

# Mechanized Platoon TTPs In Peace Enforcement Operations

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Peacekeeping operations require a modification of the usual mission tasks and the "Warrior" mindset. Such an environment requires an overt presence, but soldiers must be prepared to resort to warfighting skills the moment a situation deteriorates. It is as if they were operating under a delicate On/Off switch. At any moment—because of the reaction of a single soldier to a threat, real or perceived—a peaceful situation can turn into a police action and then deteriorate into a combat action.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, the rules of engagement (ROEs) are extremely liberal and reaffirm the ability of an individual soldier to use lethal force in the event a threat materializes. In all situations, the goal is to defuse situations that may escalate the event, while showing a determined and resolute presence. All soldiers must communicate and act as a team in a dynamic environment. This is accomplished by platoon-level wargaming of possible contingencies, and the reiteration of battle drills before every mission. As a Bradley platoon leader assigned to a company team, I found that peace enforcement called for new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs).

We executed all peace enforcement

operations with the capacity to support and transition into combat operations. All weapons systems, including all small arms, were fully up-loaded with a complete complement of ammunition. M203 gunners had a full basic load of lethal and non-lethal ammunition, and the vehicles always carried riot control gear (face shields, body shields, shin guards, and batons).

The unit was augmented with several items of equipment from Combat

Equipment Group Europe to support operations. The line platoons were augmented with four armored XM1109 model high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs), two M2

## PATROL LEADER PCI CHECKLIST

1. Receive FRAGO from Commander.
2. Patrol Leaders picks up mission dispatch from TOC.
3. Review daily intel update.
4. ANCD and GPS functional with current fills and SOI.
5. NVGs with extra batteries.
6. Radios functional with current fill and frequencies.
7. Vehicles dispatched through current mission and all dispatches signed and present.
8. Crew served weapons mounted/checked.
9. Combat lifesaver bags.
10. Pyrotechnics.
11. Antiarmor missiles (AT4).
12. Tow straps/Tow bar and spare tire.
13. MREs and water per vehicle.
14. SFOR ID cards and ID Tags.
15. Windows/lights/reflectors cleaned.
16. Radio check complete (internal, external and higher).
17. Load plan (no loose equipment).

## PATROL LEADER MISSION/SAFETY BRIEF

1. Risk assessment (Task, Purpose, Conditions. Discuss risks and management techniques).
2. Immediate Action Drills: React to Sniper, Mine Strike, Indirect Fire, Ambush, Drive-by shooting (mounted/dismounted; moving/halted).
3. 9-line MEDEVAC (format is posted on all radios).
4. Patrol routes and Checkpoints.
5. Link-up plan if patrol is separated.
6. Order of movement and distance between vehicles (25-50 meters).
7. Patrol speed (10 mph in AOR, not to exceed 35 mph).
8. Weather conditions and route status.
9. Vehicle break down procedures.
10. Intelligence update.
11. Force protection level and weapons status.
12. Always assume shoulders of the road are mined, especially on infrequently traveled routes.
13. Do not leave the route unless it is absolutely imperative.
14. Assume mines are everywhere (potholes, dirt piles).
15. Drive defensively at all times.
16. Do not chamber a round unless it is absolutely necessary.
17. You always have the right to defend yourself.

## PRE COMBAT INSPECTIONS—THE STANDARD FOR ALL OPERATIONS

1. **RUCKSACK:** Ensure the frame is serviceable; check straps, buckles and snaps. All outside items are secured.

2. **RUCKSACK CONTENTS:**

- 2-T-shirts
- 2-pairs of socks (black)
- 1-Goretex Jacket
- 1-Goretex Pants
- tool
- 1-Poncho
- 1-set Poly-Pro (top & bottom)
- 1-Pair BDUs
- 1-Pair white work gloves
- 2-Sets underwear
- 1-Set Wet WX Gear (w/rubber boots)
- 1-Pair of boots

3. **SOLDIERS ITEMS:**

Uniform Appearance: FULL BATTLE

**RATTLE**

- 1-ROE card
- 1-Set ID tags w/medical tag
- 1-US Government ID Card
- 1-SFOR ID card
- line MEDEVAC card
- 1-Pen and notebook
- 1-Green Chemlite
- 4-Zip ties

