

## Chapter 9

# Patrols and Patrolling

A patrol is a detachment sent out by a larger unit to conduct a specific mission. Patrols operate semi-independently and return to the main body upon completion of their mission. Patrolling fulfills the Infantry's primary function of finding the enemy to either engage him or report his disposition, location, and actions. Patrols act as both the eyes and ears of the larger unit and as a fist to deliver a sharp devastating jab and then withdraw before the enemy can recover.

### SECTION I — OVERVIEW

## PATROLS AND PATROLLING

9-1. A patrol is sent out by a larger unit to conduct a specific combat, reconnaissance, or security mission. A patrol's organization is temporary and specifically matched to the immediate task. Because a patrol is an organization, not a mission, it is not correct to speak of giving a unit a mission to "Patrol."

9-2. The terms "patrolling" or "conducting a patrol" are used to refer to the semi-independent operation conducted to accomplish the patrol's mission. Patrols require a specific task and purpose.

9-3. A commander sends a patrol out from the main body to conduct a specific tactical task with an associated purpose. Upon completion of that task, the patrol leader returns to the main body, reports to the commander and describes the events that took place, the status of the patrol's members and equipment, and any observations.

9-4. If a patrol is made up of an organic unit, such as a rifle squad, the squad leader is responsible. If a patrol is made up of mixed elements from several units, an officer or NCO is designated as the patrol leader. This temporary title defines his role and responsibilities for that mission. The patrol leader may designate an assistant, normally the next senior man in the patrol, and any subordinate element leaders he requires.

9-5. A patrol can consist of a unit as small as a fire team. Squad- and platoon-size patrols are normal. Sometimes, for combat tasks such as a raid, the patrol can consist of most of the combat elements of a rifle company. Unlike operations in which the Infantry platoon or squad is integrated into a larger organization, the patrol is semi-independent and relies on itself for security.

## PATROL LEADERS

9-6. The leader of every patrol, regardless of the type or the tactical task assigned, has an inherent responsibility to prepare and plan for possible enemy contact while on the mission. Patrols are never administrative. They are always assigned a tactical mission. On his return to the main body, the patrol leader must always report to the commander. He then describes the patrol's actions, observations, and condition.

## PURPOSE OF PATROLLING

- 9-7. There are several specific purposes that can be accomplished by patrolling:
- Gathering information on the enemy, on the terrain, or on the populace.
  - Regaining contact with the enemy or with adjacent friendly forces

- Engaging the enemy in combat to destroy him or inflict losses.
- Reassuring or gaining the trust of a local population.
- Preventing public disorder.
- Deterring and disrupting insurgent or criminal activity.
- Providing unit security.
- Protecting key infrastructure or bases.

## **TYPES OF PATROLS**

9-8. Patrol missions can range from security patrols in the close vicinity of the main body, to raids deep into enemy territory. Successful patrolling requires detailed contingency planning and well-rehearsed small unit tactics. The planned action determines the type of patrol.

### **COMBAT AND RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS**

9-9. The two categories of patrols are combat and reconnaissance. Regardless of the type of patrol being sent out, the commander must provide a clear task and purpose to the patrol leader. Any time a patrol leaves the main body of the unit there is a possibility that it may become engaged in close combat.

9-10. Patrols that depart the main body with the clear intent to make direct contact with the enemy are called *combat patrols*. The three types of combat patrols are raid patrols, ambush patrols (both of which are sent out to conduct special purpose attacks), and security patrols.

9-11. Patrols that depart the main body with the intention of avoiding direct combat with the enemy while seeing out information or confirming the accuracy of previously-gathered information are called *reconnaissance patrols*. The most common types reconnaissance patrols are area, route, zone, and point. Leaders also dispatch reconnaissance patrols to track the enemy, and to establish contact with other friendly forces. Contact patrols make physical contact with adjacent units and report their location, status, and intentions. Tracking patrols follow the trail and movements of a specific enemy unit. Presence patrols conduct a special form of reconnaissance, normally during stability or civil support operations.

## **ORGANIZATION OF PATROLS**

9-12. A patrol is organized to perform specific tasks. It must be prepared to secure itself, navigate accurately, identify and cross danger areas, and reconnoiter the patrol objective. If it is a combat patrol, it must be prepared to breach obstacles, assault the objective, and support those assaults by fire. Additionally, a patrol must be able to conduct detailed searches as well as deal with casualties and prisoners or detainees.

9-13. The leader identifies those tasks the patrol must perform and decides which elements will implement them. Where possible, he should maintain squad and fire team integrity.

9-14. Squads and fire teams may perform more than one task during the time a patrol is away from the main body or it may be responsible for only one task. The leader must plan carefully to ensure that he has identified and assigned all required tasks in the most efficient way.

9-15. Elements and teams for platoons conducting patrols include the common and specific elements for each type of patrol. The following elements are common to all patrols.

### **HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT**

9-16. The headquarters element normally consists of the patrol leader and his radio operator. The platoon sergeant may be designated as the assistant patrol leader. Combat patrols may include a forward observer and perhaps his radio operator. Any attachments the platoon leader decides that he or the platoon sergeant must control directly are also part of the headquarters element.

### **AID AND LITTER TEAM(S)**

9-17. Aid and litter teams are responsible for locating, treating, and evacuating casualties.

**ENEMY PRISONER OF WAR/DETAINEE TEAM(S)**

9-18. EPW teams are responsible for controlling enemy prisoners IAW the five S's and the leader's guidance. These teams may also be responsible for accounting for and controlling detainees or recovered personnel.

**SURVEILLANCE TEAM(S)**

9-19. Surveillance teams are used to establish and maintain covert observation of an objective for as long as it takes to complete the patrol's mission.

**EN ROUTE RECORDER**

9-20. An en route recorder can be designated to record all information collected during the mission.

**COMPASS AND PACE MAN**

9-21. If the patrol does not have access to global positioning systems, or if it is operating in a location where there is no satellite reception, it may be necessary to navigate by dead reckoning. This is done with a compass man and a pace man.

**ASSAULT TEAM(S)**

9-22. Combat patrols designate assault teams to close with the enemy on the objective or to clear the ambush kill zone.

**SUPPORT TEAM(S)**

9-23. Combat patrols designate teams to provide direct fire in support of the breach and assault teams.

**BREACH TEAM(S) AND SEARCH TEAM(S)**

9-24. Combat patrols have breach teams to assist the assault team in getting to the objective. Search teams are designated to conduct a cursory or detailed search of the objective area.

**INITIAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION FOR PATROLS**

9-25. Leaders plan and prepare for patrols using troop-leading procedures and an estimate of the situation. They must identify required actions on the objective, plan backward to the departure from friendly lines, then forward to the reentry of friendly lines.

9-26. The patrol leader will normally receive the OPORD in the battalion or company CP where communications are good and key personnel are available for coordination. Because patrols act semi-independently, move beyond the direct-fire support of the parent unit, and often operate forward of friendly units, coordination must be thorough and detailed.

9-27. Patrol leaders may routinely coordinate with elements of the battalion staff directly. Unit leaders should develop tactical SOPs with detailed checklists to preclude omitting any items vital to the accomplishment of the mission.

9-28. Items coordinated between the leader and the battalion staff or company commander include:

- Changes or updates in the enemy situation.
- Best use of terrain for routes, rally points, and patrol bases.
- Light and weather data.
- Changes in the friendly situation.
- The attachment of Soldiers with special skills or equipment (engineers, sniper teams, scout dog teams, FOs, or interpreters).

- Use and location of landing or pickup zones.
- Departure and reentry of friendly lines.
- Fire support on the objective and along the planned routes, including alternate routes.
- Rehearsal areas and times. The terrain for the rehearsal should be similar to that at the objective, to include buildings and fortifications if necessary. Coordination for rehearsals includes security of the area, use of blanks, pyrotechnics, and live ammunition.
- Special equipment and ammunition requirements.
- Transportation support, including transportation to and from the rehearsal site.
- Signal plan—call signs frequencies, code words, pyrotechnics, and challenge and password.

9-29. The leader coordinates with the unit through which his platoon or squad will conduct its forward and rearward passage of lines.

9-30. The platoon leader also coordinates patrol activities with the leaders of other units that will be patrolling in adjacent areas at the same time.

## COMPLETION OF THE PATROL PLAN

9-31. As the platoon leader completes his plan, he considers the following elements.

### ESSENTIAL AND SUPPORTING TASKS

9-32. The leader ensures that he has assigned all essential tasks to be performed on the objective, at rally points, at danger areas, at security or surveillance locations, along the route(s), and at passage lanes.

### KEY TRAVEL AND EXECUTION TIMES

9-33. The leader estimates time requirements for movement to the objective, leader's reconnaissance of the objective, establishment of security and surveillance, compaction of all assigned tasks on the objective, movement to an objective rally point to debrief the platoon, and return through friendly lines.

### PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE ROUTES

9-34. The leader selects primary and alternate routes to and from the objective (Figure 9-1). Return routes should differ from routes to the objective.

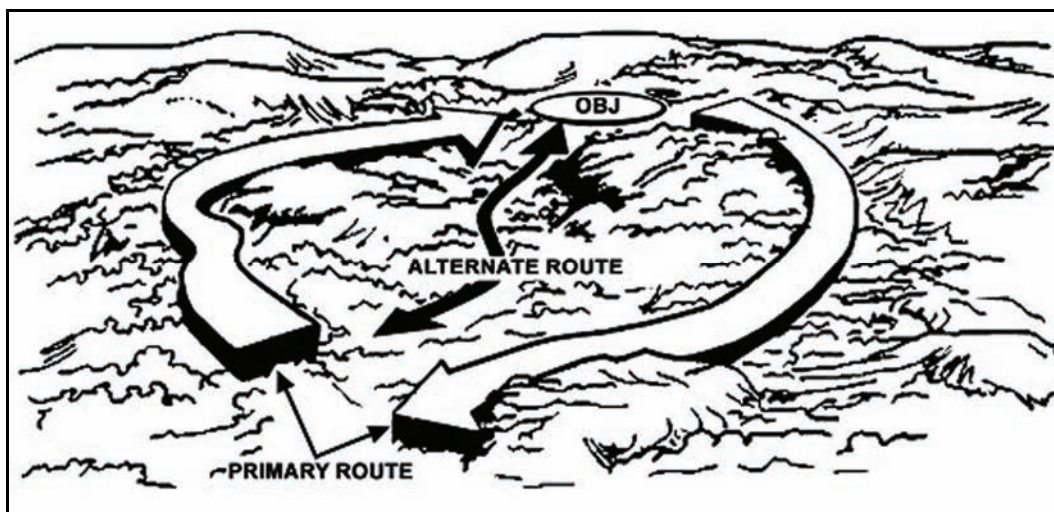


Figure 9-1. Primary and alternate routes.

## **SIGNALS**

9-35. The leader should consider the use of special signals. These include arm-and-hand signals, flares, voice, whistles, radios, visible and nonvisible lasers. All signals must be rehearsed to ensure all Soldiers know what they mean.

## **CHALLENGE AND PASSWORD OUTSIDE OF FRIENDLY LINES**

9-36. The challenge and password from the SOI must not be used when the patrol is outside friendly lines. The unit's tactical SOP should state the procedure for establishing a patrol challenge and password as well as other combat identification features and patrol markings.

## **LOCATION OF LEADERS**

9-37. The leader considers where he, the platoon sergeant, and other key leaders should be located for each phase of the patrol mission. The platoon sergeant is normally with the following elements for each type of patrol:

- On a raid or ambush, he normally controls the support element.
- On an area reconnaissance, he normally supervises security in the objective rally point (ORP).
- On a zone reconnaissance, he normally moves with the reconnaissance element that sets up the link-up point.

## **ACTIONS ON ENEMY CONTACT**

9-38. The leader's plan must address actions on chance contact at each phase of the patrol mission.

- The plan must address the handling of seriously wounded and KIAs.
- The plan must address the handling of prisoners captured as a result of chance contact who are not part of the planned mission.

## **DEPARTURE FROM FRIENDLY LINES OR FIXED BASE**

9-39. The departure from friendly lines, or from a fixed base, must be thoroughly planned and coordinated.

## **COORDINATION**

9-40. The platoon leader must coordinate with the commander of the forward unit and leaders of other units that will be patrolling in the same or adjacent areas. The coordination includes SOI information, signal plan, fire plan, running passwords, procedures for departure and reentry of lines, planned dismount points, initial rally points, actions at departure and reentry points, and information about the enemy.

- (1) The platoon leader provides the forward unit leader with the unit identification, size of the patrol, departure and return times, and area of operation.
- (2) The forward unit leader provides the platoon leader with the following:
  - Additional information on terrain just outside the friendly unit lines.
  - Known or suspected enemy positions in the near vicinity.
  - Likely enemy ambush sites.
  - Latest enemy activity.
  - Detailed information on friendly positions, obstacles, and OPs.
  - Friendly unit fire plan.
  - Support the unit can provide (fire support, litter teams, guides, communications, and reaction force).

### PLANNING

9-41. In his plan for the departure of friendly lines, the leader should consider the following sequence of actions:

- Making contact with friendly guides at the contact point.
- Moving to a coordinated initial rally point just inside friendly lines.
- Completing final coordination.
- Moving to and through the passage point.
- Establishing a security-listening halt beyond the friendly unit's final protective fires.

### RALLY POINTS

9-42. The leader considers the use and locations of rally points. A rally point is a place designated by the leader where the platoon moves to reassemble and reorganize if it becomes dispersed.

### SELECTION OF RALLY POINTS

9-43. The leader physically reconnoiters routes to select rally points whenever possible. He selects tentative points if he can only conduct a map reconnaissance. Routes are confirmed by the leader through actual inspection as the platoon moves through them. Rally points must—

- Be easy to recognize on the ground.
- Have cover and concealment.
- Be away from natural lines of drift.
- Be defensible for short periods.

### TYPES OF RALLY POINTS

9-44. The most common types of rally points are initial, en route, objective, reentry, near- and far-side. Soldiers must know which rally point to move to at each phase of the patrol mission. They should know what actions are required there and how long they are to wait at each rally point before moving to another. Following are descriptions of these five rally points.

- (1) **Initial rally point.** An initial rally point is a place inside of friendly lines where a unit may assemble and reorganize if it makes enemy contact during the departure of friendly lines or before reaching the first en route rally point. It is normally selected by the commander of the friendly unit.
- (2) **En route rally point.** The leader designates en route rally points based on the terrain, vegetation, and visibility.
- (3) **Objective rally point.** The objective rally point (ORP) is a point out of sight, sound, and small-arms range of the objective area. It is normally located in the direction that the platoon plans to move after completing its actions on the objective. The ORP is tentative until the objective is pinpointed (Figure 9-2). Actions at or from the ORP include—
  - Issuing a final FRAGO.
  - Disseminating information from reconnaissance if contact was not made.
  - Making final preparations before continuing operations.
  - Accounting for Soldiers and equipment after actions at the objective are complete.
  - Reestablishing the chain of command after actions at the objective are complete.

