

ESSENTIAL SUBJECT
PERFORMANCE ORIENTED TRAINING
STUDENT ADVANCE SHEET



INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS
IN A
DEFENSIVE POSITION



JULY 1976

INDIVIDUAL TACTICAL MEASURES STUDENT ADVANCE SHEET

TRAINING STATION #1: Individual Actions in a Defensive Position

OBJECTIVES: As a member of a unit conducting a defense, having been assigned a primary position, supplementary position, and sector of fire, maintain security, clear fields of fire, construct a foxhole (one or two-man as directed), properly mark left and right lateral limits, and camouflage body, clothing, equipment, and primary and supplementary positions.

As a member of a unit holding a defensive position under a simulated infantry and/or mechanized attack, notify the unit leader of any enemy activity observed, simulate opening fire on command and defending (or describe the techniques for defending) the position by fire and close combat.

INSTRUCTIONS: The advance sheet for this training station contains the key teaching points for the instruction which you will receive. You should read through this sheet carefully to prepare yourself for instruction in and performance testing of the objectives listed above. You should bring this advance sheet to class with you. The advance sheet for this training station has been broken down into the following parts:

PART I: PLANNING THE DEFENSE

PART II: CONDUCTING THE DEFENSE

PART I: PLANNING THE DEFENSE

The defensive mission of the Marine rifle squad is to repel the enemy's assault by fire and close combat. This mission requires that the squad be assigned a definite position and sector of fire in order to exploit the terrain and fields of fire and to place maximum firepower in the direction of the expected attack. Certain tasks must be accomplished to prepare the assigned position for the actual conduct of the defense. These tasks are carried out at the same time, if possible; however, the situation may require that priorities be established.

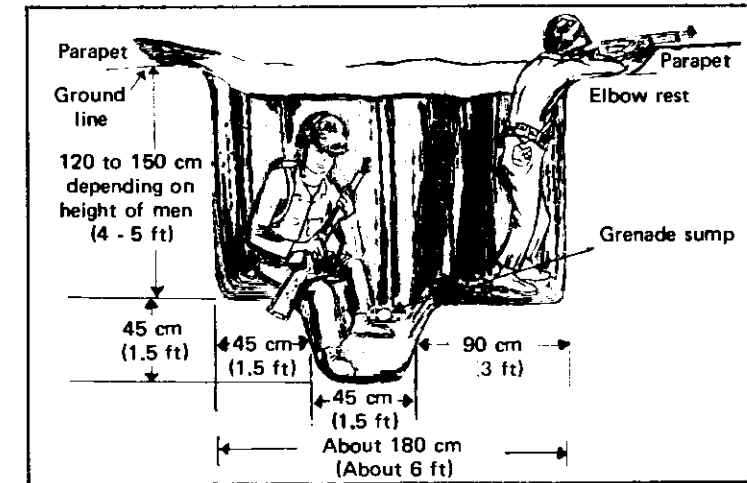
- A. MAINTAIN SECURITY. Enough squad members are kept alert to maintain an effective warning system.
- B. ASSIGN POSITIONS. Fire teams are positioned by the squad leader in order to cover the front and flanks of the squad with overlapping sectors of fire and observation.

C. ORGANIZE THE GROUND. Organizing the ground begins immediately after positions have been assigned. The tasks involved are: clearing fields of fire, digging foxholes, marking lateral limits, and camouflage.

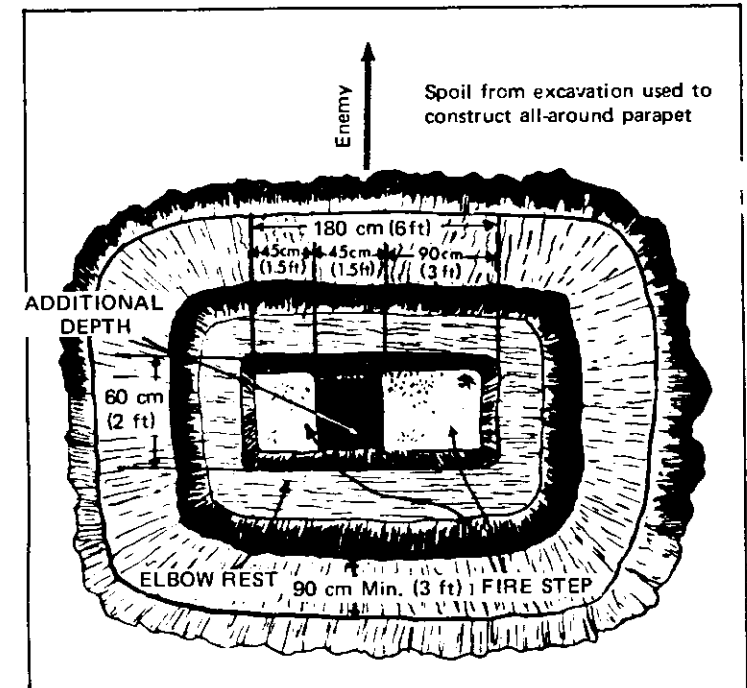
1. CLEARING FIELDS OF FIRE.

