

Section VII

Advancing/Patrolling Along City Streets

31. Advancing/Patrolling Along City Streets. During MOUT operations, skills for advancing/patrolling along city streets will be required. The platoon, squad, or fire team mission may be such that building-to-building clearing is neither required nor desired until contact with the enemy has been made. This section will discuss advancing/patrolling along urban streets. The standard tactics, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of a patrol, as outlined in MCWP 3-11.6 *Scouting and Patrolling* (draft), apply except as otherwise discussed within this section.

a. Organization. The platoon's three-squad organization or the squad's three-fire team organization is already structured to conduct an advance/patrol down an urban street. The typical patrol is organized into assault, support, security, and command and control elements. Security is divided into front, flank, and rear security responsibilities. The platoon or squad can move down the street in a double or single column.

b. Formation and Movement

(1) Double Column. The double column is the *preferred method* for moving along an urban street (Figures A-68 and A-69). The double column provides 360 degrees of security and allows for mutual support and interlocking sectors of fire. The double column is flexible but can make control more difficult. There should be at least two squads or fire teams to conduct a double column. The two squads or fire teams move down the sides of the street using the walls of the buildings for cover and concealment. The pointmen for the two columns should always stay abreast of each other and not move in front of or behind the opposite column. The Marines following in trace of the pointmen stagger themselves accordingly. The platoon or squad leaders move where they can best control their units. If a squad is conducting the advance/patrol along the street, the trail fire team is never split.

(a) Sectors of Responsibility. Every Marine moving in a column has a particular sector for whose security he is responsible. The pointmen are responsible for security to the direct front and for pieing off windows and doorways. They are also responsible for staying in line with one another.

The Marines immediately behind the pointmen are designated as the covermen. They are responsible for providing guidance to their respective pointmen from the leader of the unit and for covering the 45-degree oblique angle across from one another. The second coverman is also responsible for covering the direct front when the pointman is pieing and checking for the enemy. The third and fourth covermen in the column are responsible for the far-side flank security; one covers the upper level and one covers the lower level building windows, doors, and stairwells. Marines will alternate providing security on upper level and lower level windows, doors, and stairwells. The fourth Marine also provides rear security if he is the last man in the column or interlocks his sector of fire with that of the lead Marine in the next fire team in the

column. Should the second coverman have to take the point while the pointman pries a window or door, the third coverman would automatically shift his sector of fire to the 45-degree oblique angle. If the second coverman has to assist the pointman in prying a large opening, the third coverman would provide security to the direct front while the fourth coverman would take the 45-degree oblique angle. Marines following in the column would adjust their sectors of fire accordingly.

The two columns provide mutual support for each other and the greatest all-around security. Teamwork and coordination between the two columns are vital.