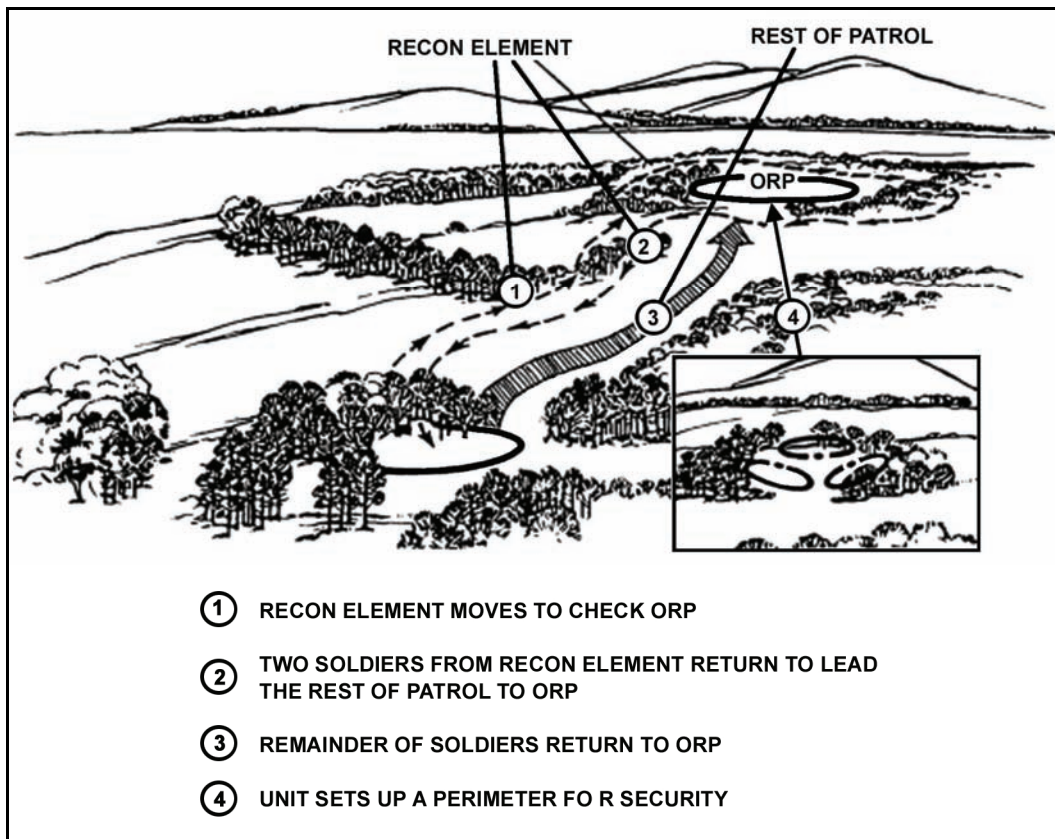


Figure 9-2. Objective rally point.

(4) **Reentry rally point.** The reentry rally point is located out of sight, sound, and small-arms weapons range of the friendly unit through which the platoon will return. This also means that the RRP should be outside the final protective fires of the friendly unit. The platoon occupies the RRP as a security perimeter.

(5) **Near-and far-side rally points.** These rally points are on the near and far side of danger areas. If the platoon makes contact while crossing the danger area and control is lost, Soldiers on either side move to the rally point nearest them. They establish security, reestablish the chain of command, determine their personnel and equipment status, continue the patrol mission, and link up at the OR.

## SECTION II — COMBAT PATROLS

9-45. A combat patrol provides security and harasses, destroys, or captures enemy troops, equipment, or installations. When the commander gives a unit the mission to send out a combat patrol, he intends for the patrol to make contact with the enemy and engage in close combat. A combat patrol always attempts to remain undetected while moving, but of course it ultimately discloses its location to the enemy in a sudden, violent surprise attack. For this reason, the patrol normally carries a significant amount of weapons and ammunition. It may carry specialized munitions. A combat patrol collects and reports any information gathered during the mission, whether related to the combat task or not. The three types of combat patrols are raid, ambush, and security.

### RAID

9-46. A raid is a surprise attack against a position or installation for a specific purpose *other than* seizing and holding the terrain. It is conducted to destroy a position or installation, to destroy or capture enemy soldiers or equipment, or to free prisoners. A raid patrol retains terrain just long enough to accomplish the

intent of the raid. A raid always ends with a planned withdrawal off the objective and a return to the main body.

## **AMBUSH**

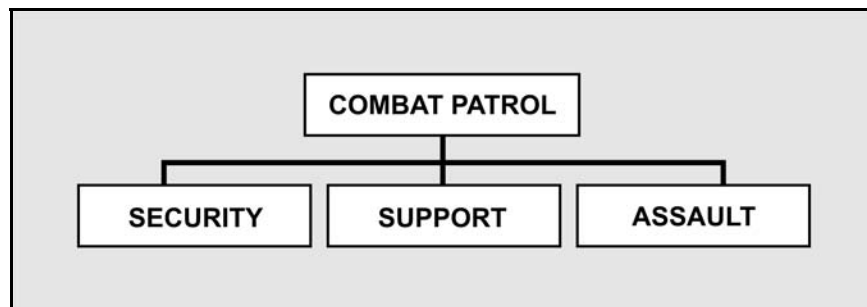
9-47. An ambush is a surprise attack from a concealed position on a moving or temporarily halted target. An ambush patrol does not need to seize or hold any terrain. It can include an assault to close with and destroy the target, or an attack by fire only.

## **SECURITY**

9-48. A security patrol is sent out from a unit location when the unit is stationary or during a halt to search the local area, detect any enemy forces near the main body, and to engage and destroy the enemy within the capability of the patrol. This type of combat patrol is normally sent out by units operating in close terrain with limited fields of observation and fire. Although this type of combat patrol seeks to make direct enemy contact and to destroy enemy forces within its capability, it should try to avoid decisive engagement. A security patrol detects and disrupts enemy forces that are conducting reconnaissance of the main body or that are massing to conduct an attack. Security patrols are normally away from the main body of the unit for limited periods, returning frequently to coordinate and rest. They do not operate beyond the range of communications and supporting fires from the main body, especially mortar fires.

## **COMBAT PATROL PLANNING**

9-49. There are three essential elements for a combat patrol: security; support; and assault (Figure 9-3). Assault elements accomplish the mission during actions on the objective. Support elements suppress or destroy enemy on the objective in support of the assault element. Security elements assist in isolating the objective by preventing enemy from entering and leaving the objective area as well as by ensuring the patrol's withdrawal route remains open. The size of each element is based on the situation and the leader's analysis of METT-TC.



**Figure 9-3. Organization of forces.**

## **ASSAULT ELEMENT**

9-50. The assault element is the combat patrol's decisive effort. Its task is to conduct actions on the objective. The assault element is responsible for accomplishing the unit's task and purpose. This element must be capable (through inherent capabilities or positioning relative to the enemy) of destroying or seizing the target of the combat patrol. Tasks typically associated with the assault element include:

- Conduct of assault across the objective to destroy enemy equipment, capture or kill enemy, and clearing of key terrain and enemy positions.
- Deployment close enough to the objective to conduct an immediate assault if detected.
- Being prepared to support itself if the support element cannot suppress the enemy.
- Providing support to a breach element in reduction of obstacles (if required).
- Planning detailed fire control and distribution.
- Conducting controlled withdrawal from the objective.



9-51. Analysis of METT-TC, particularly for a raid, may result in the requirement to organize a separate breach force. At times this may include breaching an obstacle.

9-52. Additional tasks/special purpose teams assigned may include:

- Search teams – to find and collect documents, equipment and information that can be used as intelligence.
- Prisoner teams – to capture, secure, and account for prisoners and detainees.
- Demolition teams – to plan and execute the destruction of obstacles and enemy equipment.
- Breach team – to create small-scale breaches in protective obstacles to facilitate the completion of the patrol's primary task
- Aid and litter teams – to identify, collect, render immediate aid and coordinate medical evacuation for casualties

### **SUPPORT ELEMENT**

9-53. The support element suppresses the enemy on the objective using direct and indirect fires. The support element is a shaping effort that sets conditions for the mission's decisive effort. This element must be capable, through inherent means or positioning relative to the enemy, of supporting the assault element. The support force can be divided up into two or more elements if required.

9-54. The support element is organized to address a secondary threat of enemy interference with the assault element(s). The support force suppresses, fixes, or destroys elements on the objective. The support force's primary responsibility is to suppress enemy to prevent reposition against decisive effort. The support force—

- Initiates fires and gains fire superiority with crew-served weapons and indirect fires.
- Controls rates and distribution of fires.
- Shifts/ceases fire on signal.
- Supports the withdrawal of the assault element.

### **SECURITY ELEMENT**

9-55. The security element(s) is a shaping force that has three roles. The first role is to isolate the objective from enemy personnel and vehicles attempting to enter the objective area. Their actions range from simply providing early warning, to blocking enemy movement. This element may require several different forces located in various positions. The patrol leader is careful to consider enemy reserves or response forces that, once the engagement begins, will be alerted. The second role of the security element is to prevent enemy from escaping the objective area. The third role is to secure the patrol's withdrawal route.

9-56. There is a subtle yet important distinction for the security element. All elements of the patrol are responsible for their own local security. What distinguishes the security element is that they are protecting the entire patrol. Their positions must be such that they can, in accordance with their engagement criteria, provide early warning of approaching enemy.

9-57. The security element is organized to address the primary threat to the patrol—being discovered and defeated by security forces prior to execution of actions on the objective. To facilitate the success of the assault element, the security element must fix or block (or at a minimum screen) all enemy security or response forces located on parts of the battlefield away from the raid.

### **LEADER LOCATIONS**

9-58. Leaders locate where they can best influence the situation, which is usually with either the support element or assault element. The second in charge normally locates at the opposite location of the leader.

## ACTIONS ON THE OBJECTIVE – RAID

9-59. A raid is a surprise attack against a position or installation for a specific purpose *other than* seizing and holding the terrain. It is conducted to destroy a position or installation, destroy or capture enemy soldiers or equipment, or free prisoners. A raid patrol retains terrain just long enough to accomplish the intent of the raid. A raid always ends with a withdrawal off the objective and a return to the main body.

9-60. Raids are characterized by the following:

- Destruction of key systems or facilities (C2 nodes, logistical areas, other high value areas).
- Provide or deny critical information.
- Securing of hostages or prisoners.
- Confusing the enemy or disrupting his plans.
- Detailed intelligence (significant ISR assets committed).
- Command and control from the higher HQ to synchronize the operation.
- Creating a window of opportunity for the raiding force.

9-61. Raids are normally conducted in five phases (Figure 9-4):

- Approach the objective.
- Isolate the objective area.
- Set conditions for the assault element.
- Assault the objective.
- Tactical movement away from the objective area.

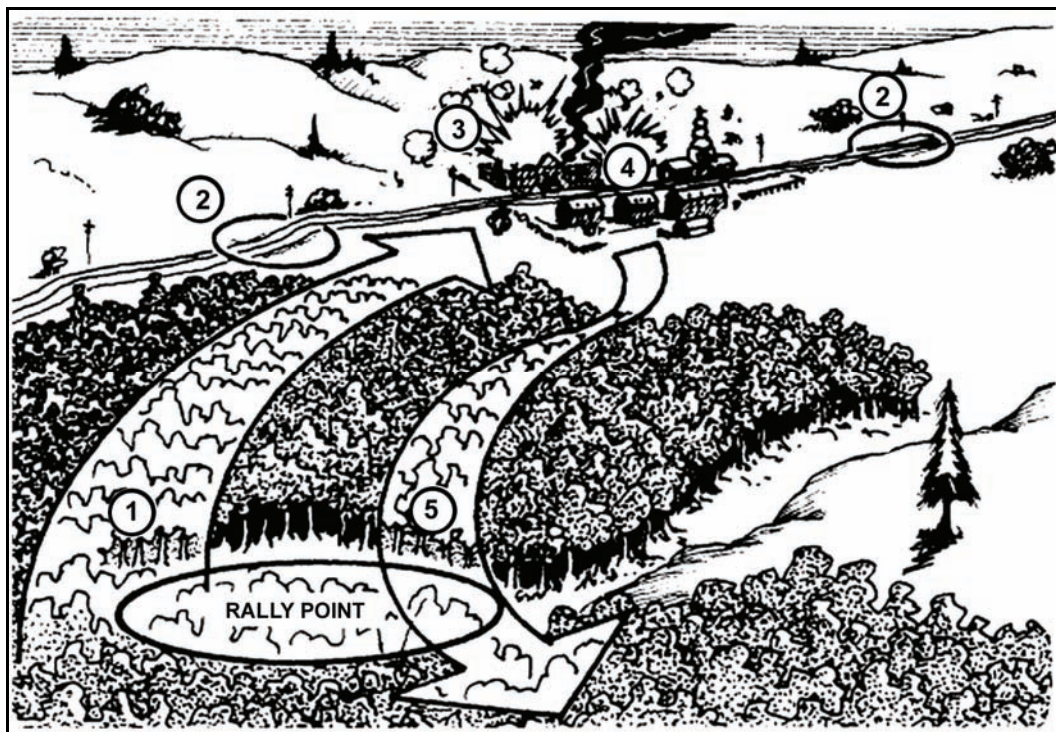


Figure 9-4. The five phases of a raid.

## ACTIONS ON THE OBJECTIVE – AMBUSH

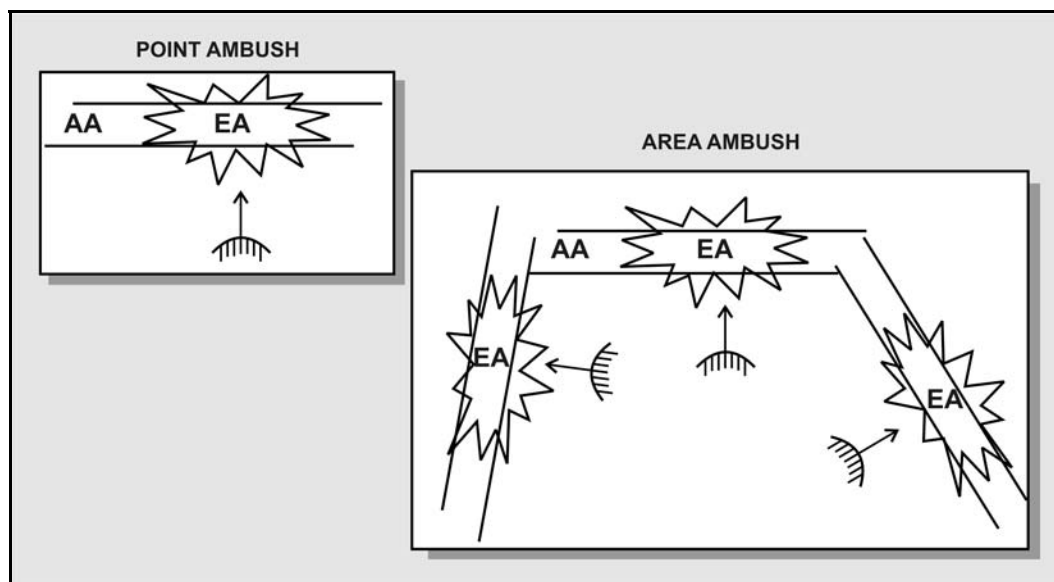
9-62. An ambush is a surprise attack from a concealed position on a moving or temporarily halted target. It can include an assault to close with and destroy the target, or only an attack by fire. An ambush need not seize or hold ground. The purpose of an ambush is to destroy or harass enemy forces. The ambush

combines the advantages of the defense with the advantages of the offense, allowing a smaller force with limited means the ability to destroy a much larger force. Ambushes are enemy-oriented. Terrain is only held long enough to conduct the ambush and then the force withdraws. Ambushes range from very simple to complex and synchronized; short duration of minutes to long duration of hours; and within hand grenade range, to maximum standoff. Ambushes employ direct fire systems as well as other destructive means, such as command-detonated mines and explosives, and indirect fires on the enemy force. The attack may include an assault to close with and destroy the enemy or may just be a harassing attack by fire. Ambushes may be conducted as independent operations or as part of a larger operation.

9-63. There are countless ways for leaders to develop an ambush. To assist the leader clarify what he wants, he develops the ambush based on its purpose, type, time, and formation.

