



ANZAC RED FORCE BATTLE BOOK



PART 3:

OPFOR Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

POC

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FOREWORD

An introduction to DATE

1. The OPFOR doctrine is comprehensively described in the two major relevant U.S. Army publications (TC 7-100.2 Opposing Force Tactics and FM 7-100.1 Opposing Forces Operations) and duplicated on the ODIN website, but generally it does not provide information below company/combat team level. However, there are a range of multimedia products, both available and being developed, that show tactics at company level and below.
2. The OPFOR 'doctrinal approach' presents a distinct enemy method, especially the idea of functional tactics which specifies how enemy commanders will use different tactical actions as building blocks to flexibly build a plan with. Similarly, their concepts like systems warfare lead to a different targeting focus than in many western militaries. However, in order to present a pacing adaptive enemy, the doctrine has been written deliberately to avoid the kind of prescriptive guidance that was available for enemies based on the Soviet military.
3. The DATE enemy OPFOR operations and tactics doctrine is generic. As a principle, the variation between different adversaries is driven by their different intentions, equipment and ORBAT. This means that all DATE enemy forces have essentially the same basic 'doctrinal approach' to operations and tactics, with the crucial caveat 'unless otherwise/additionally specified'.
4. The following information on the North Torbian tactics, techniques and procedures is intended to fill a current gap in the level of detail provided about OPFOR. It can be considered 'additionally specified' extra detail and/or local variation, over and above the generic OPFOR information. Importantly, the content has been selected to meet training establishments immediate needs, while limiting the total amount of material in order to avoid contradiction with new OPFOR information generated elsewhere.

Chapter 1 – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

Notes on North Torbian minor tactics

1. Tactical dominance is considered a psychological effect. The objective is to either overwhelm the enemy commander's cognition with concurrent threats or present them with ambiguity and multiple dilemmas. In the attack and defence, the plan should ensure that once surprise is lost, the enemy should experience events and effects from multiple directions concurrently or in quick succession.
2. The commander is almost always either centrally located ready to move to the point of main effort, or close to the front of the formation to ensure correct navigation and be able to make tactical judgements quickly. In contact they will move to the point of main effort or with the assault force.
3. The emphasis in organizing dismounted minor tactics is on exploiting the most potent weapons. This is reflected in section groupings based around launcher and machine gun groups, with launchers referring to both tube launched weapons as well as handheld and high velocity grenade launchers.
4. In the mechanised section, the vehicle is regarded as the pre-eminent weapon, with the enduring task of the infantry being to protect the vehicle so that it's weapon systems can defeat the enemy. In most circumstances the section commander will remain mounted to fight the section.
5. The immediate response to contact is aggression. At very close quarters it is an immediate assault, otherwise it is immediate engagement with explosive and white phosphorus munitions. The intention is to immediately inflict shock and obscure friendly troops caught in fire pockets.
6. Envelopment is always favoured, especially the double envelopment. The risk of fratricide is acknowledged but regarded as small and acceptable for the great benefits offered.
7. In the assault, the North Torbians prefer to hug supporting fire and move close to direct fire, accepting casualties in order to be able to rapidly close with a suppressed enemy.
8. In this document the word team is used to describe the elements smaller than a section. This differs from OPFOR doctrine which calls everything smaller than a company an element, but it is consistent with our own practice and therefore easier for the military reader.

Chapter 2 – FORMATIONS

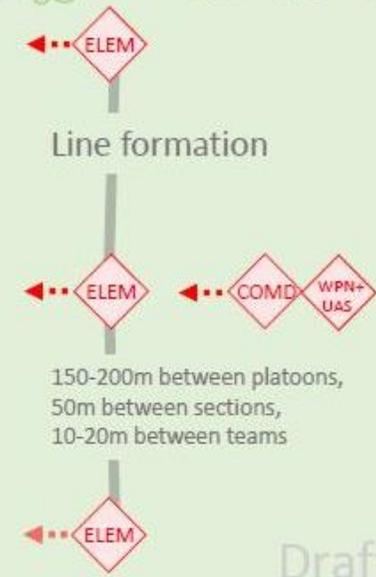
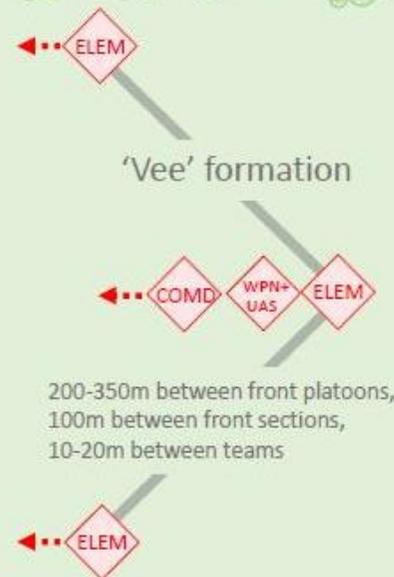
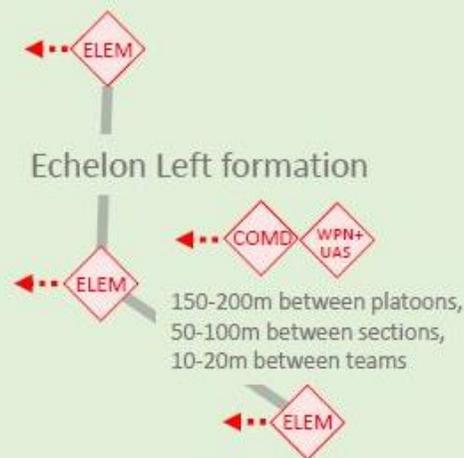
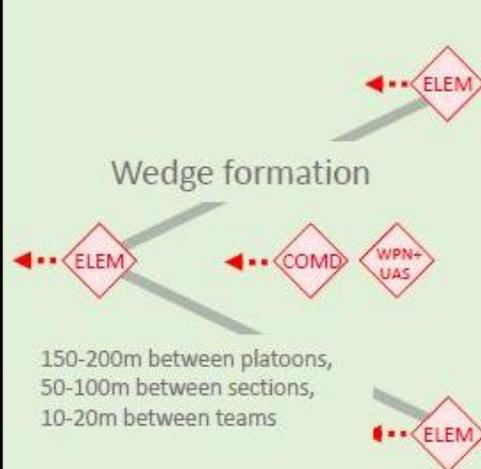
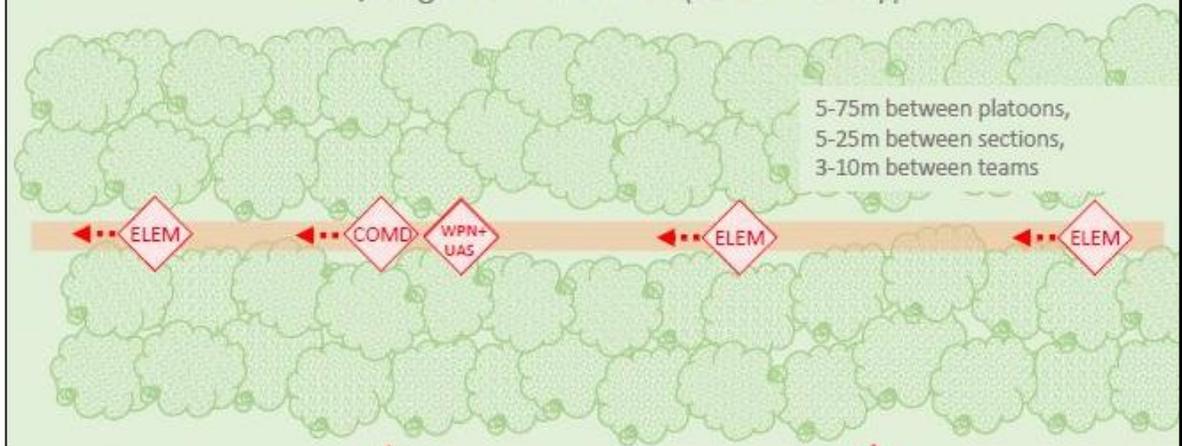
Basic Formations

Basic Formations

Similar formations are used at Company, Platoon and Section level. The commander always locates for best control and retains both a UAS and HE weapon operator immediately to hand to gain the initiative and situational awareness in a contact. In close country where navigation is difficult, the senior commander at any level may move behind the lead soldiers to navigate.

- The wedge is general-purpose for all-round security and balance.
- Echeloning left or right guards against a threat from that flank.
- The Vee covers a wider axis of advance.
- Line formation is typically used for the assault.
- File/Single file is used in close country. The soldiers switch between file and single file to suit foliage but remain in the element order of march. In urban areas or on wide tracks and roads, platoon or section file may be used where complete elements are deployed on opposite sides of a street or track.

File/Single file formation (close country)



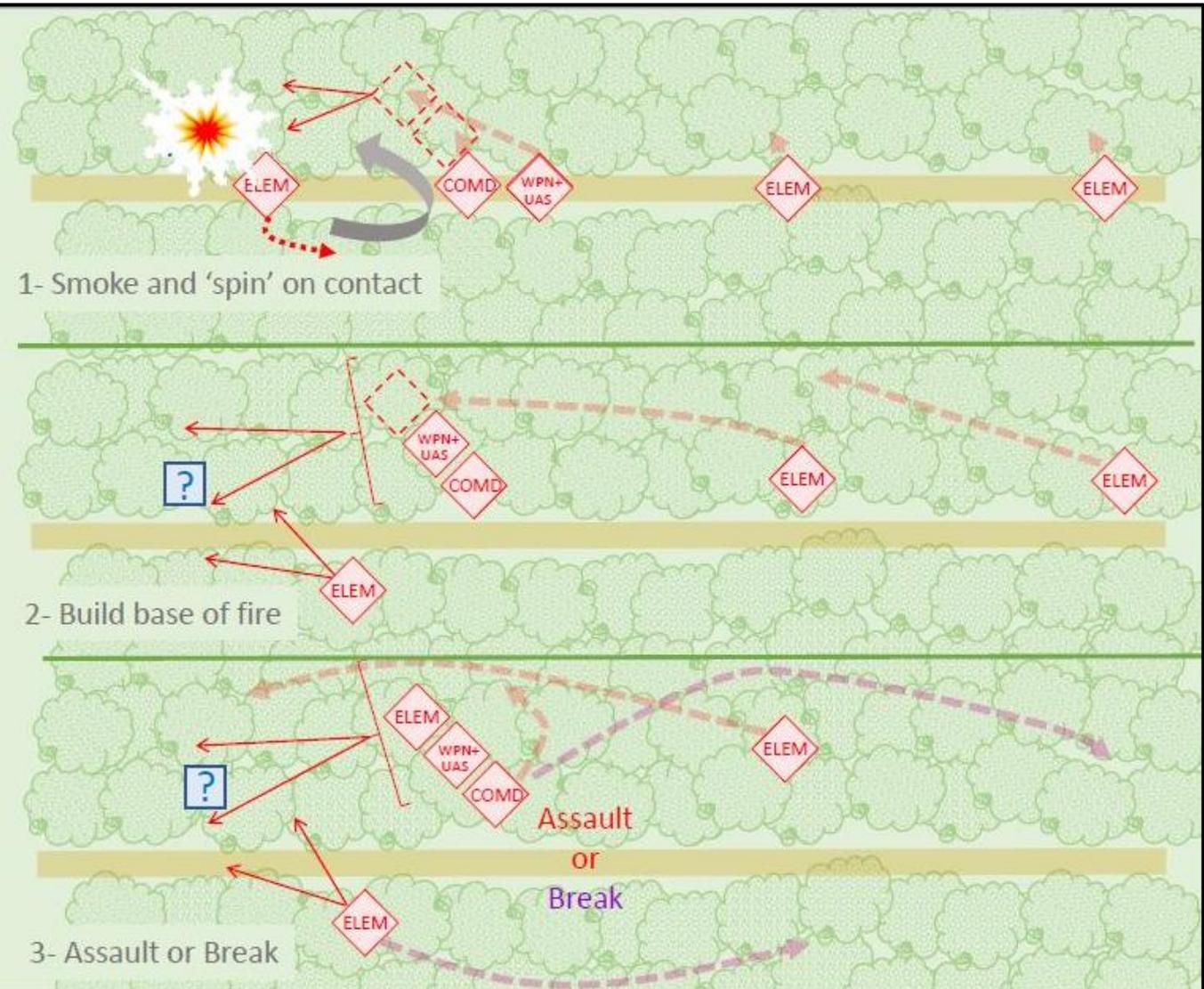
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Immediate Action Contact Close Country

Immediate Action: Contact Close Country

The North Torbian response to ambush or sudden contact at very close quarters is to assault firing. Where the ground prevents this, the Close Country IA is standard at Coy, Pln and large sections. It also adapts to mine and IED attacks.

1. The engaged leading element fires smoke and HE to break clear of the fire pocket/killing area, preferably on the side of the track away from the contact. The commander with the heavy weapon or weapon group moves forward on to the contact side of the track and applies fire, preferably high explosive, ideally thermobaric. The push forward on the contact side and the withdrawal on the opposite one gives a so-called 'spin' effect
2. The following element closes up on the outside of the commander and builds a base of fire, with the point element adding crossing fire.
3. The commander then decides whether to assault or break to the rear. If they order *assault*, the third element closes up behind the base of fire from where he leads it to outflank the enemy. If they order *break* then the original point element bounds to the rear first, after which they lead the second element to bound past the third



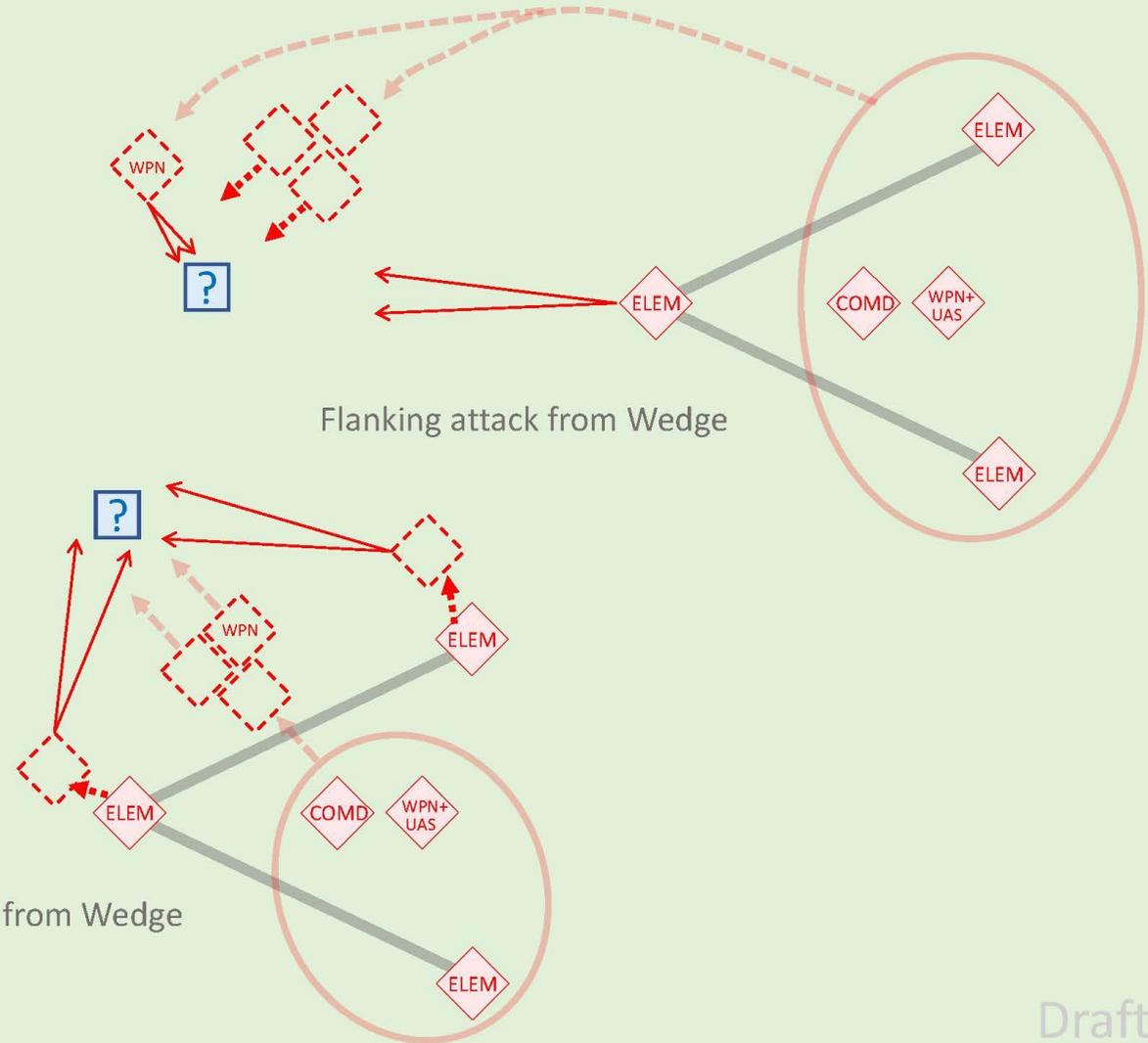
Quick attack from Wedge

Quick Attack from Wedge

The wedge is general-purpose formation that readily allows the commander to manoeuvre uncommitted elements.

The upper diagram shows a typical example where the point element has come into contact and the commander leads the remaining elements in a flanking attack. In this case the weapons team is deployed on the open flank in order to both provide both flank security and converging covering fire. This is similar to Western tactics.

The lower diagram shows a quick attack against an enemy to one flank, which may provide the opportunity to rapidly deploy the leading and one flanking element to provide enveloping fire support. On coming into contact the commander pushes elements forward on both flanks of the enemy position in order to envelop it with fire from different directions. This achieves fire superiority and security for the commander to lead the remaining element to assault between the elements providing fire support. North Torbians favour this method as it is simple and fast.



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Quick attack from Vee

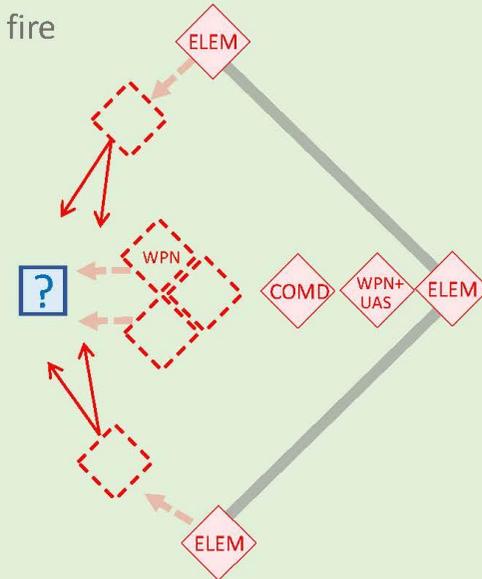
Quick Attack from 'Vee'

The Vee formation covers a wider front and may provide the opportunity for enveloping with fire support which North Torbians favour.

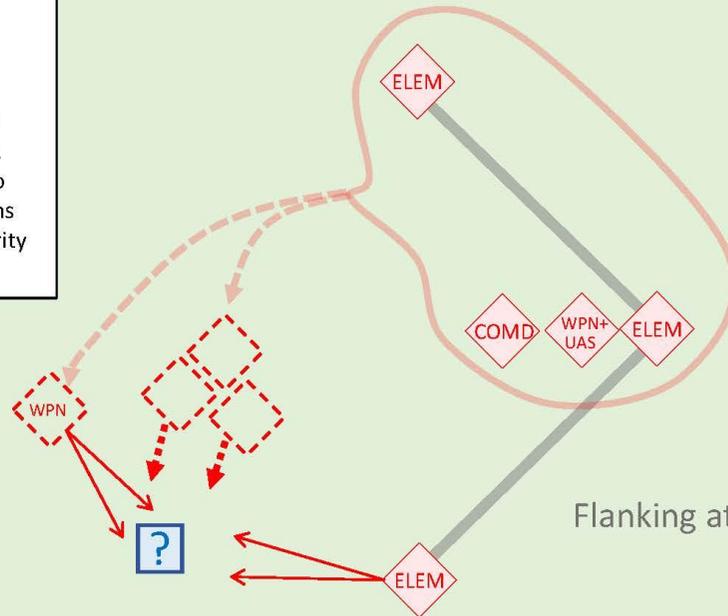
The upper diagram shows a typical example where enemy are contacted forward and centre of the formation, allowing the commander to push elements forward on either side until both are able to provide fire support. They then lead the remaining element into an assault between the fire elements, pushing the weapons element forwards in order to provide both shock effects for the final assault and a clear signal (to the fire support element) that this is about to occur

The lower diagram shows a possible quick attack against an enemy contacted in front of one flank. The commander leads the remaining elements to conduct a flanking assault, deploying the weapons element on the outside flank for both flank security and to provide final converging fire support.

Attack with enveloping fire support from 'Vee'



Flanking attack from 'Vee'



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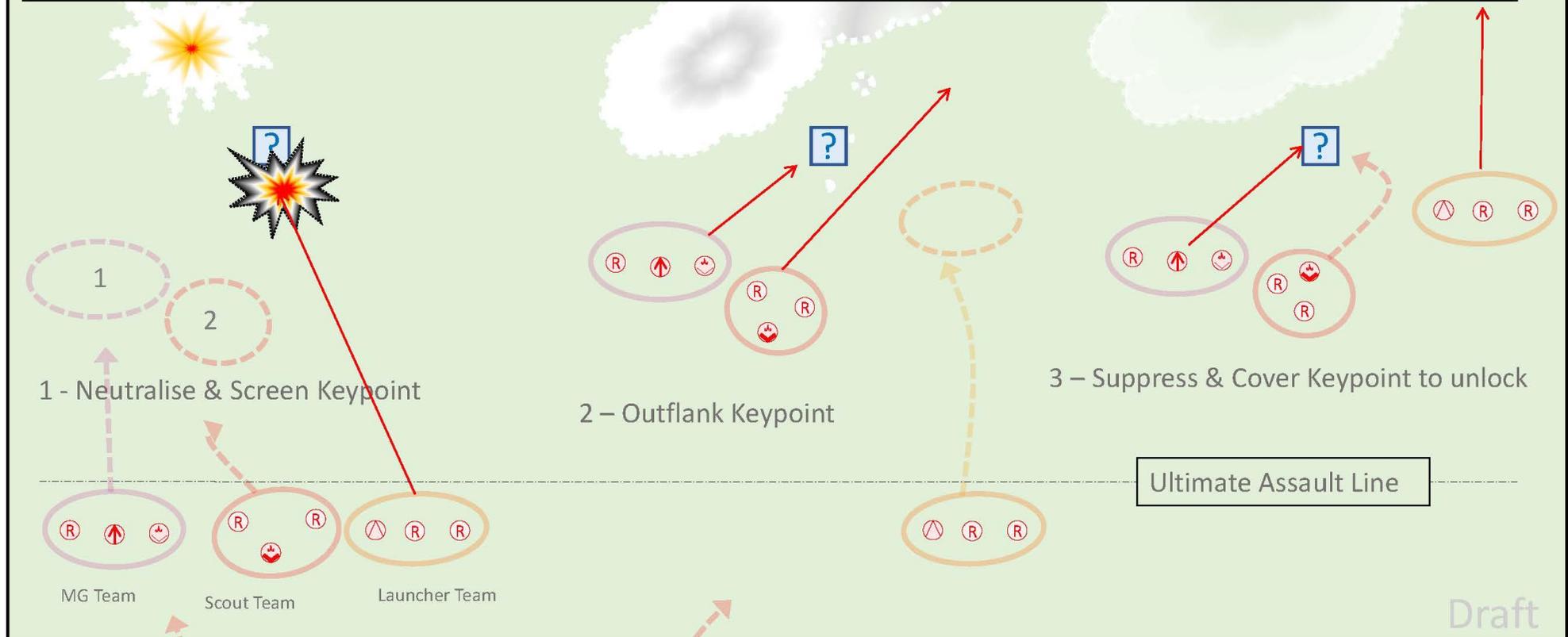
Chapter 3 – OFFENSIVE MANOEUVRE

Section Break-in Drill

Section Break-in Drill

When attacking prepared positions, keypoints are chosen to be secured first. This is the position or part of a position that gives most advantage when captured. A section tasked to unlock or break into a defensive position uses a drill. The attack force advances in extended line to the ultimate assault line, either silently or under supporting covering fire and/or bounding by section fire and movement. The ultimate assault line is chosen to be the closest the assault force can approach to the enemy forward positions without suffering casualties from flanking supporting explosive fire or its own thermobaric munitions.

1. The launcher team strike the keypoint with a HE/TB and a flame/smoke launcher places isolating smoke behind the keypoint, and the Scout and MG team dash forwards on one flank.
2. The MG team suppresses the key point from the flank while the Scout team provide cover towards depth threats to enable the forward dash of the launcher team.
3. The Scout team dash towards the key point swinging out away from the fire of the MG team to approach the key point at right angles and throw or post grenades or handheld demolition charges before they enter the enemy position. Subsequent action in enemy positions continues to use explosive charges as the enabling tool.

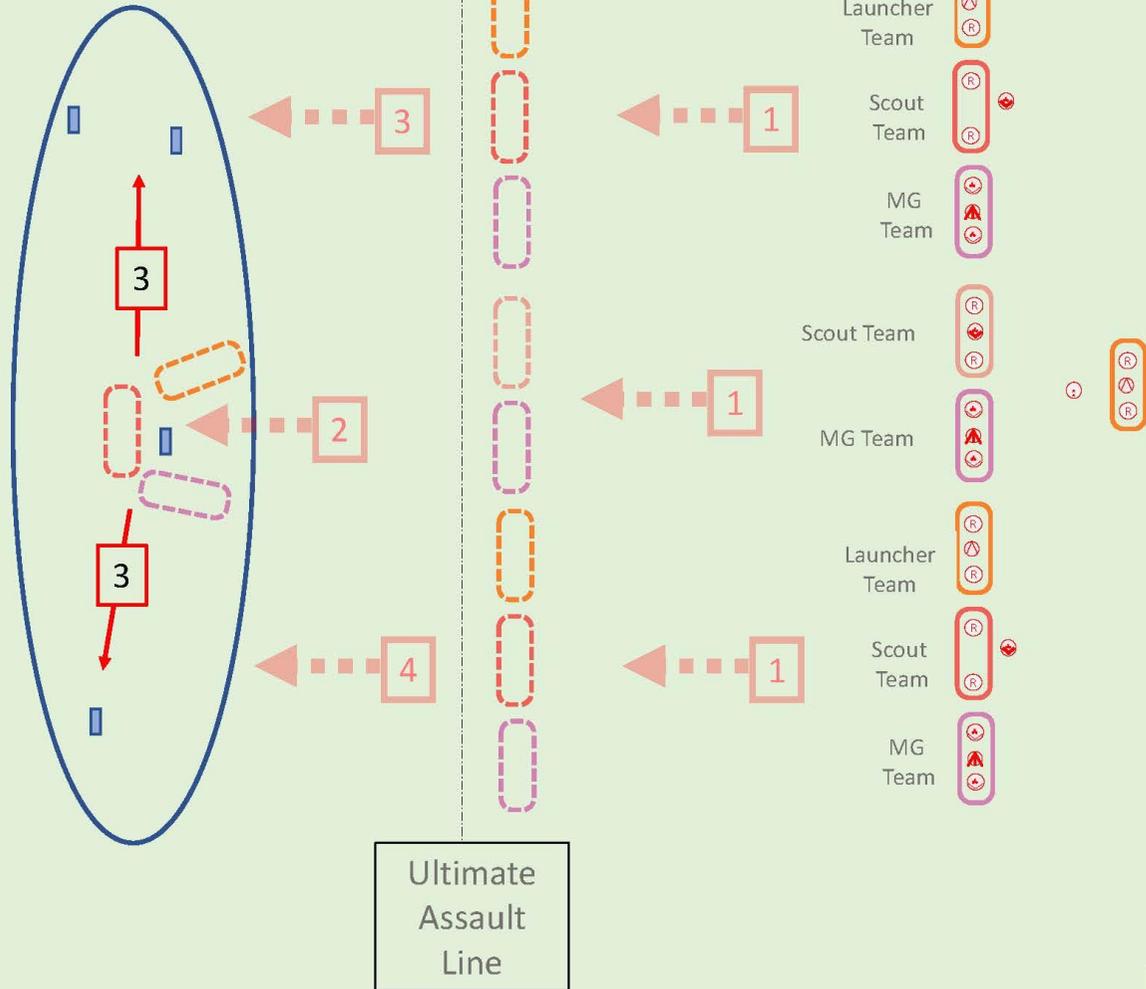


Platoon Assault: Unlock From Centre

Platoon Assault: Unlock from the Centre

As previously described, the North Torbian is will always seek to attack from more than one direction. Another variation on unlocking the enemy defence, especially if it is more widely spread across the frontage of the assault, is to unlock from the centre. This occurs in the following way.

1. The platoon fires and moves as far as the ultimate assault line where they pause briefly to deliver explosive fire.
2. The remainder of the platoon engages from this line while the platoon commander leads the centre section forwards to seize a 'key' position in the centre of the enemy defence. They may pull additional fire units forwards to the unlocking section to achieve fire domination.
3. This foothold is then used to provide fire onto enemy positions to both flanks and the remainder of the enemy position. The flanking sections in turn clear the ground to their front – in this case the right-hand section.
4. The left-hand section then clears forward.



