

- Personnel status at the conclusion of the patrol mission, including the disposition of casualties.
- Conclusions or recommendations.

Section II. RECONNAISSANCE PATROL

The three types of reconnaissance patrols are area, zone, and route. Reconnaissance patrols provide timely and accurate information on the enemy and terrain. They confirm the leader's plan before it is executed. The commander must inform the leader of the specific information requirements for each mission.

3-9. ORGANIZATION

Besides the common elements, reconnaissance patrols have a reconnaissance team and a reconnaissance and security team.

a. **Reconnaissance Team.** Reconnaissance teams reconnoiter the objective area once the security teams are in position. Normally these are two-man teams (buddy teams) to reduce the possibility of detection.

b. **Reconnaissance and Security Team.** R&S teams are normally used in a zone reconnaissance, but may be useful in any situation when it is impractical to separate the responsibilities for reconnaissance and security.

3-10. TASKS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS

Normally the platoon headquarters element controls the platoon on a reconnaissance patrol mission.

a. The platoon leader must consider the requirements for reconnaissance and security in assigning tasks to his squads or fire teams. He may separate the tasks so that one or more squads conduct the reconnaissance while other squads or fire teams provide security at various locations. Or, he may assign reconnaissance and security (R&S) tasks to each squad or team. When a fire team conducts a reconnaissance patrol it operates as a single R&S team.

b. In assigning tasks, the leader must also consider the size and number of reconnaissance objectives, the requirement to secure the ORP and other points, and the time allowed for conducting the mission.

3-11. AREA RECONNAISSANCE

An area reconnaissance is conducted to obtain information about a specified location and the area around it. The location may be given as a grid coordinate or an objective on an overlay. In an area reconnaissance, the platoon or squad uses surveillance or vantage-points around the objective from which to observe it and the surrounding area. In planning

for an area reconnaissance mission, the platoon leader considers the following sequence of actions.

a. The leader may include a surveillance team in his reconnaissance of the objective from the ORP. He positions it while on the reconnaissance. The subordinate leader responsible for security establishes security at the ORP and positions other security teams as required on likely enemy avenues of approach into the objective area.

b. If required the leader positions other surveillance elements about the objective. He may move them on one route, posting them as they move, or he may direct them to move on separate routes to their assigned locations.

c. After observing the objective for a specified time, all elements return to the ORP and report their observations to the leader or the recorder. Once all information is collected, it is disseminated to every soldier.

3-12. ZONE RECONNAISSANCE

A zone reconnaissance is conducted to obtain information on enemy, terrain, and routes within a specified zone. Zone reconnaissance techniques include the use of moving elements, stationary teams, or a series of area reconnaissance actions.

a. **Moving Elements.** The leader plans the use of squads or fire teams moving along multiple routes to cover the entire zone. Methods for planning the movement of multiple elements through a zone include the fan, the box, converging routes, and successive sectors.

(1) **Fan method.** The leader first selects a series of ORPs throughout the zone. The platoon establishes security at the first ORP. Each R&S team moves from the ORP along a different fan-shaped route that overlaps with others to ensure reconnaissance of the entire area. The leader maintains a reserve at the ORP. When all R&S teams have returned to the ORP, the platoon collects and disseminates all information to every soldier before moving on to the next ORP. (Figure 3-3.)

(2) **Box method.** The leader sends his R&S teams from the ORP along routes that form a boxed-in area. He sends other teams along routes through the area within the box. All teams meet at a link-up point at the far side of the box from the ORP. (Figure 3-4.)

