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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
THE BASIC SCHOOL  
MARINE CORPS TRAINING COMMAND  
CAMP BARRETT, VIRGINIA 22134-5019

# **URBAN OPERATIONS III: PATROLLING B4R5579XQ-DM STUDENT HANDOUT**

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## Urban Patrolling

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### Introduction

The purpose of this handout is to help you, the student, gain a working knowledge of the application of patrolling operations in the urban environment. This class also provides principles based TTP's for use as a basic reference during execution. Many of the concepts and planning considerations in this class are an extension of materials taught in the Introduction to Urban Operations and Urban Operations offense and defense classes.

### Importance

Patrolling in an urban environment varies drastically from patrolling in jungle or forested areas due to the more complex environment and the constant three dimensional threat. Principles taught in previous patrolling classes are still relevant but now are expanded to deal with the change in environment.

### In This Lesson

In this lesson, the student officer will study the application of the six urban patrolling principles, mounted and dismounted patrols, urban patrolling planning considerations, and principle based TTPs to facilitate execution.

This lesson covers the following topics:

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## **Learning Objectives**

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### **Terminal Learning Objectives**

TBS-ATFP-2103 Given an enemy threat, employ Guardian Angel concepts to reduce the enemy's capability to launch surprise attacks.

TBS-IED-2101 Given a tactical scenario, an operations order, and a current IED threat brief, plan for movement in an IED environment to support the concept of operations and the commander's intent.

TBS-IED-1004 Given a mission, commander's guidance and intent, rules of engagement, escalation of force criteria, and a simulated exploded improvised explosive device (IED), while serving as an individual in a small unit, react to an exploded Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to prevent further casualties and resume the mission.

TBS-IED-1002 Given a mission, commander's guidance and intent, rules of engagement, escalation of force criteria, and an emplaced improvised explosive device (IED), while serving as an individual in a small unit, react to an improvised explosive device to limit the effects of the IED on the mission.

TBS-MOUT-2001 Given a squad, an objective, within an urban environment, and an order with commander's intent, lead a unit in urban operations to accomplish the commanders' intent.

TBS-MOUT-1001 Given an assigned weapon and route, while wearing a fighting load, perform individual movement in an urban environment in accordance with MCWP 3-35.3.

### **Enabling Learning Objectives**

TBS-ATFP-2103a Given an evaluation, define the guardian angel concept without omitting key components.

TBS-IED-1002b Given a mission, commander's intent, rules of engagement, escalation of force criteria, and an emplaced improvised explosive device (IED) in a simulated combat environment, while serving as an individual in a small unit, perform 5m and 25m checks to clear IED threats around the immediate area.

TBS-IED-1002c Given a mission, commander's intent, rules of engagement, escalation of force criteria, and an emplaced improvised explosive device (IED) in a simulated combat environment, while serving as an individual in a small unit, conduct 5 Cs (clear, confirm, cordon, check, control) to process and reduce the IED threat.

TBS-IED-1002d Given a mission, commander's intent, rules of engagement, escalation of force criteria, and an emplaced improvised explosive device (IED) in a simulated combat environment, while serving as an individual in a small unit, conduct V-sweeps to clear IED threats around the immediate area.

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## **Learning Objectives**

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### **Enabling Learning Objectives (Continued)**

TBS-IED-1004a Given a simulated IED threat, send an IED 10-line report to inform higher headquarters and allocate resources.

TBS-IED-1004c Given a scenario, execute IED immediate actions to prevent further casualties and resume the mission.

TBS-IED-2101b Given a simulated IED environment, while patrolling, use foot mobile considerations to prevent death or injury.

TBS-IED-2101c Given a scenario evaluation, identify vehicle mobile considerations in an IED environment without omission.

TBS-MOUT-1001b Given a scenario, identify urban movement considerations without omission.

TBS-MOUT-2001b Given a scenario, identify task organization considerations in an urban environment without omission.

