



VIRTUAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE  
*OMNIA VINCIT SAPIENTIA*

# **SYRIAN GROUND COMBAT TACTICS**

## **INTREP VID-OPAR-003**

**DISCLAIMER:**

This is for multiplayer online gaming using the Digital Combat Systems simulation software published by Eagle Dynamics. The information is not in any way suitable for real world use or operations.

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# INTRODUCTION

## Aim:

This document describes how Syrian ground forces operate

## Reference:

INTREP VIS B-001 Generic Ground Force Structure  
v1.0

## Content:

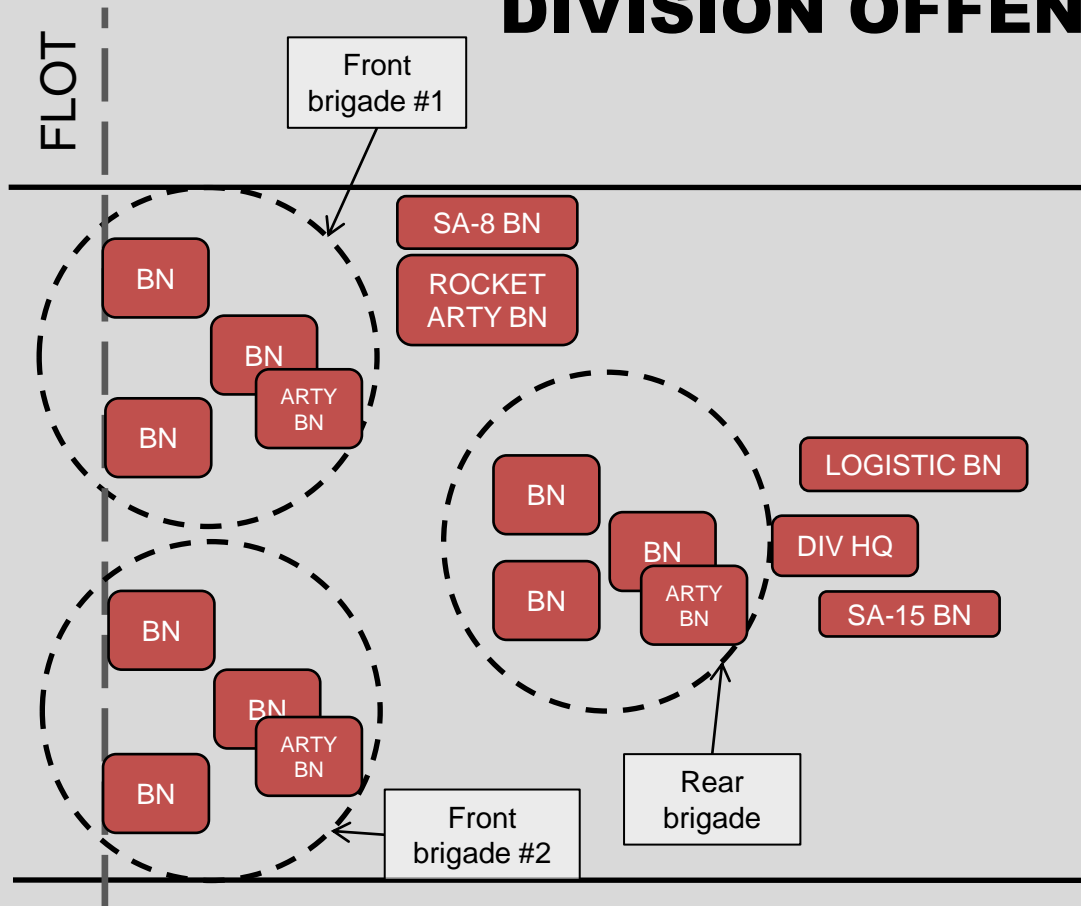
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# DIVISION OFFENSIVE



The basic fighting formation in the Syrian army is the division. Here is a representation of a division during an offensive.