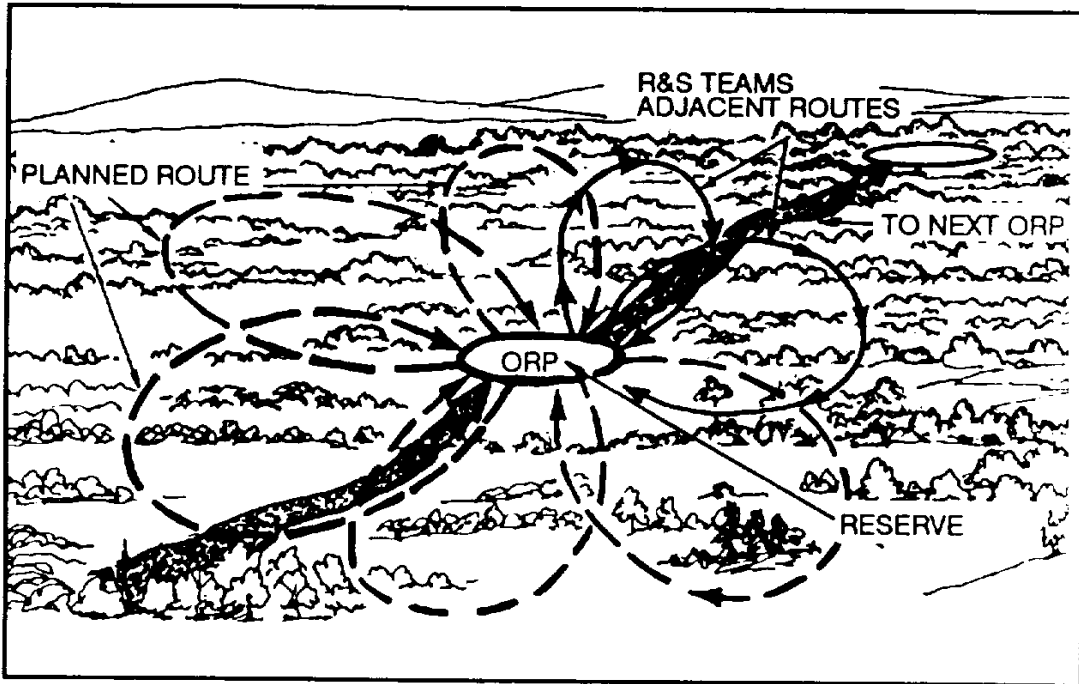


Figure 3-3. Fan method

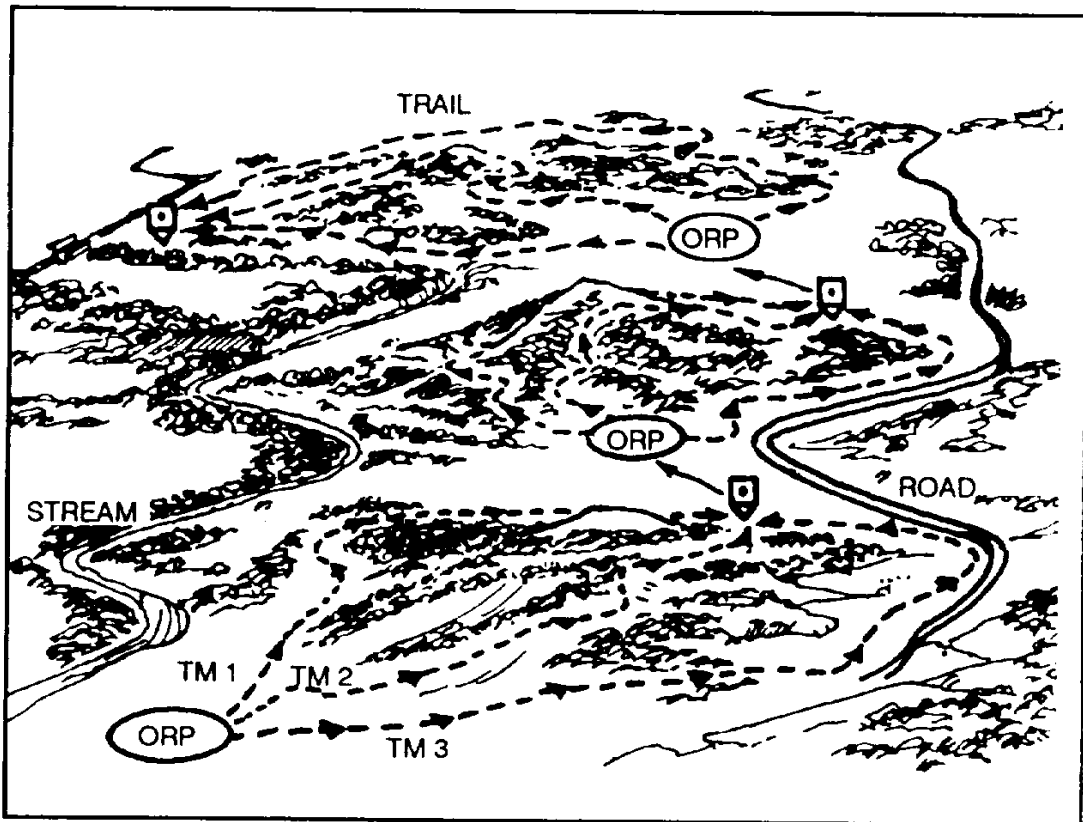


Figure 3-4. Box method.

(3) *Coverging routes method.* The leader selects routes from the ORP through the zone to a link-up point at the far side of the zone from the ORP. Each R&S team moves along a specified route and uses the fan method to reconnoiter the area between routes. The leader designates a time for all teams to link-up. (Figure 3-5.)