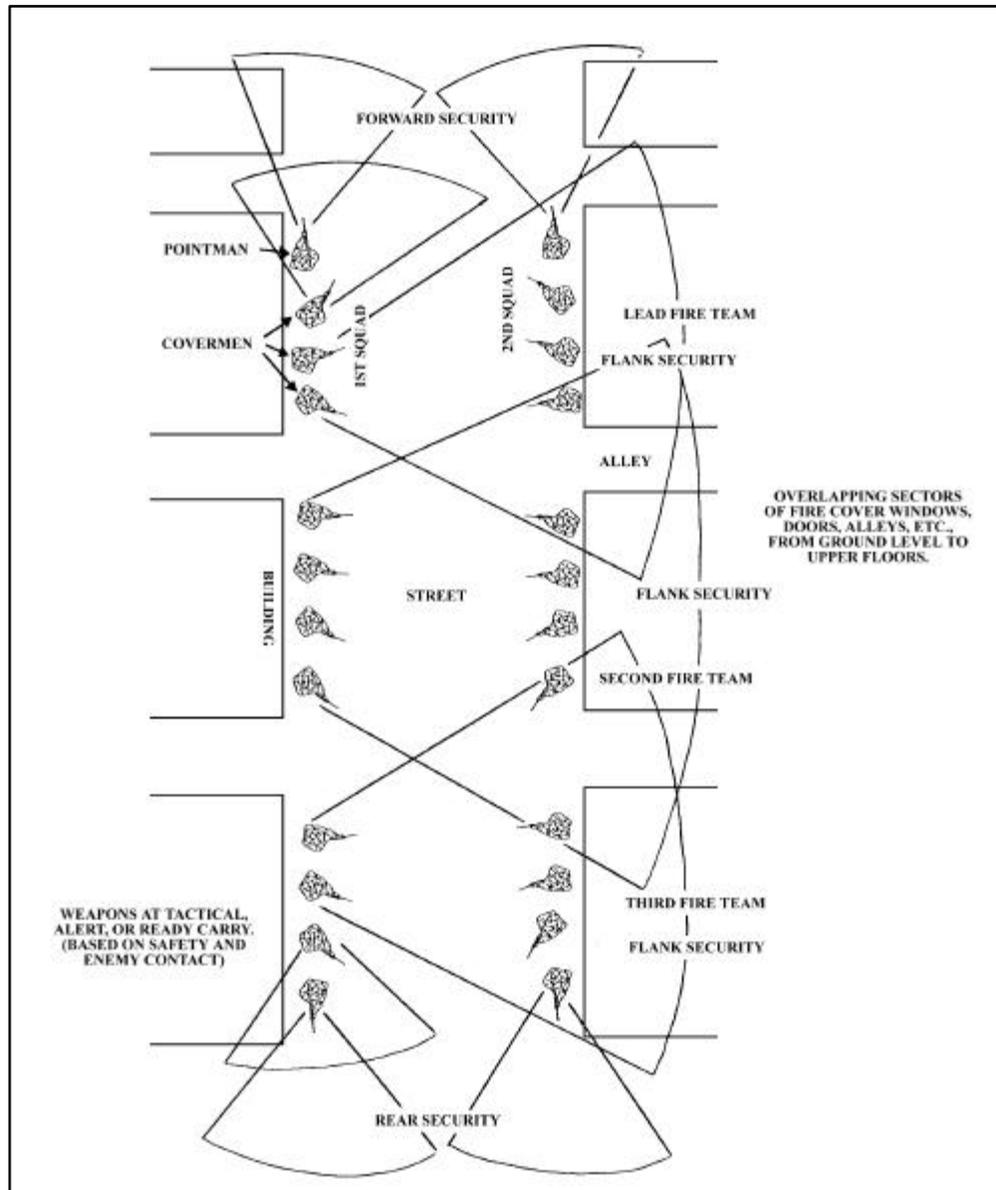


Figure A-68. Advancing/Patrolling Along an Urban Street (Squad, Double Column)

