



# Small Unit Tactics

**Air Force ROTC Detachment 842**

**The University of Texas at San Antonio**



# Overview



- Formations
- Individual Movement
- Bounding
- Moving Commands
- Firearm Safety
- Reacting to Fire
- Summary

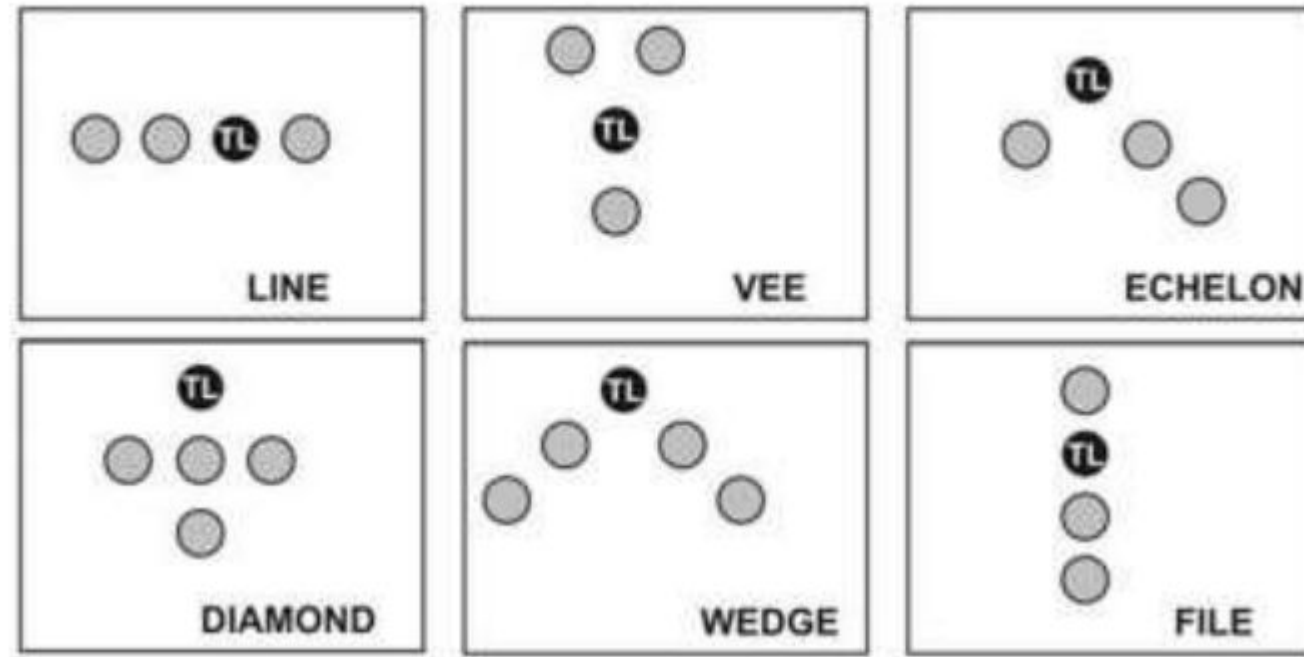


# Formations



# Formations

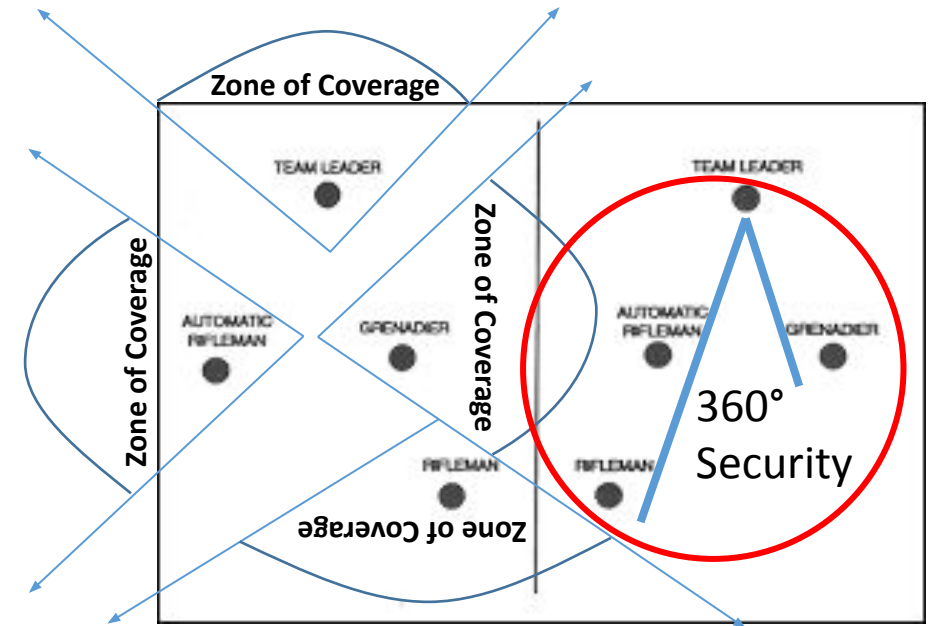
## Small Unit Formations





# Wedge Formation

- The basic formation for a fire team.
  - The interval between each member is approximately 10 meters. Interval subject to expands and contracts depending on terrain.
- Team Leader can assign a heavy right or heavy left formation. Whichever side is heavy, there will be an extra rifleman as seen in the image.
- Each person in the formation is responsible for their **zone of coverage** to ensure the safety of the formation with **360 degree security**.



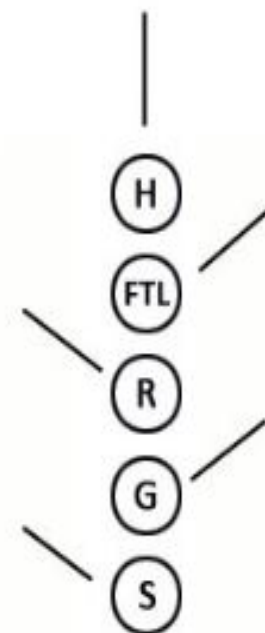


# Column/File Formation

- The column formation is used when moving through heavily forested areas, areas that are dense with foliage, and close terrain. The column formation is pictured to the right
