

dispersion the attention it deserves.

Fragmentation. Soldiers have to make the most of their fragmentation weapons such as hand grenades and claymores. They should always use these against an enemy at the farthest possible distance to keep him from discovering their own positions.

When they are attacking, if the enemy is too close for the supporting mortars to be called in, soldiers should lob a volley of M203 rounds on the objective before assaulting it. When they get closer, they

can throw hand grenades. The goal is to pulverize the objective to the point that their assault will amount to little more than a bounding police call.

The fragmentation check, therefore, means thinking about how to engage the enemy with fragmentation weapons—claymores, grenades, and indirect fire—before trying to sneak up on him with an M16.

That's the list—security, cover, concealment, dispersion, and fragmentation. This five-item checklist is all soldiers

need to monitor their tactical posture. It is a simple list that all soldiers can easily memorize. These "checks of five to stay alive" give soldiers the confidence they will need to face the reality of the battlefield.

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SWAP SHOP



Light infantry scouts are always in danger of being compromised with essential elements of information in their possession. And because they usually operate several kilometers forward of the battalion area of operations, they frequently find it difficult and time-consuming to get that information to their commanders or the tactical operations center (TOC).

But their commanders must have the information as soon as they possibly can get it so that they can plan and execute their units' missions. While serving as a scout platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division, and after corresponding with other scout platoons, our platoon perfected a working system that greatly improves upon the combat information process. All that is needed is a standard sketch format and FM secure communications.

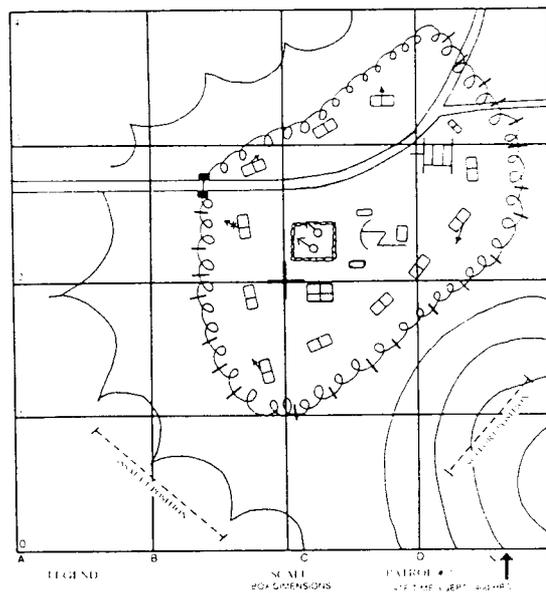
Each member of the scout platoon (and of the S-2 section at the TOC) has a blank copy of the sketch format covered with acetate. The sketch format uses a simple grid reference system similar to that for locating a point on a military map. The scale of the sketch is determined by the size of the objective. Small objectives may have a grid box of 10 meters, larger objectives, 20 meters. Weapon systems, bunkers, vehicles, and the like are drawn to the approximate scale of the sketch.

After a thorough reconnaissance of the objective, the scout team or squad leader prepares his sketch on the blank form. Once the sketch is complete and oriented north, he transmits the message to the TOC using the grid reference system.

The squad leader describes the objective starting at the top of the sketch and working clockwise. If a bunker is located in the northern sector of the objective, for example, the squad leader transmits the location using the grid reference system. The orientation of the position is sent using the magnetic azimuth. For example, "an M60 fighting position is located in box C-3; right 7, up 4; oriented on an azimuth of 360 degrees." The TOC radio telephone operator finds the inter-

section of the lines C and 3. From there he reads right seven in the box and up four, just as in map reading. Then he draws to scale the symbol for an M60 oriented on an azimuth of 360 degrees.

By sending two points and the magnetic orientation, the squad leader can describe woodlines, roads, high ground, and obstacles. For instance, for an obstacle he would report, "a single strand of concertina wire running southwest to northeast



from C-3; right 3, up 2; runs to D-3; right 1, up 9." The squad leader continues this process until the entire sketch is complete. The TOC radio man's finished sketch should be as accurate as the squad leader's.

With practice, this system can be effective in getting the scouts' picture to the maneuver leader before his link-up with them. With this timely information, a commander can then plan and execute his combat missions more effectively.

(Submitted by Lieutenant Douglas M. Keepper, 2d Battalion, 22d Infantry, Fort Drum, New York.)