

CHAPTER 13. COMBAT PATROLS

Combat patrols are assigned missions that usually include engaging the enemy. They are fighting patrols. Every combat patrol has a secondary mission: gaining information about the enemy and terrain. Combat patrols are employed in both offensive and defensive combat operations and they assist the parent unit in accomplishing its mission by inflicting damage on the enemy; establishing and/or maintaining contact with friendly and enemy forces; denying the enemy access to key terrain; and probing enemy positions to determine the nature and extent of enemy presence.

13001. TASK ORGANIZATION

A combat patrol is organized around the current structure of the Marine rifle platoon. A combat patrol leader should use the unit's normal organization (fire team, squad, and platoon) in assigning functions, patrol missions, and chain of command. Combat patrols must be able to perform the following four basic functions en route to and from the objective:

- | Provide control.
- | Provide security.
- | Provide support by fire.
- | Attack or assault the objective.

A rifle platoon could task-organize as a combat patrol as follows:

- | Platoon headquarters (patrol headquarters).
- | First squad (security).
- | Second squad (support).
- | Third squad (assault).

Every combat patrol must—

- | Provide a control mechanism in the form of a headquarters.
- | Designate a unit (a fire team or squad) to provide security while moving en route to the objective or while at the objective. At the objective area, this unit isolates the objective area, secures the objective rally point, and covers the withdrawal.
- | Designate a unit to act as support. This unit provides the base of fire in the attack or covers withdrawals or advances.
- | Designate a unit(s) to conduct the attack or assault. This unit(s) engages the enemy at the objective area by fire and maneuver or movement. It also operates

immediately in the objective area (searching, demolition, prisoners of war, etc.). Paragraph 9001 outlines the general organization of combat patrols. As in the case with reconnaissance patrols, the task organization of a combat patrol depends on the specific mission assigned. If any special requirements are generated because of the specific mission, the patrol is task-organized to fit the needs of the mission.

13002. EQUIPMENT

Combat patrols are armed and equipped as necessary for accomplishing the mission. In addition to binoculars, wire cutters, compasses, and other equipment generally common to all patrols, it usually carries a high proportion of automatic weapons and grenades. Communications with higher headquarters is important as success of the mission may depend on being able to call for supporting fires. Also, internal radio communications with the units and teams may be useful. However, the patrol must not be so overburdened with equipment as to impede movement or mission accomplishment.

13003. RAID PATROLS

A raid is a surprise attack on an enemy force or installation with the attacking force withdrawing after accomplishing its mission. Raids destroy or capture enemy personnel or equipment, destroy installations, or free friendly personnel who have been captured by the enemy. Patrolling techniques are used in planning and when moving to and from the objective. (Refer to MCWP 3-41.2, *Raids*.) Surprise, firepower, and

violence of action are the keys to a successful raid. Patrols achieve surprise by attacking—

- 1 When the enemy is least prepared (e.g., during periods of poor visibility such as darkness, rain, fog, or snow).
- 1 From an unexpected direction. (This might be accomplished by approaching through a swamp or other seemingly impassable terrain.)
- 1 With concentration of firepower at critical points within the objective.

Planning

A successful raid requires detailed planning. The leader of a combat patrol engaged in raiding must anticipate probable situations and decide upon definite courses of action to meet them. Rehearsals are imperative.

A raid patrol conducts such missions as destroying an enemy outpost or seizing prisoners from an observation post or lightly defended position.

While preparing for the mission, the patrol leader requests fire support required for the accomplishment of the mission. If practical, artillery and mortars should be employed to isolate the objective to prevent movement of enemy reinforcements into the area.

Execution

The leader's plan must be detailed and complete. All of the considerations outlined in chapter 11 must be covered. Patrol formations must provide for ease of control and all-around security while moving to and from the objective area and provide for rapid and coordinated deployment of the various units once the objective area is reached. The leader's plan usually includes the encirclement of the hostile position—either physically or by fire—in order to isolate it during the assault.

The final simultaneous assault against the objective develops when enemy defensive fires at the objective are suppressed by either friendly fire superiority or surprise. The assault is covered by the fire of the unit assigned the function of support by fire.

Grenades, SMAWs, and demolitions are most effective for clearing bunkers.

Security units are posted to isolate the objective. The patrol leader signals them when the withdrawal begins. As a minimum, security is on each flank and to the rear (at the objective rally point).

Actions at the Objective

The patrol leader halts the patrol near the objective at the final preparation position. Security is established and the leader's reconnaissance is made with appropriate subordinate leaders. When the leaders return to the patrol, they confirm previous plans or announce any changes. Movements are arranged so all units reach their positions simultaneously. This improves the patrol's capability for decisive action, if prematurely detected by the enemy.

The teams of the security element move to positions to secure the objective rally point, give early warning of enemy approach, block avenues of approach into—and prevent enemy escape from—the objective area. As the assault element moves into position, the security element informs the patrol leader of all enemy activity, firing only if detected or on the patrol leader's order. Once the assault element commences action, the security element prevents enemy entry into or escape from the objective area. The security element covers the withdrawal of the assault element (and support element, if employed) to the objective rally point, withdrawing only upon order or prearranged signal.

As the assault element approaches the objective, it deploys early enough to permit immediate assault if detected by the enemy. Each team uses stealth while moving into proper position. On command, or if one or more of the assault element is detected and fired upon by the enemy, the support element opens fire to neutralize the objective, then ceases or shifts fire according to prearranged plans and signals. As supporting fires cease or shift, the assault element assaults the objective. Demolition, search, and other teams are protected by the assault element while they work. On order, the assault element withdraws to the objective rally point.

If a support element is employed, its leader deploys teams to provide fire support for the assault element. Each member of the support element must know the scheme of maneuver to be used by the assault element, specific targets or areas to be neutralized by fire, and the signals that will be employed to commence, shift, and cease fires. The support element withdraws on order of the patrol leader. At the objective rally point,

the patrol leader quickly reorganizes the patrol and begins the return movement to friendly lines.

13004. CONTACT PATROLS

General

Contact patrols establish and/or maintain contact to the front, flanks or rear by—

- 1 Establishing contact with an enemy force when the definite location of the force is unknown.
- 1 Maintaining contact with enemy forces through direct and/or indirect fires, or observation.
- 1 Avoiding decisive engagement with the enemy.

Task Organization and Equipment

Task organization and equipment depend on the known enemy situation and anticipated enemy contact. A patrol sent out to establish contact with an enemy force is organized, armed, and equipped to overcome resistance of light screening forces in order to gain contact with the main enemy force. It is not organized and equipped to engage the main enemy forces in combat. Communication is paramount; radios must be reliable over the entire distance covered.

Actions at the Objective

The patrol leader selects a series of objectives. Once an objective is reached, the patrol leader initiates a planned set of actions in order to establish and maintain contact with the enemy. These plans and actions are guided by the missions to establish or maintain contact—not to engage in decisive combat. Contact with the enemy is maintained for the purposes of surveillance, applying pressure, and preventing seizure of the initiative. If the contact patrol becomes decisively engaged with the enemy, many of the tasks originally assigned to the patrol cannot be accomplished, since the enemy has seized the initiative and friendly forces are not forced to react.

13005. AMBUSH PATROLS

General

An ambush is a surprise attack from a concealed position upon a moving or temporarily halted target. It is one of the oldest and most effective types of military actions. Ambush patrols conduct ambushes of enemy patrols, resupply columns, and convoys. The intent of an ambush is to place the enemy in a dilemma where staying in the kill zone or attempting to move out of it prove equally lethal. The ambush may include an assault to close with and decisively engage the enemy, or the attack may be by fire only.

Purpose of Ambushes

Ambushes are executed for the general purpose of reducing the enemy's over-all combat effectiveness and for the specific purpose of destroying its units. The cumulative effect of many small ambushes on enemy units lowers enemy troop morale and harasses the enemy force as a whole.

Destruction is the primary purpose of an ambush because loss of men killed or captured, and loss of equipment and supplies destroyed or captured, reduces the overall combat effectiveness of the enemy.

Harassment, though less apparent than physical damage, is a secondary purpose of ambushes. Frequent ambushes force the enemy to divert men from other missions to guard convoys, troop movements, and carrying parties. When enemy patrols fail to accomplish their mission because they are ambushed, the enemy is deprived of valuable information. A series of successful ambushes causes the enemy to be less aggressive and more defensive minded. His men become apprehensive, overly cautious, reluctant to go on patrols, seek to avoid night operations, are more subject to confusion and panic if ambushed, and in general, decline in effectiveness.

Classification of Ambushes

A *deliberate ambush* is one in which prior information about the enemy permits detailed planning before the patrol departs for the ambush site. Information needed to plan a deliberate ambush includes the size, composition, and organization of the force to be ambushed; how the force operates; and the time it will

pass certain points or areas. A deliberate ambush may be planned for such targets as—

- ┆ Any force if sufficient prior information is known.
- ┆ Enemy patrols that establish patterns by frequent use of the same routes or habitually depart and re-enter their own areas at the same point.
- ┆ Logistic columns.
- ┆ Troop movements.

An *ambush of opportunity* is conducted when available information does not permit detailed planning before the patrol departs. This is the type of ambush that an infantry unit normally conducts. An ambush of opportunity should not be confused with a hasty ambush. An ambush of opportunity is a planned ambush; a hasty ambush is an immediate action. In planning for an ambush of opportunity, the patrol must be prepared to execute any of several courses of action based on the types of targets that may be ambushed and must rehearse prior to departure. The course of action taken is determined when the opportunity for ambush arises.

The patrol leader may be directed to reconnoiter an area for a suitable ambush site, set up at the site selected, and execute an ambush against the first profitable target that appears.

The patrol may depart just after dark, move to a specific point, observe until a designated time, ambush the first profitable target after that time, and return before daylight.