- (a) Do not disclose the squad's (or individual's) position by excessive or careless clearing.
- (b) Start clearing near the forward edge of the battle area (FEBA) and work forward to the limits of effective small arms fire.
- (c) In all cases, leave a thin natural screen of foliage to hide defensive positions.
- (d) In sparsely wooded areas, remove the lower branches of scattered large trees. It may be desirable to remove entire trees which might be used as reference points for enemy fire.
- (e) In heavy woods, complete clearing of the field of fire is neither possible nor desirable. Restrict work to thinning undergrowth.
- (f) If practical, demolish other obstructions to fire, such as buildings and walls.
- (g) Move cut brush to points where it will not furnish concealment to the enemy nor disclose the position.
- (h) Take extreme care when firing grenade launchers to insure that fields of fire are cleared of obstructions (to include overhead obstructions) which might cause premature detonations of the projectile.

2. DIGGING FOXHOLES. Foxholes provide excellent protection against small-arms fire, shell fragments, airplane strafing or bombing, effects of nuclear detonations, and the crushing action of tanks. One-man and two-man foxholes are the basic types. The choice of type rests with the squad leader if not prescribed by higher authority. Whichever type of foxhole used is based on squad strength, fields of fire, size of squad sector, and morale.

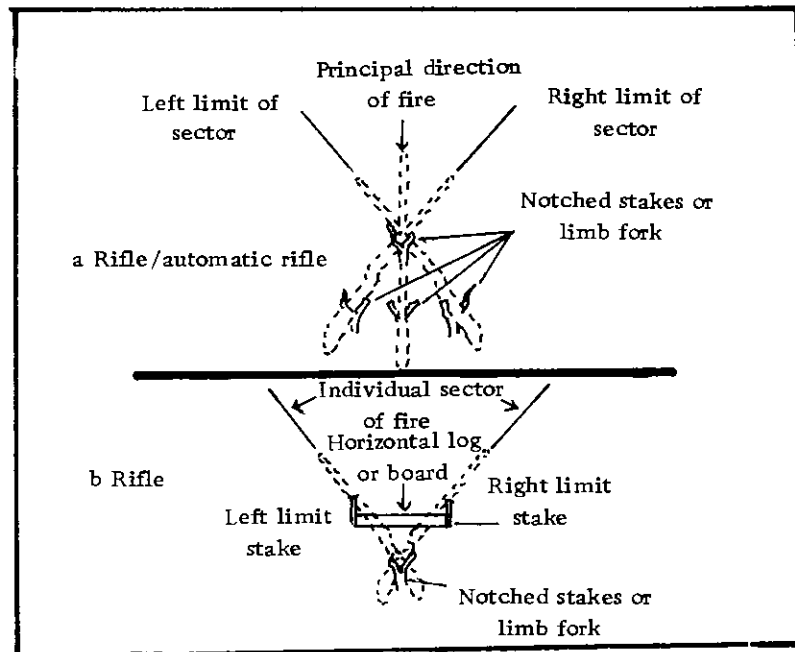


Two-man foxhole (side view).



Two-man foxhole (overhead view).

3. MARKING LATERAL LIMITS. Each member of the unit will mark the left and right limits of his sector of fire. The method he uses should aid him in delivering preplanned fires during period of reduced visibility.



Examples of aids for marking lateral limits of a sector of fire.

4. CAMOUFLAGE MEASURES. Concealment from the enemy is important in the selection and organization of a position. Camouflage measures are strictly carried out from the moment the position is occupied and they involve taking advantage of natural concealment whenever possible.

