



# THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR

FORCE STRUCTURE, TACTICS, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES



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# Chapter 4

## The Offense

## Offensive Theory

The attack is a rapid and non-stop movement of armored and motorized rifle sub-units in a combat formation using the integrated intense fire from tanks and BMPs (BTRs) in order to close with the enemy. Fire is conducted with various weapon systems with the aim of destroying the enemy.

The attack is the main type of combat action. It is carried out in order to defeat the opposing enemy, to occupy a designated area (line), or to create the conditions for the conduct of the follow-on attack. It includes the destruction of the enemy using all available means, decisive attack, the rapid advance of forces into the depth of the defense, the destruction and/or capture of personnel and the capture of weapons, equipment, and various facilities and designated areas (lines). Depending on the situation and mission, the offensive may be carried out against a defending, advancing or withdrawing enemy. The offensive against enemy-occupied prepared defenses is carried out while in direct contact with the enemy, and having quickly overcome the defense, moving throughout the depth of his defense. The attack on an advancing enemy is conducted with a meeting engagement, while a retreating enemy is dealt with by a pursuit.

An advance against an enemy in a prepared defense most often begins with a breakthrough, which, as a rule, is carried out while in direct contact with him. During an offensive, there is the possibility of taking advantage of breaks, gaps and open flanks in the enemy defenses.<sup>1</sup>

Considerations for the attack include:

The Goals of the Attack

- Defeat the enemy
- Seize important areas (objects) sites

Implied Goals and Tasks

- Decisive attack
- Rapid advance of subunits into the depths of the defense
- Defeat of the enemy by all means available
- Destruction and capture of personnel and seizure of weapons, combat equipment, and designated areas (lines) of terrain

Types of Attack

- Attack on a defending enemy
- Attack on a retreating enemy
- Attack on an advancing enemy (meeting engagement)

<sup>1</sup> This section, including graphics, has been compiled from many sources to include:

"Fundamentals of the Offense" [Основы наступления], as found on *Studiopedia*, <<http://studopedia.info/1-67784.html>>, accessed on 1 July 2016.

V.N. Zaritski and L.A. Kharkevich, *General Tactics* [Общая Тактика], Tambov: Tambov Government Technical University, 2007.

*Field Manual: Preparation and Conduct of Combined Arms Warfare* [Боевой Устав: По Подготовке и Ведению Общеармейского Боя], Moscow: Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 2005.

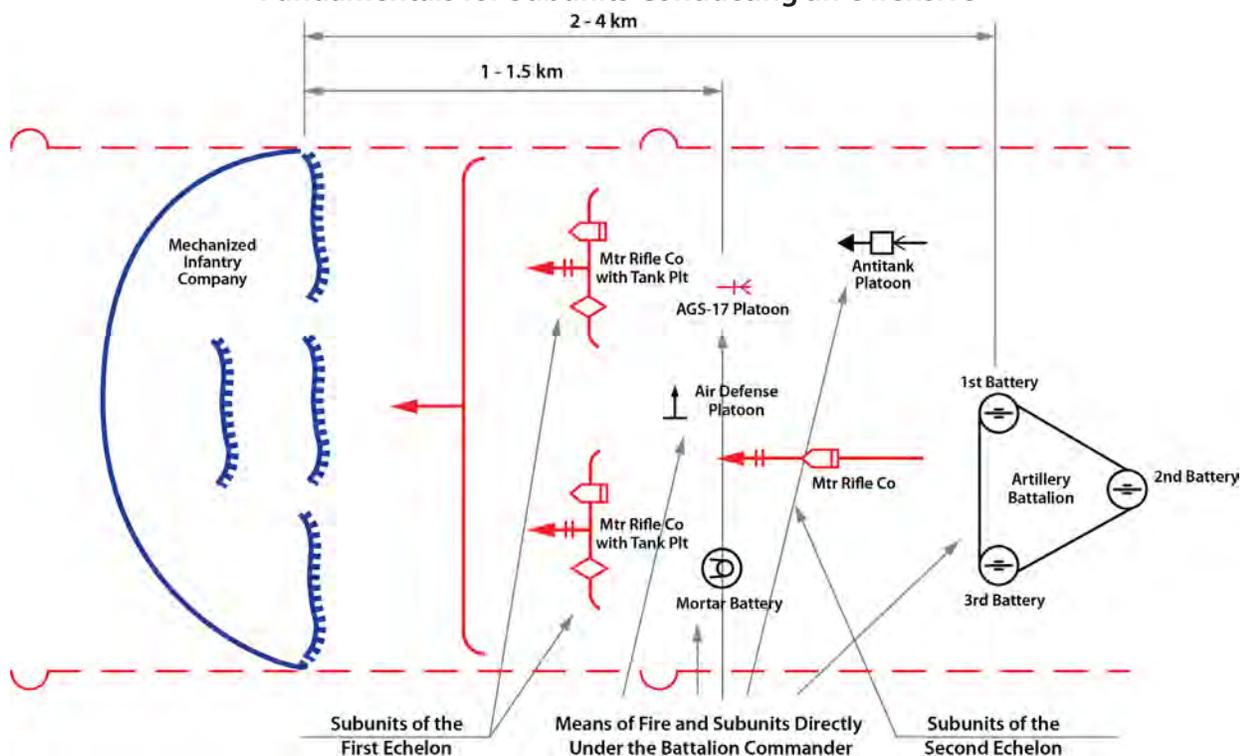
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### Methods of Transitioning to the Offense

From positions in direct contact with the enemy: This method is initiated in accordance with the concept of the commander of the combat formation. The starting position for the attack depends on the size of the subunit (a motorized rifle battalion occupies an assembly area, a motorized rifle company occupies an assembly position, a motorized rifle platoon occupies part of the company assembly position). The attack occurs either after the necessary regrouping from within the defense or with the simultaneous attack by subunits from their defensive positions.

From the March: This method is initiated from an assembly area, usually selected at some distance from the forward edge of the enemy defense, which will prevent destruction of the subunit by long-range artillery fire and supports the concealment of ground forces from radio-electronic reconnaissance.

#### Fundamentals for Subunits Conducting an Offensive



(Above) This graphic portrays the span of distances and locations of elements of an attacking motorized rifle battalion with an attached tank company. The battalion objective is an enemy defending company and the width of the attack may be the width of the defending company or only a portion of it. The location of systems and distances will be adjusted to fit the demands of the situation, threat, forces available and terrain. The preferred method of attack is from the march where the attack originates from an assembly area. The battalion moves from its assembly area in march column and, during the march, deploys into company and platoon columns and then goes into platoon attack line. Forward of this, the line may slow to dismount squads who will form their own line of attack supported by fire from their carriers. If the situation warrants, the squads may stay mounted during the attack. The location of systems and distances will be adjusted to fit the demands of the situation, threat, forces available and terrain.

### Methods of Attacking the Forward Edge of the Defense

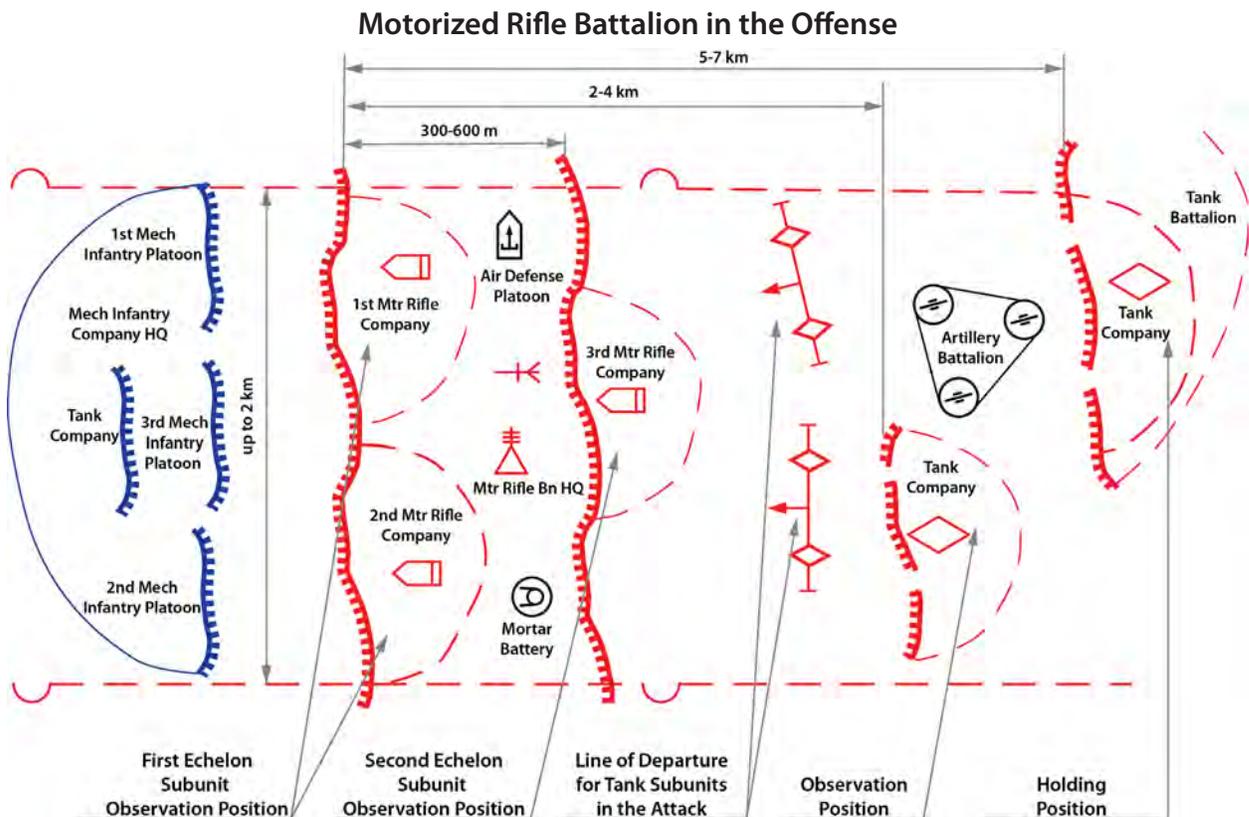
Determining the layout of enemy defenses, the degree of destruction inflicted by one's nuclear and conventional weapons, enemy unit equipment, and the nature of the terrain, an attack of the forward edge of the defense can be made as follows:

#### On BMPs (BTRs)

- Combat Formation – assault line
- Rate of Assault – 8-12 kilometers/hour

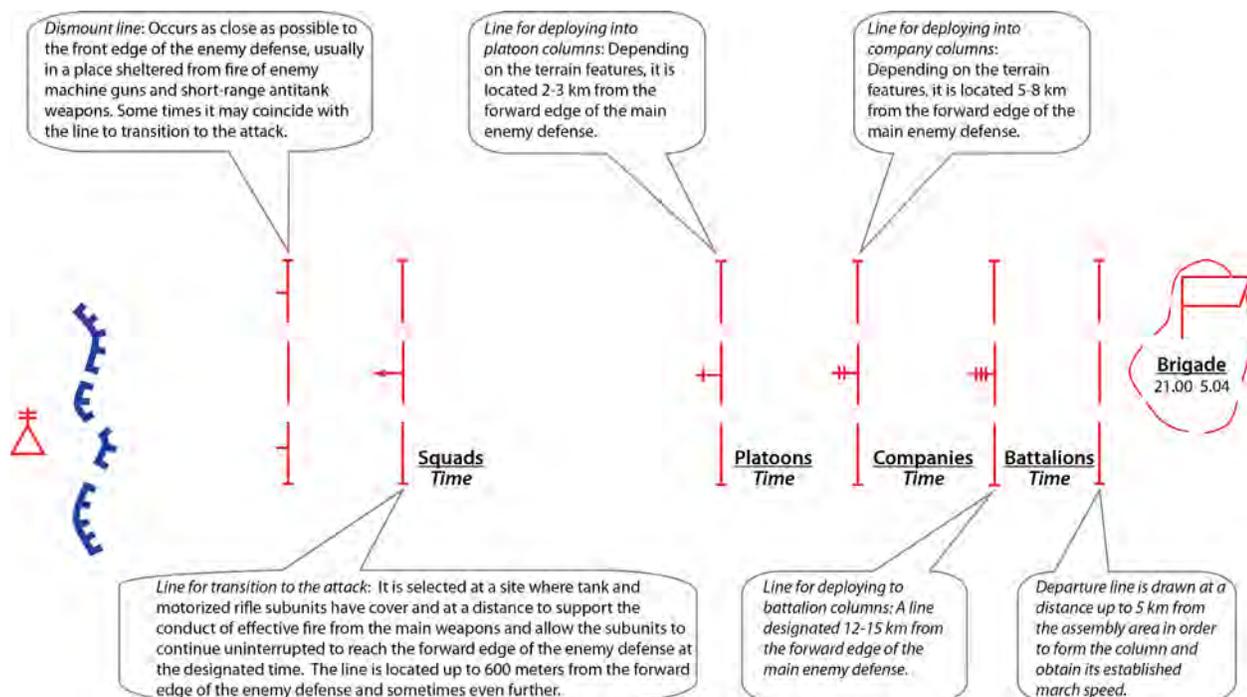
#### Dismounted

- Combat Formation – infantry assault line



(Above) This graphic lays out typical distances for a motorized rifle battalion conducting an attack from positions in direct contact.

### Deployment Lines for Subunits in an Attack From The March



(Above) This graphic portrays the deployment lines for subunits to break into multiple columns, go on line and dismount. Artillery is well forward in the march order. Depending on the situation, the artillery may be positioned before the attack.

Preparation for the offensive begins immediately after receipt of the order and includes:

- Organization for Combat:
- Making the decision
- Reconnaissance
- Tasking subordinate units
- Coordination
- Defeating enemy fires
- Combat Support
- Command and Control
- Preparation of the battalion (company, platoon) to carry out missions
- Preparation in the assembly area
- Organization and conduct of training
- Practical work of the battalion (company) commander, his deputies, the battalion headquarters, and subordinate units
- Other tasks.

An attack from positions in direct contact with the enemy begins with a deployed combat formation moving from starting positions into the offense. The starting positions for the troops conducting the offensive are occupied after the necessary regrouping within the defensive positions or with the simultaneous replacement of defending forces. This regrouping is carried out in order to create an offensive combat formation under the guise of

reinforcing the defense. It is done quickly, and usually done the night before the offensive. The occupation of the starting positions for the offensive, when conducted while conducting a relief in place of defending forces, is done during the course of one-two nights prior to the offensive in accordance with the plan for the relief in place. During the relief in place of subunits of the first echelon, their BMP and attached tank subunits occupy the assembly area. The starting position for a brigade within the army's first echelon is located within the first and second positions; the first-echelon battalions within the first position; the second-echelon battalions in the second position. Motorized rifle subunits occupy the starting position on the night before the offensive, and simultaneously artillery, guns and tanks designated for direct fire support occupy their positions.