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## Introduction

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The nature of security operations require Marine units to operate within the population centers of a host nation in an effort to restore security and local governance. Patrolling is a common task assigned to deter enemy activity, support and develop local security forces, and create an exploitable security environment through interactions with the local population.

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## Six Principles of Urban Patrolling

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Patrolling in an urban environment often presents conditions considerably different and often more complex than those encountered in rural and less inhabited areas. While the principles of patrolling are still relevant in an urban situation, the nature of urban patrolling has led to the development of six additional urban patrolling principles. They are—

- **Depth.** The restrictive, canalizing nature of urbanized terrain usually limits a patrol's ability to disperse laterally. To prevent the patrol from bunching up, patrols normally maintain dispersion along the length of a patrol formation.
- **Mutual Support.** The positioning of units in depth within the patrol enables one unit to cover another unit's movement and facilitates immediate action during various situations. Manned and unmanned aircraft, vehicles, and snipers can also provide good mutual support.
- **Deception and Pattern Avoidance.** Deception and pattern avoidance are normally a planning consideration of the headquarters directing the entire patrolling plan. By varying patrol routes, durations, and departure times, hostile actions commonly used against urban patrols—such as enemy ambushes, and roadblocks—are more difficult to plan and may be preempted.
- **Inter-Patrol Communication.** Elements of an urban patrol must have the means to communicate with higher and adjacent units. Ideally, each element will possess a radio enabling it to remain in continuous communication that facilitates rapid response and reporting to higher headquarters, reaction force coordination, and coordination of actions with other patrols or fire support agencies.
- **Establishment of a Reaction Force.** The nature of urbanized terrain (its compartmentalization) makes urban patrols more vulnerable to a wider range of hostile actions. The requirement for immediate, coordinated reinforcement of a patrol is best satisfied by employment of an established reaction force. The reaction force requires superior mobility (relative to the enemy's) and fire support to be effective for this task.
- **Three-Dimensional Threat.** Patrolling in an urban environment requires constant attention to its three-dimensional aspect; hostile actions can originate from rooftops, streets, subsurface levels or combinations of all levels at once.

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## Methods of Movement

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We can categorize patrols by their method of movement. This gives us three types of patrols: dismounted, mounted (mechanized or motorized), or a combination of both. Each of these has distinct advantages or disadvantages in an urban environment.

### Dismounted Patrols

#### Pros

- Increased Interaction with the local populace
- Route flexibility
- Increased situational awareness

#### Cons

- Increased vulnerability due to limited armor
- Physical fatigue
- Slow rate of movement
- Reduced firepower capabilities

### Mounted Patrols

#### Pros

- Increased Armor
- Ability to carry more firepower and ammunition
- Speed
- Organic CASEVAC capability

#### Cons

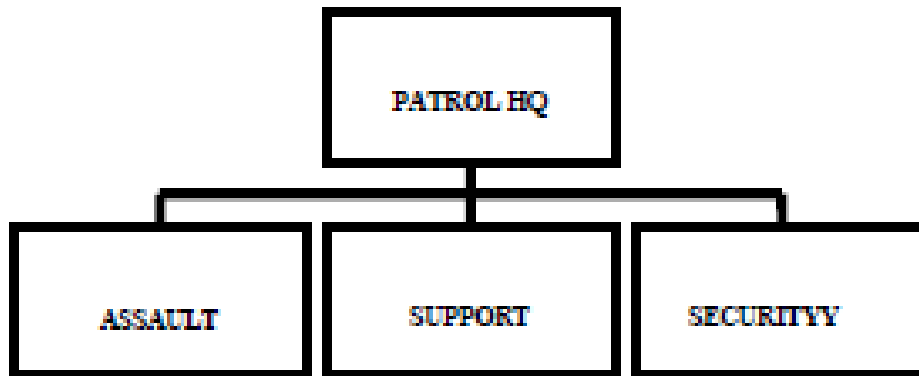
- Restricted by terrain
- High profile target
- Decreased situational awareness
- Decreased interaction with local populace
- Decreased manpower when conducting activities while dismounted

### Combined

A combination of mounted and dismounted forces may allow you to leverage the advantages of both methods. The situation may prevent one method from being employed. You must still address many of the cons associated with both when conducting a combined movement.

