

Chapter 7

Breach Training

Breaching operations are a common task on the mission-essential task list (METL) of most battalion TFs and brigades. Conditions vary with the type of breaching operation: in-stride, deliberate, assault or covert. The standard is to synchronize the support breach, and assault forces; successfully execute the breach; and pass the force to continue the mission. Force commanders must assess the proficiency of their units and train them to perform breaching operations to this standard.

ASSESSING UNIT NEEDS

Leaders assess the ability of their units to conduct combined arms breaching operations proficiency through evaluations (informal, formal, internal, and external) (FM 25-100). The assessment is not based solely on the results of the last field training exercise (FTX). The leader must look at all the available information that impacts on the unit's ability to conduct breaching operations. Critical sources for unit training proficiency are-

- Skill qualification test (SQT) results.
- Personnel turnover.
- Common task test (CTT) results.
- New equipment training (NET).
- Gunnery and weapon qualification results.
- Training briefings.
- Previous after-action reports.

A breaching operation is a true combined arms task and must be trained as such. Leaders must consider the breach training proficiency of their supporting units as well as their own unit. A unit is only as strong as its weakest link. A change in the normal association of combat support units with the maneuver battalion or brigade affects the training proficiency of the total combined arms force. The force commander must keep current on the training status of his engineer, air defense, and field artillery officers that support his force. With the completion of a breach training assessment, the force commander incorporates breaching operations training (prioritized in relation to other METL tasks) in his long-range, short-range, and near-term planning calendars.

INTEGRATING BREACH TRAINING

In long-range planning, the force commander establishes priority for proficiency in breaching operations. He outlines force training guidance, combined arms training, major training events, training area densities, and individual training goals for at least a year. During long-range planning, the

commander determines the priority that breaching operations will receive as a METL task. Unit leaders then determine unit, leader, and individual training needed to meet the standard for breaching proficiency. The commander determines when and how often the force will train with all the necessary combined arms assets in order to conduct breaching operations to standard. He chooses training area densities and events during which the force will practice breaching operations. Finally, he evaluates the force in breaching operations and applies assessments to short-range and near-term training guidance.

FM 25-100 outlines the Green, Amber, and Red training-management cycle derived from the commander's long-range training plan. During cycles, units focus on collective-task training, usually coinciding with major training events and training area densities. Soldier absences and distractions are minimized. This is usually the first time the commander has the opportunity to train all aspects of the deliberate and in-stride breach. During Amber cycles, units emphasize small-unit, crew, and individual training, although some subunits will be able to conduct collective training. The commander may be able to use the Amber cycle to focus on the small-unit collective tasks required to conduct an in-stride breach, such as a company team's actions at obstacles. In Red cycles, however, training opportunities are constrained by soldier absences and administrative requirements, and subunits focus on individual, leader, and crew training. The leader uses the Red cycle to focus on breach planning as part of command post exercises (CPXs) and on the individual skills required to reduce obstacles.

The Green, Amber, and Red training-management cycle reinforces a logical progression of individual, crew, leader, subunit-collective and force-collective training (see Table 7-1, page 7-2). As with any training, the unit must first train individuals, crews, and smaller units to standard on critical subtasks of combined arms breaching. With a solid foundation at the individual, crew, and small-unit level, company teams and TFs can successfully progress to training the more complex collective breaching tasks.

USING MISSION TRAINING PLANS (MTPs)

The commander begins planning breach training by establishing an operations outline as explained in Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) 71-2 -MTP, Chapter 3.

Table 7-1. Integrating breach training into the training cycle.

Month 1 Green	Month 2 Amber	Month 3 Red	Month 4 Green	Month 5 Amber	Month 6 Red
Evaluate unit's breach proficiency during prime training.	Train squad and platoon breach tasks based on evaluation.	Train individual breach tasks. Conduct company team leader breach chalk-talks and sand-table exercises on task force in-stride and assault breaches.	Evaluate task force's in-stride breach and company team's assault breach using company level situational training exercises.	Train squad and platoon collective tasks based on Green period.	Train individual skills based on Green period. Leader training focuses on deliberate and covert breaches.
Month 7 Green	Month 8 Amber	Month 9 Red	Month 10 Green	Month 11 Amber	Month 12 Red
Train and evaluate company team support, breach, and assault collective tasks for deliberate and covert breaches.	Train squad and platoon tasks based on last Green period.	Train individual skills based on Green period. Leader training focuses on synchronizing deliberate and covert breaches.	Train and evaluate task force deliberate and covert breaches using task force situational training exercises.	Train squad, platoon, and company-team-level collective tasks based on last Green period.	Train on individual skills based on Green period. Leader training on company team breaching for task force in-stride and company team assaults.

The operations outline illustrates critical TF, company team, and separate platoon tasks for a given operation. *Table 7-2* shows that breaching an obstacle is a critical task at both TF and company-team level for offensive operations. For the in-stride breach, the training emphasis is at company team level, while performance at TF level becomes more critical for the deliberate breach. The task, conditions, and standards for the TF-level task, Breach Defended Obstacles, are shown in *Table 7-3*, *page 7-4*. These become the basis for training the TF deliberate breach.

The complexities of the deliberate breach demand that the commander develop a training plan designed to train diverse, multiechelon tasks. The commander develops an operations outline using the tasks outlined in MTPs for TFs through platoons. Critical tasks and supporting battle tasks normally associated with conducting a TF deliberate breach are depicted in *Table 7-4*, *page 7-5*.