An attack from the depth is conducted from assembly areas for the offensive, from permanent garrison deployment points, from alert assembly regions and from marches. An attack from the depth is usually conducted from an assembly area for the attack from where the units and subunits deploy into pre-combat and combat formation for the attack. The assembly area designated for the attack is 20-40 kilometers from the forward edge of the enemy's main defenses. In order to ensure an organized attack, with all units and subunits attacking at the same time, the following are designated:

- Starting line
- Lines of deployment into battalion, company, and platoon columns
- Transition to the attack line
- Dismount line.

### **The Offense in Special Conditions**

#### The Offense in Urban Areas

During an offensive in a city (settlement) a special role is played by small units functioning separately on squad missions. The offensive is determined by the density of buildings and availability of space, parks, underground utilities, etc. The offensive is carried out along the streets. A successful attack can only be achieved by close cooperation of motorized rifle (tank) platoons (companies, battalions) with other kinds of troops, supported by artillery and aviation.

#### Offensive in the Mountains

Significant factors in this type of terrain are:

- steep terrain
- "dead" spaces and closed approaches
- rapidly flowing rivers
- mountains blocking vision
- a poor road net-work (or lack thereof)
- rocky soil that complicates engineering works
- other factors.

The attack is carried out along the roads and mountain ranges, on the slopes of heights and in other possible directions, with a wide possibility of flanking attacks and bypassing forces using concealed exits to hit the flanks and rear of the enemy.

### Offensive in the Forest

The factors for the conduct of the offense in forests are:

- closed areas with wetlands
- a limited number of roads
- forest debris
- fire (combined with minefields).

Observation is restricted, hindering target designation, adjustment of fire, and command and control. The attack is carried out primarily along roads and glades, using flanking and bypassing small subunits moving by compass azimuth.

### Offensive in the Desert

The factors for the offense in the desert are:

- open terrain
- the almost complete absence of human settlements
- the almost complete absence of distinct landmarks
- poor road networks
- extremely poor vegetation
- sandy, rocky and saline soils
- an acute shortage or complete absence of water and building materials
- an arid climate
- abrupt temperature fluctuations.

Daytime temperature may reach 50° C (122° F) and inside a tank 70° C (158°F). Therefore, it is better to attack at night. The offense is usually conducted on a broad front, off-road, in certain areas due to the need to capture vital areas, oases, and water sources. The open terrain is conducive to a wide variety of maneuver.

### Defense in the Northern Regions and in Winter

The factors for the offense in the northern regions and winter are:

- vast areas of tundra
- boggy tundra
- forest areas
- possibly large numbers of lakes
- boulders and rocky areas
- a limited number of roads
- difficulties for engineering fortification of an area, concealment, and orientation
- harsh climates
- polar nights lasting three to four months
- frequent snowfalls, snowstorms and blizzards
- deep snow (over 50 centimeters/19 inches) that severely limits the maneuverability of units
- bad weather
- ionospheric and geomagnetic disturbances that disrupt radios and compasses (the error can be up to 15°).

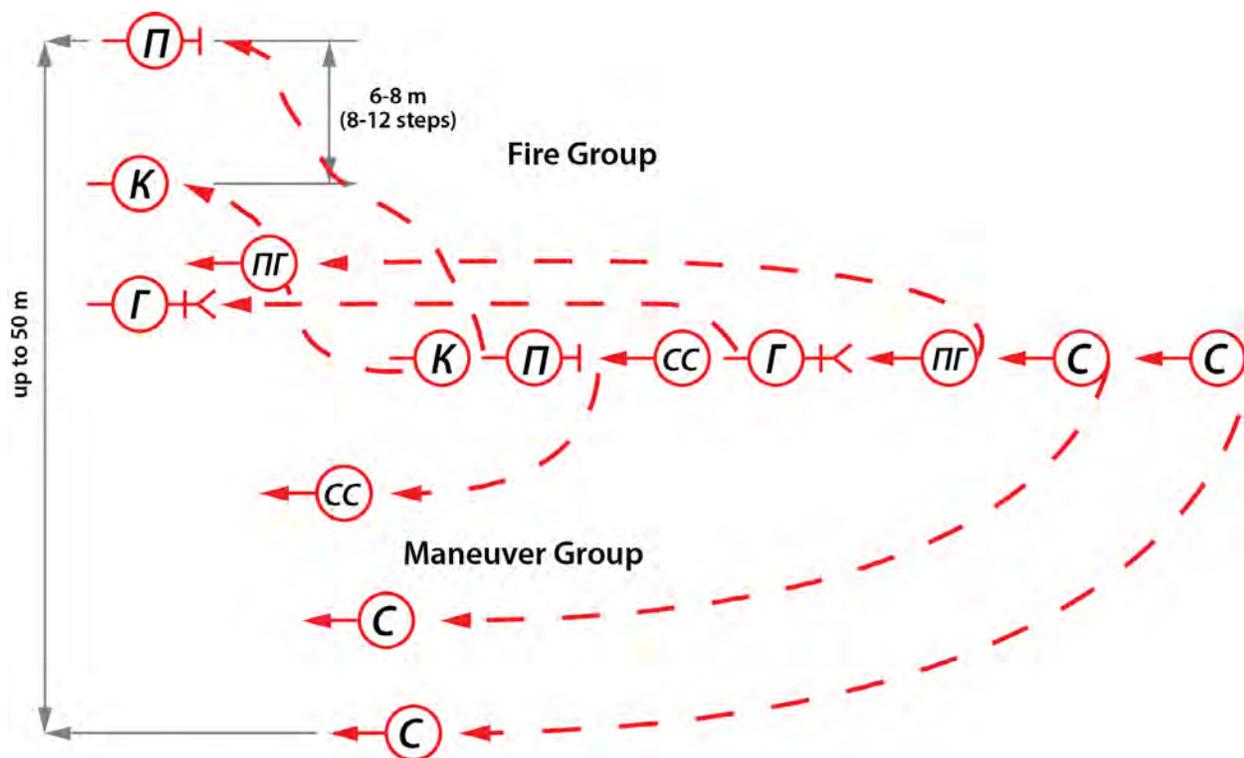
The offensive is usually conducted from positions prepared for advancing or deploying subunits or from the march. The attack is conducted mainly along roads, rivers and other accessible areas.

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## Squad in the Offense

The motorized rifle squad attacks as part of a motorized rifle platoon or can be attached to a tank platoon. When dismounted, the motorized rifle squad attacks on a frontage of up to 50 meters.<sup>2</sup>

The Combat Formation of a Motorized Rifle Squad on Foot



(Above) When dismounted, a motorized rifle squad moves in a column and fights in a line. The squad is split into a fire group and a maneuver group. The soldiers in both groups are dispersed within the squad column so that both groups go on line simultaneously. The squad leader leads the squad column and is followed by his machine gunner. The senior rifleman follows the machine gunner. When the squad column deploys on line, the squad leader controls the fire group and the senior rifleman controls the maneuver group.

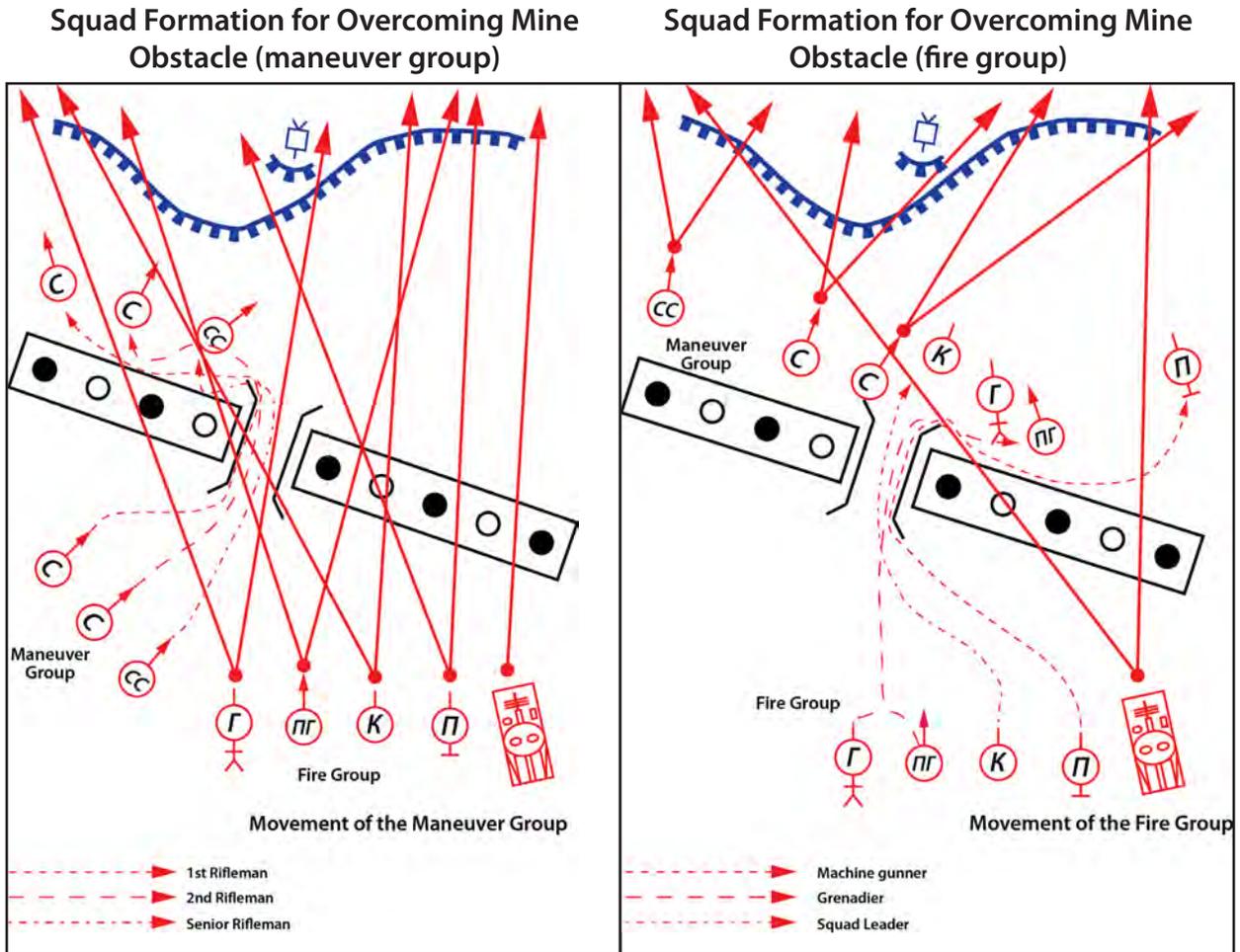
— К	Squad Leader
— П	Machine Gunner
— Г	Grenadier
← ПГ	Assistant Grenadier
← СС	Senior Rifleman
← С	Rifleman

<sup>2</sup> This section, including graphics, has been compiled from many sources to include: "Squad in the Offense" [Отделение в наступлении], as found on *Studiopedia*, <<http://studopedia.info/1-67785.html>>, accessed on 1 July 2016.

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(Above-Left) This graphic shows the first stage of a squad moving through a minefield breach. The fire group and BMP provide suppressive fire on the enemy position as the maneuver group moves through the breach and takes up fire-in-support positions.

(Above-Right) The maneuver group join the BMP in laying down suppressive fire while the fire group moves through the breach and takes up fire-in support positions. Then, the fire group will join the BMP in laying down suppressive fire while the maneuver group assaults the enemy position. The squad leader is responsible for controlling fires to keep the enemy's head down while not killing his own soldiers.

### Combat Tasks

The motorized rifle squad in the attack is given an immediate objective and a direction of subsequent advance. The objectives of the attacks are usually enemy personnel in trenches, tanks, guns, antitank missiles, machine guns and other weapons located in the first trench and the near depth of the enemy defense. The direction of further advance will support achieving the immediate objective of the platoon.

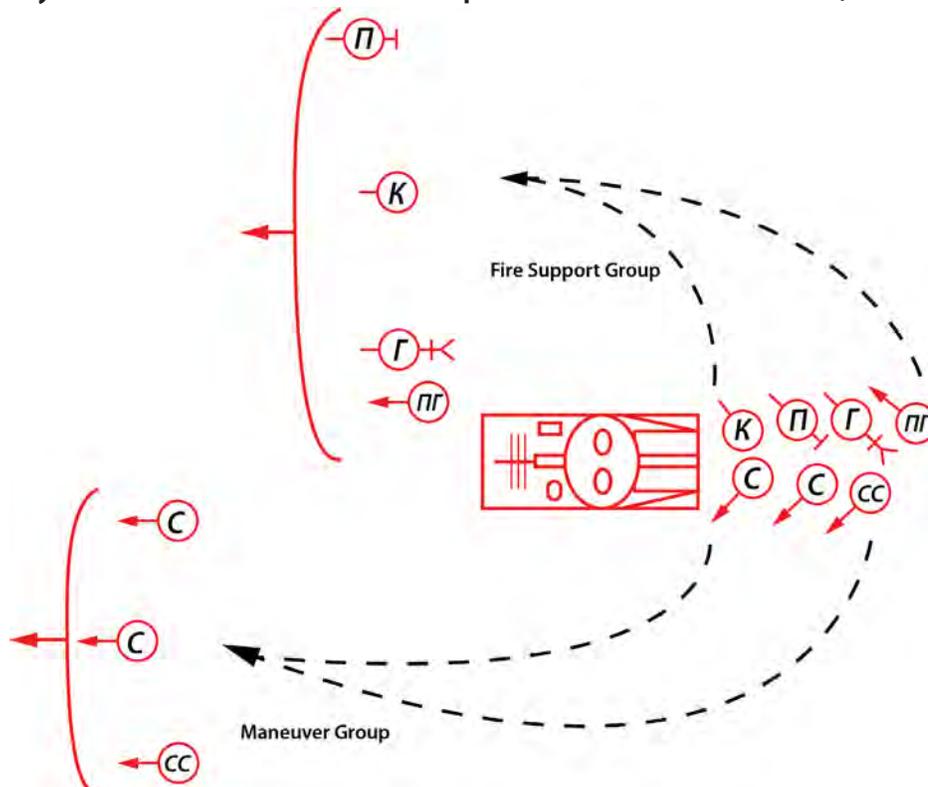
### Elements of the Combat Formation

The combat formation of a motorized rifle squad, may assault on foot or be part of a maneuver group or fire group mounted on a combat vehicle.