## Task Organization

Task organization is similar to a conventional patrol with the unit being broken down into assault, headquarters, support, and security. Task organization will vary depending on the mission and size of the patrol. Below is an example of a common task organization for an urban patrol.



Unit	Composition	Duties/Tasks
Headquarters Element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patrol Leader</li> <li>Assistant Patrol Leader</li> <li>Radio Operator</li> <li>Flanks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Command and Control</li> <li>Communication with Higher</li> <li>Flank security</li> <li>Interaction with local populace</li> </ul>
Security Element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point</li> <li>Navigator</li> <li>Security Unit Leader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide security to the front</li> <li>Base of fire, isolation of objectives, local security when halted</li> </ul>
Support Element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-organic units provided to executed special tasks</li> <li>Organization is mission dependent</li> <li>May travel with HQ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execute tasks assigned by the patrol leader</li> </ul>
Assault element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assault Element Leader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide security to the rear</li> <li>Be the maneuver element of the patrol</li> <li>Assault objectives</li> <li>Search element (Building, Vehicles, Personnel)</li> </ul>

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## Task Organization (Continued)

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- **Urban Patrol Special Tasks** - In addition to the generic task organization requirements such as a pointman or navigator, urban patrols require more specific, individual tasking. These may include:
  - Car Man – Individual tasked to identify suspicious vehicles. Usually given be on the look out (*BOLO*) list of suspected enemy vehicles in the patrol's area of operation.
  - Spotter- Identifies suspicious people. May have a list of suspected enemy personnel or high value targets (*HVT's*) in the patrol's area of operation.
  - Talker- Acts as primary communicator. Co-located with the translator. May have a list of priority information requirements (*PIRs*) to focus his interactions with the population.
  - Search Teams- Responsible for either conducting searches of vehicles, personnel, and/or buildings. Carry necessary equipment to support these searches.
  - Designated Marksman- Engages targets with precision fire.
  - Cameraman/Recorder- Tasked to record information collected during the course of the patrol.
  - Guardian Angels- Provide overwatch when applicable.
- Inorganic elements may be attached to perform specific tasks in support of the patrol. Attachments to an urban patrol may include:
  - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams
  - CI/HUMINT Teams
  - Combat Engineers
  - Military Working Dog (*MWD*) Teams
  - Civil Affairs Group (*CAG*) Teams
  - Translators
  - Local Security Forces
  - Local Community Leaders
  - US or International Media
- Inorganic elements may also support the patrol with proper coordination if they are available. They may include:
  - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (*UAVs*)
  - Close Air Support
  - Scout/Sniper Teams
  - Quick Reaction Force
  - Explosive Ordnance Disposal
  - Fire Support Agencies



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## Forms of Maneuver

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When planning to conduct movement in an urban environment there are three primary formations for movement:

- **Single Column** - Unit conducts movement in a column on one side of the road. This increases command and control but limits the ability to mitigate the three dimensional threat.
- **Double Column** - Unit conducts movement in two columns with one on each side of the road. Command and control are still relatively good but now there is increased depth and the ability to provide a higher level of security in covering the three dimensional threat.
- **Satellite Patrolling** - This is a technique devised by the British Military that allows a patrolling unit to cover more terrain, avoid establishing a pattern, and present the enemy with multiple threats from several directions. Satellite patrolling involves employing a command element on a primary axis, with squads (or fire teams) moving as multiples, in front of, behind and parallel to the command element. Satellite patrolling is similar to the action of normal patrol flankers. Satellites or flankers or multiples move away from the base unit to inspect likely ambush points or dead space areas to prevent attacks from occurring. The increased separation time of the satellite patrol from the base unit is what makes it different than flankers who traditionally attempt to maintain constant visual contact with the patrol leader, whereas the satellite patrol intentionally separates itself visually and physically from the base unit of the patrol. Satellite Patrolling requires a high level of proficiency from the patrolling unit, extensive communications assets, and is difficult to command and control.