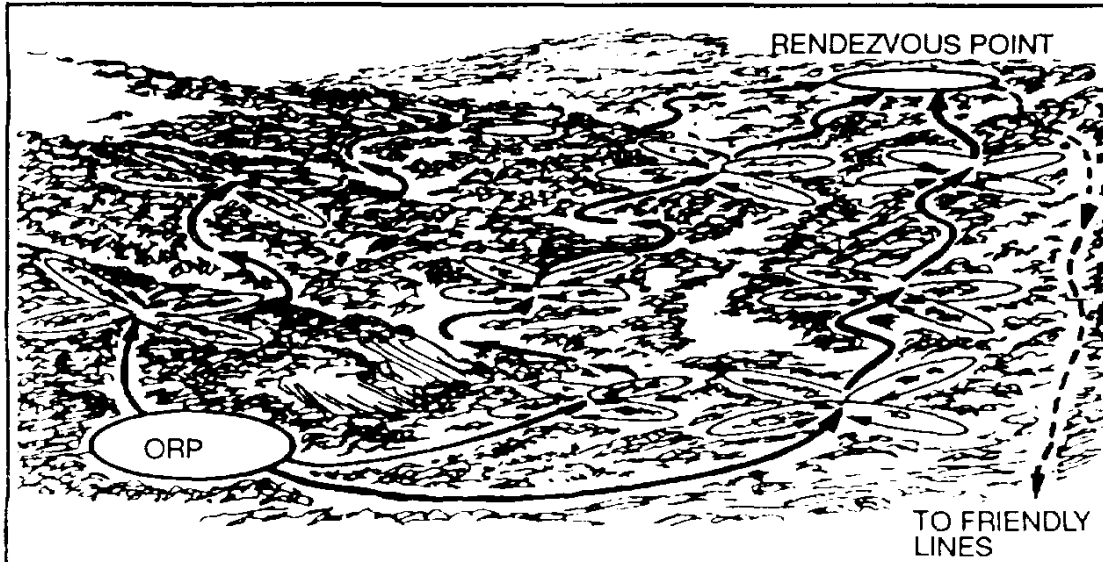


Figure 3-5. Coverging routes method.

(4) *Successive sector method.* The leader may divide the zone into a writs of sectors. Within each sector, the platoon uses the converging routes method to reconnoiter to an intermediate link-up point where it collects and disseminates the information gathered to that point before reconnoitering the next sector. (Figure 3-6.)

