

CHAPTER III
DEMOLITION PROCEDURE
SECTION 10
MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1001. **Definition.** To demolish is to destroy, to lay in ruins. Although, normally, explosives provide the easiest, quickest and surest method, do not forget that there are other methods, eg, fire, flood, rooters, or even sledge hammers.

1002. **Initial Planning.** The demolition plan is part of the over-all tactical plan and is normally made by the divisional commander, the technical advice being provided by the Comd Engrs. If tactical situation permits, detailed planning will also be carried out at divisional level and the Comd Engrs will be the engineer commander responsible for carrying out the work. In field operations, or if the division is working in dispersed brigade groups, detailed planning may be delegated to brigade commanders, in which case the OC field coy under command becomes the responsible engineer commander.

1003. **Demolition Guards.** These will be ordered as required in the detailed demolition plan. For the responsibilities of the commander demolition guard see paragraph 10 of the copy of BAFU-o3 (Orders to the Commander, Demolition Firing Party) in Section 11. If no demolition guard is detailed, these responsibilities automatically devolve on the commander of the Engr party on the site.

1004. **Demolition Categories.** Demolitions considered from the point of view of defence fall into two classes:

a. **Preliminary Demolition.** A demolition preliminary to a withdrawal which can be blown as soon after preparation as convenient on the orders of the officer to whom the responsibility for such demolitions has been delegated. (This officer is normally an engineer officer). From the technical point of view demolitions should, whenever possible, be classified as “preliminary”.

b. **Reserved Demolition.** A demolition which must be specifically controlled, at whatever level of command, either because it plays a vital part in the tactical or strategic plan or on account of the importance of the structure itself. The term may, therefore, be applied to certain important demolitions which are fired before the final withdrawal,

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as well as those fired at the last moment in the face of enemy. There is no hard and fast rule as to the number of demolitions that may be classified "reserved" but experience suggests that a divisional engineer battalion regiment should not be required to undertake more than three major reserved demolitions in any one operation.

1005. **States of Readiness.** There are two states:

- a. **"1 (SAFE)".** Demolition safe against premature firing. All charges securely fixed to target. All firing circuits complete, but no connection between charges and main firing circuits. Firing circuits NOT connected to a means of firing.
- b. **"2 (ARMED)".** Demolition ready for immediate firing.

1006. **BAFU-03 (Orders to the Commander, Demolition Firing Party).** A copy of this form is reproduced in Section 11. Particular attention must be paid to the general instructions in part V. Before an officer or NCO sets out to prepare any demolition (preliminary or reserved) he should have in his possession a fully completed BAFU-03 for that demolition, even if the officer responsible for giving the executive order to fire is his immediate unit or sub-unit commander.

1007. In the case of reserved demolitions where preparations often begin before it is certain that the targets will eventually have to be demolished or before the demolition guard has been detailed, the commander of the Engr party must still have his orders in writing, even if only to the effect that for the time being the demolition will not be fired. Such initial orders may be given by the field coy commander, to be replaced as soon as possible by a fully completed form.

1008. BAFU-03 should be Kept at the firing point where either the commander of the demolition firing party or his second in command will always be.

1009. The Engr officer or NCO must know how the commander of the demolition guard is to get his orders. If, owing to casualties, the Engr officer or NCO becomes the senior rank at the site, he will probably have to take over command of the demolition guard. This possibility may be covered in the orders issued by the staff for the particular demolition. In any case such casualties will be reported at once over the command and engineer wireless nets, or by other means, so that alternative arrangements can be made if deemed necessary.

1010. **Selection of Firing Point.** It must have a clear view of the whole target and, if a demolition guard has been detailed, it must be sited in co-operation with command post it must be within guard commander. If not actually within his hailing distance of it and this will frequently mean that it will be sited on the enemy side of the obstacle. Engr assistance may be needed in evacuating the guard after the demolition is completed, eg, boats or rafts after a bridge demolition.

1011. **Handing over Prepared Demolitions.** This must be avoided whenever possible ; It is in every way more satisfactory for the party who prepared the demolition to fire it. If there is no alternative, the commander of the incoming party, who will have already been provided with a fresh copy of BAFU-03, must make absolutely certain that he understands the firing circuits and mechanisms. If he has any doubts he should relay the charges and firing circuits to his own satisfaction. For the protection of the long-standing demolitions see Section 2, paragraph 27.

1012. **Supply of Explosives in Operations.** Replenishment of unit WET holdings is normally from one of the explosives trucks at an ammunition point. When there is an extensive programme of demolition, an explosives ammunition point will usually be formed by ASC and placed under control of OC field park coy, so that Engr units can draw their explosives at the same time as engineer stores.

1013-1100. Reserved.