Depending on the level of threat as well as geographic and demographic obstacles, patrol formations should be adjusted to facilitate execution.

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## Combat Operations Center (COC) Coordination

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The combat operations center is generally run on the battalion level, but due to the nature of security operations, a rifle company may maintain a company level operations center to manage their area of operations. If the platoon is operating from an independent patrol base or combat outpost, they will also be responsible for developing and managing a COC to allow for planning and command and control within their area of operations. When planning an urban patrol, the COC will be a resource for all historical data and the current operational picture of the area you are to patrol. In addition to the watch officer, you should seek all available units that have previously operated in the area to build your situational awareness. COC coordination should be done when you begin your planning. Due to the nature of the environment, it is recommended that you also periodically check with the COC prior to issuing the order and prior to departing friendly lines to receive updates and changes to the situation.

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**Combat Operations Center (COC) Coordination (Continued)**


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**COC Coordination With:****Description:**

S-1 or Watch Officer

- Patrol leader provides a detailed roster of all Marines/Sailors participating in patrol

S-2 or Intelligence Cell

- Provides updates on enemy situation, locations of previous enemy activities, TTP's
- Weather updates
- Maps, imagery, photographs of AOR
- Information on local leaders, infrastructure, tribal and religious influences, population atmospherics, etc.
- Provide *BOLO* / *HVT* lists
- Provide a list of information requirements (IRs) for patrol to fulfill

S-3 or Watch Officer

- Patrol leader provides patrol overlay. Watch officer maintains copy to track progress, maintain *honesty traces*, deconflict friendly units, and assist in coordinating support for patrol
- Provides update on friendly situation, to include recent events in the AO, adjacent unit activities, civil considerations, etc.
- Provides liaison with friendly units, local security forces, supporting agencies
- Oversees coordination between patrol leader and react force commander to ensure timely support.
- Provide CCIRs and other reporting requirements

FSC or Watch Officer

- Coordination is required if fire support plan is to be utilized
- Provides patrol leader with locations of fire support agencies, directions/priorities of fire, fire support control measures, and types of ammunition available
- Also responsible for *Information Operations* (IO)– will provide specific messages to communicate to local population in support of mission

S-4 or Company Gunnery Sergeant

- Provides all logistical support for patrol. This includes any special equipment required for the execution of the patrol
- APL may coordinate logistics issues

S-6 or Company R/O

- Provide reporting formats
  - Frequencies and Call Signs
  - Challenge and Password
  - CEOI or smart pack
  - May provide communications equipment for patrol
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## Planning Considerations

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- **Trend Analysis.** Security operations are continuous operations. Therefore, it is critical during planning to address friendly and enemy trends. Enemy activity must be expanded to address historical activities, recognizing trends as it applies to locations and times or TTP's of enemy attacks. Through analysis, you can mitigate threats by recognizing where and when the enemy prefers to fight, and how they fight. In addition, friendly actions will most likely be scrutinized by the enemy in planning their operations. It is essential to recognize patterns created by previous friendly forces operating in your AO, how they may make you vulnerable to the enemy, and seek to avoid those patterns. The COC provides references in analyzing friendly and enemy trends.
- **Terrain Considerations (OCOKA-W and ASCOPE).** Your patrol routes, formations, dispersion, and speed should be tailored to the terrain. Understand when your movements will be concealed, exposed, and restricted. In addition to the physical terrain, the human terrain must be understood as you plan for your patrol. A few considerations are included:
  - Buildings and structures provide excellent cover. They also canalize your patrol, decrease visibility, and provide covered and concealed routes for the enemy.
  - The urban terrain will have many obstacles, such as fences, walls, canals, etc. A thorough terrain analysis will allow you to plan to avoid them or treat them as danger areas.
  - Key terrain may be structures that provide command views for the enemy, overwatch to cover friendly movement, or are of cultural significance to the enemy and local population. You may be tasked to patrol them to maintain security or avoid them to prevent offending the local populace with your presence.
  - Be aware of traffic patterns and the pattern of life along your route. Heavy civilian foot or vehicle traffic may be a detriment to your patrol's movements. You may have to adjust your dispersion and speed to account for traffic, or choose an alternate route.
  - Be aware of areas along your patrol route. Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Government areas each have unique considerations for your patrol. In addition, areas may also be bounded by tribal, religious, or other cultural influences that require your attention.
  - Your patrol may be specifically tasked to perform some type of civil engagement. Whether you are tasked to speak with a leader, assess a school or hospital, or coordinate with local security forces, it will be essential for you to know the locations of these areas and individuals and plan your route accordingly.
- **Command and Control.** Well planned radio communications between every element of the patrol is essential, and urban terrain can quickly separate elements from visual/voice contact. Whether separated along the length of the patrol, on different blocks, or inside structures, it essential that positive communications are maintained between all elements. In addition, constant communication is required with higher headquarters, as urban patrols can quickly become decisively engaged and require assistance.