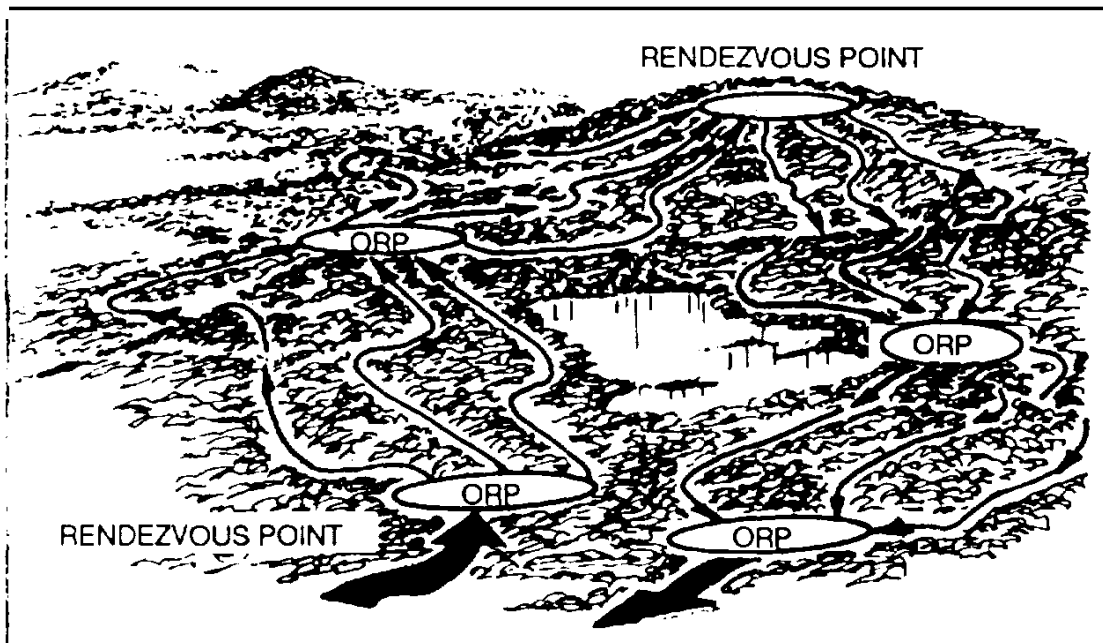


Figure 3-6. Successive sector method.

b. **Stationary Teams.** Using this technique, the leader positions surveillance teams in locations where they can collectively observe the entire zone for long-term, continuous information gathering (Figure 3-7). He must consider sustainment requirements when developing his soldier's load plan.

