



AAC CADET INSTRUCTOR'S HANDBOOK PATROLLING AND TRACKING

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PREFACE

Aim

The aim of this publication is to provide Cadets with the information to conduct a lesson on patrolling and tracking.

Level

This publication is not the source document however it is to be used as the reference for cadet fieldcraft training.

AMENDMENTS

1. The following promulgated amendments have been made to this publication.

<i>Amendment List</i>		<i>Amended By (Print Name and Initials)</i>	<i>Date of Amending</i>
<i>Number</i>	<i>Date</i>		

PART ONE.

PATROLLING

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO PATROLLING

SECTION 1. GENERAL

Introduction

101. Patrolling is conducted as part of all operations. To be successful patrolling needs to be well planned.

102. Patrolling is the responsibility of all corps and is carried out not only in the forward areas but also in rear areas.

The Aims of Patrolling

103. The aims of patrolling are as follows:

- a. *To Gain and Retain the Initiative.* When friendly patrols dominate the ground between opposing localities, this gives freedom of action in the area, raises morale, and enhances security.
- b. *To Gain Information.* Patrols gain information related to:
 - (1) the ground, such as going for vehicles and troops, obstacles and approaches; and
 - (3) intelligence requirements

104. Irrespective of their specific tasks, all patrols are a source of intelligence and they must be prepared to report all information discovered.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES IN PATROLLING

Introduction

106. Patrolling tasks are the responsibility of all units of all corps. Soldiers of all units must be proficient at patrolling and their staff must be capable of providing the needed operational control and administrative support for a patrol programme.

107. Commanders are responsible for the formulation of the patrol policy. Staff are responsible for the execution of the patrol programme and sub ordinate commanders are responsible for the execution and conduct of the patrol.

Successful Patrolling

108. The following factors form the basis of successful patrolling:

- a. realistic and achievable aims in a co-ordinated patrol programme,
- b. thorough planning and briefing conducted by formation and unit staff,
- c. realistic timings,

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- d. thorough preparation and rehearsals,
 - e. a high standard of training and equipment,
 - f. a high degree of initiative and leadership by patrol commanders, and
 - g. accurate recording and quick dissemination of all information gained through patrolling.

CHAPTER 2

CLASSIFICATION OF PATROLS

SECTION 3. GENERAL

Types of Patrols

201. Once a patrol's aim is defined, it can be classified as either:

- a. a fighting patrol, or
- b. a reconnaissance patrol.

202. Although a patrol may be classified by type any patrol may be given a number of tasks. While the broad classification by type can be used to assist in training and to help define the primary task of a patrol, the briefings, preparation and general conduct of all patrols should be similar.

SECTION 5. RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS

General

217. Reconnaissance patrols are designed to gain information by observation. They operate by stealth, avoiding contact except for self protection.

218. Typical tasks for reconnaissance patrols are:

- a. collecting topographical information on features, tracks and the state of the ground,
- b. locating sites for crossing obstacles.

219. **Composition.** As a principle, reconnaissance patrols should be kept as small as possible. For foot patrols, a five man group has been found successful. Over short distances the patrol strength may be reduced further, although it should not be less than three men.

Preparation

220. Preparation for both reconnaissance and fighting patrols is similar. However reconnaissance patrols must place more emphasis on the requirements for secrecy to maintain their protection. Preparation requirements are detailed in [Chapter 4](#).

221. **Fieldcraft.** Reconnaissance patrols will require a high degree of stealth and a high standard of fieldcraft. Some aspects of fieldcraft requiring particular consideration and training are as follows:

- a. The rate of movement may need to be reduced. Rates as low as 1000 m per day may be experienced.
- b. Frequent halts are required to listen and observe.

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- c. The degree of alertness must be high. Due to the small size of reconnaissance patrols there is less opportunity for members to rotate security duties.

CHAPTER 3

PATROLLING STAFF DUTIES AND PLANNING

SECTION 6. DUTIES OF THE STAFF

General

301. Effective patrolling depends upon the initiative and skill of the patrol commander and the effectiveness of his soldiers in executing the patrol. It also relies heavily on the effectiveness of the controlling commander and his staff in formulating and executing the patrol programme.

302. This chapter outlines the staff aspects of patrolling at both formation and unit level and should be read in conjunction with patrolling staff duties in *MLW 1, The Conduct of Ops 5.1, Staff Duties in the Field*.

Duties of the Staff

303. The staff duties of patrolling fall under four main headings:

- a. Planning and Organization of Patrolling
- b. Coordination and Control
- c. Provision of Briefing Data
- d. Recording and Dissemination of Patrol Information

Planning and Organization of Patrolling

304. The patrol policy of the formation or unit commander forms the basis from which patrol plans are made. The policy may cover a period of days or weeks. The policy usually includes:

- a. the patrolling aim;
- b. an indication of the number, type and frequency of patrols; and
- c. arrangements for coordination. (Planning and controlling conjunction with the civil power will often be undertaken down to unit and sub-unit headquarters.)

305. Normally a commander will divide his area of responsibility into patrol sectors and these will be shown in his patrol policy. A sector commander, usually a unit or sub-unit commander, will be named for each sector.

306. **Early Warning.** The formation staff must give the earliest possible warning of what will be required from patrols so that unit commanders, given the task, can plan and allot their own tasks. Patrol commanders should have sufficient time for full briefings, study of ground, rehearsals, preparation and rest before setting out on the patrol task. Early warning is usually promulgated in the form of a patrol forecast. The amount of detail in the patrol forecast depends on the nature of the operation. It is unusual for formation headquarters to nominate particular timings, routes and composition for patrols except in static-conditions when defences have been developed to an advanced stage. Patrol forecasts are amended as further information becomes available. They are subsequently confirmed by the issue of a firm patrol programme.

Coordination and Control

307. **Patrol Boundaries.** Boundaries between units must be, clearly defined by higher formation headquarters. Units will normally undertake all patrolling activity within their Sectors.

308. In conventional operations patrol boundaries should be well defined on the ground to reduce the possibility of patrol clashes. Detailed instructions must be given in formation and unit SOPs as to how close a patrol can go to its boundary and, what clearances must be obtained from the controlling headquarters before proceeding into a restricted area. It should be made clear to patrol commanders what latitude is to be allowed, regarding approaching or crossing boundaries' in the event of patrols encountering fresh enemy tracks and follow-up of unexpected enemy encounters.

310. **Technical Information.** Technical information is often required from patrols on such subjects as locations of water obstacles or going for vehicles. Staff officers must ensure that information likely to be required by other units is scheduled in the patrol programme.

311. To collect specialist information other corps representatives may be included in infantry patrols. If this is not possible then patrols will need to be given:

- a. a detailed technical briefing of the requirements, and
- b. recording equipment such as cameras.

Provision of Briefing Data

314. Staff officers must ensure that all relevant information from all available sources is provided to patrol commanders.

Recording and Dissemination of Patrol Information

315. The staff is responsible for the buildup of the enemy picture from reports received from patrols. The buildup is cumulative and all information received from patrols must be carefully sifted, analysed and checked with information received from all other sources, such as air photographs, air reconnaissance, OPs.

316. A patrol situation map must be maintained on an enlargement or air photograph mosaic. Progress of and reports from patrols are recorded.

317. It is important for commanders and staff officers to acknowledge the efforts of patrols. This should not only be done by passing down to the unit concerned the intelligence gained as a result of its patrol reports, but also by speaking to the commander and members of successful patrols during visits to units.

SECTION 7. DUTIES OF THE UNIT STAFF

Planning and Co-ordination

318. Within the guide lines of the higher formation policy, the unit commander and his staff order and co-ordinate all patrols within the unit sector. A detailed patrol forecast is compiled by the unit patrol master, or the responsible officer, and issued to sub-units. The patrol forecast indicates what patrols are to be sent out and which sub-unit is to provide it. It should also indicate the area of the patrol, its type and strength. The period covered by the forecast will vary according to the operational situation. In protracted defence it should cover a week. The forecast is subsequently confirmed by a firm patrol programme.

319. When time permits the full sequence of planning patrolling for protracted defence is as follows:

- a. Unit commanders submit patrol forecasts to higher formation about seven days in advance. The forecast is based on the formation commander's patrol policy.

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- b. The formation headquarters agrees, alters or adds its own patrol requirements to the unit forecast to consolidate it with the forecasts of other units under command, and sends it back to the submitting unit.
 - c. The unit issues its own forecast to sub-unit commanders about three to four days in advance.
 - d. Formation headquarters and sub-units must be notified immediately, of changes necessitated by either new information or changing situations.
 - e. The unit issues its firm patrol programme 12, to 36 hours in advance based on the patrol forecast.

321. **Patrol Programme.** The patrol programme is drafted from the unit's patrol forecast and details the actual patrols going out. It includes such detail as strength, composition, duration, etc. It is normally issued at twenty-four hour intervals ([Annex B](#)). Points to note are as follows:

- a. Copies should be sent to higher formation, flanking units, and supporting arms for information and to allow co-ordination of fire support. Copies should also be distributed to sub units of the parent unit.
- b. Programmes should be acknowledged by all action addressees before patrols go out.
- c. Tasks must be specific and clearly described. Usually the unit commander decides the strength of the patrol, its route and detailed timings.

322. Consideration should be given to the following when deciding which sub-units should provide patrols:

- a. the overall patrolling requirements, including patrols for local protection and security;
- b. strength of sub-units, their state of training and morale;
- c. location of sub-units and their tasks; and
- d. control measures.

325. **Control.** Once patrols are launched it is necessary to control their movement, and co-ordinate fire support and the use of illumination. Special control of radio traffic may be required to ensure that urgent information can be transmitted quickly. Control may be exercised by one or more of the following methods:

- a. *By Sectors.* Each sub-unit or unit is allotted a sector within which the commander will control all patrols irrespective of the sub-unit or unit providing the patrol. The advantages of this system are as follows:
 - (1) All patrols in that sector will be on the same radio frequency and will hear all information which is passed.
 - (2) The sub-unit or unit commander can co-ordinate the action of all patrols in his sector which maybe necessary on contacts or, when there are casualties or when one patrol is required to assist another.
- b. *By Sub-units.* Each sub-unit commander retains control of patrols from his sub-unit irrespective of the sector in which the patrols operate.
- c. *By Centralized Control.* Control is centralized at the unit headquarters. The unit commander may wish to follow the patrol battle closely and to influence it personally. One officer may be appointed as patrol master and he is responsible for the planning, briefing and interrogation of all patrols sent out by the unit. Patrols tasked by higher

formation headquarters, operating outside a unit's area will be controlled by formation headquarters.

326. **Information.** Within a unit the intelligence officer is normally responsible for the collection, collation and dissemination of information. At this level, unit patrol reports and debriefs of patrol commanders will be the major source. Information on the following topics must be sought and passed to the patrol commander at his briefing.

- a. *Topography.* Full use must be made of maps, air, photographs air reconnaissance and local knowledge. A patrol 'going map' should be kept up to date. It is essential that all new topographic and track data should be recorded on -going maps.
- b. *Civilians.* If applicable in the operational area, movement and habits of civilians must be studied if movement of troops is to remain secure.

327. **Briefing and Debriefing.** The detailed briefing of patrols is discussed in [Section 9](#) and for details of debriefing see [Chapter 8](#).

EXAMPLE OF A UNIT PATROL PROGRAMME

SECRET

PATROL PROGRAMME

Page of Pages

NOT TO BE TAKEN ON PTL

Fmn/UnitPeriod fromToTo

Referance (Map)

Ptll No Unit Type Task

Timings

Out In

Route

Report

Req

Remarks

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

3B – 1

Notes:.....