- While looking at the picture, ignore the all the small letters inside the circles that represent the members of the team except the one labeled “FTL”; That is the Firing Team Lead. It is important to notice the positioning of the team lead since the team lead is never first in any formation.

## File/Column Formation

*Lines Show Assigned Fields of Fire*

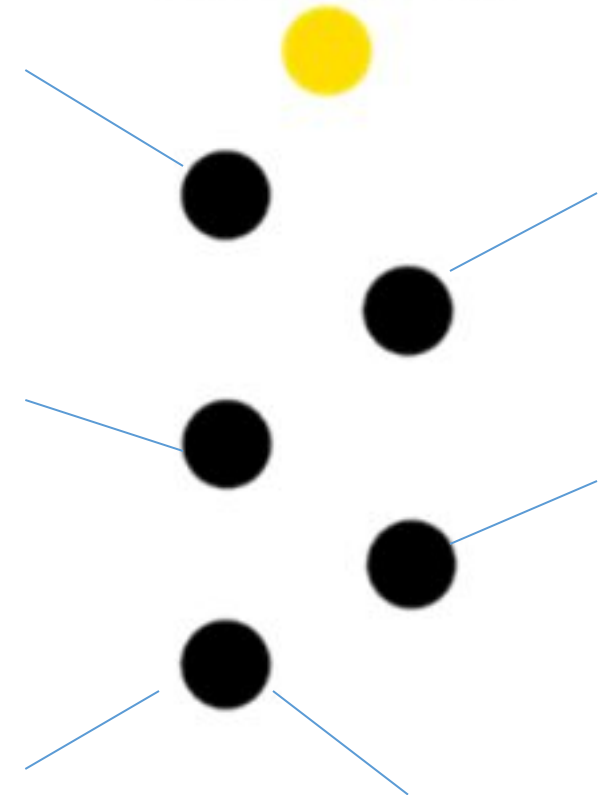




# Staggered Column Formation

- The staggered column is used for lightly forested areas, areas with light foliage, and allows for quicker movement than the column formation.
- The staggered column formation allows for all around visibility and fields of fire.
- The team leader will position themselves in the number two spot, either on the left or right side, to best control the fire team.
- When in staggered column, the left side will have their weapons facing to the left and the right side will have their weapons facing the right. This allows for maximum fire power on either side of the formation as well as complete 360 degree security for the formation.