9-64. The purpose of an ambush is either harassment or destruction. A harassing ambush is one in which attack is by fire only (meaning there is no assault element). A destruction ambush includes assault to close with and destroy the enemy.

9-65. The two types of ambushes are point, and area. In a *point ambush*, Soldiers deploy to attack a single kill zone. In an *area ambush*, Soldiers deploy as two or more related point ambushes. These ambushes at separate sites are related by their purpose (Figure 9-5).



**Figure 9-5. Point and area ambush.**

9-66. Based on the amount of time available to set an ambush, ambushes are hasty and deliberate.

9-67. A *hasty ambush* is conducted based on an unanticipated opportunity. It is used when a patrol sees the enemy before the enemy sees them, and the patrol has time to act. The leader gives the prearranged signal to start the action and all Soldiers move to concealed firing positions, prepared to engage the enemy. Depending on the mission, the patrol may allow the enemy to pass if the enemy does not detect the patrol.

9-68. A *deliberate ambush* is conducted against a specific target at a location chosen based on intelligence. With a deliberate ambush, leaders plan and prepare based on detailed information that allows them to anticipate enemy actions and enemy locations. Detailed information includes: type and size of target, organization or formation, routes and direction of movement, time the force will reach or pass certain points on its route, and weapons and equipment carried.

## TERMINOLOGY

9-69. During terrain analysis, leaders identify at least four different locations: the kill zone, the ambush site, security positions, and rally points. As far as possible, so-called "ideal" ambush sites should be avoided because alert enemies avoid them if possible and increase their vigilance and security when they

must be entered. Therefore, surprise is difficult to achieve. Instead, unlikely sites should be chosen when possible. Following are characteristics of these four ideal positions.

### **Ambush Site**

9-70. The ambush site is the terrain on which a point ambush is established. The ambush site consists of a support-by-fire position for the support element and an assault position for the assault element. An ideal ambush site—

- Has good fields of fire into the kill zone.
- Has good cover and concealment.
- Has a protective obstacle.
- Has a covered and concealed withdrawal route.
- Makes it difficult for the enemy to conduct a flank attack.

### **Kill Zone**

9-71. The kill zone is the part of an ambush site where fire is concentrated to isolate or destroy the enemy. An ideal kill zone has these characteristics:

- Enemy forces are likely to enter it.
- It has natural tactical obstacles.
- Large enough to observe and engage the anticipated enemy force.

### ***Near Ambush***

9-72. A near ambush is a point ambush with the assault element within reasonable assaulting distance of the kill zone (less than 50 meters). Close terrain, such as an urban area or heavy woods, may require this positioning. It may also be appropriate in open terrain in a "rise from the ground" ambush.

### ***Far Ambush***

9-73. A far ambush is a point ambush with the assault element beyond reasonable assaulting distance of the kill zone (beyond 50 meters). This location may be appropriate in open terrain offering good fields of fire or when attack is by fire for a harassing ambush.

### **Security Positions**

9-74. An ideal security position —

- Does not mask fires of the main body.
- Provides timely information for the main body (gives the leader enough time to act on information provided).
- Can provide a support by fire position.

### **Rally Points**

9-75. The platoon leader considers the use and locations of rally points (see paragraph 9-42). The rally point is a place designated by the leader where the platoon moves to reassemble and reorganize if it becomes dispersed.

9-76. The leader physically reconnoiters routes to select rally points whenever possible. He selects tentative points if he can only conduct a map reconnaissance. He confirms them by actual inspection as the platoon moves through them. Rally points must—

- Be easy to find
- Have cover and concealment
- Be away from natural lines of drift
- Be defendable for short periods

## FORMATIONS

9-77. Many ambush formations exist. This FM only discusses the linear, L-shaped, and V-shaped (Figures 9-6 through 9-8). All of these formations require leaders to exercise strict direct fire control. Leaders need to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their units and plan accordingly.

9-78. The formation selected is based on the following:

- Terrain.
- Visibility.
- Soldiers available.
- Weapons and equipment.
- Ease of control.
- Target to be attacked.

### Linear Ambush

9-79. In an ambush using a linear formation, the assault and support elements parallel the target's route. This positions the assault and support elements on the long axis of the kill zone and subjects the target to flanking fire (Figure 9-6). Only a target that can be covered with a full volume of fire can be successfully engaged in the kill zone. A dispersed target might be too large for the kill zone. This is the disadvantage of linear formations.

9-80. The linear formation is good in close terrain restricting the target's maneuver, and in open terrain where one flank is blocked by natural obstacles or can be blocked by other means such as claymore mines. Claymore mines or explosives can be placed between the assault and support elements and the kill zone to protect the unit from counter-ambush actions.

9-81. When the ambushing unit deploys this way, it leaves access lanes through the obstacles so it can assault the target. An advantage of the linear formation is the relative ease by which it can be controlled under all visibility conditions.

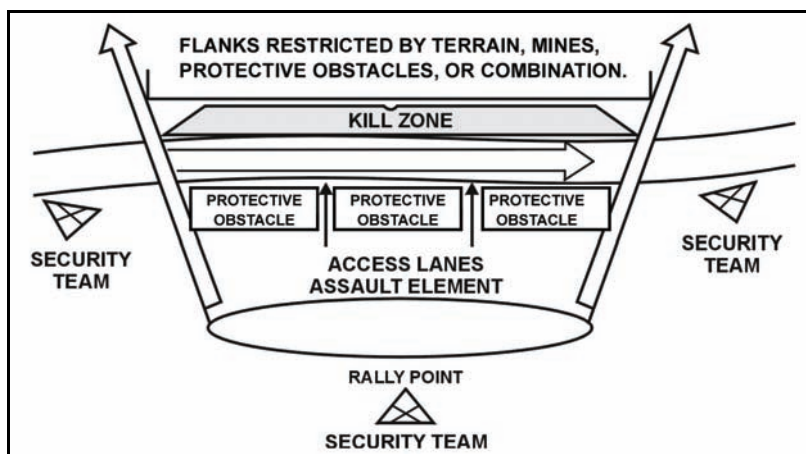


Figure 9-6. Linear ambush.

### L-Shaped Ambush

9-82. An ambush in the L-shaped formation (Figure 9-7) is a variation of the linear formation. The long leg of the L (assault element) is parallel to the kill zone. This leg provides flanking fire. The short leg (support element) is at the end of and at a right angle to the kill zone. This leg provides enfilade fire that works with fire from the other leg. The L-shaped formation can be used at a sharp bend in a trail, road, or stream.

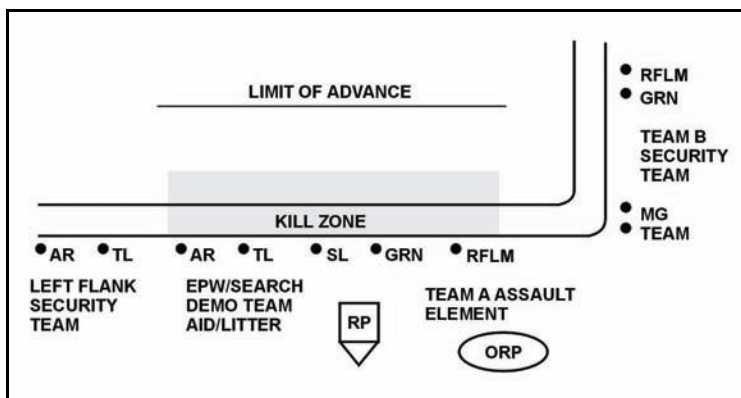


Figure 9-7. L-shaped ambush.

### V-Shaped Ambush

9-83. The V-shaped ambush assault elements (Figure 9-8) are placed along both sides of the enemy route so they form a V. Take extreme care to ensure neither group fires into the other. This formation subjects the enemy to both enfilading and interlocking fire.

9-84. When performed in dense terrain, the legs of the V close in as the lead elements of the enemy force approach the point of the V. The legs then open fire from close range. Here, even more than in open terrain, all movement and fire is carefully coordinated and controlled to avoid fratricide.

9-85. Wider separation of the elements makes this formation difficult to control, and there are fewer sites which favor its use. Its main advantage is it is difficult for the enemy to detect the ambush until well into the kill zone.

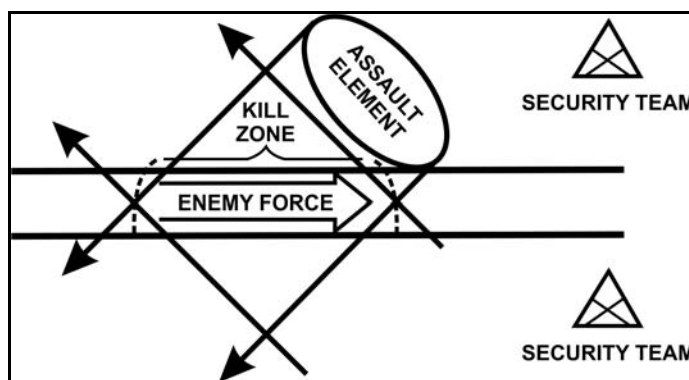


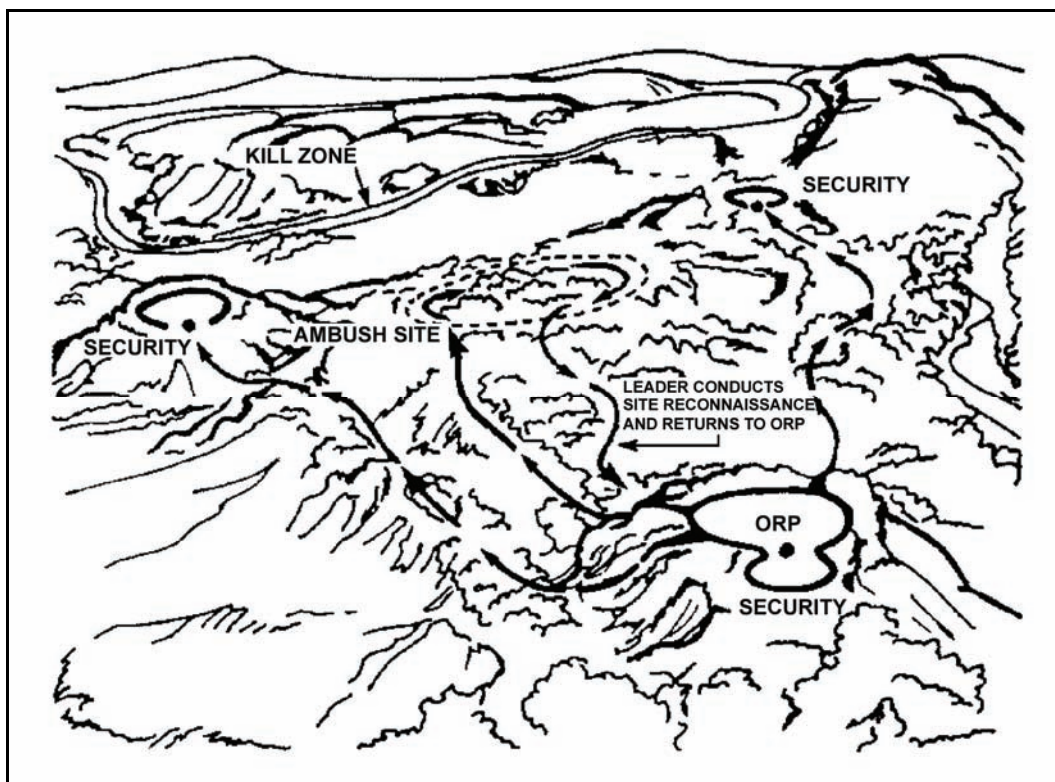
Figure 9-8. V-shaped ambush.

### FINAL PREPARATIONS

9-86. Final preparations begin with the unit occupying an ORP and end with the main body prepared to depart for the ambush site. The unit halts at the ORP and establishes security. When ready, the leader conducts his reconnaissance to confirm the plan, positions the security element, and returns to the ORP. The security element leaves the ORP first. Teams of the security element move to positions from which they can secure the ORP and the flanks of the ambush site (Figure 9-9).

**NOTE:** The security elements should use a release point if there is a great distance between the ORP and objective.





**Figure 9-9. Security teams in position.**

### **OCCUPY THE SITE AND CONDUCT AMBUSH**

9-87. Occupying the site and conducting the ambush begins with main body movement out of the ORP, and ends when the leader initiates a withdrawal. Common control measures include—

- Kill Zone.
- Limit of advance.
- ABF/SBF position.
- Assault position.
- Target reference point (TRP).
- Phase line.

### **Time of Occupation**

9-88. As a rule, the ambush force occupies the ambush site at the latest possible time permitted by the tactical situation and the amount of site preparation required. This reduces the risk of discovery and the time that Soldiers must remain still and quiet in position.

### **Occupying the Site**

9-89. Security elements are positioned first to prevent surprise while the ambush is being established. When the security teams are in position, the support and assault elements leave the ORP and occupy their positions. If there is a suitable position, the support element can overwatch the assault element's move to the ambush site. If not, both elements leave the ORP at the same time (Figure 9-10).

9-90. The main body moves into the ambush site from the rear. Ideally, leaders emplace the most casualty-producing weapons first, ensuring they have line of sight along the entire kill zone. Once positioned, the leader emplaces his subordinate units to complement and reinforce the key positions. The leader selects his location where he can best initiate and control the action. Once on the objective, movement is kept to a

minimum and the number of men moving at a time is closely controlled. Leaders emplace and enforce local security measures.

### ***Positions***

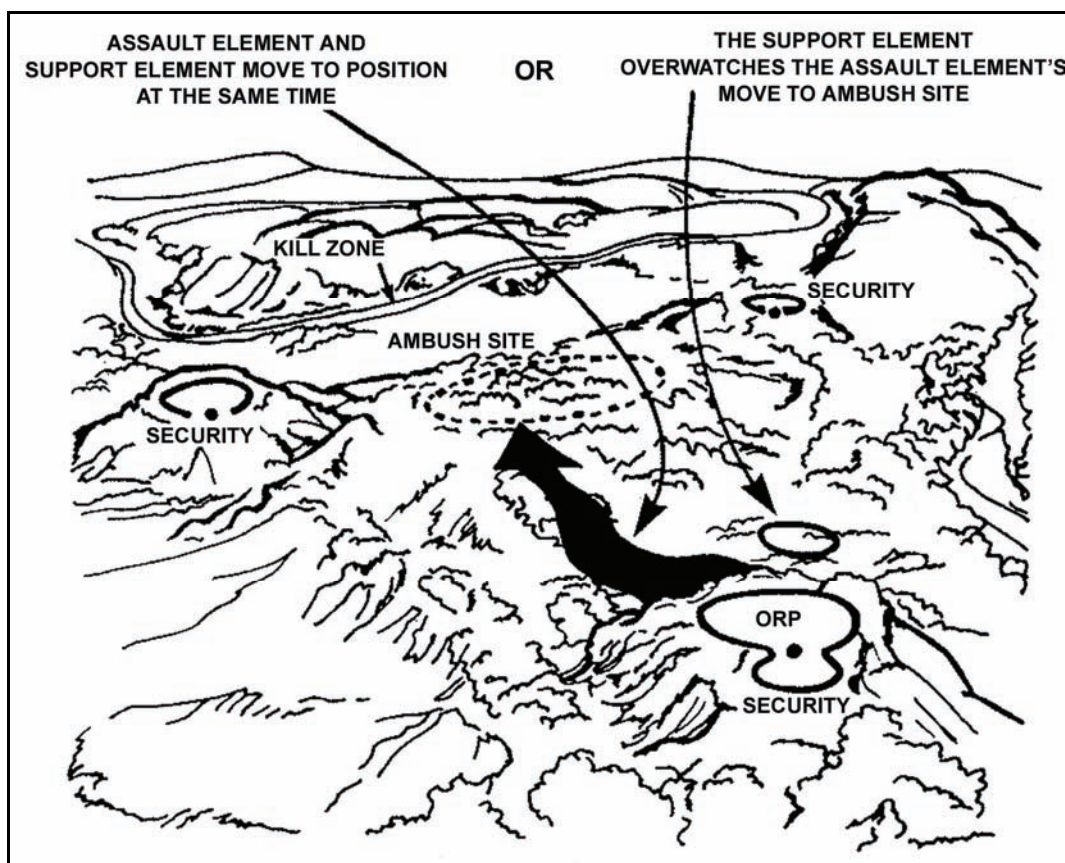
9-91. Each Soldier must be hidden from the target and have line of sight into the kill zone. At the ambush site, positions are prepared with minimal change in the natural appearance of the site. Soldiers conceal debris resulting from preparation of positions.