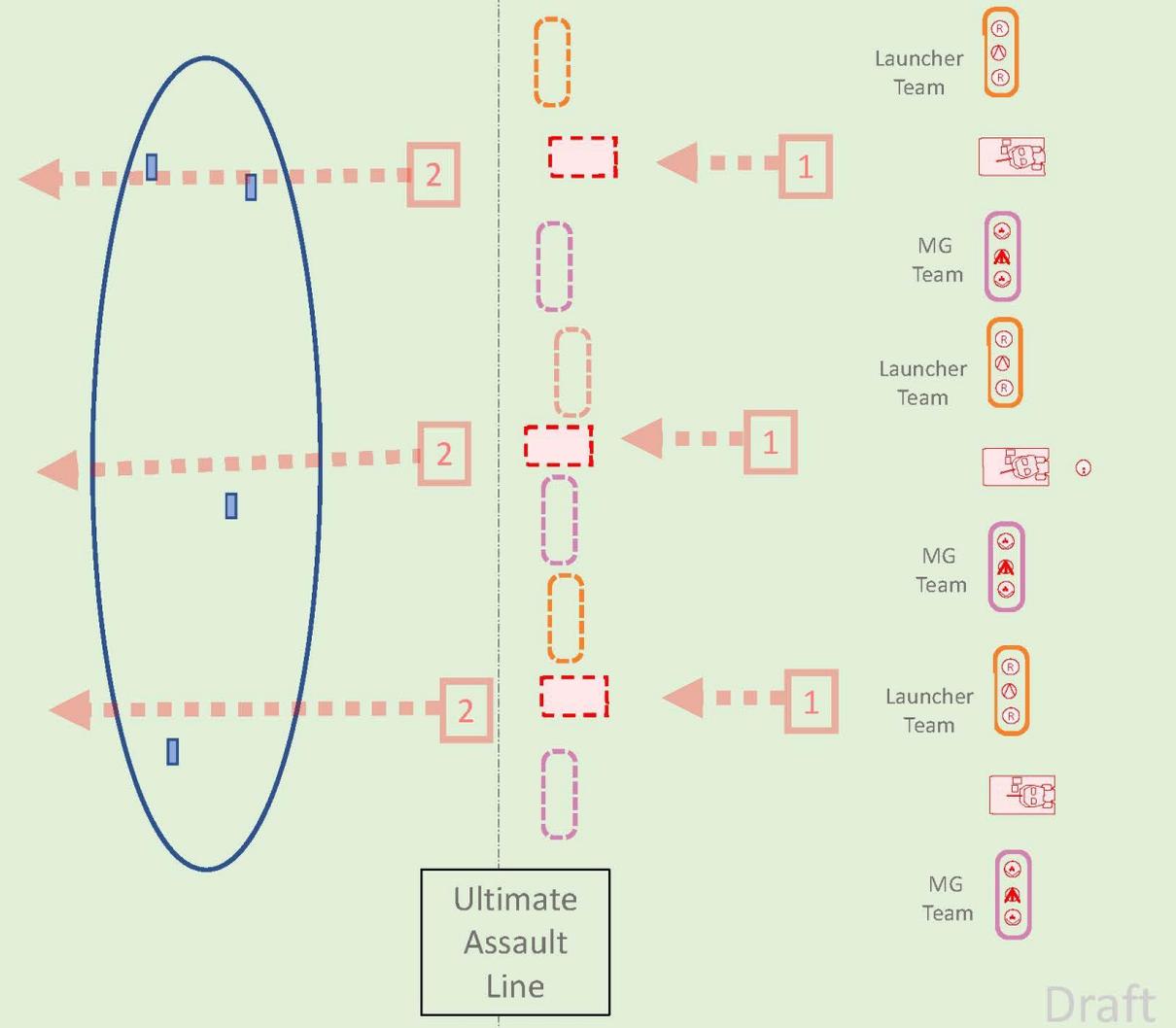
Chapter 4 MECHANISED OFFENSIVE MANOEUVRE

Mechanised Platoon Assault: Shock Attack

Mechanised Platoon Assault: Shock Attack

The basic formation for mechanised assault is an extended line with sections split either side of their AFV, except in smoke when they move behind the vehicle for the first stage. This is used against poorly prepared and/or ill-defined objectives, especially as part of a company level attack. As its name implies, it relies on rapidly exploiting the shock of firepower. The tactic is vulnerable to individual sections being caught up in a local flight and falling behind the rest of the attack.

1. The platoon advances in extended line at a brisk walking pace with the vehicle gunners engaging targets on the objective with HE. A high proportion of the dismounted sections will carry tube launched explosive munitions on their shoulders ready to fire. This stage may be conducted under obsuration, with the vehicles navigating using thermal optics and the infantry sections following behind their AFV orientated by a coloured strobe light on the rear of the vehicle. On the platoon commanders signal and timed to coincide with the smoke reducing, the vehicles pause at the ultimate assault line and switch to cannon and machine-gun fire, which orientates the infantry to the target if it is still obscured by smoke. A volley of shoulder launched munitions is then fired.
2. After the volley has impacted and detonated across the objective, the platoon resumes the advance at walking pace. The fight is controlled by the section commanders who remain in the vehicle turrets.

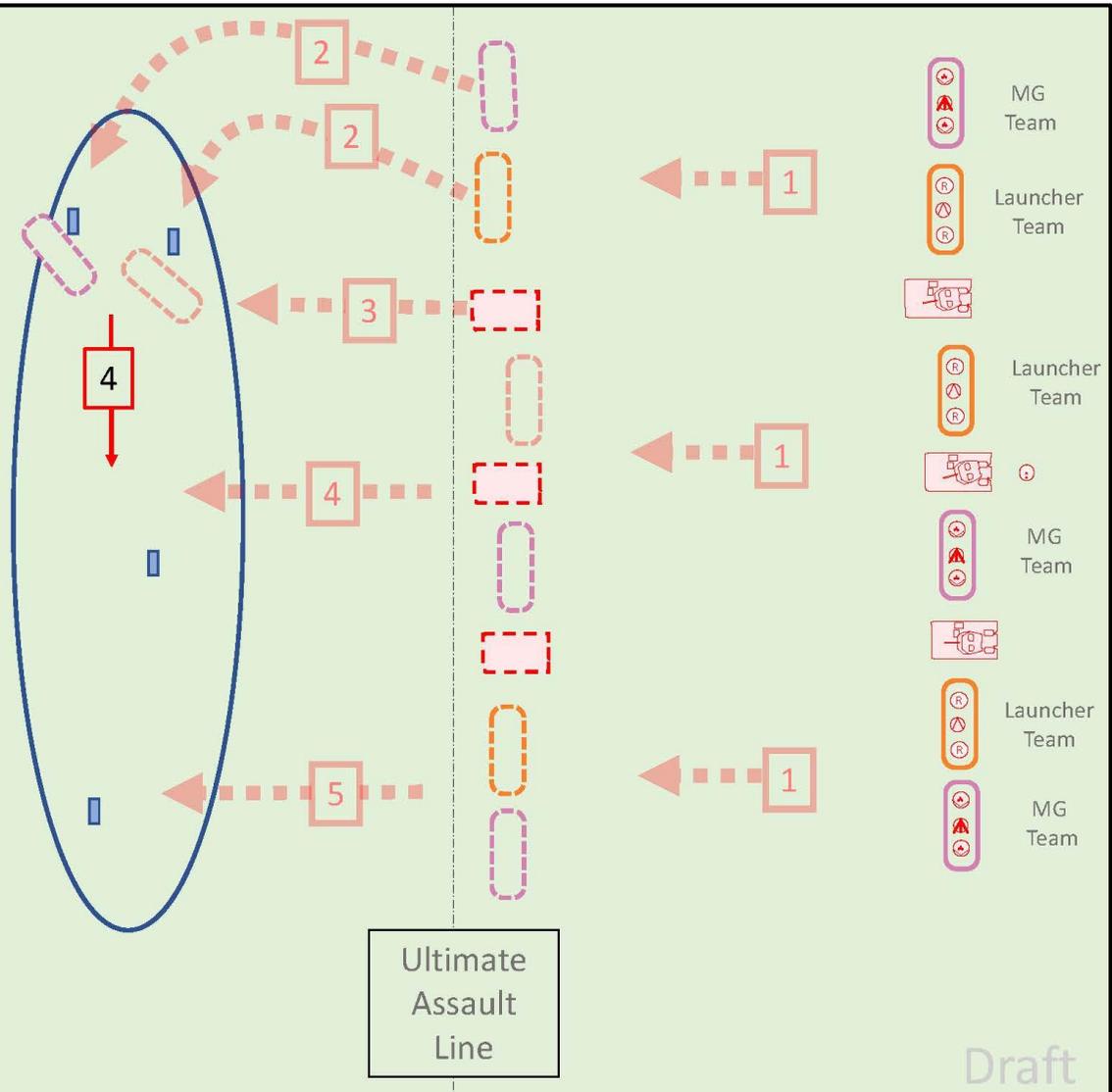


Mechanised Platoon Assault: 'Vehicles tight'

Mechanised Platoon Assault: 'Vehicles Tight'

As previously described, the North Torbians will always seek to attack from more than one direction. To ensure greater freedom of manoeuvre, platoons may deploy in the so-called 'vehicles tight' formation. This places the three AFV closer together and only separated by the half sections of the centre section. The effect is that the other two sections are complete and better able to manoeuvre from a flank when the opportunity presents itself. This may occur as follows:

1. The platoon advances at a brisk walking pace in extended line with the vehicle gunners engaging targets on the objective with HE. This stage may be conducted under obscurity, with the vehicles navigating using Thermal optics and the infantry sections following behind their AFV orientated by a coloured strobe light on the rear of the vehicle. On the platoon commanders signal the vehicles pause at the ultimate assault line and switch to cannon and machine-gun fire.
2. While the remainder of the platoon is static, one of the flanking sections, in this case the right-hand one, conducts a local flanking attack to clear positions in front of it.
3. That sections AFV then moves forwards to where it will be protected by its own section fires and moves as far as the ultimate assault line where they pause briefly to deliver explosive fire.
4. This leading section then provides fire onto the enemy positions in front of the centre section which moves forward to clear them.
5. This process is then repeated by the left flank section.

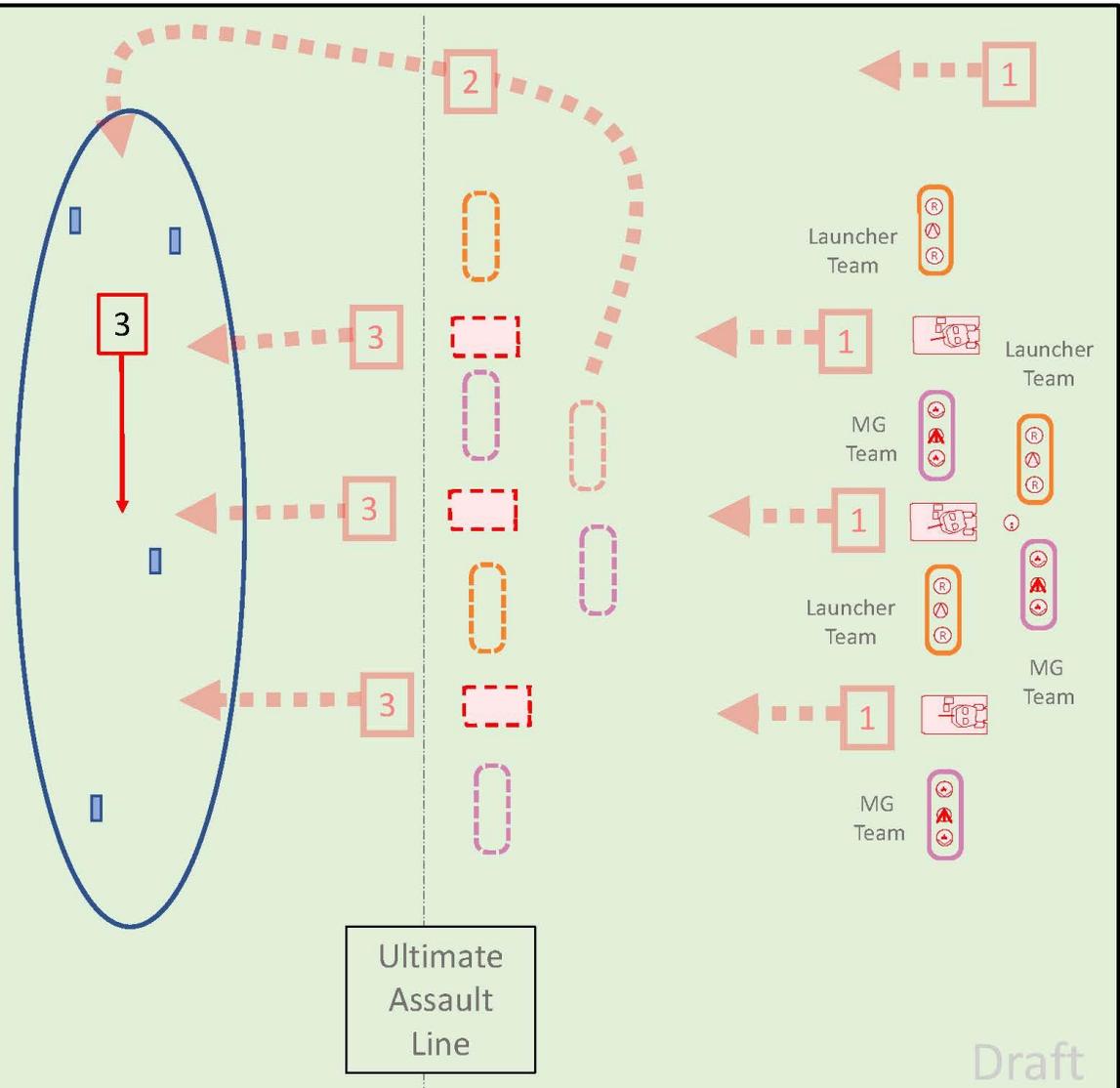


Mechanised Platoon Assault: Section in Reserve

Mechanised Platoon Assault: Section in Reserve

The preferred formation for a platoon to assault is with a section in reserve in order to give the commander the flexibility to influence the battle. Importantly, this does not include the section vehicle which is kept forwards in order to maintain firepower. (The term 'two sections forward' would be used to describe deploying with one complete section including its vehicle to the rear). Options include but are not limited to achieving a local supporting attack from a different direction to unlock the enemy defence.

1. The platoon advances in extended line at a brisk walking pace with the vehicle gunners engaging targets on the objective with HE. This stage may be conducted under obscurity, with the vehicles navigating using Thermal optics and the infantry sections following behind their AFV orientated by a coloured strobe light on the rear of the vehicle. On the platoon commanders signal the vehicles pause at the ultimate assault line and switch to cannon and machine-gun fire,
2. While the vehicles and the two forward sections are on the ultimate assault line, the platoon commander then personally leads the reserve section to shape the battle. Typically, this will be an outflanking move to either one side or the other, but it plausibly could be to unlock the centre.
3. In this example, the reserve section has unlocked the enemy position from the right flank from which it provides supporting fire for the other two sections to clear their objectives. This might be done concurrently or in sequence.



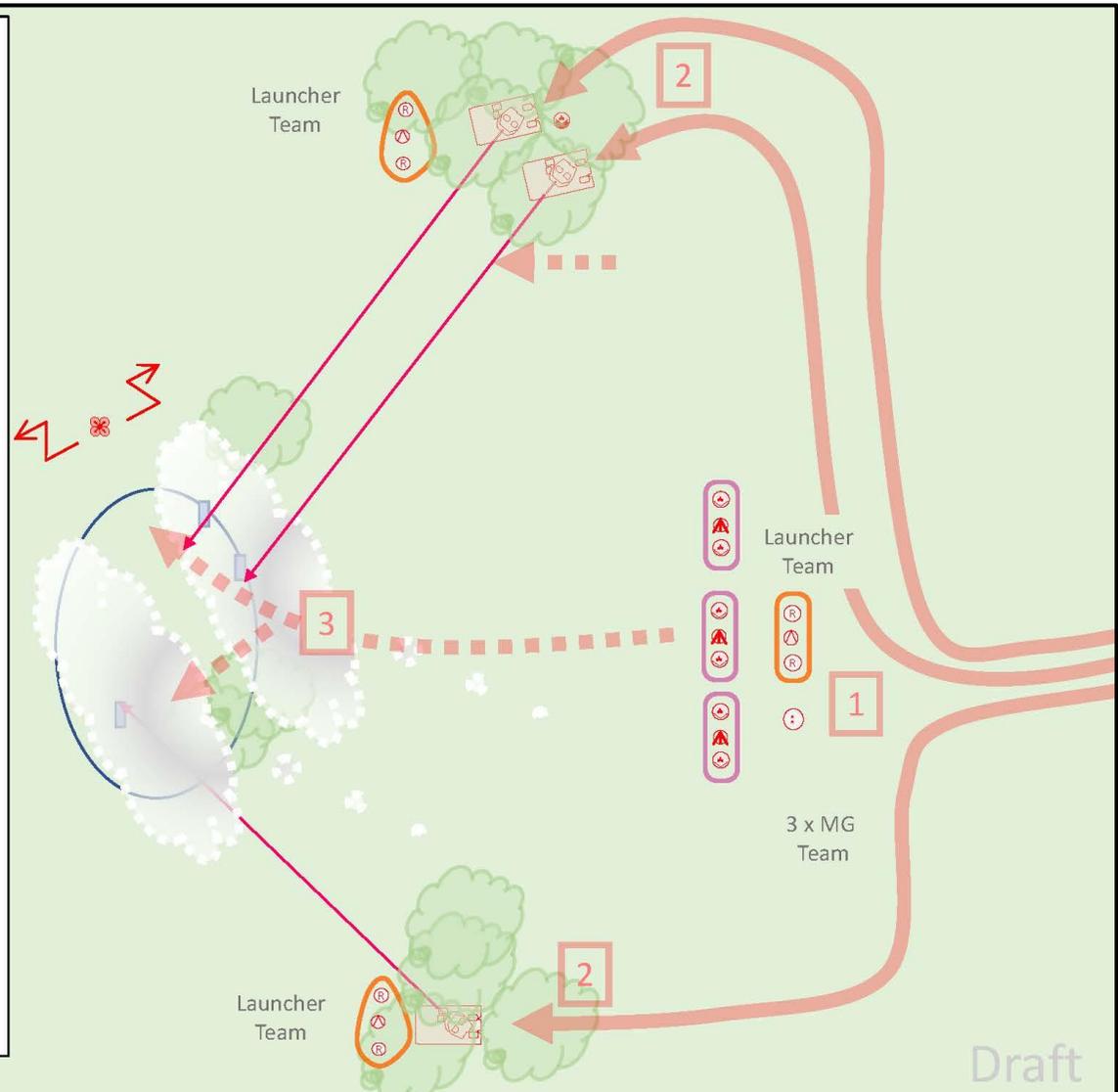
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Mechanised Platoon Assault: Drop and Support

Mechanised Platoon Assault: Drop and Support

The North Torbians are extremely conscious of the vulnerability to contemporary guided weapons of AFV moving at an infantry pace across an objective, and the risk is increasing with wider use of UAS. Compounding this, a small number of intelligent top attack antiarmour mines on an objective also represent a severe threat. Equally, the provision of sophisticated weapons sights with thermal capability creates new tactical options, which is further enhanced if vehicle gunners are able to use drones to acquire targets. Consequently, they have adopted a new mechanised tactic where the AFV drop the assault infantry short of the objective and then moved to fire support positions on the immediate flanks. Preferably these positions are amongst or inside buildings or within bushes and foliage for protection from guided weapons. Often, they will reverse into a fire position from the direction of the objective to ensure they have a clear field of fire directly towards it. An important feature of this tactic is that it is largely driven and controlled from the vehicles providing supporting fire, usually under the command of the platoon senior sergeant. It may be executed as follows:

1. While the objective is under supporting fire the platoon motors towards it at speed until it reaches the debus point. When the infantry shake out into assault formation.
2. The vehicles continue to the selected fire positions. A single position has the advantage of requiring fewer dismounted soldiers to keep the vehicle secure, however firing from multiple angles will give better suppression and better understanding of what is occurring on the objective. The gunners use smoke munitions to obscure the objective and engage through it. The platoon senior sergeant provides a running commentary on the radio.
3. The platoon advances into the obscuration towards the objective relying on the firepower of the AFV to maintain suppression until they are warned to halt by the sergeant, who then coordinates the shifting of the vehicle fires to allow the platoon to attack individual positions in turn.



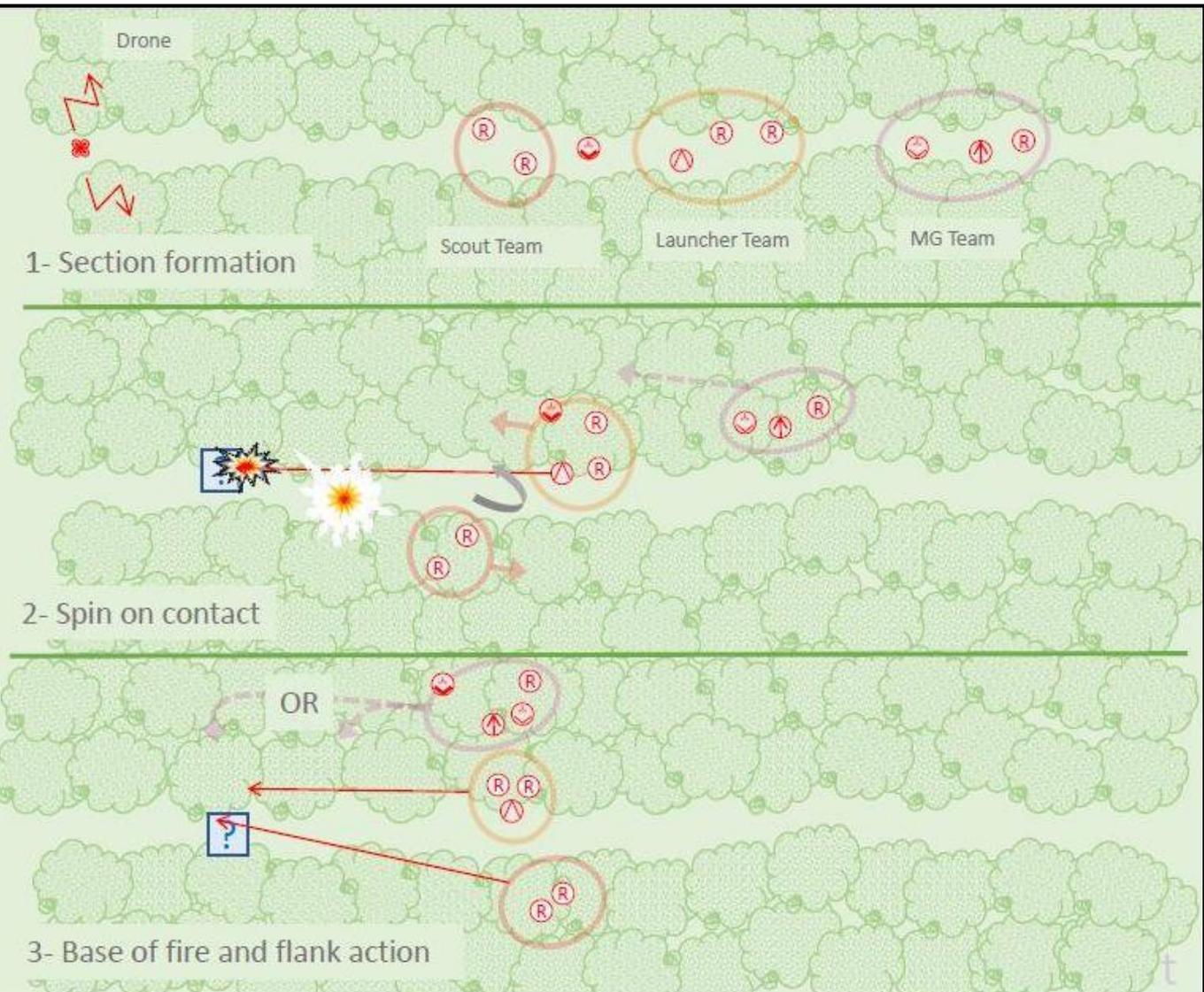
Chapter 5 CLOSE COUNTRY DISMOUNTED ACTIONS

Section Formation and Immediate Action Contact Close Country

Section Formation and Immediate Action Contact Close Country

The dismounted section forms three groupings or teams; the Scout team, the launcher team, and the machine-gun team. Spacing is similar to Western practice except that teams tend to bunch slightly and have bigger spaces between them. The commander moves with and between teams to personally influence the most important action at any time.

1. The Scout team move a short bound ahead. If contact is anticipated, one or both soldiers will have a hand flame & smoke launcher prepared to fire. The section commander moves next, navigating. Immediately behind follows the launcher operator with the tube shouldered and loaded with HE/TB or smoke. If a drone is used ahead of the section it will be operated by the section commander if moving by bounds and by the section 2 IC if moving continuously.
2. On contact, the Scouts charge very close enemies but otherwise fire flame-smoke and drop back to one side of the axis. The launcher immediately fires an explosive round for shock effect and the commander leads the launcher team forwards off the route on the opposite side to the Scouts. The 2IC closes the MG team up on the same side.
3. The commander moves to the MG team and leads it forwards – slightly forwards to apply flanking fire on the enemy to enable the other teams to begin withdrawing or forwards to the flank to assault the enemy.



Section Execute immediate 'mouth' ambush

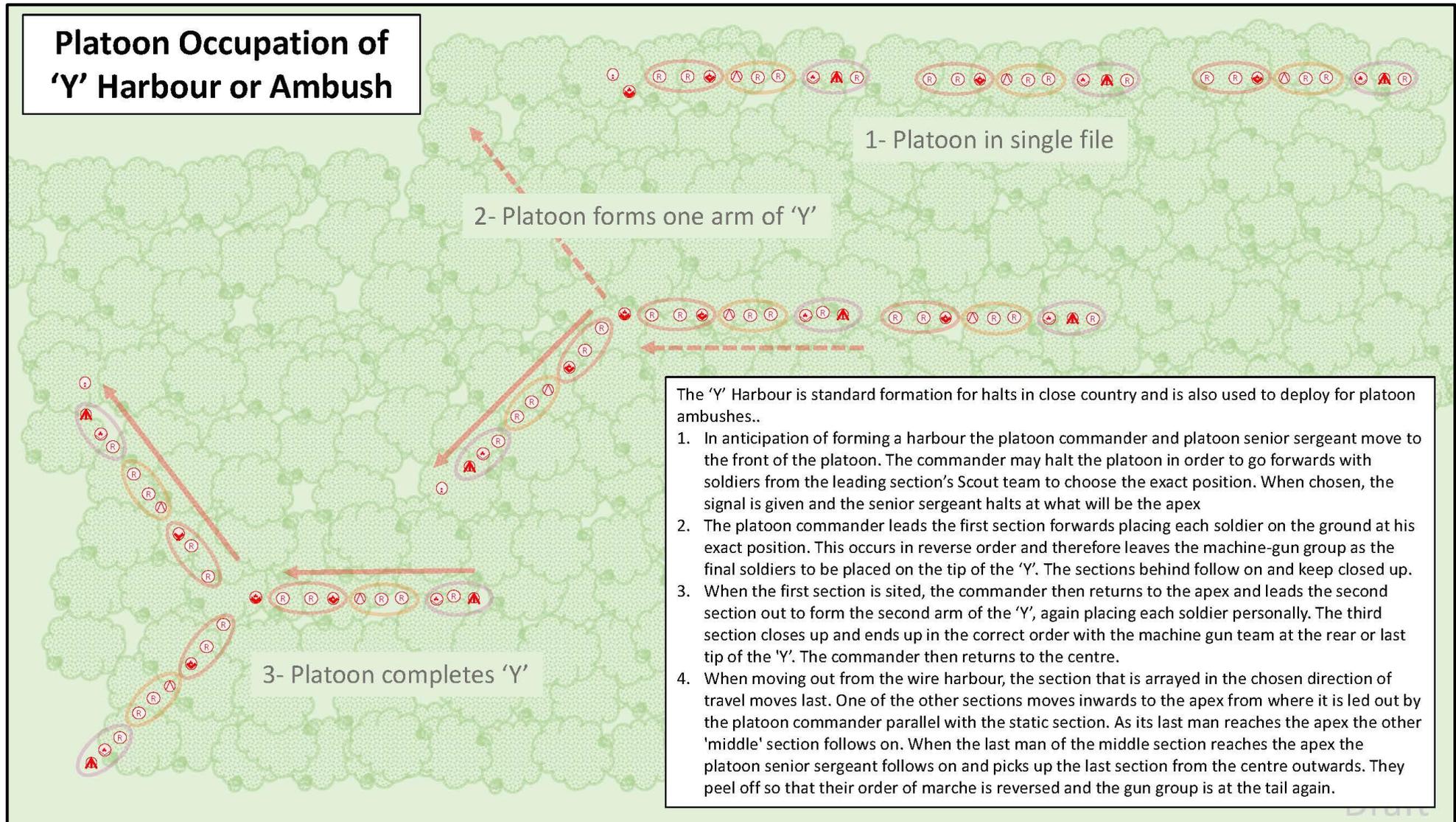
Section Execute Immediate 'Mouth' ambush

If a dismounted section detects an enemy ahead, the commander has two options. One is to move the entire section into cover on one side of the axis, as is done in Western jungle doctrine. However, normally the North Torbians prefer not to risk yielding the element of surprise and choose to engage frontally within an explosive munition. The method is described as a mouth ambush because when deployed the two weapons teams form a mouth and the scouts a tongue. The same method is used if an armoured vehicle is encountered but the teams may move further to the flank to ensure minimum arming distances for antiarmour weapons.

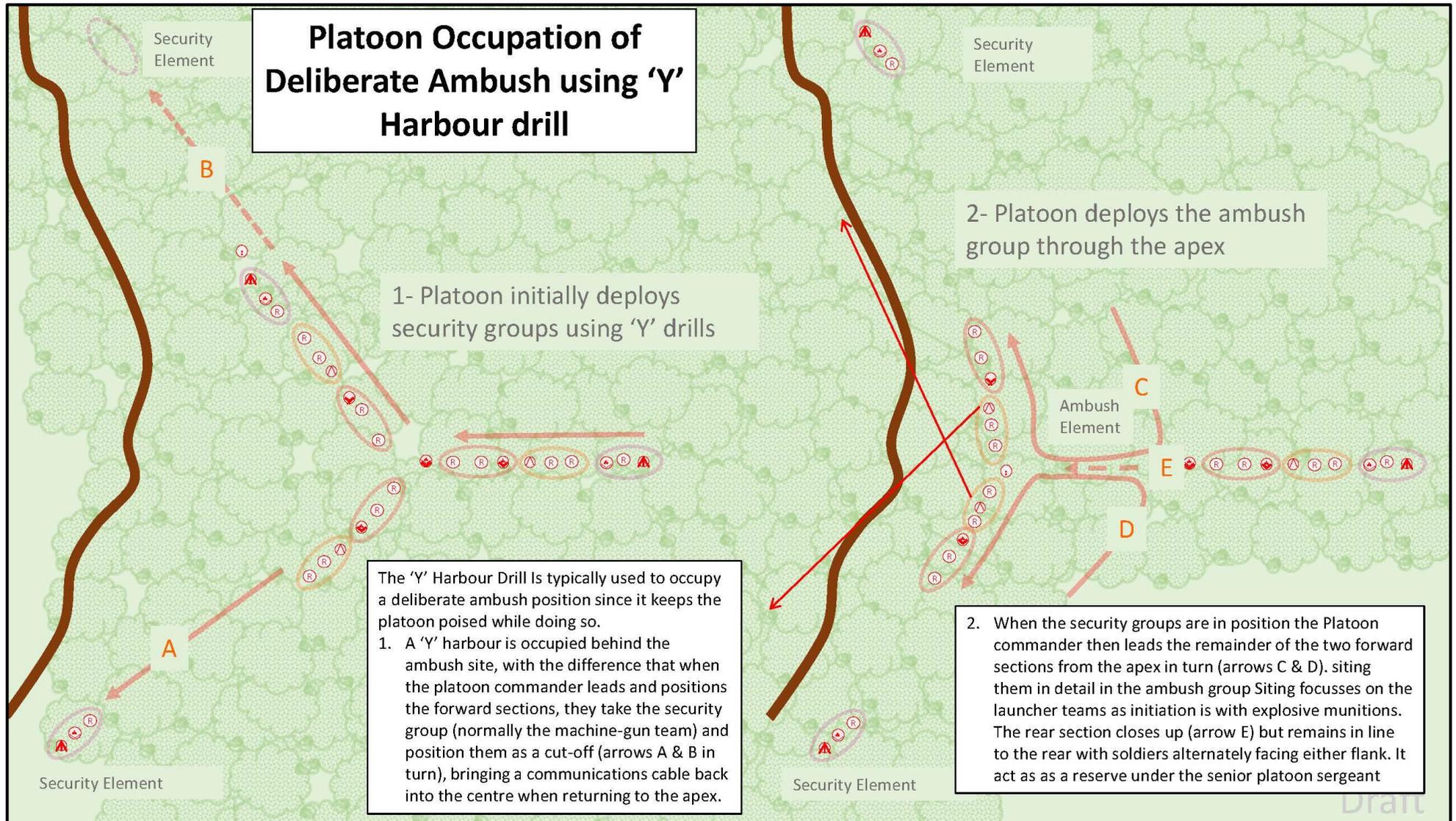
1. The dismounted section advances in three teams.
2. When the enemy is pre-seen, the scout team will attempt to halt in cover on one side of the axis. Section commander gives the signal for a mouth ambush and the launcher team close up and move off the axis on the Scouts side. Concurrently the machine-gun team move off on the opposite side. The distance they move is determined by the need to keep surprise and visibility considerations. The scouts, the launcher gunner and the commander will usually be very close in order that they all engage together.
3. The ambush is sprung by firing an explosive munition. The commander will not normally remain static after the initial burst of fire. Either they will immediately push the two weapons teams forwards alternately to envelop the ambush site (accepting the risk of firing towards own elements), or they will rapidly withdraw.