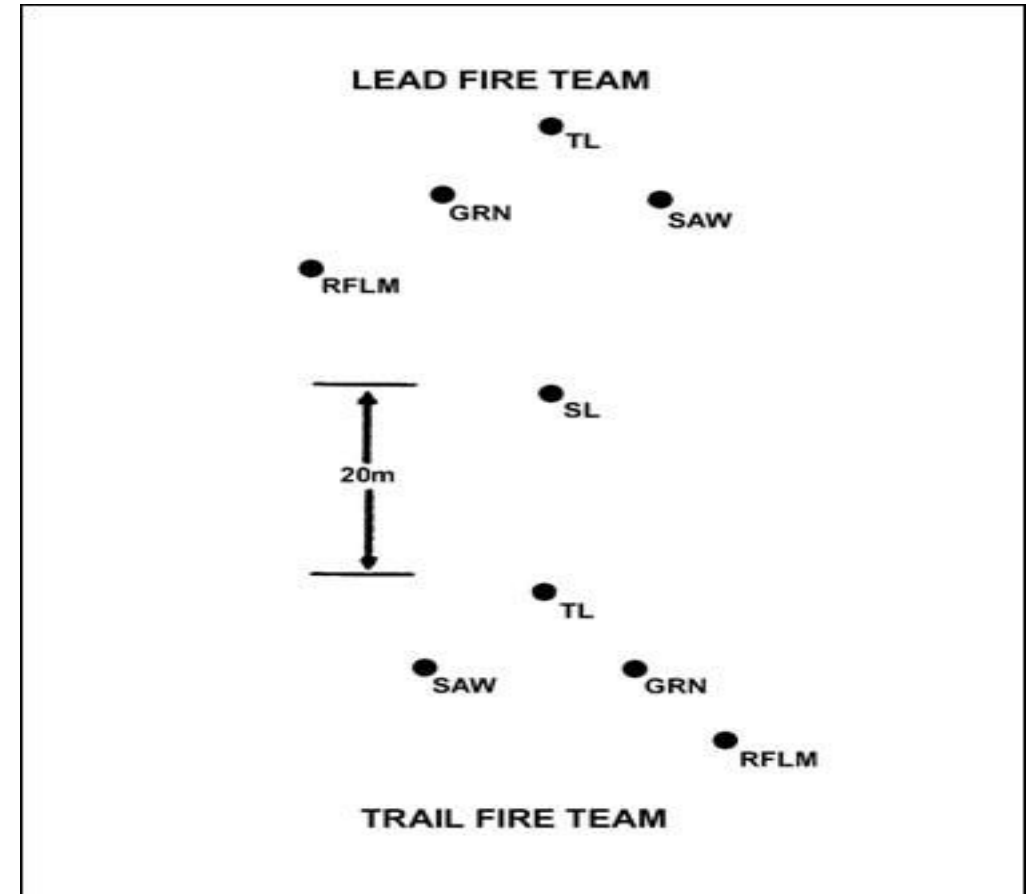
## STAGGERED COLUMN





# Squad Fire Team

- Squad Fire Team consist of 2 or more fire teams.
- Each Fire Team still has their individual Team Leads, however there will be Squad Lead centered between the Fire Teams.
- A Squad Lead generally has a Deputy Squad Lead. Their main task is to relay information from the Fire Teams to the Squad Lead and obtain accountability.
- If there are three Fire Teams, the Squad Lead and Deputy Squad Lead will be centered between the Lead Fire Team and the Center Fire Team.