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Distribuion:.....

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Signature:.....

SECRET

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

3B – 2

PREPARATION**SECTION 8. GENERAL****Introduction**

401. The success of any patrol will depend to a great extent on having a simple plan and thorough preparation. A simple plan will ensure that every member of the patrol knows the details of the task and how it is to be achieved. Thorough preparation will reduce the possibility of an oversight which may cause failure.

402. Sufficient time should be allowed for a thorough briefing, careful planning, reconnaissance, issue of orders and rehearsals.

Sequence of Preparation

403. A suggested sequence is:

- a. warning from unit headquarters;
- b. patrol commander's brief, either by the unit commander, sub-unit commander, intelligence officer or patrol master;
- c. map reconnaissance to select possible OPs and RVs,
- d. issue of sub-unit warning order detailing troops concerned, time and place of RV if necessary, and any special administrative arrangements;
- e. reconnaissance from OPs and or study of maps, air photographs, previous patrol maps and where possible, air reconnaissance;
- f. appreciation and plan;
- g. preparation of orders;
- h. preparation of model for briefing;
- i. assembly of patrol;
- j. study of the ground from an OP if possible, or from maps, air photographs and models;
- k. liaison with supporting arms, and insertion/extraction agency if required;
- l. issue of orders;
- m. rehearsals,
- n. preparation, inspection and testing of equipment;
- o. rest;
- p. food;
- q. night rehearsal if applicable;
- r. final inspection;
- s. advice to patrol headquarters prior to departure;
- t. patrol action; and
- u. debriefings.

SECTION 9. BRIEFINGS**Control**

404. Prior to preparing his orders, a patrol commander is normally briefed by his sub-unit commander, who will have received details of the patrol from the unit patrol programme. Special patrols are sometimes briefed by the unit commander, intelligence officer or patrol master, each of whom will have a more comprehensive knowledge of the whole unit patrol sector.

Factors to be Considered

407. Supporting arms and insertion/extraction agency representatives at each level must attend patrol briefings. The briefing given to the patrol leader should cover the following:

-
- a. *Friendly Forces.* The description of friendly force activities should include information on the disposition of forward troops, flanking units, movement of other patrols and their locations.
 - b. *Civilians.* The briefing should include the likelihood of meeting civilians, their possible locations, movement, intentions and likely attitude towards the patrol, as well the action to be taken if encountered.
 - d. *Mission.* Each patrol should have one simple mission which must be carefully explained so all members of the patrol understand their mission, for example, Question: "Is....." ? or Order: "You are to.....".
 - e. *Strength.* The strength of the patrol will normally be given in the initial briefing, but in some circumstances it may be left to the sub-unit or patrol commander to decide.
 - f. *Time Out and Where; Time In and Where.* The time and location of the patrol's departure and return should be given. Time and location for return needs to be flexible as unknown factors, (eg close country enemy contact), may influence the patrol's movement. It is essential that fixed transmission times for sitreps and locstats are given.
 - g. *Time Information Is Required By.* Where receipt of information is vital to subsequent operations, an additional timing maybe ordered, (time by which the information is required). This may necessitate passing the information by radio.
 - h. *Ground.* The route, both out and in, must be dealt with in detail. OPs, maps, air photographs, models and aerial reconnaissance should all be used if available. The location of obstacles must be identified.
 - i. *Insertion/Extraction.* The briefing will include how the patrol is to be inserted into, and extracted from, the patrol area. It must also include details on the availability of vehicles and aircraft to support the actual conduct of the patrol.
 - l. *Communications.* The briefing must indicate the allocation of radios and frequencies, whether radio silence will be observed, and if so, when it may be broken.
 - m. *Casualty Evacuation.* The patrol commander must be clear as to whether casualty evacuation is to be effected from within the patrol's resources or whether outside assistance will be available.
 - o. *Special Equipment.* The requirement for and availability of night viewing devices, special equipment, etc, must be highlighted.
 - p. *Resupply.* For long patrols, resupply arrangements may be required.
 - r. *Debriefing.* The debriefing officer will be nominated at the end of the briefing. It is normally the officer who briefed the patrol. The time and place for the debriefing will also be nominated and will usually take place as soon as possible after the patrol returns to the sub-unit area.

SECTION 10. PATROL COMMANDER'S PREPARATION

General

408. The patrol commander should study all available information such as maps, air photographs and previous patrol reports. He should then, if possible, view the ground over which he is going to move. He should also consider the need for variation in techniques. There are many patrol formations which can be used and these are detailed in later sections of this publication. They should be changed constantly depending on the terrain and speed of movement.

Appreciation Factors

409. A patrol appreciation is not different from any other, tactical appreciation. The following factors should be considered and covered in the patrol commander's plan:

- a. Friendly Forces;
- b. Composition of the Patrol;
- c. Use of Vehicles/Aircraft
- d. Dress and Equipment;
- e. Selection of Routes;
- f. Navigation;
- g. Passage of Obstacles;
- h. Speed;
- i. Communications;
- j. Action on Contact en route to/from the Objective;
- k. Action on Reaching the Objective;
- l. Casualties;
- m. Rendezvous;
- n. Need for a Patrol Base; and
- o. Administration.

Composition of the Patrol

411. The strength of a patrol will normally be told to the patrol commander during his briefing, however the selection of individual members is normally left to him. The importance of the patrol task, the degree of skill required and the state of training of individual cadets will influence the selection of patrol members. Cadets selected should be free from medical afflictions and should be physically fit. The tendency to select only the experienced or very capable cadets is also wrong. A patrol roster is a means of ensuring patrol duties are shared fairly.

Dress and Equipment

413. The equipment to be taken and the dress to be worn will depend upon the patrol's task. As a general rule patrols should operate as lightly equipped as possible:

- a. *Equipment.* The aim should be to keep the load of each cadet to the absolute minimum. Equipment should be camouflaged, well fitting and must not rattle.
- b. *Navigation Equipment.* Necessary items of navigation equipment should be duplicated within the patrol.

Selection of Routes

414. The selection of routes to and from the objective requires careful consideration to ensure maximum advantage is made of concealed routes to enhance security. The following should be considered:

- a. Habitation should be avoided and indirect routes may have to be used.

-
- b. Easily recognisable landmarks along the route should be selected.
 - c. Patrols must return by a different route. Only in exceptional circumstances will a patrol return by its outward route.
 - d. Timings for sunrise, sunset, moonrise and moonset should also be considered.

Navigation

415. Accurate navigation is essential. Navigation information is contained in a separate handbook.

Passage of Obstacles

416. Every obstacle presents a separate problem. The patrol commander should try and identify all likely obstacles, both natural and artificial, before the patrol sets out. Only major obstacles need to be examined by the patrol commander. Wherever possible a drill or technique for crossing an obstacle should be rehearsed. To avoid confusion a prearranged sequence should be used.

Speed

417. In planning the patrol route staff are concerned with how long it will take the patrol to complete its task. Some factors on timings to be considered are as follows:

- a. Strain on Personnel
- b. The Degree of Risk
- c. The Going
- d. Background Noise
- e. Visibility
- f. Obstacles
- g. Patrol Formations
- h. Navigation

Communications

419. On many occasions the success or failure of a patrol depends on good communications. Good communications depend on the training of operators, and on the preparation and proper maintenance of equipment. Radio is subject to electronic interference and some consideration must be given to using alternative means of communication.

Action on Reaching the Objective

421. It is difficult to plan action on the objective in detail, especially if prior observation from an OP is unavailable. However a probable plan of action should always be prepared and rehearsed. On arriving near the objective, the patrol commander should secure the area. He should then make a brief reconnaissance to enable him to check his outline plan and consider any additional requirements. Finally he must brief the patrol of any changes to the plan.

Casualties

422. Commanders at all levels must prepare for and plan the evacuation of casualties. Evacuation will be conducted by the quickest appropriate means available. This will be covered in the Risk Analysis.

Rendezvous

423. Patrol RVs are used for control purposes, eg, a place where a patrol gathers after completing a task or where individuals may report if they are cut off in an encounter. They are essential to assist in quickly regaining control. On long patrols several RVs may be needed. The RV must be easy to find but not too obvious. The time for which individuals or groups remain at the RV and subsequent action to be taken must be clearly stated by the patrol commander in his orders.

The Need for a Patrol Base

424. A patrol may need to set up a patrol base in the following circumstances:

- a. To form a base from which further patrols are sent out, and from which aid can be sent forward if necessary.
- b. To provide radio relay when required, to ensure communications between distant patrols and the controlling headquarters.
- c. To provide a secure position for the evacuation of casualties.
- d. To provide a temporary or permanent base for use at night.

425. The location and purpose of patrol bases must be included in the patrol plan and details issued in the patrol orders.

Administration on Return

426. Before departing on a patrol the patrol commander should consider the administrative arrangements for the reception of his patrol when it returns. A sound 'drill', (after debriefing) is required to include the following:

- a. returning special stores;
- b. personal washing and hygiene;
- c. removal of dirty clothing; and
- d. food and rest.

SECTION 11. PATROL COMMANDER'S ORDERS

General

427. The success of any patrol will largely depend upon the contents of the patrol commander's orders and the manner in which he presents them. Orders will take time must be detailed. Time may be saved if certain actions are mentioned in outline only and are practised in detail during rehearsals.

428. It is usually impractical to issue orders in a position from which the patrol area can be seen but, if possible, all members of a patrol should visit an OP to familiarise themselves with salient terrain features. Patrol orders should be issued with the aid of a model.

429. Patrol orders must always be given to the whole patrol. They must be given slowly and members should be allowed to ask questions. A suggested method is to give a general outline using the standard sequence for orders, followed by a detailed explanation in chronological order tracing the activities of the patrol from when it departs until it returns. After the orders, the patrol commander must be confident that every member not only knows his own job thoroughly but is capable of taking charge in an emergency, or even completing the mission by himself should the need arise. An order of seniority must be given in case the patrol leader or other key members become casualties.

430. A check list for patrol orders is at [Annex A](#) to this chapter. The patrol commander must determine which headings should be included in particular orders depending on the task and likely duration of the patrol.

Rehearsals

431. Patrols will not always consist of standard groupings such as a rifle section. They will often be composed of cadets who do not normally work together. It is most important that all actions of the patrol should be thoroughly rehearsed before it sets out. The patrol commander must be quite clear as to what he wants to rehearse; vague rehearsals of formations alone are of little use. A daylight rehearsal should be held to practise the following:

- a. order of march, individual positions and arcs of responsibility in all formations to be used;
- b. method of changing formations;
- c. obstacle crossing drills;
- d. action on the objective;
- e. field signals;
- f. action on halts; and
- g. casualty evacuation.

433. An effective method of conducting rehearsals is to firstly talk the patrol through each stage of the patrol, describing the actions and having each man perform his duties. When satisfied that this is understood by all members, rehearse actions using only the signals and commands to be used during the actual patrol. Rehearsals are continued until the patrol is thoroughly familiar with all actions, ideally, response becomes instinctive.

434. There should only be few occasions when it is not possible to carry out a rehearsal. Where this is so, the procedures and drills must be discussed and each cadet fully briefed on what s/he will do.

Inspections

435. A thorough inspection of weapons and ammunition is necessary before a patrol moves out. The time between the inspections and departure must be sufficient to allow time to correct faults found. Radios are normally tested at the discretion of the patrol commander or at times laid down by the controlling headquarters.

436. The patrol commander must carry out a final inspection of the patrol as close as possible to the time of departure to ensure the following:

- a. Each cadet is correctly dressed and equipped and is carrying a field dressing.
- b. Each cadet is camouflaged with his exposed skin suitably darkened.
- c. All appropriate safety precautions have been taken.