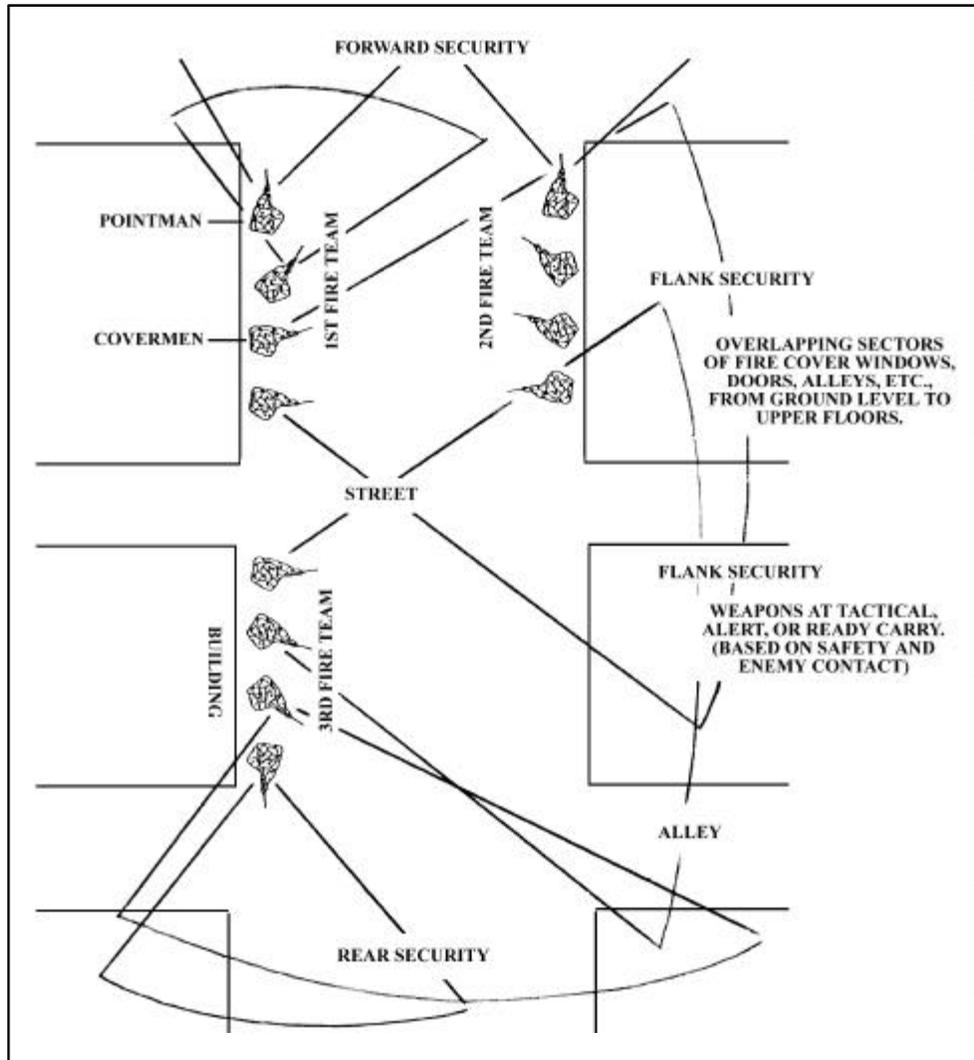


Figure A-69. Advancing/Patrolling Along an Urban Street (Fire Team, Double Column)

(b) Rear Security. The last two Marines in the squad of each column are responsible for the rear security of each of their formations. They will move in bounds in order to allow a Marine to always provide active security to the squad's rear (Figures A-70 and A-71). Two methods of bounding may be used: *alternate* or *successive bounding*.

1 Alternate Bounding. In this method, the two rear-security Marines alternate being the last Marine in the squad. The last Marine in the formation will have his weapon at the ready and will be in the kneeling position along the wall of the building. The second to last Marine will move in trace of the unit until he has moved approximately 10 to 15 meters. At this point, he will step out one pace from the wall. He will then assume a good kneeling firing position and announce, "SET." The last Marine will rise from his position, turn around, and move next to the wall to catch up with the column. It is important that the Marine moving back

does not step out and mask the other Marine's field of fire. At this point, the Marine covering the rearward movement of the last Marine can assume the rear guard position and move back to the wall as the Marine passes by his position (Figure A-70). The process is repeated continuously. The rear fire team leaders coordinate the movements of the rear guard to keep them abreast of each other and ensure that the column does not move too fast and leave the rear guard behind.

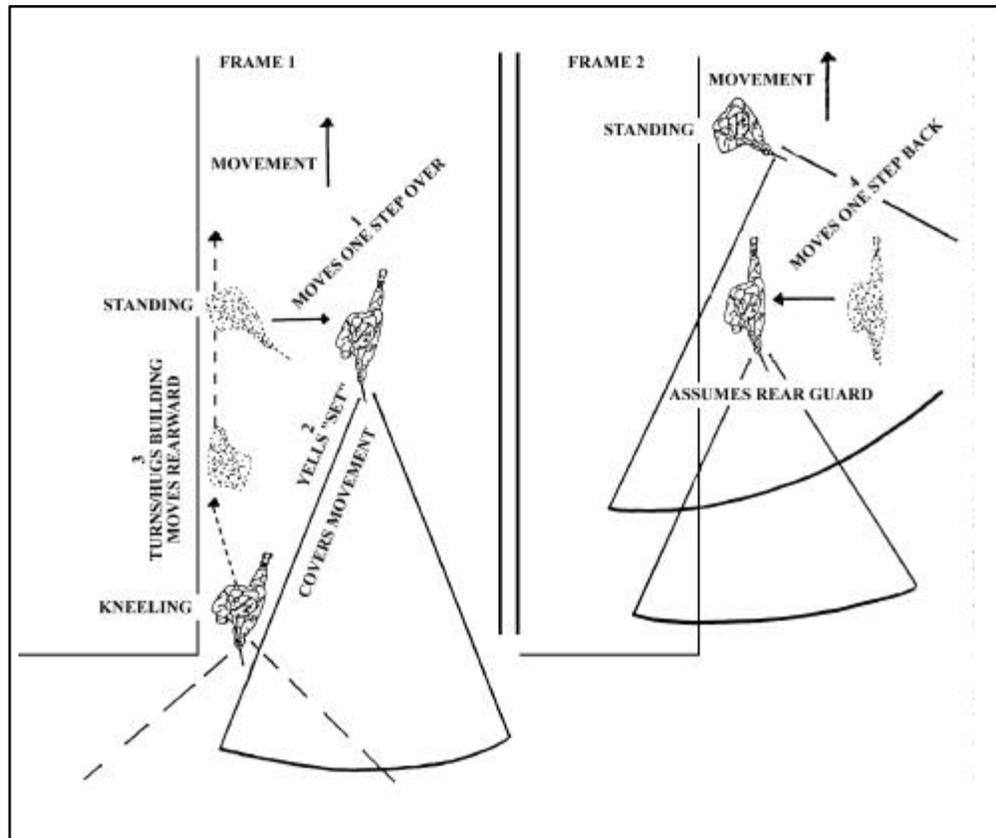


Figure A-70. Rear Security (Alternate Bounds)