The commander develops an operations outline specifically for the deliberate breach using the list of critical collective breach tasks developed earlier. The operations outline maps the critical collective tasks that must be performed at TF, company, and special platoon level as part of a deliberate

breach. The deliberate breach requires subordinate units to perform specific support, breach, or assault functions. Therefore, the commander further subdivides company-level critical collective tasks into those performed by the support breach, and assault forces (see *Table 7-5*, *page 7-6*). Engineer company and platoon tasks are mapped separately, since their roles in the deliberate breach are quite different from those of their maneuver counterparts.

The operations outline becomes the focus for developing progressive collective training goals. The outline illustrates for the TF commander the company collective tasks that must be trained before training on a deliberate breach operation. Likewise, the outline is a tool for company team commanders to use for developing their own collective training strategy.

The operations outline is also used by the commander as the basis for evaluating his unit's proficiency in a critical collective task or subtask. For example, a TF commander wanting to evaluate a company's ability to be the support force might evaluate the following tasks: Support by Fire; Employ Indirect Fire in the Offense; or Perform Actions on Contact. Each collective task is supported by a training and

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Table 7-2. Task force offensive operations outline.

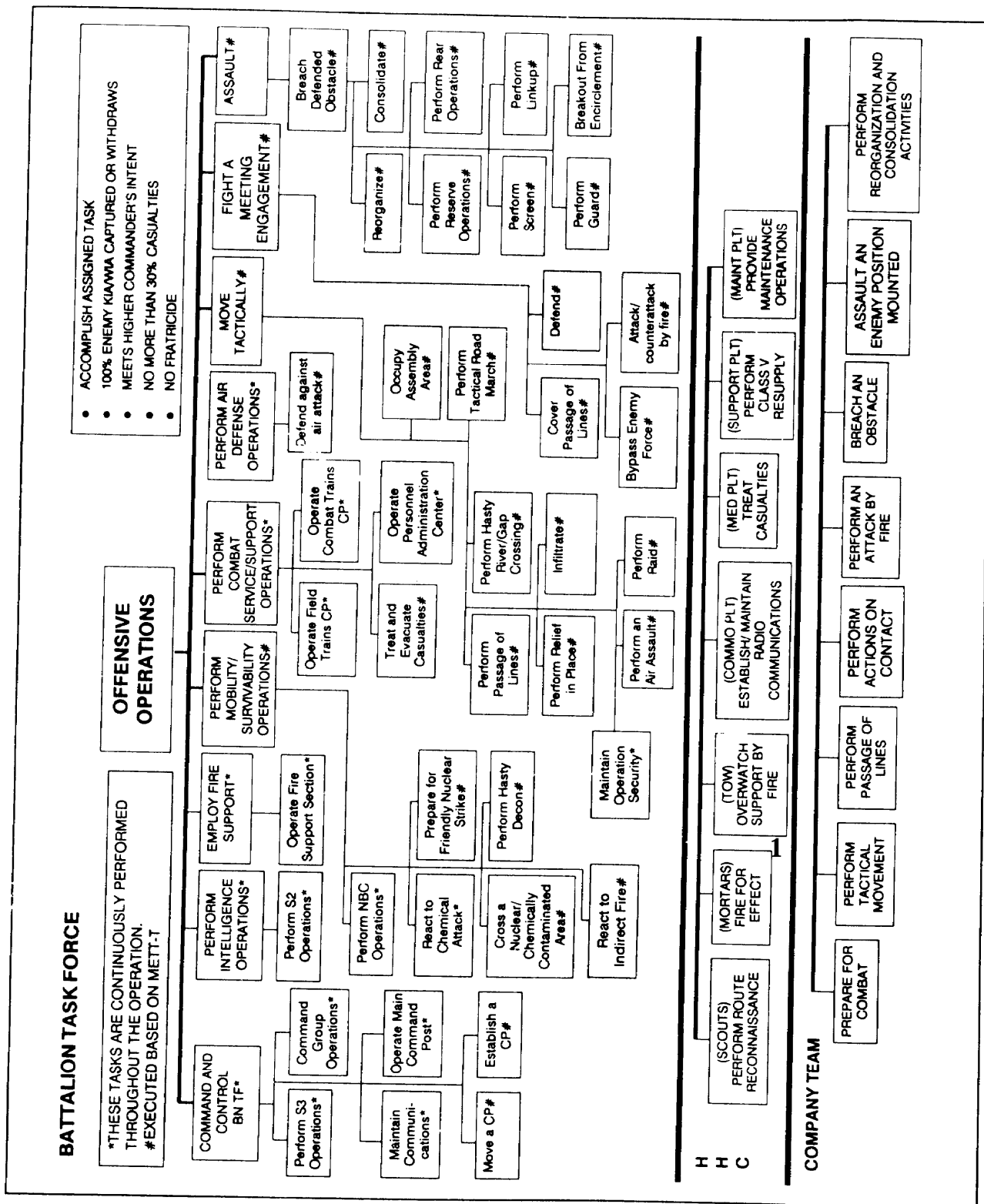


Table 7-3. Task, conditions, and standards of a task force deliberate breach.

Task: Breach Defended Obstacles

Conditions: The task force is ordered to breach a defended obstacle system to initiate the brigade's penetration on an enemy position. The area of the breach is covered by an MRC. Supporting attacks fix and suppress adjacent MRCs. The terrain does not permit bypass or wide envelopment. The obstacle system has wire obstacles, antitank and antipersonnel mines, and an antitank ditch. The task force has priority of fires and has a company of engineers attached.