### System of Fire and Command and Control

Depending on the combat mission and situation, a combat group may attack on line, echelon left or echelon right with an interval between the soldiers in the group of 6-8 meters (8-12 steps). To facilitate firing and for the best use of terrain, the soldiers may move in a file or

#### Deployment of the Motorized Rifle Squad from Behind a Vehicle (variant)



(Above) The motorized rifle squad moves in a BMP, BTR or MT-LB and provides fire on the move. When the vehicle stops, the squad dismounts and goes on line. The fire group sits on one side of the vehicle and the maneuver group on the other. The first out are the assistant machine gunner and the senior rifleman. The squad leader is the last out, since he sits forward where he can communicate with the driver and vehicle commander. The squad leader is positioned where he can readily control the fires of the machine gunner and grenadier.

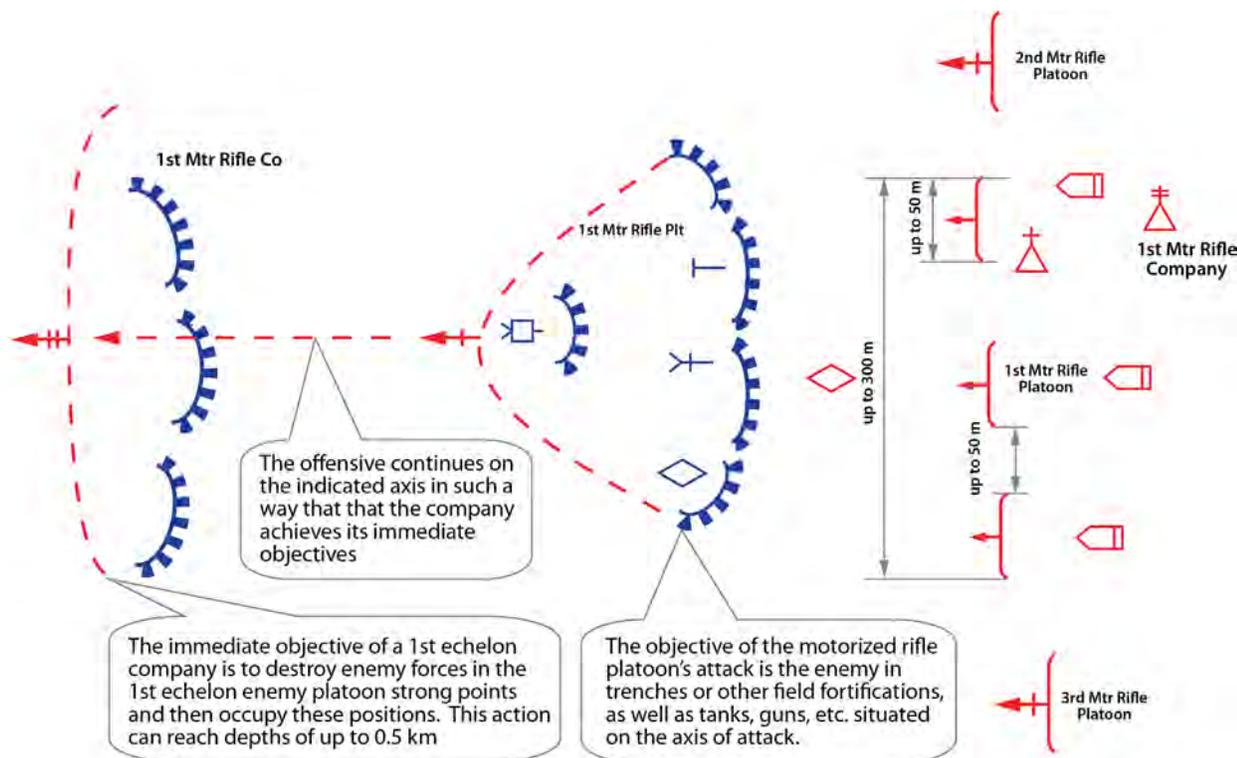
a line with several soldiers behind and others forward. This should not limit the width or firepower of the squad attack line nor hinder the movement of neighboring units. The BMP (BTR) of the combat group may move on one of the flanks of the squad or in the middle of the squad line. When the attack is dismounted, the squad leader commands by radio, voice, signals, and personal example. The position of the squad commander ensures the effective fires. Targeting is done with tracer bullets (projectiles) and signal devices, using known landmarks, along the axis of movement (attack).



## Combat Tasks

In the attack, a motorized rifle (tank) platoon has an objective and a direction of further advance. A platoon, functioning as a combined arms reserve for a battalion (company) is given a direction or a march route, a position in the march column, and possible missions which it might have to accomplish. The objectives of a platoon attack may be enemy personnel detected in the trenches, tanks, guns, antitank missiles, machine guns and other enemy weapons located in the first trench and throughout the depth of the enemy's defense. The direction of further advance will support achieving the immediate objective of the company.

## Combat Formation and Missions of a Motorized Rifle Platoon in the Offensive



(Above) A motorized rifle platoon in the offensive has an immediate objective and a direction of further movement.

## Elements of the Combat Formation

A motorized rifle platoon combat formation typically includes:

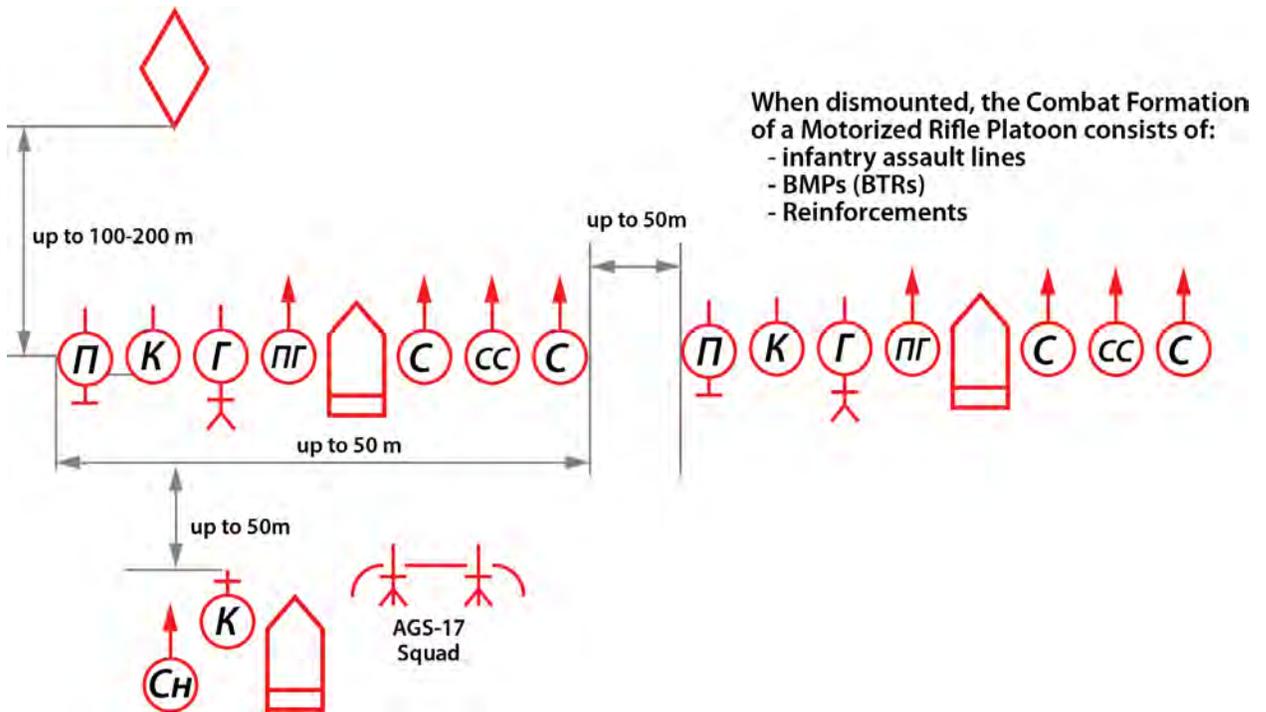
- Motorized rifle squads
- Command and control
- Fire support

In addition, the platoon can have a group of combat vehicles.

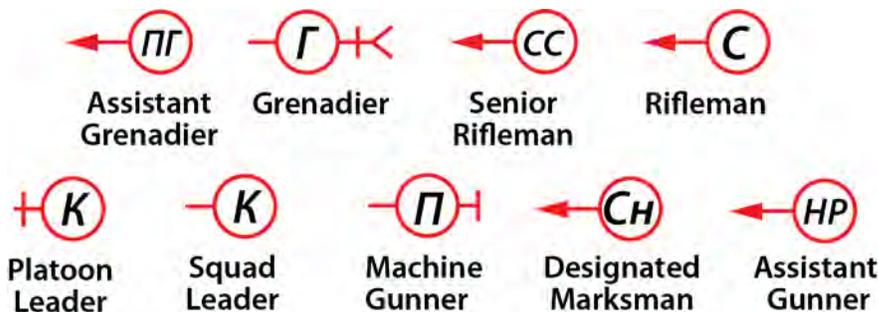
Depending on the mission and situation, motorized rifle squads attack in squad line, wedge, reverse wedge, echelon right or echelon left. The interval between squads on line or in depth is up to 50 meters.

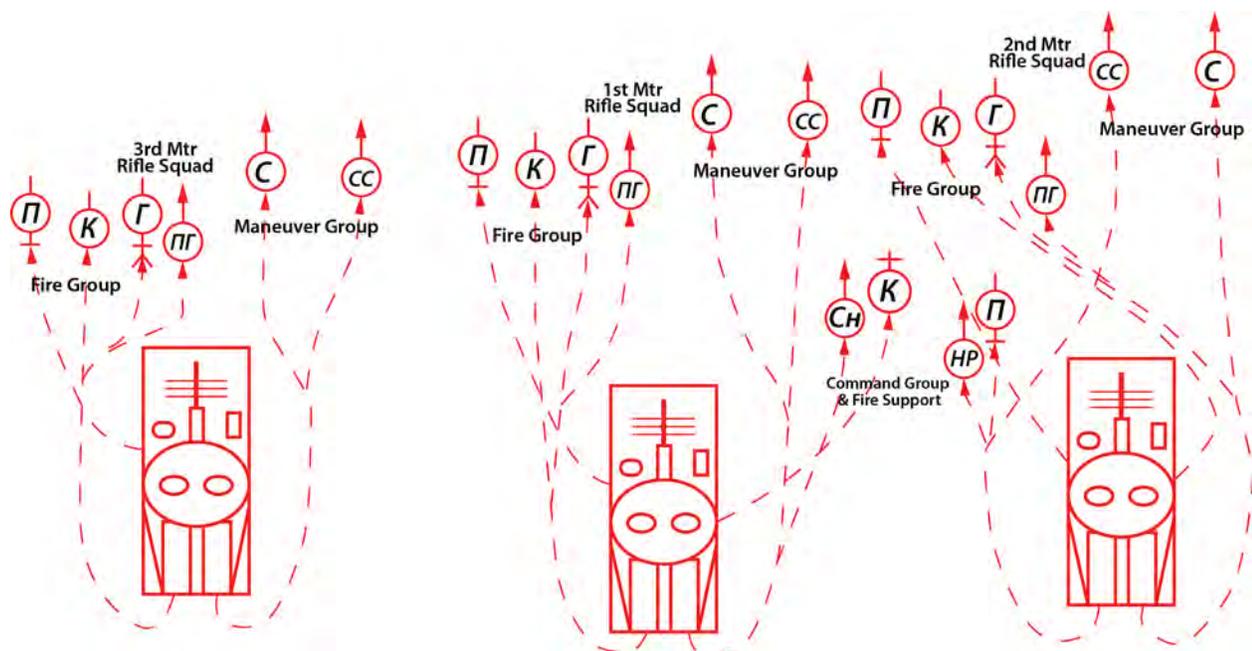
### System of Fire and Command and Control

The command and control and fire support group is assigned to control the attacking subunits and fire support. In the course of the offensive, the command and control and fire support group maintains a distance of up to 50 meters from the combat formation or is part of it. The combat formation of a motorized rifle platoon attacking mounted on BMPs (tank platoon) moves in a vehicle line, wedge, reverse wedge, echelon right or echelon left. The interval between combat vehicles (tanks) can be up to 100 meters. The motorized rifle platoon may attack dismounted, on BMPs, or riding on tanks. A motorized rifle (tank) platoon may constitute a combined arms reserve for a battalion (company); it advances 1.5-2 kilometers behind the first-echelon company and is prepared to fulfill any unexpected mission that arises.



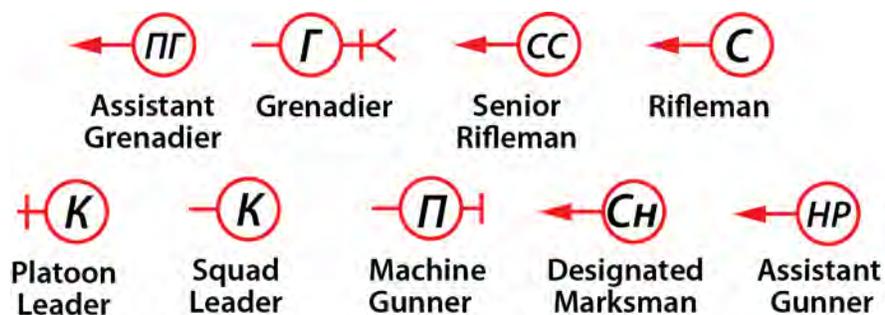
Combat Formation of a Motorized Rifle Platoon in the Offense (dismounted)





**Dismount and Deployment of a Motorized Rifle Platoon into a Combat Formation (variant)**

*(Above) This graphic shows a motorized rifle platoon mounted on BMPs coming on line and dismounting with the squads then moving ahead of the BMPs. These are eight man squads (four in the fire group, two in the maneuver group and two vehicle crew).*



**Roles of a Motorized Rifle Platoon in the Attack**

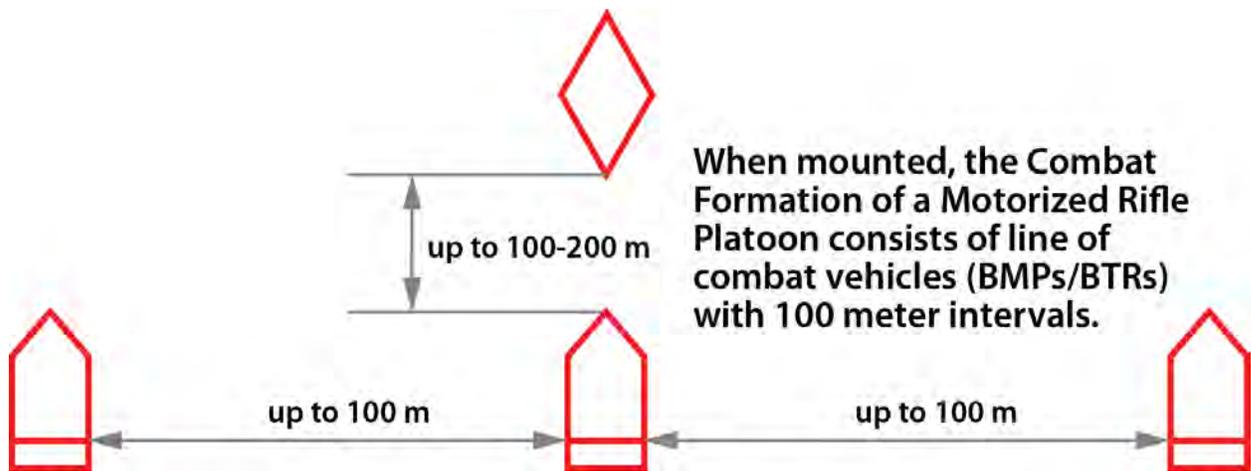
As part of a another unit

- As part of a company
- In the battalion's reserve

As a stand-alone unit

- In an assault group
- As an advance party for an air assault
- As a reconnaissance patrol

## THE OFFENSE



When mounted, the Combat Formation of a Motorized Rifle Platoon consists of line of combat vehicles (BMPs/BTRs) with 100 meter intervals.

