

Command and staff service

No.1

Main roles of the platoon commander and deputy commander in the battle.

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Course objectives:

- to describe and teach to students the place, role, duties, and responsibilities of platoon commander and other platoon leaders in the fight,
- to provide a doctrinal framework on how an infantry rifle commander to command and control in fight.

Summary:

Preface

1. Platoon organization and tasks
2. Platoon leaders and their responsibilities
3. Responsibilities and obligations of command combat platoon in combat

Conclusion

Tasks list for students

References and further reading

Command and control (C2) is a platoon of combat activity carried out by the designated persons and bodies (platoon commanders, platoon commanders representatives) taking advantage of available and appropriate technical means (communication), tools (procedures, methodologies, procedures) and information.

Command and control exercised by the platoon commander.

Succession of Command. During combat, any member of the platoon may be required to assume command. Frequently, the platoon FO or RATELO may need to continue operations and direct the operation until the chain of command can be re-established. Under normal conditions, the platoon succession of command will be:

- Platoon leader.
- Platoon sergeant.
- Main effort squad leader.
- Supporting effort squad leaders by rank.

Assumption of Command.

A platoon commander will accomplish the following tasks:

- A. Inform higher headquarters of the change.
- B. Re-establish the platoon chain of command and ensure all subordinates are made aware of changes.
- C. Check the platoon's security and the emplacement of key weapons.
- D. Check the platoon's equipment and personnel status.
- E. Pinpoint the platoon's location.
- F. Assess the platoon's ability to continue the mission.
- G. Inform higher command of assessment.
- H. Continue the mission.

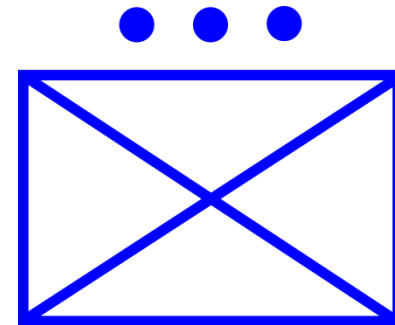
1. Platoon organization and tasks

The platoon is an organic part of combat company (company task force).

The platoon is made up of three teams and three armed combat vehicles (wheeled armoured personnel carriers).

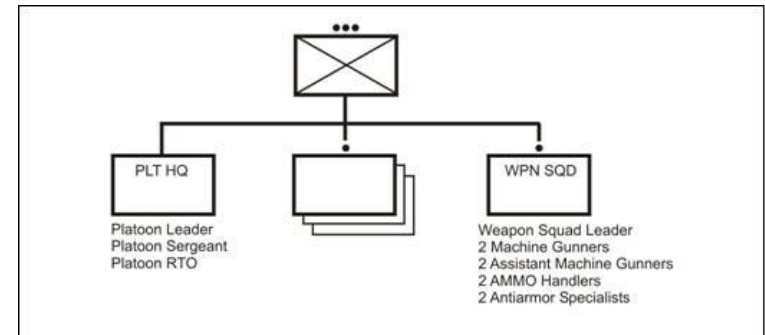
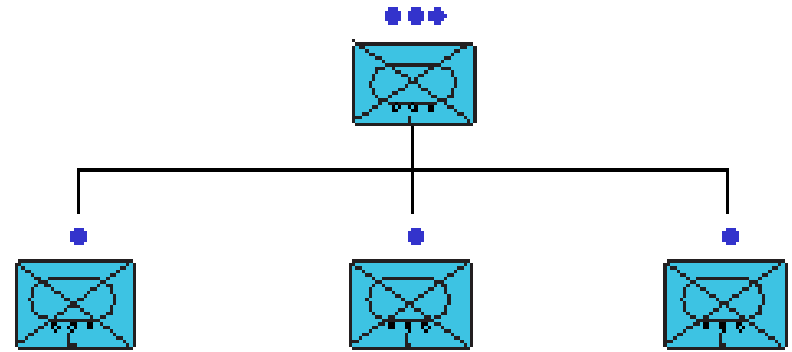
Combat vehicles are designed for warfare, transport, manoeuvre and fire support teams.