### ***Confirming the Direct Fire Plan***

9-92. Claymore mines, explosives, and grenade launchers may be used to cover any dead space left by automatic weapons. All weapons are assigned sectors of fire to provide mutual support. The unit leader sets a time by which positions must be prepared.

### ***Movement in the Kill Zone***

9-93. The kill zone is not entered if entry can be avoided. When emplacing tactical obstacles, care is taken to remove any tracks or signs that might alert the enemy and compromise the ambush. If claymore mines or explosives are placed on the far side, or if the appearance of the site might cause the enemy to check it, a wide detour around the kill zone should be made. Here, too, care is taken to remove any traces which might reveal the ambush. An alternate route from the ambush site is also planned.



**Figure 9-10. Assault element moving to the ambush site.**

### ***Initiating the Ambush***

9-94. Once all friendly elements are in position, the unit waits for the enemy target. When the target approaches, the security team that spots it alerts the ambush leader. The security team reports the target's



direction of movement, size, and any special weapons or equipment. Upon receipt of the report, the leader alerts the other elements.

9-95. When most of the enemy force is in the kill zone, the leader initiates the ambush with the most casualty-producing weapon, machine gun fire, or the detonation of mines or explosives. The detonation of explosives can cause a pause in the initiation of fires due to the obscuration created by the explosion. Once conditions are set, cease or shift fires. The assault element may conduct an assault through the kill zone to the limit of advance (LOA). If the assault element must assault the kill zone, the leader signals to cease or shift fire. This also signals the assault to start. Besides destruction of the enemy force, other kill zone tasks can include searching for items of intelligence value, capturing prisoners, and completing the destruction of enemy equipment. When the assault element has finished its mission in the kill zone, the leader gives the signal to withdraw to the ORP.

9-96. Fire discipline is critical during an ambush. Soldiers do not fire until the signal is given. Then it must be delivered at once in the heaviest, most accurate volume possible. Well-trained gunners and well-aimed fire help achieve surprise and destruction of the target. When the target is to be assaulted, the ceasing or shifting of fire must also be precise. If it is not, the assault is delayed, and the target has a chance to react. Sector stakes should be used if possible.

### **Withdrawal**

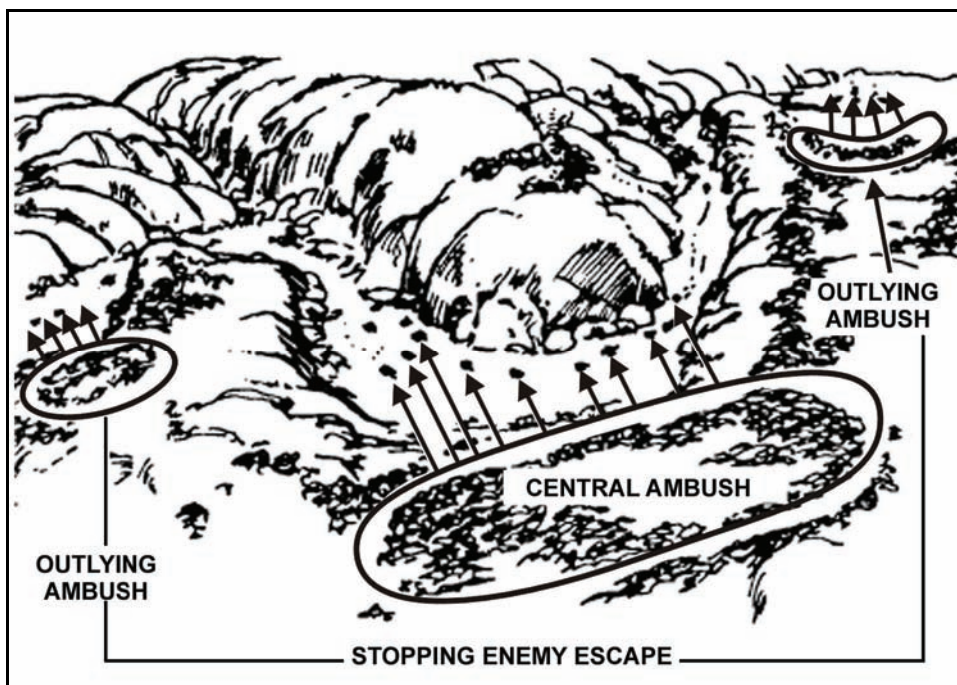
9-97. The withdrawal begins once the assault element completes its actions on the objective and ends with consolidation/reorganization at a designated rally point. On signal, the unit withdraws to the ORP, reorganizes, and continues its mission. At a set terrain feature the unit halts and disseminates information. If the ambush fails and the enemy pursues, the unit withdraws by bounds. Units should use smoke to help conceal the withdrawal. Obstacles already set along the withdrawal routes can help stop the pursuit.

## **CONDUCTING AN AREA AMBUSH**

### **Area**

9-98. In an area ambush, Soldiers deploy in two or more related point ambushes. The platoon may conduct an area ambush as part of a company offensive or defensive plan, or it may conduct a point ambush as part of a company area ambush.

9-99. The platoon is the smallest level to conduct an area ambush). Platoons conduct area ambushes (Figure 9-11) where enemy movement is largely restricted to trails or streams.



**Figure 9-11. Area ambush.**

9-100. The platoon leader (or company commander) selects one principal ambush site around which he organizes outlying ambushes. These secondary sites are located along the enemy's most likely avenue of approach and escape routes from the principal ambush site. Squads are normally responsible for each ambush site.

9-101. The platoon leader considers the factors of METT-TC to determine the best employment of the weapons squad. He normally locates the medium machine guns with the support element in the principal ambush site.

9-102. Squads (or sections) responsible for outlying ambushes do not initiate their ambushes until the principal one has been initiated. They then engage to prevent enemy forces from escaping the principal ambush or reinforcing the ambushed force.

9-103. Smaller ambushes can be used to isolate the main ambush kill zone (Figure 9-12).

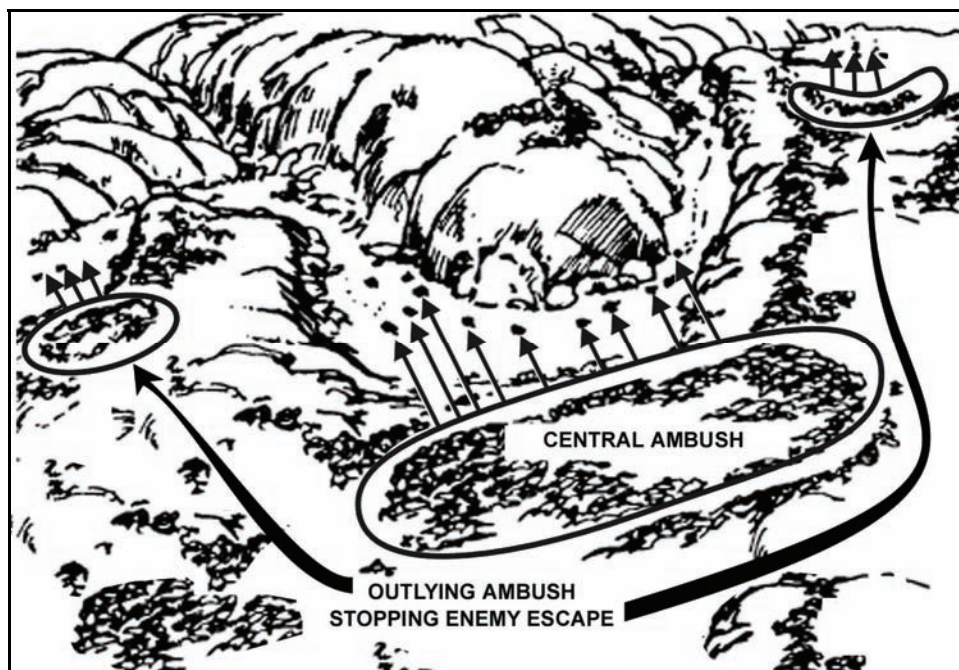


Figure 9-12. Use of smaller ambushes to isolate the main ambush kill zone.

#### ANTIARMOR AMBUSH

9-104. Platoons and squads conduct antiarmor ambushes (Figure 9-13) to destroy armored vehicles. The antiarmor ambush may be part of an area ambush. The antiarmor ambush consists of the assault element (armor-killer element) and the support-security element.

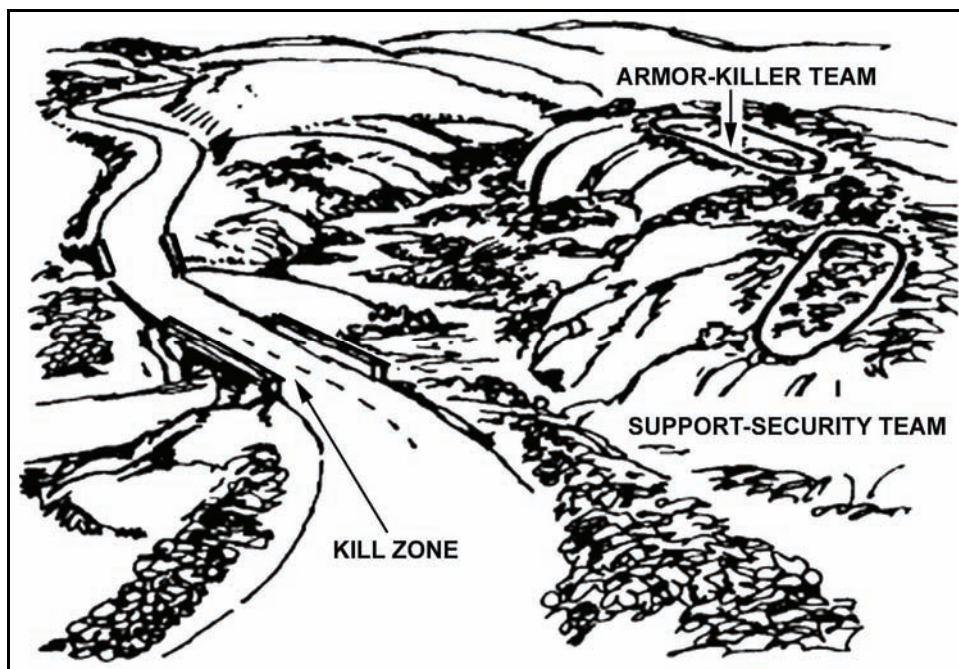


Figure 9-13. Antiarmor ambush.

9-105. The armor-killer element is built around the close combat missile systems. (Refer to Appendix B for information about employment of the Javelin.) The leader should consider additional shoulder-launched

munitions available to supplement the CCMS fires. The leader considers the factors of METT-TC to position all antiarmor weapons to ensure the best engagement (rear, flank, or top). The remainder of the platoon must function as support and security elements in the same manner as the other types of ambushes.

9-106. In a platoon antiarmor ambush, the company commander selects the general site for the ambush. The platoon leader must find a specific site that restricts the movement of enemy armored vehicles out of the designated kill zone. The platoon leader should emplace his weapons so an obstacle is between the platoon and the kill zone. In a squad antiarmor ambush, the platoon leader selects the general site for the ambush. The squad leader must then find a site that restricts the movement of enemy armored vehicles out of the kill zone.

9-107. The support-security elements are emplaced to cover dismounted enemy avenues of approach into the ambush site.

9-108. The leader should consider the method for initiating the antiarmor ambush. The preferred method is to use a command-detonated AT mine placed in the kill zone. The Javelin can be used to initiate the ambush, but even with its limited signature, it may be less desirable than an AT mine.

9-109. The armor-killer team destroys the first and last vehicle in the enemy formation, if possible. All other weapons begin firing once the ambush has been initiated.

9-110. The leader must determine how the presence of dismounted enemy soldiers with armored vehicles will affect the success of the ambush. The leader's choices include:

- Initiate the ambush as planned.
- Withdraw without initiating the ambush.
- Initiate the ambush with machine guns without firing antiarmor weapons.

9-111. Because of the speed enemy armored forces can reinforce the ambushed enemy with, the leader should plan to keep the engagement short and have a quick withdrawal planned. The platoon, based on the factors of METT-TC, may not clear the kill zone as in other types of ambushes.

## **CONDUCTING A POINT AMBUSH**

### **Point**

9-112. In a point ambush, Soldiers deploy to attack an enemy in a single kill zone. The platoon leader is the leader of the assault element. The platoon sergeant will probably locate with the platoon leader in the assault element.

9-113. The security or surveillance team(s) should be positioned first. The support element should then be emplaced before the assault element moves forward. The support element must overwatch the movement of the assault element into position.

9-114. The platoon leader must check each Soldier once he emplaces. The platoon leader signals the surveillance team to rejoin the assault element if it is positioned away from the assault location. Actions of the assault element, support element, and security element are shown in Table 9-1.

**Table 9-1. Actions by ambush elements.**

<b>Assault Element</b>	<b>Support Element</b>	<b>Security Element</b>
Identify individual sectors of fire assigned by the platoon leader; emplace aiming stakes. Emplace Claymores and other protective obstacles. Emplace Claymores, mines, or other explosives in dead space within the kill zone. Camouflage positions. Take weapons off safe when directed by the platoon leader.	Identify sectors of fire for all weapons, especially machine guns. Emplace limiting stakes to prevent friendly fires from hitting the assault element in an L-shaped ambush. Emplace Claymores and other protective obstacles. Camouflage positions.	Identify sectors of fire for all weapons; emplace aiming stakes. Emplace Claymores and other protective obstacles. Camouflage positions. Secure the ORP. Secure a route to the ORP, as required.

9-115. The platoon leader instructs the security element (or teams) to notify him of the enemy's approach into the kill zone using the size, activity, location, unit, time, and equipment (SALUTE) reporting format. The security element must also keep the platoon leader informed if any additional enemy forces are following the lead enemy force. This will allow the platoon leader to know if the enemy force meets the engagement criteria directed by the company commander. The platoon leader must be prepared to give free passage to enemy forces that are too large or that do not meet the engagement criteria. He must report to the company commander any enemy forces that pass through the ambush unengaged.

9-116. The platoon leader initiates the ambush with the greatest casualty-producing weapon, typically a command-detonated Claymore. He must also plan a back-up method, typically a machine gun, to initiate the ambush should the primary means fail. All Soldiers in the ambush must know the primary and back-up methods. The platoon should rehearse with both methods to avoid confusion and the loss of surprise during execution of the ambush.

9-117. The platoon leader must include a plan for engaging the enemy during limited visibility. Based on the company commander's guidance, the platoon leader should consider the use and mix of tracers and the employment of illumination, NVDs, and TWSs. For example, if Javelins are not used during the ambush, the platoon leader may still employ the command launch unit with its thermal sights in the security or support element to observe enemy forces.