### Combat Formation of a Motorized Rifle Platoon in the Offense (mounted)

*(Above) This graphic shows a motorized rifle platoon in the mounted attack. The platoon is on line following a tank. A mounted attack, when possible, is quicker and the on onboard squad can assist by firing through vehicle firing ports.*

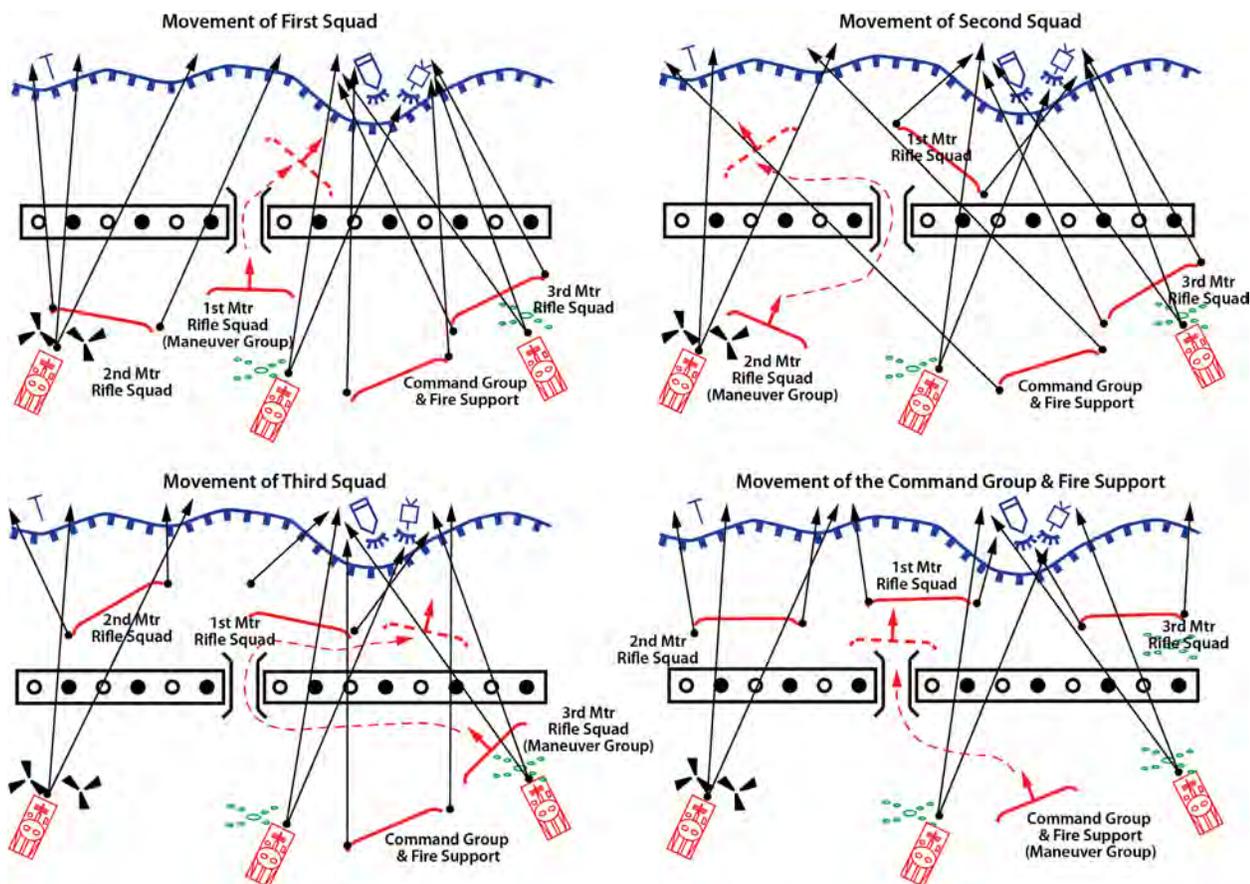
### Means of Reinforcement

The following are means to reinforce a motorized rifle platoon

- Automatic grenade launcher
- Antitank subunit
- Flamethrower subunit
- Air defense subunit
- Engineer subunit
- A tank
- NBC subunits

Depending on the situation and mission, grenade launcher, antitank and flamethrower subunits and weapons may be attached to a platoon, and when performing independent tasks – an engineer subunit.

### Combat Formation for a Motorized Rifle Platoon Breaching a Minefield



(Above) The graphic shows the four steps involved in a motorized rifle platoon crossing a minefield breach under fire. The platoon pulls up on line and dismounts while the BMPs provide suppressive fire. The maneuver group of the first squad crosses the breach first and established a support by fire position. The fire group of the first squad follows and joins the maneuver group in its support by fire position. Then the maneuver group of the second squad crosses the breach first and establishes another support by fire position. The fire group of the second squad follows and joins its maneuver group in its support by fire position. The third squad then follows the same procedure. Finally the platoon leader, platoon sergeant, designated marksman and any attached weapons (flame projectors, AGS-17 automatic grenade launchers) cross the breach and launch an attack on the enemy.

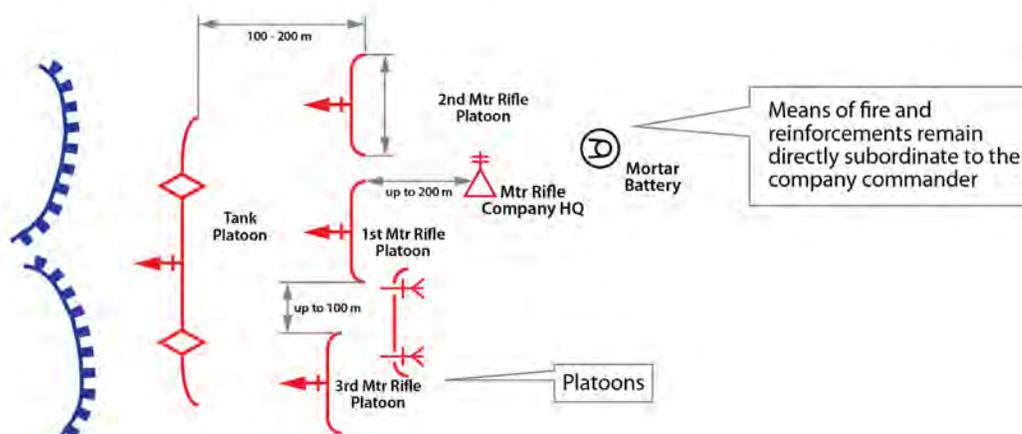
#### Sequence of Work after Receipt of Mission

After receipt of the order, the platoon commander states:

- The objective of the attack, the direction of the follow-on attack and line of transition to the attack. If it is a dismounted attack, the dismount point
- Tasks for his deputy.
- The order in which the BMPs or BTRs will fire
- Combat formations of the platoon and subordinate attachments

## Company in the Offense

A motorized rifle (tank) company can advance in the battalion first echelon or constitute the second echelon or reserve. It can serve as a forward detachment, a flanking detachment or a special purpose detachment. A first-echelon motorized rifle (tank) company's attack frontage extends up to one kilometer and narrows to 500 meters at the breakthrough sector. An offensive includes a company combat formation, system of fires, and system of command and control.<sup>4</sup>



**Composition of a Motorized Rifle Company in the Offense**

(Above) This graphic portrays the spacing in a motorized rifle company attack. The location of systems and distances will be adjusted to fit the demands of the situation, threat, forces available and terrain.

### Combat Tasks

In the offensive, a first-echelon company has an immediate objective and a direction of further advance. Its immediate objective is to destroy the enemy in his first-echelon platoon strong points, and then control these positions. The direction of further advance will support achieving the immediate objective of the battalion. A second echelon company has an immediate objective upon being committed to combat and a direction of further advance.

The immediate objective of a second-echelon company upon being committed to combat is to complete of the destruction of the enemy together with the companies of the first echelon in the enemy strong points throughout the depth of his defense and controlling his forward positions. The direction of further advance of second-echelon companies will support

<sup>4</sup> This section, including graphics, has been compiled from many sources to include: "Motorized Rifle (Tank) Companies in the Offense" [мотострелковой (танковой) роты в наступлении], as found on *Studiopedia*, <<http://studopedia.info/1-67787.html>>, accessed on 1 July 2016. V.N. Zaritski and L.A. Kharkevich, *General Tactics* [Общая Тактика], Tambov: Tambov Government Technical University, 2007.

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achieving the subsequent objective of the brigade. An offensive requires a combat formation, system of fires and system of command and control.

### **Elements of the Combat Formation**

An attacking company's combat formation usually consists of one echelon. Depending on the combat mission and the situation, the combat formation can be a company in one echelon with a combined arms reserve of up to a platoon. A combat formation consists of:

- A first echelon
- A combined arms reserve
- Attached artillery subunits
- Weapons directly controlled by the company commander

During the offensive, the platoons of the company are deployed in line, wedge, reverse wedge, echelon right or echelon left formation. The first echelon is tasked with defeating the opposing enemy, achieving the immediate objective and developing the offensive with the combined arms reserve throughout the depth of the combat mission. It consists of 2-3 platoons with reinforcements. The combined arms reserve is tasked with handling unforeseen problems, replacing depleted first-echelon subunits, and other tasks. It consists of one platoon. During the offensive, it is 1.5-2 kilometers behind the units of the first echelon. Attached artillery subunits and weapons support the platoons of the first echelon and their attachments.

### **Pre-Combat and Combat Formation**

A company moves into pre-combat formation 1-3 kilometers from the enemy's positions when its platoons deploy from the company march column into platoon columns. Platoon columns are usually separated by 150-300 meters. The company pre-combat formation provides a combination of speed, dispersion, flexibility, and firepower. As with the battalion, a company takes different formations, depending on the tactical situation. Company pre-combat formations are flexible and will change rapidly to facilitate movement through restrictive terrain or in response to enemy actions.

A company is considered to be in combat formation when its subordinate platoons have deployed their individual combat vehicles on line. A company can assume a combat formation 800-1000 meters forward of enemy defensive positions. The combat formation maximizes the unit's firepower by deploying its weapons systems forward. When the terrain is unfavorable for vehicular movement or when enemy antitank defenses are too strong, the motorized rifle squads will dismount and advance on line. The dismount line is no more than one kilometer from the forward line of enemy troops. Normally, the dismount line is some 400 meters from the enemy and will be as close as concealing terrain allows. If dismounted, the motorized rifle squads follow close behind the supporting tanks and receive supporting fire from their BMPs or BTRs. These combat vehicles move up to 400 meters behind, on the flank of, or within the assault line of the advancing force, depending on terrain and enemy fire. The vehicles may also move by bounds from one firing position to another, supporting the attack by fire.

### **System of Fire & Command and Control**

The system of fire is based on the fires of motorized rifle and tank platoons and includes attached weapons, supporting artillery, and attached company weapons. To ensure adequate command and control, the commander of the company is in a BMP while his company is in its combat (pre-combat) formation. During a dismounted assault, the company commander usually dismounts.

### **Roles of a Motorized Rifle Company in the Attack**

In the attack the motorized rifle company fulfills the following functions:

- As part of a motorized rifle brigade
  - In a combined arms reserve of the brigade
- As part of a motorized rifle battalion
  - In the first or second echelon
- As part of a tank company (in special conditions, the MRC can be supported by an artillery {mortar} battery and be integrated into a tank company)
- As a stand-alone unit
  - As a forward detachment
  - As a flanking and special detachment
  - The main component of an assault group
  - As part of an air assault

### **Means of Reinforcement**

Common attachments for a motorized rifle company are:

- Mortar (artillery) battery or platoon.
- Automatic grenade launcher, antitank, flamethrower, and engineer squads
- Tank platoon

It can be supported by an artillery (mortar) battery and be integrated into a tank company.

Company reinforcements depend on the situation and the assigned mission. Reinforcements may include artillery and flamethrower subunits, and engineer subunits. A first-echelon motorized rifle (tank) company will have a reinforcing tank (motorized rifle) subunit and be supported by the bulk of the senior commander's artillery subunits.

### **Sequence of Work after Receipt of Mission**

Decisions about the offense: The commander of the motorized rifle company personally makes the decision based on his understanding of the mission and determination the situation.