A *hasty ambush* is an immediate action where the patrol makes visual contact with an enemy force and has time to establish an ambush without being detected. The actions for a hasty ambush must be well rehearsed and accomplished through the use of hand and arm signals given from the patrol leader.

Types of Ambushes

There are two types of ambushes: point and area. The *point ambush* is one where forces are deployed to attack along a single killing zone. The *area ambush* is one where forces are deployed as multiple related point ambushes.

A point ambush, whether independent or part of an area ambush, is positioned along the enemy's expected route of approach. Formation of the forces conducting the ambush is important because, to a great extent, the

formation determines whether a point ambush is able to deliver the heavy volume of highly concentrated fire necessary to isolate, trap, and destroy the enemy.

The ambush formation to be used is determined by careful consideration of possible formations and the advantages and disadvantages of each in relation to—

- ┆ Terrain.
- ┆ Visibility.
- ┆ Forces.
- ┆ Weapons and equipment.
- ┆ Ease or difficulty of control.
- ┆ Target to be attacked.
- ┆ Combat situation.

For a detailed discussion of ambush formation, see appendix D.

Ambush Operation Terms

The *ambush site* is the location where an ambush is established.

The *killing zone* is that portion of an ambush site where fires are concentrated to trap, isolate, and destroy the target. On little-traveled roads, an obstacle placed in a defile, in the woods, on a bridge or on a steep upgrade can be used effectively to force vehicles to halt, and thus render the occupants vulnerable to attack. Antitank mines may be emplaced and the occupants of the wrecked vehicle killed or captured while still dazed by the explosion.

A *near ambush* is a point ambush where the attacking force is located within reasonable assaulting distance of the killing zone (50 meters is a guide). A near ambush is most often conducted in close terrain, such as a jungle or heavy woods.

A *far ambush* is a point ambush where the attack force is located beyond reasonable assaulting distance of the killing zone (beyond 50 meters is a guide). A far ambush may be more appropriate in open terrain offering good fields of fire or when the target will be attacked by fire only.

Factors for a Successful Ambush Patrol

There are many factors that give the ambush its best chance of success. The ideal situation would be to position the ambush on favorable terrain and have detailed planning completed beforehand.

The patrol leader of an ambush looks for the most favorable terrain in which the enemy is canalized between two obstacles with limited opportunity to attack or escape. Suitable areas include defiles, small clearings, bends in trails, and steep grades. Dense undergrowth adjacent to the ambush site permits observation from concealed positions. The ambush patrol should have maximum cover and concealment, not only for the firing positions, but for the routes of withdrawal. The enemy should be in an area offering as little protection from fire as possible. Favorable fields of fire include stretches of road, trail or open ground of at least 100 meters for machine guns and 15 meters for rifle fire and grenades. The ambush site can be improved by constructing obstacles—such as felled trees, wire, land mines, or booby traps—to impede the enemy.

Planning

A deliberate ambush or an ambush of opportunity requires thorough planning.

A deliberate ambush plan is based on extensive knowledge of the enemy and terrain, and is planned and rehearsed in great detail. A physical reconnaissance of the ambush site is made during the preparation phase and information gained is incorporated into the plan. All likely immediate actions of the enemy when ambushed are examined. Planned counteractions are developed and rehearsed.

In planning an ambush of opportunity, any available information on the enemy and terrain is used. A tentative plan for the ambush that incorporates all anticipated actions is developed and rehearsed. However, the bulk of planning is done concurrently during the patrol leader's reconnaissance of the prospective ambush site. In a rapidly developing situation, hasty ambush immediate action is employed.

The route and ambush site considerations apply to both deliberate ambushes and ambushes of opportunity. A primary route that allows the patrol to enter the ambush site from the rear is planned. Entering the prospective killing zone is avoided. If the killing zone must be entered to place mines or explosives, care is taken to remove any tracks and signs that might alert the enemy and compromise the ambush. If mines or explosives are to be placed on the far side of the ambush site, or if the appearance of the site from the enemy's viewpoint is to be checked, a wide detour is made around the killing zone. Care is

taken to remove any tracks that might reveal the ambush. An alternate route from the ambush site to the objective rally point, as in other patrols, is planned.

Maps and aerial photographs are used to carefully analyze the terrain. When possible, an on-the-ground reconnaissance of the ambush site is made prior to occupation. Obvious ambush sites are avoided as the element of surprise is even more difficult to achieve in these areas. An ambush site must provide for—

- ┆ Favorable fields of fire.
- ┆ Occupation and preparation of concealed positions.
- ┆ Canalization of the target into the killing zone. (An ideal killing zone restricts the enemy on all sides, confining him to an area where he can be quickly and completely destroyed. Natural obstacles, such as cliffs, streams, embankments, or steep grades, are used whenever possible to force vehicles to slow down. Man-made obstacles, such as barbed wire, mines, and craters in the roads, are used to supplement natural obstacles.)
- ┆ Covered routes of withdrawal that enable the ambush force to break contact.
- ┆ Avoidance of enemy pursuit by fire.

Occupation of Ambush Site

The surrounding area is searched for enemy patrols prior to occupation of the ambush site. Ambush formations are used to physically deploy the patrol in a manner to inflict maximum destruction upon the enemy and to provide maximum security to the patrol. Ambush formations are contained in appendix D.

Positions

The patrol is moved into the ambush site from the objective rally point. Security is positioned first to prevent surprise while the ambush is being established. Automatic weapons are then positioned so each can fire along the entire killing zone. If this is not possible, overlapping sectors of fire are provided to cover the entire killing zone. The patrol leader then selects his position, located so he can tell when to initiate the ambush. Riflemen and grenadiers are positioned and sectors of fire are assigned to cover any dead space left by the automatic weapons. The patrol leader sets a time by which positions are to be prepared. Patrol members clear fields of fire and prepare positions in that order, with attention to camouflage for both.

Suitable Objective Rally Point

An easily located objective rally point is selected and made known to all patrol members. The objective rally point is located far enough from the ambush site so that it will not be overrun if the enemy assaults the ambush. Routes of withdrawal to the objective rally point are reconnoitered. Situation permitting, each man walks the route he is to use and picks out checkpoints. When the ambush is to be executed at night, each man must be able to follow his route in the dark. After the ambush has been executed, and the search of the killing zone completed, the patrol is withdrawn quickly but quietly, on signal, to the objective rally point where it reorganizes for the return march. If the ambush was not successful and the patrol is pursued, withdrawal may be by bounds. The last group may arm mines, previously placed along the withdrawal route, to further delay pursuit.

Local Security

Security must be maintained. Security elements do not usually participate in the initial attack, but protect the rear and flanks, and cover the withdrawal.

Patience

The Marines of the ambush force must control themselves so that the ambush is not compromised. Patience and self-discipline are exercised by remaining still and quiet while waiting for the target to appear, particularly if the patrol occupies the ambush site well ahead of the arrival of the enemy. Patience is necessary so as not to alert the enemy to the presence of the ambush.

Surprise

Surprise must be achieved, or the attack is not an ambush. If complete surprise cannot be achieved, it must be so nearly complete that the target is not aware of the ambush until too late for effective reaction. Surprise is achieved by careful planning, preparation, and execution so that targets are attacked when, where, and in a way for which they are least prepared.

Coordinated Fires

Properly timed and delivered fires contribute heavily to the achievement of surprise, as well as to destruction of the enemy. The lifting or shifting of fires must be equally precise; otherwise, the assault is delayed and the enemy has an opportunity to recover and react. All weapons, mines, and demolitions are

positioned and all fires, including those of available artillery and mortars, are coordinated to achieve the following results:

- ┆ Isolation of the killing zone to prevent the enemy's escape or reinforcement.
- ┆ Surprise delivery of a large volume of highly concentrated fires into the killing zone.

Control

Close control of the patrol is maintained during movement to, occupation of, and withdrawal from the ambush site. This is best achieved through rehearsals and establishment and maintenance of good communications. When the enemy approaches, the temptation to open fire before the signal is given is resisted. The patrol leader must effectively control all elements of the ambush force. Control is most critical at the time the enemy approaches the killing zone. Control measures must provide for—

- ┆ Early warning of enemy approach.
- ┆ Fire control. Withhold fire until the enemy has moved into the killing zone, then open fire at the proper time.
- ┆ Initiation of appropriate action, if the ambush is prematurely detected. Individual patrol members must be prepared to react if detected by the enemy prior to the initiation of the ambush.
- ┆ Timely and orderly withdrawal of the ambush force from the ambush site and movement to the objective rally point.

It is important to remember that an ambush patrol should have four distinct signals: one to open fire (with an alternate signal to open fire to be used at the same time as the primary); a signal to cease fire or shift fire; a signal to assault or search the killing zone; and a signal to withdraw. The signal to open fire should meet two criteria: first, it should be the firing of a weapon that will kill the enemy; secondly, it should be a weapon reliable in any weather condition. A good primary signal is a Claymore mine, and an alternate signal would be a closed bolt weapon (M16A2). Open bolt weapons (M240G, M249) should not be relied upon to initiate an ambush.

Execution of an Ambush

The manner in which the patrol executes an ambush depends primarily on whether the ambush's purpose is

harassment or destruction. To a lesser degree, the execution of the ambush is determined by whether the ambush is deliberate or an ambush of opportunity.

When the primary purpose is harassment, the patrol seals off the area with security teams to prevent enemy reinforcement and escape. Maximum damage is inflicted with demolitions and automatic weapons fire. The patrol delivers a very heavy volume of fire for a short time and withdraws quickly and quietly. The patrol avoids being seen by the enemy.

When the primary purpose of the patrol is destruction, the area is sealed off with security units. Maximum damage is inflicted with demolitions, antitank weapons, and automatic weapons fire from the support team or element. When these fires cease or shift, an assault is launched into the killing zone with heavy fire and violence to complete destruction. The assault unit provides security, while designated teams search and/or capture personnel and destroy vehicles and equipment. On the patrol leader's command, or by prearranged signal, all units withdraw to the objective rally point and move out quickly.