4. **LEADERS ITEMS:** On Bradley or HMMWV

- 1-Current map w/CPs, patrol routes, & ZOS, and current overlay
- 1-Lensatic Compass
- 1-Sensitive Items list
- 1-Radio Freq cheat sheet
- 1-Pyro Ammo Can
- 1-PLGR w/fill & spare batteries
- 1-Bosnia Country handbook
- 9-line UXO report
- 1-Risk assessment worksheet
- 1-ANCD per section

5. **LBE/LBV:** all straps and attached equipment tied down/secure.

- 6-magazines in ammo pouches (rounds face down)
- Quart canteens with covers and FULL
- 1-First aid pouch, left side, facing up w/:

- 1-field dressing
- 1-casualty feeder report
- 1-Witness statement card
- 1-Bayonet
- 1-Flashlight
- Pro-Mask (in easy reach or worn)

6. **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT**

- 2-AN/PVS7Bs per vehicle
- 1-set PAQ per LDR (mission dictates)
- 1-Set bolt cutters
- 1-Camera (mission dictates)
- 1-Mine Marking kit

7. **MOUNTED PATROL EQUIPMENT:**

Valid dispatch and log book on hand complete with accident reports and drivers signature.

- Before PMCS complete and recorded
- Vehicle topped off
- Valid Drivers license
- 2-six packs of water per vehicle
- 2-cases MREs per vehicle
- Gallon diesel per vehicle
- 2-Rolls of concertina wire
- Crew served weapon, mounted, ammunition present and checked by an NCO (headspace and timing)
- 8-Pickets per vehicle (Brad Only)
- 1-Picket Pounder per section
- 5 Gallon can 15w/40 per section
- 5 1 Gallon jugs of Anti-Freeze
- 4 1qt cans of Hydraulic fluid per section (Brad)
- 4 1qt cans of DEXTRON III per section (HMMWV)
- 1 5 gallon GAA per section (or 1 gallon can per vehicle)
- 1 ½ gallon CLP per section
- 2 qt. GMD per section (Brad)
- ALL EQUIPMENT TIED DOWN**

8. **AMMUNITION:**

- M16: 7 Magazines 5.56mm
- Ball/Tracer mix = 210 rds
- M249: 4 Boxes 5.56mm linked = 800 rds
- M203: Mission dictates
- M2 50 cal: 500 rds per guns
- Mk19: 96 rds HE
- M60: 800 rds

1 Pyrotecnics can per vehicle

- 1 HC Smoke
- 1 red smoke
- 1 CS smoke
- 1 white para flare
- 1 red star cluster
- 1 AT4 per vehicle
- M2A2: Basic load

9. **COMBAT LIFESAVER BAG:**

- 1 per vehicle
- Inspection sheet and shortage annex present

10. **SECTION LEADER PATROL BRIEF**

- Situation
- Weather
- Terrain
- Friendly patrols in area
- Safety considerations
- Mission
- Concept of Operation
- Route
- CPs
- SPs
- RPs
- Contingencies (what ifs?)
  - Actions on contact
  - Lost
  - Injury
  - Medevac
  - Indirect Fire
  - Sniper
  - Ambush
  - Mine Strike
  - Hostile or agitated civilians
  - Break Contact
  - Movement formations
  - Road march/catch up speed
  - Vehicle distance
  - Recovery operations
  - Accident procedures

11. **COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES**

- Current fill in ALL channels
- MEDEVAC in #6
- 9 Line format on radio
- Commo checks: internal/external
- Commo check with Company
- Additional batteries for all equipment

heavy-barrel .50 caliber machineguns, one Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher, and one M60 machinegun. With this additional equipment, we could operate in a wheeled or tracked mode. The XM1109 has seating for four and a roof turret ring for a gunner. Bradley crews occupied the same crew positions on the XM1109. In addition the company was assigned several local national interpreters, who were hired by a defense contractor. Every time a platoon conducted a mission, they had an interpreter present to assist in interactions with the local people.