# Line Formation

- Generally used to cover a large open area.
- Can move in a column style or wedge style.
- Can still resource the squad lead as a middle man between teams to keep order.

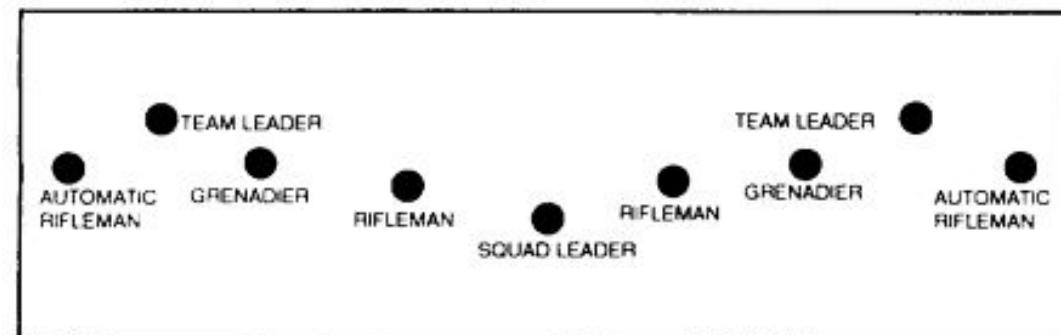
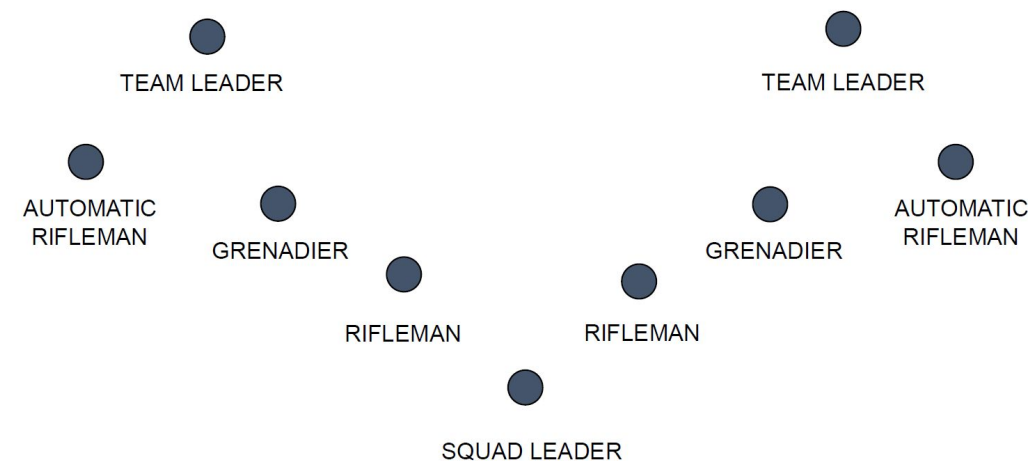


Figure 2-8. Squad line.



A vertical bar with a gradient from orange at the top to dark blue at the bottom.