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## Planning Considerations (Continued)

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- **Tasks Associated With Security Operations.** An urban patrol must be prepared to conduct many tasks associated with security operations. Patrol leaders should anticipate conducting vehicle searches, personnel searches, and cordon and searches of structures, to name a few. Task organization, special equipment needed, and immediate action drills must be considered in planning if these tasks are to be conducted proficiently.
- **Rules of Engagement.** Security operations present a very complex and challenging environment for patrolling. The patrol will be operating amongst hundreds if not thousands of non-combatants, local security forces, and enemy personnel disguised as the population they operate within. It is essential that the rules of engagement are disseminated, understood and discussed prior to execution of the patrol. Establishing a baseline of what the patrol can expect to encounter will help them distinguish legitimate threats from the civilian population they are tasked to protect.
- **Combined Patrolling.** Although local security forces are considered attachments to your patrol, an enduring task in security operations is to develop these forces so that they may be capable of self-sufficiency in countering security threats to local governance. If tasked to conduct a combined patrol, a few considerations must be made in planning:
  - If possible, local security forces should be included in planning, orders issue, and rehearsals. This will aid in the execution of the joint patrol and may also aid these forces in planning, organizing, and executing their own patrols.
  - As members of the local population, they possess unique skills which can enhance the patrol's effectiveness. They may be more observant of hostile indicators, they know the human terrain, and they can mitigate cultural considerations through interaction with the local populace. Consider this when deciding which tasks you plan for them to perform.
  - Language proficiency may be a limiting factor, and you should consider the requirements for translators or English speaking security force members in task organization.
  - Their ability to work in partnership with your patrol will allow them to develop their skills in all tasks conducted. Your mentorship and example will improve their proficiency and confidence, and will also build the confidence of the local population in their legitimacy if done properly.
  - Integrating them into all elements and tasks for their education and unique skills must be balanced with allowing their leadership to maintain command and control by remaining as an element.
- **Information Operations.** Countering enemy propaganda and spreading our message is a critical component of counter insurgency. Everything your unit does will be discussed by the local populace and spun by the enemy. Ensure you correct false information you hear from the individuals you encounter and ensure unity of effort by coordinating with your IO officer as to specific talking points your command wants disseminated. This may include flyers or other IO products given to your patrol for distribution. Talking points and plan for distribution of IO products should be briefed in the patrol order.