Standards:

- a. The task force completes the initial breach within 45 minutes.
- b. The task force sustains no more than 30 percent casualties or combat vehicle losses.
- c. The task force moves the follow-on task forces through the obstacle system without losses due to friendly fire or obstacles, not later than the time specified in the brigade order.
- d. The task force sustains no casualties or vehicle losses due to friendly fire.

evaluation outline (T&EO) in the unit's MTP. Table 7-6, pages 7-7 and 7-8, is an example of a T&EO for the breach force task (Task #7-1-3027, Breach Defended Obstacles).

Finally, the company team commanders use the critical collective subtasks to form the foundation for their unit's individual training. The commander selects critical subtasks his unit needs to train on based on his evaluation. He then uses the collective-to-individual task matrix to identify individual skills that require training. An example of a cross-referencing matrix is shown at Table 7-7, page 7-9. The figure illustrates only one page of the cross-reference collective-to-individual task matrix from ARTEP 7-8 MTP. As part of the overall breach training plan, subunit leaders (especially noncommissioned officers (NCOs) continuously assess the proficiency of soldiers in these enabling tasks. This feedback is incorporated in short-range and near-term training plans and is particularly important in developing plans for Red training periods.

TRAINING THE TYPES OF BREACHES

The commander develops a training strategy for the in-stride, assault, and covert breaches by using the same steps described above. In most cases, the critical collective tasks, subtasks, and individual skills are the same. However, the nature of the in-stride breach requires more training emphasis at the subordinate level. A TF in-stride breach, for instance, requires emphasis at the company team level. The company team commander must be able to apply and synchronize the SOSR breaching fundamentals using platoons in the support, assault, and breach roles. Training the in-stride breach, therefore, demands that the company team commander develop training plans that hone the skills outlined in Table 7-4. Likewise, the assault breach focuses on platoon and squad actions and

is trained accordingly. Training for the covert breach is similar to the deliberate breach; however, the conditions under which the breach is trained must emphasize limited visibility, and the standards are modified to stress achieving surprise.

CONDUCTING TRAINING EXERCISES

The force commander and his staff plan, conduct and evaluate training exercises to integrate collective and individual skills required for breaching operations. Training management requires a logical progression from individual, crew, and squad training through subunit collective training to TF training. Leader must be integrated continuously to ensure proficiency in tracking the breach and making breaching decisions. Good training management requires that the TF conduct preliminary training before conducting a full-up exercise. Effective preliminary training ensures that the force will accomplish the task to a wartime standard under wartime conditions during a full-up exercise. The force conducts chalk-talks, map exercises, tactical exercises without troops (TEWT), and situational training exercises (STXs) to establish a breach training foundation.

The force commander conducts chalk-talks with leaders of all subordinate company teams, platoons, squads, and attached or supporting elements. For example, the commander leads his unit subordinates through an in-stride breach, discussing his role in planning and preparation and letting his subordinates discuss execution. The commander assesses the proficiency of his subordinates while they share breaching knowledge with each other. The chalk-talk is an excellent tool to firmly establish the doctrinal concepts, time sequence, coordination, and decision requirements of the operation. It allows all unit leaders to see and understand the operation's "big picture."

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Table 7-4. Critical collective tasks in breaching operations.

Unit	Task	Task Number
Battalion Task Force	Command and Control BN/TF	7-1-3901
	Perform Intelligence Operations	7-1-3905
	Move Tactically	7-1-3004
	Perform Hasty Gap Crossing	7-1-3005
	Attack by Fire	7-1-3007
	Employ Fire Support	7-1-3907
	React to Indirect Fire	7-1-3034
	Breach Defended Obstacle	7-1-3027
	Defend Against Air Attack	7-1-3037
	Assault	7-1-3007
	Treat and Evacuate Casualties	7-1-3033
Company Team Level	Prepare for Combat	17-2-0101
	Perform Reconnaissance	17-2-0202
	Perform Tactical Movement	17-2-0301
	Perform Assault Position Activities	17-2-0328
	Perform Actions on Contact	17-2-0304
	Attack (Support) by Fire	17-2-0306
	Employ Indirect Fire in Offense	17-2-0401
	Breach an Obstacle	17-2-0501
	Defend Against Air Attack (Active)	44-2-6002
	Assault an Enemy Position (Dismounted)	17-2-0310
	Assault an Enemy Position (Mounted)	17-2-0326
	Provide Medical Evacuation and Treatment of Casualties	17-2-0705
Mechanized Infantry Platoon	Move Tactically	7-3-1025
	Attack (Support) by Fire	7-3-1007
	Cross Danger Area	7-3/4-1028
	React to Indirect Fire	7-3/4-4023
	Breach an Obstacle	7-3-1014
	Assault	7-3/4-1011
	Assault Mounted	7-3-1013
Tank Platoon	Perform Platoon Fire and Movement	17-3-0217
	Perform Attack by Fire	17-3-0219
	Assault an Enemy Position	17-3-0220
	Take Actions at Obstacles	17-3-0401
	Employ Mine Plow, Roller, and Clams	17-3-XXXX
Engineer Company	Plan and Direct Engineer Reconnaissance	05-2-0410
	Control Combat Formations	05-2-1212
	Conduct Breaching Operations	05-2-0114
	Prepare Expedient Fords	05-3-0603
	Employ the AVLB	05-4-0009
	Employ the CEV	05-5-0011
	Take Active Air Defense Against Hostile Aircraft	05-2-1039
	Conduct Troop Leading Procedures	05-3-1018
Engineer Platoon	Conduct Enemy Obstacle Reconnaissance	05-4-0411
	Move Mounted	05-3-1229
	Move Dismounted	05-3-1230
	Change Formations (Mounted)	05-3-1231
	Conduct Fire and Movement	05-3-1220
	React to Contact	05-3-1202
	React to Indirect Fire	05-3-1231
	Breach Obstacles	05-3-0043
	Conduct Breach of a Minefield	05-3-0103
	Improve a Vehicle Lane Through a Minefield	05-4-0105
	Evacuate Casualties	05-3-1006

Table 7-5. Task force deliberate breach operations outline.