# Bounding & Moving Commands



# Individual Movement



- Carry Positions
  - Low Ready Carry
  - High Ready Carry





# Individual Movement, cont.



- Crawling
  - Low Crawl
  - High Crawl





# Bounding



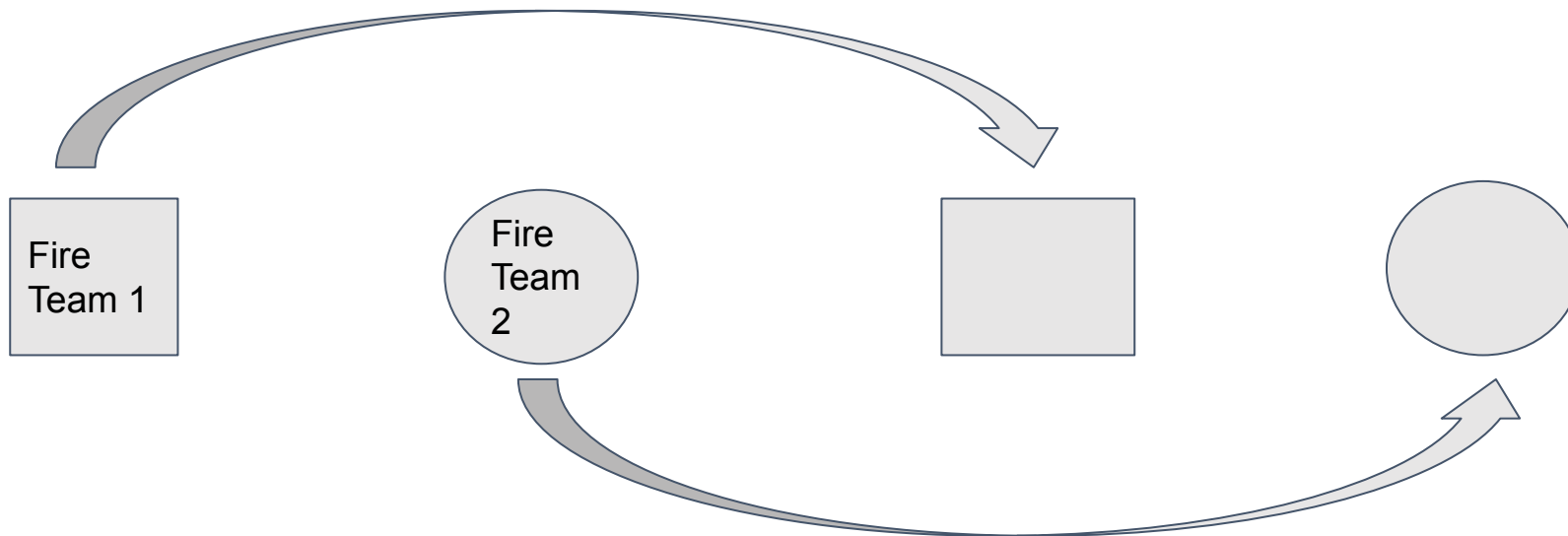
- Provides an effective and active response to enemy contact.
- Team 1 will be laying down cover fire.
- Team 2 takes advantage of the cover fire and advances forward.
- Roles then flip to keep momentum forward.
- Alternating and Successive Bounding