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## Planning Considerations (Continued)

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- **Force Protection.** Ensuring all Marines have appropriate personal protective equipment is only the beginning of force protection. Make sure Marines are *hard targeting* by continuously moving when halted in an exposed area. Consider *going firm* or conducting short tactical pauses on suitable terrain in order to reorient the patrol, brief updates to the situation, and prepare for the next unit action. Vary your speeds and avoid telegraphing your route with deliberate movements in order to deter an enemy from planning attacks.
- **Combat Hunter.** Establish a *baseline*, or pattern of life, for your patrol through your estimate of the situation. If the market is always busy, then you can expect to see large groups of civilians when you pass through there. If the market is empty, then the baseline has changed, and this should trigger a decision from the patrol leader. It may indicate an impending attack, or enemy presence. It is essential that through your estimate of the situation you develop this baseline and communicate it through the patrol order. All patrol members must be capable of quickly recognizing *combat indicators*, putting them within the context of their baseline, and making quick decisions as necessary. A few combat indicators are listed below:
  - Observers on rooftops, windows, etc., who appear to be tracking the patrol
  - Unusual absence of pedestrian traffic, empty stores, etc.
  - Dramatic change in civilian attitude toward patrol members.
  - Unfamiliar individuals or vehicles within the patrol area.
  - Absence of usual stray dogs
  - Civilian workers failing to appear at firm bases
  - Any absence of the normal or presence of the abnormal

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## Basic Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Urban Patrolling

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The TTPs listed represent a few of the more common scenarios patrols are confronted while operating in the urban environment. These TTPs are based on principle concepts and can be modified accordingly if the environment requires it. All TTPs must be exhaustively rehearsed by the patrolling unit to allow for proper execution, ability of members to perform all roles and responsibilities, and for improvisation based on terrain and dynamic situations. In addition to these TTPs, the patrol should be capable of performing the operations covered in your Urban Operations IV student handout.

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## Danger Areas

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Urban patrols may encounter hundreds of danger areas during a single patrol. The three-dimensional threat requires a high level of situational awareness for every patrol member. Many danger areas can be dealt with simply by avoidance, while others require an adjustment of patrol formation, movement rate, etc. In the urban environment, places to be treated as danger areas are points that pose a major threat to the patrol, such as local political and religious headquarters, roads and routes that canalize patrol movement and effects of direct fire weapons, and any area with a history of repeated contact. To cross a danger area four basic elements are needed:

- **Establish Security**
- **Use Alternate or Successive Bounding**
- **Maintain Rear Security**
- **Continue with the Movement**

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## **Danger Areas (Continued)**

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For each method you plan to utilize to cross a danger area, ensure all are well rehearsed and quickly executed by members of the patrol. Proficiency in these immediate action drills will reduce the amount of time that your patrol will be exposed in these areas. Most can be anticipated and planned for with a map reconnaissance. Whenever possible avoid a deliberate approach to these danger areas in your route planning to deceive the enemy as to the specific location where you will be crossing.

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## **Reaction to Decisive Engagement**

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If the patrol becomes decisively engaged from numerous firing positions, the following immediate action should be taken:

- All patrol members should seek available cover and return accurate fire on identified firing points.
- Patrol leader assesses the situation and makes the decision to either request the QRF or break contact.
- If the QRF is requested, the engaged patrol will maintain its position and, if possible, simultaneously maneuver elements to isolate the enemy, until the QRF arrives to either clear the area or cover the patrol during its extract.

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## **Reaction to Sniper**

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Sniper engagements are often executed from a single firing point, but coordinated sniper engagements delivered from multiple points are not uncommon. Snipers may be supported by other enemy units meant to distract the patrol from his firing point, or be used to fix or canalize the patrol for another enemy attack. Patrol leaders or team leaders should constantly try to identify likely firing points and anticipate their own reactions to a possible shooting. Normally, snipers in an urban environment have a detailed withdrawal plan. Once a patrol comes into contact with a precision shooter, the patrol leader must immediately assess the situation and maneuver his patrol accordingly. If the initial shots produce friendly casualties, the immediate reaction cannot be to retrieve those casualties until the firing point is positively identified and sufficient suppression and obscuration allows for safe recovery. There are three immediate reactions to neutralizing a sniper: initial contact, immediate follow-up, and subsequent follow-up.