9-118. The platoon leader also may include the employment of indirect fire support in his plan. Based on the company commander's guidance, the platoon leader may employ indirect fires to cover flanks of the kill zone to isolate an enemy force or to assist the platoon's disengagement if the ambush is compromised or if the platoon must depart the ambush site under pressure.

9-119. The platoon leader must have a good plan (day and night) to signal the advance of the assault element into the kill zone to begin its search and collection activities. He should take into consideration the existing environmental factors. For example, smoke may not be visible to the support element because of limited visibility or the lay of the terrain. All Soldiers must know and practice relaying the signal during rehearsals to avoid the potential of fratricide.

9-120. The assault element must be prepared to move across the kill zone using individual movement techniques if there is any return fire once they begin to search. Otherwise, the assault element moves across by bounding fire teams.

9-121. The assault element collects and secures all EPWs and moves them out of the kill zone to an established location before searching dead enemy bodies. The EPW collection point should provide cover and should not be easily found by enemy forces following the ambush. The friendly assault element searches from the far side of the kill zone to the near side.

9-122. Once the bodies have been thoroughly searched, search teams continue in this manner until all enemy personnel in and near the kill zone have been searched. Enemy bodies should be marked once searched (for example, folded arms over the chest and legs crossed) to ensure thoroughness and speed and to avoid duplication of effort.

9-123. The platoon identifies and collects equipment to be carried back and prepares it for transport. Enemy weapon chambers are cleared and put on safe. The platoon also identifies and collects at a central point the enemy equipment to be destroyed. The demolition team prepares the fuse and awaits the signal to initiate. This is normally the last action performed before departing the ambush site. The flank security element returns to the ORP after the demolition team completes its task. The platoon will treat friendly wounded first and then enemy wounded.

9-124. The flank security teams may also emplace antiarmor mines after the ambush has been initiated if the enemy is known to have armored vehicles that can quickly reinforce the ambushed enemy force. If a flank security team makes enemy contact, it fights as long as possible without becoming decisively engaged. It uses prearranged signals to inform the platoon leader it is breaking contact. The platoon leader may direct a portion of the support element to assist the security element in breaking contact.

9-125. The platoon leader must plan the withdrawal of the platoon from the ambush site. The planning process should include the following:

- Elements are normally withdrawn in the reverse order that they established their positions.
- Elements may return to the release point, then to the objective rally point, depending on the distance between the elements.
- The security element at the objective rally point must be alert to assist the platoon's return. It maintains security for the ORP while the remainder of the platoon prepares to depart.

9-126. Actions back at the ORP include, but are not limited to, accounting for personnel and equipment, stowing captured equipment, and first aid (as necessary).

## **SECURITY PATROLS**

9-127. Security patrols prevent surprise of the main body by screening to the front, flank, and rear of the main body and detecting and destroying enemy forces in the local area. Security patrols do not operate beyond the range of communication and supporting fires from the main body; especially mortar fires, because they normally operate for limited periods of time, and are combat oriented.

9-128. Security patrols are employed both when the main body is stationary and when it is moving. When the main body is stationary, the security patrol prevents enemy infiltration, reconnaissance, or attacks. When the main body is moving, the security patrol prevents the unit from being ambushed or coming into surprise chance contact.

## **SECTION III — RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS**

9-129. A reconnaissance patrol collects information to confirm or disprove the accuracy of information previously gained. The intent for this type of patrol is to move stealthily, avoid enemy contact, and accomplish its tactical task without engaging in close combat. With one exception (presence patrols), reconnaissance patrols always try to accomplish their mission without being detected or observed. Because detection cannot always be avoided, a reconnaissance patrol carries the necessary arms and equipment to protect itself and break contact with the enemy. A reconnaissance patrol normally travels light, with as few personnel, arms, ammunition, and equipment as possible. This increases stealth and cross-country mobility in close terrain. Regardless of how the patrol is armed and equipped, the leader always plans for the worst case: direct-fire contact with a hostile force. Leaders must anticipate where they may possibly be observed and control the hazard by emplacing measures to lessen their risk. If detected or unanticipated opportunities arise, reconnaissance patrols must be able to rapidly transition to combat. Types of reconnaissance patrols follow



### Area Reconnaissance Patrol

9-130. The area reconnaissance patrol focuses only on obtaining detailed information about the terrain or enemy activity within a prescribed area. See Section IV for further details.

### Route Reconnaissance Patrol

9-131. The route reconnaissance patrol obtains detailed information about a specified route and any terrain where the enemy could influence movement along that route. See Section V for further details.

### Zone Reconnaissance Patrol

9-132. Zone reconnaissance patrols involve a directed effort to obtain detailed information on all routes, obstacles, terrain, and enemy forces within a zone defined by boundaries. See Section VI for further details.

### Point Reconnaissance Patrol

9-133. The point reconnaissance patrol goes straight to a specific location and determines the situation there. As soon as it does so, it either reports the information by radio or returns to the larger unit to report. This patrol can obtain, verify, confirm, or deny extremely specific information for the commander. These patrols are often used in stability or civil support operations. Normally, the patrol leader is the individual responsible for making the assigned assessment. This may involve interacting with the local populace. To allow this, interpreters or local civil leaders might accompany the patrol. The patrol leader may be required to participate in lengthy discussions or inspections with individuals at the site. During that time he is vulnerable to attack. The assistant patrol leader should not become involved in these talks, but should remain focused on external security to prevent attack from outside and on the personal security of the patrol leader. One or two specially-designated members of the patrol may be needed to protect the patrol leader while his attention is focused on discussions.

### Leader's Reconnaissance Patrol

9-134. The leader's reconnaissance patrol reconnoiters the objective just before an attack or prior to sending elements forward to locations where they will support by fire. It confirms the condition of the objective, gives each subordinate leader a clear picture of the terrain where he will move, and identifies any part of the objective he must seize or suppress. The leader's reconnaissance patrol can consist of the unit commander or representative, the leaders of major subordinate elements, and (sometimes) security personnel and unit guides. It gets back to the main body as quickly as possible. The commander can use the aid in Figure 9-14 to help in remembering a five-point contingency:

<b>G</b>	Going—where is the leader going?
<b>O</b>	Others—what others are going with him?
<b>T</b>	Time (duration)—how long will the leader be gone?
<b>W</b>	What do we do if the leader fails to return?
<b>A</b>	Actions—what actions do the departing reconnaissance element and main body plan to take on contact?

**Figure 9-14. Reconnaissance patrol five-point contingency**

### Contact Patrol

9-135. A contact patrol is a special reconnaissance patrol sent from one unit to physically contact and coordinate with another. Modern technology has reduced, but not eliminated, the need for contact patrols. They are most often used today when a U.S. force must contact a non-U.S. coalition partner who lacks compatible communications or position-reporting equipment. Contact patrols may either go to the other unit's position, or the units can meet at a designated contact point. The leader of a contact patrol provides

the other unit with information about the location, situation, and intentions of his own unit. He obtains and reports the same information about the contacted unit back to his own unit. The contact patrol also observes and reports pertinent information about the area between the two units.

### **Presence Patrols**

9-136. A presence patrol is used in stability or civil support operations. It has many purposes, but should always see and be seen, but seen in a specific manner determined by the commander. Its primary goal is to gather information about the conditions in the unit's AO. To do this, the patrol gathers critical (as determined by the commander) information, both specific and general. The patrol seeks out this information, and then observes and reports. Its secondary role is to be seen as a tangible representation of the U.S. military force, projecting an image that furthers the accomplishment of the commander's intent.

9-137. In addition to reconnaissance tasks, presence patrols demonstrate to the local populace the presence and intent of the U.S. forces. Presence patrols are intended to clearly demonstrate the determination, competency, confidence, concern, and when appropriate, the overwhelming power of the force to all who observe it, including local and national media.

9-138. The commander always plans for the possibility that a presence patrol may make enemy contact, even though that is not his intent. Rarely should a commander use a presence patrol where enemy contact is likely. Presence patrols work best for some types of stability operations such as peace operations, humanitarian and civic assistance, non-combatant evacuations, or shows of force. Before sending out a presence patrol, the commander should carefully consider what message he wants to convey, and then clearly describe his intent to the patrol leader.

9-139. To accomplish the "to be seen" part of its purpose, a presence patrol reconnoiters overtly. It takes deliberate steps to visibly reinforce the *impression* the commander wants to convey to the populace. Where the patrol goes, what it does there, how it handles its weapons, what equipment and vehicles it uses, and how it interacts with the populace are all part of that impression. When the presence patrol returns to the main body, the commander thoroughly debriefs it; not only for hard information, but also for the patrol leader's impressions of the effects of the patrol on the populace. This allows the commander to see to modify the actions of subsequent patrols.

### **Tracking Patrol**

9-140. A tracking patrol is normally a squad-size, possibly smaller, element. It is tasked to follow the trail of a specific enemy unit in order to determine its composition, final destination, and actions en route. Members of the patrol look for subtle signs left by the enemy as he moves. As they track, they gather information about the enemy unit, the route it took, and the surrounding terrain. Normally, a tracking patrol avoids direct fire contact with the tracked unit, but not always. Tracking patrols often use tracker dog teams to help them maintain the track.

## **CONTROL MEASURES**

9-141. Control measures help leaders anticipate being detected. They include:

- **Rendezvous point:** a location designated for an arranged meeting from which to begin an action or phase of an operation or to return to after an operation. This term is generally synonymous with linkup point.
- **Release point:** a location on a route where marching elements are released from centralized control (FM1-02). The release point is also used after departing the ORP.
- **Linkup point:** a point where two infiltrating elements in the same or different infiltration lanes are scheduled to consolidate before proceeding with their missions (FM 1-02).

9-142. Leaders use the three fundamentals of reconnaissance to organize their patrols into two forces: a reconnaissance element, and a security element. The first fundamental of reconnaissance (gain the information required), is the patrol's decisive action. Using the second principle (avoid detection), leaders



organize this element accordingly. The remainder of the patrol is organized as a security element designed according to the third principle (employ security measures).

## RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENTS

9-143. The task of the reconnaissance element is to obtain the information requirements for the purpose of facilitating tactical decision making. The primary means is reconnaissance (or surveillance) enabled by tactical movement and continuous, accurate reporting. The reconnaissance patrol leader decides how in depth the reconnaissance will be. A thorough and accurate reconnaissance is important. However, avoiding detection is equally important.

9-144. Below are some of the additional tasks normally associated with a reconnaissance element:

- Reconnoiter all terrain within the assigned area, route, or zone.
- Determine trafficability routes or potential avenues of approach (based on the personnel or vehicles to be used on the route).
  - Inspect and classify all bridges, overpasses, underpasses, and culverts on the route.\*
  - Locate fords or crossing sites near bridges on the route.
- Determine the time it takes to traverse the route.
- Reconnoiter to the limit of direct fire range.
  - Terrain that influences the area, route, or zone.
  - Built-up areas.
  - Lateral routes.
- Within capabilities, reconnoiter natural and man-made obstacles to ensure mobility along the route. Locate a bypass or reduce/breach, clear, and mark—
  - Lanes.
  - Defiles and other restrictive/severely restrictive terrain.
  - Minefields.
  - Contaminated areas.
  - Log obstacles such as abatis, log cribs, stumps, and posts.
  - AT ditches.
  - Wire entanglements.
  - Fills, such as a raised railroad track.
  - Other obstacles along the route.
- Determine the size, location, and composition of society/human demographics.
- Identify key infrastructure that could influence military operations, including the following:
  - Political, government, and religious organizations and agencies.
  - Physical facilities and utilities (such as power generation, transportation, and communications networks).
- Find all threat forces that influence movement along the area, route, or zone.
- Report information.

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**\*NOTE:** Infantry platoons typically do not have the expertise to complete a full technical inspection of bridges, roads, and culverts; this task normally requires augmentation. Infantry platoons do, however, have the ability to conduct a general assessment.

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## SECURITY ELEMENTS

9-145. The security element has two tasks: provide early warning of approaching enemy; and provide support by fire to the reconnaissance elements if they come in contact with the enemy. The purpose of the security element is to protect the reconnaissance element, thereby allowing them to obtain the IR. Security elements tasked to provide early warning must be able to observe avenues of approach into and out of the

objective area. If the reconnaissance element is compromised, the security element must be able to quickly support them. They do so by occupying positions that enable them to observe the objective as well as cover the reconnaissance element. Soldiers in these positions must be able to engage the enemy with direct and indirect fire. They must also be able to facilitate communication to higher as well as any supporting assets. This worst-case scenario must be well rehearsed and well thought out.

## ORGANIZING THE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL

9-146. Regardless of how the reconnaissance and security elements are organized, each element always maintains responsibility for its own local security. In a small reconnaissance patrol, the patrol headquarters may form a part of one of the subordinate elements rather than being a separate element. The number and size of the various teams and elements must be determined through the leader's METT-TC analysis. There are three ways to organize the reconnaissance and security elements (Figure 9-15).

9-147. The first technique is to organize the reconnaissance elements separate from security elements. This technique is used when the security element is able to support the reconnaissance element from one location. This requires the reconnaissance objective to be clearly defined and the area to be fairly open.

9-148. The second technique is to organize the reconnaissance elements and security elements together into R&S teams. This technique is used when the reconnaissance objective is not clearly defined or the teams are not mutually supporting and each reconnaissance potentially needs its own security force. Within the R&S team, the reconnaissance can be done by one or two individuals while the rest of the element provides security. The number of Soldiers in an R&S team may vary depending on the mission. Usually a fire team (three to four Soldiers) is required for an adequate reconnaissance and still provide local security for the team.

9-149. The third technique is to establish R&S teams with an additional, separate security element. The separate security element can also act as a reserve or as a quick reaction force.

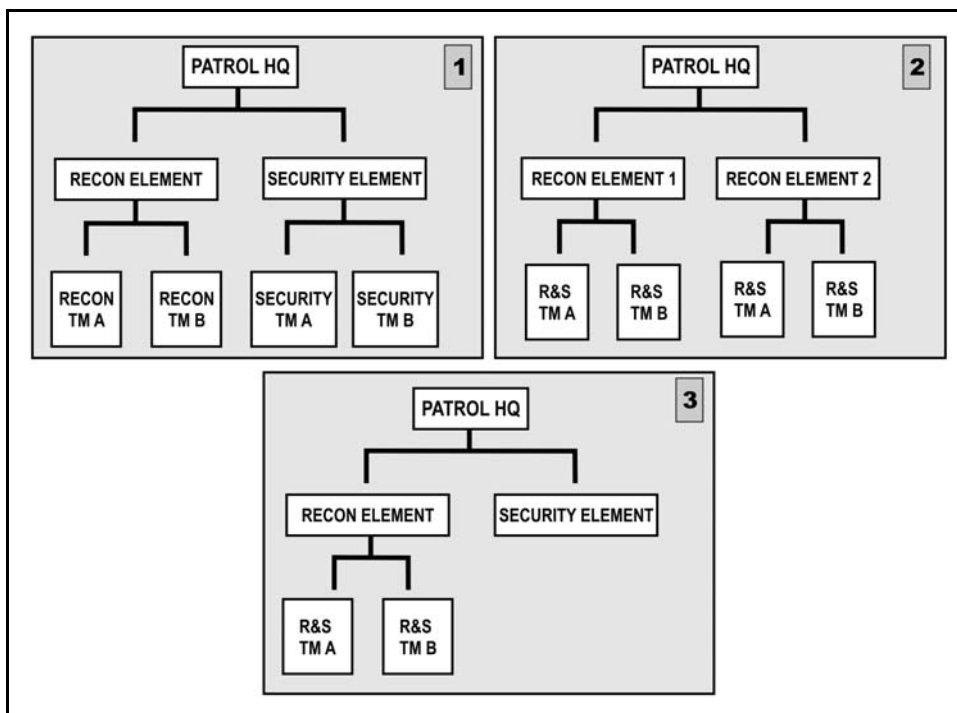


Figure 9-15. Organization of reconnaissance patrol.