# Bounding



## Alternating Bounding

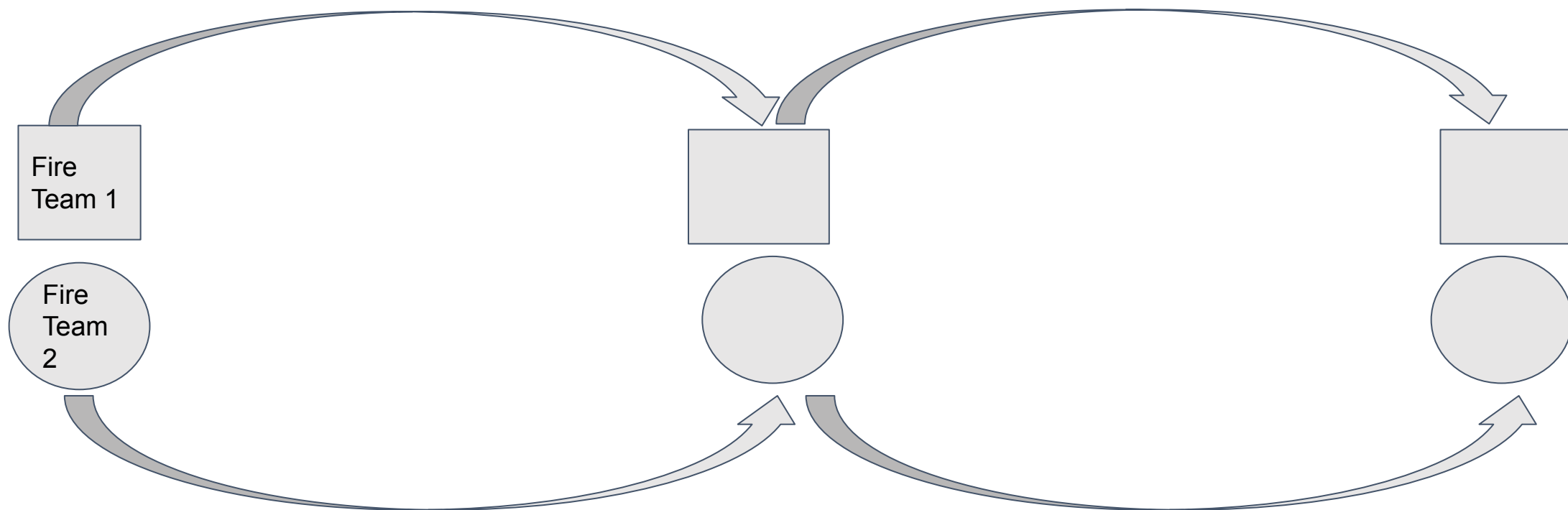




# Bounding

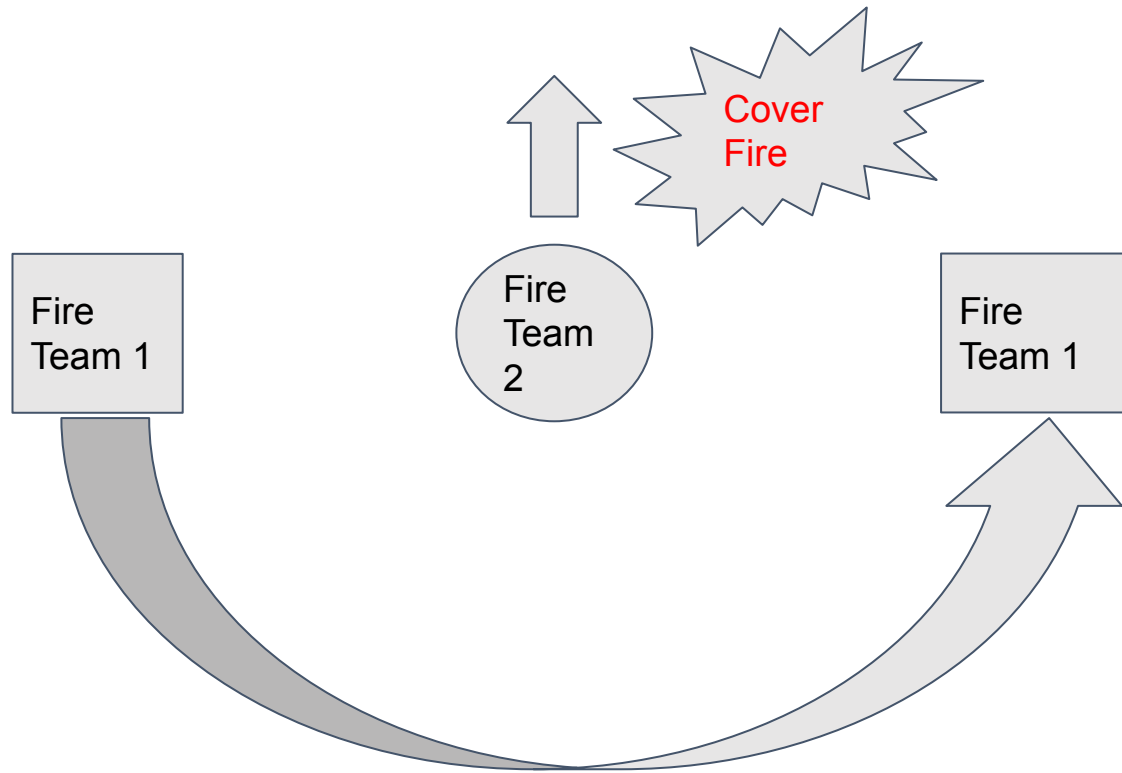


## Successive Bounding





