



**THE SBCT INFANTRY  
RIFLE COMPANY**



**OCTOBER 2002**

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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## PREFACE

*This manual is based on the premise that although the unit organization, weapons systems, and conditions have changed, platoon maneuver, fire, and movement have not changed.*

FM 3-21.11 describes the doctrinal and tactical employment principles for the Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) infantry rifle company, which is an element of the SBCT battalion. This field manual responds to a need for emerging doctrine, tactics, and techniques for the infantry companies of the SBCT. The fundamental shift and focus for the manual is the combination of an infantry-centric organization, three full platoons, and a mobile gun system (MGS) platoon. This is a departure from the light and mechanized infantry concept.

This manual provides the company commander with tactics and techniques to exploit the infantry capabilities, to reduce vulnerabilities, and to enable the unit to win on the battlefield. This manual borrows from “nested” concepts found in FM 7-10 and FM 71-1 and reemphasizes information from other manuals that are of critical importance.

The proponent of this publication is the US Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations to [doctrine@benning.army.mil](mailto:doctrine@benning.army.mil) or on DA Form 2028 directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5000.

Unless this manual states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

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## CHAPTER 1

# OVERVIEW OF THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

*The five types of infantry have historically been separated into two "schools of thought": light vs. mechanized. Both are extremely lethal in the terrain and missions for which they are best suited. Mechanized forces excel in terrain that supports rapid fire and maneuver while light forces excel in more restrictive terrain and accomplish their missions at the small-unit level. The overarching doctrine is the same across these two schools of thought; however, the tactics, techniques, capabilities, and limitations between light and mechanized infantry create a divergence. The Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) infantry rifle company, as a part of the SBCT battalion, fills this gap. The SBCT can operate independently, or it can supplement light and mechanized forces.*

### Section I. INTRODUCTION

This manual addresses the doctrine of the SBCT at the company level. The SBCT infantry rifle company capitalizes on the strengths and minimizes the limitations of mechanized and light doctrine. The light infantry ethos is the foundation of this organization but is combined with the speed, mobility, and precision of mounted warfare. Success is achieved by integrating the complementary characteristics of each type of infantry where decisive action must occur.

#### 1-1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

Because the fundamentals of fire and maneuver are unchanged, the majority of the combat power of the SBCT infantry rifle company lies in its highly trained squads and platoons. The organic vehicles in the platoons are for moving infantry to the fight swiftly and providing tactical flexibility while tailoring the soldiers' loads through a "mobile arms room" concept. There is also a mobile gun system (MGS) platoon that supports the infantry fight with long-range precision fires. The MGS is a *fighting vehicle* but is not a Bradley or a tank and should not be employed in the traditional sense of a fighting vehicle. Flexibility is the key to the rifle company. Current and predicted global situations dictate the need for a force that is rapidly deployable (within 96 hours), lethal, and flexible enough to address the full spectrum of Army operations.

#### 1-2. OPERATIONAL PREMISE

The SBCT was developed to address some of the changing situations the US Army currently faces. At the brigade level, there are significant changes that affect the way this unit fights. Although the changes at brigade level do not significantly change tactics at company level and below, they do affect the frequency with which companies, platoons and squads execute certain missions.

#### 1-3. CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE SBCT FORCE

The SBCT infantry rifle company commander must understand the differences in the capabilities and limitations of this unit as compared to that of traditional infantry forces. The SBCT combines the tactical mobility aspect of mechanized units while emphasizing