Annex: [A. Patrol Orders - Check-list](#)

PATROL ORDERS – CHECK-LIST

Preliminary Action

1. Seat patrol in order of tasks and orient features depicted by the model to map and actual features.

Situation

3. **Topography.** A brief explanation of the ground over which the patrol is to move. Refer only to that ground which is of immediate concern to the patrol. Points which can be covered are:

- a. nature of roads and tracks in the area,
- b. creeks and streams and water levels if applicable,
- c. vegetational cover, and
- d. description of terrain.

4. Use models, air photographs, etc, as aids and take questions on topography.

5. Friendly Forces.

- a. own positions;
- b. other patrol locations;
- c. clearances to use other areas.

6. Attachments and Detachments.

- a. details of personnel attached for the duration of the patrol, and
- b. details of personnel detached for duration of the patrol.

Mission

7. The mission must be clearly expressed and understood by every man. It takes the following form respective to the patrol:

Reconnaissance Patrols. This mission takes the form of question or questions.

Execution

8. **General Outline.** The general outline is delivered with the following points:

- a. Detail of phases for example, four phases:
 - (1) *Phase 1.* Movement to patrol base.
 - (2) *Phase 2.* Action at patrol base.
 - (3) *Phase 3.* Action at the objective.
 - (4) *Phase 4.* Return to base location.

9. **Strength and Composition.** Numbers, appointments and position in patrol.

10. Timings.

- a. time out,
- b. anticipated time of arrival at patrol base,
- c. anticipated time out of patrol base, and
- d. anticipated time of return to current location.

11. **Insertion/Extraction.** Details about the method used for insertion/extraction.

12. **Phase 1. Movement to Patrol Base.** General description of route by use of model:

-
- a. *Detailed Route*. This is as per the navigation data sheet.
 - b. *Navigational Responsibilities*. These include:
 - (1) pacers,
 - (2) check pacers, and
 - (3) check navigator.
 - c. *Boundaries*. Must be clearly defined.
 - d. *Bounds*.
 - (1) location, and
 - (2) action at bounds.
 - e. *R Vs*. Orders should include:
 - (1) location,
 - (2) action at RV, and
 - (3) action when waiting time expires.
 - f. *Formations*.
 - (1) initial formations, and
 - (2) anticipated formations.
 - g. *Order of March*. Give the initial order and when it will change.
 - h. *Action on Obstacles*: Include actions for:
 - (1) anticipated obstacles, and
 - (2) unexpected obstacles.
 - i. *Action if Separated or Lost From Patrol*.
13. **Phase 2. Action at Patrol Base** (if required). The following actions must be detailed in full:
- a. method of occupation,
 - b. routine,
 - c. communications,
 - d. administration,
 - e. action if contacted in patrol base, and
 - f. action if reconnaissance patrol fails to return by a given time.
14. **Phase 3. Action at the Objective**. This may take the form of:
- a. confirmation of orders,
 - b. brief on actions for standing patrol,
15. **Phase 4. Return to Base Location**. General description of route by use of model (detail to cover is the same as for [Phase 1](#)). A different return route should be used.
16. **Rehearsals**.
- a. timings (day and night),
 - b. content, and
 - c. location.
17. **Debriefing**.
- a. timings,
 - b. by who, and
 - c. location.

Administration and Logistics.

18. **Rations**.
- a. type and number of days,
 - b. resupply,

-
- c. cooking, and
 - d. water.

19. **Dress and Equipment.**

- a. change of clothing;
- b. large or small pack;
- c. bedroll;
- d. footwear; and
- e. maps, compasses and air photos.

20. **Medical.**

- a. casualty evacuation,
- b. first field dressing,
- c. section first aid kit,
- d. medical orderly and haversack,
- e. water sterilizing tablets,
- f. stretcher tops,
- g. mosquito and mite repellent, and
- h. foot powder.

21. **Special Equipment.**

- a. saws and machetes,
- b. cameras,
- c. binoculars,
- d. surveillance equipment,
- e. wire cutters,
- g. marker balloons,
- h. dropping zone marker panels,
- i. nylon rope, and
- j. signal equipment (mirrors, strobes, etc).

22. **Inspection.**

- a. all equipment serviceable, noise free;
- b. personnel with correct weapons and equipment;
- c. security breaches (carriage of personal mail, marked maps, etc.), and
- d. time for inspection.

Command and Signal.

23. **Radio.**

- a. times of opening,
- b. special instructions, and
- c. main and alternative frequencies and designators.
- c. passwords.

24. **Check and Test Sets.**

- a. antennae,
- b. morse keys (if used),
- c. spare batteries, and
- d. time for radio test.

25. **Alternative Communications Means.** Details are mandatory.

26. **Ground/Air Communications.**

- a. drop zone panels, and the letters and colours allotted,
- b. frequencies, and
- c. ground/air signal code.

27. **Patrol Seniority List.** This should include the whole patrol.

28. **Synchronization of watches.** This is done at the end of orders.

Questions from Orders Group

29. Allow patrol to read through notes. then clarify doubtful points.

Questions to Orders Group

30. Commander directs questions on important aspects of task to appropriate members of the patrol.

CHAPTER 5

CONDUCT OF THE PATROL

SECTION 12. GENERAL

Introduction

501. Patrolling requires the utmost vigilance. The enemy should be seen and heard by the patrol before it is itself seen or heard. This demands great patience, skilful and silent movement and good observation. The members individual and collective skill at fieldcraft become an important factor.

SECTION 13. PATROL TECHNIQUES

Observation

503. During a patrol all the human sensory perceptions must be used. On the move patrol members attempt to detect any visual signs such as movement, tracks, and broken vegetation. The sense of smell must be developed to detect the presence of the enemy. When a patrol halts to listen every man should freeze in place, maintain absolute quiet, look and listen.

504. Cadets must be trained to look through rather than at foliage. A better view is often obtained at ground level.

505. The arc of responsibility for observation by each man in a patrol should be laid down by the patrol commander. This will vary with different formations. Observation to the rear and above must not be forgotten.

Searching Ground

506. When searching ground, or patrolling for general information, the amount of ground covered will depend upon the vegetation and terrain. Commanders must bear this in mind when briefing patrols; they must appreciate the time required for the patrol otherwise ground will be only partially searched and incomplete information will result.

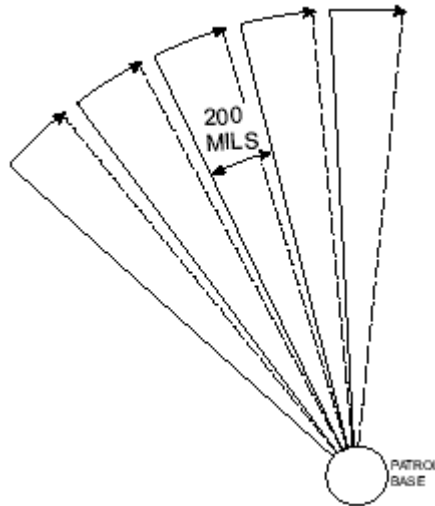
507. **Fan Method.** An effective method of search in close country is the fan method. A patrol base is established from which a number of reconnaissance patrols are dispatched on compass bearings, at intervals of 200 m like the ribs of a fan. All patrols turn right or left, move a prescribed distance, then return to the patrol base (Figure 1). The radius of action of the patrol should be limited so that it is not absent from base for more than about two hours to reduce the time

a. type and distribution, required to react to any contact. Navigation may be difficult in close country and so strict control must be exercised. Patrols should enter and leave the patrol base at staggered timings so that they are not all moving through the perimeter at the same time. However, each fan patrol should go out immediately after its neighbour to minimise the chance of a patrol clash at the end of the fan.

508. **Ridge/Stream Method.** In this method, a patrol base is also established from which reconnaissance patrols of three or four men are sent out. Instead of following specific bearings, they work their way up and down the banks of streams and creeks, or ridges and spur lines (Figure 2). When using this method the accuracy of maps must be checked beforehand. Additional points to note on stream searches are as follows:

- a. Do not search only the features marked on the map; unmarked features which are discovered during the patrol should also be investigated.
- b. Do not always conduct the search in the same manner, the search pattern must be varied. Random movement away from and back to the stream/ridge should occur.

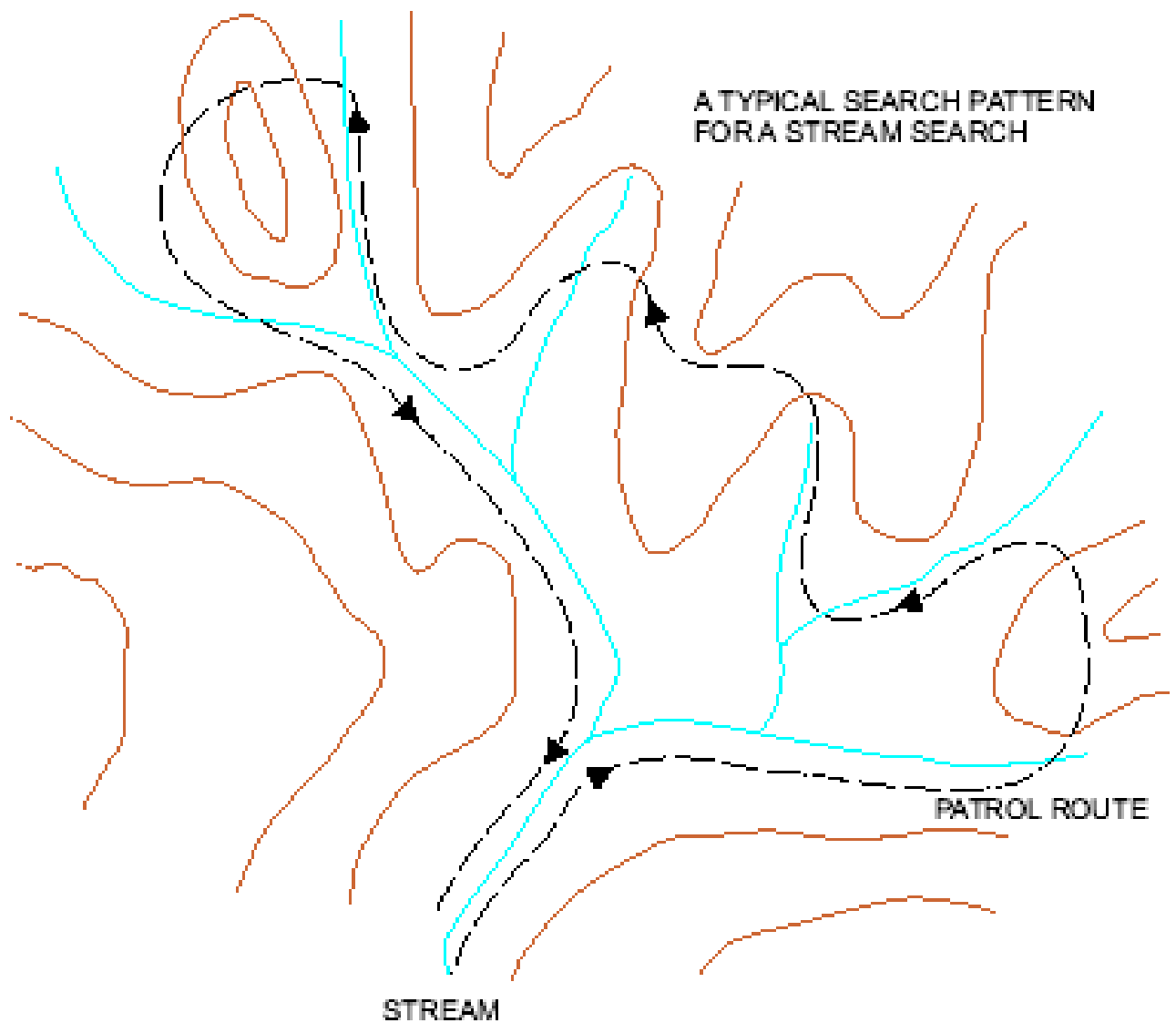
-
- c. Always move away from fast running water to listen.
 - e. Do not move into the defile through which the stream flows.
 - f. Smells hang heavily in low places, they also are channeled down valleys, so a base or camp maybe smelt before it is seen.
 - g. Vegetation is normally thicker on the edges of streams and movement may be very difficult, noisy and slow.