When the patrol's primary purpose is to obtain supplies or capture equipment, security units seal off the area. Demolitions and weapons are used to disable vehicles. The assault unit must use care to ensure its fire does not damage the desired supplies or equipment. Designated teams secure the desired items; other teams then destroy enemy vehicles and equipment.

The most successful ambush is one where the attacker is deployed and concealed in such a way that the enemy will unknowingly be surrounded by fire. The usual method is for the attackers to deploy themselves along a trail or route the enemy will travel. The enemy is permitted to pass by the center of the attacker's force so that the attack can be made from the front, flank, and/or rear. One or two men are posted well forward and to the rear along the route to prevent any enemy from escaping. All fires should be delivered simultaneously on a prearranged signal.

An effective method of luring the enemy is for an ambushing patrol to cut communication or electrical wire. The patrol then deploys and ambushes the line repair crew when it arrives. Since the line crew may be protected by riflemen, the attackers must be careful to engage the entire party.

Vehicles and foot personnel moving on well-established transportation routes can sometimes be captured

by altering or moving directional signs so as to divert the enemy into an area where he can be more readily attacked. The attack can best be accomplished at an obstacle, such as a stream or gully, that forces the enemy to stop or slow down.

After the enemy has been ambushed and destroyed, the unit quickly withdraws over a prearranged route to the objective rally point. Speed is very important, since the noise of the ambush could alert other nearby enemy units.

13006. SECURITY PATROLS

General

Security patrols are assigned missions that may or may not require them to engage the enemy. They are used in proximity to defensive positions, on the flanks of advancing units or in rear areas. Purposes of security patrols are to detect infiltration by the enemy, destroy infiltrators, and protect against surprise and ambush.

In any situation where there is a threat of attack, such as a rear area threatened by guerrillas or a facility that is under threat of a terrorist attack, all Marines, not just the infantry, must know how to conduct a security patrol.

In just the offensive operations, infantry units provide security patrols to screen their flanks, areas, and routes. Whereas, in defensive operations, security patrols are used to prevent the enemy from infiltrating an area, detect and destroy infiltrators, and prevent surprise attacks. In rear areas, particularly when there is guerrilla or terrorist threat, the requirement to conduct security patrols increases for all Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) units ashore, particularly aviation and combat service support units.

Task Organization and Equipment

Generally, a Marine rifle squad or similar sized organization is considered ideal for security patrols. Communications are important to higher headquarters so that they receive information from the patrol; and communications are important to the patrol to request fire support, etc. The radio the patrol carries must have the range necessary for higher headquarters to be able to receive transmissions from anywhere along the

patrol route, and the patrol must have a secondary means of reporting (i.e., flare signals upon contact).

Patrol Procedures

All of the procedures presented in previous sections are to be used in security patrols.

Patrol Planning

Security patrol planning includes—

- ┆ Rehearsing prior to departing friendly lines.
- ┆ Maintaining communications.
- ┆ Support by organic weapons.
- ┆ Reinforced if necessary.
- ┆ Using varied routes and never establishing a routine pattern.
- ┆ Staying within proximity of friendly units.

Patrol Techniques

Within rear areas, an irregular pattern of patrol is established and changed daily. Outside of friendly lines it would be prudent to establish a definite preplanned route for the patrol, of which all adjacent units know the route. The parent unit commander establishes frequent checkpoints for control. If checkpoints are designated, the patrol leader treats them as individual objectives to be searched and cleared.

The patrol has a definite plan as to what to do if contact with enemy is made, how to break contact, how to defend itself, and how to call for supporting fires. It is imperative that patrol members know what to do if they become split or separated; i.e., location of rally points and how to be recovered.

13007. URBAN PATROLS

General

As national strategy continues to focus on regional vice global conflicts, the Marine Corps will continue to conduct urban operations in various operational environments. Cities and towns are often the center of economic and political power and are therefore extremely vulnerable to urban insurgent activities and violence. The lessons learned from recent operations in Somalia, as well as experiences gained by British

forces in Northern Ireland, provide the foundations of urban patrolling.

Enemy Forces

Enemy forces in urbanized areas range from organized military forces to low intensity engagements with insurgents, such as terrorists or local gangs. For Marine Corps doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for dealing with the higher intensity threat in urbanized areas, refer to MCWP 3-35.3, *Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain*.

Common Threat Tactics

Cities provide cover and concealment for both friendly forces and enemy forces. However, enemy forces generally find active support only in certain areas of the town or city. The urban-based insurgent or terrorist usually lives in a friendly community or in one where the people are too frightened to withhold support or inform anyone about the situation. The insurgent or terrorist normally maintains close contact with leaders and others friendly to the cause. The enemy will often have efficient communication and intelligence systems, sometimes involving women and children to provide cover for its activities.

The urban insurgent normally cannot, like his rural counterpart, establish bases and recruit large military units. He is generally an individual or a member of a relatively small group. He relies on the cover afforded by the city's populace and terrorizing them to coerce loyalty or support.

Urbanized areas tend to give the insurgent and/or terrorist many opportunities to initiate action and gain advantage. The normal presence of large numbers of people in cities provides the foe an opportunity to mass crowds quickly and manipulate demonstrations easily. The presence of women and children during mass demonstrations may restrict the courses of action available to friendly forces. Major incidents stemming from overreaction or excessive use of force by friendly forces may provide the insurgent with propaganda material. Publicity is easily gained in an urbanized area because major incidents can't be completely concealed from the local population. Insurgent successes can be exploited to discredit the ability of host nation police, friendly forces, and the civil government, and gain recognition for the insurgents' cause.

The urban insurgent or terrorist can usually be expected to operate more boldly than his rural counterpart. This is reflected in the enemy's tactics. A single

sniper or bomber may be the norm in the urbanized area, whereas the rural threat is generally the more conventional ambush. In urbanized areas, explosive devices can be easily emplaced and used effectively against large groups or select individuals. Enemy forces may be expected to employ the following tactics in urbanized areas:

- 1 Using local communications, such as radio and newspapers, for propaganda purposes.
- 1 Disrupting industry and public services through strikes and sabotage.
- 1 Generating widespread disturbances designed to stretch the resources of the security force.
- 1 Creating incidents or massing crowds in order to lure the patrol or reaction force into a trap.
- 1 Provoking security forces in the hope that they may react improperly, therefore discrediting the security force by means of propaganda.
- 1 Sniping at roadblocks, outposts, sentries, and patrols.
- 1 Attacking friendly bases with rockets and mortars.
- 1 Planting explosive devices, either against specific targets or indiscriminately, to cause confusion and destruction, and lower public morale and confidence.
- 1 Using ambush patrols.
- 1 Firing on friendly helicopters.

Principles of Urban Patrolling

Patrolling in an urban environment often presents conditions considerably different and often more complex than those encountered in rural and less inhabited areas. While the principles of patrolling are still relevant in an urban situation, the nature of urban patrolling has led to the development of six specific urban patrolling principles. They are—

1. **Depth.** The restrictive, canalizing nature of urbanized terrain usually limits a patrol's ability to disperse laterally. To prevent the patrol from bunching up, patrols normally maintain dispersion along the length of a patrol formation.
2. **Mutual Support.** The positioning of units in-depth within the patrol enables one unit to cover another unit's movement and facilitates immediate action during various situations. Aircraft, vehicles, and snipers also provide good mutual support.
3. **Deception and Pattern Avoidance.** Deception and pattern avoidance are normally a planning consideration of the headquarters directing the entire patrolling plan. By varying patrol routes, durations, and departure times, hostile actions commonly used against urban patrols—such as

enemy ambushes, and roadblocks—are more difficult to plan and may be preempted.

4. **Intra-patrol Communication.** Elements of an urban patrol must have the means to communicate with each other. Ideally, each element will possess a radio enabling it to remain in continuous communication that facilitates rapid response and reporting to higher headquarters, reaction force coordination, and coordination of actions with other patrols or fire support agencies.

5. **Establishment of a Reaction Force.** The nature of urbanized terrain (its compartmentalization) makes urban patrols more vulnerable to a wider range of hostile actions. The requirement for immediate, coordinated reinforcement of a patrol is best satisfied by employment of an established reaction force. The reaction force requires superior mobility (relative to the enemy's) and fire support to be effective for this task.

6. **Three-Dimensional Threat.** Patrolling in an urban environment requires constant attention to its three-dimensional aspect; hostile actions can originate from rooftops, streets, subsurface levels or combinations of all levels at once.

Classification of Urban Patrols

Mission

The vast majority of urban patrols are overt in nature, with their presence readily apparent to the local populace. Most urban patrols are combat vice reconnaissance patrols. The vast majority of urban patrols are security patrols. However, units may be assigned secondary tasks of reconnoitering specific or general areas along the patrol routes.

Raids normally involve a swift penetration of an objective to secure information, confuse the enemy or destroy installations. Raids include a planned withdrawal upon completion of the assigned mission.

Movement

Means of movement are as follows:

- 1 Dismounted: movement on foot.
- 1 Vehicular: movement by motorized, mechanized or armored vehicle.
- 1 Helicopterborne: movement by helicopter, however, helicopterborne patrols will usually involve dismounted or vehicular movement after patrol insertion.
- 1 Combination: movement using a combination of methods.

Task-Organization

Units task-organize to meet the specific requirements of the mission and situation. The Marine rifle squad is ideally suited for urban patrolling and can easily integrate attached specialists required by specific missions. Specialists who may accompany urban patrols include—

- ┆ Interrogator-translator team (ITT) and counterintelligence team (CIT) Marines.
- ┆ Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel.
- ┆ Members of host nation or allied military forces.
- ┆ Interpreters.
- ┆ Local community leaders.
- ┆ Local law enforcement officers.
- ┆ Public affairs personnel escorting media representatives.