#### 1. Concept of Battle

- The direction and concentration of the main efforts
- How to defeat the enemy
- Combat formation of the company (platoon)

Depending on the conditions when transitioning to the attack, he determines

- The assembly and holding areas
- The starting line
- The deployment lines and their safe distances from enemy attack
- The line for transitioning to the attack and march routes

#### 2. Tasks of subordinate units

#### 3. Main questions of coordination

#### 4. Command and control and combat support

### **Considerations of the Company Commander**

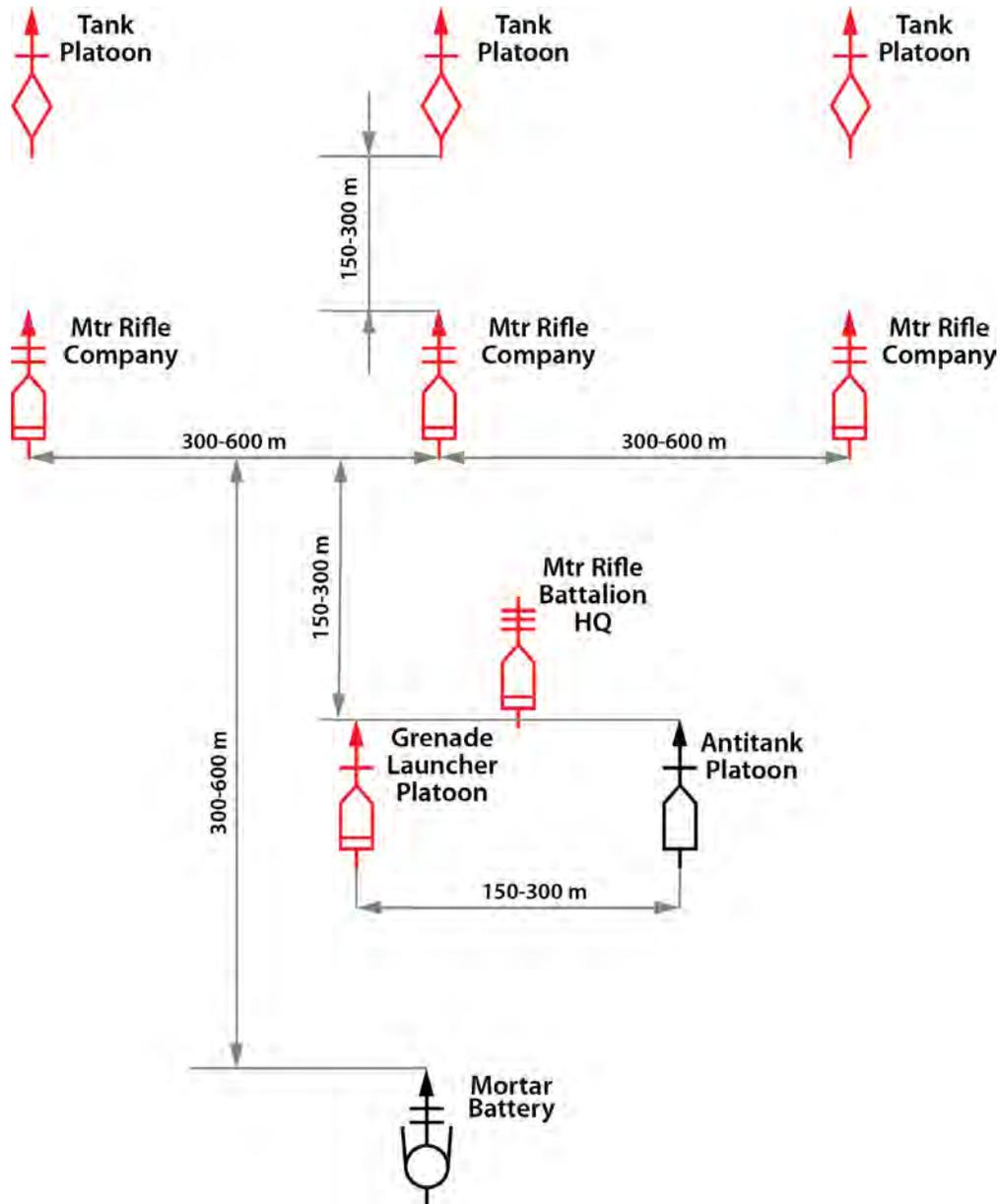
- Motorized rifle platoon:
  - reinforcements, objective of the attack
  - direction of the follow-on attack
  - assembly position
- Attached artillery subunits;
  - fire missions
  - time and manner of their implementation
  - firing positions
  - order of displacement
- Anti-tank squads and attached weapons;
  - their targets for engagement during the attack on the forward edge of the enemy defense
  - their position in the combat formation
  - their order of displacement.

For an attack from the march, the company commander also directs the march for the company, the lines to deploy into company and platoon columns, the places where infantry will mount and dismount tanks (should this be part of the attack), the line of safety from enemy fire, the line to dismount motorized rifle company and platoon personnel when attacking dismounted and the line to transition to the attack.

## Battalion in the Offense

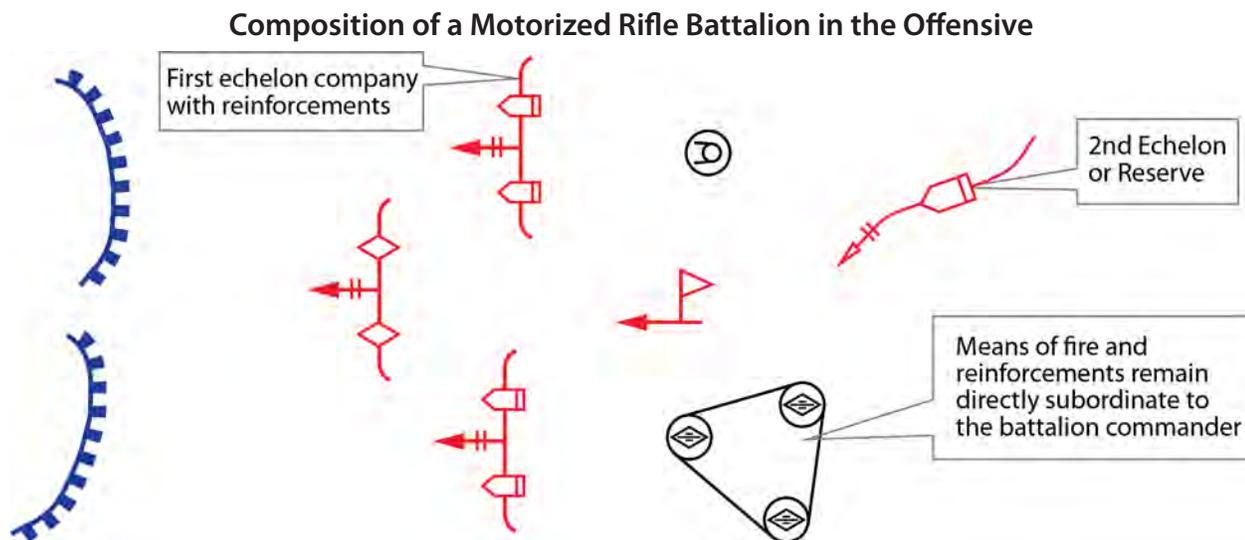
A motorized rifle or tank battalion can advance in the first echelon of a brigade, constitute the brigade's second echelon or combined arms reserve, act as an advance guard, forward detachment, raiding detachment, special purpose detachment, flanking detachment, and tactical air (sea) landing detachment, and also form the base of an assault detachment. A

### Combat Formation of a Motorized Rifle Battalion in the Offense



(Above) This graphic shows the usual distances involved with an attacking motorized rifle battalion

motorized rifle or tank battalion's mortar battery and grenade launcher platoon are directly subordinate to the commander of the battalion, and remain intact to support the attacking subunits on the axis of the main attack. In some situations, the mortar battery provides a platoon and the grenade launcher platoon provides a squad to the first-echelon companies. A first-echelon motorized rifle (tank) battalion advances on a front of up to two kilometers, with a depth of up to one kilometer. An offensive includes a battalion combat formation, system of fires and system of command and control.<sup>5</sup>



(Above) This graphic shows the usual layout of a motorized rifle battalion in the offensive

### Combat Tasks

A battalion advancing in the first echelon is assigned an:

- Immediate objective
- Subsequent objective
- A direction of further advance.

The immediate objective of a first-echelon battalion usually includes defeating the enemy in his first-echelon company strong point, which is contained within the width of the battalion attack sector, and controlling that area. A subsequent objective may be to continue the offensive, to defeat the enemy within the depth of the defense or to hold the enemy's first position. The direction of further advance will support achieving the brigade's subsequent objective.

<sup>5</sup> This section, including graphics, has been compiled from many sources to include:

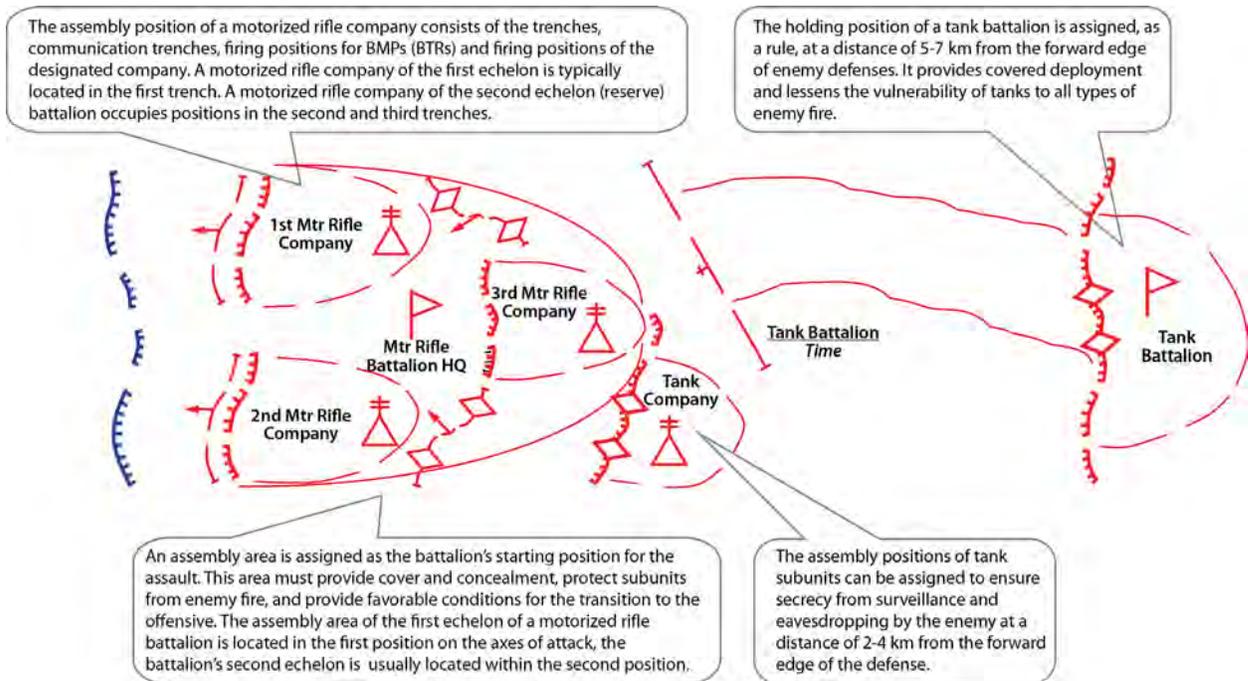
"Motorized Rifle (Tank) Battalions in the Offensive" [мотострелкового (танкового) батальона в наступлении], as found on *Studiopedia*, <<http://studopedia.info/1-67788.html>>, accessed on 1 July 2016.

V.N. Zaritski and L.A. Kharkevich, *General Tactics* [Общая Тактика], Tambov: Tambov Government Technical University, 2007.

*Field Manual: Preparation and Conduct of Combined Arms Warfare* [Боевой Устав: По Подготовке и Ведению Общевоинского Боя], Moscow: Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 2005.

Source material has also been obtained from a variety of training documents produced by Russian military academies and military departments in civilian academic institutions.

## Areas, Positions and Lines for an Attack From Positions in Direct Contact with the Enemy



(Above) An attack from positions in direct contact with the enemy will preferably be from the march by a battalion moving from an assembly area through the friendly defensive area. The defending battalion will usually follow directly behind the attacking battalion. Usually the defending battalion will attack dismounted with its carriers following in a fire support mission or as a separate bronegrupp.

A battalion attacking in the second echelon is assigned an:

- Immediate objective
- A direction of further advance

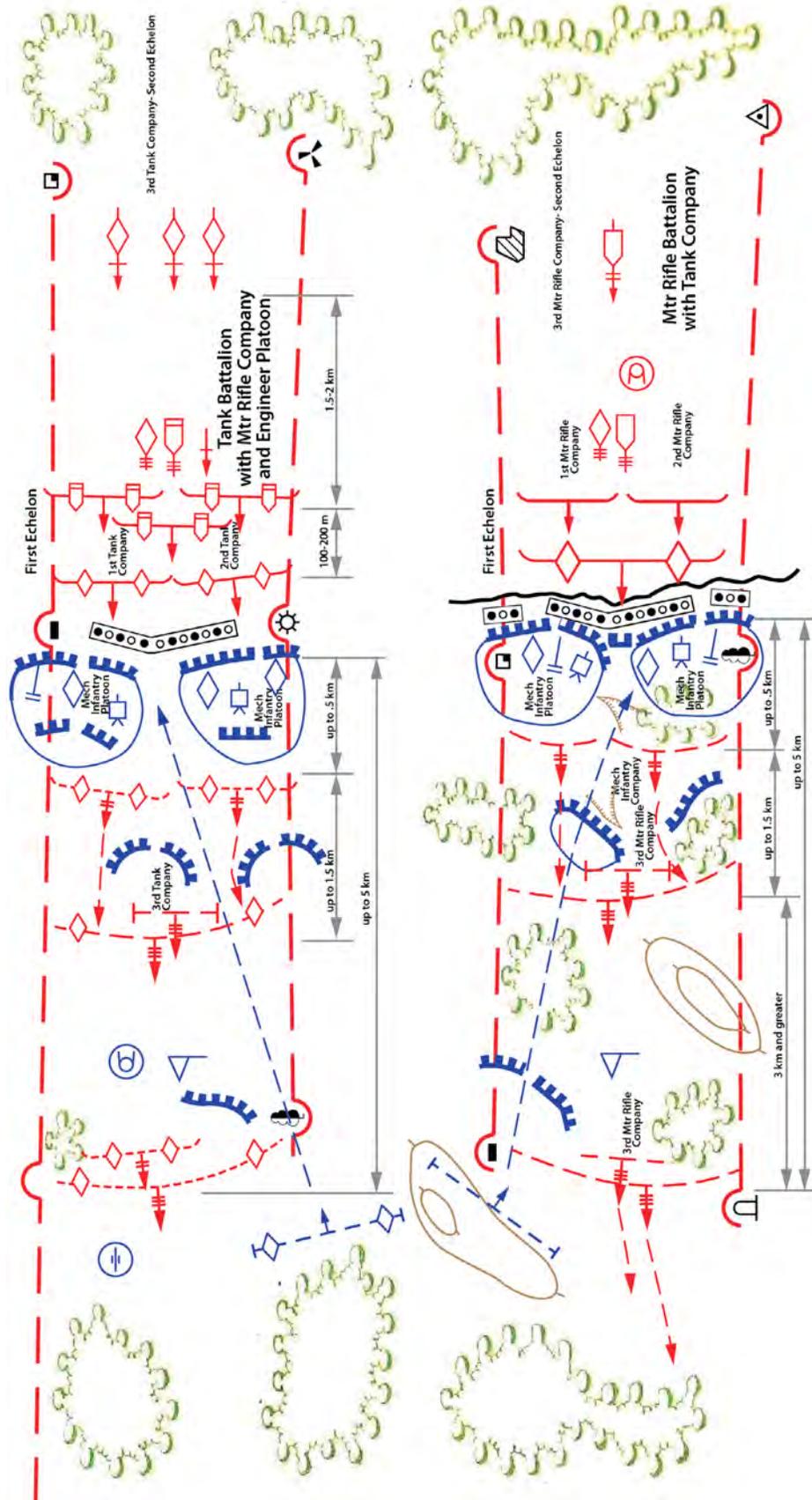
The immediate objective of a second echelon battalion may be to continue the offensive, to defeat the enemy brigade or regimental reserves in conjunction with the first-echelon battalion or to control the enemy rear boundary. The direction of further advance of a second-echelon battalion will support achieving the brigade's subsequent objective.

*THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR: FORCE STRUCTURE, TACTICS, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES*

*(Right) This graphic on the facing page depicts two battalion attacks from the march. The top is a mounted attack by a tank battalion with an attached motorized rifle company and engineer platoon. The battalion has left its assembly area, deployed from battalion to company to platoon column and then into platoon line. The third tank company is trailing in reserve in platoon columns. There is no artillery depicted, although an artillery battalion in support of a maneuver battalion is common. For the amount of enemy depicted, two artillery battalions may well be in support. The enemy in sector is a defending mechanized infantry company plus two platoons of another mechanized infantry company reinforced with a tank platoon and two antitank platoons. The battalion immediate objective is the rear of the first echelon mechanized infantry company and the subsequent objective is beyond the enemy battalion CP. It has a direction of further advance. It anticipates a counterattack by up to a tank battalion reinforced with a mechanized infantry company.*

*The bottom graphic depicts a dismounted attack by a motorized rifle battalion with an attached tank company. The tanks and two motorized rifle companies are fully deployed and advancing on line with the third motorized rifle in reserve in company column. Again, there is no artillery depicted, only the battalion mortar battery. The enemy defense is robust and includes most of a mechanized infantry company reinforced with several tanks. The immediate objective is the rear of the mechanized infantry company and the subsequent objective breaks into the enemy battalion rear area. The battalion commander anticipates a counterattack from higher ground of up to a reinforced mechanized infantry battalion strength. The battalion has a direction of further attack.*

Combat Formation and Missions of Subunits in the Attack (mounted and dismounted)



### **Elements of the Combat Formation**

The combat formation of a motorized rifle or tank battalion consists of one or two echelons. The battalion usually consists of two echelons for the breakthrough of an enemy defense. In the event of an attack using only one echelon, the formation will have a company-sized reserve.

Elements of the combat formation include:

- First echelon
- Second echelon (or combined arms reserve)
- Artillery subunits
- Subunits and weapons, which remain directly subordinate to the battalion commander.

The first echelon is designed to defeat the opposing enemy, carry out the immediate objective and continue the offensive together with the second echelon (or combined arms reserve) throughout the entire depth of the combat mission. This element consists of two or three companies and attachments. The second echelon exploits the successes of the first echelon, assists the first echelon in fulfilling its immediate and subsequent objectives, replaces or reinforces depleted first-echelon subunits, repels counterattacks, defeats enemy reserves, destroys any enemy on the flanks or in the rear of the first echelon, secures seized objective lines and performs other tasks as needed. It consists of up to a company. The combined arms reserve deals with unforeseen problems, replaces depleted first echelon units, repels counterattacks, destroys any enemy on the flanks or in the rear, performs other tasks assigned to the second echelon. It consists of up to a company. The second echelon (combined arms reserve) of the motorized rifle battalion stays 1.5-2 kilometers behind the companies of the first echelon while they deploy line by line. At the line for deployment into platoon columns, the second echelon remains in pre-combat formation or platoon columns. The mortar battery artillery subunit supports first-echelon units. It deploys to firing positions 500 meters behind the first-echelon companies.

The following are subunits and weapons directly subordinate to the motorized rifle battalion commander:

- Grenade Launcher Subunit (the AGS-17 Grenade Launcher Platoon), which attacks enemy personnel and lightly-armored objects, covers the flanks, and juncture points with adjacent friendly units. It occupies firing positions 300 meters behind companies in the first echelon to protect the gaps between company strong points and the flanks;
- Flamethrower subunits, which defeat the enemy using thermobaric and flame rockets;
- Antitank platoon, which engages tanks and other armored vehicles.

### **Pre-Combat and Combat Formation**

The battalion assumes a pre-combat formation 4-6 kilometers from the enemy's forward positions, when its companies deploy from the battalion march column into company columns. Company columns usually are separated by 500-800 meters. However, depending on the tactical situation, this distance may vary. A battalion can assume different formations as it moves forward. The deployment of the battalion in combat is determined by combat power, readiness of enemy and friendly forces, terrain, time, and weather. Because of these factors, a battalion's pre-combat formation will change as it moves forward. A Russian commander will vary his formations to suit the situation and his concept of the operation. Because of these variables, there is no templated deployment scheme.

A battalion is in combat formation when its first-echelon companies are in columns. Depending on the tactical situation, a battalion's second-echelon companies can be in either march or column formation.

### **System of Fire and Command and Control**

The system of fire includes the systems of fire of the motorized rifle and tank companies, organic assets, attached and supporting artillery, the battalion's direct-fire assets, the grenade launcher platoon, and attached antitank and flamethrower units. To ensure command and control, a command-observation post is deployed forward at a position that provides the best view of the terrain and the enemy. The position provides for continuous battlefield management and allows coordination with adjacent units. The position is placed up to 300 meters from the front line.

### **Roles of a Motorized Rifle Battalion in the Attack**

In the attack the motorized rifle battalion fulfills the following functions:

- As part of a motorized rifle brigade
  - In the first or second echelon
  - In a combined arms reserve
- As a stand-alone unit
  - As an advanced guard
  - As a forward, flanking, raiding, assault or special detachment
  - Conducting amphibious and tactical air assaults

### **Means of Reinforcement**

Common attachments for a motorized rifle battalion include:

- 1-2 tank companies
- Artillery battalion or battery
- Engineer platoon, mine clearance means, scissor bridge and engineer route clearance vehicle
- Antitank subunits and means of repelling airborne assaults
- NBC units.

A tank company is normally attached to a motorized rifle battalion, while a tank battalion normally has a motorized rifle company attached. An attached artillery battalion takes up firing positions 2-4 kilometers from the troops on the forward edge. In addition, the

motorized rifle battalion is supported by artillery battalion fire, direct support and brigade level air defense systems and sometimes by helicopter gunships.

### **Sequence of Work after Receipt of Mission**

Decisions about the Offense: The commander of the motorized rifle battalion personally makes the decision based on his understanding of the mission and determination of the situation.

#### 1. Concept of Battle

- The direction and concentration of the main efforts
- How to defeat the enemy
- Combat formation of the battalion (company, platoon)

Depending on the conditions when transitioning to the attack, he determines

- The assembly and holding areas
- The starting line
- The deployment lines and their safe distances from enemy attack
- The line for transitioning to the attack and march routes

#### 2. Tasks of subordinate units

#### 3. Main questions of coordination

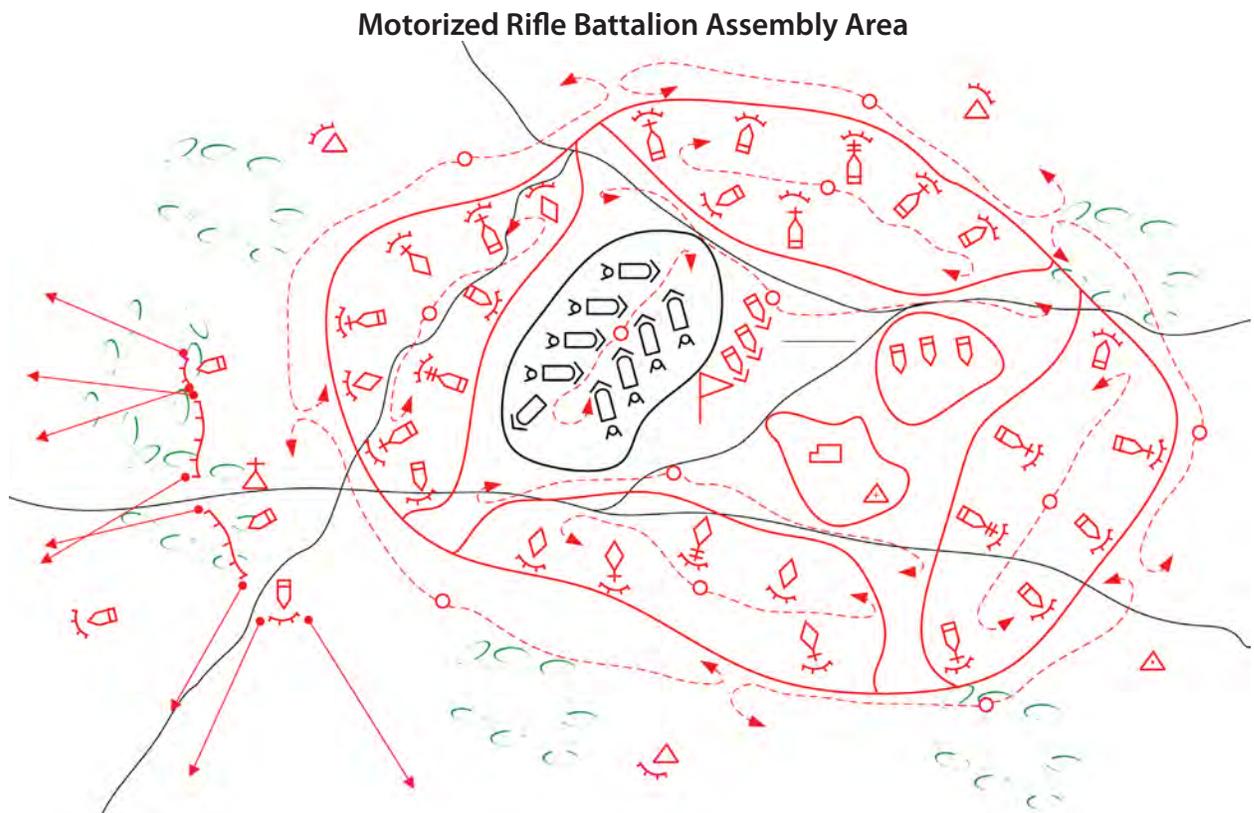
#### 4. Command and control and combat support

After receipt of the order, the battalion commander states:

- For the first-echelon companies, including an attached tank company - means of reinforcement, immediate objective and direction of the subsequent attack, the assembly positions and the time of their occupation, and who provides support
- For the second-echelon company - the assembly (waiting) area and time of its occupation, possible lines for commitment to battle, immediate objective and direction of the follow-on attack, reinforcements when entering into battle.
- For the reserve – assembly position, direction and order of displacement during the offensive, and missions to prepare for
- For attached subunits of artillery and mortar batteries - targets designated for destruction during the fire preparation of the attack and who directs them, firing positions, march routes and the order of movement, time to be ready to fire and order of displacement
- For dedicated direct fire (guns and tanks) - targets designated for destruction during the fire preparation of the attack and who destroys them, firing positions and the time of their employment, actions after carrying out their missions
- For automatic grenade launcher subunits - targets designated for destruction during the fire preparation of the attack, firing positions, place in the combat formation, routes, etc.
- For antitank subunits - targets designated for destruction during the preparatory attack by fires, firing position, place in the combat formation, route, etc.
- For air defense subunits - direction in which to search for enemy aircraft, place in the combat formation, etc.
- For engineer subunits - place and time for breaching minefields and obstacles and method and marking of crossings through them.

## THE OFFENSE

For an attack from the march, the battalion commander also directs the march for the battalion, the lines for deployment into company and platoon columns, the places where infantry will mount and dismount tanks (should this be part of the attack), the line of safety from enemy fire, the line to dismount motorized rifle company and platoon personnel when attacking dismounted and the line to transition to the attack.

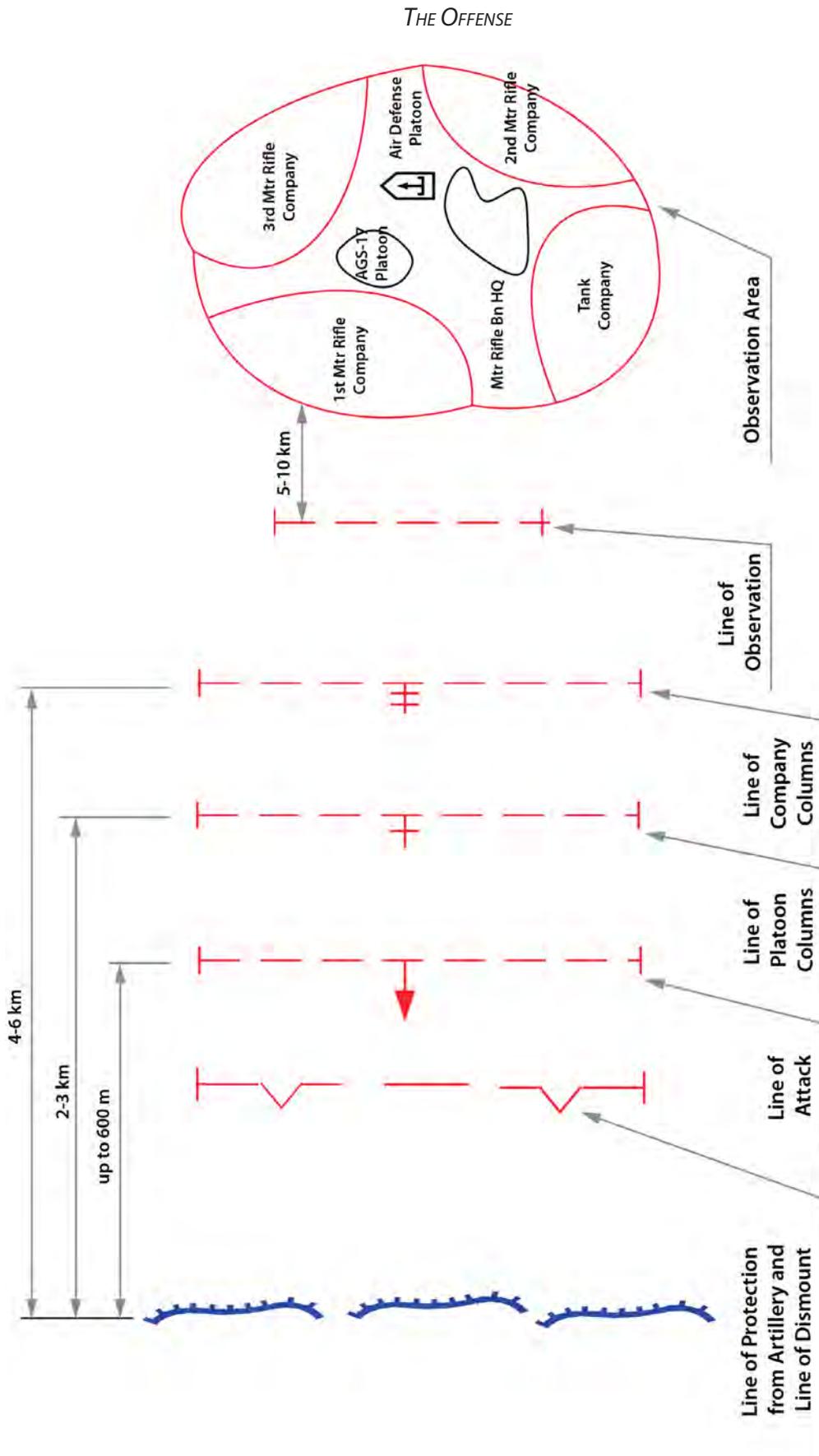


*(Above) This graphic is a representative motorized rifle battalion assembly area. It is designed for 360° defense with the mortar battery, battalion CP and trains in the center. Companies are located in separate areas and in order of their expected order of march. Vehicles are dug in and camouflaged. A BMP platoon is dug in on the likely avenue of approach. Other outposts screen the perimeter. Foot patrols cover the perimeter and interior of the assembly area.*

**THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR: FORCE STRUCTURE, TACTICS, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES**

*(Right) The graphic on the facing page depicts the lines of deployment for an attacking motorized rifle battalion. The artillery will begin the fire preparation phase before the battalion leaves the assembly area. This phase can last 40-50 minutes, although all weapons will not be firing continuously. The preparation covers the attacking movement while attempting to gain fire superiority by suppressing enemy artillery and strongpoints and disrupting command and control. The artillery preparation concentrates on the enemy forward positions from the time when the brigade goes into battalion columns until it hits the line to deploy into platoon columns. The fires begin to lift and shift into the depth of enemy defenses. When the platoons have moved into squad columns and into attack line, all the fires have shifted to form a line of fire slowly advancing through the enemy first echelon defense (forward enemy platoon-battalion immediate objective). This is the beginning of the fire support phase. The artillery fires on the enemy immediately in front of and on the flanks of the attacking force. Successive fire concentrations and rolling barrages are employed during this phase. Artillery battalions or batteries may be attached to attacking companies during this phase. As the attack continues to the depth of the enemy company in the sector of attack (battalion subsequent objective), artillery begins displacing forward as the artillery accompaniment of the attack phase begins. Artillery supports the attack into the enemy positions, concentrating on newly discovered targets, antitank weapons, mortars and artillery.*

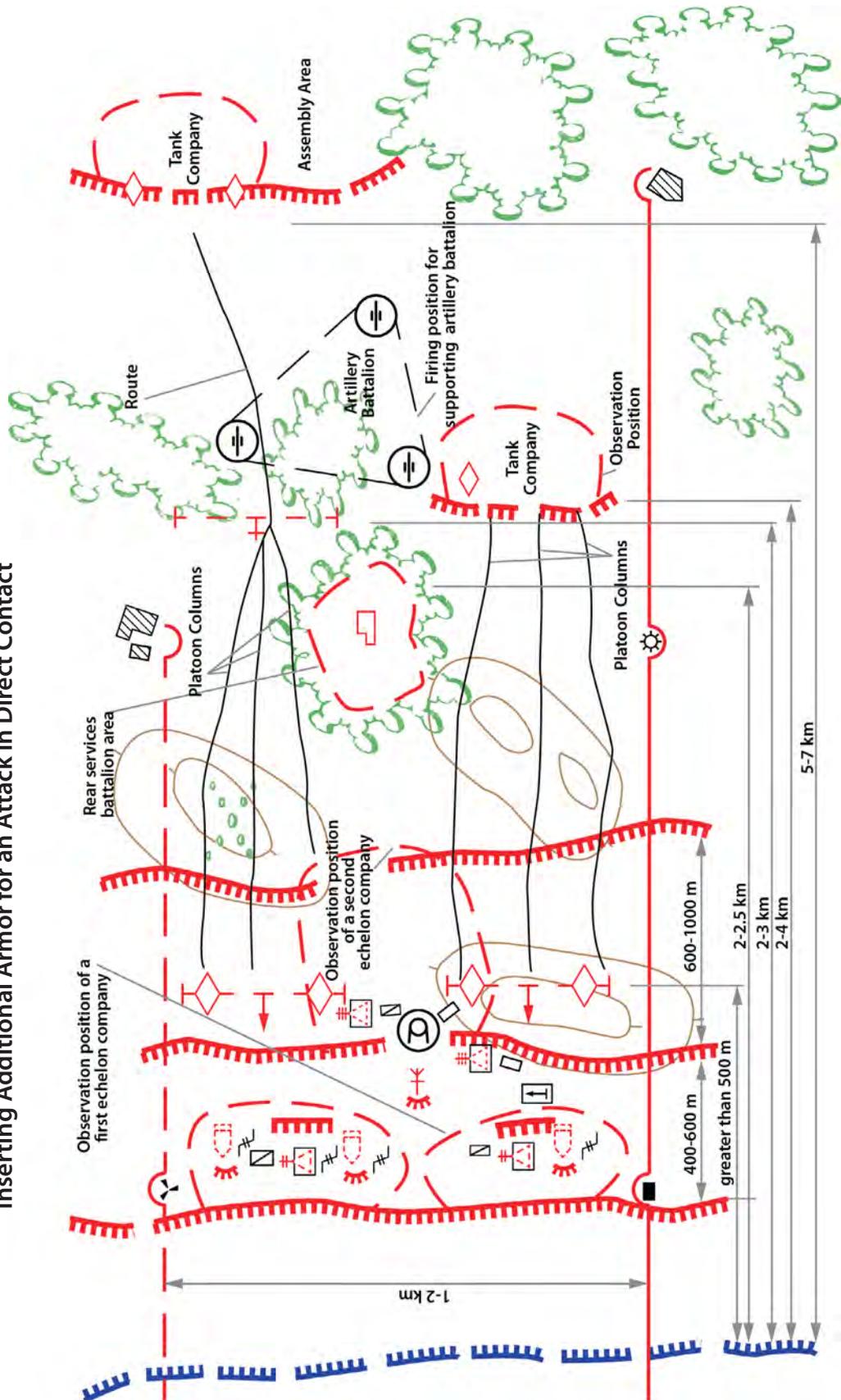
# Fundamentals for Conducting an Offensive by Combined Arms Subunits



***THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR: FORCE STRUCTURE, TACTICS, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES***

*(Right) The graphic on the facing page shows a motorized rifle battalion and two companies of the tank battalion attacking in the south (notionally the brigade main attack), while the northern attack consists of a motorized rifle battalion and a tank company. The third motorized rifle company is moving to reinforce success with two companies. Its third company constitutes the anti-assault reserve. Normally the main attack sector will be narrower than the supporting attack sector. On a Russian military map, Russian maneuver unit positions, boundary lines, axes, deployment lines, command posts and equipment are drawn in red. Artillery boundaries, firing positions, planned fires, and equipment are drawn in black, as are air defense boundaries and equipment, electronic warfare units and equipment and the antitank units and equipment.*

Inserting Additional Armor for an Attack in Direct Contact



## *THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR: FORCE STRUCTURE, TACTICS, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN GROUND FORCES*

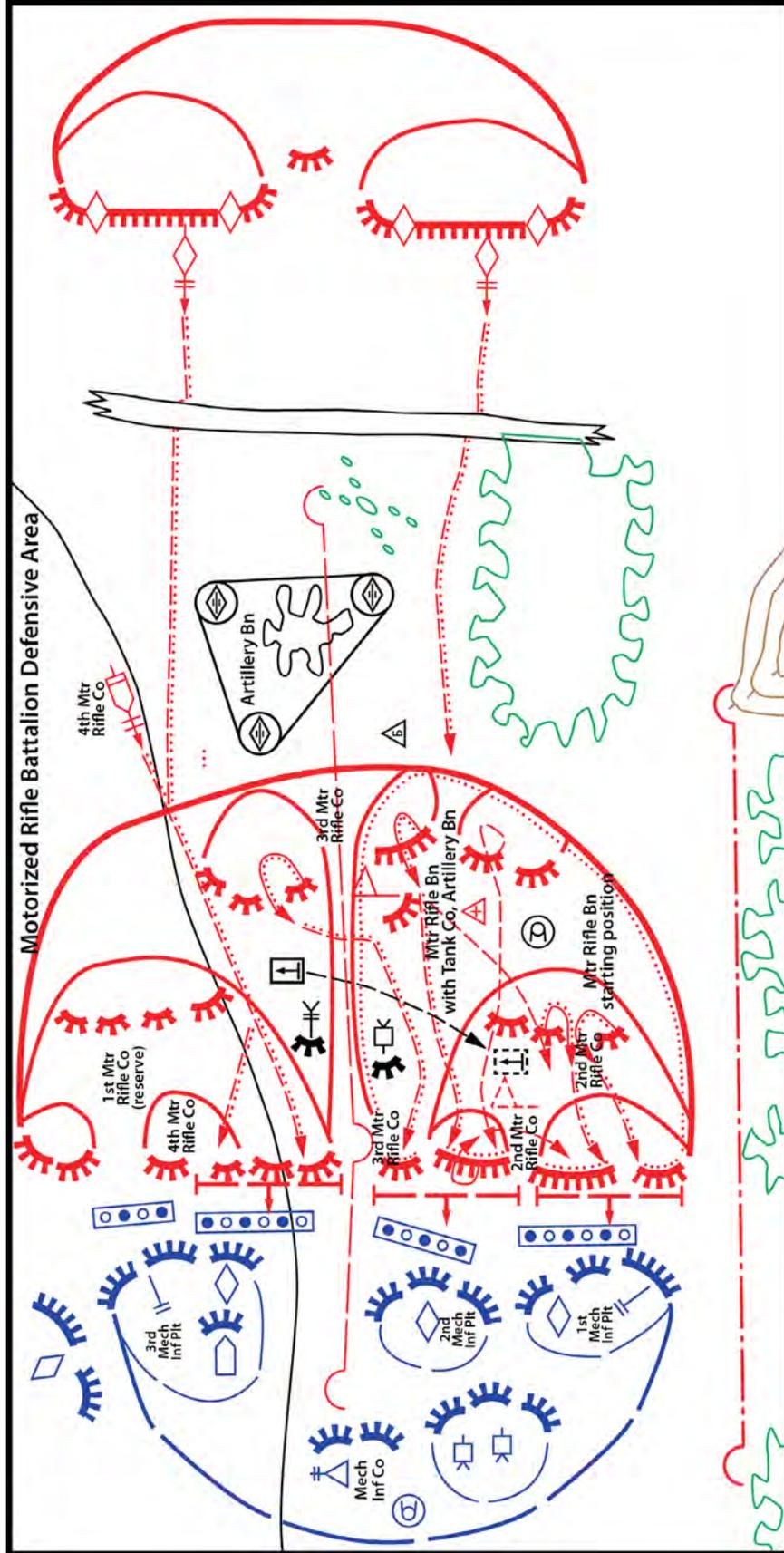
*(Right) The graphic facing page depicts an attack from a position in direct contact with the enemy [наступление из положения непосредственного соприкосновения с противником] which is mounted from an established defense or when an attack from the march has failed. In either event, Russian subunits will remain in contact with the enemy. The attack can be launched by the forces already in contact with the enemy or by conducting an attack from the march through the Russian's own forward defending forces. In either event, control of forces and movement will be a challenge. Artillery preparation will be intense since it will be difficult to attain operational surprise.*

*This graphic shows the defending 1st Motorized Rifle Battalion with an attached tank company and artillery battalion. It defends in two echelons with its 1st and 2nd MRC forward and its 3rd MRC in the second echelon. It is opposed by a dug-in mechanized infantry company with an attached tank platoon. The attack will be reinforced by two tank companies from the parent battalion of the attached tank battalion and the 4th MRC from the 2nd Motorized Rifle Battalion of the parent Motorized Rifle Brigade.*

*The first task is to concentrate forces for the attack. Forces will move under the cover of night, stormy weather, smoke, artillery fire or other obscurant. Ground guides and one-sided reflective trail markers will move forces into position. The 1st MRC will retain the northern part and second echelon position of its present position. The 4th MRC will move into the southern part of the 1st MRC position and form a single echelon line. The 2nd MRC will concentrate its force in the southern part of its position in a single echelon. The 3rd MRC will move from its second echelon position into the northern part of the 2nd MRC position in a single echelon line. Battalion headquarters and the air defense battery will move forward behind the new 2nd MRC position. The mortar battery, AGS-17 platoon and antitank reserve will stay in position.*

*The battalion will attack with three motorized rifle companies abreast and the tank battalion in the second echelon. If the first echelon fails to complete the breakthrough, the second echelon may have to complete it. The 1st MRC moves as a reserve. The attack will be preceded by a short artillery preparation (10-25 minutes). Supporting artillery from brigade will add its fires. The attack will have an immediate objective (the depth of the defending enemy company) and a subsequent direction of attack. Should the attack succeed, the commander will attempt to maintain the momentum. After destroying the enemy, the battalions will usually form into pre-combat or march order and move without delay. Should the attack fail, the commander may attempt to bypass the enemy or resume the defense and prepare to try again.*

Transitioning to the Attack from a Position in Direct Contact with the Enemy



## **Brigade in the Offense**

The motorized rifle or tank brigade may be found in the first echelon, second echelon, or combined arms reserve of an Army Group or Army Corps. As a rule, a tank brigade is usually the main effort to defeat the main enemy force. The brigade is assigned an attack zone of up to 6 kilometers wide in the section of the breakthrough. Its zone of attack is up to 2 kilometers. The depth of the brigade's composition in the attack is 10-15 kilometers. For conducting the offensive, a motorized rifle or tank brigade will create a combat formation and determines tactics for the destruction of the enemy by fires, air defense, and air assault defense.<sup>6</sup>

### **Combat Tasks**

A motorized rifle or tank brigade, advancing in the first echelon has the following combat tasks:

- Immediate objective – defeat the first echelon (brigade/regiment) of the enemy defense and occupy its position. The depth of the immediate objective is up to 5 kilometers;
- Intermediate objective – further develop the offensive by defeating the first echelon's reserve. The depth of the intermediate objective is up to 15 kilometers;
- Further objective- advance farther and defeat the Army Group's divisional reserves, which is the task of the army (corps) on the first day of the offensive. The depth of the further objective is 20-30 kilometers.