2 Successive Bounding. In this method, the last Marine in the squad continues to be the rear guard after bounding. The same procedures are employed as in alternate bounding; however, the rear-guard Marine bounds abreast of the Marine providing cover, turns around, drops to a good kneeling position, provides rear-guard security, and announces, "SET." The covering Marine moves behind the rear-guard Marine and continues to move 10 to 15 meters before repeating the process (Figure A-71). The rear fire team leaders coordinate the movements of the rear guard as in alternate bounding.

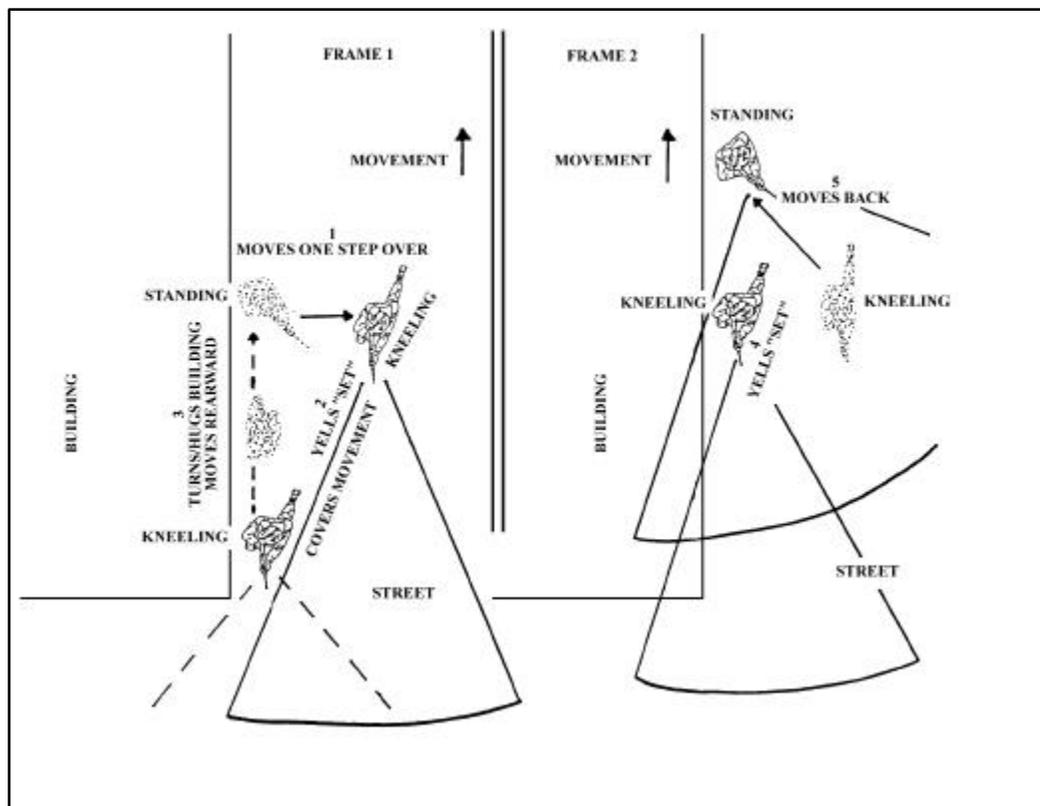


Figure A-71. Rear Security (Successive Bounds)

(2) Single Column. The single column is used to move rapidly along a street or when streets are restricted to a single column. The single column is the least preferred advance/patrol method of moving along an urban street. The same principles apply as in the double column, except the single column does not provide 360-degree security. The single column is normally used when speed is desired and contact with the enemy is considered to be unlikely.