A **platoon** is a military unit typically composed of more than two squads/sections. Platoon organization varies depending on the country and the branch, but typically a platoon consists of around 15 to 30 soldiers.

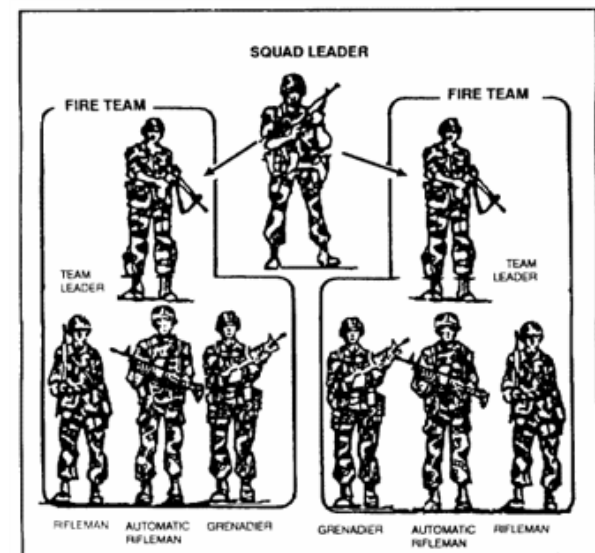
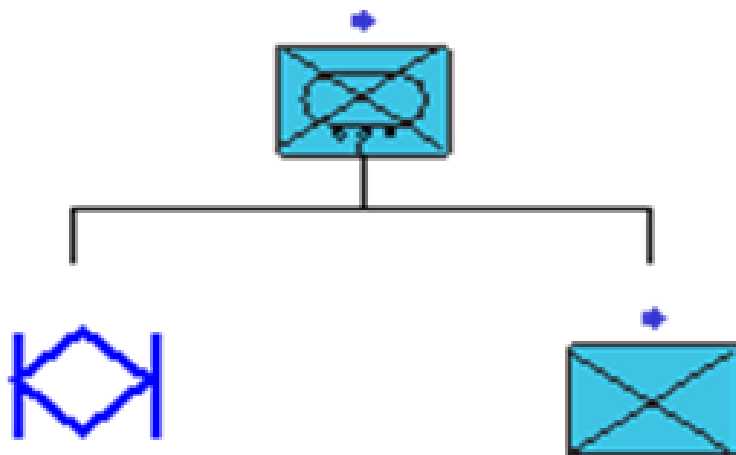


A platoon is often led by a lieutenant, and is the smallest military unit typically led by a commissioned officer.

In some armies, platoon is used throughout the branches of the army. In others, such as the British Army, platoons are associated with the infantry. In a few armies, such as the French Army, a platoon is specifically a cavalry unit, and the infantry use "section" as the equivalent unit.



The light infantry squad (section) consists of the two fire teams we addressed above. You will normally not mess with this organization much. The squad trains to fight as a squad. A seasoned Staff Sergeant will lead this unit. He will work directly with his Fire Team Leaders to command and control the actions of the squad. Just as his Fire Team Leaders, the Squad Leader is a “Do as I Do” leader.



2. Platoon leaders and their responsibilities

Platoon commanded a platoon commander, who reports to the company commander (company task force) and which are subordinate:

- ✓ deputy platoon commander,
- ✓ squad leaders,
- ✓ commanders teams are subordinate commander swarms.

The platoon can operate in combat or assembly, the assembly for moving or marching in a report.

The platoon commander

Responsibilities:

- a. The platoon leader is responsible for accomplishing the platoon's mission. He is responsible for positioning and employing all assigned and attached crew-served weapons. He must also know how to employ supporting weapons.
- b. He leads the platoon in support of company and battalion missions.
- c. He informs his commander of his actions at all times.
- d. He plans missions with the help of the platoon sergeant, squad leaders, and other key personnel.
- e. He stays abreast of the situation and goes where he is needed to supervise, issue FRAGOs, and accomplish the mission.
- f. He requests support for the platoon from the company commander to perform its mission.
- g. He directs the platoon sergeant in planning and coordinating the platoon's CSS effort. During planning, he receives on-hand status reports from the platoon sergeant and squad leaders.
- h. He reviews platoon requirements based on the tactical plan.
- i. He develops the casualty evacuation plan.
- j. During execution, he checks the work of the platoon sergeant and the squad leaders.
- k. He ensures the soldier's load is reasonable.