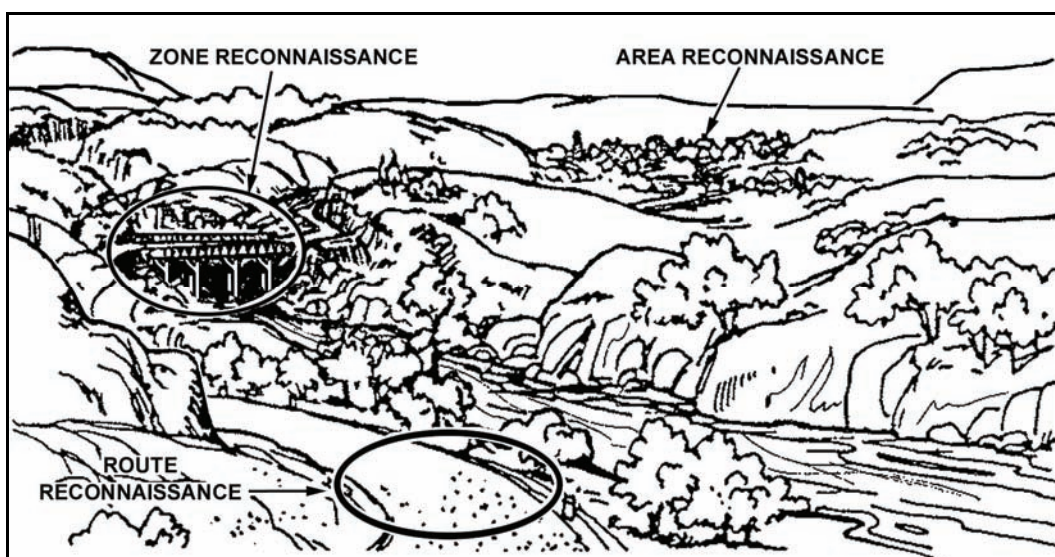
## ACTIONS ON THE RECONNAISSANCE OBJECTIVE

9-150. The actual reconnaissance begins at the designated transition point and ends with a follow-on transition to tactical movement away from the reconnaissance objective. Leaders mark the follow-on transition point with a control measure similar to the first transition point, using a linkup point, rendezvous point, a limit of advance, or a phase line. During this phase, leaders execute one of the three types of reconnaissance (area, zone, and route). These types of reconnaissance are distinguished by the scope of the reconnaissance objective. The types of reconnaissance patrols Infantry units conduct are area, zone, and route (Figure 9-16).

9-151. An *area reconnaissance* is conducted to obtain information about a certain location and the area around it such as road junctions, hills, bridges, or enemy positions. The location of the objective is shown by either grid coordinates or a map overlay. A boundary line encircles the area.

9-152. A *zone reconnaissance* is conducted to obtain information on all the enemy, terrain, and routes within a specific zone. The zone is defined by boundaries.

9-153. A *route reconnaissance* can orient on a road, a narrow axis such as an infiltration lane, or a general direction of attack. A platoon conducts a hasty route reconnaissance when there is too little time for a detailed route reconnaissance or when the mission requires less detailed information. Information sought in a hasty route reconnaissance is restricted to the type of route (limited or unlimited), obstacle limitations (maximum weight, height, and width), and observed enemy.



**Figure 9-16. Types of reconnaissance patrols.**

9-154. To plan for a reconnaissance, use the reverse planning process. The leader first determines the reconnaissance objective, an information requirement (IR) that corresponds to the terrain and or enemy in a specific area, route, or zone; it may be designated by a control measure such as an NAI, checkpoint, objective, route, phase lines, or boundaries. Once the leader has clarified the reconnaissance objective, he determines the observation plan that will enable the patrol to obtain the IR. After determining the observation plan, the leader determines the tactical movement necessary to position the patrol to achieve his observation plan.

## INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

9-155. Information requirements (IR) are the basis for the commander's critical information requirements (CCIR) needed to make tactical decisions. It is the responsibility of the controlling headquarters to clearly define the IR they want the patrol to determine. It is the responsibility of the patrol leader to clarify these IR prior to conducting the mission. Table 9-2 illustrates an example matrix that can be used to capture the IR for the controlling headquarters' collection plan.

Table 9-2. Example IR collection matrix.

Information Requirement	Location/Description	Time	Purpose
1. Enemy forces within small arms range of intersection	NV12349875 road intersection	From: 201700Nov To: 210600Nov	Facilitate the company's passage through the area

9-156. IR can be enemy oriented, terrain oriented, civil oriented, or a combination. It is important for the leader to clarify the requirement prior to conducting the reconnaissance. Knowing this orientation enables the leader to demonstrate the initiative required to meet the higher leader's IR.

9-157. *Terrain-oriented IR* focus on determining information on the terrain of a particular area, route, or zone. While the unit will certainly look for the enemy presence, the overall intent is to determine the terrain's usefulness for friendly purposes. For example, the company commander may send out a squad-sized reconnaissance patrol to identify a location for the company's future assembly area. The patrol leader may send out a squad-sized reconnaissance patrol to obtain information about a bridge on a proposed infiltration route.

9-158. *Enemy-oriented IR* focus on finding a particular enemy force. The purpose of enemy-oriented reconnaissance is to confirm or deny planning assumptions. While the unit may be given a terrain feature as a reference point, the overall intent is to find the enemy. This means that if the enemy is not in the location referenced, it is usually necessary for the leader to demonstrate the initiative to find the enemy force within his given parameters.

9-159. *Civil-oriented IR* focus on determining information on the human environment in a particular area, route, or zone. Civil-oriented IR is a larger, vaguer category that requires more clarification than the other two categories. Examples of IR that are civil-oriented are the physical infrastructure; service infrastructures such as sewer, water, electric, and trash; the political situation; demographics; and refugees.

## OBSERVATION PLAN

9-160. Once the patrol leader understands the IR, he then determines how it is that he will obtain it by developing an observation plan. The leader captures the observation plan as part of the patrol leader's course of action sketch. This is done through asking two basic questions:

- (1) What is the best location(s) to obtain the information required?
- (2) How can I best obtain the information without compromising the patrol?

9-161. The answer to the first question is: all vantage points and observation posts from which the patrol can best obtain the IR. A vantage point is a temporary position that enables observation of the enemy. It is meant to be occupied only until the IR is confirmed or denied. The answer to the second question is: use the routes and number of teams necessary to occupy the vantage points and OPs. An OP is a position from where military observations can be made and fire can be directed and adjusted. OPs must possess appropriate communications. The OP can either be short term (12 hours or less) or long term, depending on guidance from higher. Unlike a vantage point, the OP is normally occupied and surveillance is conducted for a specified period of time. The patrol views the reconnaissance objective from as many perspectives as possible, using whatever combinations of OPs and vantage points are necessary. The leader selects the tentative locations for the patrol's vantage points, OPs, and movement after analyzing METT-TC factors. These locations are proposed and must be confirmed and adjusted as necessary by the actual leader on the ground. From his analysis, he determines how many vantage points and OPs he must establish and where to position them. Once he decides on these general locations, he designs the routes for necessary movement between these and other control measures (such as the release points and linkup points). Positions should have the following characteristics:

- Covered and concealed routes to and from each position.
- Unobstructed observation of the assigned area, route, or zone. Ideally, the fields of observation of adjacent positions overlap to ensure full coverage.

- Effective cover and concealment. Leaders select positions with cover and concealment to reduce their vulnerability on the battlefield. Leaders may need to pass up a position with favorable observation capability but no cover and concealment to select a position that affords better survivability.
- A location that will not attract attention. Positions should not be sited in such locations as a water tower, an isolated grove of trees, or a lone building or tree. These positions draw enemy attention and may be used as enemy artillery TRPs.
- A location that does not skyline the observers. Avoid hilltops. Locate positions farther down the slope of the hill or on the side, provided there are covered and concealed routes into and out of the position.

9-162. The locations selected by the patrol are either long range or short range. Long-range positions must be far enough from the objective to be outside enemy's small-arms weapons, sensors, and other local security measures. Long-range positions are the most desirable method for executing a reconnaissance because the patrol does not come in close enough to be detected. If detected, the patrol is able to employ direct and indirect fires. Therefore, it is used whenever METT-TC permits the required information to be gathered from a distance. Security must be maintained by:

- Selecting covered and concealed OPs.
- Using covered and concealed routes in and around the objective area.
- Deploying security elements, including sensors, to give early warning, and providing covering fire if required.

9-163. Short-range positions are within the range of enemy local security measures and small-arms fire. When information required cannot be obtained by a long-range position, reconnaissance elements move closer to the objective. The vantage points and routes used during short-range observation should be carefully planned out and verified prior to using them. Doing so prevents detection by the enemy or friendly units from stumbling into one another or covering ground already passed over by another element.

## SECTION IV — AREA RECONNAISSANCE

9-164. Area reconnaissance is a directed effort to obtain detailed information concerning the terrain or enemy activity within a prescribed area (FM 1-02). That area may be given as a grid coordinate, an objective, on an overlay. In an area reconnaissance, the patrol uses surveillance points, vantage points, or OPs around the objective to observe it and the surrounding area.

9-165. Actions at the objective for an area reconnaissance begin with the patrol in the ORP, and end with a dissemination of information after a linkup of the patrol's subordinate units. The critical actions include:

- Actions from the ORP.
- Execute the observation plan.
- Link up and continue the mission.

## ACTIONS FROM THE OBJECTIVE RALLY POINT

9-166. The patrol occupies the ORP and conducts associated priorities of work. While the patrol establishes security and prepares for the mission, the patrol leader and selected personnel conduct a leader's reconnaissance. The leader must accomplish three things during this reconnaissance: pin point the objective and establish surveillance, identify a release point and follow-on linkup point (if required), and confirm the observation plan.

## OBSERVATION PLAN FOR AN AREA RECONNAISSANCE

9-167. Upon returning from the leader's reconnaissance, the patrol leader disseminates information and FRAGOs as required. Once ready, the patrol departs. The leader first establishes security. Once security is in position, the reconnaissance element moves along the specified routes to the observation posts and vantage points in accordance with the observation plan.

## **SHORT RANGE**

9-168. On nearing the objective, the patrol commander should establish a forward release point. It should be sited so it is well hidden, no closer than 200 meters from known enemy patrol routes, OPs, or sentry positions. The forward RP provides the patrol leader with a temporary location close to the objective from which he can operate. While the close reconnaissance is in progress, it should be manned by the patrol second in charge and the radio operator. Only vital transmissions should be made while in the forward release point. The volume setting should be as low as possible on the radio, and if available, the operator should use an earphone.

9-169. The close reconnaissance team should make its final preparation in the forward release point. Movement from the forward release point must be very slow and deliberate. Leaders should allow sufficient time for the team to obtain the information. If time is limited, the team should only be required to obtain essential information. If the enemy position is large, or time is limited, the leader may employ more than one close reconnaissance team. If this occurs, each patrol must have clearly defined routes for movement to and from the forward release point. They must also have clearly defined areas in which to conduct their reconnaissance in order to avoid clashes.

9-170. The close reconnaissance team normally consists of one to two observers and two security men. The security men should be sufficiently close to provide protection to the observer, but far enough away so his position is not compromised. When moving in areas close to the enemy position, only one man should move at any one time. Accordingly, bounds should be very short.

9-171. Once in position, the patrol observes and listens to acquire the needed information. No eating, no talking, and no unnecessary movement occurs at this time. If the reconnaissance element cannot acquire the information needed from its initial position, it retraces the route and repeats the process. This method of reconnaissance is extremely risky. The reconnaissance element must remember that the closer it moves to an objective, the greater the risk of being detected.

## **MULTIPLE RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE TEAMS**

9-172. When information cannot be gathered from just one OP/vantage point, successive points may be used. Once determined, the leader must decide how his patrol will actually occupy them. The critical decision is to determine the number of teams in the reconnaissance element. The advantages of a single team in the reconnaissance element are the leader's ability to control the team, and the decreased probability of enemy detection. The disadvantages of the single team are the lack of redundancy and the fact that the objective area is only observed by one team. The advantages of using multiple teams include, affording the leader redundancy in accomplishing his mission, and the ability to look at the objective area from more than one perspective. The disadvantages include, the increased probability of being detected by the enemy, and increased difficulty of controlling the teams.

9-173. The leader may include a surveillance team in his reconnaissance of the objective from the ORP. He positions these surveillance teams while on the reconnaissance. He may move them on one route, posting them as they move, or he may direct them to move on separate routes to their assigned locations.

## **SECURITY ELEMENT**

9-174. The subordinate leader responsible for security establishes security at the ORP and positions other security teams as required on likely enemy avenues of approach into the objective area.

## **SURVEILLANCE TEAMS**

9-175. The platoon and squad use the surveillance/vantage point method that utilizes a series of surveillance or vantage points around the objective to observe it and the surrounding areas.

9-176. The unit halts in the ORP and establishes security while they confirm the location. The platoon leader conducts a leader's reconnaissance of the objective area to confirm the plan, and then returns to the ORP.

9-177. Once the security teams are in position, the reconnaissance element leaves the ORP. The element moves to several surveillance or vantage points around the objective. Instead of having the entire element move as a unit from point to point, the element leader might decide to have only a small reconnaissance team move to each surveillance or vantage point. After reconnoitering the objective, elements return to the ORP and disseminate information.

## SECTION V — ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

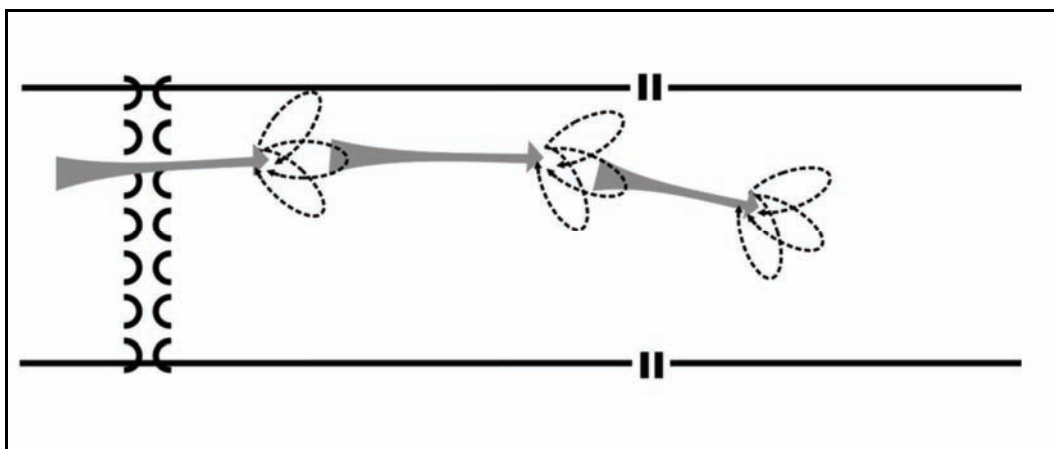
### CONDUCT

9-178. A route reconnaissance is conducted to obtain detailed information about one route and all its adjacent terrain, or to locate sites for emplacing obstacles. Route reconnaissance is oriented on a road, a narrow axis such as an infiltration lane, or on a general direction of attack. Patrols conducting route reconnaissance operations attempt to view the route from both the friendly and enemy perspective. Infantry platoons require augmentation with technical expertise for a complete detailed route reconnaissance. However, platoons are capable of conducting hasty route reconnaissance or area reconnaissance of selected route areas.

