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## APPENDIX C

# Breaching Case Studies

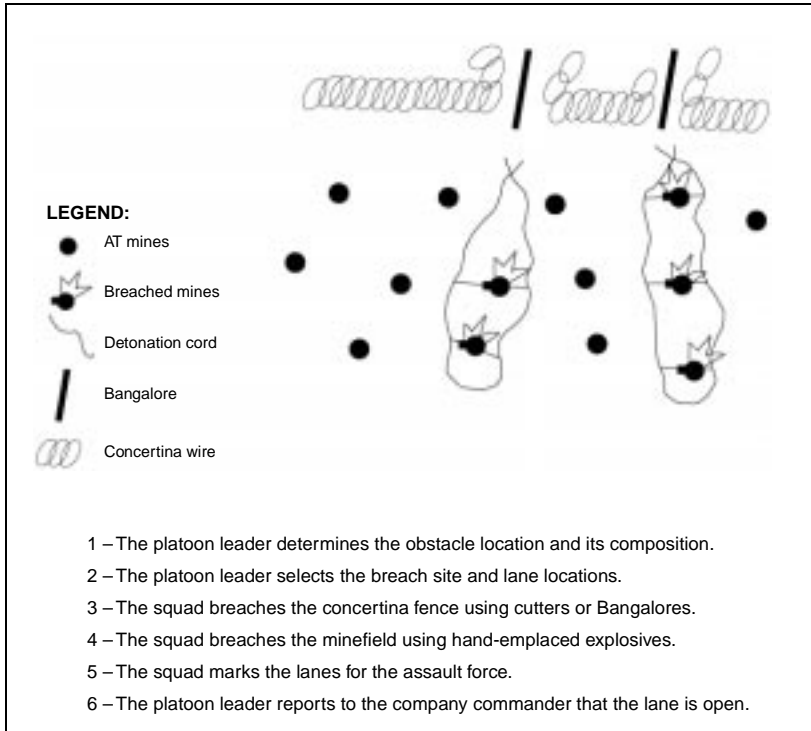
*FM 90-13-1* and *Chapter 3* provide doctrinal overviews for breaching, breaching tenets, and breaching theory. The following case studies are designed to provide the platoon with instructive examples of dismounted and mounted breaching. Either case study could be applied to many different field applications. For example, the dismounted case study could be used to examine covert breaching, assault breaching, or deliberate breaching by light engineers. Likewise, the mounted case study could apply to both deliberate and in-stride breaching. These case studies are not designed to be prescriptive. They are designed to illustrate the thought process that the platoon leader must go through to successfully breach.

All breaching operations follow a similar pattern. They differ in technique. During breaching, the—

- Platoon leader determines the obstacle location and its composition.
- Platoon leader selects the breach site and lane locations.
- Platoon leader orders the breach to start, if the platoon is the primary reduction force.
- Squad prepares to breach, if the platoon is the backup reduction force.
- Squad breaches the obstacle.
- Squad marks the lane.
- Platoon leader reports the lane location to the company commander.

### DISMOUNTED CASE STUDY

The company commander orders the dismounted platoon leader that is attached to him to breach an obstacle. The company is assaulting an enemy objective. The platoon leader moves to a location where he can see the obstacle and determines that it is a concertina fence and antitank minefield. He orders a squad forward to conduct reconnaissance and ascertain the best lane locations. The squad leader reports the locations and marks them with orange tape. The squad has determined that there are no antipersonnel mines in the minefield. The squad leader reports this to the platoon leader (see *Figure C-1, page C-2*).

