



**THE SBCT INFANTRY
RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD**



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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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PREFACE

This manual is based on the premise that although the infantry rifle platoon organization, weapons systems, and equipment have changed, squad and platoon maneuver, fire, and movement have not.

This manual describes the doctrinal and tactical employment principles for the infantry carrier vehicle (ICV)-equipped infantry rifle platoon, which is an element within the Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT). It provides doctrine, tactics, and techniques for the infantry rifle squads and platoons of the SBCT. The focus for the manual shifts from the current light and mechanized platoons to the combination of an infantry-centric organization, three full rifle squads, and a weapons squad with an ICV for mobility.

This manual provides the rifle platoon and squad leader with tactics and techniques to exploit infantry capabilities through situational understanding that will reduce vulnerabilities and enable the parent unit to win on the battlefield. Although FM 3-21.9 reemphasizes critical information from other manuals, the user must continue to refer to other manuals for in-depth discussions of particular subjects.

Although this manual does not implement any international agreements, the material presented herein is in accordance with related international agreements.

The proponent of this publication is the US Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5000 (DSN 835-4704 or 7114; Commercial [706] 545-4704 or 7114); or E-mail: doctrine@benning.army.mil).

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

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD

The Army continues the trend of frequent deployment of forces (often multiple deployments) for small-scale contingencies and peacekeeping enforcement while maintaining the capability to conduct major theater warfare. In some cases, light infantry forces do not have the mobility, lethality, or sustainability to respond to the need for armed intervention against a robust enemy. Heavy forces cannot be deployed rapidly enough to meet the need in a crisis, especially in an underdeveloped theater. Therefore, the Army organized the Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) in response to the need for a force that can deploy rapidly as an “early responder” to a crisis area anywhere in the world. The SBCT, equipped with an interim armored family of vehicles, is essential to fulfill the Army’s strategic requirement for engagement, crisis response, and warfighting dominance. The SBCT, and more significantly the squads and platoons, can conduct operations across the full spectrum of conflict. The core capabilities of the infantry carrier vehicle- (ICV-) equipped platoon are its high mobility and its ability to close with and destroy the enemy through violent dismounted infantry assault.

At the squad and platoon level, the force is tailored to optimize the most effective components of light and mechanized forces. Organic to this organization at platoon level are three full squads complemented by a weapons squad to provide the base of fire element. Organic at company level is the capability for support by indirect fires with mortar systems and immediate direct fire support from the mobile gun systems (MGSs). The ICV-equipped platoon has enhanced mobility, lethality, protection, and decision-making capabilities. These enhancements result from improvements in command, control, and communications (C3).

Section I. CAPABILITIES, LIMITATIONS, ORGANIZATION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The mission of the infantry is to close with the enemy by means of fire and movement to defeat him, capture him, or repel his assault by fire, close combat, or counterattack. In accomplishing its assigned missions, the platoon employs combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) assets within its capabilities. The platoon is an organization whose effectiveness depends on the synergy of its subordinate elements, including ICVs, rifle squads, weapons squads, and support elements.

1-1. CAPABILITIES

The SBCT infantry platoon equipped with the ICV can--

- Effectively develop the situation with manpower (three infantry squads plus a weapons squad) and equipment.
- Use the mobility of the ICV to transport the infantry squads to a position of advantage under the protection of the vehicle.