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Army Tactics Techniques And Procedures Attp 3 219 Fm 3 219 Sbct Infantry Rifle P

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Introduction: Understanding the Modern Battlefield Through ATTP 3-21.9 (FM 3-21.9)

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern warfare, the ability of infantry units to adapt, communicate, and execute precise maneuvers is paramount. Central to this capability for the United States Army is a doctrinal framework that has shaped how Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) infantry rifle platoons and squads operate. This framework is encapsulated in the document formerly known as **Army Tactics Techniques and Procedures (ATTP) 3-21.9**, now superseded by **Field Manual (FM) 3-21.9**, titled “SBCT Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad.” This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the core principles, tactical missions, and leadership structures detailed within this critical manual. Whether you are a military professional, a student of military science, or a curious reader, understanding these doctrines reveals the meticulous planning and disciplined execution that define the SBCT infantry rifle platoon’s role on the contemporary battlefield.

The transition from ATTP to FM represents more than a simple designation change. It reflects the Army's continuous effort to refine tactics based on real-world experience in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theaters. The manual serves as the authoritative guide for platoon leaders, squad leaders, and team leaders operating within the Stryker Brigade—a formation built around versatile, wheeled armored vehicles. This article will dissect the key components of FM 3-21.9, from the organization of the rifle platoon and squad to the tactical fundamentals that govern offensive and defensive operations. By weaving in semantic keywords naturally, we will ensure that the content is both informative for human readers and optimized for search engines, all while avoiding the pitfalls of keyword stuffing.

The Evolution of SBCT Infantry Doctrine: From ATTP 3-21.9 to FM 3-21.9

The manual **ATTP 3-21.9**was originally published to bridge gaps between earlier field manuals and the unique demands of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The SBCT was designed as a medium-weight force—faster than heavy armored divisions yet more protected than light infantry. This required distinct tactics, techniques, and procedures that could not be simply borrowed from armor or light infantry doctrine.

When the Army updated its doctrinal publications, ATTP 3-21.9 was re-designated as **FM 3-21.9**, aligning with the new numbering system under Field Manual 3-0 (Operations). The core term “Army Tactics Techniques And Procedures” gave way to the more streamlined “Field Manual,” but the substance remained heavily focused on the SBCT infantry rifle platoon. The “P” in the keyword “Sbct Infantry Rifle P” likely stands for “Platoon” or “Platoon/Squad,” emphasizing the small-unit focus. Today, FM 3-21.9 is the essential reference for leaders

training and deploying in Stryker units.

Understanding this evolution helps contextualize why the manual is so comprehensive. It integrates lessons learned from combat, incorporates changes in communication equipment (such as the Joint Battle Command-Platform), and provides detailed appendices on tasks like breaching obstacles or conducting vehicle checkpoints. For any leader aspiring to master SBCT infantry tactics, a thorough study of FM 3-21.9 is non-negotiable.

Organization of the SBCT Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad

The Platoon Headquarters

The rifle platoon is the smallest maneuver unit led by a commissioned officer—the platoon leader (PL), typically a second lieutenant or first lieutenant. Assisted by a platoon sergeant (PSG) (a staff sergeant or sergeant first class), the PL is responsible for all tactical operations, administrative discipline, and training. The headquarters also includes a radiotelephone operator (RTO) and a medic, though these personnel may vary based on mission requirements. The **Army Tactics Techniques And Procedures** outlined in FM 3-21.9 emphasize that the PL must maintain situational awareness across all squads while the PSG focuses on logistics, casualty evacuation, and ammo resupply. This division of labor is crucial for the platoon's sustainment during prolonged engagements.

The Rifle Squad

Each rifle platoon typically contains three rifle squads and a weapons squad. The rifle squad, led by a sergeant (squad leader), is further divided into two fire teams: Alpha and Bravo. Each fire team consists of a team leader (a corporal or specialist), a grenadier (armed with an M320 or M203), a rifleman (often carrying an M4 carbine with an M72 LAW or other anti-armor capability), and an automatic rifleman (using the M249 SAW or M27 IAR). This modular structure allows the squad leader to either fight as a unified element or split into two teams for bounding overwatch, flank security, or clearing rooms.

FM 3-21.9 details these roles in depth, stressing that every Soldier must know not only their primary duty but also the duties of those around them. Cross-training is a key theme. The manual's **tactics techniques and procedures**are designed to create redundancy—if the team leader falls, the grenadier can take over, and so on. This ensures the squad remains effective even under the stress of combat.

The Weapons Squad

Attached to the platoon headquarters is the weapons squad, composed of two medium machine gun teams (M240B) and two close combat missile teams (Javelin). The weapons squad leader, often a staff sergeant, coordinates the employment of these crew-served weapons to provide suppressive fire and anti-armor capability. The manual dedicates significant space to integrating the weapons squad into the platoon's scheme of maneuver, emphasizing that machine guns are the base of fire while Javelin teams protect against enemy armor. Understanding these interdependent relationships is fundamental to mastering **SBCT infantry rifle platoon** operations.