Platoon Occupation of 'Y' Harbour ambush



Platoon Occupation of Deliberate Ambush using 'Y' Harbour drill



Chapter 6 DEFENCE

North Torbian Defensive TTP

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North Torbian Defensive TTP

Key Points

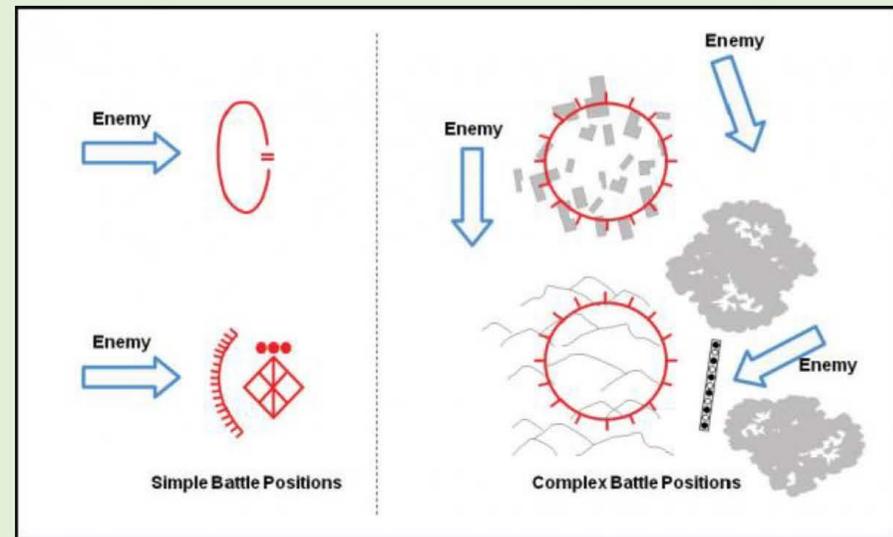
The North Torbian approach to defence is predicated on their assumption that if a defensive position can be located it can be destroyed. Their approach, and the basis of their TTP can usefully be understood based on their two categories.

Simple Battle Positions are analogous to Western-type defensive positions employed in the delay and mobile defensive battle and focused on delivering combat effects. Individual fighting positions are mostly sited to cover enemy approaches and killing areas, themselves often defined by obstacles. Generally, they are expected to be fought from in order to achieve a tactical effect and then abandoned.

Complex Battle Positions, in contrast, are focused on force preservation in order to engage in battle at another time and place. Positions are sited and constructed in the first instance

- to avoid enemy detection, then to
- be difficult to define and target, then to
- provide maximum protection and finally to
- use terrain and deconstructed so that an enemy assault will be difficult and slow.

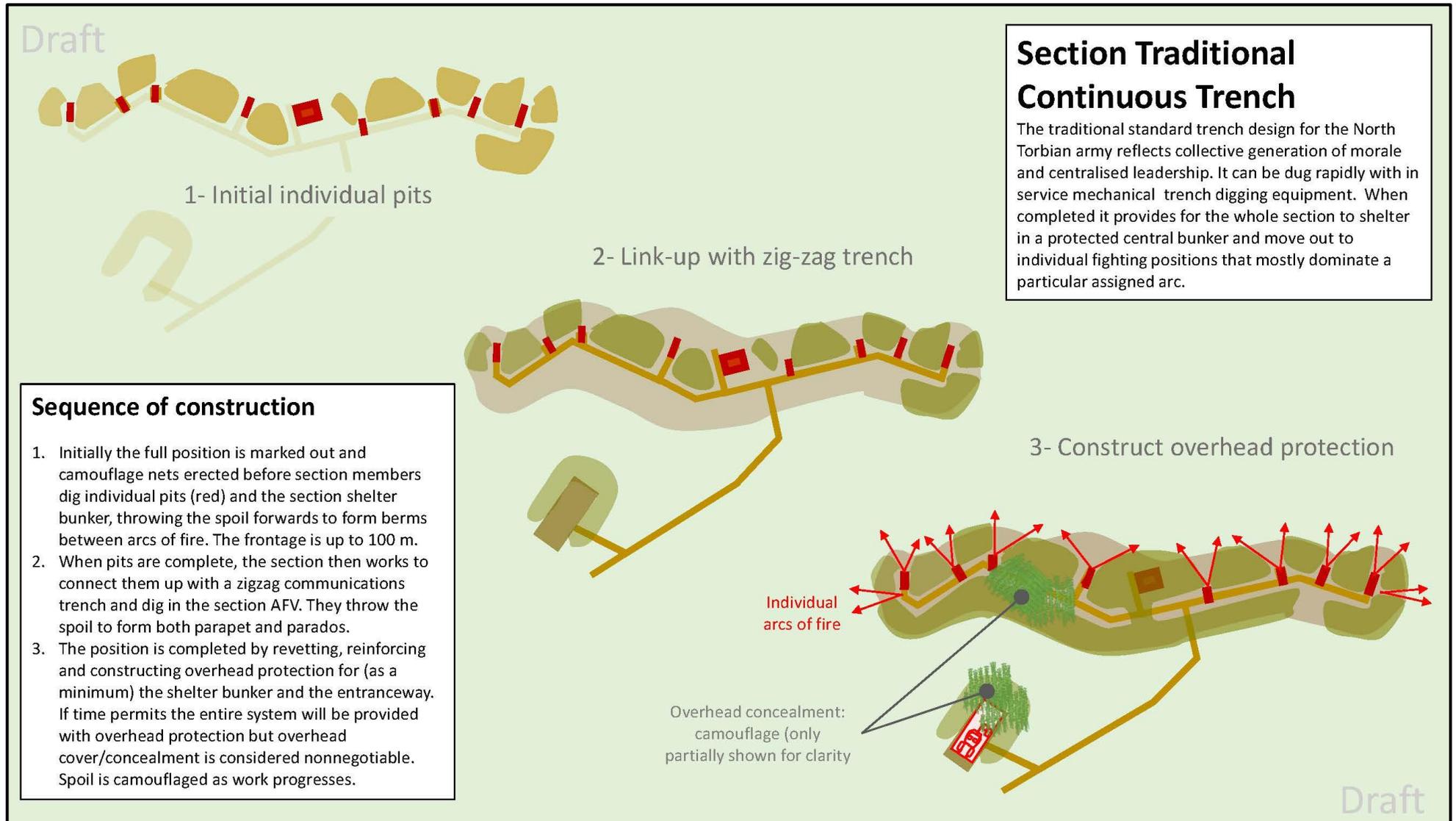
The complex battle position defence should not be misunderstood as passive, rather as providing a firm base from which to emerge and move concealed to previously selected and reconnoitered positions to ambush, attack by fire or conduct spoiling or counter-attacks.



This diagram indicates the difference between the two types of battle positions. The Simple Battle Position typically lies astride the enemy axis, whether extensively fortified or not. In contrast a Complex Battle Position is chosen to avoid the likely enemy axes with a view to engaging from the occupied terrain into the flank of the enemy or otherwise at a relative advantage because of that terrain.

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Section Traditional Continuous Trench



Platoon Traditional Position

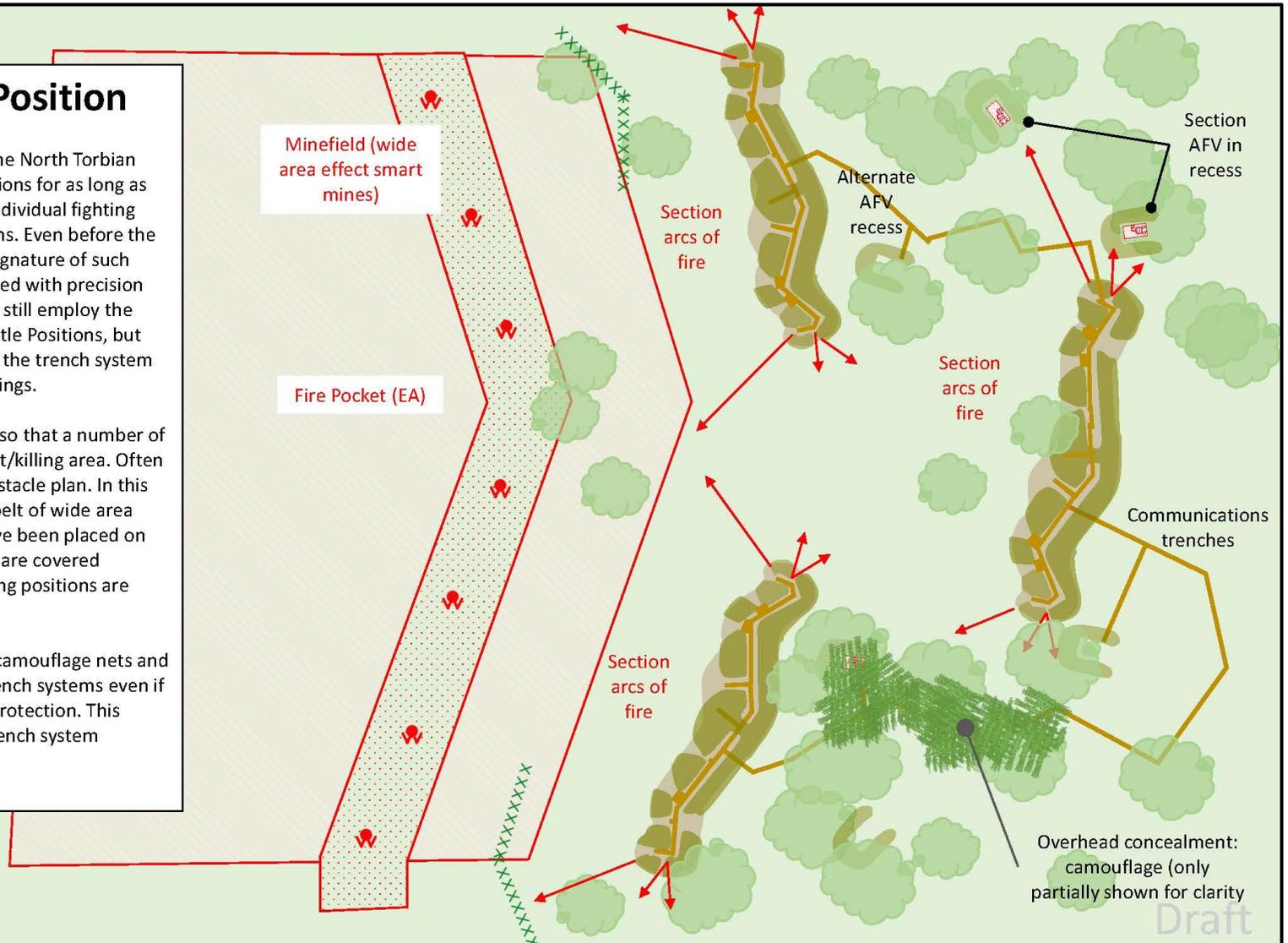
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Platoon Traditional Position

When conducting a deliberate defence, the North Torbian historically kept working on fighting positions for as long as possible, continuously developing from individual fighting pits to entire connected battalion positions. Even before the advent of drones on the battlefield, the signature of such systems and the risk of them being targeted with precision weapons was forcing a rethink. They now still employ the traditional section position for Simple Battle Positions, but usually only where the distinctive lines of the trench system can be disguised amongst woods or buildings.

A Simple Battle Position is normally sited so that a number of section positions cover a single fire pocket/killing area. Often the file pockets are integrated with an obstacle plan. In this example the fire pocket includes a mine belt of wide area effect smart mines and why obstacles have been placed on the home side of the pocket where there are covered approaches to the position. Several fighting positions are constructed for each of the section AFV.

The North Torbian's will construct under camouflage nets and invariably use overhead cover on their trench systems even if they are not able to cover them all with protection. This diagram only shows a small part of the trench system covered over.



Pairs Fighting Position

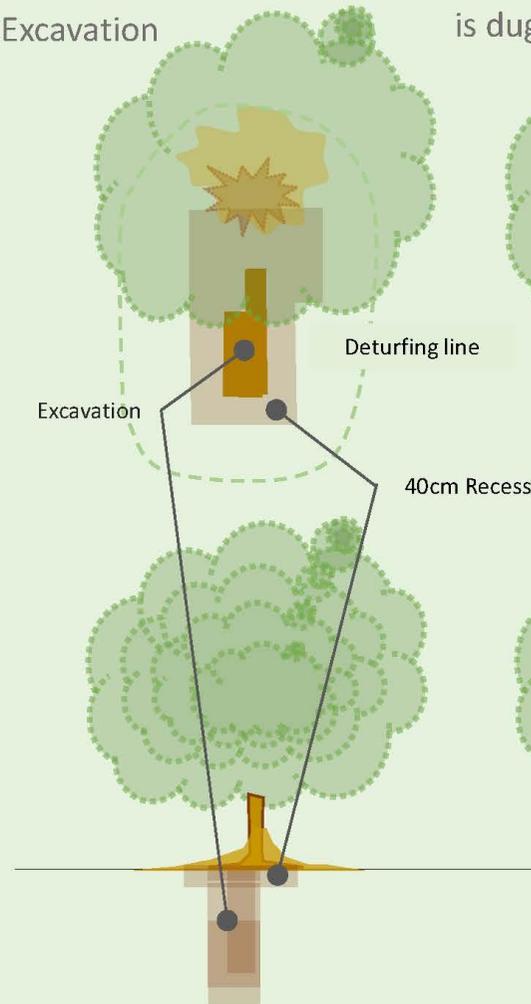
Pairs Fighting Position

The emphasis for complex battle positions is avoiding detection, therefore concealment is a priority. The pairs fighting position is designed to have the lowest possible signature, while providing deep overhead protection for survival. In order to minimise profile, the position is constructed level with the ground and spoil removed. Overhead concealment is always provided for the openings, but this may be lowered to ground level when required. The design is particularly suitable for construction beneath trees, where the main shelter bunker can be located between the radiating root system.

The construction sequence is as follows.

1. Large camouflage nets are erected to cover the entire work area if tree cover is not complete. The position is marked out and turf stripped back and set aside, Fabric is placed for excavated soil. The shelter bay is excavated including 40 cm deep recesses for overhead protection.
2. The 'Tee' for the fighting positions is dug.
3. Retaining material is then placed over the parts of the excavation to be covered, before it is backfilled to ground level. The whole position is then covered back over, the turf replaced, and the construction is thoroughly camouflaged.

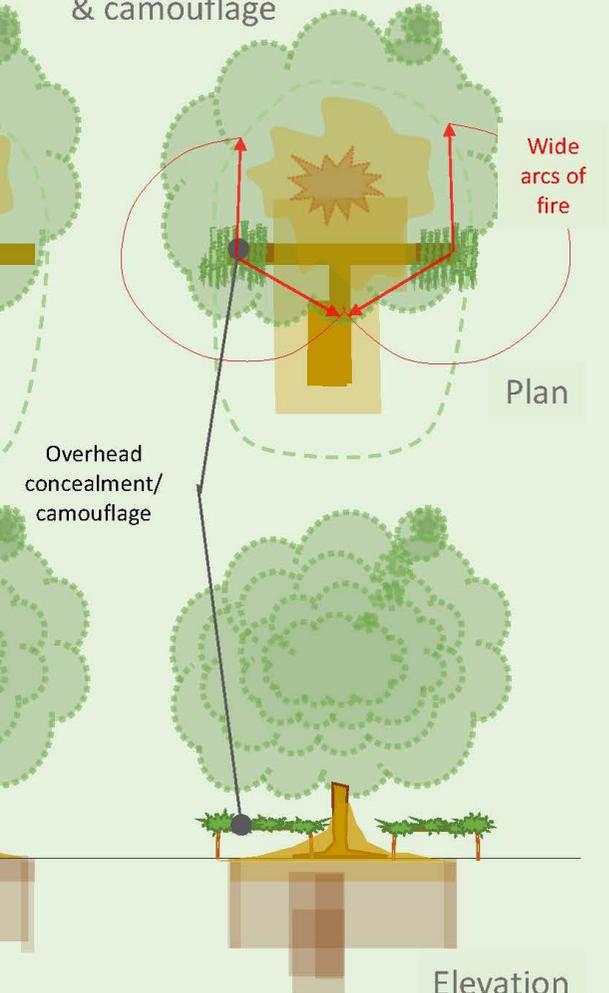
1- Initial
Excavation



2- 'Tee'
is dug



3- Backfill. Cover
& camouflage



Elevation
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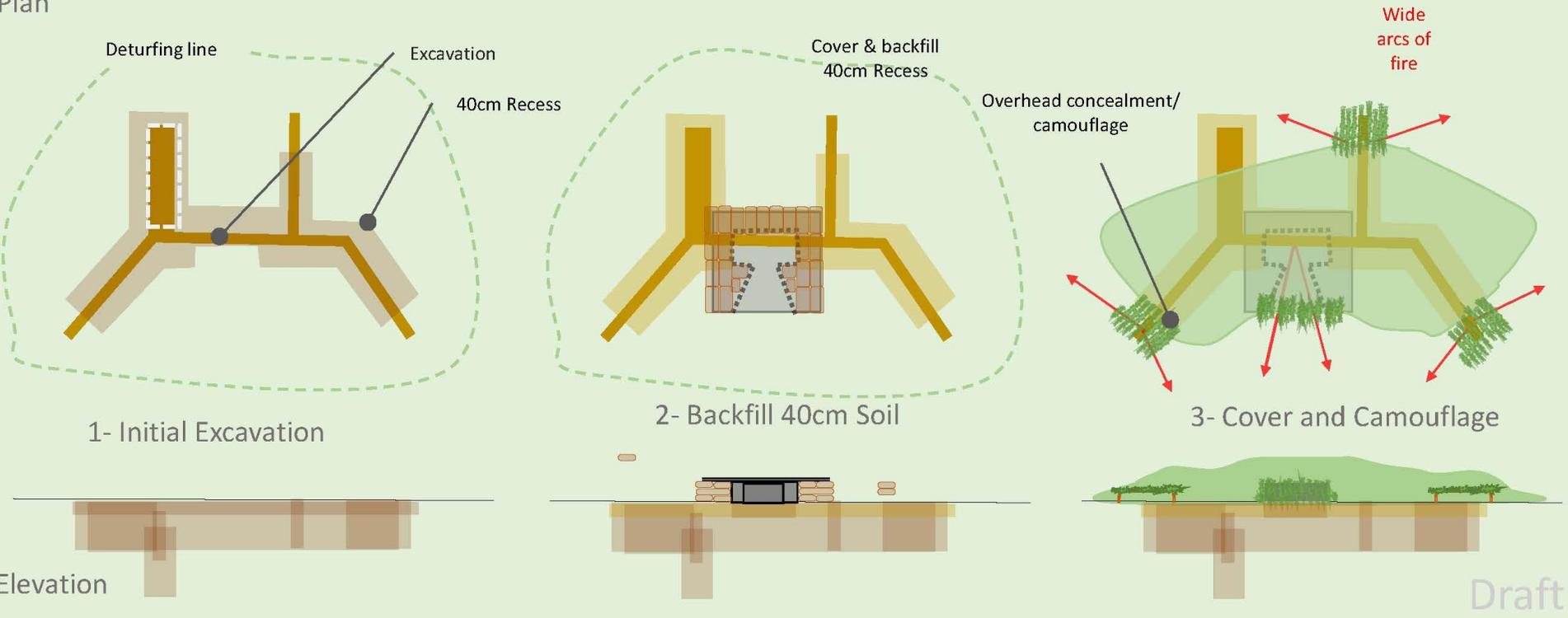
Team Fighting Position

Team Fighting Position

In response to the increasing threat from overhead surveillance and in order to be able to conceal positions adequately for the complex battle position concept to be viable, the North Torbians have introduced new fighting position designs. The team fighting position is intended for three or more soldiers and is designed to provide a deep shelter, overhead protection for soldiers covering a primary arc and surface level positions for fighting and observing that offer good arcs. Normally, in order to avoid an overly large construction, overhead protection is not provided for these other positions, and they simply have overhead cover/camouflage. The construction sequence is as follows.

1. Large camouflage nets are erected to cover the entire work area for each position. The position is marked out and turf stripped back and set aside, fabric is placed for excavated soil. Starting with the bunker (marked in white) for immediate protection, the position is excavated including 40 cm deep recesses for overhead protection.
2. Retaining material is placed over the parts of the excavation to be covered, before it is backfilled to ground level. A sandbag roof support is is then constructed for the key firing position.
3. The whole position is then covered back over, the turf replaced, and the construction is thoroughly camouflaged.

Plan



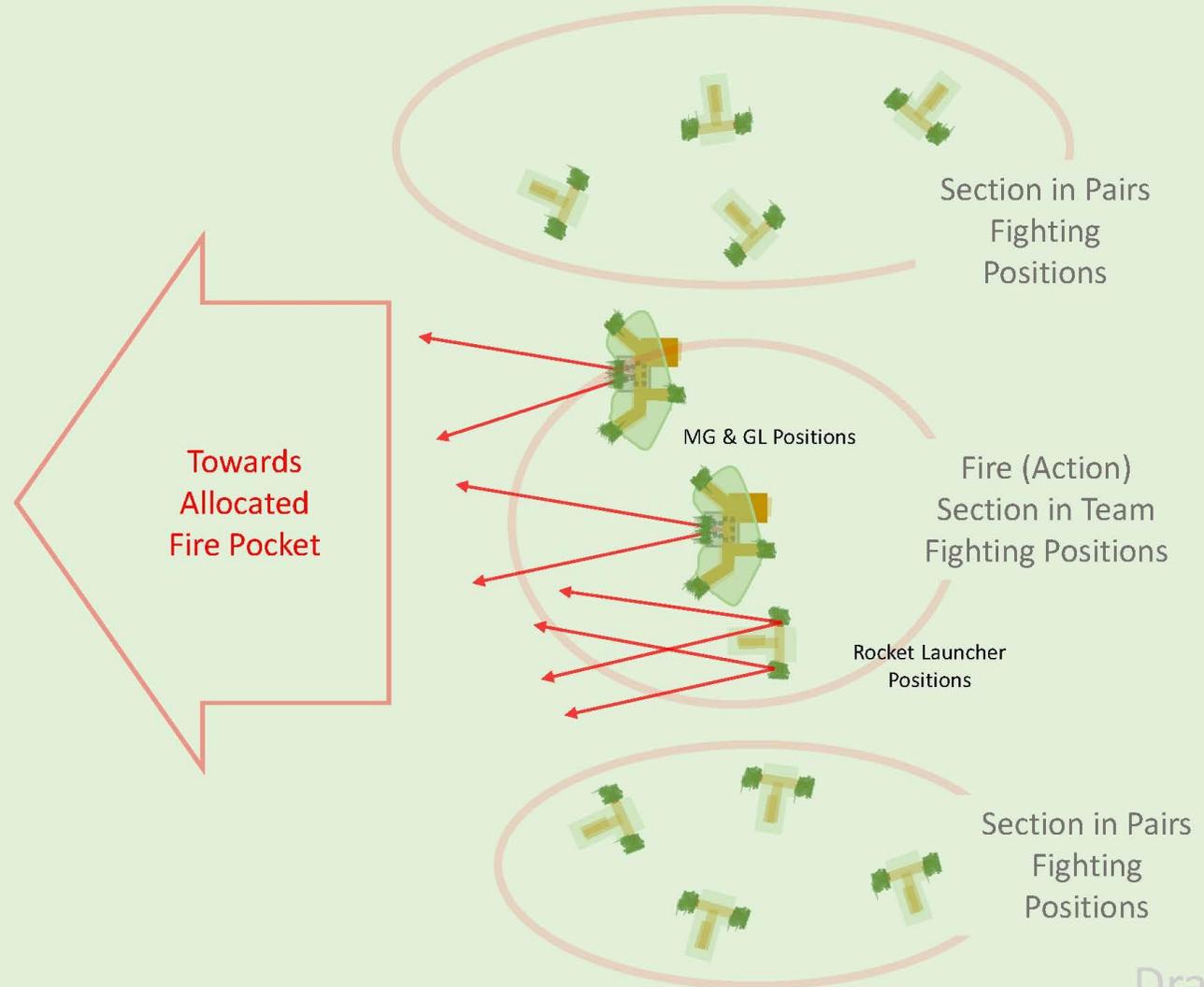
Platoon Simple Battle Position

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Platoon Simple Battle Position

Even in Simple Battle Positions the North Torbians emphasise concealment and survival. In this example of a simple battle position the platoon has constructed to team positions and one pairs position to cover the allocated killing area with direct fire weapons – this is the action element. The commander is likely to collect the machine guns and grenade launchers from the other sections to increase firepower. The remainder of the other two sections are deployed to maintain security for the action element.

In the schematic only the arcs of fire of the action section are shown. Furthermore, for clarity, no relief nor foliage nor buildings are shown. In practice the North Torbians will always seek to conceal positions amongst the most complicated terrain available.



Platoon Complex Battle Position (Inward Sited)

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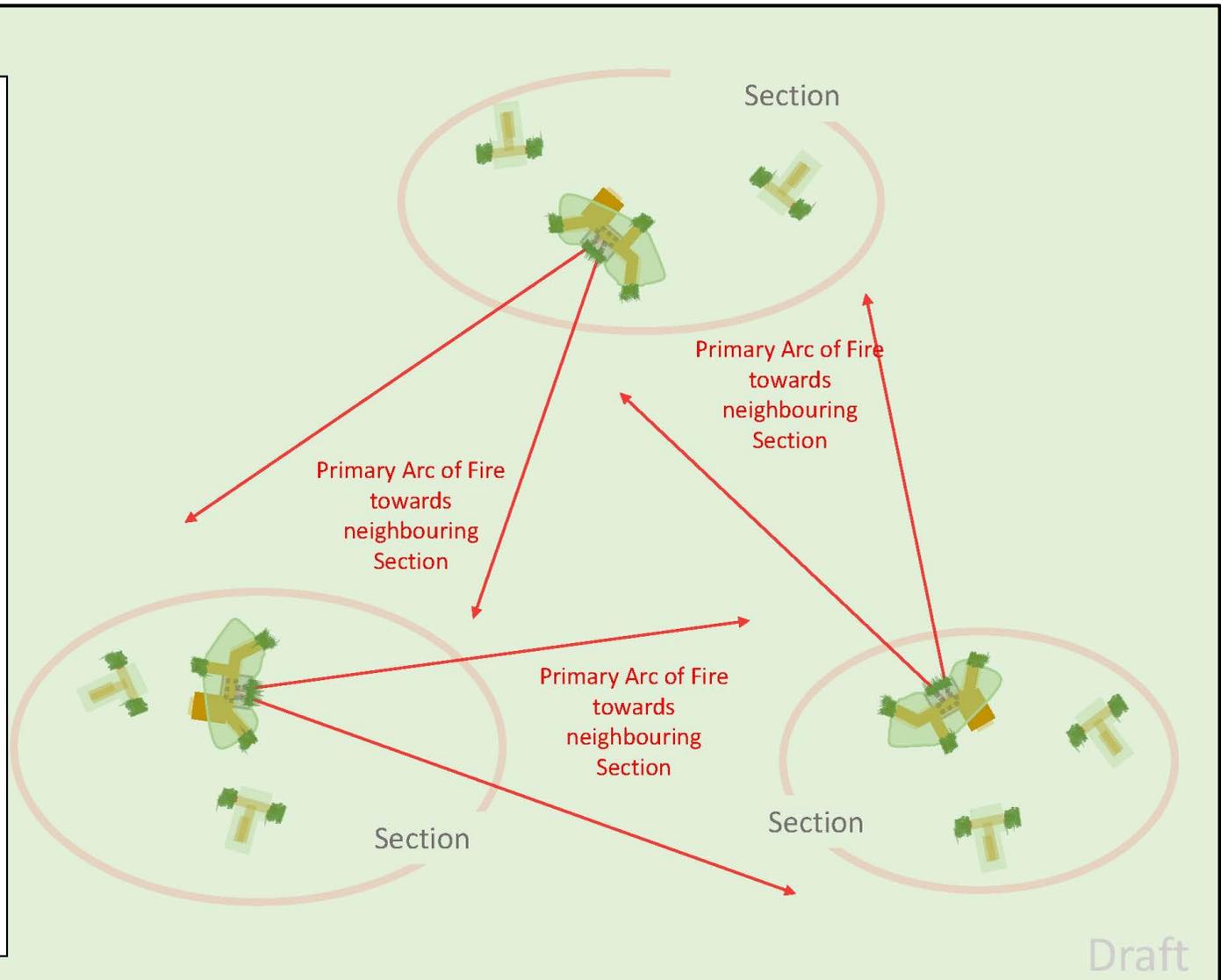
Platoon Complex Battle Position (Inward Sited)

The primary function of a Complex Battle Position is usually survival of the force. This places a design premium on avoiding detection and then close self-defence in the event of surprise. In many cases the intention is not to fight from the position, rather on enemy approach to redeploy to ambush or exfiltrate.

Complex Battle Positions will usually be designed to avoid any need to move outside of fighting positions during routine. Soldiers will remain below ground at all times unless in contact.

The demands of maintaining security are likely to require anchor positions from which sentries can observe not only from under concealing overhead cover, but also from under overhead protection if the position becomes engaged, noting the also the preferred North Torbian tactic of calling own fire onto own (protected) positions. In an inward-looking or inward sited position, individual fighting positions with full overhead protection are arranged to observe neighbouring positions and their approaches.

Again, this example does not show any concealing terrain or structures.



