

- (2) The trail squads occupy from 2 to 6 o'clock and 6 to 10 o'clock respectively.
- (3) The patrol headquarters element occupies the center of the triangle.

(b) Actions in the ORP. The unit prepares for the mission in the ORP. During the leader's recon of the objective, once the objective is pinpointed, the PSG will generally line up rucks IAW unit SOP in the center of the ORP.

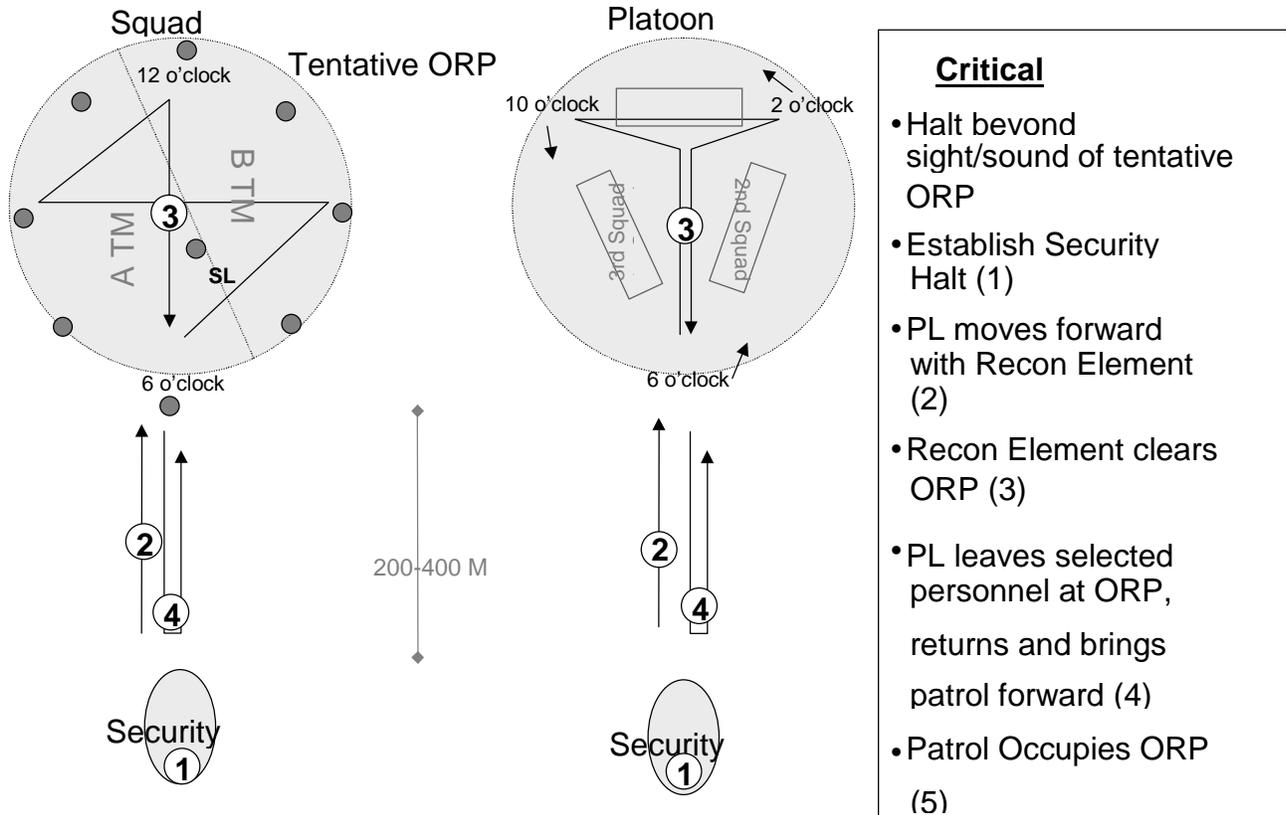


Figure 5-9. Occupation of the ORP

5-5. PATROL BASE. A patrol base is a security perimeter that is set up when a squad or platoon conducting a patrol halts for an extended period. Patrol bases should not be occupied for more than a 24 hour period (except in emergency). A patrol never uses the same patrol base twice. Patrol bases are typically used:

- To avoid detection by eliminating movement.
- To hide a unit during a long detailed reconnaissance.
- To perform maintenance on weapons, equipment, eat and rest.
- To plan and issue orders.
- To reorganize after infiltrating on an enemy area.