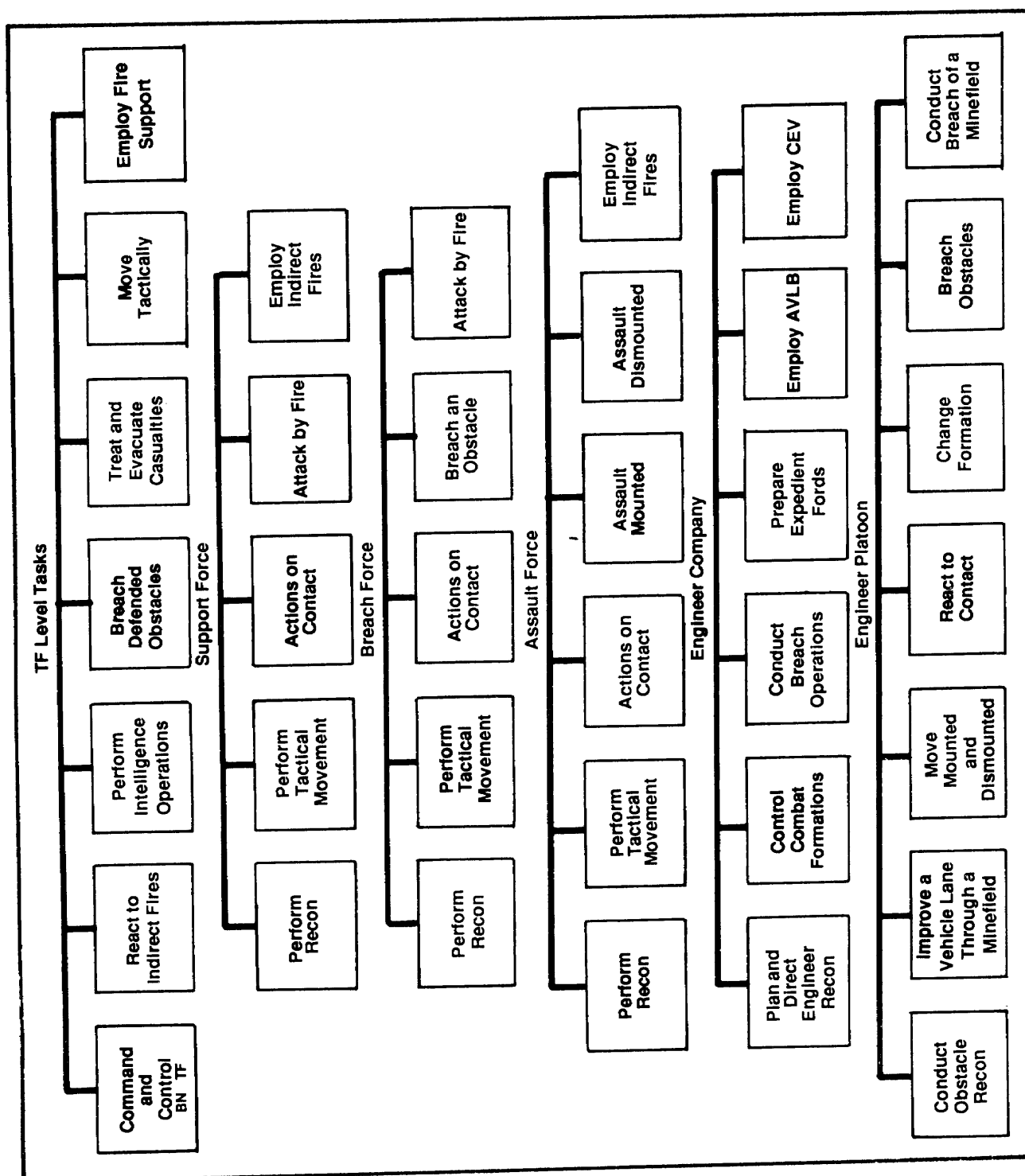


Table 7-6. T&EO for task Breach Defended Obstacles.

