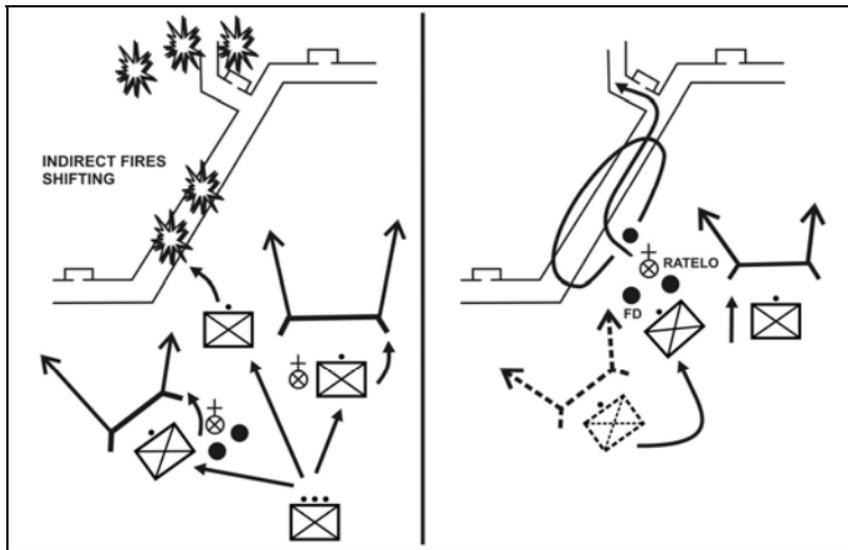


Figure 6-23. CLEAR A TRENCH LINE (PLATOON)



#### BATTLE DRILL 7

#### CONDUCT INITIAL BREACH OF A MINED WIRE OBSTACLE (PLATOON)

**SITUATION:** The platoon is operating as part of a larger force. The lead squad identifies a wire obstacle reinforced with mines that cannot be bypassed and enemy positions on the far side of the obstacle.

**REQUIRED ACTIONS:** See Figure 6-24 and Figure 6-25.

1. The squad in contact reacts to contact.
2. The platoon gains suppressive fires. The following then occurs.
  - a. The squad in contact establishes a base-of-fire position.
  - b. The platoon leader, his RTO, platoon FO, and the squad leader of the next squad with one machine gun team move forward to link up with the squad leader of the squad in contact.
3. The platoon leader determines that he can maneuver by identifying—
  - The obstacle and enemy positions.
  - The size of the enemy force engaging the squad, for example, the number of enemy automatic weapons, the presence of any vehicles, and the employment of indirect fires are indicators of enemy strength.
  - A breach point.
  - A covered and concealed route to the breach point.
4. The platoon leader directs the squad in contact to support the movement of another squad to the breach point. He indicates the base-of-fire position and the route to it, the enemy position to be suppressed, and the breach point and route the rest of the platoon will take to it. The platoon leader also clears the location, task, purpose, and method of conducting the fire mission with the platoon FO.