32. Crossing a Street Intersection. Four-way intersections are very dangerous areas that should be crossed quickly. Security at an intersection is extremely important for the protection of crossing units. When moving, the pointmen notify the unit leaders, through the covermen, of an approaching intersection. Crossing the intersection will force the three elements of a unit moving along a city street to rotate positions and assume appropriate responsibilities.

a. First Fire Team To Cross. The lead (1st) fire teams in the two columns will simultaneously set security around the corners of the building. They will provide mutually supporting security to the direct front, security to the building on the far side of the intersection, and intersection security (Figure A-72). The middle (2nd) fire teams provide mutually supporting flank and rear security. On order, the rear (3rd) fire teams move forward, cross the intersection, and assume the lead (1st) fire teams' forward security mission.

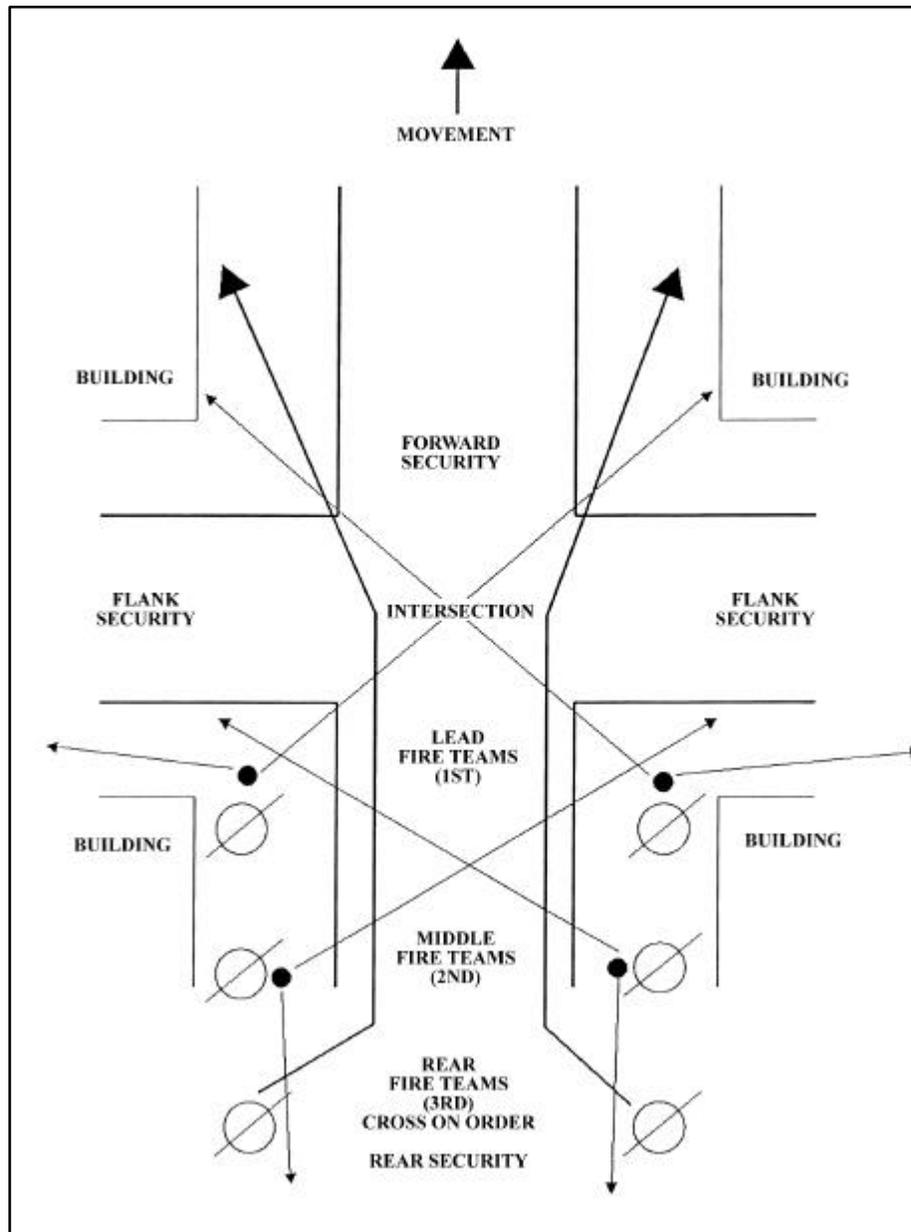


Figure A-72. Crossing an Intersection (Frame 1)

b. Second Fire Team to Cross. The 1st fire teams (now the middle fire teams) continue to provide intersection security and assume rear area security. The 2nd fire teams (now rear fire teams) cross the intersection on order. The second fire teams position themselves to provide rear and intersection security to support the covering of the last fire teams (Figure A-73).