ELEMENT: BATTALION TASK FORCE **						SUBTASKS AND STANDARDS:		GO	NO-GO
TASK: BREACH defended obstacles (7-1-3027) (FM 71-2)						d. Indirect fires, CAS and fire control measures are planned and coordinated with the S2's template to suppress enemy weapons and positions that overwatch the breach site and to obscure the enemy positions and weapons, the breach site, and the terrain between the breach and enemy positions.			
ITERATION 1 2 3 4 5 (circle)						e. Plan specifies the method of breach.			
TRAINING STATUS T P U (circle)						f. Staff coordinates for the equipment needed to breach or reduce the obstacle.			
CONDITION: The TF is ordered to breach a defended obstacle system to initiate the brigade's penetration of an enemy defensive position. The area of the breach is covered by an MRC. Supporting attacks fix, but do not suppress, adjacent MRCs. The terrain does not permit bypass or wide envelopment. The obstacle system has wire obstacles, antitank and antipersonnel mines, and an antitank ditch. The TF has priority of fires and may have a company of combat engineers attached.						g. Plan includes a breach and support force with tasks for each.			
TASK STANDARD:						h. Plan is coordinated with adjacent and follow-on units.			
a. The TF completes the initial breach within 45 minutes.						+3. TF prepares for the breach.			
b. The TF sustains no more than 30 percent casualties or combat vehicle losses.						a. Preparation actions are directed and coordinated; routes are marked, and support-by-fire/overwatch positions are established.			
c. The TF moves the following TFs through the obstacle system without losses due to friendly fire or obstacles, NLT the time specified in the brigade order.						b. Preparations do not disclose the breach plan, time, or location.			
d. The TF sustains no casualties or vehicle losses due to friendly fire.						c. TF reorganizes into the breach element and support element.			
SUBTASKS AND STANDARDS:						+4. Support force moves to an overwatch position.			
+1. TF performs reconnaissance of the obstacle system.						a. Positions are occupied that cover likely enemy positions.			
a. Leader reconnaissance takes place down to squad/crew level.						b. Support force uses available cover and concealment during movement.			
b. TF locates all reinforcing and existing obstacles.						c. Each support element can locate where the breach will be made and where the breach element is moving from.			
c. TF locates vehicle positions, antiarmor weapons, and platoon positions covering the obstacles.						d. Fire control measures (targets, limits of fire, TRPs, and so on) are designated to each support element on the ground once they are in position.			
d. TF determines the width, depth, and composition of the obstacle system.						e. All-round security is maintained. The overwatch element is not surprised by the enemy.			
e. TF locates overwatch/support-by-fire positions to support the breach, covered and concealed routes to these positions, tentative initial breach points, and covered and concealed routes to the initial breach points.						+5. Support force provides overwatch for the breach force.			
f. Reconnaissance does not disclose the time, location, or plan for the breach.						a. Requests smoke on the far side of the obstacle and on known enemy positions.			
g. Reconnaissance provides early warning of changes in the obstacle system through continuous surveillance of the obstacle system and supporting positions.						b. Fires on suspected and known enemy locations with direct fires, preventing the enemy from fixing or stopping the breach element. Warns the breach element before the enemy can assault.			
*+2. TF commander and staff plan breach.						c. Uses smoke to obscure area around the obstacle.			
a. Subordinate unit tasks are assigned to fix the enemy and to prevent shifting forces to defeat the breach effort.						+6. Breach force establishes breach site security.			
b. ADA covers the breach and passage of units through the obstacles.						a. Moves to the breach point(s) using available cover and concealment.			
c. Engineers, if attached, are task organized with the breach element.									
+ Critical task									
* Leader task									
** From ARTEP 71-2-MTP, October 1988									

Table 7-6. T&EO for task Breach Defended Obstacles (continued).

SUBTASKS AND STANDARDS:	GO	NO-GO	SUBTASKS AND STANDARDS:	GO	NO-GO																												
<p>b. Secures near side of the obstacle by clearing all enemy on the near side, and booby traps and mines on the approaches.</p> <p>c. Establishes and operates OPs and prevents the enemy from assaulting the main breach force without warning.</p> <p>+7. TF performs the breach/initial penetration.</p> <p>a. Enemy obstacles are breached, or bypass routes are found and marked. These routes provide for rapid protection passage of the assault element.</p> <p>b. At least one route is cleared of all mines and is clearly marked IAW unit SOP. This route is wide enough for the passage of the assault element.</p> <p>c. Breaching element loses no more than 50 percent of combat equipment and personnel.</p> <p>d. Breaching force clears all enemy infantry defending the obstacle.</p> <p>e. The obstacle is breached (demolitions, mechanical, vehicle, or manual). (Companies breach lanes IAW ARTEP 71-1, T&EO 17-2-0501, Breach an Obstacle).</p> <p>f. All remaining mines in the initial breach are marked IAW unit SOP.</p> <p>g. Foot lanes are initially established if a mounted assault is not practical.</p> <p>+8. Breach element completes the breach.</p> <p>a. Secures the far side of the obstacle to prevent the enemy from counterattacking the TF main body without warning.</p> <p>b. On order, support element moves through the obstacle and clears the far side of enemy, which can prevent the assault element from moving through lanes.</p> <p>+9. Assault element moves through the obstacle.</p> <p>a. Tanks lead through if antiarmor defenses are not effective.</p> <p>b. Infantry leads if antiarmor defenses are effective.</p> <p>c. Assault element destroys or forces the withdrawal of enemy forces and weapons that can place direct fire on the breach point(s).</p> <p>+10. TF improves the breach.</p> <p>a. All breach sites are widened to permit at least one vehicle to pass.</p> <p>b. All mines are removed, destroyed, or marked in the widened lanes IAW unit SOP.</p> <p>c. All physical obstacles (cribs, tank ditches, and so on) are reduced so that combat vehicles can move through the lane.</p>			<p>d. Entrance, exit, and boundaries of the lanes are marked IAW unit SOP.</p> <p>+11. TF passes following units through the obstacle system.</p> <p>a. TF notifies following units and brigade main CP when the breach is passable to following units.</p> <p>b. TF warns passing units before the enemy can counterattack with ground elements.</p> <p>c. Guides direct movement into cleared lanes, prevent congestion or halts in movement, and redirect traffic to alternate lanes if a lane becomes blocked or taken under effective antiarmor fire.</p> <p>d. TF maintains local security and overwatch, and prevents direct fire on passing units.</p> <p>e. Passing unit loses no vehicles or personnel to enemy mines or TF fire.</p>																														
<table><tr><th colspan="7">TASK PERFORMANCE SUMMARY BLOCK</th></tr><tr><th>ITERATION</th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>5</th><th>TOTAL</th></tr><tr><td>Total subtasks and standards evaluated</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total subtasks and standards "GO"</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						TASK PERFORMANCE SUMMARY BLOCK							ITERATION	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	Total subtasks and standards evaluated							Total subtasks and standards "GO"						
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<p>OPFOR TASKS and STANDARDS:</p> <p>TASK: Defend obstacle</p> <p>CONDITION: The MRC(+) is in an established defense IAW FM 100-2-1.</p> <p>STANDARDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The OPFOR prevents the TF from detecting the obstacle.2. The OPFOR prevents the TF from moving the following units through the breach.3. The OPFOR inflicts more than 30 percent casualties or vehicle losses on the TF.4. The OPFOR delays the initial breach for more than 45 minutes.																																	