In cases where the platoon commander leaves his platoon, his deputy issued an order for security platoon command and control over their absence (GOTWA).

He usually issues it orally (you can also go in writing) with the following content:

- Going – why and where I go;
- Others – who's with me;
- Time – when I return;
- What to do – what to do when I get back at a specified time;
- Actions – what to do when attacked (me or platoons), what will I do.

Platoon sergeant – deputy commander

Responsibilities:

- a. The platoon sergeant is the senior NCO in the platoon and second in command.
- b. He supervises the logistics, administration, and maintenance activities of the platoon.
- c. He organizes and controls the platoon alternate CP.
- d. He trains the crews and employs the platoon's machine guns IAW the platoon leader's orders.
- e. He receives the squad leaders' requests for rations, water, and ammunition. He works with the company XO and first sergeant to request resupply. He also directs the routing of supplies and mail.
- f. He maintains platoon strength information, consolidates and forwards the platoon's casualty reports.(DA Forms 1155 and 1156) and receives replacements.
- g. He monitors the morale, discipline, and health of platoon members.
- h. He commands task-organized elements in the platoon during tactical operations. This can include, but is not limited to, quartering parties, security forces in withdrawals, support elements in raids or attacks, and security patrols.
- i. He coordinates and supervises company directed platoon resupply operations.
- j. He ensures that ammunition and equipment are evenly distributed. (This is a critical task during consolidation and reorganization.)

He ensures that the casualty evacuation plan is complete and executed properly by directing the platoon's aidman, and aid and litter teams.

Squad leader

- a. The squad leader is responsible for the squad.
- b. He controls the manoeuvre of his squad and its rate and distribution of fire.
- c. He exercises his command through the fire team leaders.
- d. He manages the logistical and administrative needs of his squad. He requests and issues ammunition, water, rations, and special equipment.
- e. He maintains accountability of his soldiers and equipment.
- f. He completes casualty feeder reports and reviews the casualty reports completed by squad members.
- g. He supervises the maintenance of the squad's weapons and equipment.
- h. He conducts inspections of his soldiers, their weapons and their equipment.
- i. He keeps the platoon sergeant and platoon leader informed on his squad's supply status and equipment readiness.
- j. He ensures that supplies and equipment are internally cross-leveled.
- k. He designates and supervises special teams to include: Enemy POW and Aid & Litter teams.
- l. He ensures compass and pace count duties are assigned.

Team leader.

- a. The team leader is a fighting soldier who leads by personal example and helps the squad leader as required.
 - b. He controls the movement of his fire team
 - c. He controls the rate and placement of fire by leading from the front and using the proper commands and signals.
 - d. He maintains accountability of his soldiers and equipment
 - e. He ensures his soldiers maintain the unit standards in all areas
 - f. He is responsible for one Automatic Rifleman, one Rifleman, and one Grenadier
- He ensures that his Specialty Teams are trained to standard

Conclusion - question

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Tasks list for students:

To prepare for the seminar T-2:

By students to prepare presentations and they develop the following questions:

- to learn the contents of this lectures,
- **to prepare a presentation to present the headings:**
 - ✓ organization of combat platoon (mechanized, airborne, tank and pedestrian)
 - ✓ command authorities for combat platoon, their place and mission in the struggle,
 - ✓ duties and responsibilities of the platoon commander and deputy commander of the platoon.

Presentations to develop in Power Point format.

Meet the challenges of the course in MOODL

References and further reading

1. ČERNÝ, J., HRŮZA, P., JAROŠ, V. *Systém velení a řízení v operacích*. Brno:, 2011, 139 s. ISBN 978-80-7231-836-0
2. SMARTbook. The battle Staff. Plan, design, prepare, execute, assess. The Lighting Press. 2014.
3. HANDbook. *The battle Staff NCO*. Tactics, techniques and Procedures. 2008.
4. *FM 7-8 Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad*. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Washington, DC, 22 April 2014
5. *FM 3-21.8 the infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad*. HQ DEPARTMENT OF THE US ARMY. MARCH 2007.