Dismounted Patrol Organization

Patrols should maintain unit integrity (fire team and/or squad) in organizing elements for an urban patrol. Similar to reconnaissance patrols, the vulnerability of urban patrols necessitates that all elements must provide for their own security in addition to the combat aspect of the mission. Combined assault and security teams are an effective method to organize for all-around security.

Urban Patrol Base Operations

Urban patrols may operate from an established patrol base that may be located within the unit's assigned area of operations or an area designated for a patrol. The patrol base should be located in a building used exclusively for this purpose. Patrol bases may also be located within a larger site that houses other agencies, such as a higher headquarters' command echelon.

If located within a larger site, the patrol base will be included in the overall facility security plan. If isolated, the patrol base must consider the following security factors:

- ┆ External security:
 - ┆ Barrier plan.
 - ┆ Sentry posts.
 - ┆ Local security patrols.
- ┆ Internal security:
 - ┆ Covered positions for all Marines.
 - ┆ Contingency plan for hostile actions against patrol base.

The Reaction Force

The high probability of an urban patrol becoming involved in a hostile or volatile incident requires the establishment of a dedicated reaction force for rapid reinforcement, support or extraction of the patrol. Ideally, the reaction force is—

- ┆ Large enough and task-organized in a manner that it can meet and quickly defeat the expected threat. Reaction forces are normally tiered with a lead element (normally one-third of the unit's size) and a main body force (the other remaining two-thirds of the force). Reaction force response times routinely are determined in advance by higher headquarters.
- ┆ Ready to respond immediately.
- ┆ Motorized or mechanized and supported by close air support and other fire support.
- ┆ Familiar with the area of operations.
- ┆ Briefed on the patrol's plans and monitors the status of patrols in progress.
- ┆ Task-organized to be multimission capable.
- ┆ Able to communicate with the higher headquarters, fire support assets, patrol base, and the patrol.
- ┆ Controlled by higher headquarters, once employed.

Patrol Preparation

Planning

Higher headquarters will—

- ┆ Designate the area for patrol.
- ┆ Provide intelligence briefs and updates.
- ┆ Ensure liaison with allied forces and the civilian populace.
- ┆ Provide special equipment and personnel required for the mission (scout snipers, public affairs officer, interpreters, etc.)
- ┆ Provide urban maps, photos, terrain models as required.
- ┆ Consider deception and pattern avoidance when issuing mission.
- ┆ Prescribe rules of engagement (ROE).

Intelligence Brief

An intelligence brief is conducted by the S-2 officer or representative prior to a patrol conducting its mission. The brief addresses the situation relevant to the specific patrol (e.g., routes, areas, updated enemy situations).

Coordination

Higher headquarters will effect liaison with adjacent and allied forces, as well as civil authorities and other agencies, having a possible effect on the patrol. The patrolling unit generally follows the same procedures as those used during patrol planning and execution in a jungle or forest environment.

The Urban Patrol Order or Warning Order

The Urban Patrol or Warning Orders use the same format and considerations as noted in this publication for patrolling. They rely heavily on a detailed terrain model, photographs, and subterranean construction to ensure complete understanding of the plan.

Rehearsals

The limited size of the patrol base usually precludes the need for full-scale rehearsals. Immediate action drills, such as crossing danger areas, are rehearsed in as much detail as possible, despite the limited available space.

Inspections

Initial and final inspections are conducted in the same manner as other patrols. Attached personnel must be fully integrated into the patrol and familiar with the plan and unit standing operating procedures (SOPs).

Conducting an Urban Patrol

Movement

Individual and unit movement considerations are generally the same as those for other patrols. However, urban environments require consideration of additional factors. Because of these factors, an urban patrol leader should—

- 1 Ensure that each movement within a patrol takes place under the observation or cover of another individual or element of the patrol.
- 1 Know where cover can be taken in the event of a hostile incident or action.
- 1 Be prepared for contact with civilians, especially children, during the patrol and be aware that they may intentionally attempt to distract patrol members.
- 1 Expect the presence of vehicles (both moving and stationary) along the patrol route.
- 1 Expect members of the patrol to be approached by dogs and what action to take if threatened.

Patrol Formations

Squad-sized Patrols. The need for immediate fire power outweighs the dangers of becoming canalized. In contrast to other types of patrols, the headquarters element of an urban patrol will normally locate at the lead of the patrol column. This allows the patrol leader greater flexibility through control of two combined assault and security (A&S) teams. The leaders of these elements tactically stagger their members on each side of the road (see fig. 13-1 on page 13-12).

A&S teams follow in trace of the headquarters element and maintain unit integrity on separate sides of the street. One unit will remain slightly to the rear to create a staggered interval between Marines on either side of the street. This allows A&S teams to take lateral routes in support of headquarters element without having to cross a street to do so.

Platoon-sized Patrols. Squads will generally travel abreast of each other, moving along parallel routes. The interval between squad-sized units and/or teams is situation-dependent, but is usually between 100 and 150 meters (roughly two city blocks; this often prevents visual contact between the units). The intent is to create less of a target to an aggressor, yet still allow the patrol to quickly react to an incident. Individuals within units or teams will move in a staggered column as in a squad-sized patrol. See figure 13-2, which is located on page 13-13).

Night

Night patrols will generally be at least squad-sized and will generally use the same formation as that for day patrols. At night, it may be necessary to close distances between individuals or elements to maintain control. Consideration should be given to the use of night vision devices and thermal weapons sights.

Navigation, Control, and Security Measures

The patrol leader is ultimately responsible for the navigation. The headquarters element normally functions as the base unit during movement. The designated navigator is normally assigned from within the headquarters element. City maps are often inaccurate or outdated; however, when used with aerial photographs and other navigational aids, they can be effective for urban navigation.

Checkpoints and phase lines should be related to major streets (alleys, buildings, bridges) for easy identification. Arrival at checkpoints and crossing of phase

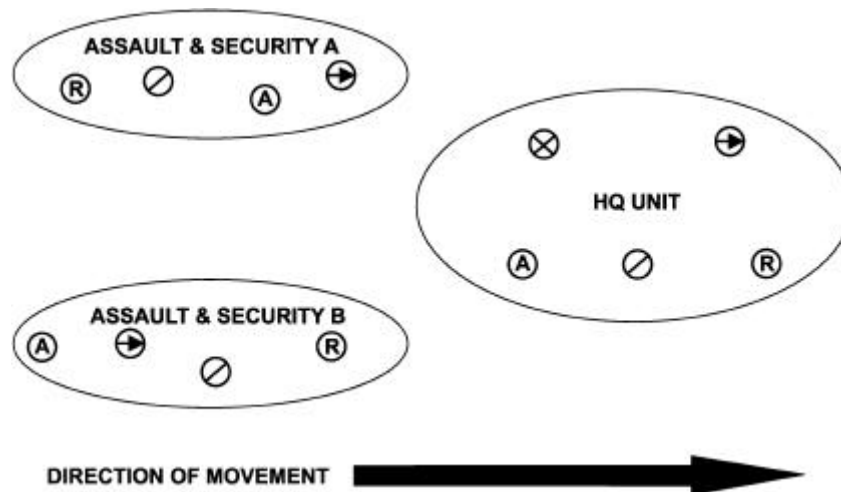


Figure 13-1. Squad-sized Dismounted Urban Patrol Formation.

lines should be relayed to higher headquarters using established brevity or codewords. A detailed patrol overlay is issued to both the reaction force and higher headquarters to keep them advised of routes and control measures used. A terrain model should be maintained at higher headquarters to aid in supervision and control of the patrol.

The use of camouflage should be limited to avoid frightening and confusing the local populace. The often overt nature of urban patrols may negate the need for camouflage. Patrols are sometimes deployed to show force presence and usually move on the urban street in plain view.

During daylight, patrols will routinely vary their rate of movement ranging from short halts to brief periods of double-timing. The British term for this urban patrolling technique is *hard-targeting*, meaning it makes the patrol harder for an enemy to target. Altering the rate of movement is intended to frustrate the enemy's ability to coordinate an attack or ambush against a targeted patrol.

Patrols should use short security halts, with Marines taking up mutually supporting firing positions. Marines must always work in pairs, ensuring mutual support. The last Marine in the element will provide rear security, but stays in his buddy's sight.

Individual Tasks

Individuals may be assigned collateral tasks performed throughout the patrol that may increase the

patrol's situational awareness. Individual tasks may include—

- ┆ Vehicle spotter: looks for suspicious or known insurgent vehicles.
- ┆ Personnel spotter: observes and attempts to recognize previously identified enemy in crowds.
- ┆ Talker: attempts to gain information from casual conversations with the local populace. (Talkers are usually subordinate leaders or Marines with foreign language skills.)
- ┆ Searcher: conducts physical searches of vehicles and personnel while other patrol members provide cover and security.
- ┆ Marksman: engages point targets when the tactical situation does not permit massed or high volume fire. Other patrol members provide security to cover the marksman's engagement.

Departure of Friendly Lines

Urban patrols must vary their departure times to prevent being ambushed while exiting the patrol base.

Individual elements will usually depart exits at staggered times and at different movement rates, especially where sentries cannot provide cover. (This technique is used when the environment adjacent to the patrol base is dangerous.)

Once an element has exited friendly lines, a short halt is conducted in a predetermined, covered initial rally point 50 to 100 meters from the base. This ensures all elements are in position before the patrol continues.

