and fire direction nets are monitored from the task force XO's HMMWV or M151. The task force command and A/L nets are monitored from the task force S-4's HMMWV or M151. The brigade A/I net is monitored from the task force radio-teletypewriter located in the combat trains.
- The senior TOC survivor submits a detailed loss report to the task force S-1 and S-4.

Step 6. The TOC and ALC prepare to

move if required to do so. Movement configurations are dependent upon the number of surviving vehicles from the TOC. When the TOC moves, the task force S-4 remains as officer in charge of the task force combat trains and operates the ALC from his HMMWV or M151.

By constantly practicing proper TOC procedures, a unit may eliminate the need for a guide such as this. But the speed with which soldiers can perform the above steps in the event of TOC neutralization may make the difference between the success and the failure of the current operation. TOC and ALC personnel should therefore be trained to perform these steps and to perform them under differing visibility and NBC conditions.

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Squad Competitions

CAPTAIN KENT W. EISELE

Squad competitions are an effective way to motivate soldiers to do their best. They instill a winning spirit in soldiers, challenge squad leaders, build cohesion, and raise overall unit readiness. Commanders can use squad competitions in virtually all aspects of training. For the best results, however, this kind of training must be planned and conducted carefully.

Platoon leaders and company commanders may find the following advice helpful:

Maintain minimum individual stan-

dards. Do not forget that competitions should raise the standards of both the squad and the individual soldier above the set minimum. Do not allow a strong squad to compensate for a soldier who does not meet the minimum standard, but see that the other members train him to the standard.

An effective technique is to include in the rules the stipulation that one "no-go" will knock the entire squad out of a competition. A soldier who fails to qualify with his weapon, for example, will disqualify his squad for a marksmanship

competition even if the squad has the highest average score. Knowing that the squad members pass or fail together encourages the stronger soldiers to help train the weaker ones.

Give the squad leaders an opportunity to train their own squads. If you hold your squad leaders accountable for the training of their squads through the use of squad competitions, then you must give those same squad leaders a chance to train their squads themselves. For example, if a squad physical training competition is to be effective, the squad