

Section II

Infantry Battalion Defense of a Built-Up Area

This section addresses some of the missions a task-organized and/or reinforced infantry battalion could be assigned. These missions are normally conducted as part of a larger joint operation.

**3201. Defense in Sector.** An infantry battalion is normally given the mission of defending a sector in a city (Figure 3-9). The interior buildings in the battalion sector form battle positions for the battalion's fixed defense. The size of a sector varies, but may cover the outlying structures and can be used to provide early warning and to delay the enemy.



Figure 3-9. Defense of a Built-Up Sector

a. Defensive operations begin with the reconnoitering of the assigned sector to learn the terrain and to orient toward the enemy's expected advance. The main defensive positions should be formed on key terrain features, such as prominent buildings, road junctions, and positions which offer good fields of fire. Long-range antiarmor weapon systems should be deployed to engage the enemy as early as possible.

b. Depending on the situation, a reinforced rifle company may be used as a security force. The security force would operate forward of the FEBA and, depending on the mission, cause the enemy to deploy without becoming decisively engaged. This can be done through maximum use of ambushes and obstacles while using covered and concealed routes. These routes are used for disengagement. Covered and concealed routes can be artificially made by making holes through buildings. The security force also attempts to detect the location of the

enemy's main attack. Once the security force withdraws to the main battle area, it can be used as a reserve to reinforce or counterattack.

c. Based on METT-T considerations, the defense in sector (behind the FEBA in the main battle area) may consist of either company sectors, strongpoints, or battle positions. Strongpoints located on or covering decisive terrain are extremely effective in the defense.

d. Antiarmor vehicles and weapons should be used to engage enemy armored vehicles and/or cover obstacles with fire on likely avenues of approach.

e. Tanks are best used to engage enemy tanks, cover obstacles by fire, and engage in counterattacks. They should be employed in platoons where possible. However, in congested areas they may be employed in sections.

f. Artillery and mortar fire should be used to suppress and blind enemy overwatch elements, to engage enemy infantry on street approaches, provide counterbattery fire, and support counterattacks with direct and indirect fire.

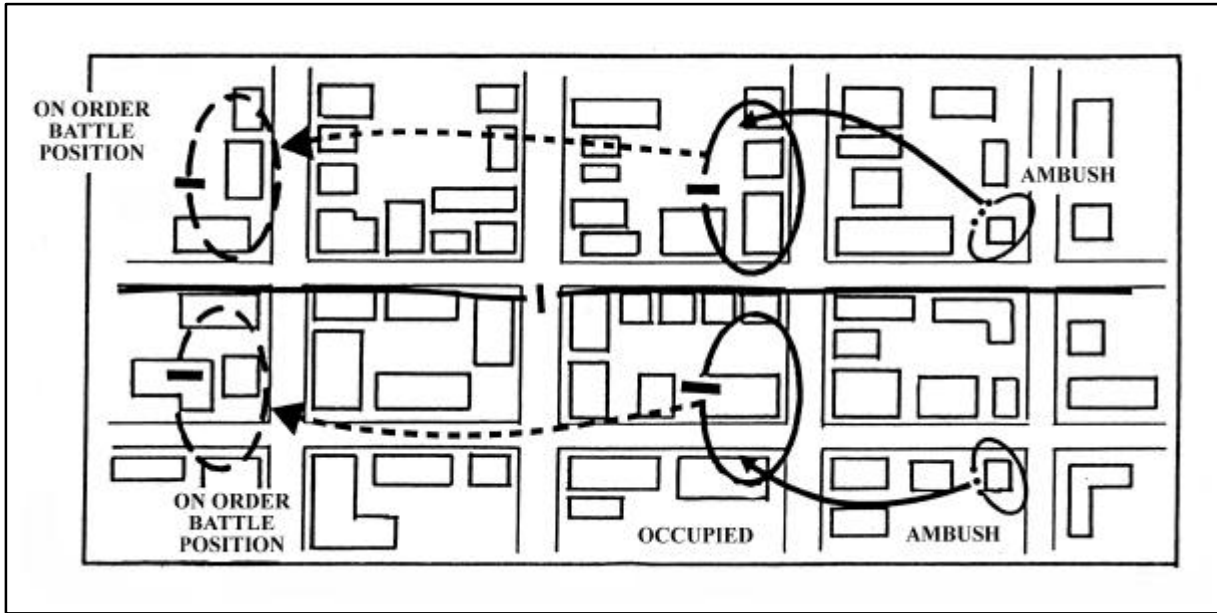
g. Engineers are integrated throughout the defense. They provide support to forces in strongpoints to help prepare fighting positions. Engineers may also be attached to security forces to help in laying mines and constructing obstacles, clearing fields of fire, and preparing routes.

**3202. Delay in a Built-Up Area.** A delay is an operation in which a force under pressure trades space for time by slowing down the enemy's momentum and inflicting maximum damage on the enemy without becoming decisively engaged (MCWP 3-1). The delay can be oriented either on the enemy or on specified terrain such as a prominent building or industrial complex.

a. A delay in a built-up area may consist of a combination of ambushes and alternating or successive battle positions (Figures 3-10A and 3-10B on page 3-28).