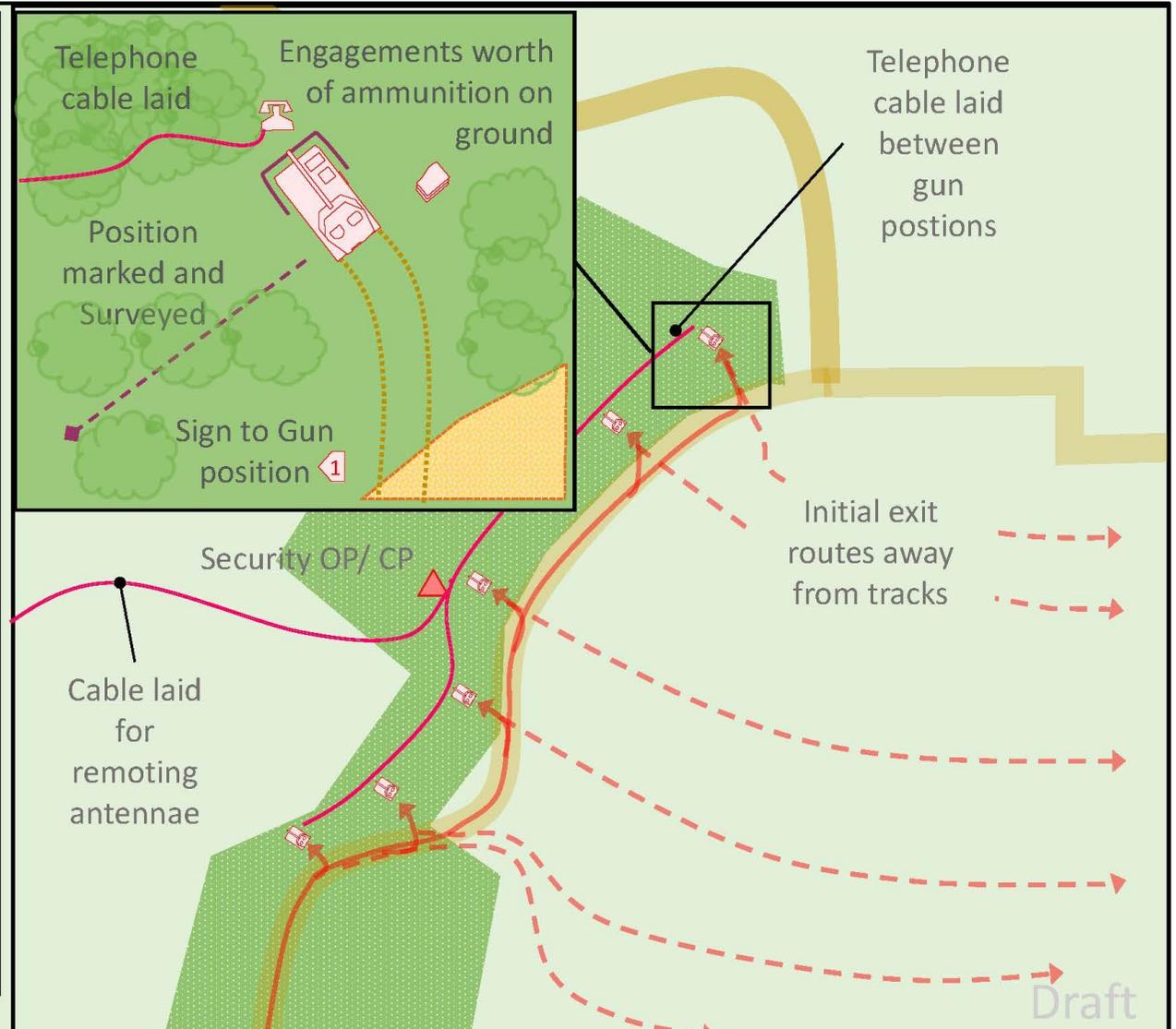
Chapter 7 ARTILLERY

Limited Action Battery Gun Position

Limited Action Battery Gun

Position North Torbian artillery increasingly employ limited action gun positions because of the synergistic threat from overhead surveillance and precision counterbattery fire. Their use is feasible because smartphone based mission planning software allows rapid calculation of individual gun firing solutions given the gun location.

- The position may be at any location where the guns can be concealed, readily positioned and rapidly withdrawn, preferably at a point where there are multiple routes in and out to avoid predicted counterbattery fire. They set up many positions, of which only a proportion are used
- A survey team in light vehicles or motorbikes employ a UAS to check the site and then approach the future position from a different direction than its planned occupation. They mark the gun positions, place survey/direction stakes & lay out telephone cable, cables for remoting antennae and marker signs. They may dig in a CP pit and/or deploy and leave behind Unattended Ground Sensors (UGS) or motion activated camera sensors to maintain a level of security.
- Prior to action an advance party is deployed to place an engagements worth of ammunition on the ground at each gun position, they may also erect camouflage nets and leave an OP behind for security.
- When occupying, the guns confirm survey and connect to the phone cable network while the CP sets up. Communications external to the Battery are by radio transmitted via remote antennae, internal via phone digital cable and voice
- After engagement, whenever possible the Battery initially evacuates using routes away from existing tracks & roads.

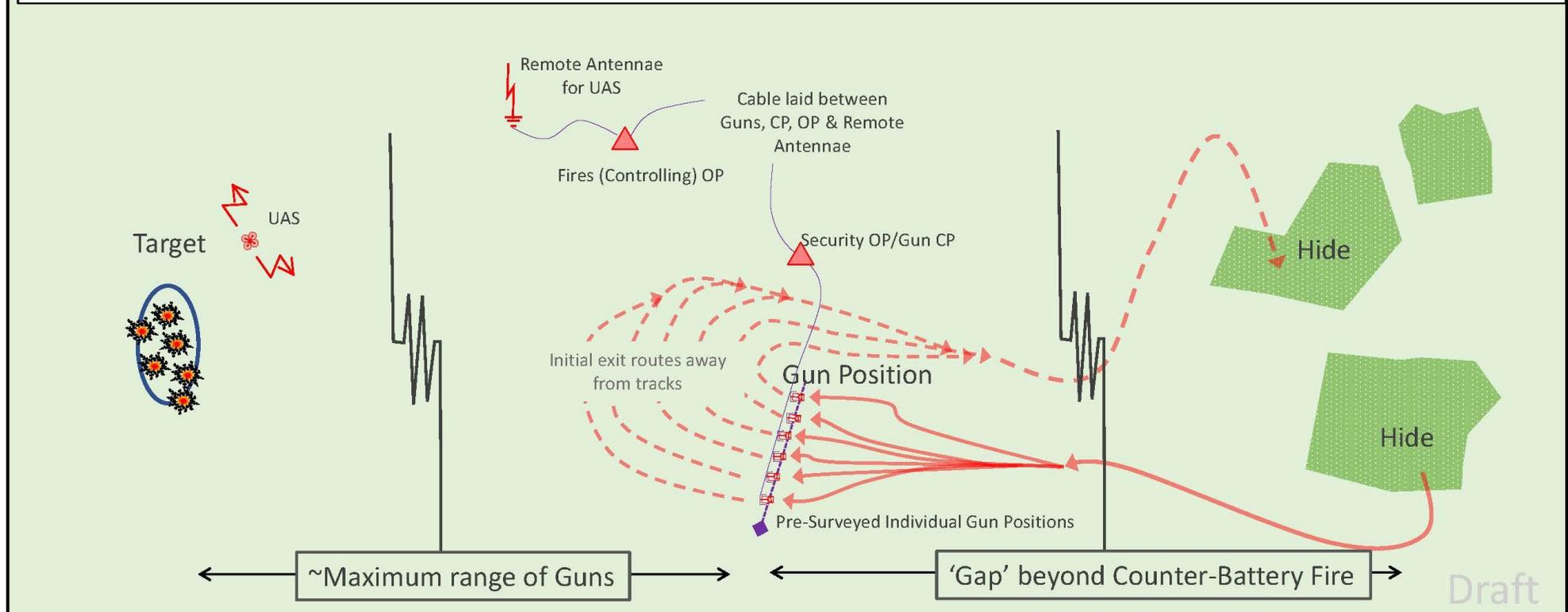


Battery Fires Raid

Battery Fires Raid

Another North Torbian artillery technique to reduce vulnerability to counterbattery fire is the fires raid. The guns move forward from hides to a firing position close to the maximum range of the guns, engage and then withdraw.

- The position may be at any location where the guns can readily positioned and rapidly withdrawn and where there are multiple routes out to avoid predicted counterbattery fire.
- A survey team approach the future position from a different direction than its planned occupation. They mark the gun positions, place survey/direction stakes & lay out telephone cable between gun positions, Gun CP and the Fires OP as well as cable from the latter removing antennae for UAS. The survey team may remain as a security OP or set up the Fires OP.
- When occupying, the guns confirm survey and connect to the phone cable network. The only radio transmissions are to the UAS via the remoted antennae.
- After engagement, whenever possible the Battery initially evacuates using routes away from existing tracks & roads.



Chapter 8 URBAN

North Torbian Urban TTP

D North Torbian Urban TTP

The North Torbian is have adopted the Olvanan urban doctrine, known as enclosure warfare, also known as *fused-masked-secerned warfare* merges three key ideas:

- Fusing is the notion of preceding and combining kinetic warfare, including 'robotic and intelligent warfare' with non-kinetic forms, especially information warfare and the wider constructs of the three warfares including inciting action amongst populations and the employment of low collateral weapons.
- Masking is the notion of concealing and protecting own forces by using both less lethal and nonlethal systems such as obscurants and moving in and through the fabric of the urban area
- Secerning is the notion of focusing military effort and lethal effects into closely defined areas, separating non-combatants, isolating enemy forces and denying them favourable engagement. It especially exploits remote technologies.

It is uncertain how far the North Torbians have been able to develop robotic and intelligent warfare. However, they have embraced the aggressive use of masking, both by using smoke and incendiarism as well as employing obsolescent armoured vehicles to mechanically breach and manoeuvre in and through buildings.



Aggressive & mechanical use of armoured vehicles

North Torbians employ their AFV very aggressively in urban areas, accepting the risk of driving in smoke only guided by the gunner's thermal picture and mechanically breaching buildings, often by reversing into them. They also use vehicles to climb from to enter at the first-floor level

Urban Offensive TTP: Characteristics

The offensive doctrine is characterised by use of obscuration combined with mechanical and explosive reshaping of the battlefield to restore manoeuvre and to reduce vulnerability. Obscurants, linear explosive breaches and mechanical tunnelling are all used to bypass defences and reach deep into urban areas and secure less defended areas in order to collapse the integrity of the defensive plan. Both obscurants and incendiaries may be fired into buildings on the flanks of an axis of advance to deny them to defenders.

The North Torbians have embrace the Olvanan dictum that a human should never be the first thing into a room or building. Where they cannot use explosives, a dog, a drone, a probe or even a mirror on a stick should always be employed before entry. Firepower, and particularly the weapons of APCs and IFV as well as shoulder launched larger munitions are considered the key enablers of clearing and securing buildings. Where direct firepower is not available or cannot be applied, demolition charges are exploited. Importantly the North Torbians, like the Olvanans, consider the use of prepared pole charges to be a normal infantry tactic.

The urban attack philosophy is that the heaviest weapons available prepare each part of an objective in turn. Clearing is done by a three-man team known a Trishula, and the rest of a section is organised to support the actions of that team.

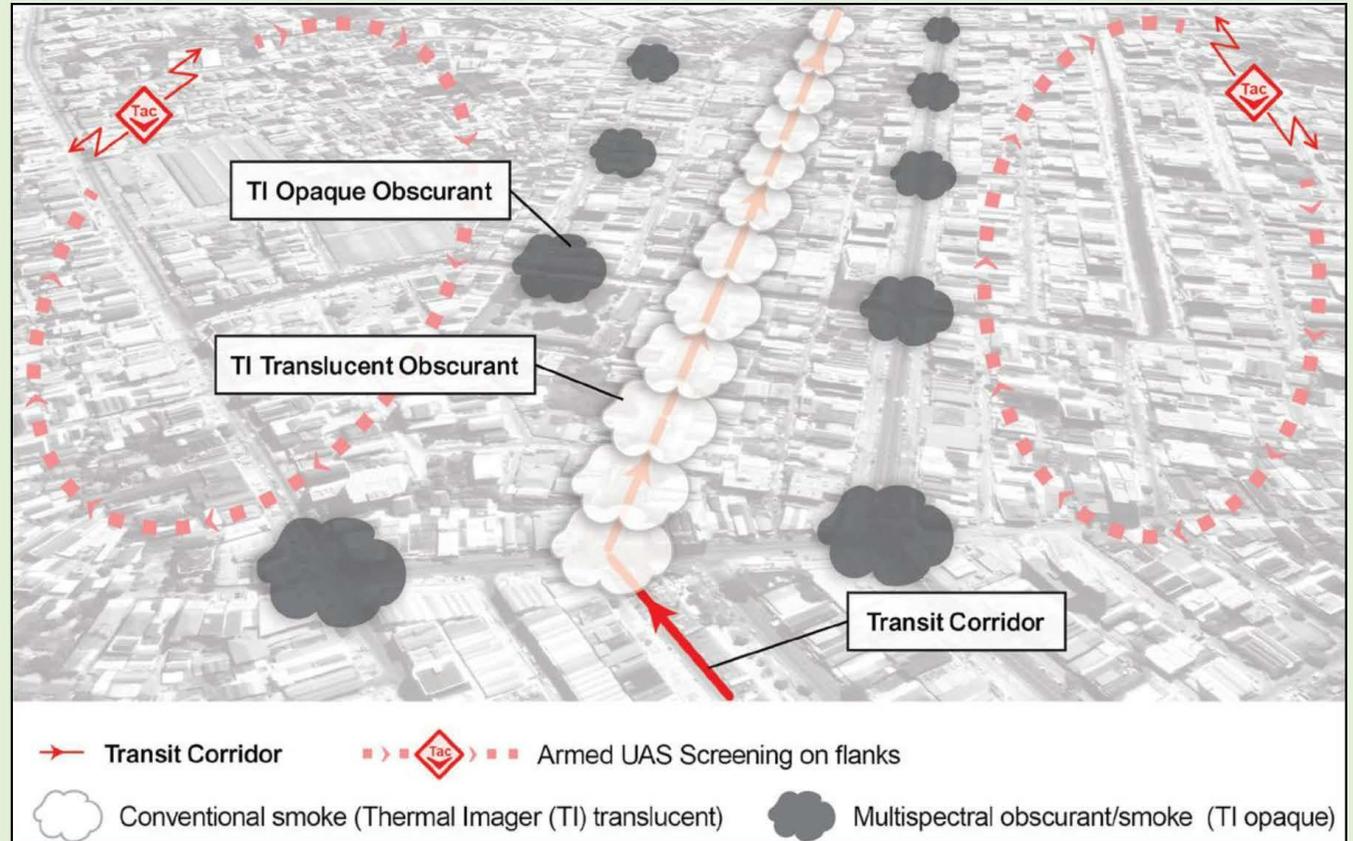
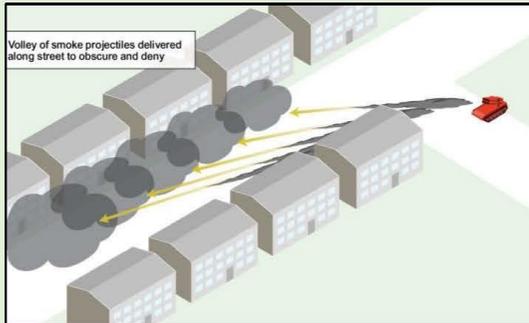
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Urban Concept: Obscured-Manoeuvre

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Urban Concept: Obscured-Manoeuvre

The North Torbians will use obscurants to create a 'transit corridor' to enable manoeuvre in urban areas, particularly for mounted operations. While this can be delivered by tube artillery, they generally employ their various multi-barreled rocket launchers, often in a direct fire mode in order to deliver smoke along a particular axis. While along their intended avenues of movement they will use TI translucent smokes, on the flanks they may use multispectral varieties that blind enemy thermal sights.



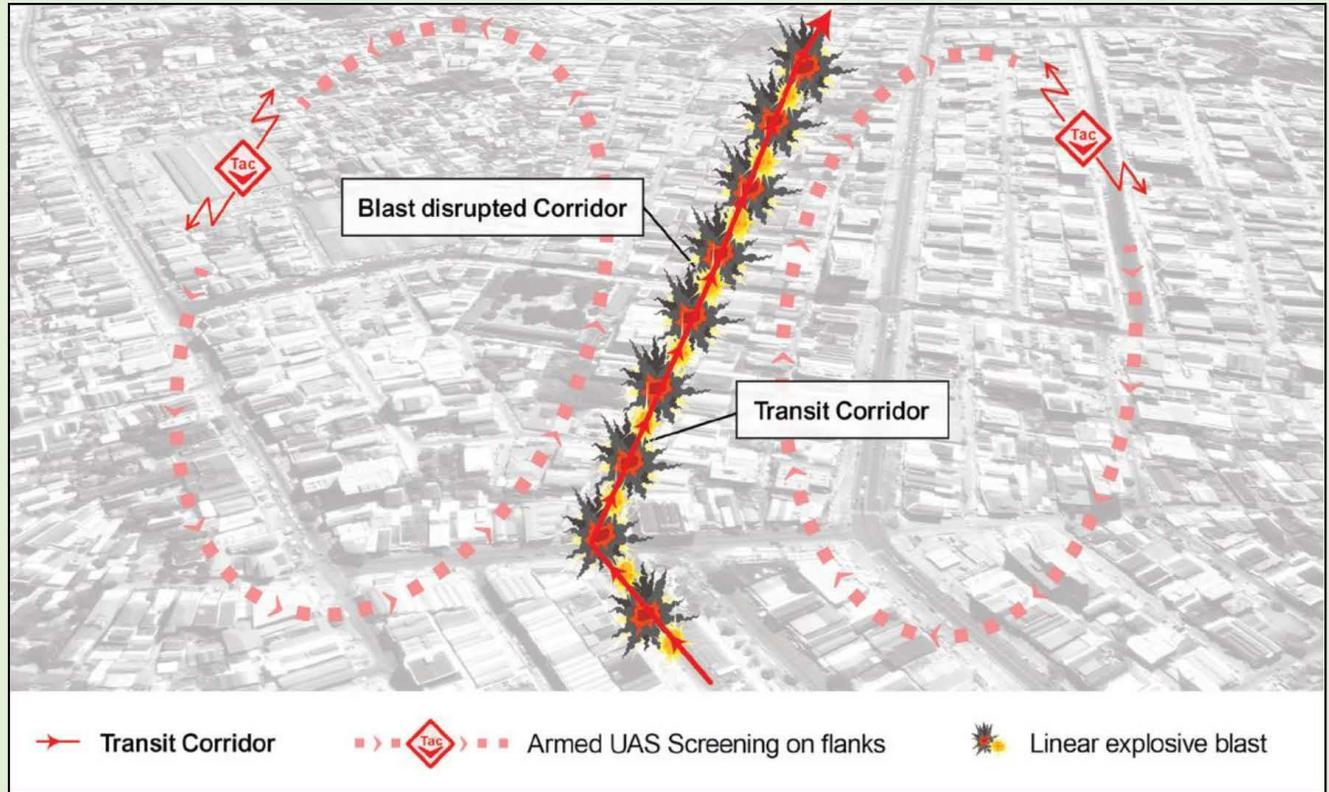
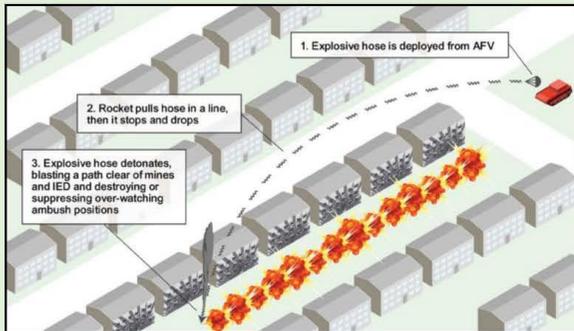
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Urban Concept: Line-Blast Enabled Manoeuvre

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Urban Concept: Line-Blast Enabled Manoeuvre

When facing a developed urban defence the North Torbians may seek to open one or more transit corridors for manoeuvre by using explosive minefield breaching line charges. These are deployed along a suitable street or backyard area. The explosive effect not only will neutralise most mines and IEDs but also the blast will typically disrupt the fields of fire of those positions overlooking the route that it does not simply destroy.



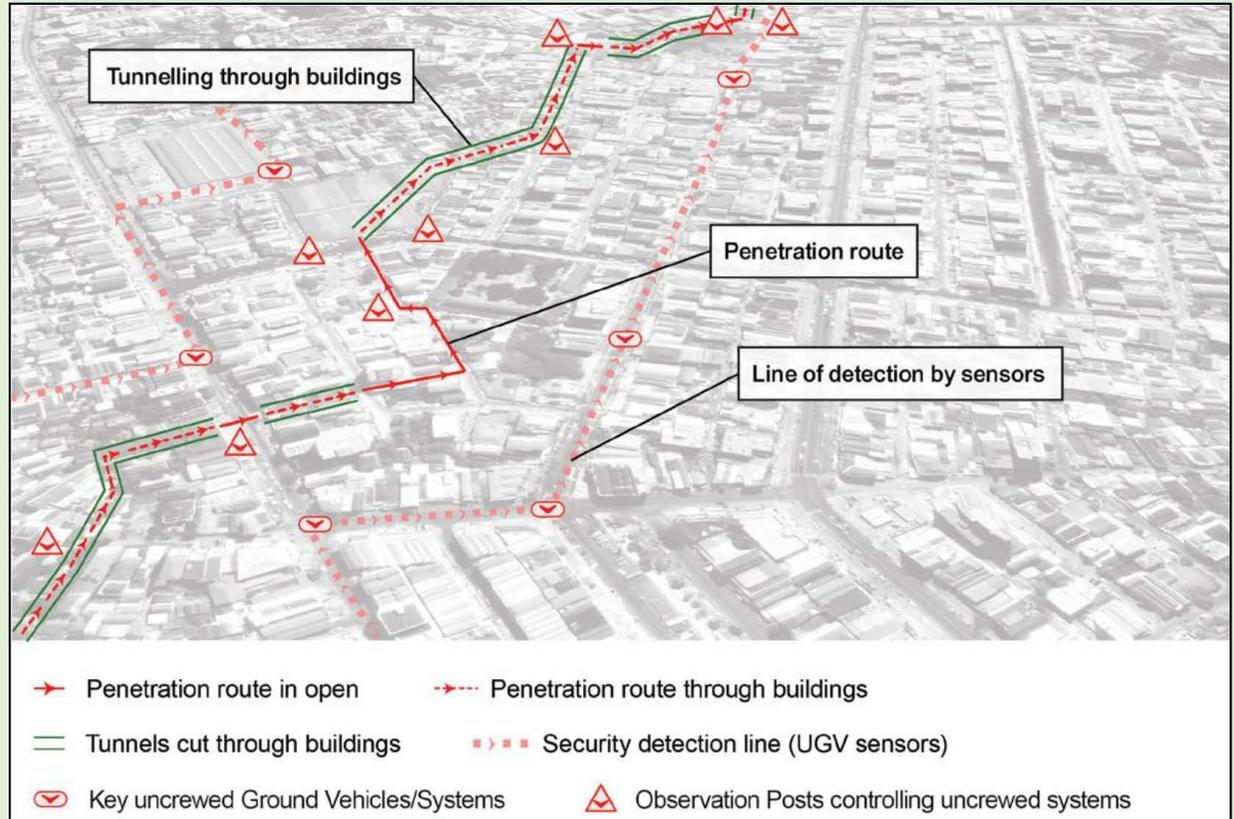
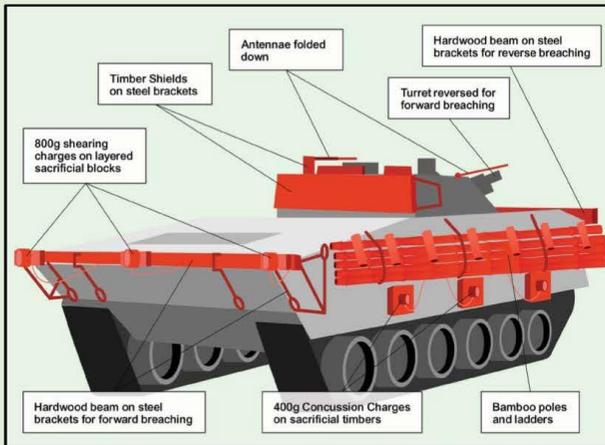
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Urban Concept: Tunnelling Manoeuvre

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Urban Concept: Tunneling Manoeuvre

In order to manoeuvre through an urban area in the north audience plan to move away from existing roads and create new routes at least partially through buildings and/or backyards. While they are ready to accept damage to vehicles in doing this, if they have time, they will prepare them with sacrificial timber shields to minimise this and may mount breaching & concussion charges on vehicles.



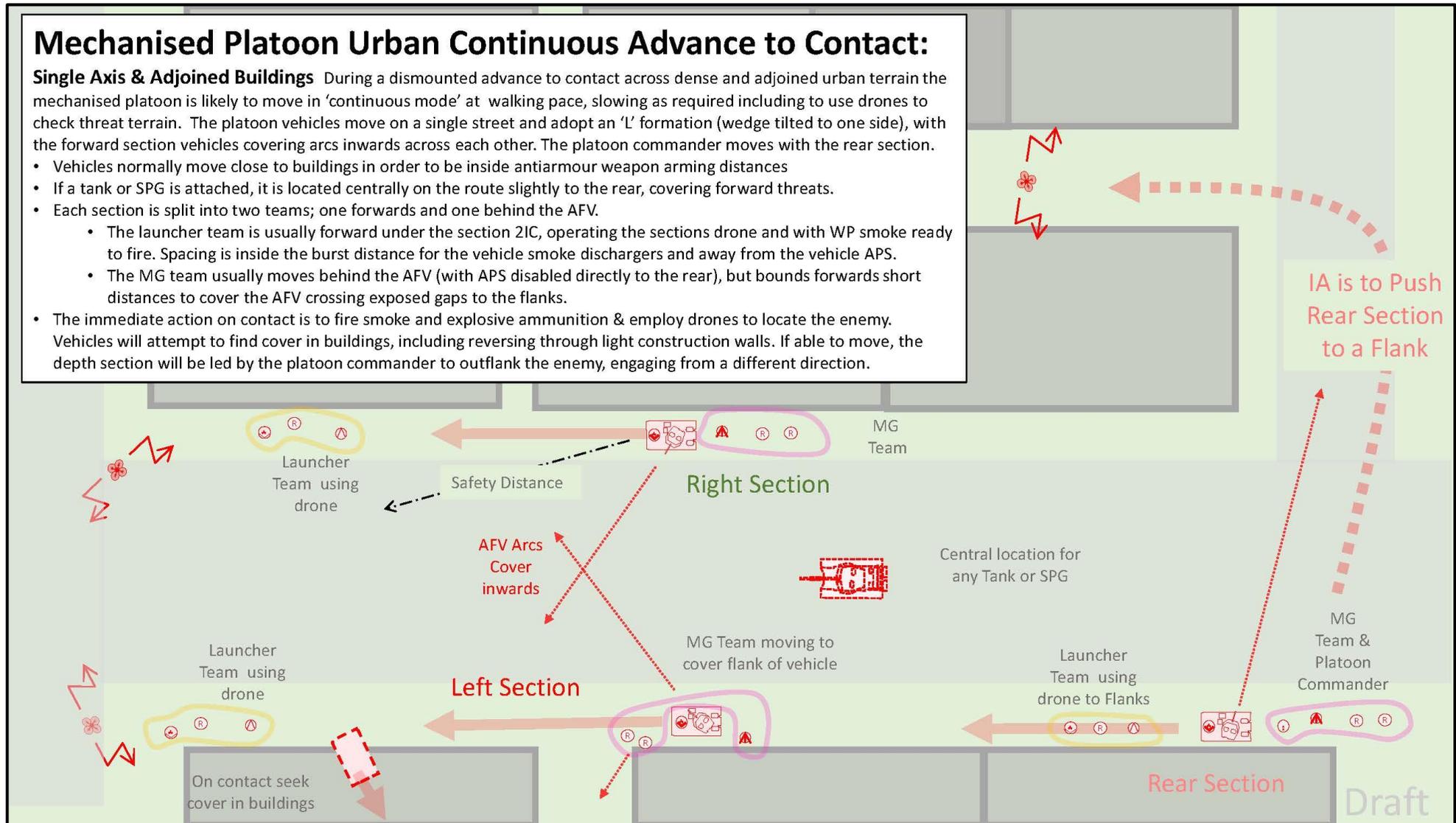
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Mechanised Platoon Urban Continuous Advance to Contact

Mechanised Platoon Urban Continuous Advance to Contact:

Single Axis & Adjoined Buildings During a dismounted advance to contact across dense and adjoined urban terrain the mechanised platoon is likely to move in 'continuous mode' at walking pace, slowing as required including to use drones to check threat terrain. The platoon vehicles move on a single street and adopt an 'L' formation (wedge tilted to one side), with the forward section vehicles covering arcs inwards across each other. The platoon commander moves with the rear section.

- Vehicles normally move close to buildings in order to be inside antiarmour weapon arming distances
- If a tank or SPG is attached, it is located centrally on the route slightly to the rear, covering forward threats.
- Each section is split into two teams; one forwards and one behind the AFV.
 - The launcher team is usually forward under the section 2IC, operating the sections drone and with WP smoke ready to fire. Spacing is inside the burst distance for the vehicle smoke dischargers and away from the vehicle APS.
 - The MG team usually moves behind the AFV (with APS disabled directly to the rear), but bounds forwards short distances to cover the AFV crossing exposed gaps to the flanks.
- The immediate action on contact is to fire smoke and explosive ammunition & employ drones to locate the enemy. Vehicles will attempt to find cover in buildings, including reversing through light construction walls. If able to move, the depth section will be led by the platoon commander to outflank the enemy, engaging from a different direction.

