

Lesson 2 – Patrols: Mounting, Conducting and Debriefing

Explanation

The success of a patrol depends on a good planning before hand as well as good action during the actual patrol. Compliance with the following paragraphs by the officer responsible for mounting and debriefing the patrol and the patrol commander ensures nothing is forgotten.

Action by Officer Responsible for Mounting and Debriefing patrol

Warning order.

Sends out a warning order well in advance to include brief outline of patrol task, name of commander with rendezvous(RV) and time for his briefing.

Brief

Briefs patrol commander on the following lines:

- a. Ground. Shown from observation post (OP), Air photographs, Field sketch or map. Includes hills, valleys, woods and natural obstacles such as rivers, bridges and waterlogged ground.
- b. Situation.
 - (1) Enemy: All available information.
 - (2) Friendly Forces: Forward disposition and activities and details of other patrols out.
- c. Mission. The specific task of the patrol. It may be possible to add to this specific task such as obtaining additional information, provided they can be carried out without detriment to the main task.
- d. Execution.
 - (1) Time out and where.
 - (2) Time back and when.

(3) Limitations on choice of route (Rivers, Obstacles, Ground)

(4) Fire support

e. Service Support. Administrative arrangements before, during and after the patrol.

f. Command and Signal.

(1) Radio including any restrictions.

(2) Any special signals.

(3) Recognition – Password.

(4) Debriefing instructions.

Debrief Debriefs patrol commander on his return by reading his report.

Action by patrol commander

Warning order

Issues a warning order to include brief outline of patrol task, members of patrol including 2ic, time and place of briefing and any special administrative arrangements including weapons and equipment.

Normally dress and equipment should be as light as possible but must include water and emergency rations in case the patrol is cut off and has to lie up for a period before returning to base.

Also:

a. Studies air photos, maps, previous patrol reports.

b. Select observation posts for his reconnaissance.

c. Carries out reconnaissance from Ops during which he looks for:

(1) Routes to and from objective (to be different) go in one way and out another way.

(2) Landmarks.

- (3)Ops
- (4)Dead ground and covered approaches.
- (5)Obstacles.
- (6) Likely places for ambush- by us or enemy
- (7)Enemy positions, likely positions and defensive fire(DF) areas.

- d. Considers light and weather conditions, moon etc.
- e. Makes his appreciation and plan, keeping them as simple as possible.
- f. Draws field sketch showing distances (in paces), bearings and timings of bounds.
- g. prepares model for briefing the patrol.
- h. Prepares his orders.
- I. meets patrol at RV.

He briefs the patrol by showing members the ground from an OP (individually if necessary) and points out mine fields, lanes and gaps in wire, etc.

Gives out his orders to the patrol, with the aid of a cloth or a sand model on the ground.

Noisy and silent rehearsals are carried out and they must include

- (a) Route Moving out and returning through own FEBA.
- (b) Formations. Formations and drill for changing formations. One or more of the three formations – single file, file or diamond – is adopted during a patrol depending on ground and visibility. A fighting patrol of 2 NCOs and nine cadets might move in diamond formation.
- (c) Use of scouts Move by bounds ahead and are followed by the remainder of the patrol.
- (d) Movement. Every member of the patrol is allotted his specific task and arc of observation. All movements must be silent with frequent halts to observe and listen, particularly when approaching the enemy position and also at night. When halted sink down to the ground

level, avoiding a jerky movement, and make use of the skyline. Make use of the previously prepared signal to move – a silent touch signal – to ensure no- one is left behind.

- (e) Action on objective Final RV. This an RV to which the patrol goes after completing the task if there was contact at that stage with the enemy. It must be easy to find and is pointed out to all members of the patrol during the approach to the objective.
- (f) Action on lights.
 - (1) If time allows , get away – otherwise freeze.
 - (2) At night close one eye to preserve night vision.
 - (3) If a trip flare goes off move away from the area as quickly as possible, then get down and observe.

Encounter Drill

- (1) The action will depend on the task and circumstances . It may desirable to avoid action and move away as quickly as possible. If this is impossible an immediate assault is the only alternative .
- (2) If ambushed the only solution is to scatter and move individually to the previously arranged RV.

(h) Crossing Obstacles

- (1) On encountering an obstacle, the patrol halts and the commander goes forward to reconnaissance it. He then decides to whether to cross or go round the obstacle. If he decides to cross, he selects where the crossing is to be made.
- (2) The basic requirements drill are:
 - (a) Silent movement.
 - (b) Posting a cadet by the obstacle to guide the others over.
 - (c) At all times at least one cadet must be ready to fire his weapon or throw a grenade if surprised by the enemy.

(i) Casualty Evacuation.

- (1) All casualties must be bought back.
- (2) If on the way out the patrol may have to pick up the casualty on its return; alternatively it may be possible to summon another patrol by radio to bring him in.

(j) Prisoners

- (1) If a fighting patrol takes a prisoner he must be bought back alive whether or not this was the task of the patrol – prisoners are a good source of information.
- (2) If the prisoner cannot be taken with the patrol, he may be tied up and gagged, put under guard and collected later either by the same patrol or by another one detailed or summoned by radio for this purpose.

Inspection. Carries out final inspection of dress, weapons, ammunition and equipment. In particular:

- (a) Dress and equipment to be as light as possible but to include emergency rations and water.
- (b) Dress and equipment to be properly fitted and silent. Jumping up and down will show whether it is satisfactory.
- (c) No documents will be taken which can afford useful information to the enemy if captured.

Conduct of patrol.

(a) Navigation

- (1) Previous of air photos and maps etc.
- (2) Make full use of landmarks.
- (3) By compass bearing and counting paces – especially at night. ‘legs’ to be measured to the nearest 50 paces to

the map. If the patrol becomes dispersed, RV at the end of the previous leg.

(4) Avoid prominent cover, e.g., edges of woods, tracks, hedges, defiles – these are likely places for enemy ambushes or standing patrols.

(b) Fire support. Pre-arranged or called for by radio:

(1) To distract enemy whilst obstacle is crossed or objective is approached.

(2) For support on the objective.

(3) To help the patrol extricate itself in case of emergency.

Debrief on the return. Verbal report followed by a written a written report under the following headings where applicable:

Date

Destination of patrol

Maps

Size and composition of patrol

Task

Time of departure

Time of return

Routes out and back

Type of ground-vegetation-surface, bridges- suitably for armoured or wheeled vehicles.

End of lesson

Points to note

FEBA-----FORWARD EDGE OF BATTLE AREA