9-179. Route reconnaissance is conducted to obtain and locate the following:

- Detailed information about trafficability on the route and all adjacent terrain.
- Detailed information about an enemy activity or enemy force moving along a route.
- Sites for emplacing hasty obstacles to slow enemy movement.
- Obstacles, CBRN contamination, and so forth.

9-180. The Infantry platoon unit can also be tasked to survey a route in a planned infiltration lane. After being briefed on the proposed infiltration, the patrol leader conducts a thorough map reconnaissance and plans a series of fans along the route (Figure 9-17). The coverage must reconnoiter all intersecting routes for a distance greater than the range at which enemy direct-fire weapons could influence the infiltrating forces.



**Figure 9-17. Route reconnaissance using fans.**

9-181. The platoon reports conditions likely to affect friendly movement. These conditions include:

- Presence of the enemy.
- Terrain information.
- Location and condition of bypasses, fords, and obstacles.
- Choke points.
- Route and bridge conditions.

9-182. If all or part of the proposed route is a road, the leader must treat the road as a danger area. The platoon moves parallel to the road, using a covered and concealed route. When required, reconnaissance

and security teams move close to the road to reconnoiter key areas. The platoon plans a different route for its return.

9-183. The leader should submit the patrol report in an overlay format (Figure 9-18) that includes—

- Two grid references (required).
- Magnetic north arrow (required).
- Route drawn to scale (required).
- Title block (required).
- Route classification formula (required).
- Road curves with a radius of less than 45 degrees.
- Steep grades and their maximum gradients.
- Road width of constrictions such as bridges and tunnels, with the widths and lengths of the traveled ways (in meters).
- Underpass limitations with limiting heights and widths.
- Bridge bypasses classified as easy, hard, or impossible.
- Civil or military road numbers or other designations.
- Locations of fords, ferries, and tunnels with limiting information.
- Causeways, snow sheds, or galleries if they are in the way. Data about clearance and load-carrying capacity should be included to permit an evaluation to decide whether to strengthen or remove them.



## SECTION VI — ZONE RECONNAISSANCE

## MOVING ELEMENT TECHNIQUES

**9-33**

## FAN METHOD

9-186. When using the fan method, the leader first selects a series of ORPs throughout the zone to operate from. The patrol establishes security at the first ORP. Upon confirming the ORP location, the leader confirms reconnaissance routes out from and back to the ORP. These routes form a fan-shaped pattern around the ORP. The routes must overlap to ensure the entire area is reconnoitered. Once the routes are confirmed, the leader sends out R&S teams along the routes. When all R&S teams have returned to the ORP, the platoon collects and disseminates all information to every Soldier before moving on to the next ORP.

9-187. Each R&S team moves from the ORP along a different fan-shaped route that overlaps with others to ensure reconnaissance of the entire area (Figure 9-19). These routes should be adjacent to each other. Adjacent routes prevent the patrol from potentially making contact in two different directions. The leader maintains a reserve at the ORP.

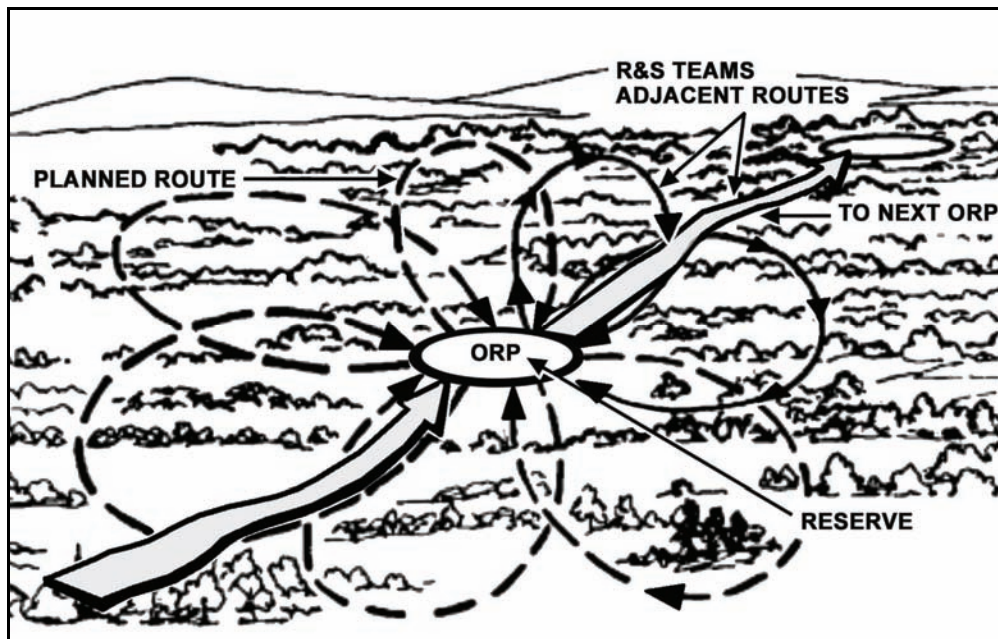


Figure 9-19. Fan method.

## BOX METHOD

9-188. When using the box method, the leader sends his R&S teams from the ORP along routes that form a boxed-in area. He sends other teams along routes through the area within the box (Figure 9-20). All teams meet at a link-up point at the far side of the box from the ORP.

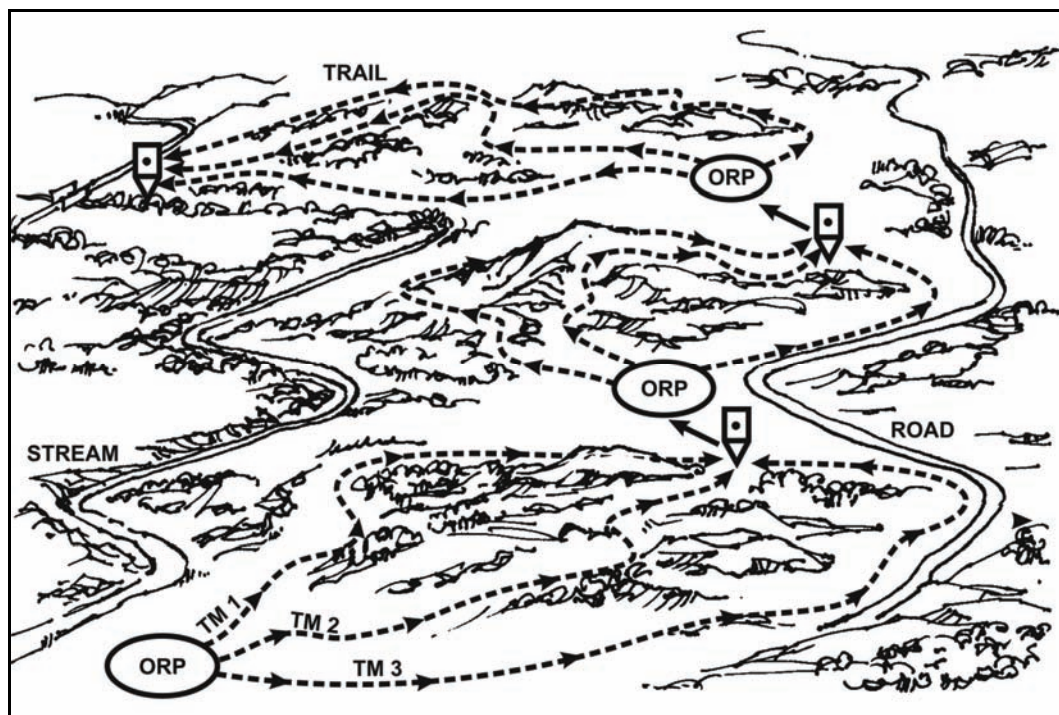


Figure 9-20. Box method.

### CONVERGING ROUTES METHOD

9-189. When using the converging routes method, the leader selects routes from the ORP through the zone to a rendezvous point at the far side of the zone from the ORP. Each R&S team moves along a specified route and uses the fan method to reconnoiter the area between routes (Figure 9-21). The leader designates a time for all teams to link up. Once the unit arrives at the rendezvous point, it halts and establishes security.

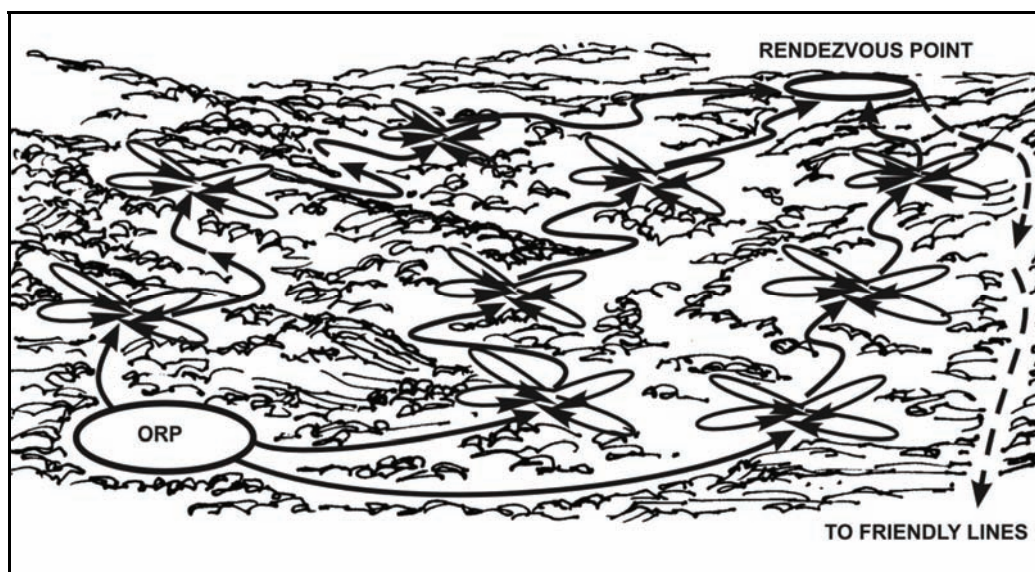


Figure 9-21. Converging routes method.



## SUCCESSIVE SECTOR METHOD

9-190. The successive sector method is a continuation of the converging routes method (Figure 9-22). The leader divides the zone into a series of sectors. The platoon uses the converging routes within each sector to reconnoiter to an intermediate link-up point where it collects and disseminates the information gathered to that point. It then reconnoiters to the next sector. Using this method, the leader selects an ORP, a series of reconnaissance routes, and linkup points. The actions from each ORP to each linkup point are the same as in the converging routes method. Each linkup point becomes the ORP for the next phase. Upon linkup at a linkup point, the leader again confirms or selects reconnaissance routes, a linkup time, and the next linkup point. This action continues until the entire zone has been reconnoitered. Once the reconnaissance is completed, the unit returns to friendly lines.

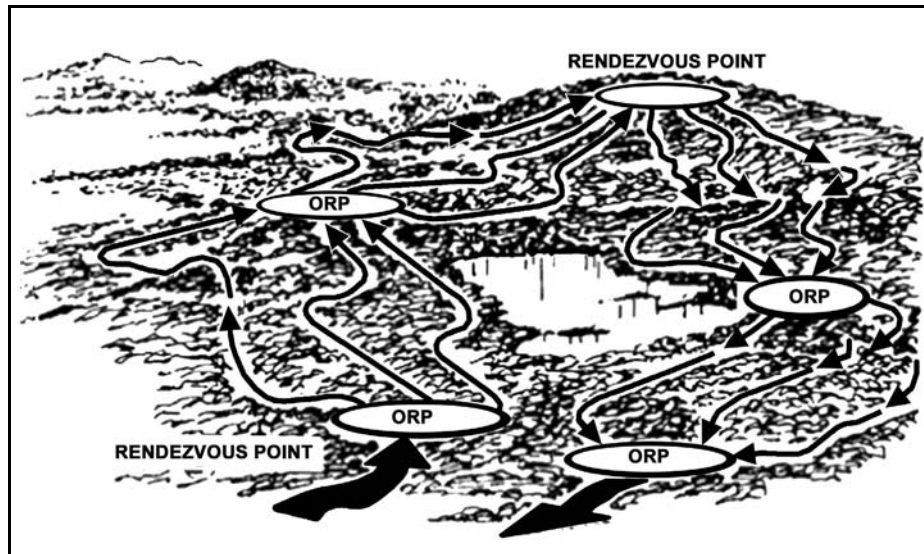


Figure 9-22. Successive sector method.

## STATIONARY ELEMENT TECHNIQUES

9-191. Using the stationary element technique, the leader positions surveillance teams in locations where they can collectively observe the entire zone for long-term, continuous information gathering (Figure 9-23). The leader must consider sustainment requirements when developing his Soldiers' load plan.

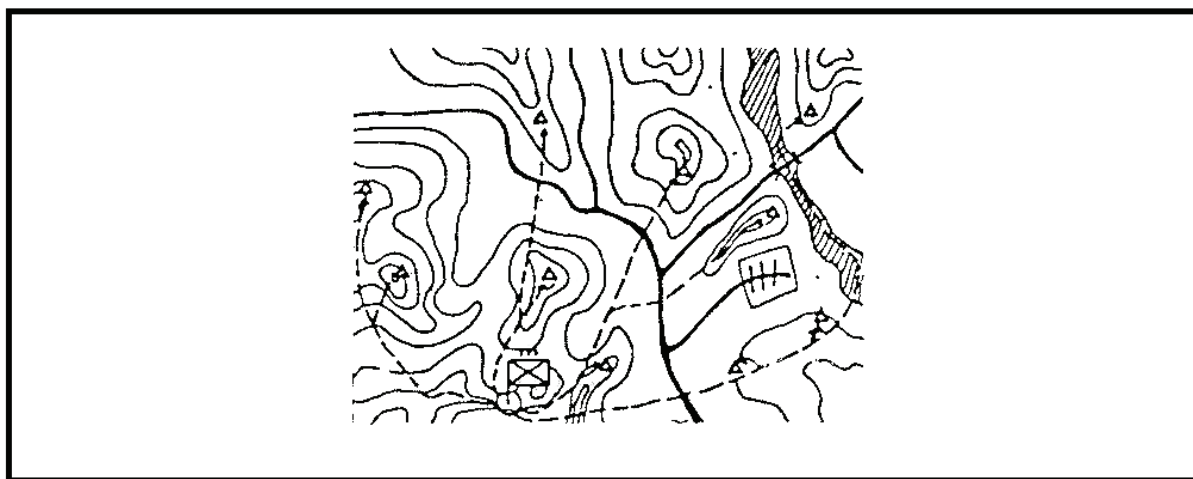


Figure 9-23. Zone reconnaissance using the stationary element technique.

## MULTIPLE AREA RECONNAISSANCE

9-192. When using multiple area reconnaissance the leader tasks each of his subordinate units to conduct a series of area reconnaissance actions within the zone (Figure 9-24).

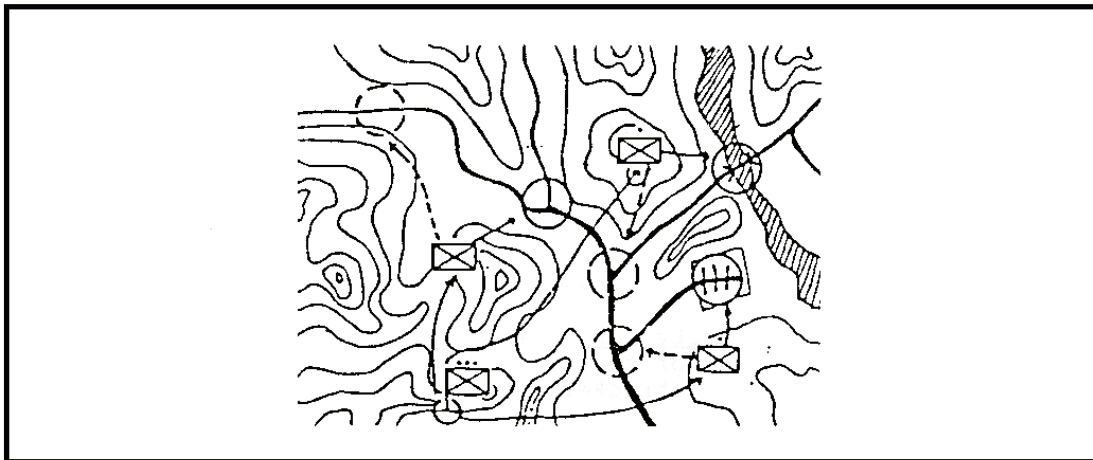


Figure 9-24. Zone reconnaissance using multiple area reconnaissance.