+ Critical task

* Leader task

** From ARTEP 71-2-MTP, October 1988

+ Critical task
* Leader task

** From ARTEP 71-2-MTP, October 1988

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The commander executes a map exercise with the same participants and expands training, to include consideration of specific terrain, obstacles, and spatial relationships between elements. Force leaders represent their units with symbols or figures and war-game the breaching operation, considering different possibilities, outcomes, and solutions.

The force commander conducts TEWT as a preliminary field exercise. It establishes the link between map exercises and STXs conducted with all unit soldiers and equipment. During the TEWT, leaders confirm the effects of terrain and weather on a breaching operation. They walk through all types of breaching operations, confirming the locations and actions of the support assault, and breach elements. The TEWT gives leaders an excellent appreciation of the terrain considerations for executing critical collective tasks such as Perform Reconnaissance, Attack by Fire, or Assault Enemy Positions.

As a final step before leading a unit in a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), the commander and his staff plan, resource, and conduct STXs. These exercises are designed to bring the force to wartime standards of proficiency in breaching collective tasks. *ARTEP 71-2 -MTP, Chapter 4*, presents an excellent discussion of the STX. The force focuses training and evaluation on a limited number of critical battle tasks. It has already achieved proficiency in all of the enabling component individual tasks and subunit collective tasks. The STX also requires support such as multiple integrated laser engagement systems (MILES) and evaluation teams. An opposing force (OPFOR) is highly recommended for STX breaches against defended obstacles.

STXs for the in-stride breach should challenge subordinate units with a variety of lightly defended or undefended obstacles. Subordinate commanders must be required to execute breach action drills against a variety of obstacles with little or no OBSTINTEL. This realism will reinforce the rapid and accurate decision making required of the TF and company team in choosing the best means of obstacle reduction. Deliberate breaching STXs should also test the force against a variety of obstacles. However, OBSTINTEL should be relatively detailed and timely to allow the force to configure and rehearse for the specific enemy and obstacle system.

During collective task training, the company teams and TFs will develop a high level of proficiency in combined arms breaching. This will allow them to modify MTP tasks by adding steps and procedures. These modifications will raise the standards beyond those established in MTPs. They will also allow units to function smoothly and rapidly with organic assets and other critical assets such as supporting engineers and artillery. The division and separate brigade will develop standardized breaching actions used throughout the force from the tasks defined in MTPs. This will enable them to execute support, assault, and breach-force missions

against a variety of enemy and obstacle situations, regardless of task organization. The following factors may require a specific breaching action based on the MTP foundation task:

- Mission at the time of the breaching operation.
- Designation of units as support, breach, or assault for the TF.
- Amount of engineer and breaching assets available.
- Enemy direct and indirect fires.
- Type of obstacle system encountered.
- PIRs needed to plan and execute a breaching operation.
- Number of lanes to prepare in the obstacle reduction.
- Type and amount of obscuration required.
- Availability of friendly direct and indirect fire.
- Terrain.

USING THE COMBINED ARMS LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE

The CALFEX is the ideal tool for simultaneously training all individual and collective skills required to successfully conduct breaching operations. The CALFEX provides leaders at the platoon, company, and TF level an excellent opportunity to train on synchronizing the full range of critical collective tasks involved in a breaching operation. Units integrate breaching tactics, actions, drills, and procedures with fire control and the sights, smells, and sounds of a lethal battlefield. More importantly, the CALFEX provides the commander with the chance to integrate breach training into an overall offensive operation. The commander can also tailor the CALFEX to include one or more types of breaching operations-in-stride, deliberate, assault or covert. A CALFEX is the best form of rehearsal for the combined arms breach.

Because the CALFEX is a high point in a unit's training cycle, it must be carefully planned and resourced and must receive the personal attention of leaders at all levels. For the soldier, crew, and small-unit leader, the CALFEX represents the final test on which the worth of their hard training investment will be judged. It is also the yardstick by which soldiers and small units measure their own ability to win on the battlefield. The importance of the CALFEX to training success means leaders must ensure it is thoroughly planned, adequately resourced, realistic, and safe.

CALFEX planning begins with structuring the exercise so that it requires units to perform key collective tasks from the METL. The operations outline and the MTP are key sources for identifying critical collective tasks and subtasks to be incorporated into the CALFEX. Structure is important in meeting specific training goals; however, too much structure stifles leader training during the CALFEX. Commanders must design the CALFEX with enough flexibility so that leaders are required to make the same hard decisions they will be required to make in combat. This is particularly true

in breach training. For instance, during a CALFEX the lead company teams in a TF in-stride breach should not be limited to one MICLIC which the commander knows he is to use against the one minefield in his lane. Instead, each company team should be organized with several obstacle-reduction means (engineers, MICLIC, and/or ACE) and should be faced with several types of obstacles. The company team should conduct opposed and unopposed breaches. Above all, the leader must make the decision, with the scenario providing the information he needs.