Depending on the mission and the

commander's intent, the unit could dispatch a 20-man element in four armored HMMWVs, or with the entire platoon mounted in Bradleys. The goal was to rotate between the two for proficiency, presence, and equipment maintenance. Whenever an element left the base camp, the soldiers were in full combat gear, at the appropriate weapons level status, and prepared to conduct extended operations as the situation dictated.

All leaders received a daily intelligence briefing, and changes to the commanders intent and priority intelligence requirements (PIRs). This infor-

mation was disseminated to the lowest level in the area of responsibility (AOR) to ensure that all soldiers were aware of the situation.

The unit conducted weekly rotations of mission requirements of its three assigned tasks—AOR patrols, quick reaction force (QRF), and force protection (guard duty). The task force commander assigned each company a specific named area of interest (NAI) to provide for continuity within the unit and with the local populace. Our unit operated in one of the resettlement areas that occupy the Zone of Separation. Since this area was heavily destroyed

## BRADLEY PREPARE AND SECURE WEAPONS SYSTEMS

### 1. PREPARE GUNNER'S STATION

Down load ammunition from feeder/Ensure the Feed chute is clear or ammo will load  
 Clean Optics  
 Check sight covers  
 Check feed chutes and eject chutes  
 Make sure bolt is in SEAR position  
 Check HE and AP ammunition  
     Misaligned rounds  
     Clean  
 Properly loaded in ammo ready boxes  
 Turn on Thermal Sight  
 Select AP, HE, TOW and then 7.62  
 Go to manual and electrical FIRE  
 Check trigger switches and cycle gun on Gunner's and BC's hand stations, and manual trigger on turret-traverse hand-wheel in each ammunition mode and firing rate  
     Go to manual and electrical SAFE  
     Release turret-travel lock, and clear turret  
     Check traverse and elevation in high and low rates  
     Adjust Diopter  
     Select HE, turn RANGE control knob from 0 to 30  
     Select AP, turn RANGE control knob from 30 clockwise back to 0

Select 7.62, turn RANGE control knob from 0 to 10  
 Turn RANGE control knob back to 0  
 Clear TOW and raise launcher  
 Conduct TOW test  
 Clear turret and check traverse and elevation in high and low rates  
     Lower TOW  
     Boresight 25mm gun, TOW and COAX  
     Boresight night sight  
     Index battlesight ammunition and range  
     Up load ammunition IAW weapons status

GUNNER'S INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

BC'S INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. SECURE GUNNERS STATION

Traverse turret to 6,400 mils  
 Set gun to -10  
 Close Ballistic Shield doors  
 Set radios to STANDBY, then power off amp  
 Close Gunner's Hatch  
 Close BC's hatch  
 Secure CVCs

during the war, activities in sector included monitoring freedom of movement, supervising humanitarian aid distribution and clearing wreckage, monitoring civilian activities, supporting elections, gathering human intelligence for the NAI database, and acting as a conduit between the local populace, the police force, the Joint Military Commission, and the security force. During AOR patrols, platoons maintained a day and night presence in the assigned AOR. This included either mounted or dismounted patrols or a combination of the two. During QRF, the platoon was prepared to react to any contingency in sector with a required roll-out time of 15 minutes. The platoon maintained its four Bradley fighting vehicles on a QRF ready-line with all personal equipment pre-positioned on the vehicles. Current radio frequencies were uploaded daily and the weapons systems given a pre-fire check. All Bradleys had a checklist that was attached on the gun shield in the turret. The system was checked by the gunner and the checklist was initialed and dated. The Bradley commander verified these checks and initialed the checklist. This way there was never a question about when the last

dry-cycle firing was conducted or how recent the boresight was. In the event of a call-out, unit members needed only rush to the vehicles, don equipment, conduct final precombat checks and inspections (PCIs) and communications checks and stage the vehicles while the platoon leader reported to the tactical operations center for a briefing on the current situation and the task and purpose. During a force protection rotation, the platoon was responsible for a portion of the perimeter security, defensive position maintenance, and main supply route reconnaissance patrols. AOR patrols and force protection required all members of the platoon and allowed little time for training. During its week as QRF, the platoon could train on collective and common tasks and whatever opportunity training tasks the commander had designated for that week.