Notes:

1. Outwards distance depends upon terrain and vegetation.
2. Arc covered will be in direct proportion to the outward radius.

Figure 1. The Fan Method



Note: The exact course of the stream should not always be followed.

Figure 2. The Stream Method

509. **Base-line (or Box) Method.** In this method, a road, ridgeline, tree line, river or any linear feature is used as a base-line and patrols are sent out on a box-like route back to the base-line. Reconnaissance patrols of three to four men are sent out on the same compass bearing, approximately perpendicular to the base-line. Patrols move a prescribed distance, turn 1600 mils to either the left or right, move a specified distance, then return to the base-line on a back bearing to the outward direction. The distance between patrols, and between outward and inward patrol routes, will depend on vegetation visibility and the operational situation. As suggested in the fan method explanation, patrol duration should be limited to about 2 hours.

510. Ground and visibility both have a marked effect on the method of search selected. Any of the methods employed will require modification to conform to the shape of the ground and to minimize any difficulties in navigation.

511. Reconnaissance patrols are deployed to obtain information on which the patrol commander can make a plan. Once they have information, the correct procedure is for the patrol to report to the patrol base commander. If no information is forthcoming, the patrol base moves on and a fresh series of reconnaissance patrols is sent out. A patrol commander who finds signs of enemy movement should try and answer the following questions:

- a. How many people made the track?
- b. When were the tracks made?
- c. Where were they found?
- d. What was the direction of movement?

Close Reconnaissance

515. Once a position has been located it may be necessary to carry out a close reconnaissance of the position. Detailed knowledge will all assist the commander in planning future action. Two techniques for close reconnaissance are long and short range observation/surveillance.

516. **Long Range Observation/Surveillance.** Long range observation/surveillance is the reconnaissance of an objective from an OP, which is far enough from the objective and outside the area normally covered by enemy sensors and other local security measures. It is the most desirable method since the patrol does not approach close enough to the objective to risk detection. A series of OPs may be established if information cannot be gained from only one direction. OPs are also used to select close reconnaissance positions from which detailed reconnaissance may be conducted. Security must be maintained by:

- a. selecting covered and concealed OPs;
- b. using covered and concealed routes between OPs and a patrol base; and
- c. security elements, including sensors, being deployed to give early warning and by providing covering fire if required.

517. **Short Range Observation/Surveillance.** Short range observation/surveillance is the observation of an objective from a place that is within the range of enemy local security measures and sensors. The need to gain information will often require the patrol to adopt this technique. Close reconnaissance positions are pre-selected from an initial OP, where possible. The reconnaissance patrol will need to move close to the objective before choosing the exact location of the final OP.

518. On nearing the objective the patrol commander should establish a forward RV. It should be sited so that it is well hidden, no closer than 200 m from known patrol routes, OPs or sentry positions. The forward RV provides the commander with a temporary firm base, close to the objective from which he can operate. While the close reconnaissance is in progress it should be manned by the patrol 21C and the radio operator. Only vital transmissions should be made while in the forward RV. The volume setting should be as low as possible on the radio, and, if available, the operator should use an earphone.

519. The close reconnaissance team should make its final preparation in the forward RV. Movement forward of the forward RV must be very slow and deliberate. Commanders should allow sufficient time for the team to obtain the information without prejudice to its own security. If time is limited the team should only be required to ascertain a correspondingly limited amount of information. If the enemy position is large, or time is limited, then the commander may employ more than one close reconnaissance team. If this occurs, then each patrol must have clearly defined routes for movement to and from the forward RV. They must also have clearly defined areas in which to conduct their reconnaissance in order to avoid clashes.

520. The close reconnaissance team will normally consist of an observer (normally the patrol commander) and two cover men. The cover men should be sufficiently close to provide protection to the observer but far enough away so his position is not compromised. When moving in areas close to the enemy position only one man should move at any one time. Accordingly, bounds should be very short.

521. It is important that information obtained is accurately recorded, and sketches are related to the ground. There are several methods of sketching enemy positions. One method, which is normally the simplest method for use in close country, is diagrammatically shown at [Annex A](#) to this chapter. The observer must start from a known point and record all bearings and distances. At a later time these can be converted onto a diagram produced to scale. If the observer employs symbols in his sketch then all patrol members should understand what the symbols mean, so that they can be deciphered if the observer becomes a casualty.

522. Some actions that the reconnaissance patrol may carry out to minimise the possibility of detection are to:

- a. maximise use of poor visibility conditions;
- b. restrict the size of the actual reconnaissance element to reduce noise and movement;

Maintaining Control

523. The patrol commander must always adapt the patrol's speed of movement to cater for his rear elements. Responsibility for keeping in touch within the patrol must be from front to rear. The flanks must maintain their position by the centre.

524. If a patrol is split then the:

- a. rear party stay where they are, and
- b. leading elements must retrace their steps.

SECTION 14. PATROL FORMATIONS

General

529. The formation adopted by a patrol will depend on:

- a. the type of patrol and its task,
- b. ground,
- c. control, and
- d. concealment.

530. Formations should be kept as simple as possible.

531. A patrol is best organized into groups. Where the numbers permit and visibility allows, the patrol may be divided into three or four groups. A commander should be appointed for each group, leaving the patrol commander free to command the patrol as a whole. Grouping affords the following:

- a. simplifies control of the patrol,
- b. provides the commander with maneuverability of fire units within the patrol as a whole, and
- c. enables the groups to be drilled and rehearsed in all actions the patrol is likely to encounter.

532. Useful formations are an extension of the normal section formations such as single file, extended line, arrowhead open file and staggered file. Other patrol formations may be designed for specific tasks, eg, one up, two up diamond and box formations. The distance between individuals will depend upon visibility. Examples of some formations and command groupings for an average size patrol are shown at [Annex B](#) to this chapter.

Use of Scouts

533. Scouts are people who move in front of, or sometimes to the side of a patrol. Scouting becomes more important when visibility is reduced. Scouts normally work in pairs. The task of the lead scout is to search. The task of the second scout is to look after the first.

534. The method of movement for the scouts is to continue moving one behind the other with a suitable gap between them.

Position of the Patrol Commander

536. The patrol commander should normally move behind the scout group. His position will vary with the ground and tactical circumstances but he should always be sufficiently forward to:

- a. be in a position to influence an encounter from the outset;
- b. not be caught in the opening burst of fire but he should be placed where he can quickly exploit immediate action drills; and
- c. exercise control and navigate.

Position of Trackers

537. The function of the tracker is to follow a trail. Once a trail has been picked up the tracker must be moved into the lead, otherwise the faint signs of enemy movement will be obliterated and confused. The tracker must be protected by the scouts who must not relax their alertness or be distracted by the signs of the trail. The use of trackers is described in [Part Two, Chapter 9](#) of this publication.

Position of Guides

538. The word 'guide', as used here, means somebody with an intimate knowledge of an area or someone who can lead a patrol to a known enemy location. The guide may be a policeman, a member of a local force or a local civilian. The correct position for a guide is with the patrol leader. A guide should not lead a patrol because:

- a. he is not normally a trained scout nor part of the military team and his function is merely to advise the patrol commander on direction,

SECTION 15. CONTROL

General

539. The success of the patrol largely depends on the control exercised by the patrol commander. He must be able to deploy groups as the situation demands. Any combination of the methods described in paragraphs 540 to 545 can be used.

540. **Field Signals.** Arm and hand signals should be used whenever possible. Immediate obedience to hand signals is of paramount importance. All members must understand the signals and be alert to pass them onto other members.

541. **Oral Orders.** Oral orders must sometimes be given in the course of a patrol. This is particularly so with large patrols. If it is necessary commanders should speak just loudly enough to be heard and should not shout except in an emergency. At night, or when close to the enemy, the patrol should be halted and group leaders brought forward.

542. **Accounting for Personal.** An important aspect of control is the accounting for cadets. This should always be done after crossing obstacles and after halts.

543. **Moving by Bounds.** Patrols should always try to move in tactical bounds. The distance between bounds will vary according to the ground, vegetation and visibility.

544. **Speed of Movement.** Speed of movement is dictated by the terrain and task. Speed is better obtained by intelligent route planning than by trying to push forward quickly and blindly.

545. **Halts.** Frequent halts must be made for observation and listening. When halted for a rest, a patrol must always take up positions for all-round defence. In some formations it may be necessary to delegate responsibility for protection and provision of sentries to groups. After passing through an obstacle, or after periods of extra exertion, a short halt should be planned.

SECTION 16. MOVEMENT

General

546. Silence is essential at all times. With practice it is possible to move at reasonable speed in comparative silence. Cadets should move steadily and carefully, parting undergrowth and avoiding dry leaves, sticks, rotten wood, etc.

547. When moving along sloping ground, the patrol should contour around the slope keeping fairly high but below the crest. Moving along crests in open country increases the risk of being seen against the skyline. When crossing a ridge the patrol should crawl and try to make use of any background available.

Action on Illumination

548. When a flare is activated, there is usually time to find concealment or drop and lie motionless before the light takes full effect. When surprised by full light, in close country it is best to 'freeze'; in open country it is best to fall flat. Movement is the most likely factor to give a patrol away. One eye should be closed to avoid night blindness after the flare goes out.

Movement at Night

549. When moving at night, advantage should be taken of noises such as wind, vehicles, aircraft or battle sounds. The following aids will assist in maintaining control when moving at night:

- a. Luminous tape or patches worn on the back of the collar or hat.
- b. White cloth fixed to the back of equipment.

Cutting

550. Cutting of vegetation should only occur as a last resort and to avoid unacceptably long detours. If it is necessary to cut, secateurs or sharp machetes should be used. Cutting has the following disadvantages:

- a. noise,
- b. it reduces speed of movement,
- c. fatigue is increased in the leading elements.

Breaching Obstacles

551. If a patrol encounters an obstacle it must carry out the drills rehearsed prior to the patrol. If the enemy's presence is known or suspected, the obstacle should be crossed at night or in reduced visibility. Cutting of wire must be concealed and any tracks made through the obstacle must be obliterated.

552. When returning from a patrol it is dangerous practice to rely on minefield perimeter fences to find minefield gaps and lanes. These should be reconnoitered prior to departure.

Tracks

553. If a straight linear feature such as a track, fence or ditch must be followed for direction, it is best to move parallel to it, and not along it, as the enemy is likely to cover the feature with defensive fire tasks, mines or ambush. However, movement on tracks may be necessary when speed in follow-up is required or when moving in mountainous country.

Concealment of Movement

554. Not only should established tracks be avoided, but efforts should be made to disguise or hide signs of movement. This applies particularly for operations in close country. Some aids to conceal movement are:

- a. to maintain track discipline,
- b. not to signpost the route with litter or waste food (rubbish must be kept and carried),
- c. not to unnecessarily damage vegetation,
- d. to obliterate signs of crossing obstacles by the rear man,
- e. to avoid handling of small saplings when moving through close country, and
- f. to avoid the shaking of overhead branches which can be seen and heard at a distance.

