

TRAINING NOTES

mally a circular fighting position, thus limiting 360-degree security.

Iraqi Infantry Platoon in Defense

Iraqi infantry platoons defend with their infantry in forward trench lines unsupported by armored vehicles. Each squad digs five two-man fighting positions with overhead cover flush to the ground and well camouflaged. The squad positions are connected by communication trench lines. The platoon will defend with two squads forward and one back. The platoon leader is located in the vicinity of the rear squad position.

Each platoon will have an OP behind the protective obstacles, and the OP will stay in position throughout the battle. Each platoon is armed with three RPG-7s and reinforced with two SPG-9s. Each squad will have one RPG-7. The SPG-9s will be located to the rear of the platoon position for effective use of the weapon's range. The platoon's antitank weapons will have overlapping fires that cover the

tactical obstacles. The protective minefields will be protected by final protective fires, automatic weapons, and RPG-7s. The long-range antitank systems also provide protection to the flank of the position.

The Iraqi platoon in defense covers an area 350 by 350 meters. Squads are 60 to 70 meters apart with the reserve squad 50 to 100 meters behind the frontline positions. Squad positions are 75 meters deep. The OP is up to 200 meters forward of the front lines.

The advantages of this position are that it offers overhead cover flush to the ground for fighting positions, and each position is connected to others by communication trenches.

The diagrams and descriptions of these outposts will help small-unit leaders and soldiers plan and train the way they can recognize and attack enemy platoon outposts. These are the doctrinal plans, which can be modified on the basis of terrain, enemy, and weather.

These security outposts are designed

to provide early warning, to prevent U.S. reconnaissance from targeting company positions, and to cause the U.S. forces to deploy. The outposts will normally receive direct and indirect fire support from the battalion. In OPFOR doctrine, once the enemy begins to deploy for a major attack, the security forces will withdraw, but this will not be the case with the North Koreans.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IN HISTORY NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1946

Eighteen months after the end of World War II, the former Allies had yet to arrive at a consensus on the rebuilding of Germany, the future of Korea, or a resolution of China's political future. In the meantime, Korea continued to train and expand the fledgling defense force that had assumed many of the duties formerly carried out by U.S. Military Police. Concurrently, the U.S. Marine Corps began reviewing its amphibious operational doctrine in light of the capabilities revealed in atomic bomb testing.

These and other highlights of the postwar years have been provided by Mr. Bud Hannings, in preparation for his upcoming chronology of the Korean War.

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| 4 November | <i>The United States welcomes a Council of Foreign Ministers, in an attempt to reach a compromise among the four occupying powers on the rebuilding of Germany. Due largely to Russian intransigence, the conference will remain in session for two months without reaching an agreement.</i> |
| 15 November | <i>Although the Chinese National Assembly convenes, the communists—asserting that power should have been transferred to the State Council before convening the National Assembly—largely boycott the meeting.</i> |
| 30 November | <i>The Korean Constabulary now numbers 143 officers and 5,130 enlisted men and has established another garrison, on the island of Cheju-do. Much of their training, still based on the Japanese or Chinese models, will require modification to more closely follow U.S. tactics.</i> |
| 16 December | <i>General Vandegrift, the Marine Commandant, receives a detailed report on the likely effects of a nuclear attack on an amphibious landing force. The report contends that as a result of this technological advance in the art of war amphibious landings as seen in World War II are now obsolete.</i> |
| 31 December | <i>The Council of Foreign Ministers adjourns, agreeing to meet again in Moscow on 10 March 1947. No progress has been made on the issues of demilitarization, the number and status of German POWs held by the Russians, or the open inspection of manufacturing plants by members of the quadripartite teams.</i> |