- **Initial Contact** – This phase begins with the first shot. The patrol must react immediately and positively to get behind the firing position in order to kill/capture the gunman. The contact period ends when the gunman is killed or captured, or the patrol leader determines the gunman has left the scene, and/or the patrol cannot positively identify the firing point. Below is a sequence of actions in the contact period.

## Reaction to Sniper (Continued)

Sequence	Action
1	Unit in contact seeks cover and attempts to identify the firing position, maneuvering to return controlled fires. Other members of patrol move to cover unit in contact.
2	Unit leader in contact relays report to PL, who communicates contact report to higher headquarters.
3	Unit leader determines/relays appropriate cut-off positions to firing point.
4	Unit leader maintains visibility on firing point
5	Cease in sniper fire, neutralization of gunman, or failure to PID firing point signals end of contact period

- **Immediate Follow-Up** – Regardless of the fate of the gunman, isolation of the firing point is necessary to prevent reinforcement and preserve forensic evidence. The sequence of actions for the immediate follow-up are listed below.

Sequence	Action
1	Unit in contact continues to isolate the firing point
2	Other elements maintain cordon of immediate area
3	PL moves to a location where he can assess the situation, and send a SPOTREP to higher.

- **Subsequent Follow-Up** - The aim of the subsequent follow-up is to use follow-on forces to clear the building of remaining resistance or to obtain evidence that can be used to capture/kill the gunman at a later date. The patrol leader establishes a position where he can brief arriving units (reaction force commander, S-2 representative, EOD personnel, etc.). Once the arriving units have been briefed, recommendations are made to higher headquarters via radio. No one is allowed into the cordon without the patrol leader's approval.

## Reaction to Pre-Detonated IED

The use of command and remote detonated explosive devices are a common ambush tactic employed by a terrorist or insurgent in an urban environment. The appropriate response to a reported threat or an actual discovery generally involves five steps (known as the five Cs)

- The patrol leader **CONFIRMS** the presence of the suspicious item. This is done from a safe distance with minimal exposure to the threat. Reasonable suspicion of an IED with the observation of IED indicators is sufficient confirmation.
- Without touching or moving anything suspicious, patrol elements or teams **CLEAR** the immediate danger area to a minimum of a position with cover and appropriate standoff. The area is cleared from the suspected device outward. Upon reaching the initial perimeter five and twenty five meter checks should be performed to ensure that no secondary devices are present. Any other personnel in the area should be directed away from the site.
- The patrol elements then establish a **CORDON** to secure the cleared area. Avenues of approach are cordoned off to keep people out and to protect EOD or Engineer personnel clearing the device.

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## Reaction to Pre-Detonated IED

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- **CHECK** the immediate area for any possible secondary devices. All suspicious items should be reported to the patrol leader/on scene commander. Mark their location as safely as possible (chem lights day or night and 8-10 digit grid).
- **CONTROL** of the area is maintained throughout the bomb clearing operation by the patrol leader. The patrol leader also coordinates with arriving personnel (EOD, engineers, etc.). The patrol leader also maintains communication with the assistant patrol leader and keeps the Marines informed of the progress of the clearing operation.

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## Reaction to Post-Detonated IED / Complex Ambush

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Reactions vary depending on additional threats and friendly casualties. If the detonation is supported with a direct fire weapons engagement, then the patrol must initially address the enemy firing points. If there is no follow up attack, then initial actions could possibly be to maneuver in order to cut off the egress of the trigger-man. Once contact has ceased, the patrol should clear the area of potential secondary IED's and/or sweep the area for secondary IED's on their route to retrieve casualties in the kill zone. Communication with higher should begin immediately following initiation of the device in order to coordinate support needed (QRF, MEDEVAC, etc.). Link up with QRF or MEDEVAC should be conducted with sufficient standoff from the initiated device and swept for possible secondary devices. An acronym commonly used is REACTER.