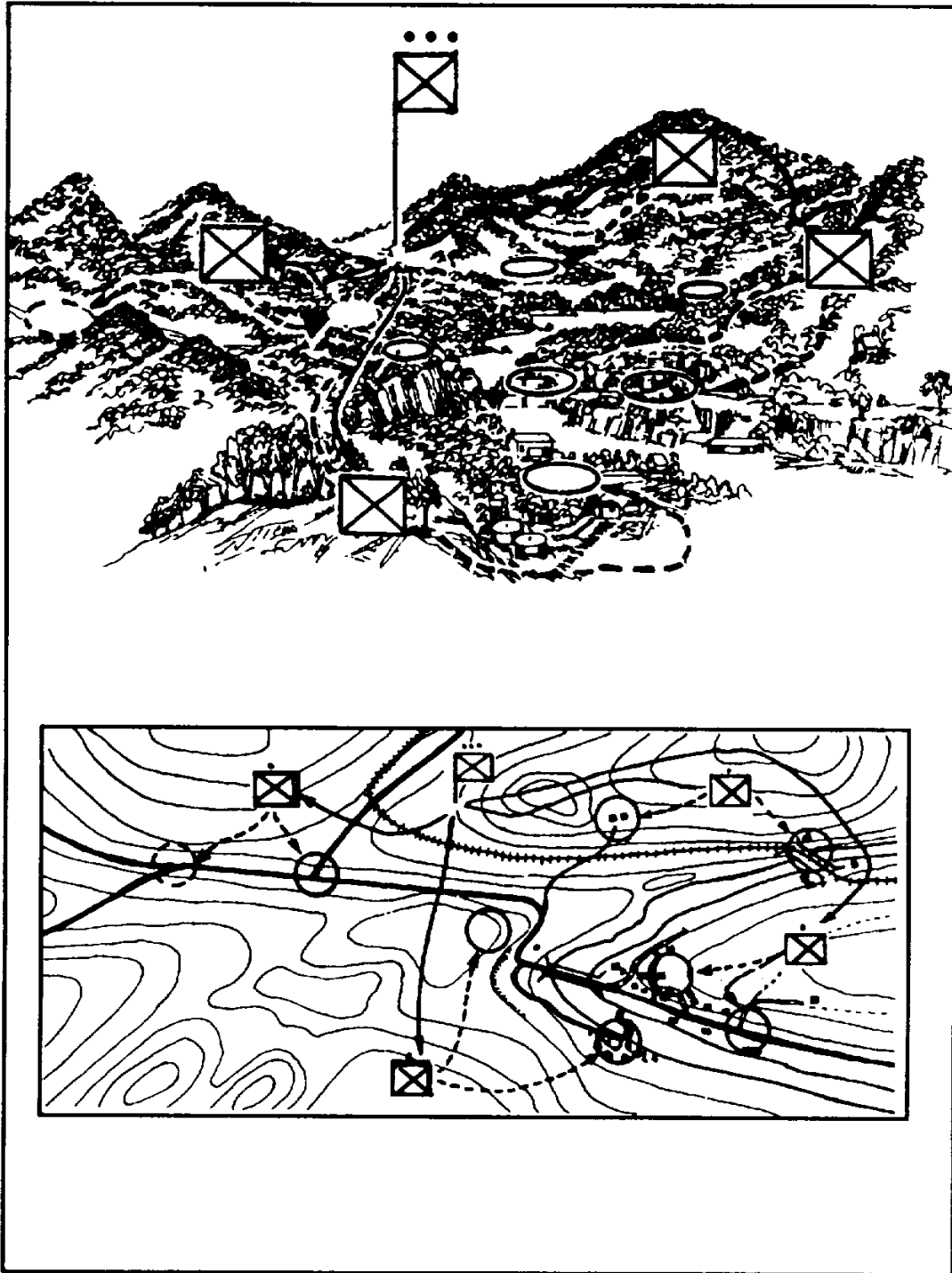


Figure 3-7. Zone reconnaissance using stationary surveillance.

c. **Multiple Area Reconnaissance.** The leader tasks each of his squads to conduct a series of area reconnaissance actions along a specified route. (Figure 3-8.)