The three maneuvering brigades (Composed of armor and mechanized forces) are arranged in a «2-front, 1-rear» formation. This arrangement allows for an offensive over a wide front with a lot of firepower, while still having the 3rd brigade close behind. The rear-brigade is ready to support any of the front two brigades in case of high enemy resistance, or to exploit a success breakthrough, and pushing a fresh force forward into the enemy territory. The movement of the rear brigade forward may be done between the two front brigades, or directly «through» one of them – depending on terrain, roads and tactical situation.

One of the frontal brigades will be designated as the Main Effort (ME). This brigade will have priority in receiving support from the division-level assets. As shown here, Front Brigade #1 is the ME and is supported by the division's Rocket-ARTY BN.

Further to the back are the divisional HQ, the logistics BN and an SA-15 BN protecting them. A second BN of SA-8 will be close to the divisional Rocket-ARTY BN, defending it.



# PHASES IN AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION

- Resupply
- Staging
- Shaping
- Assault
- Transition into defensive
- Recondition, rearm, reload

(With indicators on each of the phases if possible)



# **PHASES IN AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION: RESUPPLY / STAGING**

## **Purpose:**

Provide all combat teams and vehicles with all supply needed for the coming offensive

## **Activity:**

- Combat vehicles mostly gathered in parking lots (With exception of vehicles standing guard on frontline and active ADS)
- Resupply trucks delivering supplies to combat vehicles and personnel
- Some vehicles undergoing maintenance and will not be combat-ready

## **Indicators:**

- Combat vehicles arranged in non-combat formations (lines/raws, tight together)
- Supply trucks in close vicinity



# PHASES IN AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION: SHAPING

## **Purpose:**

Shape the conditions in the battlefield to be in favor of the offensive force by hindering the enemy's ability to counter the coming offensive.

## **Activity:**

- Artillery opens fire to harrass, suppress or destroy enemy positions such as observation-posts, command/control positions, communication sites, staging areas , artillery positions etc'
- Insertion of special operation forces (SOFs) to deny the enemy of observation points, close roads and chockpoints which may be used by the enemy to move/resupply or reinforce his defending forces

## **Indicators:**

- Artillery fire falls sustained by units not currently involved in combat
- Reports of rear units (convoys or staging areas) reporting being hit by artillery or ambush teams
- Loss of contact with observation posts (Suggesting either they've fallen to a raid by enemy SOFs or that the communications line have been severed by enemy artillery/SOF activity)



# PHASES IN AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION: ASSAULT

## **Purpose:**

Utilize the unit's maneuvering forces to achieve the objective of the offensive (territorial gain or tactical or strategic condition).

## **Activity:**

- Attack conducted by the maneuvering brigades
- Utilization of supporting assets such as artillery and air-support

## **Indicators:**

- Movement by some or all of the maneuvering brigades pushing the FLOT



# DIVISION DEFENSIVE

## Purpose:

- Defend the territory held or seized by the division's maneuvering units against enemy expected counter attacks
- Optionally: Hold ground and provide cover for another division moving through seized area to continue the Corp's offensive

## Activity:

- Combat vehicles taking defensive positions. Most preferably on high grounds, elevated positions or revetments to be used as static positions for observation and fire

## Indicators:

- Combat vehicles in static positions, usually on elevated grounds
- Possible presence of logistics vehicles in/near defensive positions to resupply/service combat vehicles and personnel





# INDICATORS

Observed/reported activity	Indication
BM-21 launch or movement into firing positions.	Preparing offensive / Attack (1-2 hours prior to offensive maneuver begins)
RW activity deep into enemy territory	Insertion of Long Range Recon (0-96 hrs prior to offensive)
FW (transport) activity deep into enemy territory	* Airborne Assault ( Many FW transports) * Long range Recon ( If only a single AC is in use, or flying tactical, low level)
Artillery at a certain point (point target)	Trying to kill the target
Artillery at an area	Suppression, to cover for movement / attack
Convoys of division-level supply	Upcoming division-level offensive within 0-48 hrs
Convoys of regiment-level supply	Upcoming regiment-level offensive within 0-24 hrs
Maneuvering units assuming assault formations	Setting up for offensive
* Combat vehicles arranged in non-combat formations (lines/raws, tight together) * Supply trucks in close vicinity	Division is resupplying in preparation for further missions (Duration up to 72 hrs)