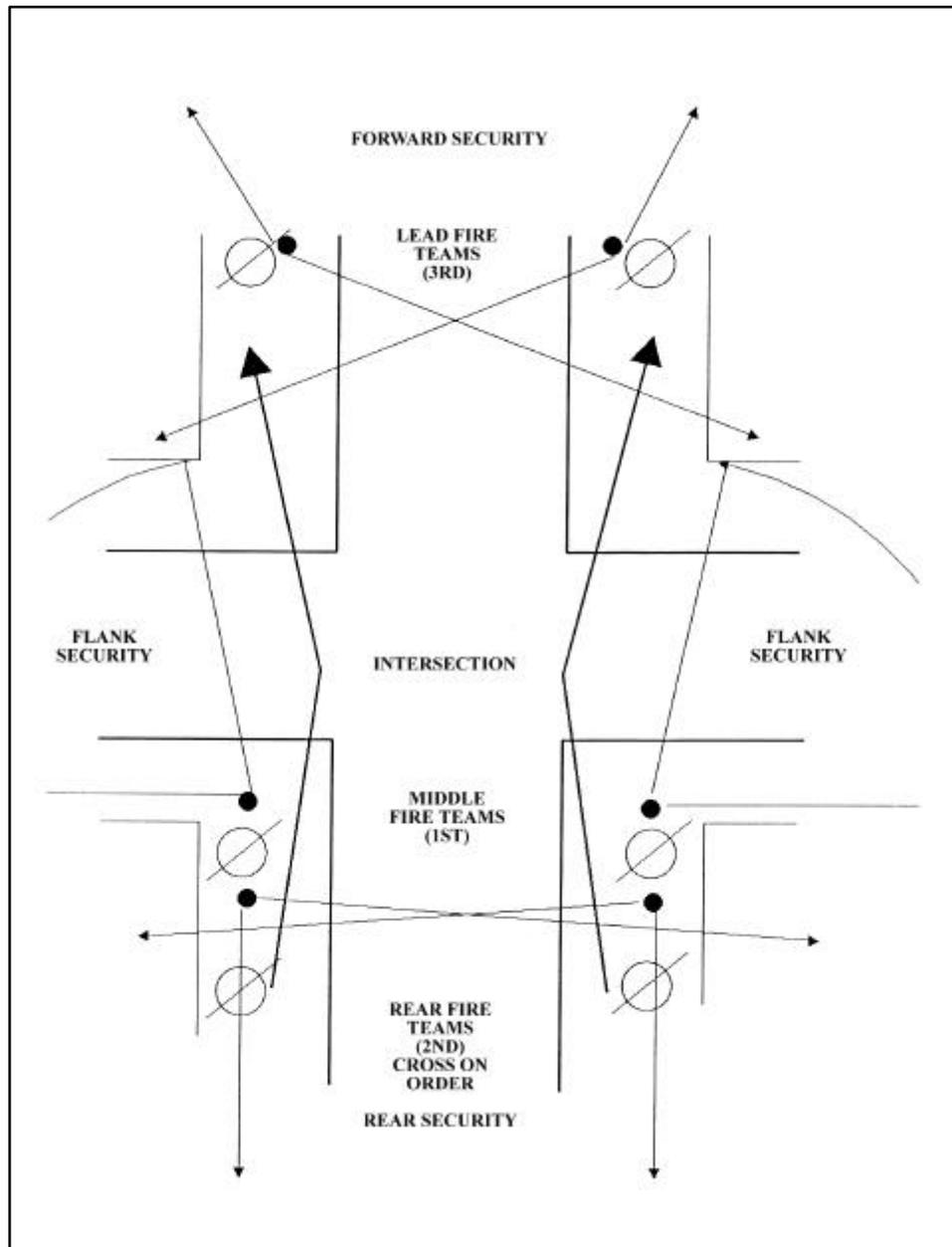


Figure A-73. Crossing an Intersection (Frame 2)

c. **Third Fire Team To Cross.** The 1st fire teams (now the rear fire teams) provide rear security and cross the intersection on order. The 1st fire teams bypass the 2nd fire teams to become the middle fire teams and provide mutually supporting forward and flank security. The 2nd fire teams become the rear security (Figure A-74).