(1) Ambushes are normally planned on observed obstacles. They require decentralized control and execution. Ambushes can be combined with limited-objective attacks on the enemy's flanks. They are most effective at the edge of open spaces, parks, wide streets, and so on. These attacks may be executed by dismounted infantry supported by tanks, LAVs/AAVs, or HMMWV-mounted machine guns and antitank vehicles.

(2) Battle positions should be placed where heavy weapons, antiarmor weapons, and machine guns will have the best fields of fire. Such locations are normally found at major street intersections, parks, and the edge of open residential areas. Battle positions should be carefully and deliberately prepared, reinforced by obstacles, and supported by indirect fire weapons. Battle positions are designed to inflict maximum casualties on the enemy and cause him to deploy for a deliberate attack.



b. Tanks, LAVs/AAVs, and antiarmor weapons should prepare primary and alternate positions to improve their survivability and flexibility.

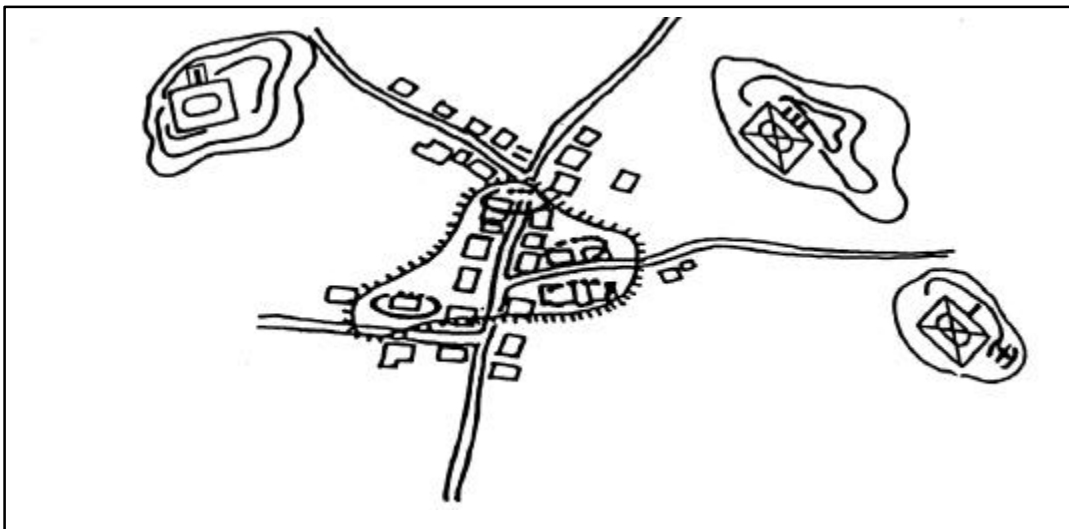


Figure 3-10A. Delay in a Built-Up Area (Successive Bounds)

Figure 3-10B. Delay in a Built-Up Area (Alternate Bounds)

- c. The infantry battalion is most effective when deployed in successive delaying actions. Forces alternately engage the enemy to the maximum extent possible without becoming decisively engaged, then move on order in successive or alternate bounds. Smoke and demolitions are used to aid disengagement and cover the movement of the withdrawing force. Security units on the flank can be employed to prevent the enemy from outflanking the delaying unit. A small reserve can be used to react to unexpected enemy action and to conduct continued attacks on the enemy's flank.
- d. The engineer effort should be centralized to support the preparation of battle positions, obstacle emplacement, and clearing routes.
- e. The width of the infantry battalion sector depends on the nature of the buildings, obstacles along the street, and the time that the enemy must be delayed. Normally, narrow sectors supports delaying by alternate bounds while a wide sector better supports delaying by successive bounds.

**3203. Defense of a Village.** An infantry battalion assigned a defensive sector that includes a village may decide to incorporate the village as a strongpoint. This use is most common where the village stands astride a high-speed avenue of approach or lies between two difficult obstacles. To incorporate such an area into its defense, the infantry battalion must control the high ground on either side of the village to prevent the enemy from firing into the village. The battalion commander normally deploys one rifle company in the village to prepare a strongpoint defense



while the other rifle companies are overwatching the village, blocking bypass routes, and protecting the strongpoint's flanks. The strongpoint defense should provide a location where the enemy can be stopped and counterattacks can be launched (Figure 3-11).

**Figure 3-11. Defense of a Village**

## Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain

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- a.** Armored Vehicles and antiarmor weapons should be employed where the maneuver room is the greatest. This is usually on key terrain to the flanks of the village. As the security force withdraws and rifle companies become engaged, armored vehicles and weapons support by fire.
- b.** Although the infantry battalion's disposition should prevent large enemy forces from threatening the rear and flanks of the village, the danger of small-unit enemy infiltration requires the village be prepared for all-around defense.
- c.** Engineers should be assigned to the rifle company in the village strongpoint to provide continuous engineer support in preparation for the enemy's attack. The priority of engineer support should go to the strongpoint.