## SECTION VII — PATROL PREPARATIONS

### PREPARATIONS

9-193. Units send out patrols under many and varied conditions on the battlefield. Patrols are often used during high-intensity combat. They are also sent out during stability operations, and when the unit is providing support to civil authorities. The specific actions taken in preparing for a patrol, while conducting the mission, and after returning to the main body will vary depending on the tactical situation. The principles, however, will remain the same. During high-intensity combat, some of the actions described below may be abbreviated. Those same actions may be executed in much greater detail and specificity during stability operations or during support to civil authority. In general, patrol activities are much more closely documented during operations in other than high-intensity combat. Successful patrol operations require considerable preparation before a patrol departs. The commander or platoon leader should brief the patrol leader and give him clear orders before sending him away from the main body. Patrol members should depart on patrol confident of the patrol's capabilities. This can be understood through detailed knowledge of the mission's task and purpose, the threats that may be encountered during the patrol, and good situational awareness.

### BRIEFINGS AND ORDERS

9-194. Patrol orders, pre-patrol briefings, and rehearsals should cover the following subjects:

- *Environment, local situation and possible threats.* The patrol leader should coordinate an intelligence briefing that covers the operating environment, local civil situation, terrain and weather that might affect the patrol's mission, general and specific threats to the patrol, suspect persons, and vehicles and locations known to be in the patrol's area.
- *Mine and IED threat.* The patrol leader should make a mine and IED risk assessment based on the latest information available. This will determine many of the actions of the patrol. Patrol members must be informed of the latest mine and IED threats and the restrictions to the unit's tactical SOPs that result.
- *Operations Update.* The patrol leader should coordinate for an up-to-date briefing on the location and intentions of other friendly patrols and units in the patrol's area. This briefing should include the existing fire and maneuver control measures in effect, any no-go or restricted

areas, any special instructions in effect for the patrol's area, and all other operational issues that may affect the patrol and its mission.

- *Mission and Tasks.* Every patrol leader should be given a specific task and purpose to accomplish with his patrol. Accordingly, each patrol member must know the mission and be aware of their responsibilities.
- *Locations and Route.* The patrol leader must brief his patrol on all pertinent locations and routes. Locations and routes may include drop-off points, pick-up points, planned routes; rally points, exit and re-entry points, and alternates for each should be covered in detail.
- *Posture.* This is a key consideration during a presence patrol. The patrol leader should not depart until he is sure that he completely understands what posture or attitude the commander wishes the patrol to present to the populace it encounters. The posture may be soft or hard depending on the situation, and the environment. The patrol posture may have to change several times during a patrol.
- *Actions on Contact and Actions at the Scene of an Incident.* These are likely to be part of the unit's tactical SOPs but should be covered especially if there are local variations or new members in the patrol.
- *Rules of Engagement, Rules of Interaction and Rules for Escalation of Force:* Each member of the patrol must know and understand these rules.
- *Communications Plan/Lost Communications Plan.* Every patrol member should know the means in which the patrol plans to communicate, to whom, how, and when it should report. The patrol leader must ensure that he has considered what actions the patrol will take in the event it loses communications. The unit may have established these actions in its tactical SOP, but all patrol members should be briefed on the communication plan and be given the appropriate frequencies, contact numbers, and passwords that are in effect.
- *Electronic Countermeasures Plan.* This is especially important if the IED threat level is high. The patrol leader should clearly explain to all members of the patrol which ECM devices are being employed, and their significant characteristics. These issues may be covered by the unit's tactical SOP but all patrol members should be briefed on the ECM plan that is in effect during the patrol.
- *Standard and Special Uniforms and Equipment:* Equipment should be distributed evenly among the patrol members. The location of key or unique equipment should be known by all members of the patrol. SOPs should be developed to stipulate what dress is to be worn for the various types of patrol. The dress state will be linked to threats and posture of the patrol, so patrol members should be briefed in sufficient time to enable proper preparations. All patrols must have a day and night capability regardless of the expected duration of the patrol.
- *Medical.* Every Soldier should carry his own first aid dressing per the unit tactical SOP. If possible, every patrol should have at least one combat lifesaver with a CLS bag. All patrol members must know who is responsible for carrying the pack and know how to use its contents.
- *Attachments.* The patrol leader must ensure that all personnel attached to the patrol are introduced to the other patrol members and briefed thoroughly on the tactical SOP; all patrol special orders; and the existing chain of command. The following type personnel may be attached to a unit going out to patrol:
  - Interpreters.
  - Police (either military police or local security forces).
  - Specialists in search or explosive demolitions.
  - Female Soldiers specifically designated and trained to search local women.
  - Dog and dog handlers.

## EQUIPMENT

9-195. Equipment carried by the patrol will be environment and task specific.

- *Radios and electronic countermeasures (ECM) Equipment.* Radios and ECM equipment should be checked prior to every patrol to ensure that it is serviceable and operates correctly.

batteries must be taken for the expected duration of the patrol plus some extra as backup. Patrol members must be trained in the operation of all ECM and radio equipment. It is the patrol leader's responsibility to ensure that radios and ECM equipment are switched on and working and communication checks are conducted prior to leaving the base location.

- *Weapons.* All weapons must be prepared for firing prior to departure from the larger unit. Slings should be used to ensure weapons do not become separated from any Soldier who becomes incapacitated. This also ensures that a weapon cannot be snatched away from a distracted Soldier while he is speaking with locals and used against him.
- *Ammunition.* Sufficient ammunition, signal pyrotechnics, smoke, and non-lethal munitions must be carried to enable the patrol to conduct its mission. The amount of each a patrol carries may be established by the unit's tactical SOP or by the patrol leader based on his evaluation of the situation the patrol will face.
- *Load-carrying Equipment.* Patrol members should carry sufficient team and personal equipment to enable them to accomplish other missions (such as reassignment to a cordon position before returning to the larger unit for resupply). The unit's tactical SOP should establish the standard amount of equipment and supplies to be carried. The commander must consider carefully the burden he places on his Soldiers going on a foot patrol, especially in extreme weather conditions or rugged terrain.
- *Documentation.* Team leaders are responsible to the patrol leader for ensuring that appropriate documentation is carried by individuals for the conduct of the mission. Under normal circumstances, Soldiers should carry just their identification card and tags. The unit tactical SOP may prohibit or require the carrying of other appropriate theatre specific documentation such as cards with rules on escalation of force, rules of engagement, or rules of interaction.

## EQUIPMENT CHECKS

9-196. A number of equipment checks should be conducted prior to the patrol departing:

- *Individual Equipment Check.* It is the responsibility of every patrol member to check his or her individual equipment. Soldiers should ensure any loose items of equipment carried are secured.
- *Team Leader's Equipment Check.* Leaders must ensure that individual team members limit what they carry to that which is required for the patrol. Team equipment must be checked for serviceability.
- *Patrol Leader's Equipment Check.* Patrol leaders should check individual and team equipment from each team prior to deploying, paying particular attention to the serviceability of mission specific equipment.

## REHEARSALS

9-197. Patrols should rehearse any specific tactical actions or drills for situations the patrol leader anticipates they might encounter.

## COMMUNICATIONS CHECKS

9-198. Communications checks should be conducted with the unit headquarters or the tactical operations center before every patrol. Patrols should not leave the vicinity of the main body until all communication systems are operating correctly.

## PATROL MANIFEST

9-199. When the situation allows, the patrol leader should submit a written patrol manifest to the commander or to Tactical Operations Center personnel prior to departing the main body. Regardless of the situation, whenever the unit sends out a patrol there should be a specific list of the patrol members made before it departs. The unit tactical SOP may establish a specific format for this manifest, but generally it should contain the following information:

- Patrol number or call sign designation.

before it departs. The unit tactical SOP may establish a specific format for this manifest, but generally it should contain the following information:

- Patrol number or call sign designation.
- Unit designation of unit sending the patrol out.
- Patrol task and purpose (mission).
- Names and rank of patrol leader and all subordinate leaders.
- Estimated DTG Out.
- Estimated DTG In.
- Brief description of the patrol's intended route.
- Complete names, rank, and unit of all members of the patrol, including attachments.
- Number, nomenclature, and serial number of all weapons with the patrol.
- Number, nomenclature, and serial number of all ECM devices, radios, and any other special or sensitive equipment with the patrol.
- Vehicle type and registration number (if appropriate)

9-200. The purpose of the manifest is to allow the higher headquarters to keep track of all the patrols that are out and those that have returned. If the patrol engages the enemy or fails to return on time without reporting, the headquarters has information on the size, capability and intentions of the patrol that it may need. If the patrol suffers casualties or has a vehicle disabled, this manifest can be used to check that all personnel, weapons and sensitive items were recovered.

## **DEPARTURE REPORT**

9-201. The patrol leader should render a departure report just as the patrol departs the main body location or the base. Depending on the procedure established by the unit's tactical SOP, this might include a detailed listing of the patrol's composition. It may also simply state the patrol's call sign or patrol number and report its departure.

## **WEAPONS STATUS**

9-202. Immediately upon leaving an established base or the main body position, the patrol leader and team leaders should ensure that all the patrol weapons are loaded and prepared for immediate action. Electronic countermeasures should be checked to ensure they are turned on if appropriate and all radio frequency settings should be confirmed.

9-203. When the patrol returns to the base, each Soldier should clear his weapon immediately after entering the protected area. The unit's tactical SOP will normally establish precise procedures for this clearing. Patrol leaders should ensure that all individual and crew-served weapons are unloaded.

## **EXITING AND ENTERING A FIXED BASE**

9-204. Exiting and entering a fixed operating base is a high risk activity due to the way troops are channeled through narrow entry or exit points. Insurgents are known to monitor patrols leaving and entering base locations to identify patterns and areas of weakness that they can exploit. Patrols leaving and entering a base can reduce the risks of attack by varying the points used to exit and enter the base, and any routes used to transit the immediate area around the base. If this is not possible, extreme caution should be used in the vicinity of the exit and entry points. Patrol leaders must ensure their patrols do not become complacent. Units should ensure close coordination between patrol leaders and guards at the entry point while the patrol is transiting the gate.

## **SECURITY CHECKS WHILE ON PATROL**

9-205. Patrol members must assist their patrol leader by applying basic patrolling techniques consistently. This gives the team leader more time to concentrate on assisting the patrol leader in the conduct of the



patrol. Team members should concentrate on maintaining spacing, formation, alertness, conducting 5 and 20 meter checks and taking up effective fire positions without supervision.

## 5 AND 20 METER CHECKS

9-206. Every time a patrol stops, it should use a fundamental security technique known as the 5 and 20 meter check. The technique involves every patrol member requiring him to make detailed, focused examinations of the area immediately around him, and looking for anything out of the ordinary that might be dangerous or significant. Five meter checks should be conducted every time a patrol member stops. Twenty meter checks should be conducted when a patrol halts for more than a few minutes.

9-207. Soldiers should conduct a visual check using their unaided vision, and by using the optics on their weapons and binoculars. They should check for anything suspicious, and anything out of the ordinary. This might be as minor as bricks missing from walls, new string or wire run across a path, mounds of fresh soil dirt, or any other suspicious signs. Check the area at ground level through to above head height.

9-208. When the patrol makes a planned halt, the patrol leader identifies an area for occupation and stops 50 meters short of it. While the remainder of the patrol provides security, the patrol leader carries out a visual check using binoculars. He then moves the patrol forward to 20 meters from the position and conducts a visual check using optics on his weapon or with unaided vision.

9-209. Before actually occupying the position, each Soldier carries out a thorough visual and physical check for a radius of 5 meters. They must be systematic, take time and show curiosity. Use touch and, at night, white light if appropriate.

9-210. Any obstacles must be physically checked for command wires. Fences, walls, wires, posts and the ground immediately underneath must be carefully felt by hand, without gloves.

## SECTION VIII — POST PATROL ACTIVITIES

### ACCOUNTING FOR PATROL MEMBERS

9-211. Immediately on re-entering the secure base or rejoining the unit, the patrol leader should positively verify that all members of the patrol and any included attachments, prisoners, or detainees are accounted for.

### CHECKING IN

9-212. The patrol leader should check in with the company command post or the battalion tactical operations center as soon as possible after entering the base location or rejoining the unit.

### ACCOUNTING FOR WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

9-213. The patrol leader is responsible for verifying that all the patrol's weapons, ammunition, munitions and equipment are properly accounted for and reporting that status to the commander or the operations center. Lost or missing equipment must be reported immediately. The patrol may be ordered to return to the area where it was lost, if it is assessed safe to do so, and look for the item.

### HOT DEBRIEF

9-214. The patrol leader should conduct a "hot debrief" with the entire patrol as soon as possible after entering the base or rejoining the main body. This allows him to capture low level information while the Soldiers' memories are fresh and the information relevant. Every member of the patrol should participate. If there was an interpreter or other attachments with the patrol, they too should be de-briefed as a source of human intelligence (HUMINT) by allowing them to pass on any information they obtained during the patrol. The patrol leader includes the significant information that he gleans during the hot debrief in his patrol report to the commander.

**PATROL REPORT**

9-215. Immediately after the hot debrief, the patrol leader should render his patrol report to the commander. This report may be verbal or written, simple, or elaborate depending on the situation and the commander's requirements. The commander may have the patrol leader render his report to the battalion intelligence officer or to the duty officer at the battalion tactical operations center, especially during stability or civil support operations. The patrol commander is responsible for the patrol report. He may be assisted by his assistant patrol leaders and any specialist personnel that were attached to the patrol.

**ACTUAL PATROL ROUTE**

9-216. The patrol report (Figure 9-25) should include a description of the actual route taken by the patrol (as opposed to the planned route), including any halt locations. If the unit uses digital command and control systems that automatically track and display the patrol's route, the information is already known. If not, the patrol leader must report it. When global positioning devices are used by the patrol, gathering route information is easier and faster. The actual route the patrol took is important for planning future patrol routes and actions. Enemy intelligence operations will attempt to identify any pattern setting by U.S. and coalition patrols, including the locations of halts. This may result in attack against locations regularly used by security forces.

<b>Patrol Report (Example)</b>
To: (Commander of unit ordering the patrol)
From: (Rank and name of the patrol leader)
Title: PATROL SITREP for Patrol # (Patrol designation or number per unit tactical SOP)
DTG Patrol Departed and DTG Patrol Returned: (All dates and times per the unit tactical SOP)
Mission: (Restatement of original mission, noting any modifications or FRAGOs received during the patrol's duration.)
Friendly forces (Only specify details on patrol composition that have changed.)
Situation: (The patrol leader's evaluation of mission accomplishment with a general description of any significant patrol sightings.)
Specific Incidents
-Time of incident
-Location of incident (grid/name)
-Type/description of incident
-Persons involved or witnesses to the incident
-Number and types of casualties
-Location of casualties
-Actions taken by friendly forces
-Details of hostile persons/terrorists/insurgents
-General comments/additional info

**Figure 9-25. Patrol report example.**