The CALFEX must be completely resourced. As a minimum, resourcing includes support personnel, time, ammunition, fuel, facilities for CALFEX command and control, and unit after-action reviews. Proper resourcing is critical to preserving realism and ensuring that tasks are performed to standard. Commanders must be sensitive to the tendency to resource a unit with less than is required for the task, since it compromises executing the task to standard. For example, if the CALFEX requires a unit to breach a surface-laid minefield, the unit must have enough explosives to reduce the obstacle to MTP standard. Giving the unit only one or two blocks of TNT to simulate the breach is not acceptable. On the other hand, CALFEX training must be efficient to reduce waste of crucial training resources. Leaders planning the CALFEX must research the performance standards for each collective task to ensure that resource packages are complete but not wasteful.

The training benefit of the CALFEX stems directly from its potential for realism. When developing the CALFEX, realism must be preserved. Breaching realism is maintained by ensuring that enemy obstacles are emplaced according to the enemy's established doctrine and by using the enemy's obstacle-construction norms. The task to breach an obstacle must also be a realistic decision rather than a scenario requirement. Forcing a unit to maneuver down a lane to breach an obstacle when it does not support actions on the OBJ reinforces the breach as a necessary task during an attack. Lastly, conditions under which the breach is to be conducted must also be realistic. Smoke and simulated artillery enhance training realism but must be used carefully so they accurately complement the entire scenario. The soldier who sees, feels, and smells realistic conditions gains priceless confidence in his abilities and those of his leaders. However, forcing soldiers to breach in mission-oriented protection posture (MOPP) 4 when nothing prompted leaders to make the decision to increase their protective posture does not foster realism. Such artificial requirements must be avoided at any cost.

The CALFEX must be safe. This is not to say that safety and realism are mutually exclusive. Training soldiers and units to safely perform their individual and collective tasks under realistic battlefield conditions is an absolute must. It gives the soldier confidence in his leader, tools, and skills

that cannot be gained in any other training environment. Training soldiers to be combat safe will protect them from the lethal effects of erratic, careless use of weapons and vehicles. Training a breach as part of a CALFEX presents the leader with some particular combat safety challenges. By the very nature of a breaching operation, units are executing multiple and diverse collective tasks simultaneously. Armor platoons or companies suppress with volley fire while engineers and infantry move forward to reduce the obstacle, securing by force if necessary. The engineers place explosives on detected mines, detonate the charges, and mark the breach while the infantry attacks a dug-in enemy squad on the far side of the obstacle. Assault forces attack through the breach lane to their OBJ, and the support force shifts its fires. The commander must not shy away from these challenges. Instead, he must train his unit to meet the safety challenge as they would in combat.

Figure 7-1, page 7-12, illustrates the improper integration of a deliberate breach into a TF CALFEX. The mission is to conduct a deliberate attack to destroy an MRC-sized force. The scheme of maneuver for the CALFEX is for the TF to maneuver on the left side of the range while the engineers maneuver on the right side. The TF plan of attack uses Teams Alpha and Bravo as the support force in overwatch at ABF position 15. Team Sapper moves on Axis Engineer to breach a lane in a known obstacle. Team Charlie moves through the breach and then maneuvers back to the left to assault the OBJ. Team Delta follows in support of Team Charlie's assault but does not use the breach lane. Artillery and mortar fires are used on the OBJ. Smoke is called in north of the breach lane so it will not hamper target acquisition by the support force and cause command and control problems for the unit. In short, the breach is conducted unnecessarily and in isolation from the overall scheme of maneuver.

Figure 7-2, page 7-12, shows a breaching operation properly integrated into the same CALFEX. Team Sapper maneuvers as part of the TF attack and breaches an obstacle that must be reduced for the TF to execute its actions on the OBJ. Teams Alpha and Bravo provide suppression through volley direct fires and by controlling indirect fires. The TF commander positions himself with the support force to ensure their fires shift as Team Sapper moves forward. Smoke is used and adjusted to obscure the breach from the same enemy targets the support force is suppressing. The support force observes dug-in enemy infantry that are firing on the OBJ; the two infantry platoons with Team Sapper dismount to attack. The breach force commander tracks their progress and that of the engineers setting the charges on enemy mines. He tracks the battle and advises the infantry when the charges will be detonated. Observing the infantry under cover, the breach force commander does not prevent the sappers from blowing the charges. Teams Charlie and Delta are also observing the progress and are ready to attack through the

lane as soon as they receive the signal. During actions on the OBJ, the entire force uses the lanes created during the

breach. Team Sapper continues to construct additional lanes for the TF to use during consolidation.