5. On the platoon leader's signal, the base-of-fire squad—
  - Destroys or suppresses enemy weapons that are firing effectively against the platoon.
  - Obscures the enemy position with smoke.
  - Continues suppressive fires at the lowest possible level.
6. The platoon leader designates one squad as the breach squad and the remaining squad as the assault squad once the breach has been made. The assault squad may add its fires to the base-of-fire squad. Normally, it follows the covered and concealed route of the breach squad and assaults through immediately after the breach is made.
7. The base-of-fire squad moves to the breach point and establishes a base of fire.
8. The PSG moves forward to the base-of-fire squad with the second machine gun and assumes control of the squad.
9. The platoon leader leads the breach and assault squads along the covered and concealed route.
10. The platoon FO calls for and adjusts indirect fires as directed by the platoon leader. The platoon leader in conjunction with the platoon FO maintains accurate battle tracking of all friendly elements to facilitate quick clearance of fires.
11. The breach squad executes actions to breach the obstacle.
  - a. The squad leader directs one fire team to support the movement of the other fire team to the breach point.
  - b. The squad leader identifies the breach point.
  - c. The base-of-fire element continues to provide suppressive fires and isolates the breach point.
  - d. The breaching fire team, with the squad leader, moves to the breach point using the covered and concealed route. From there, the following takes place:
    - (1) The squad leader and breaching fire team leader employ smoke grenades to obscure the breach point. The platoon base-of-fire element shifts direct fires away from the breach point and continues to suppress key enemy positions. The platoon FO ceases indirect fires or shifts them beyond the obstacle.
    - (2) The breaching fire team leader positions himself and the automatic rifleman on one flank of the breach point to provide close-in security.
    - (3) The grenadier and rifleman of the breaching fire team probe for mines and cut the wire obstacle, marking their path as they proceed. If available, a bangalore is preferred.
    - (4) Once the obstacle has been breached, the breaching fire team leader and the automatic rifleman move to the far side of the obstacle and take up covered and concealed positions with the rifleman and grenadier. The team leader signals to the squad leader when they are in position and ready to support.
    - (5) The squad leader signals the base-of-fire team leader to move his fire team up and through the breach. He then moves through the obstacle and joins the breaching fire team, leaving the grenadier (or anti-armor specialist) and rifleman of the supporting fire team on the near side of the breach to guide the rest of the platoon through.
    - (6) Using the same covered and concealed route as the breaching fire team, the base-of-fire team moves through the breach and takes up covered and concealed positions on the far side.
12. The squad leader reports the situation to the platoon leader and posts guides at the breach point.
13. The platoon leader leads the assault squad through the breach in the obstacle and positions them beyond the breach to support the movement of the remainder of the platoon or assaults the enemy position covering the obstacle. Platoon leader directs the platoon FO to shift indirect fires off the enemy position.
14. The breaching squad continues to widen the breach to allow vehicles to pass through.
15. The platoon leader reports the situation to the company commander, and then he directs his base-of-fire squad to move up and through the obstacle. The platoon leader appoints Soldiers to guide the company through the breach point.
16. The PSG brings the remaining elements forward and through the breach on the platoon leader's command.
17. The company follows up the success of the platoon as it conducts the breach and continues the assault against the enemy positions.

Figure 6-24. CONDUCT INITIAL BREACH OF A MINED WIRE OBSTACLE (SQUAD)

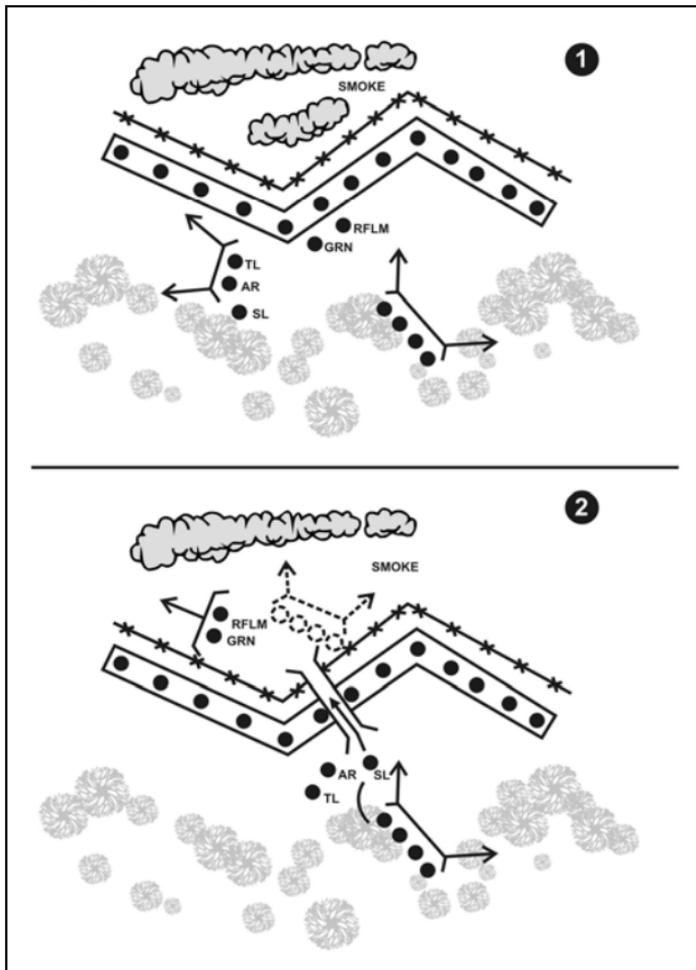


Figure 6-25. CONDUCT INITIAL BREACH OF A MINED WIRE OBSTACLE (PLATOON)