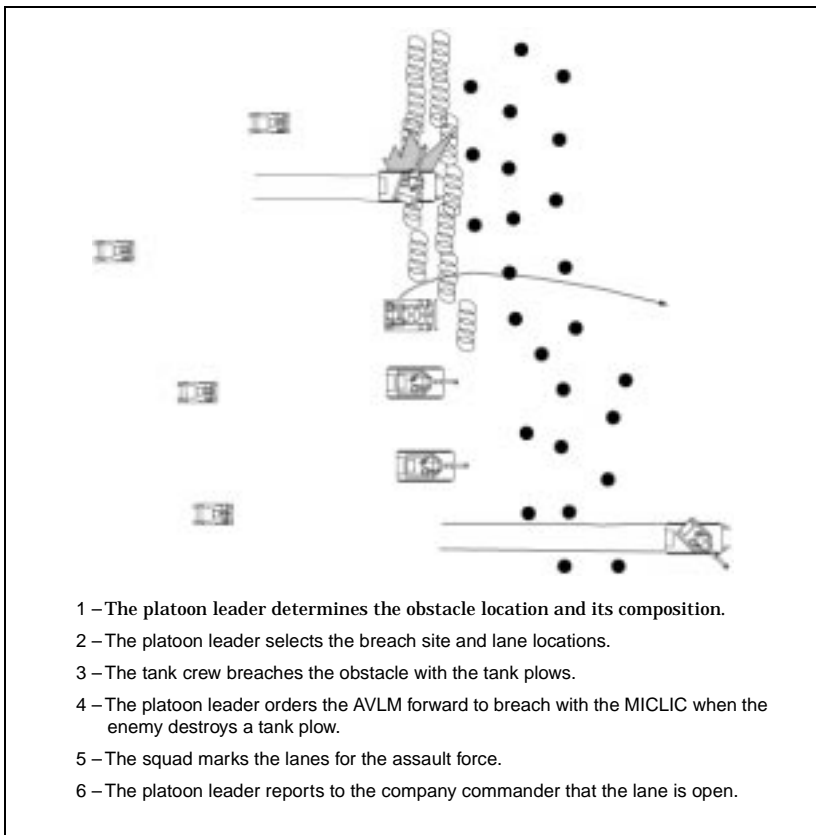


**Figure C-1. Dismounted case study**

The platoon leader then orders the forward squad to remain at the obstacle as guides. He orders his second squad to come forward with two Bangalore sets. The first squad guides the second squad to the lane locations. Both squads breach the lanes in the concertina using the Bangalores and then move through the minefield placing charges to destroy antitank mines in the proposed lanes. The squads move to safety and initiate the explosives destroying the mines. Both squads provide security while the third squad comes forward to mark the lanes and guide the infantry company through the breach. The platoon leader keeps the third squad in reserve in case one of the squads fail or require additional help. However, in this scenario that was not necessary. The platoon leader observes the lanes and reports their completion to the infantry company commander who then starts his assault. The platoon leader then switches to the engineer company frequency and gives his company commander a situation report in reference to the lanes.

## MOUNTED CASE STUDY

The engineer platoon is fighting as part of an engineer company/team. The company/team, which includes the engineer line platoon, the A&O platoon, and a tank platoon equipped with track-width mine plows, is the TF breach force. The company commander decides to use the tank plows, initially for speed and security, to create the breach site and secure the far side of the obstacle. Then the engineer platoon widens and marks the lanes. The A&O platoon leader places the far-lane recognition signals and initially orients the TF on the breached lanes (see *Figure C-2*).



**Figure C-2. Mounted case study**

In this scenario, the engineer company commander orders the engineer platoon forward to identify the obstacle location and its composition and potential lane locations. The platoon leader orders a dismounted element forward to conduct his reconnaissance. He reports his reconnaissance to the company commander. He states that the obstacle is a mixed minefield with antitank and antipersonnel mines, and a partial, multiple row of concertina fence is forward of the minefield. The platoon leader also reports two potential breach sites with an alternate site between them.

The engineer company commander orders the tank platoon to breach two lanes, based on the engineer platoon leaders' reconnaissance. He orders the engineer platoon to be prepared to back up the tank platoon. The northern tank equipped with a mine plow is destroyed by direct fire as it starts to breach. The engineer platoon leader observes this and orders his AVLM forward to breach with the MICLIC. The AVLM and the other tank plow successfully breach the obstacle.

The platoon leader orders two squads forward to mark each lane. These squads widen the lanes, per the initial plan, with hand-emplaced explosives after the assault force passes through. The platoon leader keeps one squad in reserve, with the AVLM, to counter any enemy attempts to close the lanes with artillery-delivered mines. He reports to the engineer company commander that the lanes are marked.