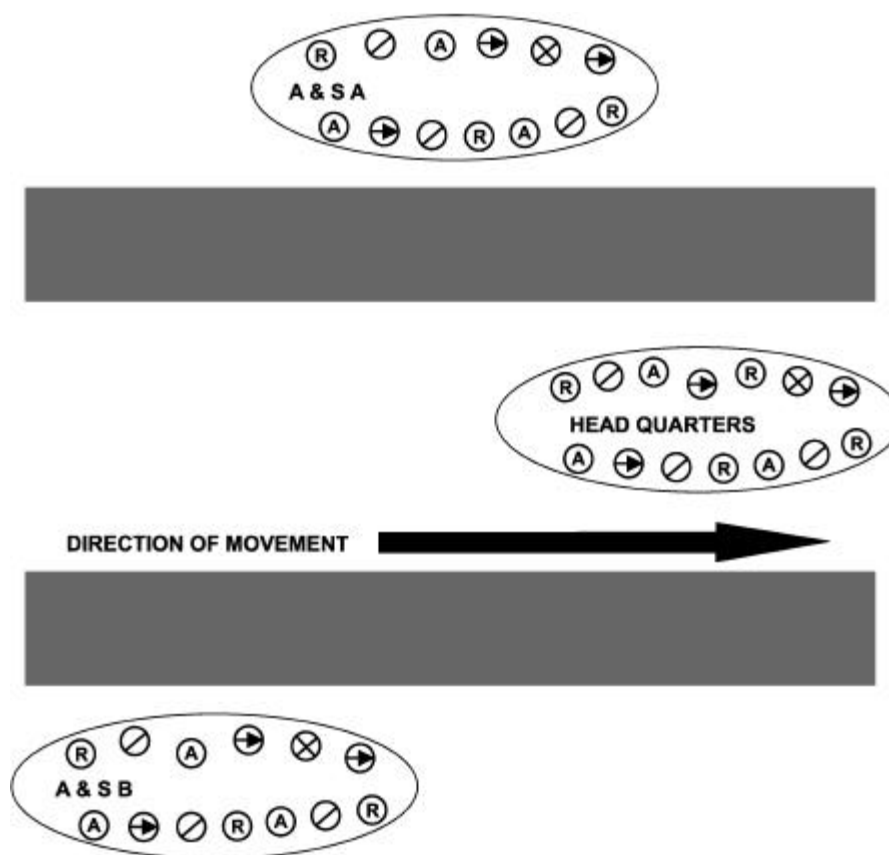


Figure 13-2. Platoon-sized Dismounted Urban Patrol Formations.

Exit points, routes from the base, departure techniques, and locations of IRPs should be varied constantly to avoid setting a pattern. This pattern avoidance may also include using vehicles to insert patrols away from the urban patrol base and employing empty vehicles as part of a deception plan.

Danger Areas

Urban patrols may encounter hundreds of danger areas during a single patrol. The three-dimensional threat requires keen situation awareness by every patrol member. Many danger areas can be dealt with simply by avoidance, while others require an adjustment of patrol formation, movement rate, etc. In the urban environment, places to be treated as danger areas are points that pose a major threat to the patrol, such as local political and religious headquarters, weapons containment areas, roads and routes that canalize movement and direct fire, and any area with a history of repeated contact.

Near and far side rally points are designated and briefed during the issuance of the patrol order. Squad-sized formations may use the A&S teams to provide

flank security for the headquarters element and for each other. The headquarters element identifies the danger area and takes up a position on the near side of intersection. Individuals provide all-around security (see fig. 13-3 on page 13-14).

Two Marines (one from each A&S team) are designated to move through the headquarters element and establish respective firing positions on the near side of the danger area covering the patrol's near side flanks. They are followed by a second pair (again, one Marine from each A&S team) that moves across to the far side of the danger area and establishes respective firing positions covering the patrol's far side flanks (see fig. 13-4 on page 13-14).

Once near and far side flank security is established, the headquarters element moves across to the far side of danger area (see fig. 13-5 on page 13-15).

The remaining A&S team members then cross the danger area and join the headquarters element on the far side (see fig. 13-6 on page 13-15).

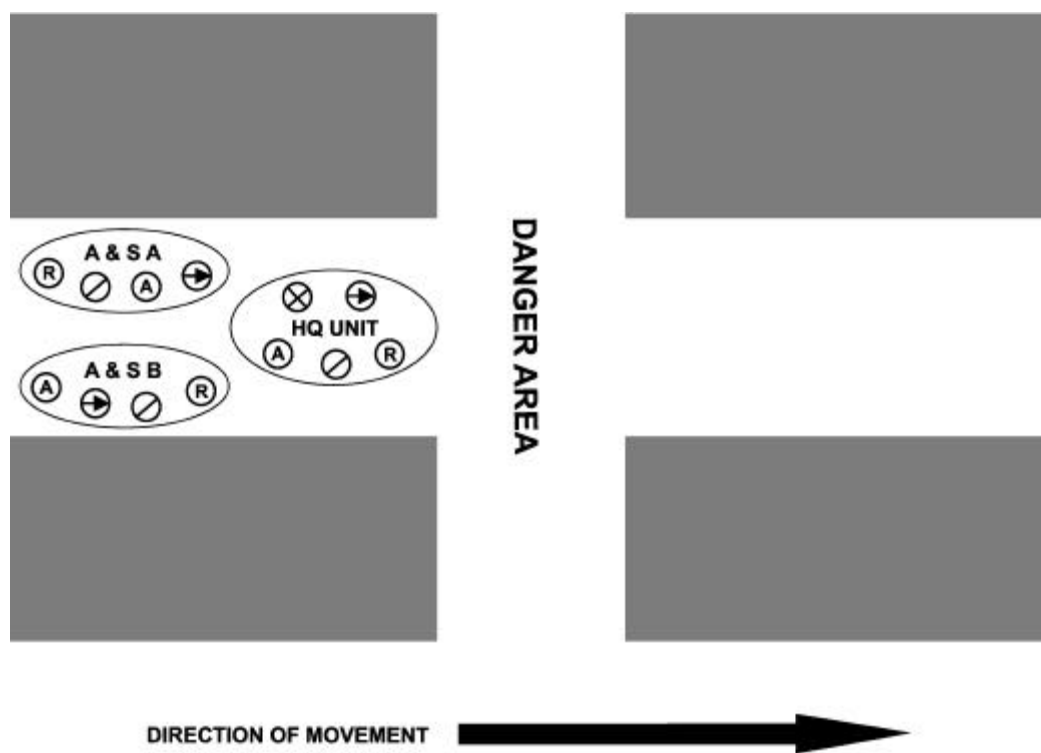


Figure 13-3. Approaching Danger Area.

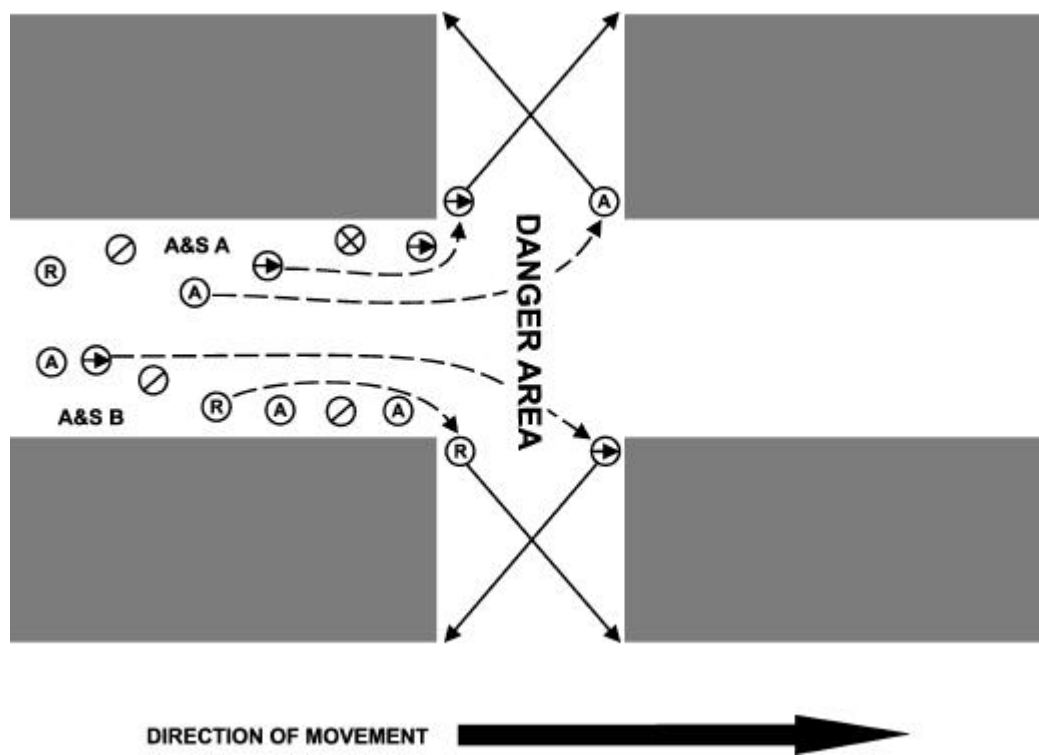


Figure 13-4. Securing Flanks.

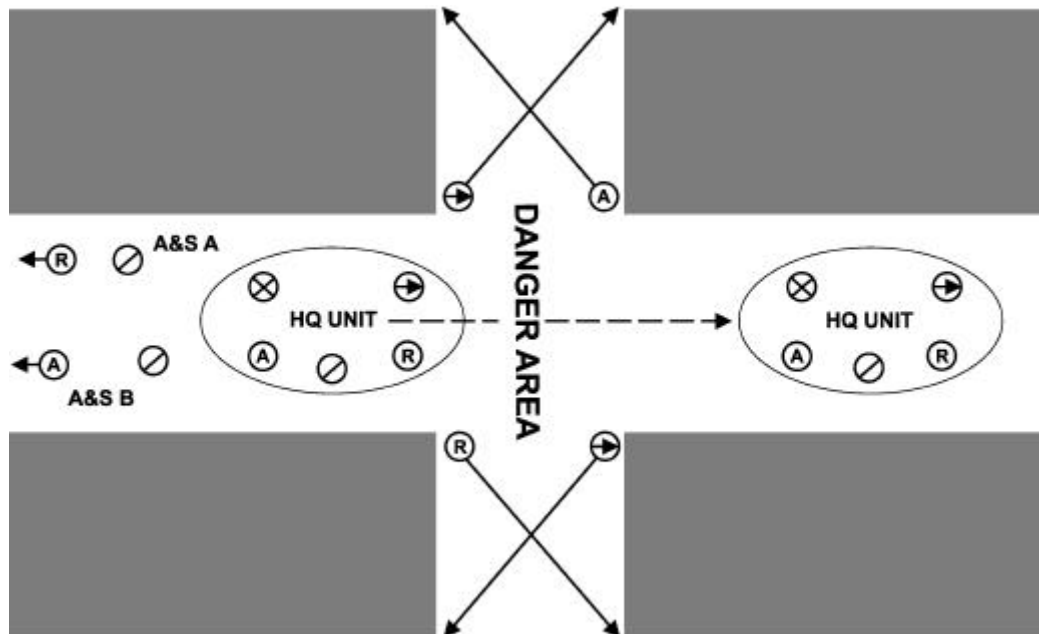


Figure 13-5. HQ Element Moves Through.