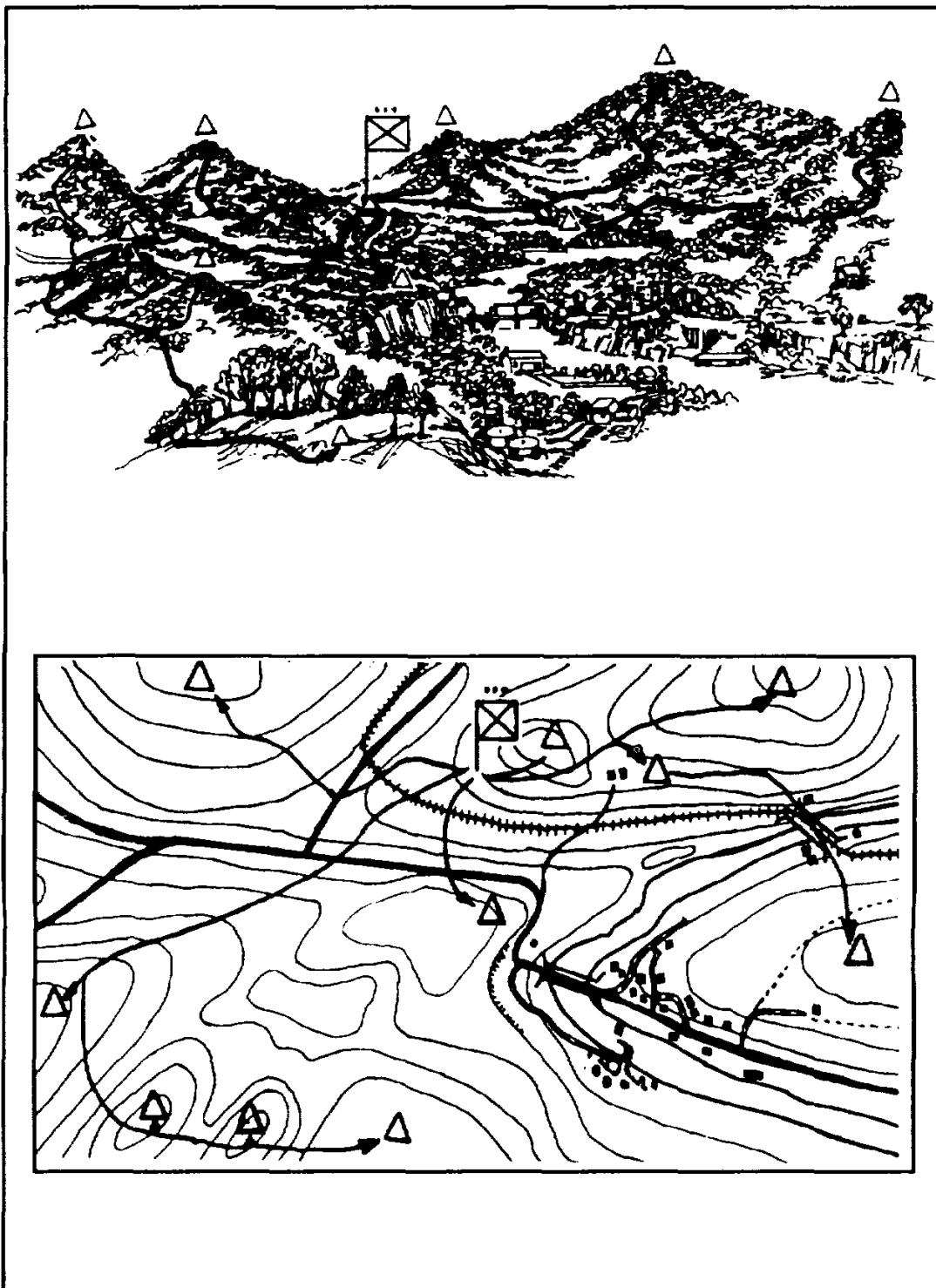


Figure 3-8. Zone reconnaissance using multiple area reconnaissance.

3-13. ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE

A route reconnaissance is conducted to obtain detailed information about one route and all the adjacent terrain or to locate sites for emplacing obstacles. A route reconnaissance is oriented on a road; a narrow axis, such as an infiltration lane; or a general direction of attack. Normally engineers are attached to the infantry unit for a complete route reconnaissance. Infantry can conduct a hasty route reconnaissance without engineer support. A route reconnaissance results in detailed information about trafficability, enemy activity, NBC contamination, and aspects of adjacent terrain from both the enemy and friendly viewpoint. In planning a route reconnaissance the leader considers the following.

a. The preferred method for conducting a route reconnaissance is the fan method described above. The leader must ensure that the fans are extensive enough to reconnoiter intersecting routes beyond direct-fire range of the main route. (Figure 3-9.)