(a) POSITION.

- (1) Do not disclose the position by excessive or careless clearing of fields of fire.
- (2) Use the same turf or topsoil that has been removed from the area of the foxhole to camouflage the parapet.
- (3) Dispose of all soil from the foxhole not used on the parapet. Carry the soil away in sandbags or shelter halves. Dispose of it under low bushes, on dirt roads or paths, in streams or ponds, or camouflage it. If possible the soil should be disposed of behind your own lines.

AS1-4

- (4) Avoid digging in next to an isolated bush, tree, or clump of vegetation.
 - (5) Conceal the foxhole from observation by the use of a camouflaged cover. Construct the cover from natural materials.
 - (6) Replace natural material used in camouflage before it wilts or changes color.
 - (7) Avoid creating fresh paths near the position. Use old paths or vary the route followed to and from the position.
 - (8) Avoid littering the area near the position with paper, tin cans, and other debris.
- (b) EQUIPMENT. The outline of the helmet is one of the striking characteristics of a Marine's equipment. Take steps to change the form of the helmet. If your pack or other 782 gear has faded, darken it with mud or burnt cork. You can change the shape of your weapon by wrapping it with strips of burlap, but be sure not to interfere with the sighting or firing. Be especially careful with shiny objects such as belt buckles, mess gear, goggles, binoculars, and personal items such as rings and watches.



Rubber bands or expedient bands made from old inner tubes or burlap strips secure natural materials. (Note position of band).



Slits in burlap allow insertion of natural material



Form is disrupted by burlap bows tied into slitted cover.

Techniques of camouflaging the helmet.

AS1-5

- (c) BODY AND CLOTHING. Tone down your face, neck, and hands by painting them with a disrupted pattern. Pay particular attention to areas that will reflect light, such as the nose, cheekbones, chin, and eye sockets. Use camouflage paint, burnt cork, or mud.

If you do not have camouflaged utilities, you can use mud, paint, dirt, burnt cork, grease, etc. to make your clothing look less like a uniform and blend in with your surroundings. If white undershirts are worn, care must be taken to insure that the collar of the undershirt does not show above the collar of the utility jacket.

PART II: CONDUCTING THE DEFENSE

A. INFANTRY ATTACK.

1. ENEMY PREPARATORY BOMBARDMENT. The enemy will normally precede his attack with fire from any or all of the following weapons: artillery, naval gunfire, mortars, machineguns, tanks, and aircraft. During this attack, the squad will take cover in its prepared position, maintaining surveillance of the squad's sector to determine if the enemy is advancing closely behind their supporting fires. Any member of the squad who observes enemy activity will report it immediately to his unit leader. Local security will be withdrawn to the FEBA under the cover of fire from the other members in the squad position.
2. OPENING FIRE AND FIRE CONTROL. Fire is withheld on approaching enemy troops until they come within effective small arms range of the squad's position. Squad members open fire upon the approaching enemy on command of the squad leader, or when the enemy reaches a predetermined line. Once fire is opened, direct control passes to the fire team leaders. The fire team leaders, in accordance with the squad leader's previous plan, designate new targets, change rates of fire when necessary, and give the order to cease fire.
3. FINAL PROTECTIVE FIRES. If the enemy's attack is not broken and he begins his assault, final protective fires are called for by the platoon commander. These are fires delivered immediately in front of the defensive lines. When final protective fires are called for, all squad members fire in their individual sectors at a maximum effective rate until told to stop.
4. ENEMY REACHES THE SQUAD POSITION. Enemy infantry reaching the squad position are driven out by fire, grenades, and the bayonet.

A stubborn defense by frontline squads breaks up enemy attack formations and makes him vulnerable to counterattack by reserve units. The squad does not withdraw except when specifically directed by higher authority.

- B. INFANTRY/MECHANIZED ATTACK. When tanks or other armored vehicles support an enemy infantry attack, the primary target of the squad is the hostile infantry. When hostile infantry does not afford a target, the squad directs its small-arms fire against the aiming devices and vision slits of enemy armor. The cumulative effect of armor-piercing ammunition may be effective against tank sprockets, bogie wheels, and tank suspension. Under no circumstances will the squad be diverted from its basic mission of engaging and destroying the hostile infantry. Antitank weapons are used against armor. Every effort is made to separate the tanks and dismounted enemy infantry.