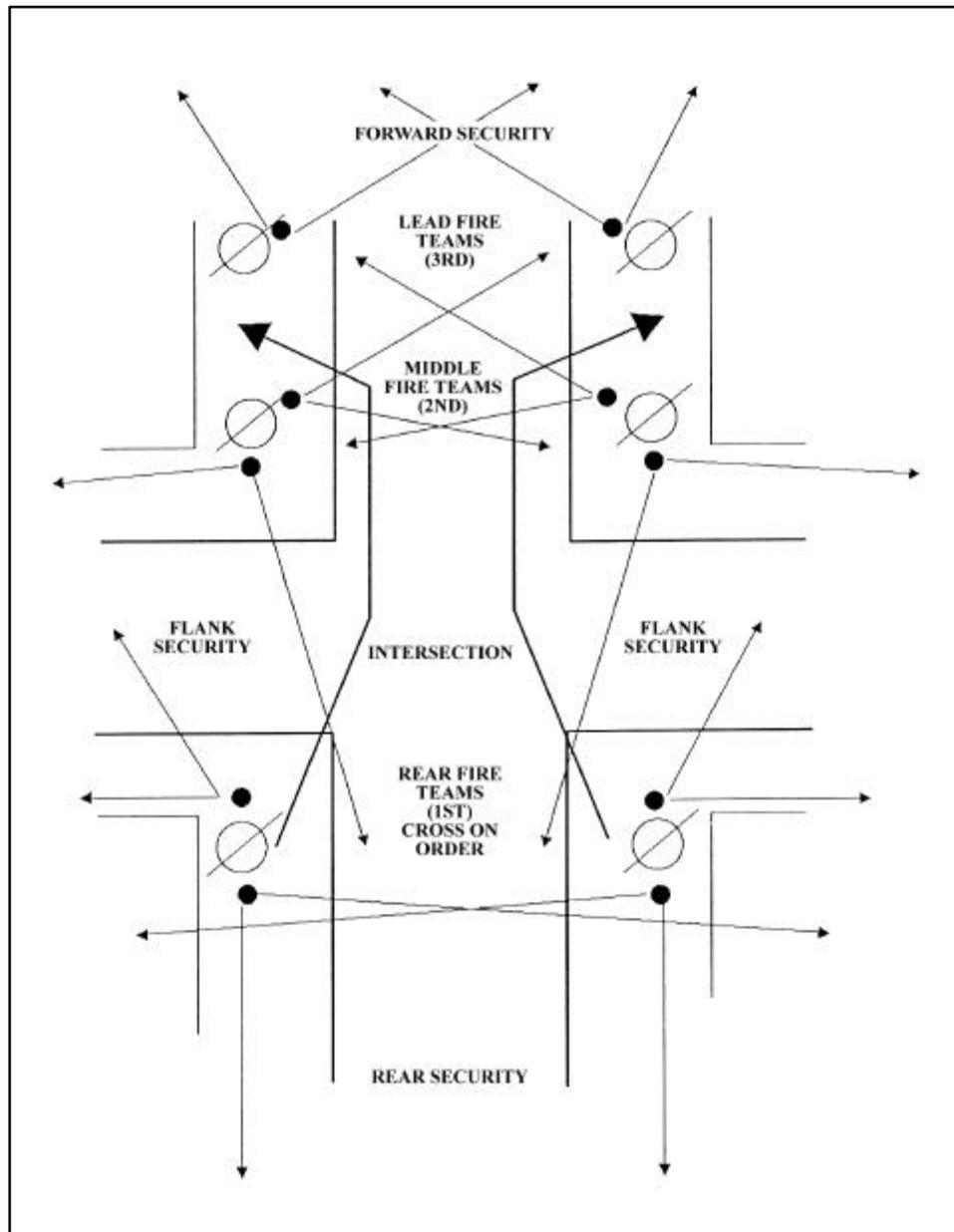


Figure A-74. Crossing an Intersection (Frame 3)

d. The squads and three fire teams have now crossed the intersection, and the fire teams have rotated (Figure A-75). This rotation is convenient because it alternates the lead units, who may quickly become fatigued during MOUT operations. The same procedures are used to cross an intersection with a single column.