SECTION 17. PATROL RENDEZVOUS PROCEDURES

General

555. Patrol RVs are necessary along a patrol route as they provide the patrol with locations to regroup if members are separated from the main body. RVs should be pre-planned by the commander and all members should be made aware of them.

Location

556. A patrol RV should be near a prominent landmark so that it can be easily located by all members by day or night.

557. Patrol commanders will need to nominate RVs at regular intervals along the patrol route. In the event of a patrol member becoming separated from the main body he should return to the

previous RV and wait for a period of time as specified in the patrol orders. On long patrols, where members are unlikely to be able to remember all the RV locations, it may be necessary to nominate RVs along the patrol route that are obvious to the patrol as it passes.

RV Procedures

558. A standard system for opening and closing an RV should be stipulated in unit SOPs. RVs should only be used after they have been passed and cleared by the patrol. An RV should only be 'open' for a specific time which is known to all members of the patrol. If the patrol is not regrouped within the specified time then the separated members should continue with their 'action if separated' procedure. Once an RV has been used then it should not be reused.

559. An individual needing to use an RV should spend some time observing it before entering. He should then clear the area of the RV and then move to one side of it where the remainder of the RV can be clearly observed. A patrol should approach the RV from a nominated direction so that the chance of a clash is reduced. Marry-up procedures between patrols and individuals should be rehearsed prior to the patrol. Visual identification, passwords or signals can be used to assist in marrying-up.

Marry-up Procedures

560. An RV may also be used to accept resupply or for two or more patrols to join up. If two patrols are to marry-up then there is a very real danger that a clash may occur. It is therefore essential that the rehearsed marry-up procedures are used.

561. **Marry-up with Good Communications.** When both elements involved in the marry-up have adequate communications then the procedure to be adopted is as follows:

- a. Only one element is to move.
- b. The moving element is to advise when they are approaching the static element location. (There is no requirement to stop at this point if both commanders are sure of their positions and the elements are outside visual and hearing distance.)
- c. Both elements remain on the net until the marry-up is complete.
- d. The static element ensures that group commanders and sentries are warned that another element is approaching, and from which general direction.
- e. If the moving element is not positively identified before it is within small arms range it must stop and report to the static element.
- f. The static element withdraws sentries, 'stands to' and warns every member of the impending arrival. Only when this has been completed is authority given to the incoming element to proceed.
- g. The moving element proceeds to the position and is checked in by their commander. Normal challenging procedure is adopted.

562. **Marry-up with No Communications.** Elements may be employed away from their parent unit without radio communications, or radio facilities may fail. Under these circumstances it becomes imperative that any actions taken are in accordance with the pre-task briefing. This briefing should include as follows:

- a. The time the patrol is to arrive back into the position. It is important that, unless information gathered is of extreme importance, the patrol arrives at this time. If the task is completed earlier than anticipated wait until the time specified before approaching the position.

b. The route to be taken back into the position should be clearly defined (for example, creek, spur line, etc). The patrol commander must ensure that this is used.

c. If a patrol is being pursued then a direct entry will be required. In these circumstances firm co-ordination by voice is necessary.

d. If entry is required earlier than the planned time then it should be done through a sentry position. All sentries must be aware of this likelihood. Unless essential, patrols without communications should not be tasked to enter a position by night.

e. Patrols should be aware of the positions of all sentries.

563. The primary method of marry-up without communications should be based upon a laid down time of entry and a known direction of entry. This, together with the careful briefing of all sentries should ensure a successful marry-up. Irrespective of when the marry-up is to be done, sentries and must challenge anyone seen approaching the position in accordance with SOPS.

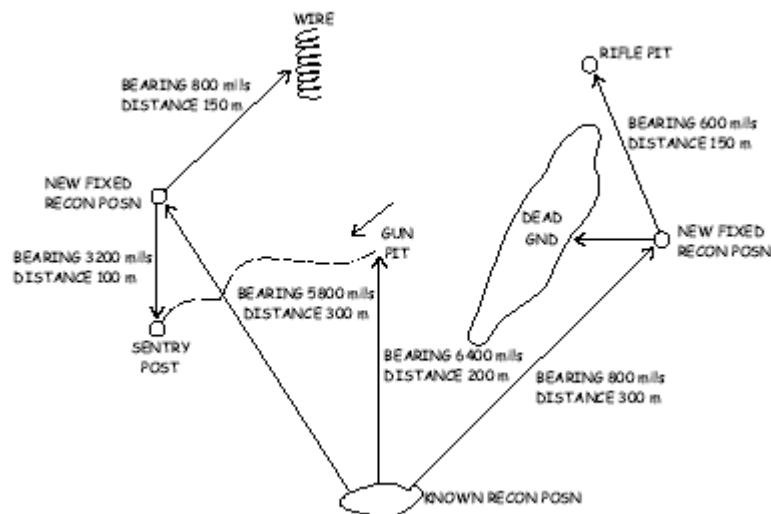
SECTION 18. CASUALTY EVACUATION

General

564. All casualties must be brought back, not only for reasons of morale, but also to deny information to the enemy. A man wounded on the way to the objective may have to be left with an escort and collected on the way back. If the situation permits it may be possible for another patrol to evacuate him. When there is a severe casualty and other methods of evacuation are not available, the casualty will have to be evacuated by the patrol. The detailed evacuation plan will depend on:

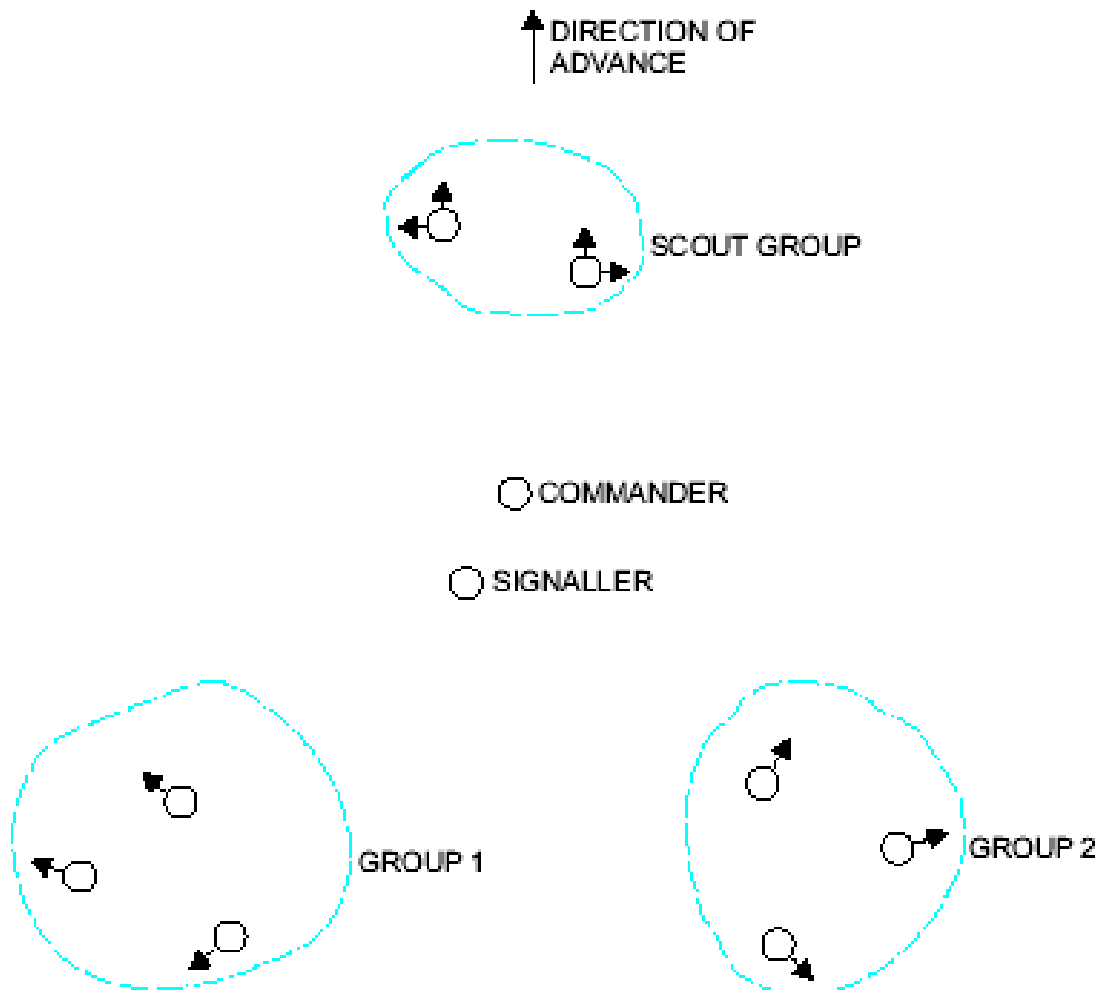
- a. the remaining active strength of the patrol;
- b. the mission, and whether or not it has been accomplished;
- c. the seriousness of the casualty;
- d. the distance to the nearest friendly location;
- e. available areas for an LZ..

565. The patrol commander must decide whether to try and carry the casualty or move him to an existing clearing for possible air evacuation.



PATROL FORMATIONS

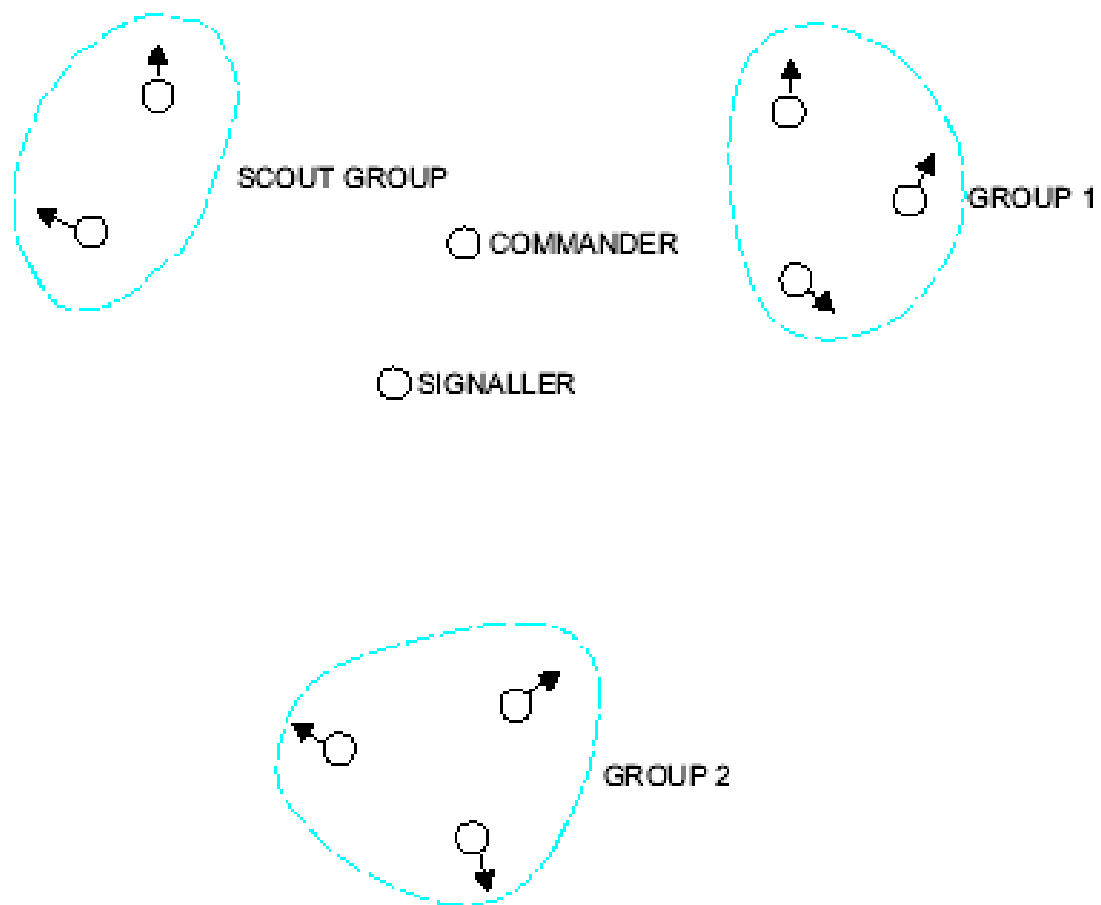
1. The formations shown in this annex will be useful for a medium sized patrol. The formations are variations of section type formations.
2. In the explanatory diagram the small arrows indicate the direction of responsibility for observation.
3. The number and strength of the groups depends on the overall strength of the patrol.



