



Commandant's NOTE

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BRADLEY PLATOON ORGANIZATION

The Army has restructured its Bradley-equipped mechanized infantry platoon. The purpose behind the restructuring was to reduce the time lost in dismounting the fire teams, to improve the fire and maneuver capability of the squads, and to align the Bradley-equipped mechanized infantry with the rest of the force.

The Army began fielding its new Bradley fighting vehicles in 1983 and, to date, about half of our mechanized infantry units are equipped with those vehicles. This fielding experience provides an excellent example of the way our infantry force matures and excels when outstanding infantrymen in the field share lessons they have learned and when the resulting techniques are disseminated throughout the world. We have also learned much from our combat training centers.

In 1988, based upon key input from the field, the Infantry School's doctrine writers prepared a white paper that addressed the doctrine, force design, leader development, and training strategies associated with Bradley-equipped mechanized infantry units. Subsequently, infantrymen in the field reviewed the paper and provided valuable comments and perspectives. The School then revised the paper and in June 1989, at the Bradley Worldwide Conference at Fort Benning, presented it to 250 subject matter experts for their scrutiny.

At the conclusion of the conference, it was obvious that the proposed organization defined by the white paper warranted formal analysis. As Chief of Infantry, I directed a study that analyzed and compared the current, documented organization with the proposed structure.

This formal study, conducted from June through September 1989, included extensive modelling and formal observations of focused rotations at the combat training centers. Additionally, infantry observation teams with Bradley experience visited appropriate major commands and conducted independent assessments. All of these

efforts were integrated and analyzed and then subjected to rigorous review by the proponent directorates within the Infantry School.

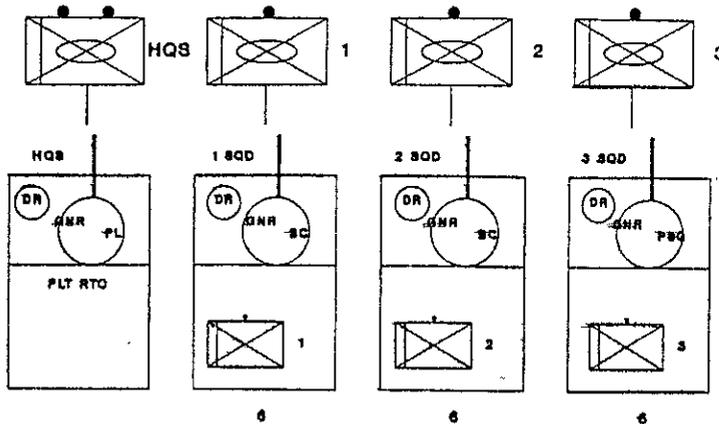
Our resulting conclusions and recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the commanders in chief of the U.S. Army Europe and the U.S. Army Forces Command, and by the commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

This reorganization, which will be disseminated to the field for implementation in January 1990 and documented in the next submission for change of the Table of Organization and Equipment, does not require any increase in personnel or rank; it is being achieved by simply reorganizing or redefining the current Bradley squad.

The current documented organization has three squads, each consisting of a three-man mounted crew plus a six-man dismount element. When the squad is called upon to perform a dismounted mission, each of the three squad leaders dismounts and is replaced in the turret by an assistant squad leader who otherwise rides in the rear of the vehicle. Not only is considerable time lost during this "turret hopping" process, but these assistant squad leaders, when they move to the turret, must be oriented to the mounted battle so that they can support the dismounted mission. And once the squad dismounts, each of the three squad leaders controls a five-man dismount element that has no fire and maneuver capability.

The new organization addresses these deficiencies by creating two standard nine-man squads in the Bradley platoon. One of the two squad leaders is positioned in the rear of the platoon leader's fighting vehicle and the other in the platoon sergeant's vehicle. The headquarters augmentation is split between the platoon sergeant's and the platoon leader's vehicles and the remaining seats in each are filled with an infantry fire team.

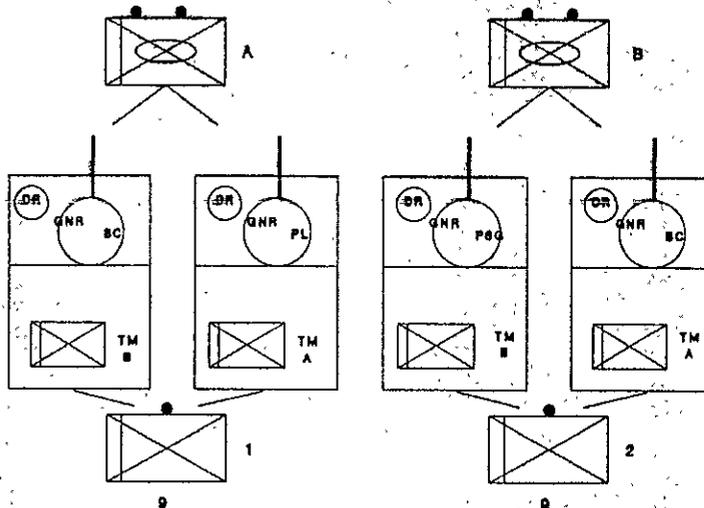
CURRENT ORGANIZATION



CHARACTERISTICS

- Plt Hqs and augmentees minus PSG on 1 BFV.
- Mounted movement: Wing pairs.
- Three 6-man dismount elements.
- Sqd Ldr responsible for training and employment of both crew and dismounted element.
- Platoon = 1 headquarters section plus 3 squads.
- Squad = squad leader + BFV + BFV crew + dismount element.

NEW ORGANIZATION



CHARACTERISTICS

- Plt Hqs and augmentees distributed on 2 BFVs.
- Mounted movement: Platoon.
- Two 9-man dismount squads.
- Sqd Ldr responsible for training and employment of dismount squad.
- Bradley Cdr responsible for training and employment of BFV crew.
- Platoon = 2 mounted sections + 2 dismount infantry squads.
- Mounted section = 2 BFVs + 2 crews.
- Squad = squad leader + 2 fire teams.

This now gives each Bradley a dismount fire team to perform security missions and gives the platoon two dismount squads that have a fire and maneuver capability. Significantly, these two squads are compatible with those of light infantry, air assault, and airborne squads.

This improvement in the Bradley dismount capability does require a modification in the manning of two of the Bradley turrets. Two new positions, called section leaders, have been established. These are staff sergeants who command the platoon leader's and the platoon sergeant's wing-man vehicles.

Thus, the new organization provides a standard platoon structure that focuses leadership for dismounted and

mounted operations or for training. This focus of leadership, with Bradley commanders in the turret and squad leaders in the dismount positions, eliminates the switching of leadership responsibilities from the back of the vehicle to the turret when the squads must execute dismounted infantry missions. This standard platoon structure also aligns the Bradley-equipped mechanized infantry with the rest of the infantry force.

I am particularly pleased that this improvement in force effectiveness came about through a dialogue between the Infantry School and the infantrymen in the field. Keep sending us those lessons learned!