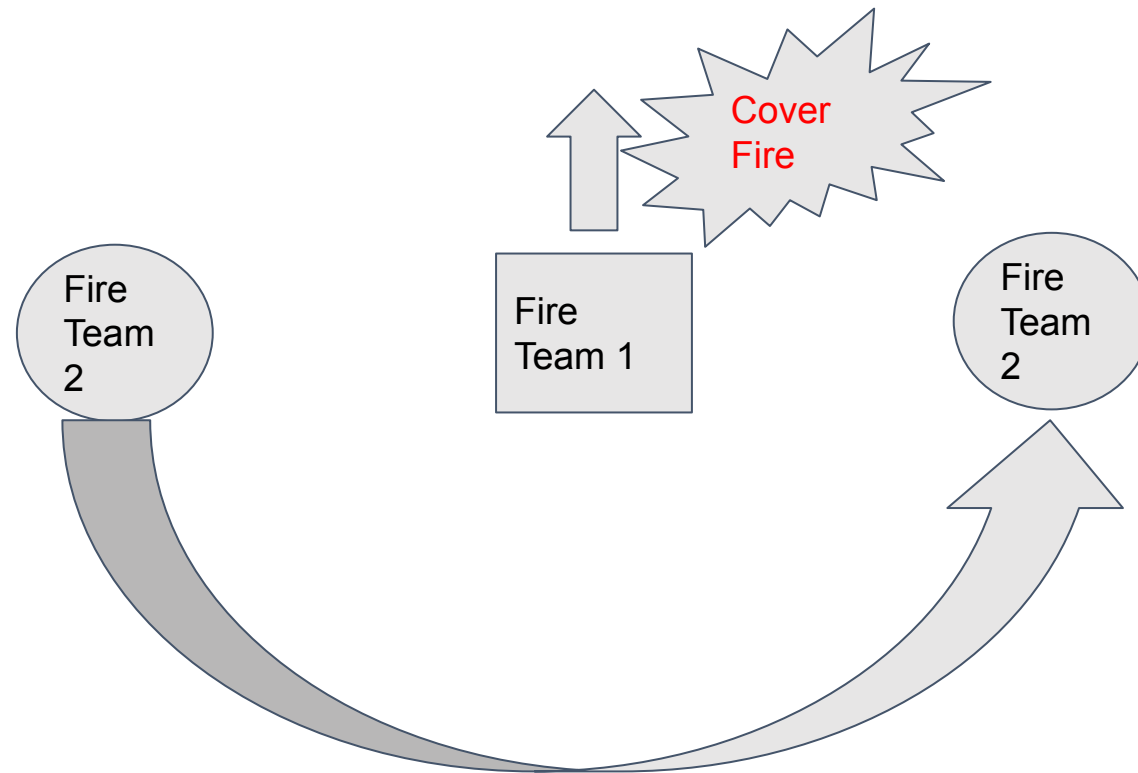
# Alternate Bounding Example







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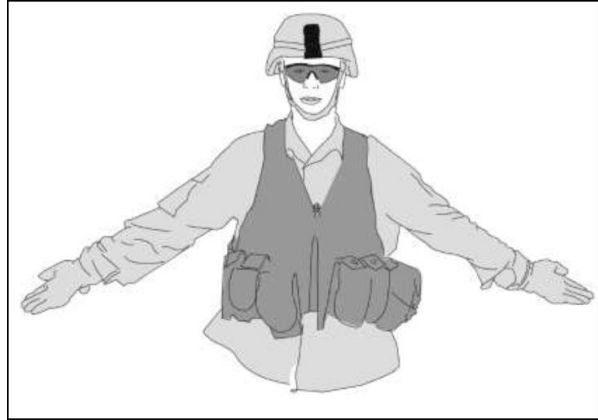