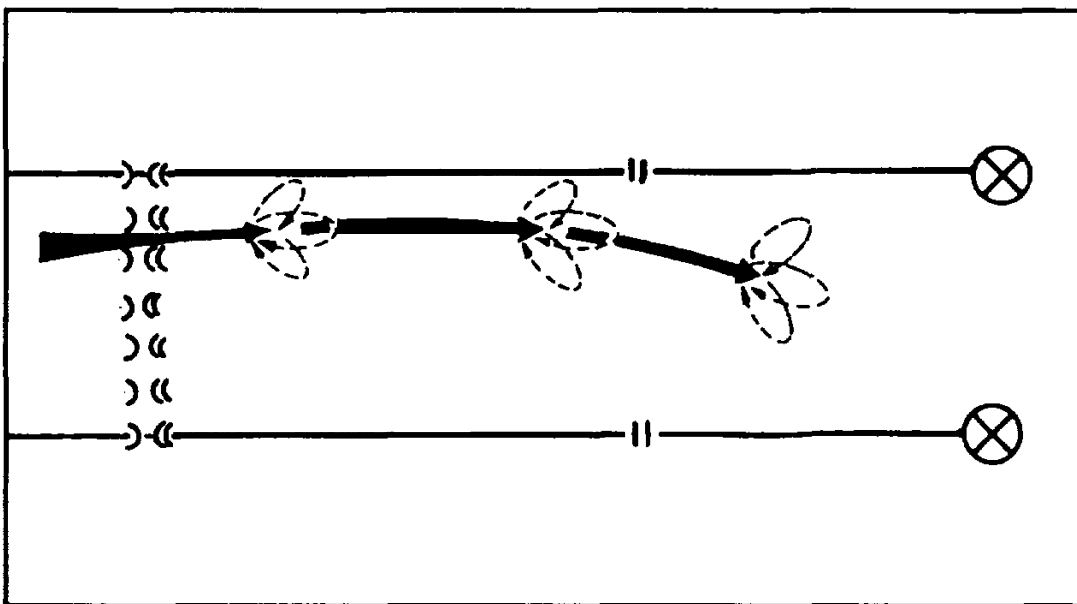


Figure 3-9. Route reconnaissance using fans.

b. The platoon should use a different return route.

c. If all or part of the proposed route is a road, the leader must treat the road as a danger area. The platoon moves parallel to the road using a covered and concealed route. When required, reconnaissance and security teams move close to the road to reconnoiter key areas.

d. The leader should submit the patrol report in an overlay format LAW FM 5-34 or GTA 5-2-5 (Figure 3-10, page 3-18).