- To establish a base from which to execute several consecutive or concurrent operations.
- a. Fundamentals. Keep the following fundamentals in mind during patrol base operations.
- (1) Site selection. The leader selects the tentative site from a map or by aerial reconnaissance. The site's suitability must be confirmed and secured before the unit moves into it. Plans to establish a patrol base must include selecting an alternate patrol base site. The alternate site is used if the first site is unsuitable or if the patrol must unexpectedly evacuate the first patrol base.
 - (2) Planning Considerations. Leaders planning for a patrol base must consider the mission and passive and active security measures. A patrol base must be located so it allows the unit to accomplish its mission.
 - (a) Security Measures. Security measures involve the following selection criteria and planning considerations:
 - (1) Selection Criteria.
 - Select Terrain the enemy would probably consider of little tactical value.
 - Select Terrain that is off main lines of drift.
 - Select difficult terrain that would impede foot movement such as an area of dense vegetation, preferably bushes and trees that spread close to the ground.
 - Select Terrain near a source of water.
 - Select Terrain that can be defended for a short period of time and that offers good cover and concealment.
 - Avoid known or suspected enemy positions.
 - Avoid Built-up areas.
 - Avoid Ridges and hilltops, except as needed for maintaining communications.
 - Avoid Small valleys.
 - Avoid Roads and trails.
 - (2) The leader plans for:
 - Observation posts and communication with observation posts.
 - Patrol or platoon fire plan.
 - Alert Plan.
 - Withdrawal plan from the patrol base to include withdrawal routes and a rally point, rendezvous point, or alternate patrol base.
 - A security system to make sure that specific soldiers are awake at all times.
 - Enforcement of camouflage, noise, and light discipline.
 - The conduct of required activities with minimum movement and noise.
 - Priorities of Work.
- b. Occupation (Figure 5-10).

- (1) A PB is reconned and occupied in the same manner as an ORP, with the exception that the platoon will typically plan to enter at a 90 degree turn (this is METT-TC dependent; if there is nothing to be gained by this step, the patrol does not do it). The PL leaves a two-man OP at the turn, and the patrol covers any tracks from the turn to the PB.
 - (2) The platoon moves into the PB. Squad-sized patrols will generally occupy a cigar-shaped perimeter; platoon-sized patrols will generally occupy a triangle-shaped perimeter.
 - (3) The PL and another designated leader start at 6 o'clock and move in a clockwise manner, inspecting and adjusting the perimeter as necessary.
 - (4) After the PL has checked each squad sector, each SL sends a two-man R&S team to the PL at the CP. The PL issues the three R&S teams a contingency plan, recon instructions, and detailed guidance on what to look for (enemy, water, built-up areas or human habitat, roads, trails, or possible rally points).
 - (5) Each R&S team departs at the left flank of its squad, moves a prescribed distance and direction, and reenters at the right flank of its own squad.
 - (a) Squad-sized patrols do not normally send out an R&S team at night.
 - (b) R&S teams will prepare a sketch of the area to the squad front if possible.
 - (c) The patrol remains at 100 % alert during this recon.
 - (d) If the PL feels the patrol was tracked or followed, he may elect to wait in silence at 100 % alert before sending out R&S teams.
 - (e) The R&S teams may use methods such as the "I", the "Box", or the "T". Regardless of the method chosen the R&S team must be able to provide the PL with the same information.
 - (6) Upon completion of R&S, the PL confirms or denies the patrol base location, and either moves the patrol or begins priorities of work.
- c. Passive (Clandestine) Patrol Base (Squad)
- (1) The purpose of a passive patrol base is for the rest of a squad or smaller size element.
 - (2) Unit moves as a whole and occupies in force.
 - (3) Squad leader ensures that the unit moves in at a 90-degree angle to the order of movement.
 - (4) A claymore mine is emplaced on route entering patrol base.
 - (5) Alpha and Bravo teams sit back to back facing outward, ensuring that at least one individual per team is alert and providing security.
- d. Priorities of Work (Platoon and Squad) Once the PL is briefed by the R&S teams and determines area is suitable for a patrol base, the leader establishes or modifies defensive work priorities in order to establish the defense for the patrol base. Priorities of work is not a laundry list of tasks to be completed; to be effective, priorities of work must consist of a task, a given time, and a measurable performance standard. For each priority of work, a clear standard must be issued to guide element in the successful

accomplishment of each task. It must also be designated whether the work will be controlled in a centralized or decentralized manner. Priorities of work are determined IAW METT-TC. Priorities of Work may include, but are not limited to the following tasks:

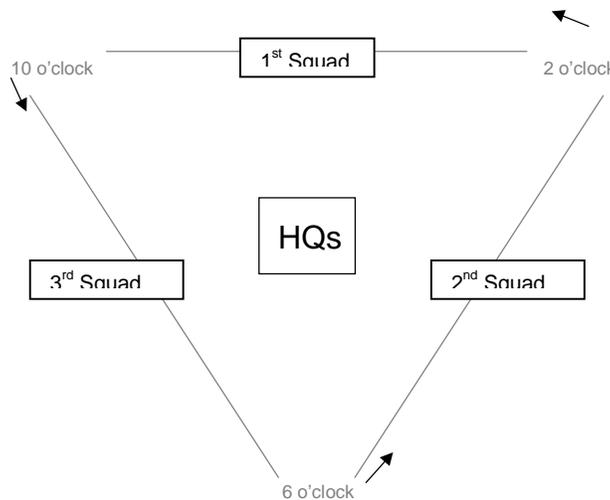
- (1) Security (continuous).
 - Prepare to utilize all passive and active measures to cover 100% of the perimeter 100% of the time, regardless of the percentage of weapons used to cover that 100% of the terrain.
 - Readjust after R&S teams return, or based on current priority of work (such as weapons maintenance).
 - Employ all elements, weapons, elements and personnel to meet conditions of the terrain, enemy or situation.
 - Assign sectors of fire to all personnel and weapons. Develop squad sector sketches and platoon fire plan.
 - Confirm location of fighting positions for cover, concealment, and observation and fields of fire. SLs supervise placement of aiming stakes and claymores.
 - Only use one point of entry and exit, and count personnel in and out. Everyone is challenged IAW the unit SOP.
 - Hasty fighting positions are prepared at least 18 inches deep (at the front), and sloping gently from front to rear, with a grenade sump if possible.
- (2) Withdrawal Plan. The PL designates the signal for withdrawal, order of withdrawal, and the platoon rendezvous point and/or alternate patrol base.
- (3) Communication (continuous). Commo must be maintained with higher headquarters, OP's, and within the unit. May be rotated between the patrol's RTOs to allow accomplishment of continuous radio monitoring, radio maintenance, act as runners for PL, or conduct other priorities of work.
- (4) Mission preparation and planning. The PL uses the patrol base to plan, issue orders, rehearse, inspect, and prepare for future missions.
- (5) Weapons and equipment maintenance. The PL ensures that machine guns, weapon systems, commo equipment, and night vision devices (as well as other equipment) is maintained. These items are not broken down at the same time for maintenance (NMT 25 % at one time), and weapons are not disassembled at night. If one machine gun is down, then security for all remaining systems is raised.
- (6) Water Re-Supply. The PSG organizes watering parties as necessary. The watering party carries canteens in an empty rucksack or duffel bag, and must have commo and a contingency plan prior to departure.
- (7) Mess plan. At a minimum, security and weapons maintenance are performed prior to mess. No more than half of the platoon typically eats at one time, and men will typically eat 1-3 M behind their fighting positions.
 - (a) Rest/sleep plan management. The patrol conducts rest as necessary to prepare for future operations.
 - (b) Alert Plan and Stand-to. The PL states the alert posture and the stand-to time. He sets up the plan to ensure all positions are checked periodically, OP's are relieved periodically and that at least one leader is always alert.

The patrol typically conducts stand-to at a time specified by unit SOP (i.e., 30 minutes prior to and after BMNT or EENT).

- (c) Re-supply. Distribute or cross-load ammunition, meals, equipment, etc.
- (d) Sanitation and Personal Hygiene. The PSG and medic ensure a slit trench is prepared and marked, and that squads designate urine areas. All soldiers will shave, brush teeth, wash face, hands, armpits, groin, and feet, and darken (brush shine) boots daily. The patrol will not leave trash behind.

Patrol Base

- Size dictated by METT-TC
- Occupied same as ORP
- OP initially positioned along route from security halt
- R&S Teams clear to occupation



Patrol Base

- Machine Guns positioned at 2, 6, and 10 o'clock to cover the front of the squad to their left
- Slit Trench and urine holes designated
- Hasty fighting Positions (18" Deep)
- PL establishes priorities of work IAW METT-TC

Figure 5-10. Patrol Base

5-6. MOVEMENT TO CONTACT

a. Purpose/General: The movement to contact (MTC) is one of the five types of offensive operations. A MTC gains or regains contact with the enemy. Once contact is made, the unit develops the situation. Normally a platoon conducts a MTC as part of a larger force. There are two techniques of conducting a movement to contact: Approach march and search & attack.

(1) Search and Attack (S&A). This technique is utilized when the enemy is dispersed, is expected to avoid contact, disengage or withdraw, or you have to deny his movement in an area. The search and attack technique involves the use of multiple platoons, squads, and fire teams coordinating their actions to make contact with the enemy. Platoons typically attempt to find the enemy and then fix and finish him. They combine patrolling techniques with the requirement to conduct hasty or deliberate attacks once the enemy has been found. Planning considerations include:

- The factors of METT-TC.
- The requirement for decentralized execution.