Advantages

1. Ease of control

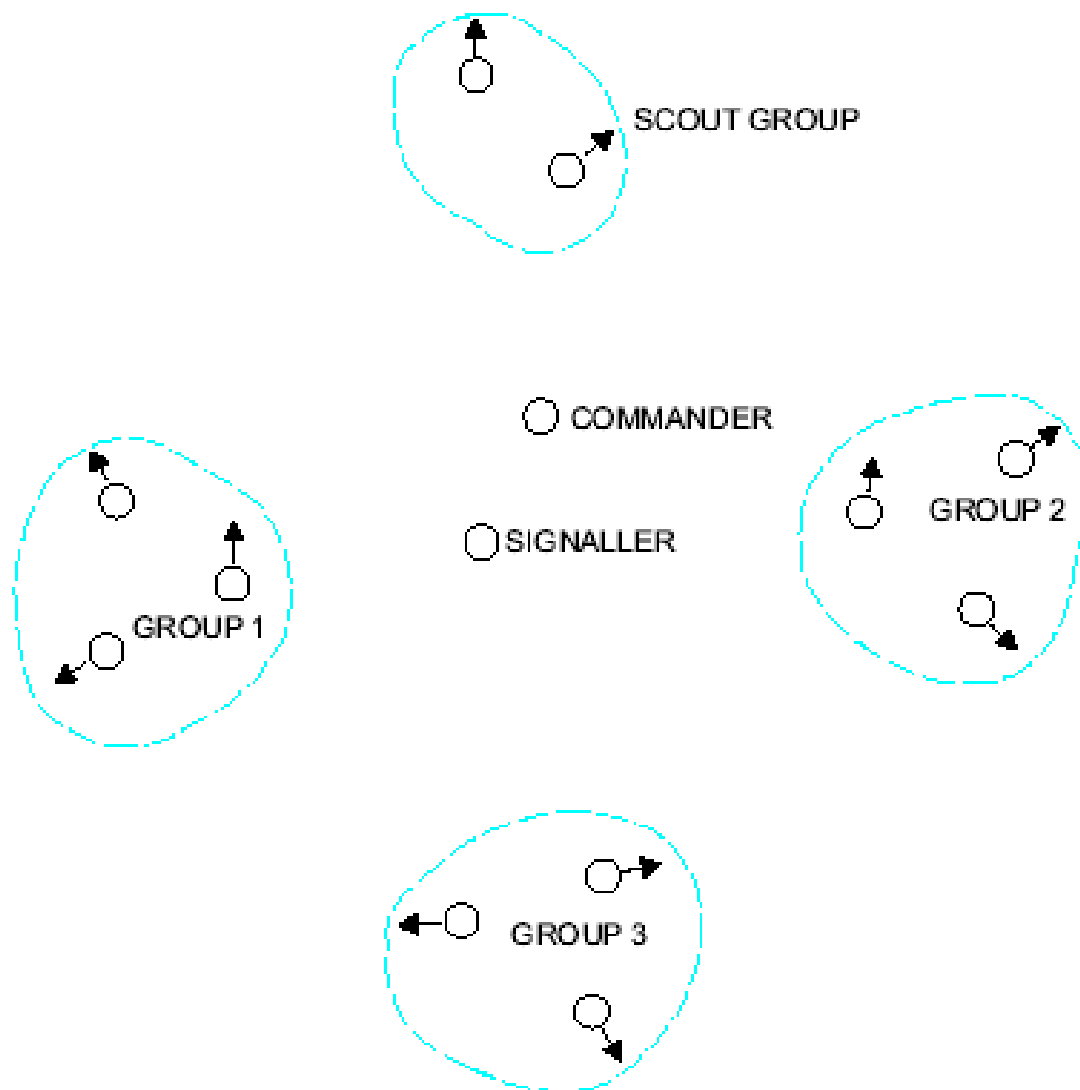
Figure 6. Open Formation – One Up



Advantages

1. A wider front is covered.

Figure 7. Open Formation – Two Up



This formation which is suitable for a larger patrol, allows good control. The diamond shape can be changed to a box shape if necessary.

Figure 8. Diamond Formation

PATROL BASES

SECTION 21. PATROL BASES

Introduction

601. Patrol bases are secure areas, temporarily established, from which further patrols or operations can be conducted. Part of the force establishing the patrol base must remain in location to provide security for the base area. Patrol bases may also be used to conduct personal administration during long patrols or when operating some distance away from the parent locality.

Requirements

602. The requirements for a patrol base that need to be considered are:

- a. effective siting,
- b. sequence of establishment, and
- c. security

Siting

603. Factors to be considered when siting a patrol base are:

- a. It must be sited so that the patrol can carry out its task.
- b. The base area should be defensible for a short time by the troops remaining while patrols are out.
- c. It should not be easily detected.
- d. The ground chosen should be suitable for radio communications.
- e. It should, if possible, be within easy reach of water.
- f. The area should be suitable for men to sleep in comfort.
- g. If it is anticipated that aerial resupply will be required, the base should be near to a drop or landing zone. These zones should only be used once and the patrol base location should also be changed after the resupply.

Sequence of Establishment

604. Once the area of the proposed patrol base is reached, the patrol commander may have to conduct a reconnaissance of the area to ensure that he has selected the best location. When the final location is selected the patrol should move in and establish the base. Establishing a base must become a routine matter, and each man must know his own, his neighbour's and his group's responsibilities. The tactical layout will depend upon the ground and vegetation. A suggested sequence is as follows:

- a. The patrol commander orders a halt. The patrol should move to rehearsed group locations in all round defence. The patrol should 'stand to'.
- b. One or more clearing patrols are sent out to search the surrounding area. If more than one patrol is sent out then the patrols should work in the same direction to avoid clashes. The remainder of the patrol remains 'standing to' until the clearing patrols return and sentries are posted. Conduct of clearing patrols is discussed in [*MLW TWO INF TRG 1.2 The Rifle Platoon*](#).

-
- c. The patrol commander makes adjustments to the siting of weapons and personnel as necessary. d. Group commanders detail sentry rosters, confirm 'stand to' positions, etc.
 - d. The position is prepared as for a hasty defence provided this does not prejudice its secrecy.
 - e. If required, the patrol commander holds an orders group. The following are some points which may be reiterated from the initial orders group:
 - (1) sentries, 'stand to' and 'stand down' procedure;
 - (2) local patrolling;
 - (3) radio;
 - (4) tasks for the next day;
 - (5) water and washing parties;
 - (6) cooking fires and smoking; and
 - (7) latrines and urinals.

Security

605. If the base is occupied longer than overnight and a major portion of the force is operating away from the base, sufficient troops must remain to provide adequate protection of the base.

606. The security of a patrol base is achieved largely by avoiding detection. Points to be considered are:

- a. If possible, the approach march should be made at night.
- b. The base should be located away from obvious sites.
- c. Not more than one track should lead into a base. This track must be well camouflaged and guarded.
- d. The base must be occupied as quickly and quietly as possible.
- f. Morning and evening stand to routine must be adhered to.
- g. The patrol's own surveillance equipment may be deployed to assist in security.

607. Sentries will need to be deployed by both day and night as follows:

a. *By Day.* Often it will be impossible to cover all likely approaches. Single sentry posts should be located so as not to be distracted by noise from the base. A silent method of warning the base must be arranged. Sentries should normally be armed with automatic weapons and be supported from within the base.

b. *By Night.* The base should be as compact as practicable so that the minimum number of two-man sentry posts need to be manned. Sentries should have at least one automatic weapon between them, a torch, watch, and a compass. It must be remembered that the number of sentries will always depend on the ground, the size of the patrol, and the closeness and intensity of enemy activity.

Returning To a Base

608. When returning to a patrol base, a patrol should employ marry-up procedures as outlined in [Chapter 5](#). The need to maintain security when returning to a base cannot be over-stressed. Should the enemy make a habit of ambushing patrols returning to base, a system of RV ambushes can be adopted.

609. An RV ambush is conducted by personnel from the patrol base who site an ambush to cover an RV outside the area of the patrol base. The ambush party remains at the RV for a predetermined time after the patrol has passed and then follows up the patrol to the patrol base. Extreme care must be taken to ensure that a clash does not occur. This method should only be used by troops that have been thoroughly trained and rehearsed. The patrol returns through the RV ambush to the patrol base. In the event of enemy action against the patrol base during the absence of the patrol, the patrol is guided to the new base location by guides from the RV.

Vacating a Base

610. When a base is vacated every effort must be made to obliterate all signs of occupancy and, in particular, any tell-tale marks of the size of the force and duration of occupation.

CHAPTER 8 **ACTION AFTER PATROLLING** **SECTION 24. GENERAL**

Debriefing

801. The nominated debriefing officer must be ready to debrief the patrol commander as soon as the patrol returns. Information is required for planning of further operations and patrols.

802. It is essential that a drill is arranged for the reception of returning patrols. As well as catering for normal administrative matters the format should include a review of the patrol's actions and the techniques used on the patrol.

803. Normally the debriefing will be carried out by the officer who briefed the patrol and may be conducted in one of two ways:

- a. The patrol commander only is debriefed. It is usual in this case to allow the patrol commander to debrief his patrol before he himself is debriefed. This method is commonly used with routine patrols.
- b. The whole patrol is debriefed. This method is more common for long and complex patrolling tasks.

804. Where particular information is required urgently, a quick initial de-briefing may be done. This will be followed by a more detailed debriefing later.

805. The test of a thorough debriefing is that few, if any, queries are raised later. The value to other units and higher formations of information obtained from a debriefing must be borne in mind. While debriefing, the debriefing officer should aim at keeping the patrol as relaxed, and as comfortable as possible. He seeks through questions to gain information which, because of tiredness, the patrol may have missed. The use of a debriefing check list, such as given at [Annex A](#) to this chapter, simplifies the task. This check-list is a guide to the types of information required from patrols.

Patrol Reports

806. The officer responsible for debriefing will prepare the patrol report in conjunction with the patrol commander. Where the unit commander debriefs, the intelligence officer attends to compile the patrol report. When completed, copies of the report, in the form shown at [Annex B](#) to this chapter, will be distributed in accordance with SOPS.

Patrol Records

807. To provide an accurate and up-to-date record of patrolling, the following action is necessary:

- a. The patrol master should maintain a map showing patrol routes, the actual patrol route taken being marked in on completion of the patrol. As features or obstacles are confirmed, information is added to 'going' maps of the area. Dates of observation are essential for all but natural features.
- b. Systematic recording of patrol information extracted from patrol reports must be carried out.