# Moving Commands



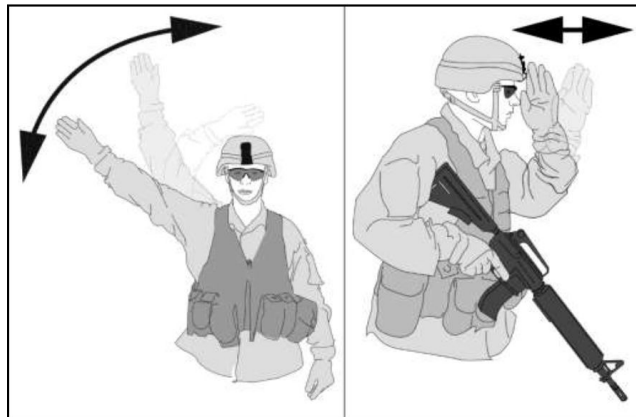
Wedge:



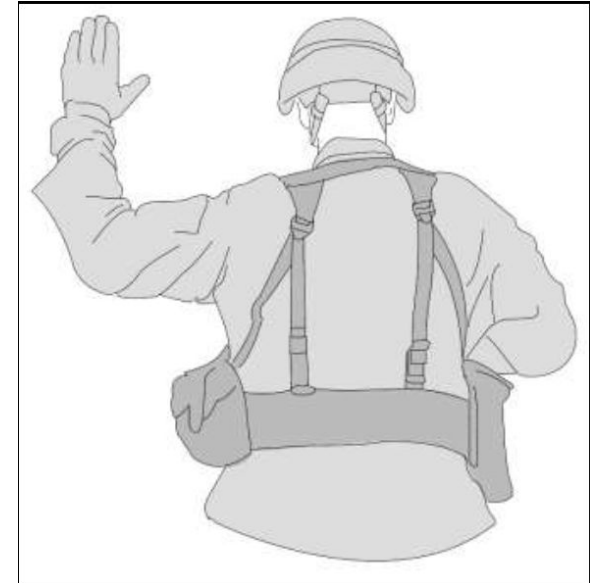
Line:



File or Column:



Halt:





# Moving Commands



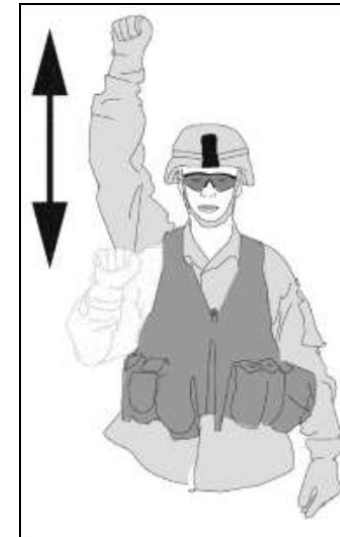
## Rally:

- Gather people to your location



## Increase Speed, Double Time, or Rush:

- Make your team move faster



More information can be found in Army TC 3-21.60 (FM 21-60)

A vertical bar with a gradient from orange at the top to dark blue at the bottom.

# Firearm Safety & Reacting to Fire



# 5 Rules of Firearm Safety



1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Always point your gun in a safe direction.
3. Never point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger until your ready to shoot.
5. Be sure of your target and what's beyond.

Form-17



# Reacting to Fire



- Reacting to Fire means to TAKE COVER
- Direct Fire
  - The hostile can physically see you
  - The weapon is being aimed, fired at you
- Reacting to Direct Fire
  - “Contact!” “Take cover!”
  - **Alert** ☐ **Direction** ☐ **Description** ☐ **Range** ☐ Rate of Fire/Type of Weapon ☐  
Command & Control
  - **“Contact front, six enemies, 50 meters, rapid/AK-47s, “FIRE!” or “Take cover!”**
  - Return Fire



# Reacting to Fire, cont.



- Indirect Fire
  - Hostile is far away, can not see you
  - Weapon fired on a ballistic trajectory (usually an arc), landing nearby
- Reacting to Indirect Fire
  - “Incoming!” “Take cover!”
  - Hit the dirt and lay flat on the ground
  - Put hands over ears and open your mouth
    - Why do we do this?



# Summary



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# Questions?



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**Det 842 – Best in Blue**