Every leader created a "smart book" that contained all the vital information for operations in sector—ROE card, medical ROE card, fire support targets and procedures for release of indirect fires, uniform and weapons level matrix, identification sheet of "Persons Indicted for War Crimes," task force

checkpoints and casualty collection points, route names and status, mine-field overlays, PCI checklist, risk assessment matrix, translation sheet with common phrases in Serbo-Croatian, the Joint Military Commission handbook (a reference of all allowed and illegal activities and the actions to be taken if they are encountered in sector), and a friendly forces overlay. This information was vital when a key leader was unavailable (dismounted) and also provided a ready reference for all platoon members.

When conducting AOR patrols, I would give an operations order for the week of patrolling and daily fragmentary orders based upon the commander's intent and PIRs. A patrol matrix and overlay was submitted to the company TOC the evening before execution. With this information, the executive officer could create the company mission tracker for the task force TOC, and the commander could review the platoon leader's mission intent. Soldiers arrived at the vehicles one hour before start time, and key leaders completed individual and vehicle PCIs. The platoon leader reported to the task force TOC for a final out-brief. The platoon leader was required to coordinate with the S-2, engineers, fire support cell, and the battle captain before gaining approval to depart the base camp. The platoon leader then linked up with the platoon at the vehicles, confirmed PCIs, and gave his patrol brief. In order to combat complacency and prevent creating a pattern, I changed the composition and execution of the mission daily. I always had a mounted and a dismounted section when conducting operations. They not only mutually supported each other but also allowed us to flood our AOR with a determined presence. Our AOR was close enough to the base camp that I had the option of having the dismounts depart from one gate and the mounted section from another. The platoon leader and the interpreter usually traveled with the dismount section, while the platoon sergeant commanded the mounted section.

While conducting patrols, the platoon was task organized into three separate elements—the mounted section, the

dismounted section, and a static observation point (OP). The positioning of the OP was based upon recent activity in sector. They were usually placed in a two- or three-story building that had been cleared for reconstruction. From this vantage point, they monitored all vehicle or pedestrian traffic in sector and reported any suspicious activity to the mounted or dismounted section, which were both capable of rapidly reacting to the variable. The OP consisted of two to three soldiers armed with an M203 and an M249. They were augmented with the following equipment: binoculars, night vision goggles (AN/PVS7B, and AN/PVS4), Dragon thermal night site (AN/TAS5), AN/PAQ4, AN/PRC119, Combat Lifesaver bag, a three-cell flashlight, and appropriate cold-weather gear and sleeping pad based on the weather. The sleeping pad enabled the OP to maintain a prone position on the concrete floor of the building without losing valuable body heat.

The dismounted patrol stayed on

cleared roads and paths used by the local nationals and often had chance meetings with them during daytime patrols. This was a vital part of the mission; the human intelligence gathered from these conversations and the rapport that was built was critical to mission accomplishment. During limited visibility, the patrol acted in a more covert manner, patrolling along the roads and paths, though maximizing the use of night vision goggles and the AN/PAQ4A/B. The AN/PAQ4 could be used to illuminate a room in a destroyed building; by targeting the room, the IR laser provided a back-light that would cast shadows upon personnel or objects in the room. Upon contact with locals or a suspicious situation, the patrol could go to white light. All members of the patrol were equipped with three-cell flashlights, which could provide either an even beam or a wide dispersion of light.

The mounted section continued movement in sector and was available to respond to any contingency encoun-

tered by the dismounted section or the OP. With either four M2A2 Bradley fighting vehicles or four XM1109 armored HMMWVs with weapons stations, the mounted section was a formidable force. The mounted section was also tasked with observation points along routes in sector to monitor vehicle traffic and project a presence.

These are several of the TTPs that are essential to mission accomplishment and force protection. The most critical fact to remember is that even a peace enforcement operation can deteriorate rapidly, and only training and wargaming contingencies will prepare your soldiers to react in an appropriate and graduated response.

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