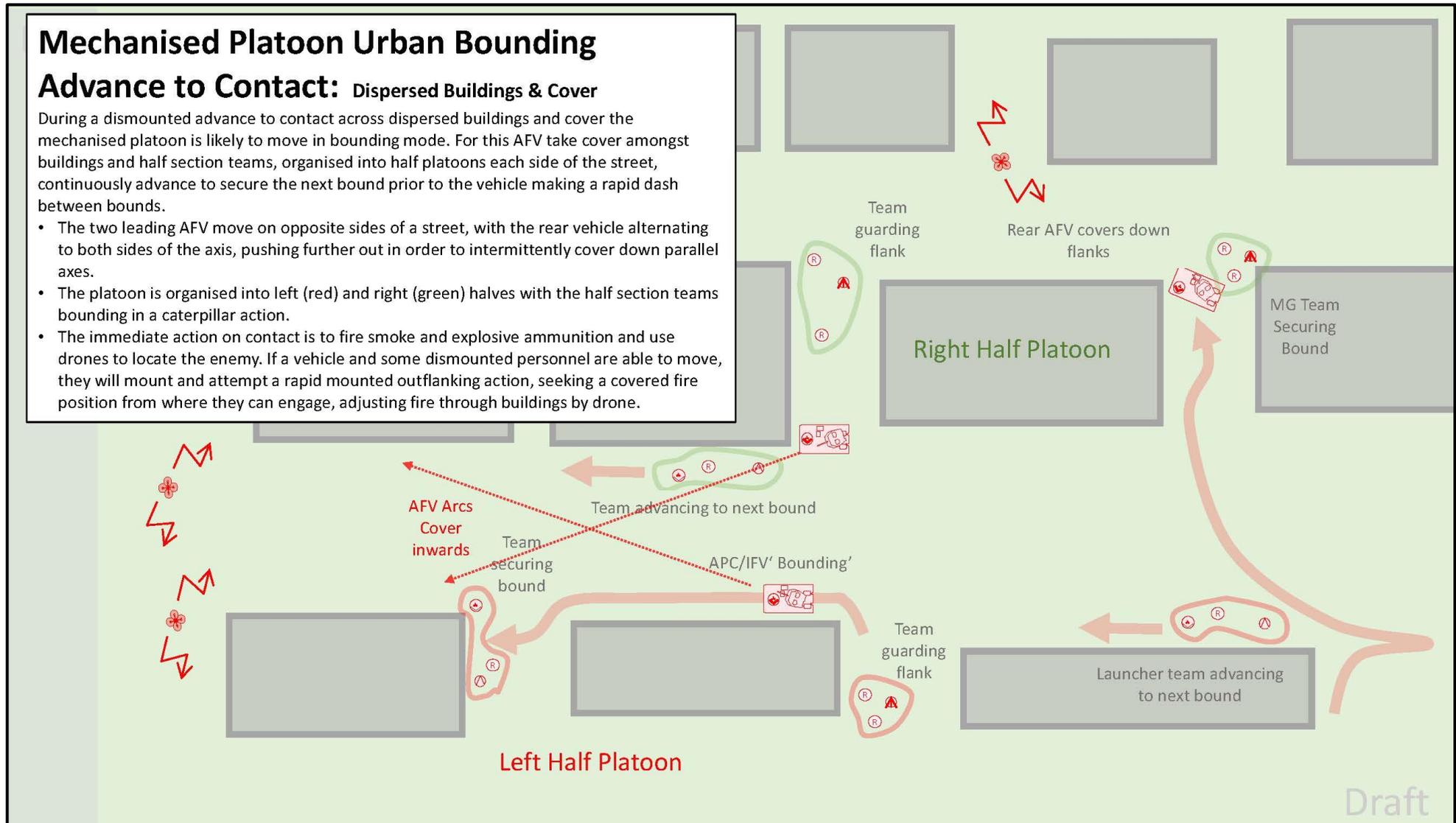


Mechanised Platoon Urban Bounding Advance to Contact

Mechanised Platoon Urban Bounding**Advance to Contact: Dispersed Buildings & Cover**

During a dismounted advance to contact across dispersed buildings and cover the mechanised platoon is likely to move in bounding mode. For this AFV take cover amongst buildings and half section teams, organised into half platoons each side of the street, continuously advance to secure the next bound prior to the vehicle making a rapid dash between bounds.

- The two leading AFV move on opposite sides of a street, with the rear vehicle alternating to both sides of the axis, pushing further out in order to intermittently cover down parallel axes.
- The platoon is organised into left (red) and right (green) halves with the half section teams bounding in a caterpillar action.
- The immediate action on contact is to fire smoke and explosive ammunition and use drones to locate the enemy. If a vehicle and some dismounted personnel are able to move, they will mount and attempt a rapid mounted outflanking action, seeking a covered fire position from where they can engage, adjusting fire through buildings by drone.



Trishula: the Basis of Urban Offensive Action

Trishula: the Basis of Urban Offensive Action

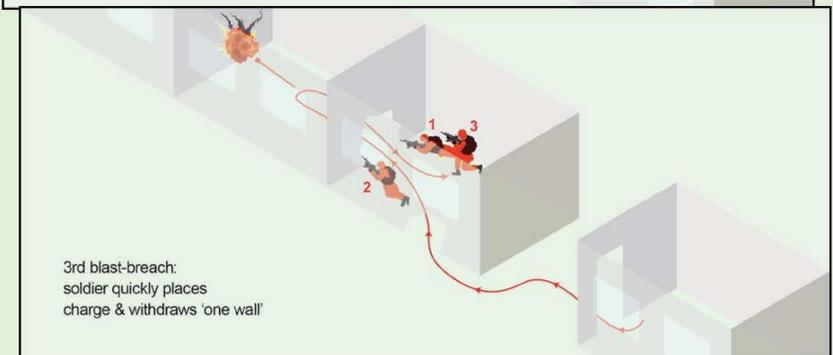
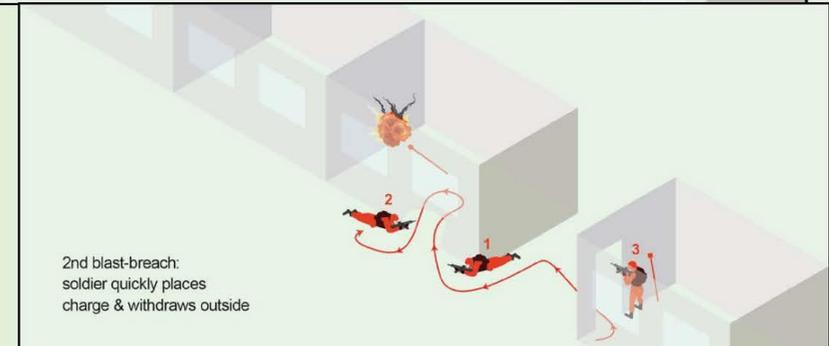
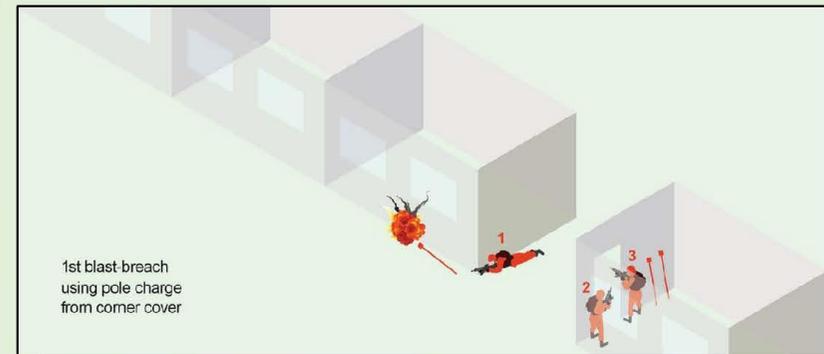
The basics of urban offensive action is the three soldier team known as the Trishula. It's actions are explained below and the way in which it performs the key action in building clearing is explained in subsequent slides.

The Trishula Blast-Breaching Drill

The basic method of building clearing relies on a series of explosive charges being used to breach walls in succession so that a new pathway is opened, IEDs are disrupted and the blast effects kill or disable defenders. The blast-breach drill always starts from a concealed position and preferably hardcover, where the Trishula briefly concentrate with a supply of pole charges.

1. Covered by the team the first soldier moves from cover and places a pole charge to make a suitable breach where there is also cover from the blast. The charges detonated and the first soldier confirms that a breach has been made but remains prone in cover.
2. On receiving the signal that the breach is clear, the second soldier moves forward with another pole charge, enters the building through the new breach, quickly places the pole charge against a suitable interior wall and then moves back outside the first breach to detonate the charge. The first two soldiers then enters the first space, check it is clear and then take up covered positions inside relative to the next blast.
3. On their signal the last man comes into the building with all the remaining pole charges, drops all but one, moves through the internal breach to place a pole charge on the next internal wall point to be attacked and then withdraws back through the second breach into cover and detonates the charge.

This blast-breach drill with its systematic use of explosions is the basis of North Torbian fighting in buildings and fortifications. Increasingly they use small robots to position the charges or stand-off launchers that can be fired from cover to create breaches. Whenever possible the blast and breaching effect is delivered by support weapons from outside the building. AFV crews are trained to breach interior walls and floors with cannon and main gun fire.

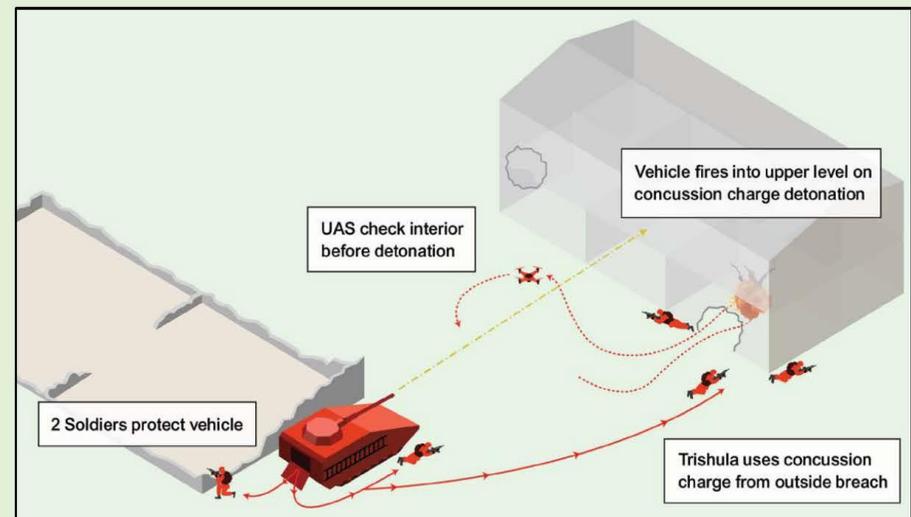
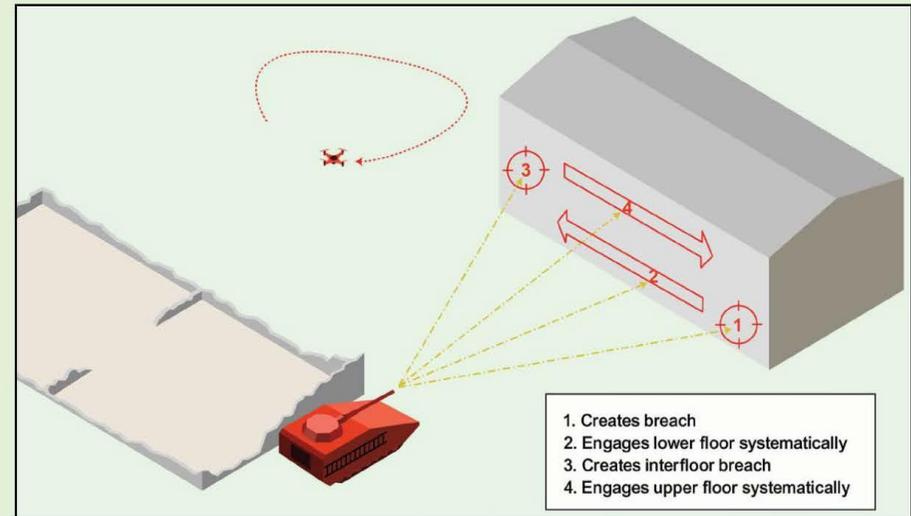


The Mechanised Section Trishula Blast Breaching Drill: Stages 1&2

The Mechanised Section Trishula Blast-Breaching Drill: Stages 1&2

The TTP for a mechanised section clearing a building relies on the same basic method of a series of explosive charges being used to breach walls in succession so that a new pathway is opened, IEDs are disrupted and the blast effects kill or disable defenders. In some cases the fire of the sections vehicle can be coordinated closely enough to achieve the blast breaching effect. The drill commences with the section still mounted and the AFV halted in overwatch position with a drone searching for targets controlled by the gunner or the commander.

1. The first stage of the drill is for the vehicle Gunner to systematically engage the interior of the building to suppress defenders and create both a ground-level access breach and inter-floor breaches as required. The section UAS is used to check the effects of the fire and identify the location of defenders. If they are identified the gunner will engage by firing through external and internal walls.
2. The second stage is for most of the section to dismount. The Trishula move rapidly to the breach and take cover outside it while two soldiers take cover near the vehicle to protect it. A concussion charge is thrown into the breach, and then the UAS is flown into the breach to check. As soon it is flown clear the concussion charge is detonated. This is a signal for the gunner to recommence firing into the upper levels.

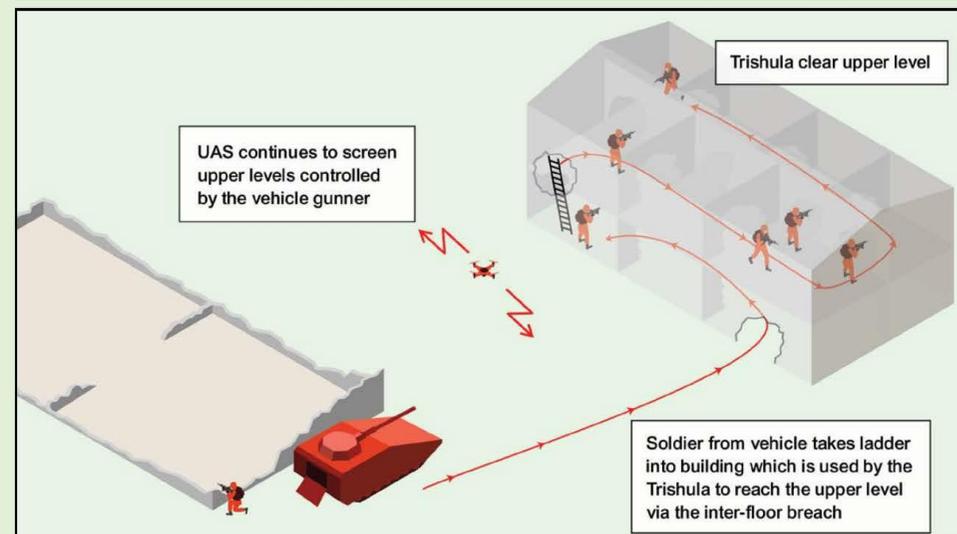
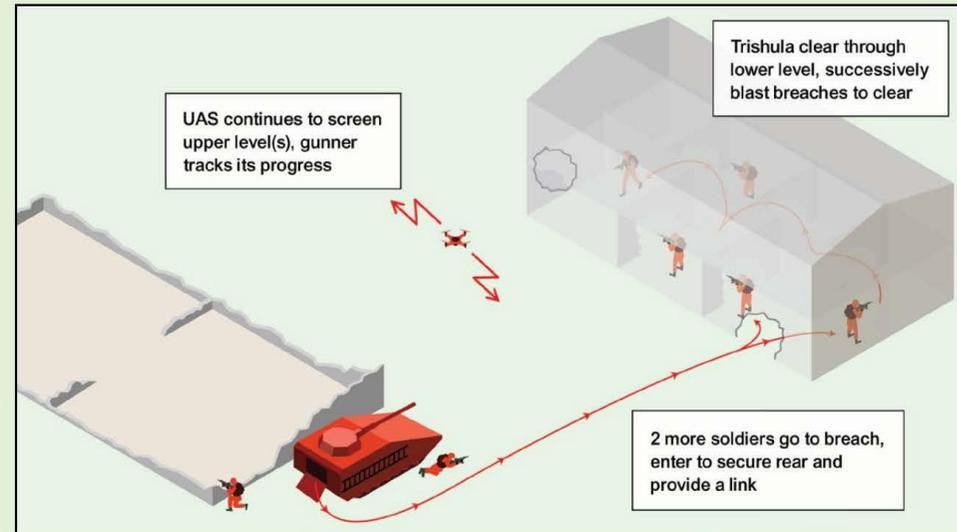


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The Mechanised Section Trishula Blast Breaching Drill: Stages 3&4

The Mechanised Section Trishula Blast-Breaching Drill: Stages 3&4

3. The third stage of the drill is for the Tricia to enter the building and start blast-breaching inside to clear the lower floor. The use of the concussion charge also acts as a signal for the two remaining soldiers in the AFV to rush to the breach and enter in order to secure the rear of the Trishula and provide a link to the vehicle. One of them may trail a communications cable from a dispenser in order to have reliable communications. The Trishula commander may communicate with the gunner to call for fire into the building ahead of their movement.
4. The fourth (and usually final) stage of the drill is that one of the soldiers guarding the vehicle then removes the ladder from the outside and carries it into the building so that the Trishula can reach the upper floor. The pattern of clearing is then repeated for the upper level.



The Mechanised Platoon Drill

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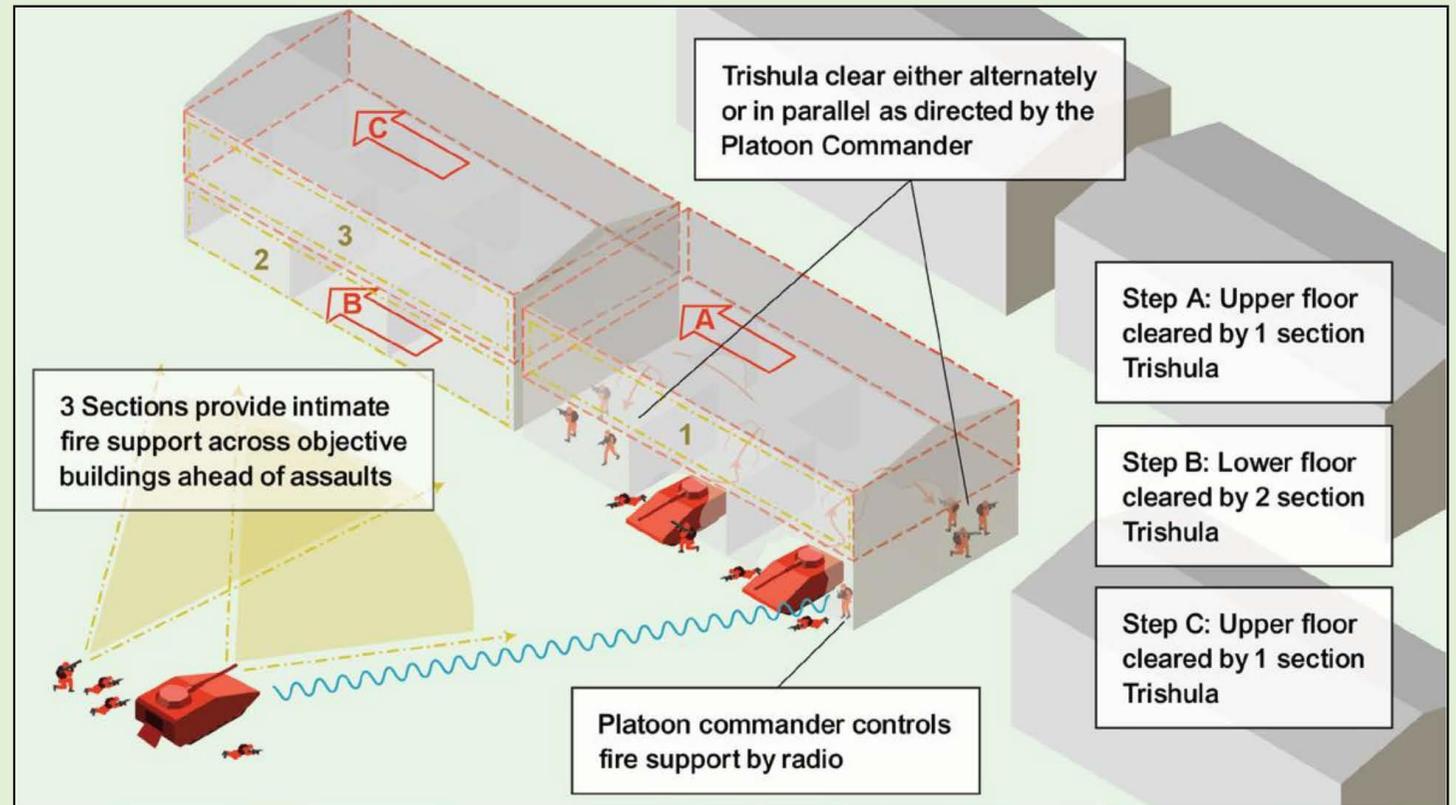
The Mechanised Platoon Drill

The mechanised platoon building clearing drill is a logical progression from that of the section, except that with multiple vehicles one candy used to provide fire and breaching support while the other two deliver assaulting troops into the objective.

Prior to assaulting the objective building will be suppressed by all vehicle weapons, with an emphasis on making breach points.

The assault begins with by driving the assaulting sections vehicles into (or against) the objective building(s) where they employ grenades or concussion charges before debussing. They then clear an initial foothold.

From this foothold and controlled by the platoon commander and supported by the intimate fire of the external vehicle, the two Trishula of the assault sections systematically clear through the building image supported by the remainder of their sections.



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Urban Defensive TTP: Characteristics

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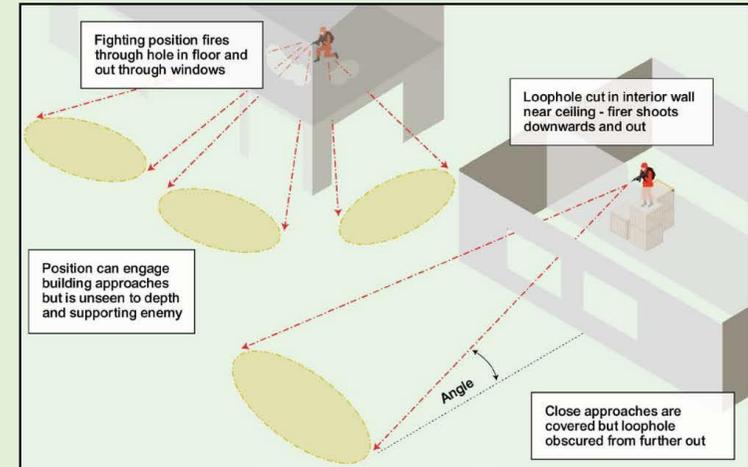
Urban Defensive TTP: Characteristics

The North Torbian's recognise that precision munitions are changing the character of war and, in particular, teach that if a target can be located it can be struck. This is the driver of their notion of a defence focused on preserving combat power by employing complex terrain to conceal and protect. For mechanised forces in particular, this dictates urban areas where vehicles can be concealed from overhead sensors within buildings.

The Urban defensive approach is characterised by very high standards of concealment and associated deception, dispersal of elements in order to reduce casualties from single strikes and investment in protective measures, particularly placing personnel underground. The maxim is "Do not be seen, do not radiate, do not put humans in predictable or other obvious dominant positions and fight with explosives and shells". They emphasise that the defender must:

- Maximise the use of laid electrical and fibre-optic cable, existing reticulation networks and the use of tethers for uncrewed systems in order to present a very small electronic signature.
- Conceal systems within buildings and structures, or within false structures.
- Find or construct protection below ground level, especially for personnel.
- Strike the enemy remotely, using mines, IED barge demolitions and indirect fire.
- Employ sensors extensively to maximise situational awareness and enable remote attack, especially on covered approaches and within buildings.
- Employ remote weapon systems (notwithstanding technical challenges) to create uncertainty and, especially, to strike the enemy from behind.
- Site fighting positions amongst dense complicated terrain, with an emphasis on mutual support between positions, and killing areas between and inside buildings in order to destroy enemy that reach the positions, rather than extensive fields of fire beyond.
- Emphasise secerning, fighting enemy elements in turn and defilade.

[The concept of 'secerning' (isolating individual parts of the battlefield in which to concentrate effects) is adopted from the Olvanans].

**3D Defilade**

The North Torbian employment of defilade in the defence is central to the concept of secerning (isolating) and is given great emphasis when designing and siting urban fighting positions. Importantly, the North Torbians do not limit their understanding of defilade to 'crest defilade' as the U.S. Army does, nor to lateral defilade as the Commonwealth armies do, but includes 3D defilade where elevated positions are adopted that allow the engagement of enemy close by but are out of line of sight to enemy behind them.

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Vehicle 3D Defilade and Blindfire

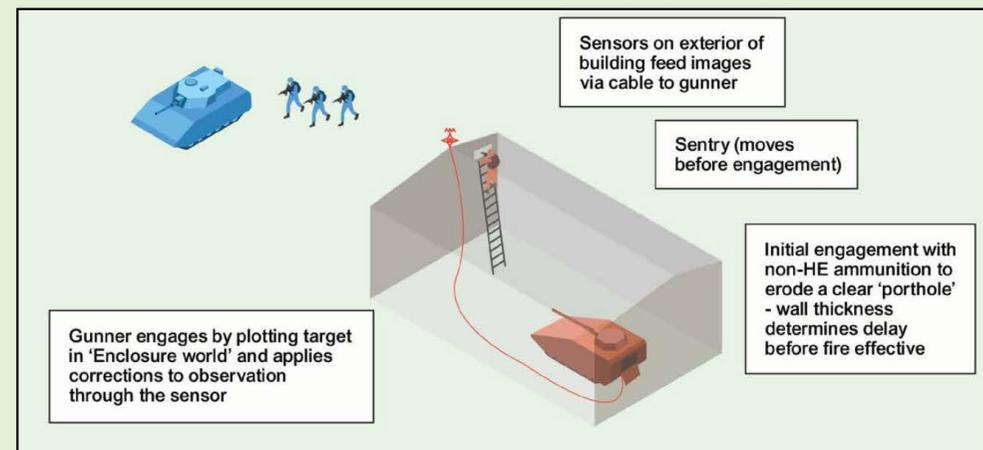
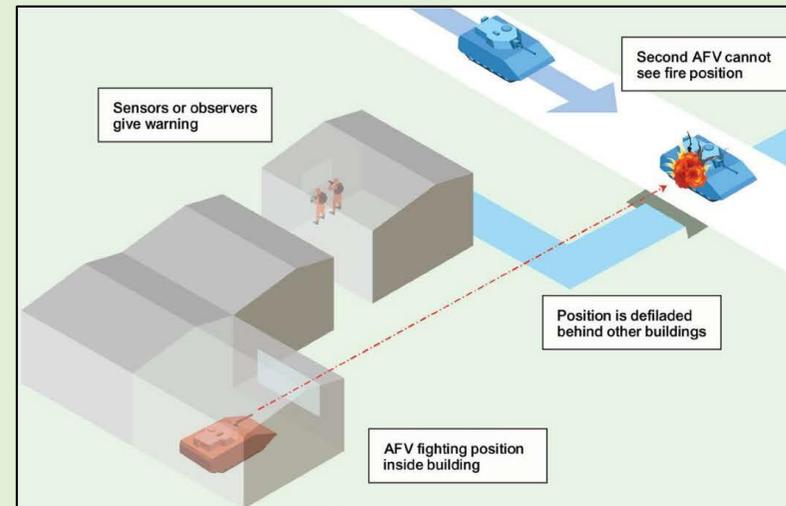
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Vehicle 3D Defilade and Blindfire

The North Torbian employment of defilade in the defence extends to vehicles. They consider that urban terrain provides the best and sometimes only significant level of concealment and protection for vehicles from overhead surveillance and attack, particular by precision munitions. However, they do not limit the use of buildings simply to hides, rather whenever possible they treat them as fighting positions.

- Positions inside buildings will be chosen that allow a vehicle to emerge briefly to engage or preferably engage from within a building while remaining concealed. This will be constrained by weapon type – for example self-propelled guns and tanks will usually need to extend the muzzle beyond the building structure to limit damage to by blast. This increases the importance of choosing buildings and parts of buildings that offer defilade engagement across the enemy axis of advance as illustrated.
- New technologies, particularly availability of remote visual sensors such as those in drones, combined with the electronic azimuth and elevation information available from contemporary at the gun sites to increasingly allow direct fire AFV weapons to engage targets directly without line of sight, or at least without line of sight at the beginning of the engagement. As illustrated opposite, an AFV inside a building can preregister a series of targets at points beyond the building wall which cannot be seen. An observer can then call for fire which is delivered through the wall of the building and adjusted on instruction. Increasingly the North Torbians are now able to use a visual sensor feed such as that from a drone to identify a target beyond the building, and then, on observing strike, make adjustments.

These two techniques represent a significant threat challenge, particularly from automatic cannon on IFV hidden within buildings.



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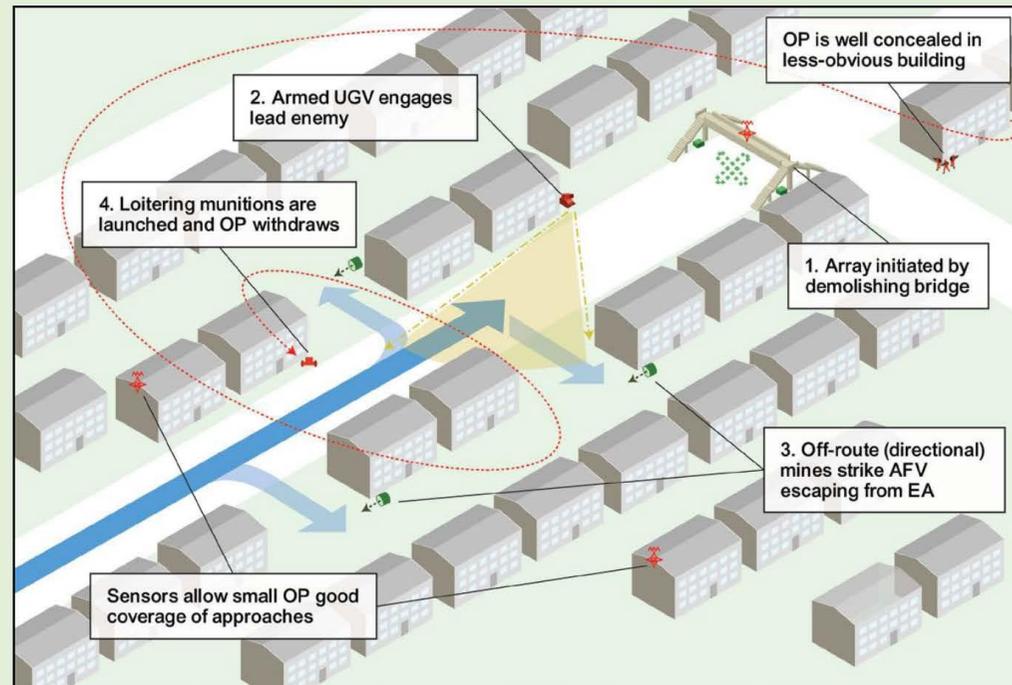
Urban Delay TTP

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Urban Delay TTP

The North Torbians Have been quick to follow the Olvanans and integrate new technologies into their concepts of urban defensive battle. This is illustrated in the example opposite where a small team is able to exert a significant tactical effect.

- An OP is selected at a suitable protected and well concealed position (in this case represented by three figures in the open for clarity). Whenever possible firing and data cables are laid from the position to allow communication and control with minimum electronic signature.
- A demolition is prepared to obstruct the enemy main avenue of advance. In this case it is a footbridge prepared to demolition. This is provided with a sensor to allow appropriate timing.
- Other sensors are laid looking down the major approach and across alternative approaches.
- An armed UGV or simple remote weapon station, or even a directional antipersonnel mine is positioned across a killing area in front of the demolition.
- Off-route mines are prepared and armed across exit routes from the killing area.
- When enemy lead elements approach the obstacle the ambush is initiated (some lead vehicles may be allowed to pass depending on the plan). Firing the demolition and using a remote method to engage the killing area – likely including indirect fire. Crew served weapons or vehicles may blind fire from within a building to apply fire to the killing area while minimising the chance of being detected. Enemy vehicles attempting to move out of the killing area then initiate off route mine. Loitering munitions are then launched to attack the now halted enemy force and enable the OP to withdraw.