### **Elements of the Combat Formation**

A two echelon system is used to defeat an enemy in a prepared defense. The following are the elements of the combat formation:

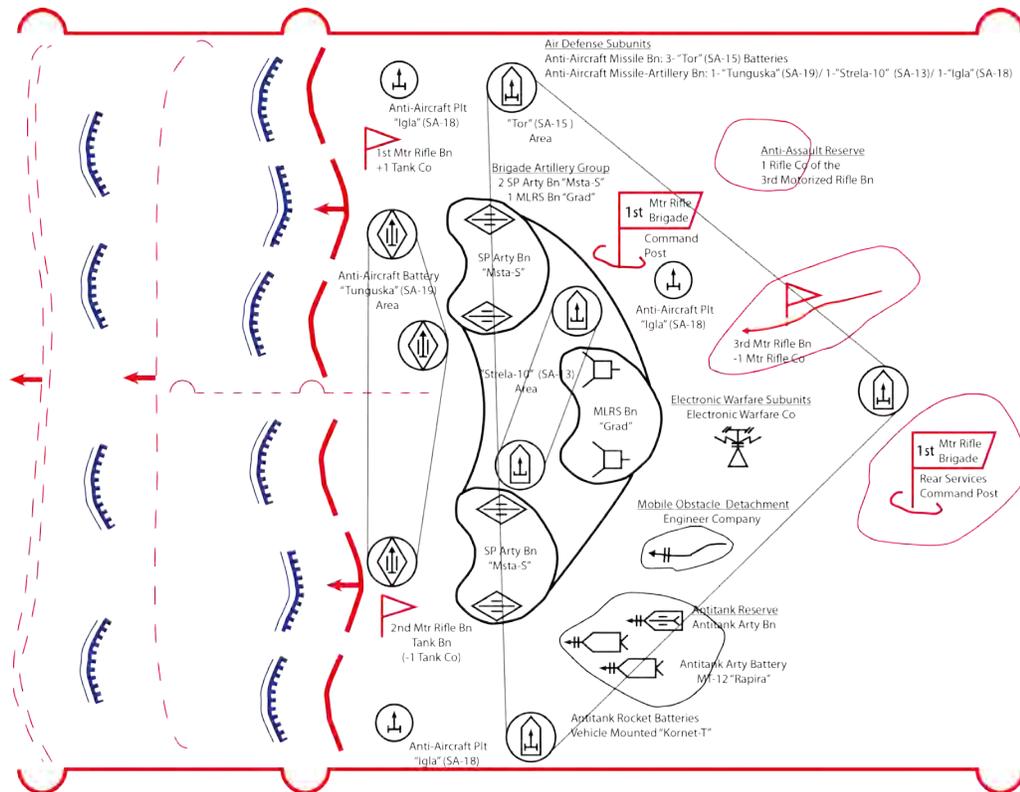
- The first echelon
- The second echelon
- Combined arms reserve
- Brigade Artillery Group (BrAG);
- Air defense subunits
- Antitank reserve
- Mobile obstacle construction detachments
- Counterair assault reserve.

Depending on the situation, the elements of the combat formation of the motorized rifle or tank brigade can be a forward detachment, an advance guard, special detachment, raiding detachment, helicopter subunit, tactical air assault subunit, electronic warfare subunit, or strike detachment.

The first echelon is designed to defeat the first echelon of the enemy defense within the breakthrough sector of the brigade and then, together with the second echelon, continue the offensive until it extends throughout the entire depth of the defense. It consists of 2-3 battalions with reinforcements.

<sup>6</sup> "Motorized Rifle (Tank) Brigades in the Offense" [мотострелковой (танковой) бригады в наступлении], as found on *Studiopedia*, <<http://studopedia.info/1-67789.html>>, accessed on 1 July 2016.

## Motorized Rifle Brigade in the Offense



(Above) This graphic shows some of the considerations for a brigade in the attack. The brigade attacks from the march with two reinforced motorized rifle battalions and the tank battalion minus abreast. The attack is weighted with two battalions in the south. Air defenses are well forward and on the flanks. Three artillery battalions are in the brigade artillery group (BrAG). The antitank artillery battalion and engineer company are following the main attack. The third motorized rifle battalion is following in battalion column and can be committed to the northern or southern attack. The anti-assault reserve is protecting the brigade from aerial insertion or flank attack. The electronic warfare company is jamming enemy communications, precision-guided weapons and computer systems. While not depicted, smoke is frequently used to conceal artillery, command posts, flanks and minefield or water obstacle crossings.

The second echelon is intended to exploit the success of the first echelon, complete the immediate and intermediate missions, reconstitute first echelon units, repel counterattacks, defeat enemy reserves, etc. During the offensive, the second-echelon battalions move behind the lines of the first-echelon battalions at a distance of 6-8 kilometers.

The combined arms reserve is designed to address unexpected problems, reconstitute units from the first or second echelon, defeat enemy airborne/air assault forces, defeat enemy elements at the rear or flanks, etc.

### **Pre-Combat and Combat Formation**

The brigade does not have a pre-combat formation. It is in its combat formation when its organic battalions have deployed out of the brigade march formation and into battalion columns. A brigade in a combat formation will usually occupy a sector 5-8 kilometers wide. However, depending on the tactical situation, these widths may vary. The number of battalion columns and the type of formation will vary. The brigade will split into battalion columns about 12 to 15 kilometers from the enemy's forward defensive positions. A brigade is in combat formation when its first-echelon battalions have deployed into columns. The brigade's second-echelon battalions normally remain in column formation.

### **Elements of the Offensive (organic and attached)**

Combat Reserve – emplaced into position before employment. It is situated approximately 6-8 kilometers from the first echelon, and moves with the second echelon.

Brigade Artillery Group (BrAG) – conducts destruction by fire missions and supports the first-echelon maneuver battalions. It consists of organic and attached artillery assets of at least one MLRS and two howitzer battalions. The artillery firing positions are usually located in an area that is 3-5 kilometers wide, 1-2 kilometers in depth, at a distance of 2-4 kilometers from the forward edge of one's own forces.

Air Defense assets - cover the main forces of the brigade from enemy air attacks. They consist of two air defense battalions- an anti-aircraft missile-artillery battalion and an anti-aircraft missile battalion. A Tunguska missile battery protects the first-echelon battalions. Two Strela-10 missile battery platoons protect the BrAG. Two platoons equipped with Igla MANPADS cover the first-echelon battalions, while the third platoon in the Igla company protects the brigade command post. The Tor-M1 anti-aircraft missile battalion provides zonal cover of the brigade to defend it from air strikes.

Antitank Reserve- destroys tanks and other armored vehicles, protects the flanks and seams in the defense, and covers enemy avenues of approach. In motorized rifle brigades the antitank reserve consists of an antitank artillery battalion. In tank brigades, it is 1-2 tank companies. During the battle the antitank reserve moves with the first echelon, focusing on armor-hazardous areas, road junctions and flanks. It works in conjunction with mobile obstacle detachments.

Mobile Obstacle Detachment - places mines on likely enemy counterattack avenues of approach, covers the offensive's flanks, and protects gaps. It is the brigade's organic engineer company with mine-laying vehicles.

Anti-Assault Reserve - destroys enemy assaults independently or in conjunction with the second echelon. The anti-assault reserve usually is a motorized rifle company from a second-echelon battalion.

Forward Detachment - breaches the enemy's security zone, captures and holds crossings and accomplishes other tasks. It is a reinforced battalion.

Assault Detachment - destroys enemy troop concentrations, critical facilities, and strong points during the breakthrough of the offensive. It is a reinforced battalion or company.

Detachment for the Destruction of High-Threat Systems - destroys the enemy's tactical nuclear systems, elements of his precision fire systems and reconnaissance strike complexes before they can be employed against the offensive. It is a reinforced battalion or company. (This detachment will probably not be constituted if the enemy lacks these capabilities.)

Raiding Detachment- disrupts C2 and communications systems, destroys air defense units, blocks the employment of enemy reserves, destroys rear area support units, blocks the employment of enemy reserves, blocks withdrawal routes and destroys communications. It is a reinforced battalion or company.

Tactical Air Assault element- designated to cooperate with the brigade's subunits to achieve a high tempo in the advance and to seize designated regions. It will destroy enemy command and control systems, forces and weapons, and disrupt enemy rear area support. It is a reinforced battalion or company and can be organic or attached.

Electronic Warfare subunit- jams enemy radios and electronics, and protects the unit from radio-proximity-fused munitions. It is the brigade's organic electronic warfare company.

Helicopter subunit- destroys enemy tanks, armored vehicles, antitank weapons, artillery, helicopters, enemy air assault forces, C2, reconnaissance assets and air assault landing zones. It also delivers supplies, evacuates wounded, and performs other tasks. It is an attached helicopter subunit.

The system of destructive fires for a motorized rifle or tank brigade includes:

- Preparatory air strikes by supporting and assigned aviation
- Indirect fires from organic, attached, and supporting artillery
- Direct fires
- Fires from specialized troops (fuel-air explosives, flame projectors, chemical (including smoke)
- A system of fire control for the battalions.

To ensure adequate C2 in the offensive, the command posts are deployed behind the forward edge of brigade troops:

- Command post – 3-5 kilometers
- Forward command post (element of the command post) - one kilometer
- Rear services command post - 15+ kilometers.

### **Lines of Deployment**

The starting line is designated for the on-time start of movement out of the assembly area. Its distance from the forward perimeter of the assembly area must allow the full deployment of a battalion march column, achieving and maintaining the prescribed rate of march, and may be established 5-10 kilometers from the assembly area.

Lines of deployment into battalion columns: Deployments into battalion columns are conducted out of range of enemy artillery fire, usually at a distance of 12-15 kilometers from the forward edge of the enemy's defenses.

Lines of deployment into company columns: Deployments into company columns are conducted out of range of enemy direct-fire guns, tanks and ATGMs, at a distance of 4-6 kilometers from the forward edge of the enemy's defenses.

Lines of deployment into platoon columns: Deployments into platoon columns are conducted out of the range of hand-held antitank weapons and small arms fire at a distance of 2-3 kilometers from the forward edge of the enemy's defenses.

At the lines for deployment into battalion, company, and platoon columns, the subunits each

begin to move on their own separate axes.

Lines of deployment into the attack: are designated at a distance out of the range of main weapons types and allow the subunit to reach the forward edge by "H-hour." The line for deployment into the attack is 600 meters (sometimes more) from the forward edge of the enemy's defenses. During an attack from positions in direct contact with the enemy, the line of deployment into the attack is the first trench.

Line of dismount: When conducting a dismounted attack, motorized riflemen dismount as close as possible to the forward edge of the enemy's defenses in areas sheltered from machine guns, antitank weapons and close combat fire. Sometimes this line coincides with the line of deployment into the attack.

In order to coordinate the actions of the motorized rifle and tank subunits with artillery, which is firing from concealed firing positions, a "danger close" line is designated to protect friendly forces from the detonations of one's own artillery rounds:

- For dismounted motorized riflemen - 400 meters
- For BMPs - 300 meters
- For tanks - 200 meters

### **Means of Reinforcement**

A motorized rifle or tank brigade in the offense will form a BrAG, which is usually composed of the maneuver brigade's two organic self-propelled artillery battalions and one MLRS battalion. The brigade may gain 2-4 additional artillery battalions from the army artillery group (AAG) to support the offensive, in addition to other forces.

### **Commentary on Brigade in Offense**

A motorized rifle brigade can act in the offensive in a variety of circumstances:

- Meeting engagement, where two moving opposing forces encounter each other with little or no warning;
- Attack from the march against an enemy who has gone into a hasty defense or one that is in a well prepared defense;
- Attack against a withdrawing enemy who is fighting on successive lines or employing a rear guard;
- Attack from positions in contact;
- Attack through a defending friendly unit;
- Pursuit against a disciplined or broken enemy.

The Russian Army is an artillery army with a lot of combat vehicles. While Western Armies have gravitated to precision fires delivered by fewer systems, the Russians maintain a large artillery park and employ mass fires to destroy hectares of enemy-occupied territory. Precision-fire systems are met with massed fires and electronic and masking countermeasures (as well as with Russian precision fires systems). The BrAG shown has the brigade's two organic 152mm howitzer battalions and organic 122mm multiple rocket launcher battalion in position. More artillery battalions from outside the brigade can be added to the BrAG. The forward-most howitzer firing positions are 1-4 kilometers from the forward edge of one's own troops to provide maximum depth in support of the attack. Howitzers usually have a main and two or more alternate firing positions within firing platoon positions. Weapons and platoons are usually shifted between firing missions. Artillery also has deception firing positions to mask the real positions with harassment and interdiction (H&I) fires and "duty" positions for "duty" weapons. Duty weapons provide artillery support in advance of the attack, but return to the main firing position as part of unit fire missions in support of the attack. During the attack the artillery will displace forward to provide fire into the depths. It may displace by battery or battalion, the key factor being the maintenance of fire support throughout the entire attack.

The Russian Army has a robust, modern air defense system that employs missiles and guns on mobile platforms to provide protection against enemy helicopters, jet aircraft and unmanned aerial systems. It consists of an air defense artillery and an air defense missile (rocket-artillery) battalion. Should jamming and/or EMP degrade missile effectiveness, the brigade still has rapid-fire anti-aircraft artillery. The graphic shows a Tunguska missile battery protecting the first-echelon battalions. Two Strela-10 rocket battery platoons protect the BrAG. Two platoons equipped with Igla MANPADS also cover the first-echelon battalions, while the third platoon in the Igla company protects the brigade command post. The Tor-M1 anti-aircraft missile battalion provides zonal cover to the brigade to defend it from air strikes.

The brigade's fourth artillery battalion is the antitank artillery battalion which has guns and missiles to engage enemy armor. It is deployed as the antitank reserve and works closely with the mobile obstacle detachment from the engineer company. It lays antitank mines where directed.

When the brigade attacks from the march, its total march column can extend over 30 kilometers. Its zone of attack is 4-8 kilometers wide (6 kilometers is standard), which is concentrated in a 2-4 kilometer frontage (2 kilometers is standard). There are 5-15 kilometers between echelons. The first echelon is probably three kilometers deep and the forward area, including the BrAG is probably five kilometers deep. The brigade area, including trains, is 15 kilometers deep. When possible, the brigade moves on two or more axes. A brigade attacking mounted out of an assembly area on a single axis would require 20 kilometers to deploy from column to line, with battalions deploying 8-12 kilometers from the enemy front lines, company columns deploying 4-6 kilometers from the enemy and platoon columns deploying 1-4 kilometers from the enemy. A normal battalion attack frontage is 1-2 kilometers within a 2-5 kilometer attack zone. The movement to contact is choreographed with the artillery fire of the BrAG. It begins with preparation fire to find and destroy enemy

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artillery and then shifts to destroy the enemy in forward positions. As the motorized riflemen dismount and move into assault lines, the fire is shifted back through the forward enemy defenses to keep a wall of fire in front of the attacking infantry. As the brigade fights through the enemy's first-echelon defense, supporting fires maintain fire superiority and ease the advance of maneuver subunits. As the attack continues, artillery displaces forward in accompaniment to provide responsive artillery support to the brigade.

*(Right) This notional laydown does not provide the circumstances of the enemy defense. All we know is that it is not a meeting engagement or a pursuit and that there is a Russian brigade on either flank. The attacking brigade has an immediate and subsequent objective and either an objective of the day or a direction of further advance. Depending on the enemy strength and preparedness, a brigade's immediate objective against a prepared defense in depth might be to breakthrough a defending enemy battalion's forward defending companies, and the subsequent objective would be to push through to the rear of the enemy battalion defenses, with an objective of the day being the defeat of the defending enemy's tactical reserve. The immediate and subsequent objectives on the graphic are not to scale, as the attack is expected to penetrate much deeper.*