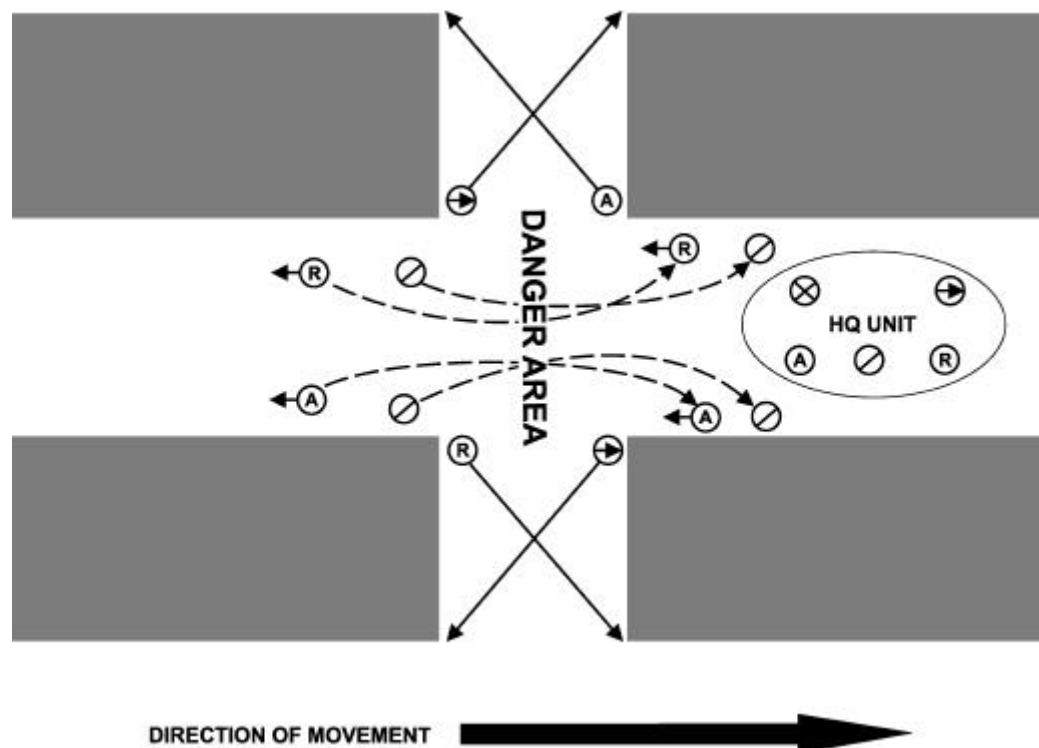


Figure 13-6. A&S Elements Move Through.

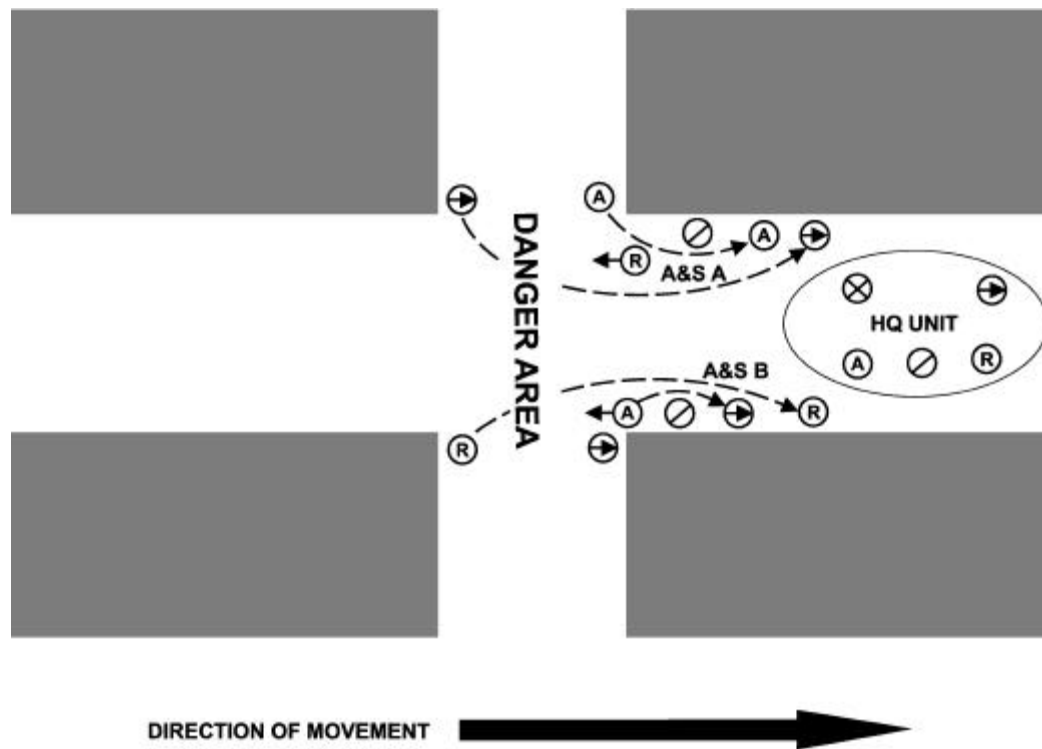


Figure 13-7. Patrol Resumes Movement Along Intended Route.

Once the trail A&S team members cross the danger area, they take up rear security and cover the movements of the near and far side flank security teams as they return to their positions in the patrol formation. The near side security team should collapse back first, followed by their far side counterparts. The patrol then resumes its advance away from the danger area (see fig. 13-7).

Interaction with Local Populace

Urban patrols must interact with the local populace. Patrols are at first a novelty to the civilians but can quickly become an unwelcome intrusion. The movement of the patrol must be fast enough to prevent the enemy from massing their fires upon it, but deliberate enough to ensure adequate security and mutual support. Patrol members must realize that they are usually the only Marines the local populace will encounter and that an inappropriate gesture, comment or act could lead to the deterioration of rapport between U.S. forces and the general population. Marines must remember that the vast majority of the individuals with whom they come in contact will be noncombatants attempting to survive in trying political, economic, and social situations.

Hostile incidents often seem to occur spontaneously, but there are usually indications that can alert Marines to imminent danger. The most obvious are the sudden alteration of normal routines, patterns, and attitudes of the local populace or other unusual activity. Some examples include—

- ┆ Observers on rooftops, in windows, etc., who are obviously tracking the patrol.
- ┆ The unusual absence of pedestrian traffic and people on porches.
- ┆ Stores, markets or street vendors closed suddenly or without explanation.
- ┆ Changes in civilian attitude toward patrol members.
- ┆ Unknown individuals or vehicles in the patrol area.
- ┆ Unfamiliar vehicles parked in the patrol area (possible car bomb).
- ┆ Roadblocks.
- ┆ Children throwing rocks at patrols to possibly draw the patrol's attention away from a more serious danger, such as a deliberate ambush.
- ┆ Vehicles riding unusually low due to overloading (possibly ferrying people, weapons, explosives).
- ┆ Agitators trying to provoke an incident with patrol members.

- | Absence of the usual stray dogs (dogs are adept at sensing danger and avoiding it).
 - | Anti-American graffiti suddenly appearing in the patrol area.
 - | Pictures of enemy leaders and martyrs posted in the patrol area.
 - | Civilian workers failing to appear at U.S. or friendly bases.
 - | Normal deliveries and pick-ups conducted late or early without reason.
 - | Sudden change of civilian sentiment in newspaper articles, radio broadcasts or other media.
 - | Women and children leaving to live elsewhere.
- | The patrol element or team leader in contact sends initial contact report to the patrol leader, who notifies higher headquarters.
 - | The element or team leader in contact determines appropriate cut-off positions and relays them to flanking elements or teams.
 - | The patrol element or team leader in contact continues to observe the firing point, but does not enter it due to the possibility of booby traps. Flank elements or teams set up along likely escape routes.
 - | The incident ends when either the sniper ceases fire or is neutralized.

Immediate Actions Upon Enemy Contact

Reaction to Sniping

Snipings are often executed from a single firing point, but coordinated snipings delivered from multiple points are not uncommon.

Patrol element or team leaders should constantly try to identify likely firing points and anticipate their own reactions to a possible shooting. Normally, snipers in an urban environment have a detailed withdrawal plan. Once a patrol comes into contact with a sniper, the patrol leader must immediately assess the situation and maneuver his patrol accordingly. The patrol's mission, location, size, ROE, and location of the threat often determine whether the patrol will attempt to neutralize the targeted sniper. If the patrol leader decides to kill or capture the sniper, he uses planned and rehearsed immediate actions to maneuver and counter the sniper's assault. The goal is to kill the sniper or cut off his escape and capture him. There are three immediate reactions to neutralizing a sniper: initial contact, immediate follow-up, and subsequent follow-up.