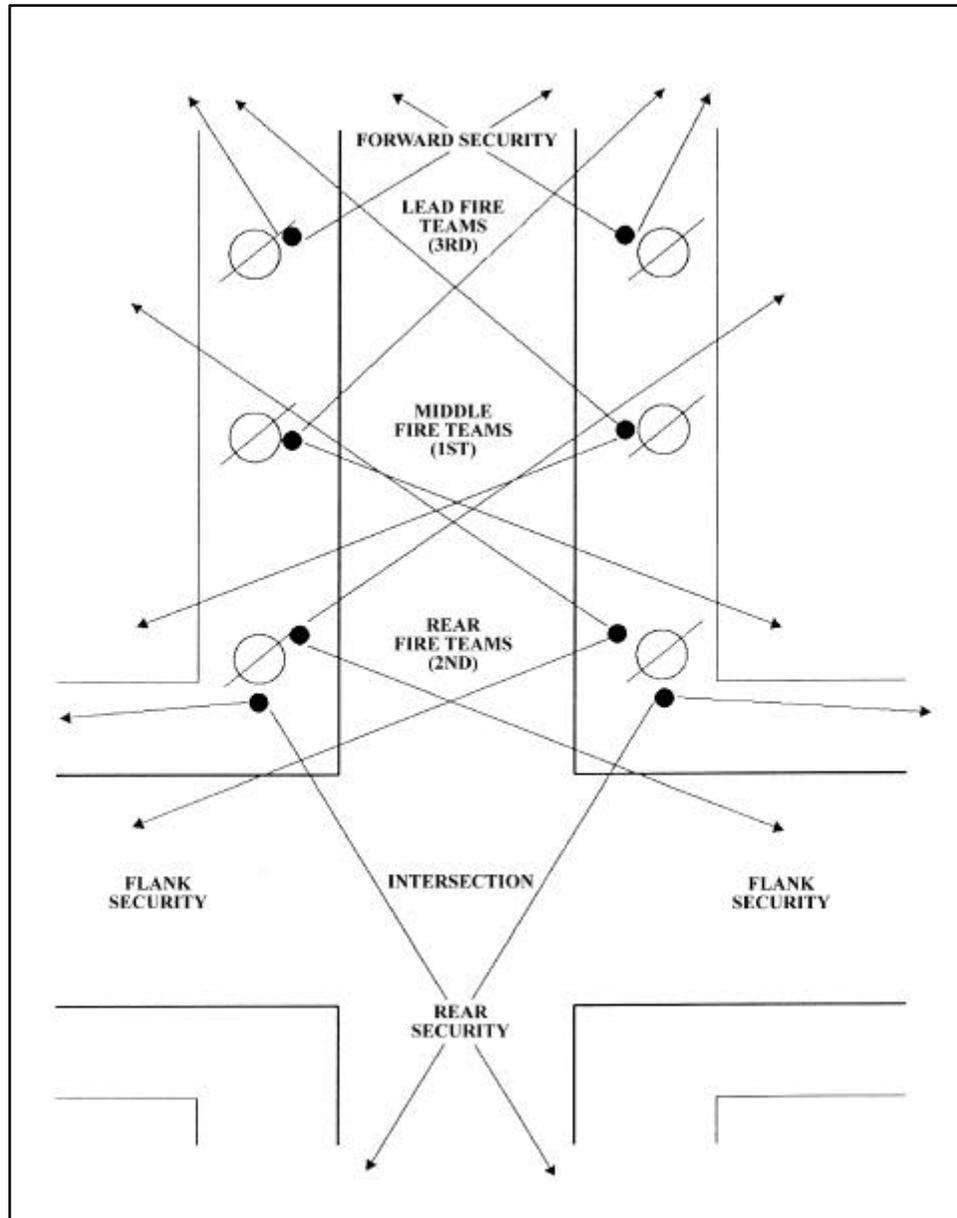


Figure A-75. Crossing an Intersection (Frame 4)

33. Reacting to Enemy Contact. When a platoon or squad is moving along a city street, contact with the enemy could happen at any time, even if the area has been declared secure. If a unit engages or is engaged by the enemy, there are two basic options that Marines may follow. The first and most preferred option is to immediately return fire and conduct a hasty clearing of a structure to seek cover inside of the building to which the unit was adjacent. The second and least preferred method is to remain outside of the building(s) and fight from the street.

a. Hasty Clearing. To conduct a hasty clearing of a structure in order to seek cover, Marines immediately return fire and enter buildings as quickly as possible. The basic principles

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of entry are applied as discussed earlier in the appendix; however, speed of action is essential. Once inside, Marines quickly scan the area and engage any threat. If no threat is present, the Marines acquire the enemy's positions and deliver carefully aimed shots to achieve fire superiority. At this point, the situation is developed as rapidly as possible and an attack to clear the enemy may be ordered.

b. Remain Outside and Fight. This option should not be conducted unless strict ROE do not allow the occupation of buildings without being fired on from them first or unless buildings cannot be entered because of obstruction, obstacles, or boobytraps. In such cases, the Marines should quickly acquire the target(s) and return fire to gain fire superiority. They should also seek whatever cover may exist. Once fire superiority is achieved, an assault to clear the enemy may be conducted.