808. In an infantry battalion the intelligence section is responsible for patrol records, the confirmation of patrol information with that obtained from all other sources, and the dissemination of such information within the unit.

Annexes: [A. Patrol Debriefing – Check-list.](#)
[B. Example Layout of a Patrol Report](#)

PATROL DEBRIEFING - CHECK-LIST.

1. The purpose of this check-list is to provide a guide to the type of information required from patrols. It supplements, but does not replace, the patrol report form. [Paragraphs 7 to 9](#) are applicable to counter insurgency operations.
2. Information obtained is passed through the daily sitrep. Only in exceptional circumstances are supplementary reports needed.
3. **Hints on Debriefing:**
 - a. Make the person who is being debriefed comfortable.
 - b. Do not make him write the answers. You must do the work while he relaxes.
 - c. Debrief as soon as possible while the information is still fresh.
 - d. Avoid asking questions which suggest the answer.
 - e. Patrol leaders will answer questions better if they know what is needed before they go out.
4. **Topography:**
 - a. Was the intelligence briefing accurate? If not, what inaccuracies were discovered?
 - b. Was the map accurate? If not, what were the inaccuracies?
 - c. If air photos were used, was the interpretation of any benefit?
 - d. What was the state of tracks, if followed?
 - e. Were any other tracks or game trails seen? Where?
 - f. Where rivers were crossed or followed, give location of:
 - (1) bridges (include types), and
 - (2) fords and their depths.
 - g. Did tracks, bridges or fords show signs of recent use?
 - h. Were any obstacles encountered (minefields, wire, cleared areas)?
7. **Camps/Defence Works:**
 - a. Where and when was the position discovered?
 - b. How was it sited? (eg, valley, hillside, hilltop).
 - c. How many huts and buildings?
 - d. What type were they?
 - e. Estimate their condition.
 - f. How long ago were they built?
 - g. When were they last used? By how many?
 - h. Were any defences constructed? Describe layout including
 - i. How many approaches or escape routes? Give their directions.
 - j. Any food dumps in the position?
 - l. Any sign of medical facilities?
 - m. Any signs of radio sets being used?
 - n. Any documents? If so, where were they found?
 - o. What was done to the camp?
8. **Civilian Cultivation Areas:**
 - a. Give time, date, grid reference of place of discovery.
 - b. What was its size and shape?
 - c. Any steps taken to camouflage crops?
 - d. What kind of crops?

-
- e. How old were they?
 - f. When were they last tended?
 - g. Any signs of habitation in the area?
 - h. Any tracks?
 - i. What was done to the cultivation?
 - j. In the case of aboriginal settlement, can you estimate the food produced in excess of the aborigines' own requirements?

9. Supply Dumps:

- a. Location, time and date?
- b. What was in it?
- c. What was the condition of the store?
- d. How was it concealed?
- e. When was it last visited?
- f. Estimate age of the dump?
- g. Has it been added to since it was first laid down?
- h. What was done with the stores?

EXAMPLE LAYOUT OF A PATROL REPORT

Note:

1. Though shown here as a formal report, this can be made out in manuscript by forward units and signalled in message form using the index letters quoted.

Reference:

Patrol Report

.....

Designation of Patrol Date

.....

To:.....

Maps;.....

A. Size and Composition of Patrol.

B. Task.

C. Time of Departure.

D. Time of Return.

E. Routes (Out and Back).

F. Terrain. (Description of the terrain – dry, swampy, jungle, thickly wooded mhigh brush, rocky, deepness or ravines: conditions of bridges as to type, size and strength.

G. Any Map Corrections.

H. Miscellaneous Information.

I. Condition of Patrol.

J. Conclusions and Recommendations. (Including to what extent the mission was accomplished and recommendations as to patrol equipment and tactics).

K. Enclosures.

.....

Signature Rank Organization/Unit of Patrol Leader

N. Additional Remarks By Debriefing Officer

..... Organization/Unit of Debriefing Officer

O. Distribution. (Normally to immediate superior headquarters only, but copies may also be sent to flanking unit according to circumstances).

THE VISUAL TRACKER

SECTION 25. GENERAL

Introduction

901. It is not necessary for all soldiers to become highly trained visual trackers. However a general knowledge of tracking will enhance the standard of patrolling of all troops. The principal requirements for a visual tracker are an understanding of nature, physical fitness, good eye-sight and a good memory.

SECTION 26. SIGNS

General

902. Recognition of signs is the crux of tracking. Without this skill the visual tracker jeopardizes his security and that of the members of his patrol. The proper recognition of signs enables the tracker to detect the enemy and thereby gain the initiative.

Types of Sign

903. The types of sign are as follows:

- a. *Temporary Sign.* Temporary signs are the unavoidable marks left behind by movement. This includes marks on the soil, disturbed vegetation, movement of growing vegetation, and disturbances in the insect/animal life due to the presence of human beings. These signs are termed 'temporary', because after rain and time the ground and vegetation signs will eventually return to normal.
- b. *Permanent Sign.* Permanent signs are those man-made signs of a lasting nature, such as cut or broken vegetation, dropped or displaced man-made objects, or rearranged vegetation (eg, the transplanting of vegetation to provide cover in camouflaged positions).
- c. *Top Sign.* Top signs are found in vegetation which is above knee height. As humans walk through undergrowth they cause disturbances to the growing vegetation by shaking branches, leaves or vines. Top sign can be placed into two classifications:
 - (1) *Big Top Sign.* Big top signs are found after a party has moved through an area and used large disturbances to growing vegetation, even to the extent of breaking over the tops of shoulder high trees in order to leave a clear path for the members of the party following behind.
 - (2) *Small Top Sign.* Small top signs occur when a party has moved through an area, deliberately avoiding unnecessary disturbances to the vegetation (eg, not breaking or cutting any vegetation).
- d. *Ground Sign.* This occurs where vegetation below knee height has been disturbed by humans as they pass through and over the area. Ground signs have two classifications:
 - (1) *Large Ground Sign.* Large ground signs are found after a large party has moved through an area and left behind a distinctly marked path.
 - (2) *Small Ground Sign.* Small ground signs are found after a small, lightly laden party has moved through an area, deliberately placing their feet carefully to

ensure they cause as little disturbance to the ground and surrounding vegetation as possible.

Techniques for Detecting Signs

904. **How to Look.** The technique of looking for signs is as follows:

- a. Search the ground out to about 3 or 4 m until a trail is picked up.
- b. When searching, head and eyes must be kept moving from side to side, especially in jungle. This will assist in looking through the vegetation and not at it. Observation is best made as close to ground level as possible. Looking through the undergrowth.
- c. When looking for movement, it is best to concentrate on one area at a time, allowing anything that moves, to attract the eye.
- d. Having identified a sign, closer inspection is then required to determine its value.

905. **Where to Look.** The best areas to pick up signs are:

- a. near banks of rivers,
- b. in muddy patches,
- c. in soft ground, and
- d. at the edge of clearings and plantations,

906. **Who can Look.** Everyone must look and watch for signs of the enemy. Every cadet should be able to achieve some success in tracking. Proficiency will only come with practice.

Information Gained from Signs

907. A visual tracker should be able to give the following information from a track:

- a. age of track,
- b. direction of movement,
- c. number in party,
- d. speed of movement,
- e. confident or cautious movement,
- f. equipment carried,
- g. sex of party,
- h. food eaten, and
- i. any deception methods used.

SECTION 27. ACTION BY A PATROL FINDING A TRACK

General

908. If a patrol finds a track it should carry out the following action:

- a. Mark the signs discovered without disturbing them.

-
- b. Try to ascertain direction of tracks, and if a footmark, the type of footwear.
 - c. The patrol must not try to follow the tracks past the first sign it finds. The sign must not be disturbed.
 - d. The patrol commander should get competent trackers to the location as soon as possible.

909. When following a track, trackers should:

- a. Lead the patrol with an escort who if needed can provide covering fire for the tracker. The escort should move a pace or two behind the tracker.
- b. Be free to concentrate on studying the ground.
- c. Trackers should be rotated to relieve the strain on the leading tracker.

SECTION 30. TYPES OF SEARCHES

The Private Search

1113. The private search is carried out by visual trackers on command from the team commander and is usually done if the dog has temporarily lost the scent. The private search is shown in [Figure 9](#).

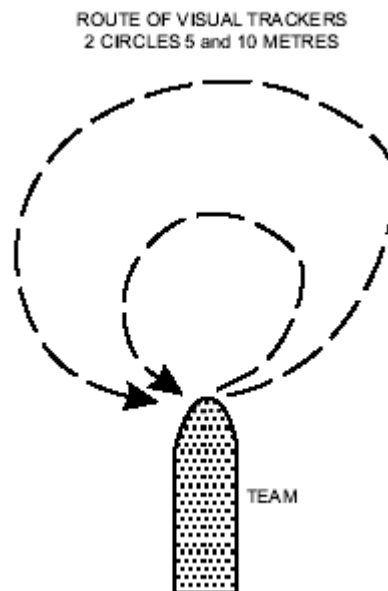


Figure 9. The Private Search

The Box Search

1114. The box search encompasses the whole team looking for the jump-off points or change in direction. This is usually carried out by two visual trackers (and cover men) searching an area specified by the team commander. The box search is shown in [Figure 10](#).

The Streamline Search

1115. The streamline search is normally carried out along linear features such as creeks, tracks, fences, etc. It would be carried out for example, if the enemy walked down a creek or along a road where tracks were impossible to pick up except at the point of entry and exit. An example of a streamline search is shown in [Figure 11](#).

The Forward Search

1116. The forward search is only done if all other searches fail. If the enemy has been moving in a particular direction or towards a particular area, signs may be found by moving in that direction. An example of a forward search is shown in [Figure 12](#).

The Cross-grain Search

1117. The cross-grain search is, conducted where the terrain reduces the available sign. This is long and tedious, but it is extremely thorough. Distances are specified by the team commander. The cross-grain search is shown in [Figure 13](#).

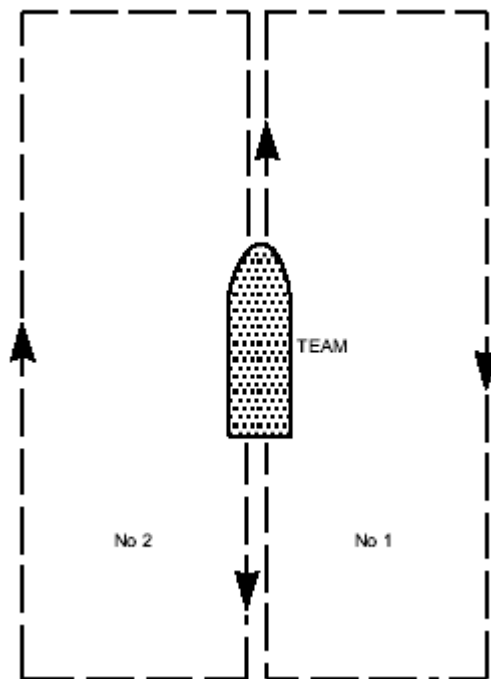
Use of Teams at Night

1118. Tracker teams can be used in open or lightly timbered country at night. By using the dog element the team should be able to follow enemy tracks to the edge of close country. There the team should establish a base and continue to track at first light. Silence must be maintained in the night location as it is possible that the enemy are themselves only a matter of 200 or 300 m from the edge and are also halted. Teams must not attempt to follow through country in which it is not possible to move silently.