Initial Contact. The initial contact is made when the sniper fires the first shot. The patrol must react immediately and positively to get behind the firing position in order to kill or capture the gunman. The period of contact ends when the gunman is killed or captured, or the patrol element or team leader on the scene ends it. The following technique is the same for both squad- and platoon-sized patrols:

- | The element or team in contact attempts to identify the firing position and maneuvers designated marksman into position to return well-aimed and controlled fire. Other members of the patrol take up positions to cover the marksman's engagement.
- | The patrol element or team leader in contact sends initial contact report to the patrol leader, who notifies higher headquarters.
- | The element or team leader in contact determines appropriate cut-off positions and relays them to flanking elements or teams.
- | The patrol element or team leader in contact continues to observe the firing point, but does not enter it due to the possibility of booby traps. Flank elements or teams set up along likely escape routes.
- | The incident ends when either the sniper ceases fire or is neutralized.

Immediate Follow-Up. Regardless of the fate of the gunman, isolation of the firing point is necessary to prevent reinforcement and preserve forensic evidence (scent, spent casings, etc.). If not under fire, members of the patrol element or team cordon off the area surrounding the firing point. Flanking elements or teams maintain their positions and prevent civilians from entering the area. The patrol leader moves to link-up with the element or team in contact (if not his own), and makes an estimate of the situation. The patrol leader sends a SPOTREP to higher headquarters.

Subsequent Follow-Up. The aim of the subsequent follow-up is to use follow-on forces to clear the building of remaining resistance or to obtain evidence that can be used to capture the gunman. The patrol leader establishes a position where he can brief arriving units (reaction force commander, S-2 representative, EOD personnel, etc.). Once the arriving units have been briefed, recommendations are made to higher headquarters via radio. No one is allowed into the cordon without the patrol leader's approval.

Reaction to Becoming Decisively Engaged

If a patrol becomes decisively engaged from numerous firing positions, the following immediate action should be taken:

- | All patrol members move to available cover and return accurate fire on identified firing points.
- | The patrol leader assesses the situation and makes a decision to either request the reaction force or break contact.
- | If the reaction force is requested, the patrol will maintain its position until the reaction force arrives. The patrol should use fire and maneuver to gain better tactical positioning and support the arrival of the reaction force. When the reaction force arrives,

its commander may decide to either clear occupied buildings or cover the patrol during its extract.

Reaction to Bomb Threat or Discovery

The use of command-detonated explosive devices is a common ambush tactic employed by a terrorist or insurgent in an urban environment. The appropriate response to a reported threat or an actual discovery is generally involves four steps (known as the four Cs)—

1. The patrol leader **CONFIRMS** the presence of the suspicious item.
2. Without touching or moving anything suspicious, patrol elements or teams **CLEAR** the immediate danger area to a minimum of 100 meters. The area is cleared from the suspected device outward, inform civilians as to the reason for evacuation.
3. A&S teams establish a **CORDON** to secure the cleared area. Avenues of approach are cordoned off to keep people out and to protect EOD or engineer personnel clearing the device. The assistant patrol leader acts as the cordon commander and informs the patrol leader when the cordon is secure. An effective cordon technique is to tape off the area with engineer tape, creating both a physical and psychological boundary.
4. **CONTROL** of the area is maintained throughout the bomb clearing operation by the patrol leader. The patrol leader sends a report to a superior concerning details of the device (if known) and the area affected. The patrol leader coordinates with arriving personnel (EOD, engineers, etc.). The patrol leader maintains communication with the assistant patrol leader and keeps the Marines informed of the progress of the clearing operation.

Reaction to a Bomb Detonation

Bombs may be used by an insurgent as a means of initiating an ambush on mounted or dismounted patrols, in which case the actions for decisive engagement apply. Immediate action in response to an isolated explosion is similar to that used in reaction to a sniping and breaks down into the same three phases:

Initial Contact. The patrol leader attempts to identify the likely initiation point and sends an initial contact report to higher headquarters. If the bomb was command-detonated, the patrol leader sends his A&S teams deep to cut off the bombers' escape routes. Any casualties are moved a minimum of 100 meters from explosion and out of the line of sight to it.

Immediate Follow-Up. The A&S teams may need to maneuver to positions behind the likely initiation point

to cut off escape. Once in position, personnel checks are conducted and any suspects are detained. The patrol leader coordinates requests for required support (MEDEVAC, reaction force, etc.)

Subsequent Follow-Up. Due to the possibility of secondary detonations, the four Cs (confirm, clear, cordon, and control) can be conducted as in reaction to a bomb discovery or bomb threat.

Civil Disturbances

Urban patrols must prepare to react to spontaneous aggression by the local populace. In many cases, civil disturbances are organized by the enemy to draw dismounted patrols into a targeted area, or to distract them from enemy activity occurring elsewhere. Civil disturbances are generally divided into two categories: minor aggressive actions, and full-scale rioting.

Minor aggressive actions are activities characterized by rock-throwing or use of devices such as Molotov cocktails and may either be directed at the patrol or take place between different ethnic factions of the population. Minor aggressive actions are normally spontaneous in nature and may have minimal or limited objectives for the insurgents.

Full-scale rioting events are usually in response to another major event or incident that may enflame the populace. Full-scale riots are well-planned and orchestrated, with clear objectives or targets in mind. At times, patrols will need to attempt to maintain control of a civil disturbance situation; however, dismounted and mobile small unit patrols should generally avoid potential flashpoints. Procedures to handle civil disturbances are as follows:

1. The patrol leader reports the incident to headquarters and attempts to diffuse the crowd by talking to crowd leaders.
2. If the patrol leader determines the size of the disturbance is too large for the force to handle, the patrol should move away from the disturbance to a safer, more remote covered area and occupy positions to observe and report the situation to higher headquarters. To prevent the patrol from being pursued by the crowd, the patrol should move quickly and change direction, often at road junctions, to gain distance from it.

Patrol members should maintain dispersion to create a more difficult target. They should face the crowd at all times to see and avoid any projectiles thrown. Individual self-discipline must be maintained throughout the

disturbance. Marines charging into the crowd or throwing objects back at the crowd will only worsen the situation. If pursued or trapped, the patrol leader may consider using riot control agents (combat support, pepper gas, etc.) to disperse or slow a crowd's movement. The use of riot control agents must be authorized under the established ROE. If the patrol leader believes the situation is deteriorating beyond the patrol's ability to control it, the patrol leader should request the reaction force, which may be better equipped to handle a large riot or mob.

Break Contact

As with patrols in rural areas, the patrol leader may be forced to break contact as a result of decisive engagement with the enemy. On the basis of his estimate of the situation, the patrol leader will normally break contact in one of the following ways:

- 1 As a patrol, with elements providing cover for movement as defined by clock direction and distance.
- 1 As individual units/teams taking separate routes out of the area, then linking up at a designated rally point a safe distance away from the engagement.

As in any contact with enemy forces, smoke may be employed to screen movement. Fire support agencies can be utilized to suppress targets; riot control agents can be employed to disrupt enemy movement.

Reentry of Friendly Lines

The reentry of a dismounted patrol into an urban patrol base is no different from that of a patrol conducted in a rural area. The same planning considerations and control methods apply.

Missions Related to Urban Patrolling

House Calls

House calls missions are usually part of a coordinated effort to collect information within the area of operations. They involve obtaining up-to-date information on particular houses and occupants. When possible, local police should accompany patrols to do the actual talking to the occupants. If this is not possible, a technique that may be used by an urban patrol is—

- 1 A&S elements move to provide cover around the target house.
- 1 The headquarters element provides security just outside the house.

- 1 The patrol leader and one Marine for security enter the house, if invited. If not invited, they talk to the occupants on the doorstep. Patience and tact are required in requesting information. An interpreter should be present when language differences exist.

Vehicle Checkpoints

Urban terrorists or insurgents commonly use vehicles to transport personnel, weapons, explosives, and equipment. Civilian vehicles are often used for these purposes, creating the requirement to check as many vehicles as possible. While permanent, fortified checkpoints may be conducted along approaches into an urbanized area, dismounted patrols can be employed to establish hasty vehicle checkpoints to stop vehicles and to keep the enemy off-guard. The two common types of vehicle checkpoints patrols establish are hasty and deliberate.

Hasty checkpoints are deployed anywhere based upon the decision of the patrol leader. Patrols must not set patterns through the frequent use of the same sites.

Deliberate checkpoints are tasked by higher headquarters to achieve a specific purpose. Time and locations are carefully considered to avoid setting patterns.