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Urban Complex Battle Position

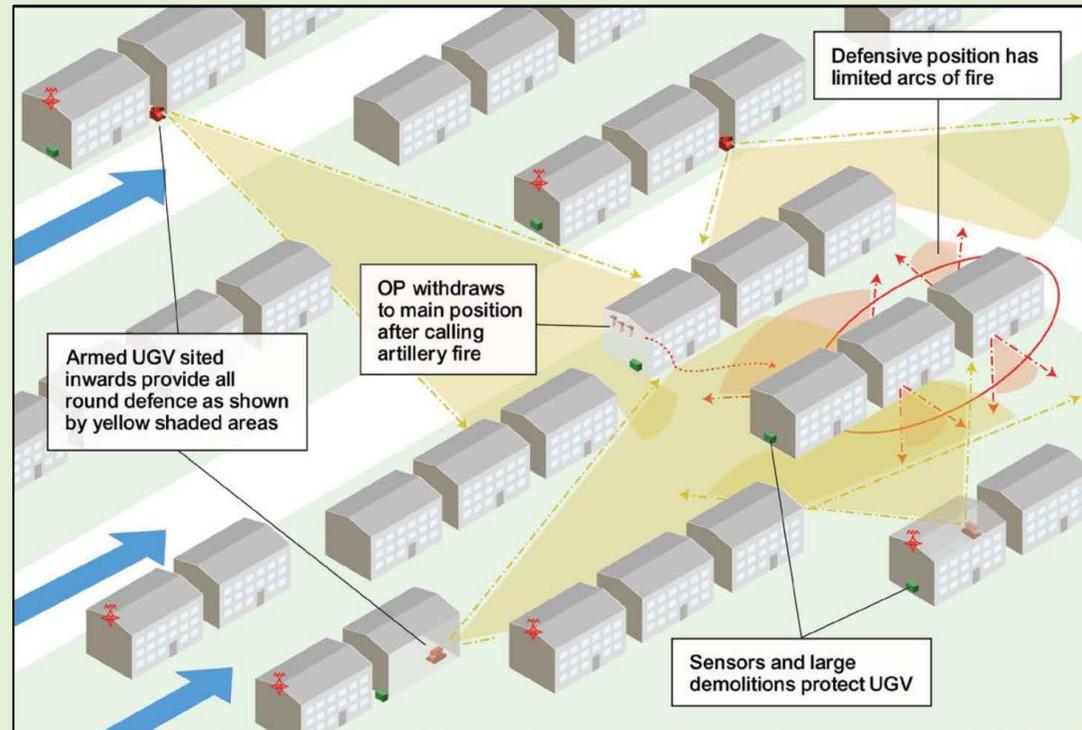
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Urban Complex Battle Position

As described earlier, the key function of a complex battle position is the concealment and protection of the defenders. Battle positions will therefore be placed off major routes and amongst dense and cluttered structures, using buildings that have subterranean protection and all are suitable for vehicle height and fighting positions. The illustration opposite indicates how this may be applied.

- The defensive position is constructed within three buildings on the right. In order to remain well concealed it has relatively limited arcs of fire.
- One or more OPs are likely to be positioned in suitable locations where withdrawal to the main position is feasible.
- An extensive network of sensors, demolitions and UGV, remote weapon stations or directional mines are positioned around the battle position to control approaches, with a special emphasis on delivering fire inwards towards the battle position.

The concept of defence is that an approaching enemy is detected by the sensors and then engaged with indirect fire. Enemy that subsequently approach the position are first attacked with large demolitions, with those that continue to approach being engaged by the inward cited directional weapons. The emphasis on deep protection for the fighting positions is also intended to enable the North Torbians to bring indirect fire on their own position without hesitation. They would not envisage fighting a protracted smallarms battle from complex battle positions because of the risk of being destroyed by precision weapons. They would either withdraw or redeploy for other offensive action.



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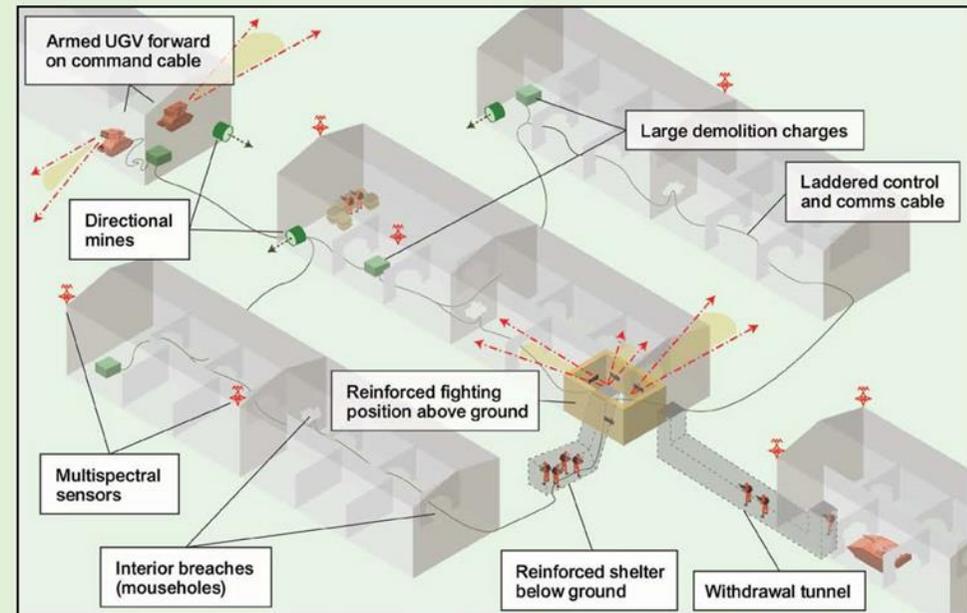
Urban Complex Fighting Position

Urban Complex Fighting Position

While the complex battle position emphasises concealment and survival and is not intended to be contested for any length of time (because of the danger of elimination by precision weapons) they are still designed to inflict decisive effects on attacking enemy. However, rather than traditional approaches where buildings are defended by extended fields of fire across the approaches, such fields of fire are limited and carefully chosen to provide mutual support. The killing function is primarily achieved by remote weapons of different kinds, including artillery. A battle with small arms is not avoided, rather it is conducted within buildings from prepared positions to have maximum advantage against an assaulting enemy. Because the primary function of a complex fighting position is to remain concealed and survive, locations are first chosen to allow construction of reinforced shelters below ground and, for mechanised troops, associated vehicle fighting positions or at least hides for vehicles.

- A reinforced shelter is constructed below ground with a reinforced fighting position at the entrance to the shelter, ensuring the latter can be defended.
- Interior routes within the occupied building and adjacent buildings are prepared with holes being knocked through interior walls.
- Whenever possible a route is prepared to the vehicle hide.
- On the most likely enemy approach, armed UGV, remote weapon stations or directional minds are sited across the approach. An OP or fighting position is likely also sited covering this. Large demolition charges are placed adjacent to the major approaches, hidden within buildings, and victim activated directional mines are placed to engage vehicles or personnel moving between buildings.
- A comprehensive network of sensors, with backup, is laid around the position and connected by 'laddered' (networked to ensure that the system will sustain a significant number of broken wires without losing communications) wires or fibre-optic cables.

The concept is to subject an approaching enemy to adjusted indirect fire and then a series of explosive and remote attacks before it reaches the defensive position. The enemy commander may then choose to allow the enemy to close with the position in order to fight on the insides of buildings at an advantage, redeploy to counter-attack, employ the vehicle to engage, or withdraw.



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Chapter 9 Irregular Tactics

OFFENSIVE TACTICS

Ambush

1. An ambush is a surprise attack from a concealed position against a moving or temporarily halted target. In an ambush, the actions of the BLUFOR determine the time, and the irregular OPFOR leader decides on the location. Similar to a regular military OPFOR, the irregular OPFOR will conduct ambushes to:

- a. Destroy or capture BLUFOR elements, personnel, and/or designated very important persons.
- b. Secure supplies.
- c. Demoralise BLUFOR military forces and officials of a governing authority.
- d. Delay introduction of international and/or BLUFOR coalition assistance to a governing authority.
- e. Block BLUFOR movements and/or logistics support.
- f. Canalise or restrict BLUFOR movement.

2. Irregular forces can use ambushes as a primarily psychological tool in information warfare activities. The psychological effects of these ambushes can be enhanced by conducting ambushes in the same location where they have had previous success, attacking targets that were previously considered safe or had not been attacked, and/or increasing weapons and explosives effects.

3. Irregular forces will also look to conduct ambushes against any local or coalition forces who respond to the initial attack. Multiple and nearly simultaneous ambushes can be conducted along known avenues of approach to the initial ambush location. Because the irregular forces selectively adhere to international conventions and laws of armed conflict they can target medical treatment and evacuation assets. This act also has the effect of undermining coalition moral and enhances the psychological effects of an attack.

4. Surprise and attacking points of weakness is a fundamental planning consideration for irregular forces. As part of this they will avoid coalition strengths. They achieve by:

- a. a. Detailed plans and rehearsals.
- b. b. Selection of ambush positions.
- c. c. Rapid and violent conduct of the ambush, including massed fires.
- d. d. Disciplined withdrawal from the ambush site.

5. An ambush force is typically organised into three elements: the ambush element, security element and support element. There may be more than one of each element.

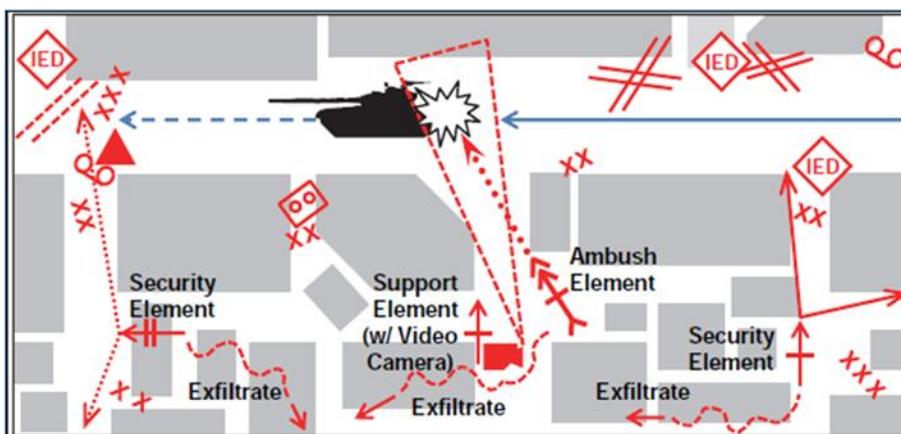


Figure 1 - Example: Insurgent ambush in urban terrain

- a. **Ambush Element(s).** The ambush element has the missions of attacking and destroying BLUFOR elements in the kill zone(s). Other tasks of this group may include capturing personnel and/or recovering supplies and equipment.

- b. **Security Element(s).** The security element had a mission to provide early warning to irregular forces of any BLUFOR presence that might disrupt the ambush. Another task can be the protection of the ambush element from becoming decisively engaged by BLUFOR forces before, during and after the ambush.
- c. **Support Element(s).** The support element can include direct and/or indirect fires and provides general support to improve success of the ambush. The insurgent leader will look to command the ambush from the support element. However he will position himself where they can best command and control the attack.

Executing an Ambush.

6. There are three types of ambushes available to irregular forces based on their desired mission effects – annihilation, harassment, or containment. The irregular forces conduct ambushes with a particular purpose that often supports a larger tactical action.

7. **Annihilation Ambush.** The purpose of an annihilation ambush is to destroy a BLUFOR element within a designated kill zone. In addition to massed direct fires, the irregular forces often increase the lethality of a kill zone with indirect fires, obstacles, mines and/or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to halt, contain, and kill the BLUFOR force in the kill zone.

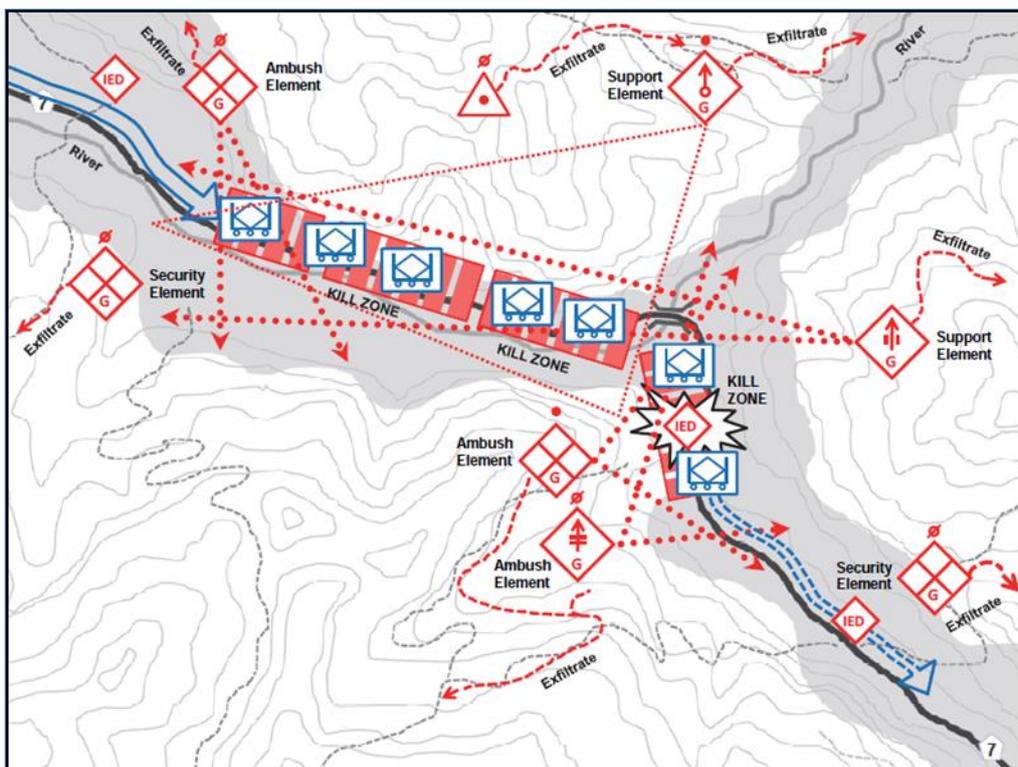


Figure 2 - Example: Annihilation ambush

8. Irregular force commanders may be willing to accept a decisive engagement with the BLUFOR in the annihilation ambush. This type of ambush generally consists of the following tactical tasks; block, contain, and/or destroy.
9. The ambush and support elements normally remain in their fighting positions until the BLUFOR in the kill zone is rendered combat ineffective. The intent is to destroy BLUFOR personnel and equipment within the kill zone with concentrated firepower.
10. Once the BLUFOR is destroyed, the ambush element can secure the kill zone and eliminate remaining BLUFOR in the area. The support element provides overwatch protection to the ambush element when the ambush element is directed to search the destroyed BLUFOR force and equipment for information and intelligence. Weapons and materiel can be seized by the ambush element for future operations.
11. The security element remains in fighting positions to ensure early warning, isolate a kill zone from BLUFOR counter-attack and prevent any BLUFOR from escaping the kill zone. Once the ambush element has

cleared the kill zone, the ambush force withdraws from the ambush area. This is conducted by the ambush element first, followed by the supporting element. Last to leave the area is the security element which is tasked with delaying or blocking any rapid response from BLUFOR attempting to pursue. Depending on the size of the ambush force, they will typically reassemble at a predetermined location and time at a safe house or haven.

12. **Harassment Ambush.** The purpose of a harassment ambush is to disrupt the routine of BLUFOR activities, impede the BLUFOR's freedom of movement and/or create a negative psychological impact on BLUFOR personnel. Irregular forces will look to conduct harassing ambushes against a BLUFOR element of superior combat power. This type of ambush does not require obstacles to contain BLUFOR within a kill zone but can use terrain as an advantage to delay any withdraw attempts. A harassment ambush can also employ mines or IEDs to enhance the containment effect. Compared to the annihilation ambush irregular forces will typically conduct a harassment ambush at a greater distance from the BLUFOR in a kill zone. A harassment ambush often considers the maximum effective range of available weapons systems.

13. The irregular force does not normally accept decisive engagement with the BLUFOR in this type of ambush. A harassment ambush typically emphasises tactical tasks that can include disrupt or delay.

14. The ambush and support elements are often combined to provide more effective control of fires throughout the kill zone. This combination is especially useful when the kill zone is quite wide and/or extends for a long distance. The security element provides early warning of any BLUFOR conducting reconnaissance prior to the ambush and/or BLUFOR forces attempting to respond to the ambush.

15. Once the irregular forces commander determines that the ambush has achieved the desired effects, they direct the ambush and support elements to withdraw along designated routes. The security element continues to report on BLUFOR activity in the kill zone and any attempt by BLUFOR to pursue. The irregular force will not become decisively engaged by BLUFOR and often emplace mines and/or IEDs to delay BLUFOR pursuit.

16. Irregular forces will look to conduct repeat harassment ambushes against a BLUFOR to cause the following effects:

- a. Cause the BLUFOR to allocate a disproportionate amount of forces to security tasks which reduce other BLUFOR force missions and potentially create BLUFOR vulnerability.
- b. Create a negative psychological effect on BLUFOR soldiers, commanders, and governments.

17. **Containment Ambush.** A containment ambush is a security task that is usually part of a larger tactical action. This type of ambush can prevent the BLUFOR from using an avenue of approach or interdicting another tactical action such as a raid or another ambush.

18. The ambush element can be directed to secure a kill zone, but this task is not necessarily required for mission success. The support and security elements perform the same functions as those described in an annihilation ambush. Obstacles are an integral part of a successful containment ambush. The leader determines if their relative combat power compared to the BLUFOR element is adequate to conduct a containment ambush. The fact that containment may require the irregular force's elements to remain in an ambush site for an extended period places those elements in danger of being fixed and defeated by BLUFOR reinforcements.

19. The ambush force will normally not accept decisive engagement with the BLUFOR in this type of ambush. However, it can be directed to accept decisive engagement in support of a larger irregular force action. A containment ambush typically emphasizes related tactical tasks that can include contain, fix, and delay and disrupt.

Command and Control of an Ambush

20. The commander of the ambush force normally positions themselves with the support element and designates a subordinate leader to move and manoeuvre with the ambush element. However, the ambush force commander locates himself where he can best command and control the ambush.

21. Urban and rural complex terrain provides several tactical advantages to irregular force ambush, security, and support elements. Operating among indigenous citizens in an urban area or other complex terrain can be used to;

- a. Observe BLUFOR forces along known canalized routes or areas of reconnaissance and/or avenues of approach or directions of attack.
- b. Provide for easily camouflaged irregular OPFOR reconnaissance and surveillance activities.

- c. Provide covered and/or concealed irregular OPFOR routes into and out of the ambush kill zone area
- d. Improve irregular OPFOR ambush, security, and support positions with cover, concealment, and camouflage of the natural and manmade tactical environment.
- e. Encourage deception activities in a relevant civilian population against BLUFOR forces and a governing authority.
- f. Encourage techniques that employ overlapping direct fires from multiple directions into a designated kill zone.

Support of an Ambush

22. An ambush typically requires several types of support. These can include reconnaissance, fire support, air defence, engineer-like capabilities, logistics, and INFOWAR. Covert or overt assistance may also be provided from external sources such as Special Purpose Forces (SPF) of another state.

23. **Reconnaissance.** Reconnaissance is critical to a successful ambush and is continuous in the objective area in order to confirm and/or adjust information collection and intelligence previously collected and analysed. The irregular force uses active supporters in the local population to observe and report on BLUFOR activities at the planned objective area to select the best terrain on which to locate irregular force positions. Posing as innocent civilians or coercing local civilians and/or civic leaders, irregular force reconnaissance and surveillance reports combine with the reports from active supporters. Once infiltration and exfiltration routes are planned, the irregular force maintains these routes under constant surveillance prior to and during the ambush. Secrecy of irregular force locations and activities is essential to tactical survival.

24. The irregular OPFOR will closely monitor the following;

- a. Routines of BLUFOR elements selected as the target.
- b. BLUFOR use of weapons and equipment, crew duties, and teamwork.
- c. Lapses in local security measures among groupings of BLUFOR soldiers and vehicles.
- d. Routes and the response time of BLUFOR quick reaction forces during prior ambushes or irregular force ruses.
- e. Cooperation of governing authority law enforcement and paramilitary units with BLUFOR elements.
- f. BLUFOR medical treatment and evacuation norms.

25. **Fire Support.** Fire support is typically in the support element. In most ambushes, support elements in proximity to ambush elements provide supporting direct fires from light, medium, or heavy machineguns, anti-tank weapons and/or grenade launchers. However, some support elements may also provide indirect fires from mortars and rockets. Fires can also support security elements, if necessary. The irregular OPFOR emplaces fire support systems with the intention of quickly withdrawing them at the conclusion of the ambush.

26. In a hybrid scenario, artillery from an affiliated regular military force can augment fires organic to the ambush force. Such artillery support can provide additional fires into the kill zone, illumination over it, or smoke to permit withdrawal.

27. **Air Defence.** Capabilities for air defence during an ambush may be limited to an all-arms air defence concept, using the small arms and direct fire weapons with the ambush force. However, some irregular forces may have a limited man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) capability in their organisation. If allocated to an ambush force, these MANPADS would likely be in security element(s).

28. **Engineer-Like Capabilities.** Mobility and counter-mobility support often depends on irregular forces with specialised skills and expertise from their civilian occupations or previous military experience. Irregular forces can include sappers, who are not engineers but can perform some engineer-like functions. Covert or overt assistance may also be provided from OPFOR SPF.

29. **Logistics.** Logistics are prepared as caches or supported from safe houses and havens as part of detailed planning and rehearsals. The ambush force typically moves from a secured location with everything it needs to complete the mission. In those rare situations that require a multi-day hide prior to executing the ambush, the ambush force will have to move with its own extra real life support. Resupply of the ambush force would significantly increase the chances of its detection and defeat its purpose.

30. **INFOWAR.** INFOWAR activities can support ambushes by concealing the intended action through deception and information protection. An INFOWAR campaign may use successful ambushes to demonstrate the progressive failure of BLUFOR and the governing authority. INFOWAR support of an ambush can temporarily and psychologically isolate the BLUFOR from the population and host nation.

Assault

31. An assault is an attack that destroys a BLUFOR element through firepower and the physical occupation and/or destruction of their position. An assault is a basic and common form of irregular force tactical offensive combat. Therefore, other types of offensive action may include an element that conducts an assault to complete the mission. However, that element will typically be given a designation that corresponds to the specific mission accomplished. For example, an element that conducts an assault in the completion of an ambush would be called the ambush element.

32. **Functional Organisation for an Assault.** The irregular forces conducting an assault constitute the assault force. The assault force typically is organised into three types of elements in which there can be more than one of each type. They are the:

- a. Assault element.
- b. Security element.
- c. Support element.

33. **Assault Element.** The assault element is the action element. It manoeuvres to and seizes the BLUFOR position, destroying any forces there.

34. **Security Element.** The security element provides early warning of approaching BLUFOR and prevents them from reinforcing the assaulted BLUFOR element. Security elements often make use of terrain choke points, obstacles, ambushes, and other techniques to resist larger forces for the duration of the assault. The commander may (or may be forced to) accept risk and employ a security element that can only provide early warning that is not strong enough to block or delay BLUFOR reinforcements. This decision is based on the specific situation.

35. **Support Element.** The support element provides the assault element with one or more of the following:

- a. C2.
- b. Combat service support (CSS).
- c. Supporting direct fire (such as small arms, grenade launchers, or anti-tank weapons).
- d. Supporting indirect fire (such as mortars or rockets).
- e. Mobility support.

36. The assault force commander typically commands and controls the assault from the support element. However, if required they will position themselves where they can best exercise C2.

Executing an Assault

37. An assault is a rapid and violent action that can have significant and decisive effects. However, a simple direct assault has a very low chance of success without some significant enabling factors. Decisive assaults are characterised by:

- a. Isolation of the objective (BLUFOR position) so that it cannot be reinforced during the assault.
- b. Early warning of any approaching BLUFOR reinforcements and/or other security measures by the security element.
- c. Effective suppression of the BLUFOR by the support element prior to the assault element manoeuvring on the BLUFOR position.
- d. Violent fire and manoeuvre into and through the BLUFOR position.

38. The assault element manoeuvres from its assault position to the objective and destroys the BLUFOR located at the objective. It can conduct attack by fire, but this is often not an optimal method and should be used only when necessary. Typical tactical tasks of the assault element are clear, destroy, and seize.

39. The irregular force normally does not assault to secure, since this task indicates an intention to prevent the loss of an objective to subsequent BLUFOR action. Any occupation of an objective is typically temporary to

minimize the ability of a BLUFOR element to mass overwhelming combat power against the irregular force. Speed of execution and surprise are critical to an assault.

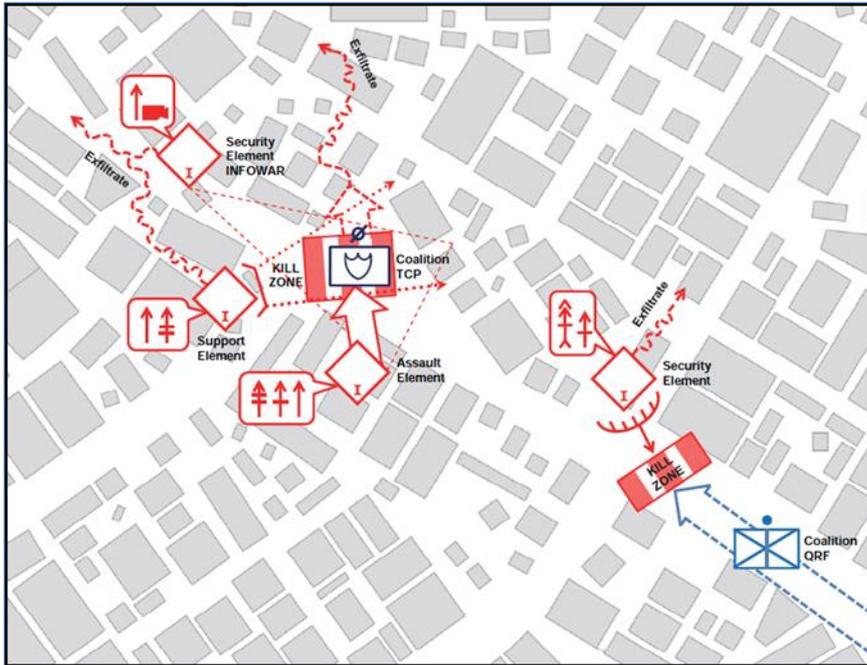


Figure 4 - Example: Irregular force assault in urban terrain

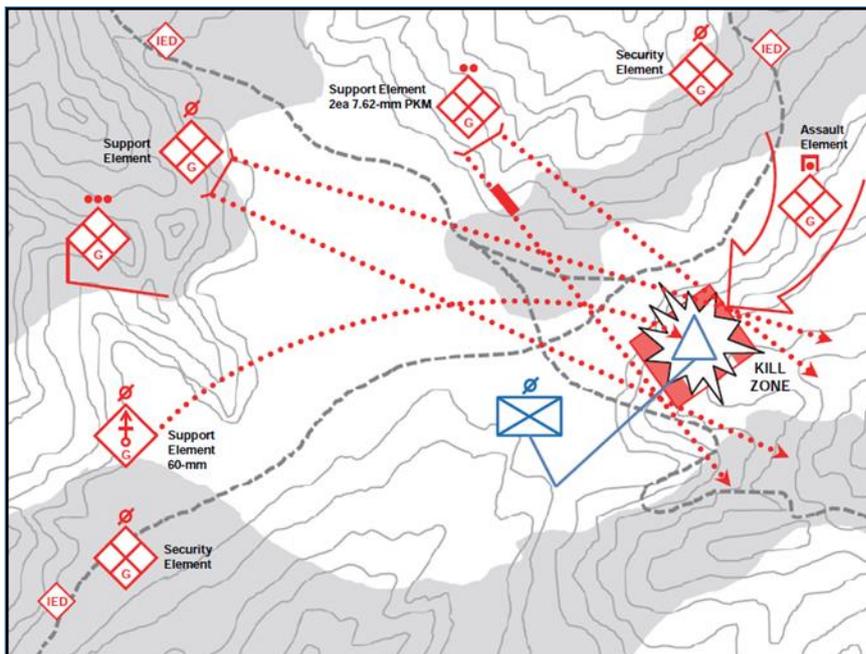


Figure 3 - Example: Irregular force assault in a rural area

40. The security element is equipped and organised to detect BLUFOR elements that can react to an assault on an objective. While the assault is in progress, security tasks may include the requirement to isolate the objective from any BLUFOR reinforcement, with tasks such as block, contain, disrupt, or delay. The security element may be directed to conduct similar tasks that allow the assault and support elements to exfiltrate.

41. The commander of the assault force typically exercises C2 from within the support element. They can also lead the assault element when they determine that their command presence in the assault is critical to mission success.

42. The support element controls all combat support (CS) and CSS functions as well as any supporting fires. Tasks expected of support elements in the assault are normally attack by fire and/or support by fire. These direct and/or indirect fires are sometimes intended to divert the BLUFOR's attention during the manoeuvre by the assault element.

Command and Control of an Assault

43. Command and control of the assault masses irregular force capabilities in time and space for rapid and violent attack on an objective. The irregular force normally plans an assault in detail to improve tactical execution with surprise and deception, and to achieve temporary superior combat power against an BLUFOR element. The irregular force will also often take advantage of an unplanned opportunity as it occurs to assault a BLUFOR element, such as an element becoming isolated, or distracted by other activities such as a vehicle breakdown or an issue with the local population.

44. Fighting in complex terrain can be a significant tactical advantage for the irregular force. In urban areas the irregular force can use the civilian community and its infrastructure for shielding and as obstacles. The irregular force may decide to not comply with international conventions and laws of armed conflict restrictions that apply to regular military forces and governing authorities.

45. Channelised corridors of urban traffic networks and the vantage points of multi-story buildings and/or surface or subsurface infrastructure can disadvantage a BLUFOR force attempting to counter the irregular force. People and facilities in urban areas provide cover and concealment to the irregular force. Furthermore, BLUFOR forces often do not want to alienate the population through excessive civilian casualties, restrictions, and/or damage to their infrastructure and livelihoods. By contrast, rural complex terrain may have fewer people within designated areas but can provide similar cover and concealment advantages to the irregular force. Civilians residing in rural areas can be influenced to support the irregular force involuntarily or voluntarily through an effective INFOWAR campaign.

Support to an Assault

46. Support to an assault normally includes reconnaissance, logistics, and INFOWAR. When required for a particular mission, capabilities such as fire support and air defence can be added.