Follow-up Forces

1119. Tracker team commanders should always remember that they are not 'strike groups' but an aid to their commanders to locate the enemy. Thus each tracker team when used to follow up tracks must be partnered by a follow-up party of a size detailed by commanders. The team commander must ensure that as soon as he locates an enemy force he halts his team and informs the commander so that effective action can be taken at the appropriate level to destroy the enemy.

TEAM



No 1 No 2

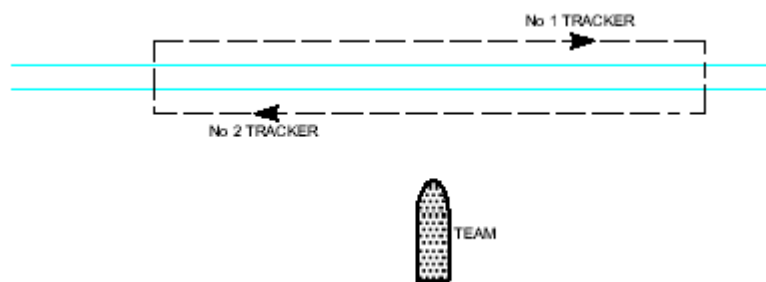
Figure 10. The Box Search

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

11 – 7

TEAM

No 1 TRACKER

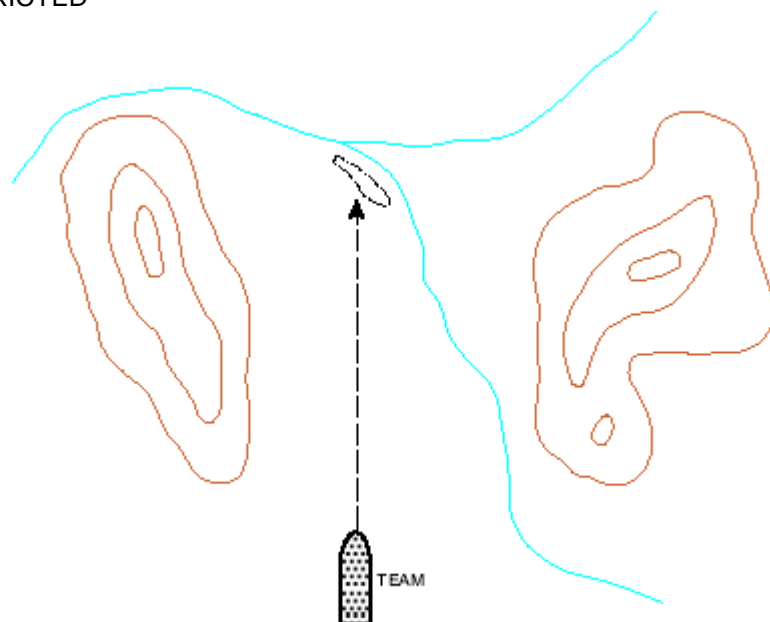


No 2 TRACKER

Figure 11. The Streamline Search

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11 – 8

TEAM

Figure 12. The Forward Search

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11 – 9

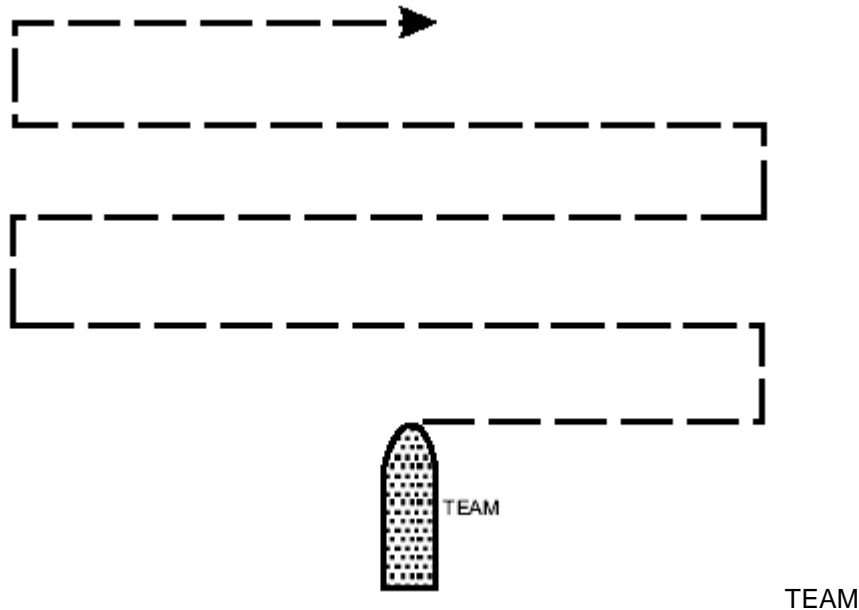


Figure 13. The Cross-grain Search
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11 – 10

CHAPTER 13 TRAINING SECTION 36. PATROLLING

Introduction

1301. Soldiers of all corps must be capable of patrolling and all unit headquarters must be able to manage a patrol programme. The tactical doctrine and techniques for patrolling have been covered in the preceding sections of this publication. Successful patrolling requires soldiers to possess a high standard of military skills.

1302. The following guide-lines for training must be observed if troops are to reach a high standard in patrolling:

- a. Constant alertness must be practised. This presupposes a high standard of physical fitness and endurance.
- b. fieldcraft must be developed to a high standard. Training information is contained in [MLW 2 Inf Trg 3.2, Fieldcraft and Target Detection](#) .
- d. Continual training in navigation using the map, air photographs and compass is required. Further detail is contained in [MLW 2, Inf Trg 3.1, Navigation](#) .
- e. *Realism and Interest.* Realism in training is a necessity for preparing soldiers for patrolling. The maximum amount of realism should be introduced in exercises to increase interest and thus the soldiers willingness to learn.

Patrol Exercises

1303. Most patrol exercises allow a patrol commander to lead his patrol, navigating along the route of his choice, to and from an objective. When closing his route, the patrol commander takes into consideration such factors as:

- a. difficult obstacles to cross,

-
- b. cover and noise, and
 - c. distance and time available.

1304. The disadvantage of such an exercise is that it is likely to be uneventful. It is difficult for the controlling staff to stage incidents during the patrol which will bring out points of training. Although the patrol commander is fully occupied, to some extent the other members of the patrol fail to derive the same benefit; the better the route the commander chooses, the fewer incidents and obstacles are likely to be encountered. An alternative is a controlled exercise.

Controlled Exercises

1305. In a controlled exercise the patrol is channeled onto a route, along which certain incidents and situations are staged. This allows the controlling staff to test aspects of patrol training. The exercise should be conducted by day and by night. It will be necessary for umpires to accompany the patrols. The type and number of incidents conducted will depend on the level and standard of training required.

1306. **Routing.** Routing must be done realistically. The patrol should be informed that a particular route is being given to them as a result of previous patrol reports and known enemy defences. The patrol commander will be briefed in detail concerning the route in his normal patrol briefing. The route must, however, be reasonably easy to follow as there should be no deviation from the exact path.

1307. Maps can be of assistance but normally the scale is not large enough for the route to be defined accurately a better method is to confine the patrol to a physical feature on the ground which they must follow controlled by the umpire. This could be a timber track, a stream, a narrow ridge in mountains, the edge of a forest, a series of fences, or more probably, a combination of these features. If the route is complicated, the patrol commander could be given either a sketch map or an air photograph to assist him in his navigation. Another method, is for the patrol to follow a "blood" trail or to track an escaping enemy.

1308. **Obstacles.** The obstacles on the route will either be natural or constructed across the patrol's path. The first exercise could be set with simple obstacles such as wire fences, gates, isolated clearings, fallen trees, walls and any other similar obstruction. The umpire with the patrol will note how the patrol negotiates these obstacles; they will
RESTRICTED

be judged with regard to their silence, protection, silhouettes and the speed with which they cross. On succeeding exercises the obstacles are made more difficult until the patrol is competent to overcome all of them. Trip flares, dummy mines, creeks, dannert fences, isolated houses and rock faces should be some of the obstacles used to train more advanced patrols. These will obviously call for greater skills and should only be included after a thorough grounding has been given in these subjects.

1309. **Incidents.** During the patrol, one or two incidents should be staged, either on the objective or on the route to it. A simple incident, such as encountering an enemy sentry on a track, will be quite enough for the inexperienced patrol to deal with. Other simple incidents may include a flare being fired by the enemy while the patrol is in the open or an enemy radio set being operated near their location. This is also an opportunity of testing a patrol in the recognition of noises at night. If the course is set in a circuit, another patrol could be routed in the opposite direction, neither patrol knowing the existence of the other and both patrols being briefed, if possible, to avoid all contacts. An incident on route for the more experienced patrol may be a full scale ambush of the patrol which will test their counter ambush drills and RV techniques. One of the patrol members can be secretly briefed beforehand that he is to become a casualty at a certain stage from, for example, a mine. If the mine was detonated at the correct moment and the wound had been made up previously, the patrol commander will be faced with a realistic casualty evacuation situation. Many incidents and situations can be created to test a patrol at different stages of training.

Variations

1310. There are a number of variations to these types of exercises. The patrol for example, could be told to choose its own route back after following a set course to the objective. Mechanical targets could also be included on part of the set course. Controlled exercises should be conducted concurrently with general patrol exercises where the patrol commander chooses his own route.

Close Reconnaissance Techniques

1311. Close reconnaissance techniques need particular emphasis in training because many of the skills are not practised during normal fieldcraft activities. In all close reconnaissance training, the importance of fieldcraft skills, especially camouflage, concealment and stealth, should be stressed.

1312. **Close Reconnaissance Exercises.** Close reconnaissance exercises should be conducted concurrently with unit field activities to ensure realism and to economize on training time. Close reconnaissance can be conducted against any exercising body of troops by day or by night providing the members of the patrol are not familiar with the detailed layout of the defensive position or installation. To be effective, the exercise should require the reconnaissance patrol to:

- a. select a suitable OP from which to select close reconnaissance positions;
- b. select suitable close reconnaissance positions;
- c. silently breach wire obstacles and minefields;
- d. use counter-measures to overcome surveillance devices;
- e. gather accurate information on the enemy's strength, deployment and equipments;
- f. gather information by listening without being able to observe; and
- g. move independently to a prearranged RV if detected.

Staff Training

1313. One of the most important areas that must be covered is the training of staff. Exercises should be conducted where staff. Members have to brief and debrief patrols and disseminate information gained by those patrols. The information collected should effect the conduct of the battle. If this training is not conducted then much of the hard work undertaken by the patrols may be wasted.

Sequence

1. The sequence of patrol preparation and conduct is:
 - a. WNGO received, broken down and issued to sections;
 - b. Reconnaissance and study of maps carried out;
 - c. MAP conducted;
 - d. Orders written and delivered;
 - e. Rehearsals conducted;
 - f. Patrol deployed, conducted and return; and
 - g. Debrief.

Responsibilities

2. The patrol commander:
 - a. plans the patrol and issues orders;
 - b. back-briefs his commander;
 - c. delivers the orders;
 - d. conducts the necessary inspections and rehearsals;
 - e. commands the patrol; and
 - f. provides verbal or written reports as required.
3. The patrol 2IC:
 - a. organizes water and ration;
 - b. draws any special equipment;
 - c. inspects all equipment for serviceability; and
 - d. prepares the mud model.

Co-ordination

4. The following is a planning checklist for patrol co-ordination:
 - a. radio SOL's are followed;
 - b. prior permission is gained to depart location;
 - c. RV points are indicated to all patrol members; and
 - d. Patrol boundaries are complied with.

Types of Patrols