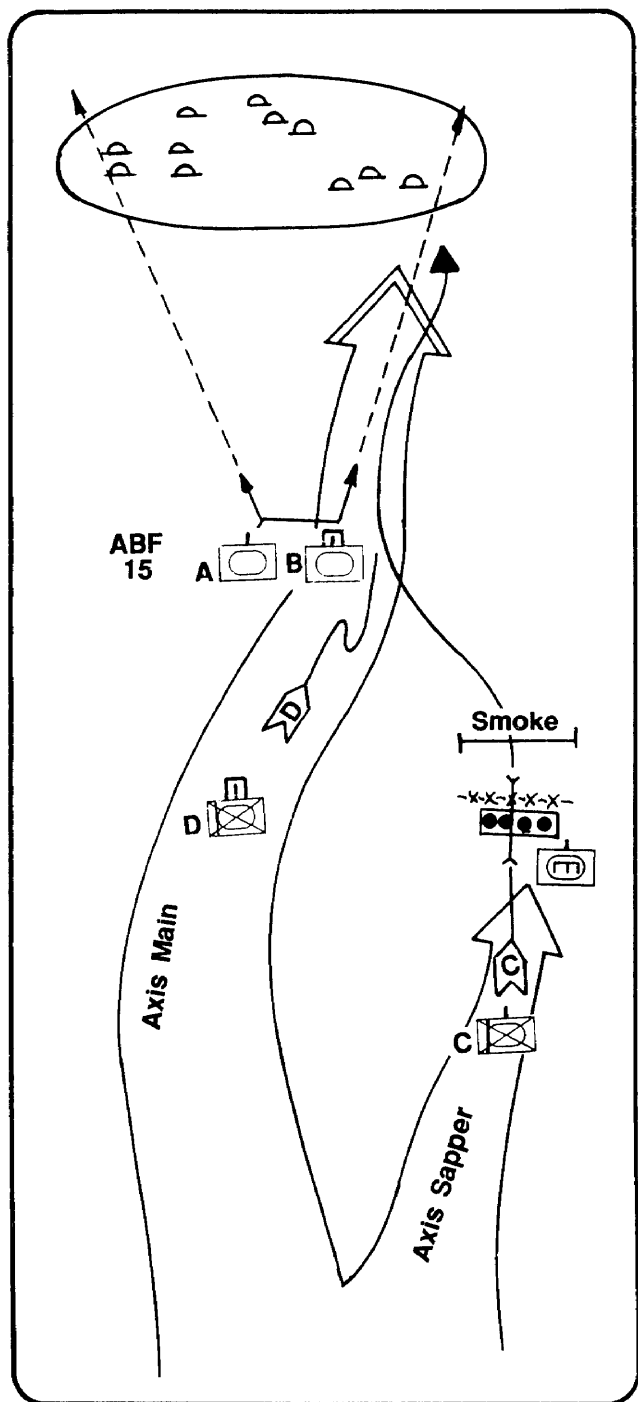


Figure 7-1. Improper integration of a breach into a CALFEX.

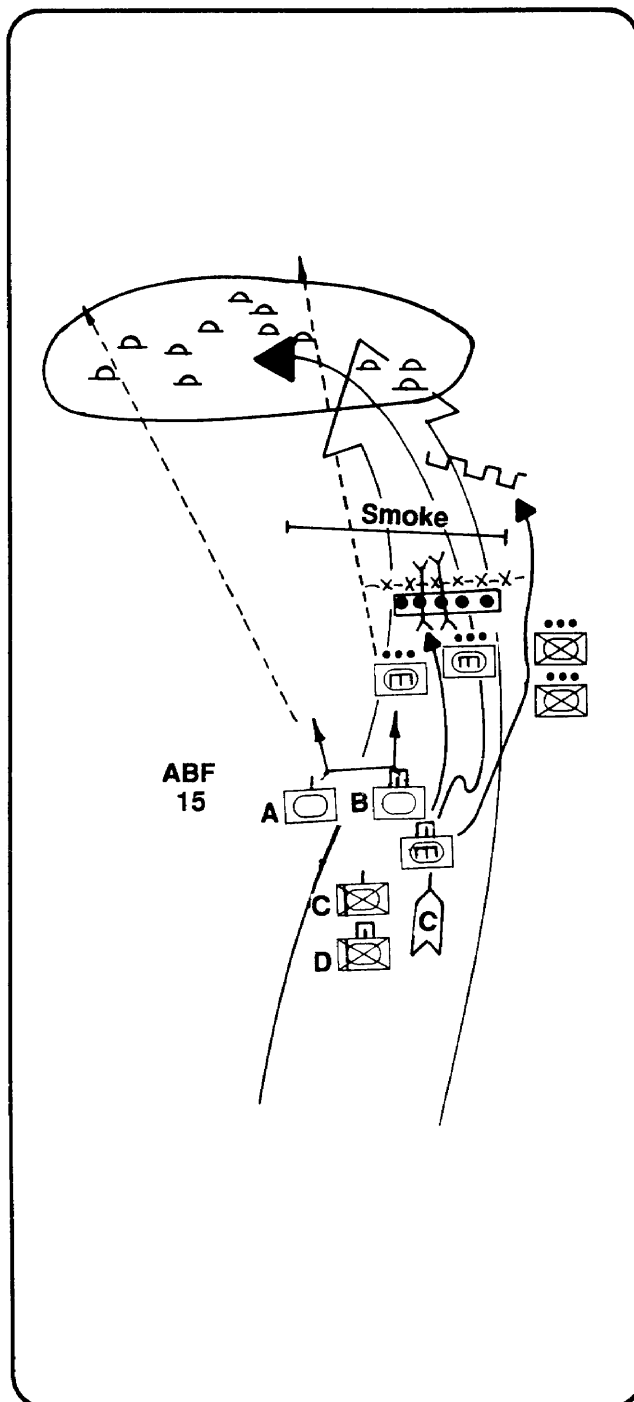


Figure 7-2. Proper integration of a breach into a CALFEX.