47. **Reconnaissance.** Reconnaissance effort for an assault is continuous in the objective area in order to confirm and/or adjust information collection and intelligence previously collected and analysed. The irregular force uses active supporters in the local population to observe and report on BLUFOR activities at the planned objective area. Irregular forces are often positioned in the local community and in vicinity of the objective posing as innocent civilians conducting normal commercial or social actions. These reconnaissance and surveillance reports, combined with the reports from active supporters, assist the commander of the assault force to finalise their assault plan to shape, assault, and exfiltrate. Once infiltration and exfiltration routes are planned, the irregular force maintains these routes under constant surveillance prior to and during the assault. Secrecy of their locations and activities is essential to tactical survival. Locations of specific interest for reconnaissance and surveillance include the following:

- a. Caches.
- b. Infiltration routes.
- c. Assault position.
- d. Support position.
- e. Objective.
- f. Exfiltration routes.
- g. Safe houses.

48. **Fire Support.** The primary mission of fire support in an assault is to suppress the objective and protect the advance of the assault element. Fire support assets are typically part of the support element(s). Support elements typically provide supporting direct fires from machineguns and/or anti-tank weapons and/or grenade launchers. The support element(s) can also include indirect fire weapons such as mortars and rockets.

49. **Air Defence.** The typical purpose of air defence support to an assault is to prevent BLUFOR air power from influencing the action of the assault element. All three elements of an assault typically employ the concept of all-arms air defence. If specialised air defence weapons (such as MANPADS) are available, they could be used in any of the elements, but are least likely to be found in the assault element. The security element provides early warning of BLUFOR aerial response to the assault and may try to destroy the BLUFOR aircraft. The support element provides overwatch of the assault element and the objective.

50. **Logistics.** Logistics support for an assault is similar to that for an ambush (see above). The support element is responsible for CSS.

51. **INFOWAR.** INFOWAR support to an assault considers the rapid and violent nature of an assault and the intention to temporarily and psychologically isolate the BLUFOR element. Isolation of the BLUFOR may also use physical means such as simultaneous assaults on multiple objectives to overload the BLUFOR's ability to respond and/or effectively reinforce a BLUFOR element at a particular irregular OPFOR objective. As with all irregular OPFOR actions, an INFOWAR campaign will likely use successful raids to demonstrate the progressive failure of BLUFOR and the governing authority, particularly where high value targets have been destroyed.

Raid

52. A raid is an attack against a stationary target for the purposes of its capture or destruction that culminates in the withdrawal of the raiding force to safe territory. Raids are usually small-scale attacks that use surprise and combat power to successfully accomplish the purpose of the mission. Sudden violence characterises most raids and may be conducted to secure information, materiel, or individuals, and can also be used to confuse or deceive a BLUFOR. A raid concludes with a planned withdrawal upon completion of the assigned mission.

53. Raids can be used for the following:

- a. Destroy or damage key systems or facilities (such as command posts, communication facilities, supply depots, radar sites, infrastructure, and other government services)
- b. Seize hostages and/or prisoners.
- c. Rescue insurgents, and /or active supporters being detained and/or imprisoned.
- d. Destroy, damage, or capture supplies or lines of communication.
- e. Obtain or denying critical information to the BLUFOR.

f. Support INFOWAR actions that distract attention from other irregular OPFOR actions, keep the BLUFOR off balance, and/or to cause the BLUFOR to deploy additional units to protect critical sites.

54. Recurring irregular OPFOR raids can be conducted to achieve the following;

- a. Psychologically isolate the BLUFOR and governing authority from each other and the civilian population.
- b. Degrade the resolve of the BLUFOR force and governing authority to continue counter-insurgency operations.
- c. Obtain needed materiel to sustain the irregular force.

Functional Organisation for a Raid

55. The size and configuration of a raiding force depends upon its mission, the nature and location of the target, and the BLUFOR situation in the objective area. Examples of various raiding forces and their missions could include the following:

- a. A small irregular force attacking an isolated voting station or a portion of unprotected railroad track.
- b. A larger raiding force attacking a BLUFOR checkpoint, convoy route, or a large supply depot.
- c. A larger irregular force, or task-organised irregular unit attacking a BLUFOR combat outpost that is attempting to interdict irregular force movements and control in a geographic area.

56. Regardless of size and specific capabilities, a raiding force typically consists of three elements: raiding, security, and support. A raiding force may also employ other functional elements such as a fixing element or breaching element. Furthermore, it can obtain advice and direct assistance from a SPF element and/or regular military forces that are in conflict with the same BLUFOR or governing authority.

57. **Raiding Element(s).** The raiding element executes the primary task of the raid. That is to destroy or seize the objective of the raid. In some situations, the raiding element moves physically into the objective, and in other cases it can accomplish the raiding task from a distance. Other elements of a raid support and/or protect the raiding element while it approaches, enters, and departs the objective.

58. **Security Element(s).** The security element in a raid is primarily focused on containing BLUFOR security forces, blocking BLUFOR response forces, and/or fixing BLUFOR escape from the objective area. Any of these tasks are usually conducted for a limited period in support of the raid objective. The security element is often equipped and organized to detect BLUFOR elements in the vicinity of the objective and prevent them from

alerting BLUFOR elements at the objective. Irregular forces may infiltrate into the objective area and position themselves posing as civilians until the time of mission execution.

59. Security elements deploy to locations where they can deny the BLUFOR freedom of movement along any ground or air avenues of approach that can reinforce the objective or interfere with the raid mission. Irregular forces employ an all-arms air defence concept that uses all available weapons to disrupt and/or defeat BLUFOR aircraft. Any air defence assets are most likely found in the security element(s).

60. Covering the withdrawal of the raiding element with a designated level of rear security, the security element typically does not allow itself to become decisively engaged. The size of the security element depends upon the size of the BLUFOR's estimated capability to intervene and disrupt the raid.

61. **Support Element(s).** The support element in a raid serves several enabling functions that assist in setting the conditions for success of the raid. This support may take several forms. The support element provides fire support, logistics, mobility and counter-mobility actions, and INFOWAR support to the raiding and security elements.

62. The commander of the raiding force normally commands and controls the raid from within the support element. However, they will position themselves where they can best command and control the raid.

63. Critical support element tasks are often executed immediately prior to the conduct of the raid to facilitate its execution. These tasks can include the following:

- a. Breaching and removing obstacles to the objective.
- b. Conducting diversionary actions.
- c. Providing fire support.

Executing a Raid

64. Irregular force leaders and commanders plan for a rapid and violent execution. They do not intend to be decisively engaged. The security and support elements normally remain in their fighting positions unless a task requires an element to accompany the raiding element into the objective. A breaching element may be required to clear a lane or lanes in BLUFOR defences.

65. When the intent is to destroy BLUFOR personnel and equipment within the kill zone, concentrated firepower may be able to accomplish the task without physically entering the objective. For example, an irregular unit could use indirect fire weapons to raid a BLUFOR site as an attack by fire with no intention of entering the objective.

66. If the raiding task includes seizing individuals and/or equipment, the raiding element temporarily secures the objective and seizes designated equipment, individuals, and/or other materiel. The support element provides protection to the raiding element when the raiding element searches the objective for information and/or intelligence. The raiding element can seize weapons and other materiel for future irregular force tactical actions.

Command and Control of a Raid

67. A raid is conducted by elements that are often autonomous from other irregular forces or OPFOR SPF elements but can be coordinated in actions to support a common purpose. Irregular force raids are typically conducted by small cells or units at the tactical level.

68. The commander of the raiding force normally positions themselves with the support element and designates a subordinate leader to move with the raiding element. However, the raiding force commander locates themselves where they can best command and control the raid and may move with the raiding element into the objective when appropriate.

Urban Raid Example

69. Irregular forces could use a raid to rescue an irregular force leader who is being held in a governing authority detention facility. A suicide vehicle-borne IED detonates at the main gate to breach barriers and kill, wound, or daze internal security force (ISF) guards in the immediate vicinity. Concurrently, support elements use small arms and anti-tank fire to kill and/or contain other guard forces at a separate gate and small barracks. Security elements detect and ambush BLUFOR reaction forces coming to the aid of the detention facility.

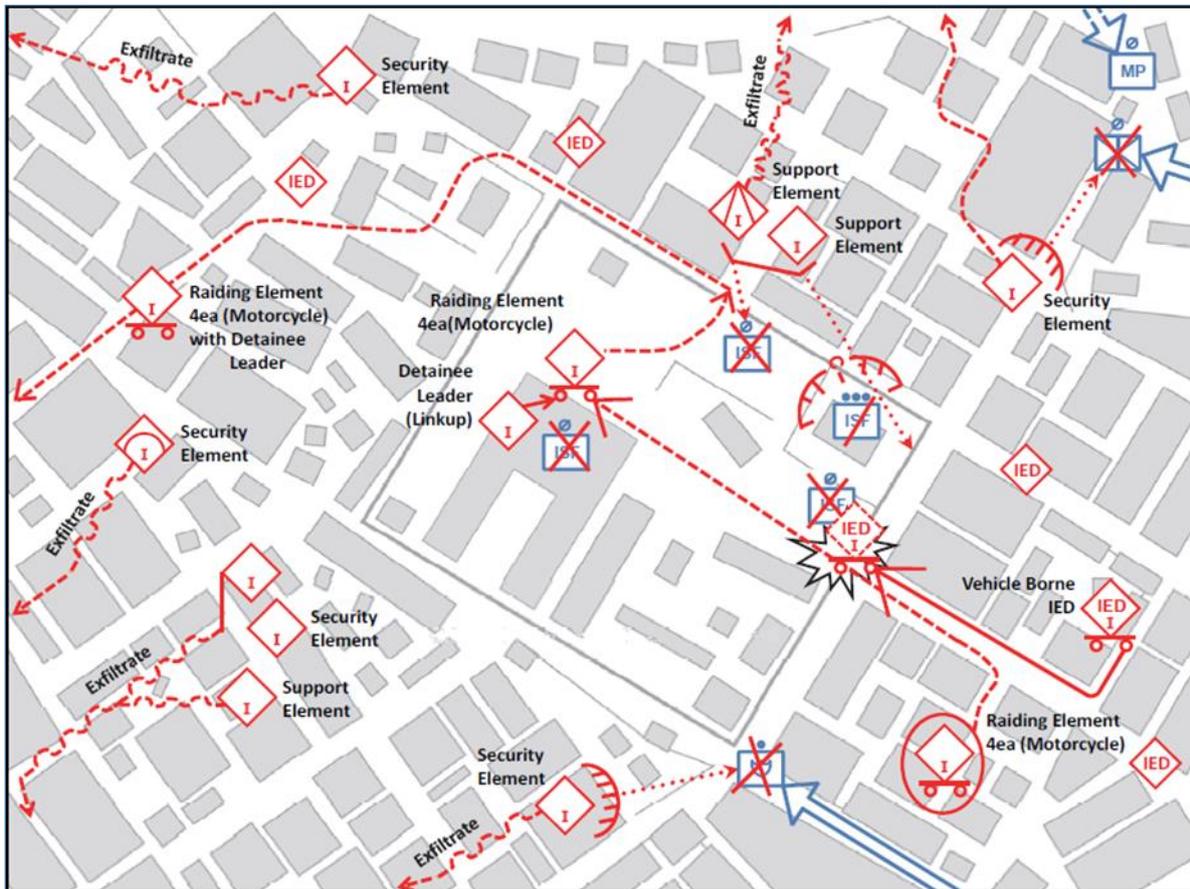


Figure 5 - Example: Irregular force urban raid on a government facility

70. A raiding element of four motorcycles moves through the breach at the main gate to a designated linkup point inside the facility that had been coordinated within a covert operative of the irregular force. The covert operative kills guards inside the holding cells area and releases the irregular force leader. Once the raiding element secures the irregular force leader, the element exits the facility through a side gate and quickly departs the area on motorcycles to a safe house.

71. During the raid, security elements positioned along likely avenues for BLUFOR response forces ambush and delay law enforcement and quick reaction forces as they approach the detention facility. The local irregular force leader in command of the raid determines that the rescued leader secured from the facility is now safe and directs support and security elements to exfiltrate from the area.

72. An INFOWAR cell records the raid from several vantage points. It releases an account of the successful raid on the internet, in local markets, and to regional media outlets within hours of the raid.

Rural Indirect Fire Raid Example

73. A battalion size rurally based irregular force could employ a raid to demonstrate the inability of the BLUFOR to effectively defend critical infrastructure. However, the unit in this example has suffered significant losses, now having only one of its original three irregular force companies. Therefore, it is reluctant to attempt a raid against a BLUFOR POL installation by physically entering the objective, which has a BLUFOR motorised infantry company and two combat outposts in the vicinity. However, the irregular battalion still has two of the original three 107-mm multiple rocket launchers (MRLs) of its weapons company, although it has lost the crews trained to operate them. The battalion commander has one irregular platoon from their remaining company task-organised as an MRL platoon and moved to a designated site for specialised training in MRL tactical operations. OPFOR SPF advisors from a neighbouring state deploy into the area to train the task-organised platoon and continue plans and rehearsals for the MRL raid. Irregular leaders and senior commanders position themselves to observe the raid. An INFOWAR cell of the local irregular force organisation positions to record the raid.

- d. Availability of BLUFOR quick reaction forces.

79. **Fire Support.** Most raids use support elements in proximity to raiding elements with supporting direct fires from light, medium, or heavy machineguns and/or anti-tank weapons and grenade launchers. In some cases, support element(s) can also provide indirect fires from mortars or rockets.

80. Fire support for a raid can assist in the following:

- a. Isolating a break-in point in the BLUFOR defences at the objective.
- b. Fixing BLUFOR in the objective and protecting the breach.
- c. Suppressing direct and indirect fires from BLUFOR elements.
- d. Disrupting BLUFOR response forces.
- e. Obscuring the vision and sensors of the BLUFOR as the raiding force withdraws.

81. **Air Defence.** The irregular force recognises that air defence is an all-arms effort that uses all weapon systems and resources available to the raid. The irregular force seeks new and adaptive ways to employ systems not traditionally associated with air defence. However, irregular forces typically have a limited MANPADS capability in their weapons company. If allocated to a raiding force, these MANPADS would likely be located in security element(s). Security elements provide early warning and fires against BLUFOR aerial response forces.

82. **Engineer-Like Capabilities.** Irregular force cells and units do not have organic mobility and/or counter-mobility capabilities. Breaching and/or removing obstacles before and during a raid on an objective may require irregular forces with specialised skills and expertise from their civilian professions or previous military experience. Irregular sappers are not engineers but can perform some engineer-like functions. The irregular forces may also rely on assistance from affiliated OPFOR SPF to support the raid. Tasks in either situation involve ensuring freedom of movement and manoeuvre to the objective, within the objective and to the target, and timely withdrawal from the objective. Irregular and/or SPF soldiers with these skills may be located with the raiding, support, and/or security element depending on task.

83. **Logistics.** Raids are typically brief in duration. The raiding force will move from a secured location such as a safe house or safe haven to the objective area with all materiel required for the raid. Caches can be used in the vicinity of the objective when this technique improves tactical security and/or when irregular force materiel needs to be located close to the objective. Caches can also be mobile in transportation masked within the civilian population in urban or rural environments. Examples of mobile caches are as simple as a wheelbarrow covered with a tarpaulin to a truck with hidden compartments as part of a commercial convoy.

84. **INFOWAR.** INFOWAR primarily supports a raid by concealing the action through deception and information protection. Successful raids can be used in INFOWAR to demonstrate the inability of BLUFOR to defend civilian, government, and military facilities; to safeguard key representatives of the governing authority; or to protect civilian and military infrastructure critical to a governing authority's counter-insurgency campaign.

Reconnaissance Attack

85. A reconnaissance attack is a tactical offensive action that locates moving, dispersed, or concealed BLUFOR elements and either fixes or destroys them. It typically takes place in more rural or lightly populated and dispersed areas. An irregular force commander may also use it to gain information about the BLUFOR location, dispositions, military capabilities, and possibly their intentions.

86. The irregular forces recognise that a BLUFOR will conduct significant measures to prevent them from gaining critical intelligence. Therefore, quite often they will have to fight for information, using an offensive action to penetrate or circumvent security forces to determine who and/or what is located where or doing what.

87. The reconnaissance attack is the most ambitious method to collect information and is ordered by an irregular commander only after careful consideration of other courses of action. Key factors in reconnaissance attack considerations are:

- a. Accurate situational assessment of an area of responsibility within which the irregular forces operate.
- b. Contact conditions: having maintained contact with the BLUFOR or the requirement to re-establish contact.

- c. Current capabilities to simultaneously support the movement and/or manoeuvre of multiple reconnaissance, security, and action elements in the irregular force area of responsibility.
- d. Level of active support from the local population.

Functional Organisation for a Reconnaissance Attack

88. An irregular commander organising a reconnaissance attack may designate reconnaissance, security, and/or action elements depending on the situation. There may be more than one of each type. The commander may also form various types of support elements.

89. **Reconnaissance Element(s).** If the purpose of the reconnaissance attack is merely to gain information, an irregular force commander may organise several reconnaissance elements. Their role is to locate BLUFOR elements operating in the unit's area of responsibility (AOR). If the purpose is to also have the capability to fix and/or destroy located BLUFOR elements, the reconnaissance elements provide reconnaissance and surveillance support to the elements that carry out those functions. A tactical option is for security elements to perform this role if reconnaissance elements do not have the combat power. Once a reconnaissance element locates a BLUFOR element, it may become a security element.

90. **Security Element(s).** If the irregular commander believes they have sufficient combat power to engage BLUFOR elements once located, they may also organise one or more security elements. The size and task organisation of security elements are dependent on the assigned mission and the expectation of how long a security element will conduct its functional tasks before arrival of action elements or other elements. (When performing some of these functional tasks, the unit originally designated as a security element may receive a designation that describes that specific function).

91. Security elements can either work in conjunction with reconnaissance elements or perform the reconnaissance role for the irregular force. Upon locating a BLUFOR element, a security element may be directed to conduct one of several tactical tasks, such as:

- a. Report on conditions in the AOR.
- b. Observe and monitor the BLUFOR in the AOR.
- c. Locate BLUFOR direct-fire weapons concentrations such as BLUFOR anti-tank ambush sites.
- d. Locate BLUFOR counter-mobility obstacles along friendly mobility routes.
- e. Identify bypasses to BLUFOR counter-mobility obstacles.
- f. Prepare infiltration lanes through BLUFOR counter-mobility obstacles that cannot be bypassed.
- g. Fix BLUFOR forces (as a fixing element).
- h. Block probable BLUFOR avenues of withdrawal or reinforcement (as a blocking element).
- i. Attack a smaller BLUFOR element (as an ambush element or raiding element).

92. **Action Element(s).** An irregular commander task-organises one or more action elements to conduct designated tasks against BLUFOR element(s). These action elements may receive a functional designation that more specifically describes the action they are to accomplish, such as raiding element. Once a BLUFOR element is located and/or fixed, the action element(s) attack to defeat or destroy the BLUFOR. The number of action elements for a mission is based on the anticipated tasks to engage BLUFOR elements located by reconnaissance and/or security elements. Action elements may be directed to plan for operations in conjunction with one or more security elements in an AOR. Each security element may not necessarily have an action element dedicated to follow and assume an offensive task.

93. **Support Element(s).** One or more support elements can perform various supporting tasks. Typical CS and/or CSS tasks are discussed in subsequent paragraphs under Support to a Reconnaissance Attack.

Executing a Reconnaissance Attack

94. Multiple attack routes often characterise reconnaissance attacks. Control measures may include start times, check points, orientation objectives, and objective rally points designated for each axis. Multiple axes of advance provide more tactical flexibility to irregular elements in accomplishing their respective missions and tasks.

95. Irregular elements normally infiltrate within or into an AOR. The norm is reconnaissance and/or security elements manoeuvring separately to find the BLUFOR and reporting on activity and/or conditions along

designated routes or axis. When the BLUFOR is located, the irregular commander decides on subsequent tasks for their unit. A typical task is to fix the BLUFOR with security forces and attack with action elements to defeat or destroy the BLUFOR. Mission success often relies on the ability of reconnaissance and/or security elements to operate independently. Action elements are positioned within an AOR to quickly respond to intelligence confirmed by reconnaissance and/or security elements.

Reconnaissance Attack Example

96. Recent combat actions have severely reduced an irregular battalion to two companies and limited organic fire support. The irregular force brigade allocates mortar and rocket launcher support as the irregular battalion prepares for a reconnaissance attack. The battalion commander uses remnants of their third company to create two dummy companies as deception elements. OPFOR SPF INFOWAR teams support irregular deception operations. Avoiding BLUFOR screening elements, several reconnaissance elements infiltrate to re-establish contact with the BLUFOR. Reconnaissance elements report on activities and conditions within the AOR, identify BLUFOR locations, and guide security elements into positions to fix BLUFOR elements. Other reconnaissance elements reach their orientation objectives without BLUFOR contact and transition to security tasks. The irregular battalion conducts simultaneous attacks on BLUFOR using massed direct and indirect fires.

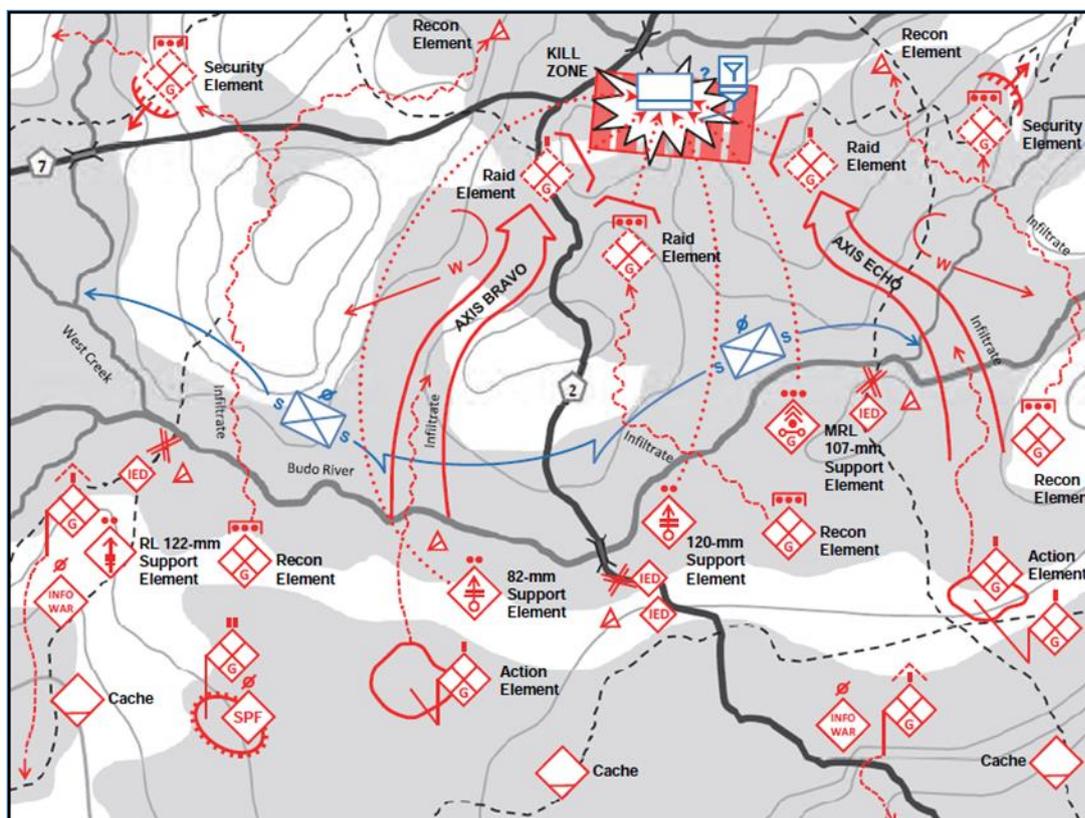


Figure 7 - Example: Irregular reconnaissance attack

97. Irregular forces quickly withdraw to safe havens while security elements and on-call indirect fires prevent any BLUFOR pursuit. The surprise attack disrupts BLUFOR logistics and stalls BLUFOR offensive operations.

Command and Control of a Reconnaissance Attack

98. A reconnaissance attack requires planning and coordination typically more detailed than in other offensive actions for an irregular unit. The commander must plan for multiple reconnaissance and/or security elements operating across a broad area. They must also position one or more action elements to respond quickly to tactical opportunities identified by reconnaissance and/or security elements. The organization and positioning of functional elements is further complicated as they plan to deceive the BLUFOR regarding their presence and tactical intentions.

Support of a Reconnaissance Attack

99. A reconnaissance attack typically requires several types of support. These can include reconnaissance, fire support, air defence, engineer-like capabilities, logistics, and INFOWAR.

100. **Reconnaissance.** Reconnaissance in a reconnaissance attack can be conducted in two primary ways. A reconnaissance element can be formed with a mission to find the BLUFOR forces and guide security elements to locations that allow the security elements to fix the BLUFOR forces. When no reconnaissance element is formed, each security element performs its own reconnaissance tasks with the responsibility to both find and fix the BLUFOR.

101. **Armoured Fighting Vehicles.** Some irregular units may have armoured vehicles present in their organisation. When an irregular commander believes they have a level of near parity with local BLUFOR and is confident in their air defence situation for limited periods of time, they can use armoured vehicles in various functional element(s). With effective camouflage, concealment, cover, and deception (C3D), they may decide to introduce wheeled and/or tracked armoured vehicles from safe havens or local hide positions to augment reconnaissance and/or security elements. The thermal imagers and other electro-optical aids on armoured vehicles can be of great value in detecting BLUFOR forces. Armoured vehicles can also increase mobility, firepower, and protection for reconnaissance and/or security elements, significantly enhancing their ability to fix and possibly destroy the BLUFOR. The mobility and speed of these vehicles permit them to serve in the action element(s), rapidly orienting on located and/or fixed BLUFOR forces and moving to a position of advantage to destroy them. Especially when the BLUFOR was previously unaware of their presence in the AOR, these armoured vehicles can provide a significant advantage in firepower and shock effect.

102. **Fire Support.** Fire support is positioned in an AOR to provide responsive fires throughout the reconnaissance phase, security element movement and occupation of fixing and/or blocking positions, and the manoeuvre and combat of action elements. Various wheeled, towed, or tracked fire support systems may be available to cover the withdrawal of reconnaissance, security, action, or other support elements after completing the reconnaissance attack mission.

103. Irregular units may include medium and heavy mortars, artillery, and/or rocket systems as a varied collection of antiquated and contemporary capabilities. Mobility of systems can vary also. Irregular units may have to improvise transportation, using captured military trucks, local commercial vehicles that conceal a weapon system, or other expedient means. In some cases, pack animals, bicycles with reinforced frames, and/or porters can be used to transport disassembled fire support systems for reassembly at locations unexpected by the BLUFOR.

104. **Air Defence.** Irregular air defence can be developed to a level of protection that limits BLUFOR aerial response forces and reinforcements from influencing a particular irregular mission in the AOR. Any irregular unit conducts all-arms air defence as a norm to damage and/or destroy tactical BLUFOR aircraft within the range of their available small arms weapons systems. However, irregular battalions also typically have a limited MANPADS capability in their weapons company.

105. **Engineer-Like Capabilities.** Mobility and counter-mobility support to a reconnaissance attack focuses on freedom of movement and/or manoeuvre of reconnaissance, security, and action elements. Mobility and counter-mobility tasks are performed by irregular forces with specialised skills. For example, irregular force personnel with expertise from civilian engineering occupations and/or previous training by SPF teams may be assigned tasks. Irregular forces from sapper units can be task-organised to assist various elements in infiltrating through BLUFOR security elements, breaching BLUFOR obstacles, as well as to support attacks on located BLUFOR forces or installations.

106. **Logistics.** A reconnaissance attack can be conducted by widely dispersed irregular elements operating over extended time periods and distances. Elements typically carry sufficient logistics with them during their movements. Irregular forces can create and stock caches and/or preposition designated logistics elements in an AOR for multiple reconnaissance advances toward orientation objectives and during unit withdrawals to safe havens after a reconnaissance attack.

107. Irregular forces are self-sufficient as a goal but must often subsist on the local economy without offending a local population. Use of civilian facilities and support of the population to irregular units may result in reaction by BLUFOR forces and the governing authority. Irregular INFOWAR activities amplify BLUFOR repression to increase and sustain tactical and logistics support by a local population for irregular actions.

108. **INFOWAR.** With the support of INFOWAR deception, the irregular commander attempts to deceive the BLUFOR concerning the strength and composition of forces, their current deployment and orientation, and the intended manner of employment. False intelligence provided to BLUFOR forces by active supporters of the irregular force disrupts BLUFOR information collection. When successfully conducted, deception activities support tactical surprise by the irregular forces and improve the likelihood of achieving the reconnaissance attack objective.

109. Other INFOWAR activities in a reconnaissance attack can be to:
- Deceive the BLUFOR force regarding irregular actions and intentions.
 - Protect elements of the force from being detected.
 - Create a false sense of security in the BLUFOR.
 - Encourage the active and passive support of the irregular operations by a local population.
 - Demoralise BLUFOR elements and the governing authority they support.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS

110. A battle position (BP) is a defensive location oriented on a likely BLUFOR avenue of approach using small unit tactics similar to regular forces. The irregular force may also occupy a BP when avoiding contact with BLUFOR while still providing for defence if discovered. When irregular leaders determine that they will operate in a defensive posture, defensive positions will be either a simple battle position (SBP) or complex battle position (CBP). The mission and specific circumstances will influence the type of BP to establish and occupy.

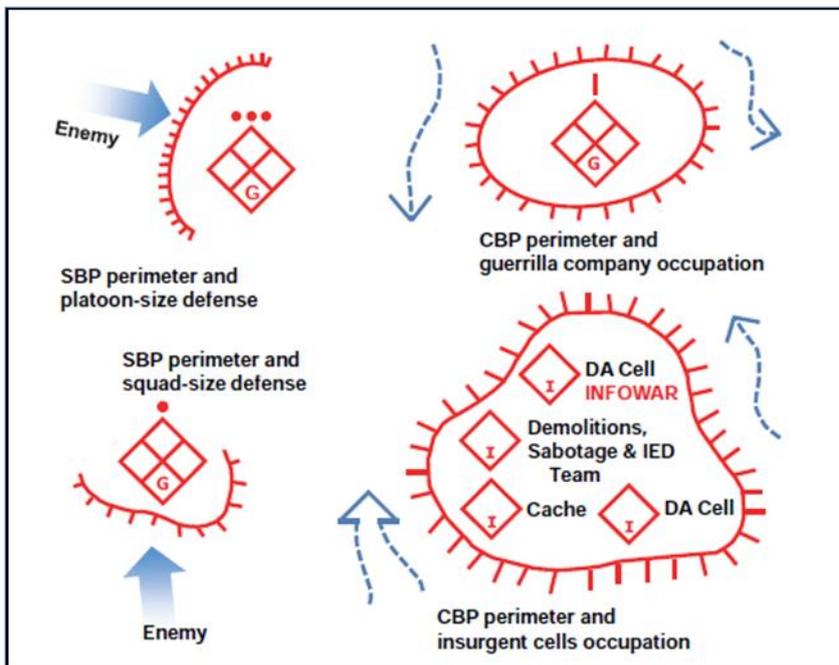


Figure 8 - Example: Simple and complex battle position

Simple Battle Position

111. A simple battle position (SBP) is a defensive location oriented on the most likely BLUFOR avenue of approach. SBPs are not necessarily tied to complex terrain. However, they often employ as much fortification and camouflage, concealment, cover, and deception (C3D) measures as time allows. Defences are improved upon continuously until the SBP is abandoned.