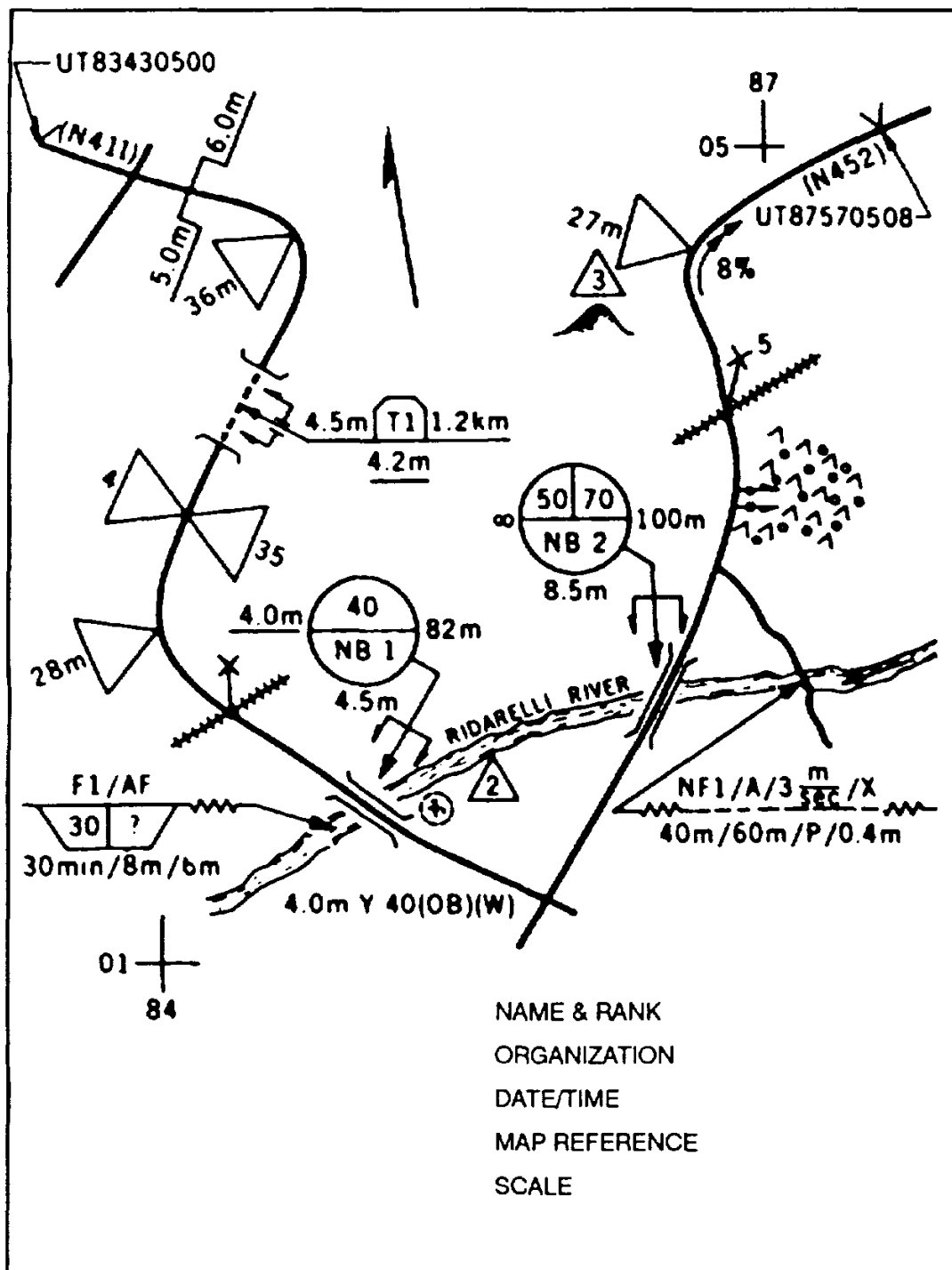


Figure 3-10. Route reconnaissance overlay.

Section III. COMBAT PATROL

Combat patrols are conducted to destroy or capture enemy soldiers or equipment; destroy installations, facilities, or key points; or harass enemy forces. They also provide security for larger units. The two types of combat patrol missions are ambush and raid.

3-14. ORGANIZATION

Besides the common elements, combat patrols also have the following elements and teams.

a. **Assault Element.** The assault element seizes and secures the objective and protects special teams as they complete their assigned actions on the objective.

b. **Security Element.** The security element provides security at danger areas, secures the ORP, isolates the objective, and supports the withdrawal of the rest of the platoon once it completes its assigned actions on the objective. The security element may have separate security teams, each with an assigned task or sequence of tasks.

c. **Support Element.** The support element provides direct fire support and may control indirect fires for the platoon.

d. **Breach Element.** The breach element breaches the enemy's obstacles when required.

e. **Demolition Team.** Demolition teams are responsible for preparing and exploding the charges to destroy equipment, vehicles, or facilities on the objective.

f. **Search Team.** The assault element may comprise two-man (buddy teams) or four-man (tire team) search teams to search bunkers, buildings, or tunnels on the objective. These teams may search the objective or kill zone for casualties, documents, or equipment.

3-15. TASKS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS

Normally the platoon headquarters element controls the platoon on a combat patrol mission. The platoon leader must make every attempt to maintain squad and fire team integrity as he assigns tasks to subordinate units.

a. The platoon leader must consider the requirements for assaulting the objective, supporting the assault by fire, and securing the platoon throughout the mission.

(1) For the assault on the objective, the leader must consider the required actions on the objective, the size of the objective, and the known or presumed strength and disposition of the enemy on and near the objective.