Core Tactical Fundamentals in FM 3-21.9

Offensive Operations

The SBCT rifle platoon conducts a variety of offensive tasks: movement to contact, hasty or deliberate attack, ambush, and raid. FM 3-21.9 provides step-by-step guidance on each. For instance, during a deliberate attack, the platoon leader uses a four-step process seen throughout Army doctrine: Plan, Prepare, Execute, and Assess. Unique to the SBCT is the use of Stryker vehicles to transport infantry close to the objective while

employing the vehicle's remote weapon station (RWS) with an M2 .50 caliber or MK19 grenade launcher for support.

A critical technique described is the **support-by-fire position**. The manual instructs platoon leaders to position one squad (possibly the weapons squad) to suppress the enemy while the other squads maneuver to the breach or flank. The **Army Tactics Techniques And Procedures** emphasize constant 360-degree security, especially when dismounted from vehicles. The manual also covers the transition to consolidation after the assault, including reorganizing, treating casualties, and preparing for counterattack.

Defensive Operations

Defensive operations in FM 3-21.9 include area defense, retrograde operations, and security tasks like screen or guard. The SBCT platoon often operates in a sector within the company zone. The manual details how to establish a perimeter around the Strykers or, when dismounted, dig fighting positions integrated with the vehicles. The concept of "defend" is not passive; leaders must plan for counterattacks and repositioning of machine guns and Javelin teams based on the enemy's most likely avenue of approach.

One key procedure is the **engagement area development**. The platoon leader, in coordination with the squad leaders, identifies trigger lines, sectors of fire, and obstacle plans. The weapons squad's machine guns are oriented to create a crossfire that channels the enemy into kill zones. The rifle squads then engage with organic weapons, forcing the enemy into a dilemma. The manual repeatedly stresses that defensive operations require thorough reconnaissance and rehearsals—a point echoed throughout all **tactics techniques and procedures** for the SBCT infantry rifle platoon.

Leadership and Battle Drills

Troop Leading Procedures (TLP)

No discussion of **ATTP 3-21.9 (FM 3-21.9)**would be complete without addressing the Troop Leading Procedures. The manual outlines an eight-step cycle that begins with receipt of mission and ends with supervision. However, for small units, the process is often condensed into a rapid reverse-planning sequence, especially during time-constrained operations. The platoon leader uses the TLP to generate a course of action, issue a warning order, conduct a reconnaissance, and then issue a fragmentary order (FRAGO). The manual provides formats for operations orders (OPORDs) and examples of how to incorporate the Stryker's specific capabilities.

Battle Drills

FM 3-21.9 includes standardized battle drills that all platoon members must rehearse to instinctive levels. These include "React to Contact," which directs the squad to take cover, return fire, and then either assault or break contact. Another is "Breach an Obstacle," which combines mechanical or explosive breaching with suppression. The weapons squad's machine guns play a starring role in creating the base of fire during breaching operations. The manual's detailed annexes cover marking of lanes, accountability, and casualty evacuation procedures during such drills.

Integration of dismounted and mounted elements is a recurring theme. For example, when the platoon is moving in Strykers and receives an ambush, the drill "React to Ambush (Dismounted)" requires the vehicles to move out of the kill zone while the infantry dismounts under cover. The platoon sergeant often controls the vehicles while the platoon leader directs the dismounts. This split command requires excellent communication—a key **technique** that the manual reinforces through training guidance.

Specialized Tasks and Considerations

Urban Operations

The SBCT infantry rifle platoon frequently operates in built-up areas. FM 3-21.9 devotes a chapter to urban operations, covering techniques for moving along streets, clearing rooms, and using Strykers as cover. The manual advises that due to the vehicle's height, Stryker crews provide overwatch from rooftops or intersection positions. The platoon leader must coordinate with the Stryker commander to ensure tactical techniques and procedures. The here highlight the importance of sector sketches and fire control measures to prevent fratricide.

Army Tactics Techniques And Procedures

Reconnaissance and Security Operations

SBCT platoons are often tasked with reconnaissance missions due to the Stryker's mobility and sensors. The manual describes "zone reconnaissance" and "area reconnaissance" tasks. During these missions, the platoon must use careful movement techniques—alternating bounds, using terrain to mask signature, and reporting via digital systems like Blue Force Tracker. The weapons squad remains prepared to provide immediate suppression if the recon elements are compromised. The doctrine stresses that the platoon leader must avoid decisive engagement while conducting reconnaissance, a delicate balance that requires discipline.

Combined Arms Integration

While the SBCT is a light-medium force, it often integrates with engineers, mortars, and close air support. FM 3-21.9 provides call-for-fire procedures for the platoon's organic 60mm mortars (attached at company level) and for external supporting assets. The manual also covers the use of smoke for screening and obscuration. The term "combined arms" is interwoven throughout the document, reminding leaders that their rifle platoon is just one piece of a larger team. The **tactics techniques and procedures** for integration hinge on clear, concise communication and rehearsed handover of responsibilities.

Training and Readiness

FM 3-21.9 also serves as a training guide. It includes tables for collective task training, from individual Soldier skills through platoon-level live-fire exercises. The manual recommends a crawl-walk-run approach, starting with leader seminars and sand-table exercises before moving to field training. The weapons squad must practice sustained machine-gun firing and Javelin simulation frequently. The platoon sergeant is instrumental in tracking Soldier training records using the Digital Training Management System (DTMS). The ultimate goal is to achieve a state of readiness where the platoon can execute its mission-essential tasks under any conditions.

The manual also addresses the psychological aspects of combat—leadership under stress,

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