112. Construction of an SBP places special attention on the camouflage, concealment, and cover of fighting positions in urban and rural terrain. The irregular OPFOR normally expects significant BLUFOR intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, (ISTAR) capabilities and recognises that sophisticated ISTAR may be supporting the BLUFOR. An effective counter to such levels of technology may be to embed the SBP within a local population in an urban and/or rural environment, or physically use rural and/or urban terrain to mask the presence of SBPs. Examples include the use underground shelters, tunnels, natural shelters such as caves, and/or village or city dwellings. An SBP or group of SBPs establish one or more kill zones on likely BLUFOR avenues of approach.

113. Deceptive techniques can include the disguise of being commercial or private equipment, vehicles, workplaces, and/or public institutions and public gathering places such as houses of worship, hospitals, and civic centres with regular intermingling of the local population. Irregular forces usually wear the clothing of the local population and keep weapons, munitions, and materiel in caches that are easily retrievable in the vicinity of the SBP.

114. The irregular commanders or leaders make careful risk assessments when establishing SBPs. They evaluate the desirability and/or requirement to invest substantial time, effort, and materiel on an SBP. They weigh this against the expectation that they must defeat BLUFOR that can typically mass combat power quickly against an SBP.

115. Once the commander decides to defend an SBP, they focus available combat power on one or more kill zones. The irregular force plans and rehearses all actions necessary to prevent BLUFOR penetration of an SBP and/or what an SBP or group of SBPs is protecting, and consider measures to defeat a BLUFOR penetration of an SBP if it occurs.

116. The commander considers what criteria they will use to direct a withdrawal and/or withdrawal under pressure from an SBP or group of SBPs. Unless directed to retain a specific SBP by a higher level, the commander responsible for an SBP recognises that they are committed to a long term struggle and that preserving combat power for a future engagement may be the appropriate decision. However, some irregular fighters may have a self-determined commitment or directed mission to fight until killed or captured in a particular SBP.

Functional Organisation for Defending an SBP

117. The commander defends an SBP with cells or units that are organised as functional elements. Typical functional designations are:

- a. Disruption element.
- b. Main defence element.
- c. Reserve element.
- d. Support element.
- e. Deception element.

118. There may be more than one of each type. The name of an element describes its function within the defensive action.

119. **Disruption Element(s).** Irregular forces assigned to a disruption element have a mission to identify BLUFOR reconnaissance efforts and to report the location, disposition, and composition of approaching BLUFOR. When disruption elements have the capability to target and attack designated subsystems of a BLUFOR force, they conduct disruption actions as part of a comprehensive defence plan.

120. Disruption activities may include direct and indirect fires, remote-controlled or command detonated IEDs and/or other obstacles to slow, channel, contain, or block BLUFOR elements. The normal intention of a disruption element is to not become decisively engaged. However, a commander can direct decisive engagement if the action is necessary to preserve the combat power of other critical capabilities in the irregular force organisation.

121. Tactical tasks typical of a disruption element include:

- a. Ambush.
- b. Attack by fire.
- c. Delay.
- d. Disrupt.

122. The irregular force will typically not assign a small cell or unit a fixing task when an expectation of “fix” is to deny movement of any part of BLUFOR. A more probable task for the irregular force in an SBP is to “delay” with an expectation to slow the momentum of the BLUFOR advance and cause significant damage to the BLUFOR without becoming decisively engaged.

123. A disruption element for an SBP will be no more than 8 – 12 personnel armed with assault rifles, light and/or medium machineguns, grenade launchers, IEDs and anti-tank weapons.

124. **Main Defence Element(s).** The main defence element of an SBP is responsible for defeating an attacking force. Irregular forces in a main defence element are prepared to use fires and manoeuvre to defeat the penetration or seizure of their SBP or other SBPs. Main defence elements focus the combat power of available weapon systems into designated kill zones to defeat or destroy BLUFOR.

125. **Reserve Element(s).** The reserve element of an SBP exists to provide the irregular force commander with tactical flexibility. The commander will normally assign priorities of effort to the reserve element for contingency planning and rehearsals. Although a reserve element may not have specified tasks to perform initially, tactical tasks it can later receive include:

- a. Counterattack.
- b. Block.
- c. Contain.
- d. Delay.
- e. Retain.

126. **Support Element(s).** The support element of an SBP can include:

- a. CSS.
- b. C2.
- c. Direct fires such as heavy machineguns, RPGs, anti-tank guided missiles, recoilless rifles, or automatic grenade launchers.
- d. Indirect fires such as mortars or rockets.
- e. Nonlethal actions such as smoke obscurants.
- f. INFOWAR activities.
- g. Engineer-like capabilities.

127. **Deception Element(s).** To keep the BLUFOR from discovering the nature of the defences and to draw fire away from actual elements, the defending force may establish dummy firing positions and battle positions. In addition to enhancing force protection, the irregular force may use these deception elements as an economy-of-force measure to portray strength where none exists.

Organising the Battlespace for an SBP

128. When establishing an SBP, the commander of the defending force specifies the organisation of the battlespace from the perspective of their level of command. This normally includes a battle zone and often a support zone. It may also include a disruption zone.

129. **Battle Zone.** The battle zone is the area where the defending commander commits most of their force to the task of defeating an attacking BLUFOR. Generally, an SBP will have its battle zone fires integrated with those of any adjacent SBPs. Fires will orient to form kill zones where the defenders plan to destroy key BLUFOR targets.

130. **Disruption Zone.** The disruption zone is the area outside the battle zone where the defenders may seek to:

- a. Report on the BLUFOR situation.
- b. Defeat BLUFOR reconnaissance efforts.
- c. Detect attacking forces.
- d. Disrupt and delay an attacker's approach.
- e. Engage and destroy key attacking elements prior to engagement in the battle zone.

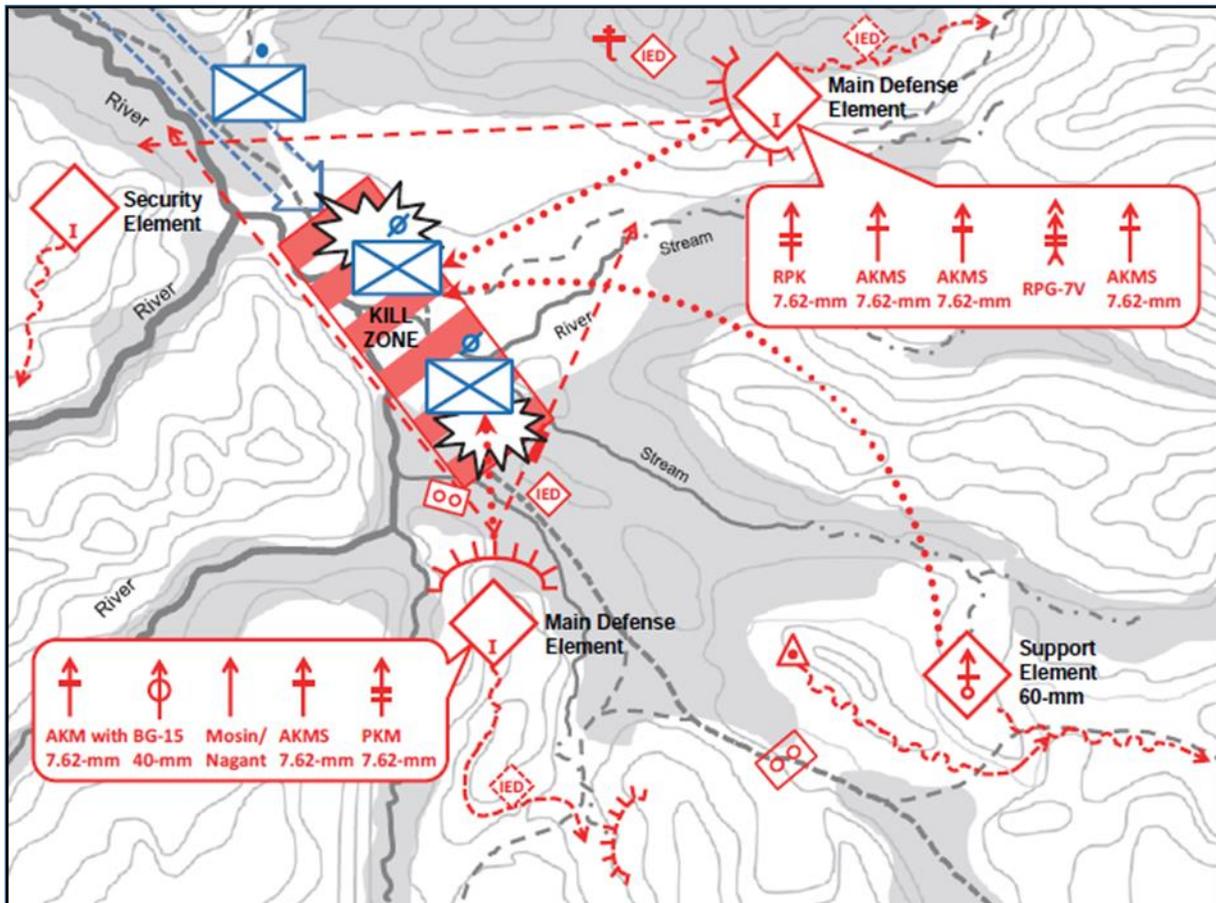


Figure 9 - Example: Irregular defence of a simple battle position

131. Engagement (such as ambush or attack by fire) in the disruption zone may be beyond the capabilities of a small disruption element. However, it may be able to delay or disrupt the BLUFOR advance or channel it away from the SBP(s). In any case, some level of reconnaissance and/or security will be placed outside of an SBP for early warning of BLUFOR approach.

132. **Support Zone.** Depending on the mission and size of the defensive positions, support capabilities may be incorporated into the battle zone of an SBP, or there may be a support zone inside or outside the battle zone. Aside from the support element(s), the support zone may contain a reserve element.

Executing Defence of an SBP

133. Aggressive security measures throughout the development and occupation of an SBP provide early warning of BLUFOR activities. Once BLUFOR are detected, the irregular force commander decides when to engage the BLUFOR. They may direct that disruption elements engage with direct and indirect fires, or they can continue to observe movements of the BLUFOR as it approaches SBP kill zones.

134. On order of the commander, the irregular force engages BLUFOR to defeat and/or destroy them in designated kill zones. Given the norm of BLUFOR quickly responding to contact with additional forces, the commander may decide to withdraw or reposition from initial defensive positions.

135. The irregular force can initiate deception activities to confuse BLUFOR when it is displacing from its initial SBP or SBPs. Deception can include small stay-behind direct action cells or teams to indicate a continued defence of an SBP or SBPs. Other actions that can slow the reaction of BLUFOR is to keep forces close to or within a relevant civilian population as a shield. Multiple IEDs along withdrawal routes can be both active and inert munitions. Both active and inert IED-appearing obstacles cause BLUFOR responses to assess and disarm or bypass the munitions.

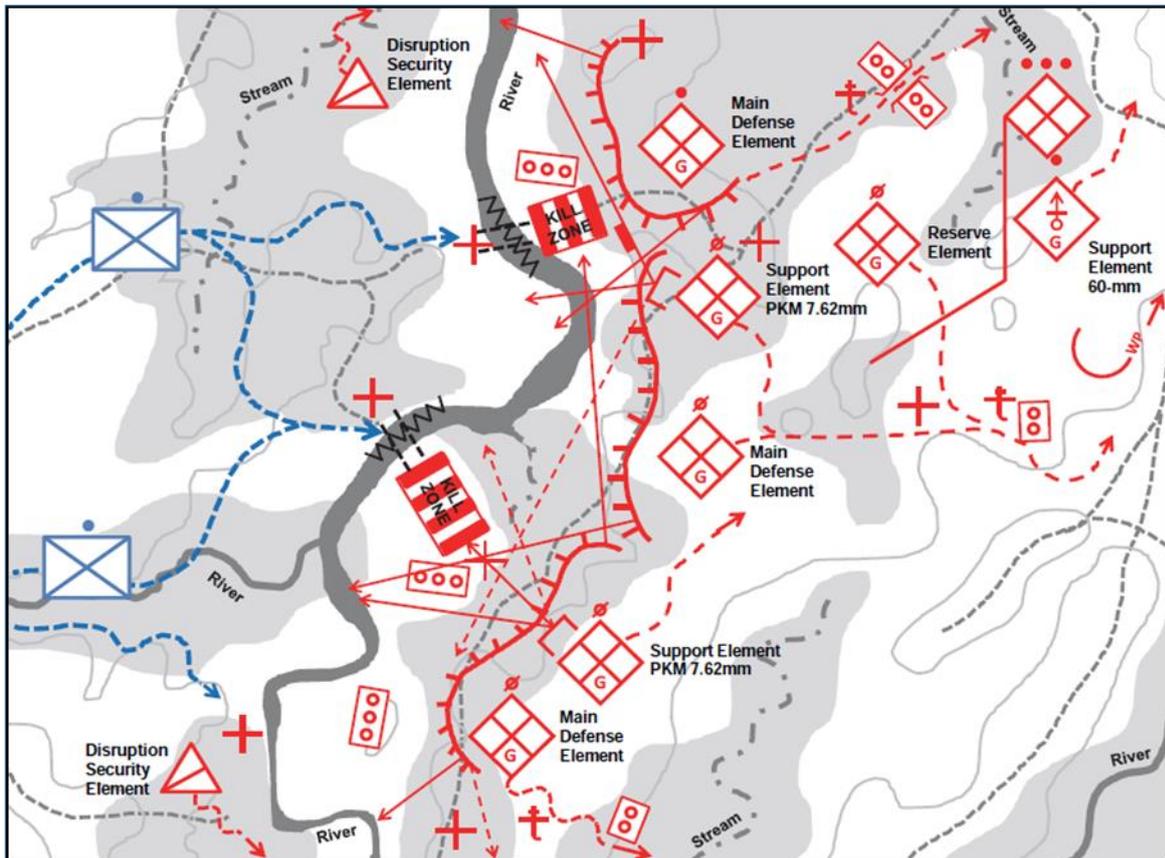


Figure 10 - Example: Irregular defensive of a simple battle position

Command and Control of an SBP Defence

136. The irregular force commander will position themselves where they can best command and control the defensive fight. Security during defensive preparations includes communications such as couriers, landline or wire communication systems, visual signals, and cellphones. Once the irregular force initiates the defence with direct and indirect fires, communications make full use of handheld radios and cellphones.

Support of an SBP Defence

137. Support of an SBP defence is typically provided from local resources in the geographic area and may include CS and/or CSS. While some of this support resides in irregular force cells or units, a higher-level organisation may temporarily allocate support.

138. **Reconnaissance.** SBP defenders will perform aggressive counter-reconnaissance activities to prevent the BLUFOR from remaining in reconnaissance contact with the SBP. The irregular force will observe avenues of approach to provide early warning, determine location, composition, and disposition of attackers, and direct fires against key BLUFOR capabilities.

139. **Vehicles.** The irregular force may occasionally capture armoured fighting vehicles or acquire them from other sources operating in the region. They may also operate commercial vehicles with rudimentary mounted weapon systems. When possessed by the irregular force, vehicles are normally concealed and covered in hide positions until the commander directs them into the engagement. Their visible and other signatures are masked to preclude identification by BLUFOR ISTAR systems. Once vehicles are employed in defensive actions, they move frequently to alternate and supplemental fighting positions to improve their survivability and aid deception.

140. **Fire Support.** Fire support to an SBP or SBPs is usually under the command and control of the commander responsible for the defensive action. When additional fire support assets are required in a defensive mission, a higher-level organisation may allocate assets to a subordinate for a particular mission or on a temporary basis.

141. **Air Defence.** The irregular forces in an SBP can employ active and passive air defence measures to protect the defender from air threats within an all-arms air defence concept. Medium or heavy machineguns and shoulder-fired MANPADS may be found in or near an SBP.

142. **Engineer-Like Capabilities.** The irregular force commander is responsible for counter-mobility and mobility tasks. They use the specialised talents that exist among irregular forces in a cell or unit but do not normally have cells structured for only engineer-like tasks. Additional support or advice may be provided by OPFOR SPF.

143. **Logistics.** When present, logistics capabilities will normally be found with the support element within the SBP. However, they can also be located in caches and safe houses in or near an SBP. Weapons, munitions, and materiel will normally be hidden from open surveillance until just prior to a defensive action. Items are brought from concealment and emplaced in fighting positions on order of the commander.

144. **INFOWAR.** The SBP obtains support from INFOWAR activities that deceive the BLUFOR as to the defenders' presence, actual locations, and/or intentions. A successful INFOWAR campaign can promote the impression that the BLUFOR are failing to effectively protect its population. Other INFOWAR messages portray the BLUFOR and governing authority as a corrupt regime and further isolate them from a local population the irregular force claims to protect.

Complex Battle Position

145. A complex battle position (CBP) is a defensive location designed to employ a combination of complex terrain, C3D, and engineer-like capabilities to protect the cells or units within them from detection and attack while denying their seizure and occupation by the BLUFOR. CBPs typically have the following characteristics that distinguish them from SBPs:

- a. Not on or along a BLUFOR avenue of approach
- b. Limited avenues of approach toward and/or in vicinity of a CBP.
- c. Observation of any existing avenues of approach.
- d. Defensive posture with an integrated 360-degree perimeter.
- e. Counter-mobility and mobility efforts prioritizing C3D measures of the CBP location.
- f. Substantial logistics caches.
- g. Sanctuary.

146. C3D measures are critical to the success of a CBP, since the defenders generally want to avoid BLUFOR contact. Additionally, cells or units in a CBP will remain dispersed to negate the effects of BLUFOR precision ordnance strikes. Generally, once the defence is established, non-combat vehicles will be moved away from concentrations of personnel to reduce their signature on the battlespace.

147. Units defending in CBPs will use restrictive terrain and counter-mobility efforts to deny the BLUFOR the ability to easily approach the position. Construction of a CBP places special attention on the camouflage, concealment, and cover of fighting positions in urban and rural terrain. The irregular force normally expects BLUFOR ISTAR capabilities to be significant and recognises that sophisticated ISTAR capabilities may be supporting the BLUFOR. An effective counter to such levels of sophisticated technology and systems may be to embed a CBP within a local population in an urban and/or rural environment. Examples include the use of underground shelters, tunnels, natural shelters such as caves, and/or village or city dwellings.

148. Cultural shielding is a tactical consideration to deny BLUFOR the ability to detect and attack a CBP. Examples of cultural shielding that create tactical standoff are using a religious location, school, community centre, or medical facility as a base of fire or firing from within a crowd of non-combatants.

149. If a CBP is identified and attacked, the commander will engage only as long as they perceive they can defeat the BLUFOR. Prior to becoming decisively overmatched, they will withdraw to preserve combat power. An irregular commander can be directed by a higher headquarters to accept decisive engagement to support a larger mission.

Functional Organisation of a CBP Defence

150. The commander of the defending force organises their subordinates as functional elements. Typical functional designations are:

- a. Disruption element.
- b. Main defence element.
- c. Reserve element.

- d. Support element.
- e. Deception element.

151. These functional elements conduct tactical actions very similar to those used in defending an SBP. That is because the names of these elements identify their basic functions. However, the following paragraphs highlight some differences. There may be more than one of each type of element.

152. **Disruption Element(s).** The disruption element of a CBP is primarily concerned with detecting attackers and providing early warning to the defending force. The disruption elements may be directed to only observe and report BLUFOR movements but can also be directed to attack BLUFOR once they pass the disruption elements.

153. **Main Defence Element(s).** The main defence element of a CBP is responsible for defeating an attacking force. This element can be directed to delay BLUFOR while other cells or units withdraw from direct contact with the BLUFOR.

154. **Reserve Element(s).** The reserve element of a CBP exists to provide the commander with tactical flexibility. Tasks for a reserve element can include:

- a. Counterattack.
- b. Block.
- c. Delay.
- d. Retain.

155. **Support Element(s).** The support element of a CBP has tasks that include C2, CS, and CSS for the defending force. Other support functions can include direct and indirect fires, counter-mobility or mobility, and/or INFOWAR activities. Support elements typically are located within the CBP but can be outside and in the vicinity.

156. **Deception Element(s).** To keep the BLUFOR from discovering the nature of the defences and to draw fire away from actual elements, the defending force may establish dummy firing positions and battle positions. In addition to enhancing force protection, the irregular force may use these deception elements as an economy-of-force measure to portray strength where none exists.

Organising the Battlespace for a CBP

157. When establishing a CBP, the commander of the defending force specifies the organisation of the battlespace from the perspective of their level of command. They will determine if they designate a battle zone, disruption zone, and support zone.

158. **Battle Zone.** The battle zone is the area where the defending commander commits most of their force to the task of defeating an attacking BLUFOR or delaying them while the defenders withdraw. In the defence of a CBP, the battle zone is typically the area in and surrounding the CBP that the defending force can influence with its direct fires. It may be larger depending on the availability of indirect fires.

159. **Disruption Zone.** The disruption zone is the area outside the battle zone where the defenders may seek to:

- a. Report on the BLUFOR situation.
- b. Disrupt or destroy BLUFOR reconnaissance efforts.
- c. Detect attacking forces.
- d. Disrupt and delay an attacker's approach.
- e. Destroy key attacking elements prior to engagement in the battle zone.

160. **Support Zone.** The support zone contains C2, CSS, fire support, and other supporting assets. A reserve element may also be located there. The support zone is normally located within the CBP.

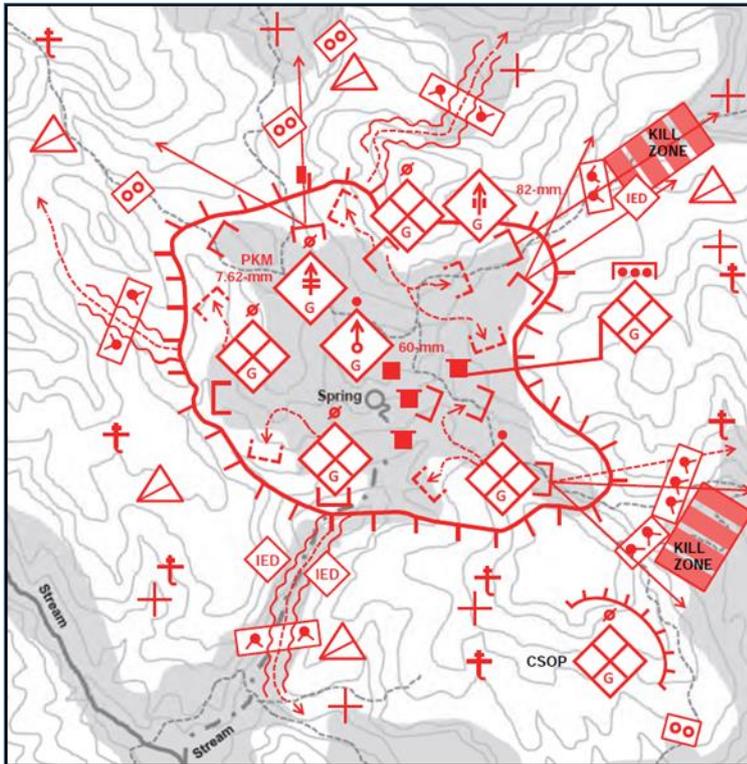


Figure 12 - Example: Irregular defence of a complex battle position

Command and Control of a CBP Defence

164. The irregular OPFOR leader will position themselves where they can best command and control the defensive fight. C2 of a CBP is generally more difficult than that of an SBP because the defenders may be more dispersed. Irregular forces operating in and from the CBP use secure communications such as couriers, wire or encrypted radios provided by the OPFOR.

Support to a CBP Defence

165. Support of a CBP can be provided from within the local irregular organisation and/or local resources in the local population. Some support may be allocated by higher level irregular force organisations or from a state or non-state sponsor. Specialised support such as OPFOR SPF can be temporarily associated with irregular forces in a CBP to provide training, materiel, and/or tactical and technical advice.

166. **Reconnaissance.** Reconnaissance assets observe avenues of approach key to providing early warning and allow the commander time to defend or to exfiltrate personnel and resources. Irregular forces and/or their active supporters embed themselves within local populations. The irregular force is less likely to engage in counter-reconnaissance activities if these actions would reveal the CBP location.

167. **Vehicles.** Armoured vehicles are not the norm in a CBP. When possessed by the irregular force, armoured fighting vehicles and ad hoc fighting vehicles (technicals) mounting heavy weapons are normally concealed and covered in hide positions. The commander may retain additional vehicles as part of their reserve for a quick response to contingencies in defence of the CBP.

168. **Fire Support.** CBPs are typically self-supporting in their defence. Fire support assets normally locate within the CBP but may also locate outside of the CBP perimeter to best employ specific fires. Defenders employ these fires to:

- a. Defeat BLUFOR in the battle zone.
- b. Attrit BLUFOR along avenues of approach near a CBP.
- c. Disrupt BLUFOR use of landing zones in the vicinity of a CBP.
- d. Delay BLUFOR to support withdrawal from the CBP.

169. **Air Defence.** Passive air defence is the norm for a CBP. Active air defence generally involves systems that do not emit an electromagnetic signature. Irregular forces engage aerial targets on order of the commander. An all-arms air defence concept involves using weapons of all personnel of a CBP to protect against fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft threats. However, irregular battalions typically have a limited MANPADS capability in their

weapons company. When available, shoulder-fired MANPADS would likely be located in disruption or security element(s) that occupy fighting positions near a CBP oriented on probable BLUFOR air avenues of approach.

170. **Engineer-Like Capabilities.** The irregular force conceals fighting and survivability positions using C3D techniques with locally available resources. Military-manufactured anti-personnel and/or anti-tank mines and/or IEDs are emplaced on or near likely BLUFOR avenues of approach. Mines and/or IEDs are emplaced and secured with a cell or unit designated to arm and/or detonate the munition on order of the commander. The irregular force reinforces urban and/or rural terrain to channel BLUFOR into kill zones on approaches to a CBP. Obstacles are generally more protective in nature than obstacles used near an SBP.

171. **Logistics.** Logistics operations of a CBP are generally self-sustaining and blend into the local commerce and daily operations of a local population in the vicinity of the CBP. Provisioning a CBP with regular resupply is facilitated by active supporters of the irregular organisation. The commander typically does not coerce local citizens to provide logistics support but can use such extortion when critical commodities are required to sustain the CBP defence. Supply caches and safe houses are distributed throughout the urban or rural area near the CBP. Other supply caches and safe houses are located within the CBP perimeter.

172. **INFOWAR.** Elements from the CBP may attempt to integrate within any local communities for the purpose of gathering information, collecting intelligence, and disseminating INFOWAR themes to the local population. Active supporters of the irregular force assist the commander in keeping a low profile. INFOWAR activities may focus on downplaying the existence or significance of the CBP. Generally, the CBP will not conduct easily detectable INFOWAR activities that would call the BLUFOR's attention to it.

173. If the presence of a CBP cannot be hidden, INFOWAR may attempt to convince BLUFOR that the defenders are friendly to them. It may attempt to convince leaders of the governing authority that the irregular forces are willing to affiliate and/or associate with them in reconciliation. Other INFOWAR techniques can portray the BLUFOR and governing authority as a corrupt regime to further isolate them from the local population. The irregular forces can claim and demonstrate themselves to be the population's protector. In some cases, senior irregular force leaders may conduct INFOWAR from a CBP to convince followers in other locations that they are still alive and leading their organisations in the struggle against the BLUFOR. INFOWAR can include support to provide basic social and civic services to the local population that is not being provided by the governing authority.

174. Other INFOWAR techniques can result in the gradual acceptance by the local population to the point that members of the irregular organisation become informal or legitimate representatives in civil governance. This recognition can lead to election in a state's formal voting processes and/or establishing self-proclaimed semi-autonomous enclaves within a state with which the irregular force is in conflict. In either case, the irregular force ensures a significant INFOWAR campaign to weaken BLUFOR support and strengthen its own support from a local population.

Irregular Aviation

175. Aviation is not typically anticipated in an irregular unit order of battle. However, a commander can acquire small remotely piloted air systems (RPAS) with relative ease through normal means on the commercial market and/or illicit purchases from criminal organisations. State sponsors can provide technical expertise with clandestine agents and/or technicians or provide training and advice through SPF teams. An irregular commander could acquire systems and technical expertise on a contractual basis from marginalised experts or rogue non-state enterprises. RPAS in an irregular unit can be used to enhance real-time reconnaissance and surveillance in conjunction with reconnaissance elements manoeuvring on the ground in an AOR, and can also be used to deliver levels of ordinance depending on the sophistication and size of the RPAS and any modifications.

176. Aviation in irregular units can also include rotary- and/or fixed-wing capabilities. Although these capabilities may be considered exceptional for most irregular forces, state and non-state sponsors can covertly introduce limited aviation capabilities into an advanced insurgency and/or highly trained irregular units. Operating from an irregular enclave or safe haven, even one or two RPAS, helicopters, or fixed-wing commercial aircraft, could be converted into an attack system with military-grade rockets or bombs. Capability for aviation attack against a governing authority or its military forces could create a significant psychological impact in a INFOWAR campaign.

Combining with regular forces

177. Irregular forces may also participate in larger-scale functional tactics when acting with regular forces as part of a hybrid threat. They often work closely with OPFOR SPF units in such roles.

178. Irregular forces often play a minor rather than decisive role in hybrid tactics, particularly as an economy-of-force measure when regular OPFOR units are not available or do not have the same freedom of movement. A particular strength of irregular forces is that they can sometimes do things that regular military units cannot. For example, they are well suited to dispersed actions as part of a disruption force in a disruption zone (in offense or defence). Their small size and ability to blend in with the local population also make it easier for irregular force units or cells to infiltrate into BLUFOR areas of operation, positions, and bases. There, they may serve as enabling forces or elements, paving the way for exploitation by larger, regular military units, or they may play key roles as part of an exploitation force or other action element that accomplishes the overall mission of the hybrid action.

179. Sustained intelligence activities, logistics, and training support are critical aspects of long-term irregular unit effectiveness. These types of functional capabilities can be supported by:

- a. SPF from a state overtly or covertly affiliated with the irregular unit.
- b. Regular military force or intelligence activity liaison teams that operate with the irregular unit.
- c. Criminal organisations with expertise and assets available on a contractual basis to the irregular unit.
- d. Adherents in the local population who actively support irregular actions but will not be visibly involved in the direct actions and combat of the irregular unit.
- e. Higher-level or SPF supported INFOWAR activities.

180. Additional mobility and counter-mobility support, training, and assistance can be obtained from sappers in SPF teams that accompany and/or augment an irregular unit. SPF and/or irregular sappers can also train active supporters in the relevant local population to assist any actions in specific supporting roles. Irregular units can use to their advantage the blurred distinctions of what constitutes the role of active support versus being considered an irregular soldier. Regardless of who is providing mobility and counter-mobility support, this irregular capability is essential to offensive action in fixing, blocking, and/or attacking BLUFOR forces.