

**MECHANIZED INFANTRY
PLATOON AND SQUAD
(BRADLEY)**

AUGUST 2002

**HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

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MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOON AND SQUAD (BRADLEY)

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PREFACE

This manual describes the operations and capabilities of the Bradley fighting vehicle (BFV)-equipped infantry rifle platoon. It is based on the platoons equipped with the M2A2-ODS, but still applies to all variations of the BFV. It takes into account the reorganization of this platoon, which incorporates three rifle squads. It introduces the enhanced capabilities of the M2A3 BFV and M2A2-ODS BFV (with Applique) equipped with FBCB2. This manual also describes the doctrinal and tactical employment principles for the BFV-equipped infantry rifle platoon. Tactics and techniques in the manual apply both to digital and analog platoons during planning, preparation, and execution are provided.

This manual provides the platoon leader, BFV commanders, and squad leaders with tactics and techniques to exploit infantry rifle platoon capabilities. Although this manual reemphasizes critical information from other manuals, the user must continue to refer to other manuals when referenced for in-depth discussions of certain subjects.

The proponent of this publication is the U.S. Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations for improving this manual to doctrine@benning.army.mil or on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Forms) to Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5000; DSN: 835-4704; commercial: (706) 545-5107.

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

CHAPTER 1

THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIZED INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON (BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE)

The mission of the mechanized infantry is to close with the enemy using fire and movement to defeat or capture him, or to repel his assault by fire, close combat, or counterattack. Among other things, the mechanized infantry relies on the principles of war and the dynamics of combat power. These basics apply at both platoon and squad levels. This chapter discusses the doctrinal principles of the mechanized infantry rifle platoon. Platoon and squad tactics, techniques, procedures, and drills rely on these principles. It also discusses the skills required of leaders and soldiers at the small-unit level.

Section I. MECHANIZED INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON EMPLOYMENT

Despite any technological advantages our armed forces might have over an enemy, the *only* way to gain the decision in battle is by close combat between ground forces. Mechanized infantry rifle forces equipped with the Bradley fighting vehicle (BFV) play the following main roles in close combat situations:

- Operate mainly at night or during other periods of natural or induced limited visibility.
- Penetrate and hold existing (natural and man-made) obstacles and difficult terrain as pivots for operational and tactical maneuver.
- Attack over approaches not feasible for armored forces.
- Seize or secure forested and built-up areas.
- Control restrictive routes for use by other forces.
- Conduct rear area operations.

1-1. CLOSE COMBAT

BFV-equipped infantry rifle platoons and rifle squads normally operate as part of a larger force. They benefit from the support of armor, artillery, mortars, close air support, helicopters, air defense, and engineers. They also provide their own suppressive fires either to repel enemy assaults or to support their own maneuver.

a. During close combat, platoon leaders consider the following to determine how to employ the BFVs.

- Support the rifle squads with direct fires.
- Provide mobile protection to transport rifle squads to the critical point on the battlefield.
- Suppress or destroy enemy infantry fighting vehicles and other lightly armored vehicles.
- Destroy enemy armor with TOW fires.

b. Success in battle hinges on the actions of platoons, sections, and rifle squads in close combat. It also depends on their ability to react to contact; employ suppressive fires; maneuver to an enemy's vulnerable flank; and fight through to defeat, destroy, or