



SOUTH QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADETS BRIGADE

PATROLLING

PATROL FORMATIONS...CONT

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Patrol Techniques

Observation

All of the five human senses must be used during a patrol. On the move, patrol members attempt to detect any visual sign such as movement, tracks and broken vegetation. The sense of smell must be developed. When a patrol halts to listen, every person is to freeze in place, maintain absolute quiet, look and listen.

The patrol commander should lay down the arc of responsibility for observation for each person in the patrol. Cadets must be trained to look through foliage, rather than at it. A better view is often obtained at ground level.

Control by the Commander

The success of the patrol largely depends on the control exercised by the patrol commander.

- a. **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 on to other members.
- b. **Verbal Orders.** Verbal orders may sometimes be given in the course of a patrol, especially on long patrols. To give verbal orders, the patrol should be halted and group leaders brought forward to receive orders.
- c. **Accounting of Patrol Members.** An important aspect of control is the accounting of patrol members. This should always be done after crossing obstacles, after enemy contact and after halts. Extra care needs to be maintained at night.

PATROL FORMATIONS

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Patrols are often larger than section strength and the formation is determined by these factors:

- a. The type of patrol
- b. Vegetation and ground
- c. Control required
- d. Protection required
- e. Concealment

Use of Scouts

Scouts move in front of (or sometimes to the side of) a patrol. The three methods of movement for scouts are as follows:

- a. *Trail.* When contact is not likely, both scouts move one behind the other continuously with a suitable gap between them.
- b. *Caterpillar.* The lead scout goes forward to a bound, and when in position, the second scout closes up behind. Then the lead scout moves on to the next bound and so on.
- c. *Leap Frogging.* As for the caterpillar method, but when the second scout closes up to the first scout, the second scout continues on to the next bound instead of stopping.

Consideration must be given to resting and rotating scouts on long patrols.

Position of the Patrol Commander

The patrol commander should normally move behind the scout group.

PATROL FORMATIONS...CONT

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Moving by Bounds

Patrols should always move in tactical bounds. The distance between bounds will vary according to the ground, vegetation and visibility.

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. Troops must be kept fresh and alert.

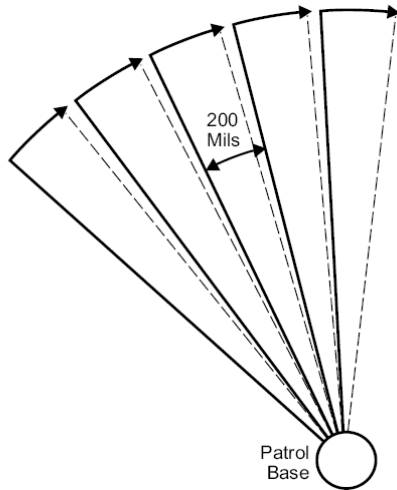
Halts

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.

Searching Ground

When searching ground, or patrolling for general information, the amount of ground covered will depend upon the vegetation and terrain. A number of different methods for searching ground can be used.

Fan Method - An effective method for searching in close country is the fan method. A patrol base is established from which a number of reconnaissance patrols are dispatched on compass bearings. All patrols turn right or left, move a prescribed distance, and then return to the patrol base. Patrols should enter and leave the patrol base at specified timings. Each fan patrol should go out immediately after its neighbour to minimise the chance of a patrol clash at the end of the fan.



Baseline (or Box) Method - A road, ridge line, tree line, river or any linear feature is used as a baseline, and patrols are sent out on a box-like route back to the baseline.

Reconnaissance

Long Range Observation/Surveillance - Long range observation/surveillance means reconnoitring an objective from an OP that is away from the objective and outside the area. OPs must always be entered/departed during darkness or periods of reduced visibility.

Short Range Observation/Surveillance - Short range observation/surveillance means observing an objective from a place that is within the local security measures and sensors.

Cutting

Cutting of vegetation should only occur as a last resort. Cutting is noisy reduces speed of movement, it increases fatigue in the leading elements, and it leaves a distinct trail.

Crossing Obstacles

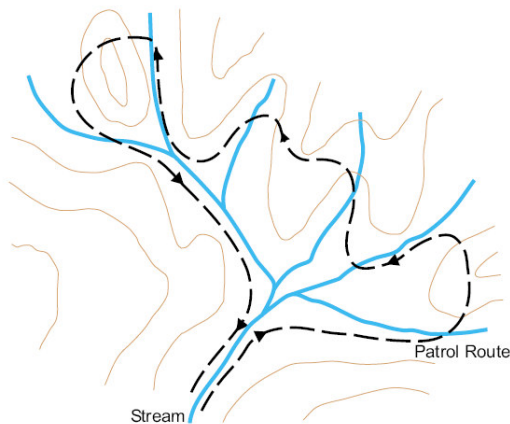
If a patrol encounters an obstacle, it must carry out the drills rehearsed prior to the patrol.

Tracks

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.

Ridge/Stream Method - Reconnaissance patrols are sent out from an established patrol base. They work their way up and down the banks of streams and creeks, or ridges and spur lines. When using this method, the accuracy of maps must be checked beforehand.

- Do not search only the streams marked on the map; unmarked streams, which are discovered during the patrol, should also be investigated.
- 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 should occur.
- Always move away from fast running water to listen.
- Do not move into the defile through which the stream flows.
- Vegetation is normally thicker on the edges of streams and movement may be very difficult, noisy and slow.



Movement of the Patrol

Silence is essential at all times. Patrol members should move steadily and carefully, parting undergrowth and avoiding dry leaves, sticks, rotten wood, etc. 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 forced to cross a ridge, the patrol should crawl and try to make use of any background available.

Movement at Night

When moving at night, advantage should be taken of noises such as wind, vehicles, aircraft or other people. As with normal patrolling, halts must be made to stop, visually scan, and listen. Night patrols in close country will be much slower, due to low levels of ambient light.

Concealment of Movement

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

- Maintain track discipline while in a harbour position.
- Do not signpost the route with litter or waste food (rubbish must be kept and carried).
- Do not unnecessarily damage vegetation.
- Task the rear member with obliterating any signs of the crossing.
- Avoid handling small saplings when moving through close country.
- Avoid shaking overhead branches which can be seen and heard from a distance.