- **R – Report**
  - Report events internally within the patrol (especially Mounted Patrols).
  - Report to HHQ as soon as practical IOT allow them to begin preparing support with Company/Battalion assets
- **E – Establish Security**
  - Base of Fire/ Sectors of Fire if the event is a complex attack.
  - 360 Degree Cordon if not Small Arms Fire (SAF).
- **A – Assault the Enemy**
  - Assault the Enemy during Ambush
  - Assault the Triggerman to deter secondary IEDs if no SAF
- **C – Clear to Casualties – Conduct a V-Sweep (Rolling 5&25s) up to casualty**
- **T – Treat the Casualties**
  - Move to a covered/concealed area
  - Triage if multiple Casualties
- **E – Evacuate Casualties**
  - 9 Line CASEVAC Report
  - LZ Brief/QRF Link-up Plan
- **R – Recover/Redistribute Equipment**
  - Radios/ Weapons/Ammo
  - Wrecker for disabled Vehicles



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## Patrol Debriefs

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Regardless of enemy contact and/or success of the patrol's primary mission, the patrol can still prove valuable in its role of information collection. In addition to the patrol leader and recorder/cameraman, every Marine in the patrol made observations, the value of which will not be known until the patrol is debriefed immediately following their return. The S-2 or a designated Marine from the company's intelligence section should be present to record the information presented during debrief. In addition to enemy TTPs, information about the population, routes, public services, and local government will be valuable. Ensure during the course of the patrol that photos, times, and locations were recorded for any significant events. This information will aid in developing your commander's estimate of the situation and will drive future operations. It will also aid in adjusting the baseline for future patrol members. Finally, after action reviews (AARs) should be conducted with all members of the patrol to identify improvements to be made in friendly TTPs and capture lessons learned for future patrols to benefit from.

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## Summary

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Urban patrolling is an extremely complex and challenging task, requiring detailed planning and preparation by all patrol members. Conventional patrolling methods need to be adjusted and additional principles adapted in order to counter the myriad of threats faced. These changes also require a great deal of flexibility on behalf of the patrol leader as well as detailed COC coordination between units. During security operations, urban patrols must prepare for close combat against a wide range of potential enemy actions, be capable of performing multiple tasks, and expertly navigate through challenging physical and human terrain. Their interactions with the local populace can potentially have greater effect than their fires on enemy combatants. Finally, it is important to recognize the vital role patrols have in information collection and developing an estimate of the situation for commanders.

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## References

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Reference Number or Author	Reference Title
MCRP 3-11.1A	Commander's Tactical Handbook
TTECG/MAWTS-1	Convoy Battle Skills Handbook
MCWP 3-35.3	Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT)
FM 90-10-1	Infantryman's Guide to Combat in Built-Up Areas
MCWP 3-11.2	Marine Rifle Squad
MCWP 3-11.3	Scouting and Patrolling

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## Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

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Term or Acronym	Definition or Identification
GEOMETRY OF FIRES	Active and continuous placement of units, Marines, and sectors of fire to ensure that, in the moment when fires are needed, the ability to fire is not masked by Marines or by innocents.
“GO FIRM”	Going firm is taking a tactical pause (short security halt) in order to regain direction and control, improve situational awareness, conduct resupply if needed, and redistribute assets to include ammunition and gear. Leaders should select defensible terrain where the patrol will be secure in order to take this pause.
GUARDIAN ANGEL	These are the alert Marines placed in ambush, unseen by the enemy, watching over their units. This is offensive overwatch, not oriented to the friendly force but toward an anticipated avenue of approach for the enemy. The purpose of these Marines is to occupy a position of advantage over any approaching hostile force or individual.
“HARD TARGETING”	The British term for varying the rate of movement ranging from short halts to brief periods of double-timing. Altering the rate of movement is intended to frustrate the enemy’s ability to coordinate an attack or ambush against a targeted patrol. It can also apply to the individual action of maintaining movement when the patrol is halted to make yourself a difficult target for direct fire.
QUICK REACTION FORCE	A unit that is on an alert status and capable of responding throughout an assigned area of operations in order to provide assistance across the spectrum of conflict. This includes both reinforcement and CASEVAC or extraction of the patrolling unit.

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## Notes

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