The general layout for a squad-sized, two-way dismounted checkpoint is depicted in figure 13-8 on page 13-20. The technique is as follows:

- 1 The A&S teams are positioned stealthily in blocking positions on both sides of the road.
- 1 Both the patrol leader and assistant patrol leader act as "talkers" for each direction of traffic (with local police or interrogator or translator Marines acting as interpreters) while a two-man team from the headquarters element physically searches the vehicles.
- 1 Obstacles or parked vehicles may be employed to create a staggered roadblock in center of the checkpoint to slow approaching vehicles.
- 1 The checkpoint location should be sited so that approaching vehicles cannot see it until they have passed a security team, and they have no escape route then available.
- 1 Signs announcing the checkpoint should be displayed a safe distance from the search area for safety to both drivers and Marines.
- 1 Normally higher headquarters will issue criteria that determines which vehicles are searched, but random checks of cars should normally be made as

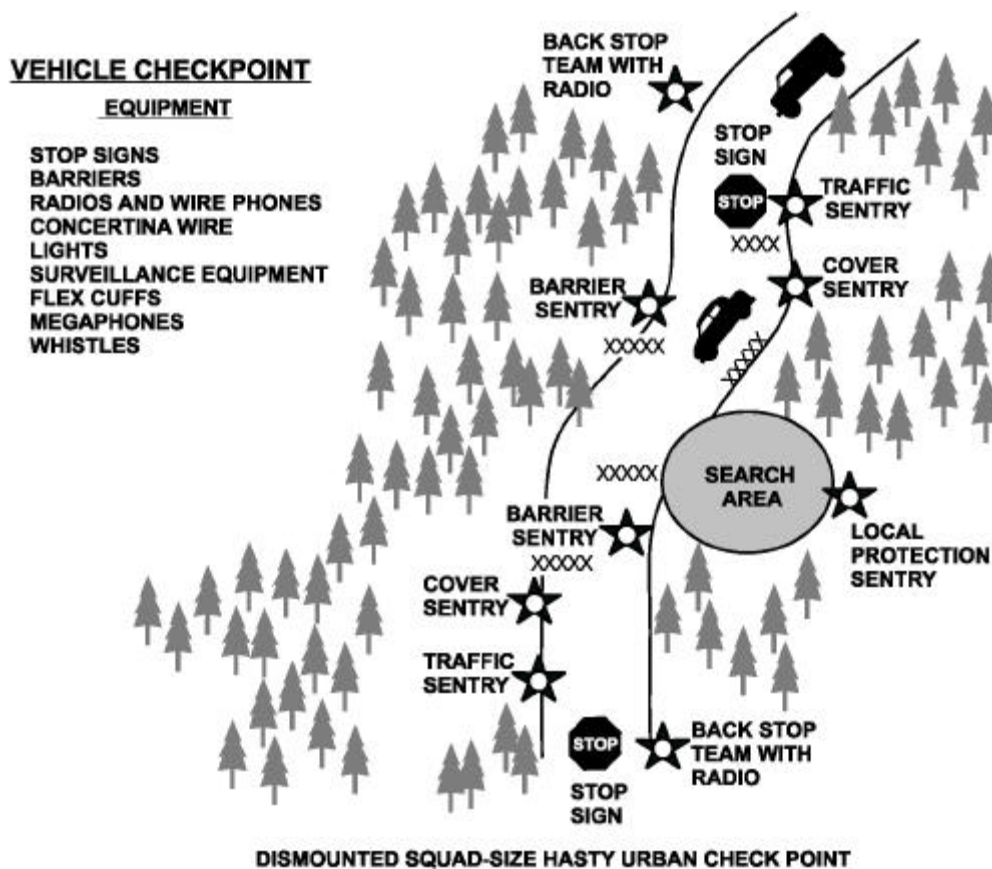


Figure 13-8. Dismounted Squad-sized Hasty Urban Vehicle Checkpoint.

well. While the vehicle is being searched the driver should accompany the searcher around the vehicle.

- 1 Vehicle occupants should be made to exit the vehicle and then searched. Whenever possible, women should be searched by female police or female Marines.
- 1 All patrol members should conduct themselves with courtesy and politeness. If nothing is found, an apology for the inconvenience is recommended.
- 1 A hasty vehicle checkpoint should not be conducted any longer than 30 minutes for security reasons.
- 1 The ROE should dictate whether or not action should be taken against vehicles that fail to stop at the checkpoint. Failure of a vehicle to stop does not automatically give authorization to fire.

Observation Posts

Urban observation posts are established to provide extended security, not only for patrol bases but also for patrols operating within the observation post's sector of observation. Observation posts can be established in

conjunction with sniper operations and for providing overwatch for patrols operating within their sector of observation. Observation posts are normally positioned on dominating terrain or in buildings outside the patrol base itself.

Insertion to the observation posts and conduct of observation may be either overt or clandestine in nature. Overt observation posts usually will be hardened positions to increase security. A patrol provides cover while the observation post is being inserted. A clandestine observation post relies on stealth of insertion and occupation for protection. It is normally positioned in abandoned buildings to cover sectors of observation that overt observation posts cannot. Because of their nature, clandestine observation posts are difficult to successfully establish and should not be manned for an extended period of time. Orders establishing observation posts (and patrols) must address the method of extraction as well as actions upon compromise/attack.

Cordon and Search

The cordon and search mission involves isolating a predesignated area by cordoning it off and systematically searching for enemy personnel, weapons, supplies, explosives or communications equipment. While large-scale cordon and search operations are planned and rehearsed in advance and normally entail extensive coordination with local law enforcement agencies, a squad-sized urban patrol may often conduct a cordon and search of a point target—searching one house or building identified by intelligence as a possible weapons cache.

The basic principle of a search of a populated area is to conduct it with limited inconvenience to the population. The populace may be inconvenienced to the point where they will discourage urban guerrillas or insurgents from remaining in the area, but not to the point that they will assist the enemy as a result of the search.

Upon receiving intelligence that warrants the searching of a building or a specific tasking from higher headquarters, A&S elements of the patrol move to establish an inner cordon around the target building to seal it off, with the primary intent of preventing movement out of the targeted building.

On order, the designated reaction force deploys to establish an outer cordon, oriented outward some distance from the inner cordon and covering routes leading into the area in order to prevent outside interference/reinforcement. The reaction force maintains a reserve to reinforce either cordon or react to unfolding events (civil disturbance in response to the operation).

Once the cordons have been established, the patrol leader, with the assistance of local police or interpreters, informs the local populace that a building is about to be searched, that a house curfew is in effect (if permitted by higher headquarters), and that all occupants should remain indoors. Occupants of the target house are instructed to gather at a central location to stay out of the way of the search party.

The headquarters element, having linked up with any required assistance (explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), ITT, etc.) now acts as the search party and accompanies local police. A female searcher should be included in the party, if necessary.

Occupants are searched and screened first for possible enemy personnel. Apprehended persons are evacuated as soon as possible.

The head of the household should accompany the search party throughout the operation to be able to counter incriminating evidence and possible accusations of theft and looting against Marines. If possible, a prominent member of the local community should act as a witness.

Buildings are best searched from top to bottom. Ideally, the search is conducted with the assistance of combat engineers using mine detectors to locate hidden arms and ammunition.

If the targeted building is empty or the occupant refuses entry, it may be necessary to forcefully enter the premises to conduct a search of the dwelling. If an unoccupied house containing property is searched, arrangements should be made with the local community to secure it until its occupants return. Unnecessary force and damage to property should be avoided during the search.

Motorized Urban Patrols

The advantages of a motorized urban patrols is their ability to capitalize on the speed, mobility, and protection offered by various vehicles. They may be motorized, mechanized or armored vehicles or a combination. Generally, motorized urban patrols possess greater combat power than dismounted patrols and can cover larger areas faster than dismounted patrols.

The disadvantages of motorized urban patrols is that they are restricted to roads and are vulnerable to ambush by the enemy. They are also restricted in their ability to interact with the local populace.

Motorized patrols are generally organized in the same manner as dismounted patrols (see fig. 13-9). Unit integrity is maintained when assigning personnel to specific vehicles.

The urban patrolling principles apply to motorized patrols in much the same manner as dismounted patrols. Mutual support and depth are achieved by maintaining constant observation between vehicles and coordinating support with any dismounted patrols in the area. All-around security is achieved through the use of constant observation as well as the vehicle's mobility and firepower. Positive communications between units or teams are maintained through vehicle radios. Patrol routes and speeds are varied to promote deception or pattern avoidance.

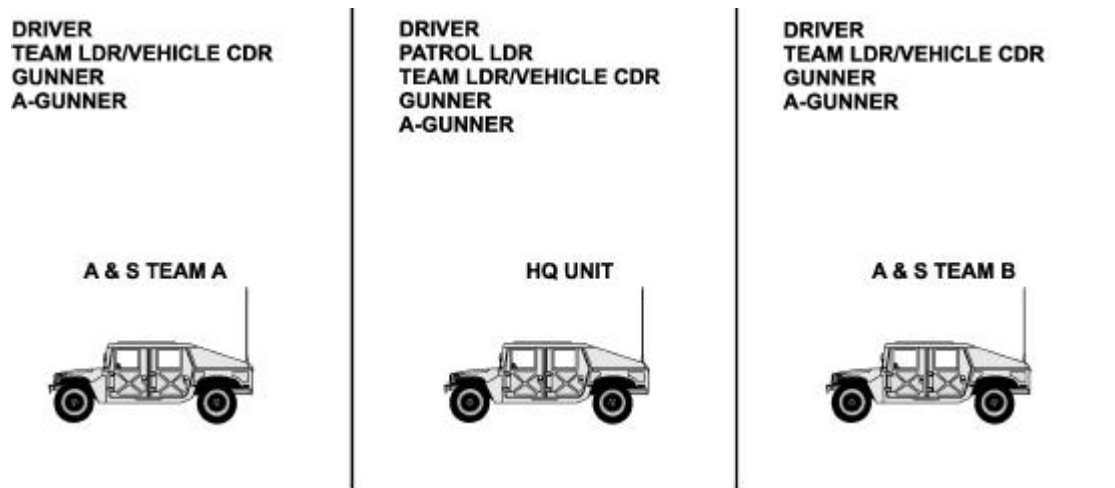


Figure 13-9. Organization of a Squad-sized Motorized Patrol.

The canalizing nature of streets and alleys force vehicular patrols to use a traveling overwatch movement technique to reduce vulnerability to ambushes. All vehicles travel at a moderate rate of speed with the lead vehicle stopping only to investigate potential danger areas. If vehicles must stop in danger areas, designated crew members' will dismount to provide security. The gunner will remain at the ready and in the turret while the driver remains in the driver's seat with the vehicle running.

Vehicles should move at a high rate of speed only when responding to an incident. At all other times,

vehicle speed should be between 15 to 20 mph to allow for quick reaction and good observation. Distances between vehicles should be approximately 50 meters (one half to one city block) or such that visual contact and mutual support are ensured. Particular care is taken at major road junctions and other danger areas to ensure individual vehicles do not become isolated.

Vehicles with doors removed generally enhance observation and overall security, yet expose Marines to thrown objects, theft and concealment.