

Appendix G

Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position

Introduction

The artillery commander positions his unit to render effective support to maneuver units and enhance survivability. Artillery units conduct movement and positioning by a procedure called reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of position (RSOP). The purpose of RSOP is to assist the rapid and orderly movement of the artillery from a position area, assembly area, or a march column into a position from which it can deliver the fire support required to accomplish its mission. Additional information may be referenced in MCWP 3-16.3, *Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Artillery Cannon Battery*.

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance is the continuous examination of terrain to determine its suitability for use in accomplishing the mission. Routes and positions for cannons, support installations, and OPs are reconnoitered. There are three methods of reconnaissance -- map, air, and ground. The best reconnaissance is one which uses a combination of all three methods. Normally, the commander is able to conduct only a map and ground reconnaissance.

a. Map Reconnaissance. Map reconnaissance involves studying and analyzing a map to become familiar with the terrain and to determine the location of potential position areas and routes. This method is fast and should be the first step in any reconnaissance. Unsuitable position areas and routes can be eliminated immediately. However, map reconnaissance will not reveal terrain or other features that may have changed (e.g., the existence or utility of a bridge, surface conditions, or the presence of friendly or enemy forces in positions or along routes). When available, aerial photographs can provide a current, detailed picture of the terrain.

b. Air Reconnaissance. Air reconnaissance is a quick way to reconnoiter large areas. It is especially useful for checking routes and for getting a general indication of the terrain and position area availability. However, detail of the area may be difficult to determine. From the air, true surface conditions may not be distinguishable or may be distorted. Also the ground appears to be flatter than in reality. The preferable aircraft for air reconnaissance is the helicopter. Space aboard the aircraft may not allow key staff members to accompany the commander. When planning air reconnaissance, exercise caution to preclude the flight plan from compromising the route or positions.

c. Ground Reconnaissance. This is the best method of reconnaissance and is ideally suited for defensive operations. However, it takes time and there is risk involved. It takes time to physically

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1 examine the terrain for suitability. Because caution must be exercised to avoid the risk of revealing
2 the position to the enemy, ground reconnaissance is best performed during daylight.
3
4

5 Reconnaissance for Movement of the Regiment

6
7 Reconnaissance is conducted to prepare for the movement and positioning of the regiment. The
8 regiment is moved and positioned to ensure coverage to the supported force, to weight the main effort,
9 to facilitate future operations, and to enhance artillery operations; e.g., mass fires, counterfire,
10 survivability, communications, and CSS. The regimental commander may conduct reconnaissance,
11 but this is limited due to his role as division artillery officer and FSC. The regimental commander
12 and/or his S-3 direct the movement and positioning of artillery battalions and other units with GS and
13 GS-R missions, and, when required, battalions with DS and reinforcing missions. To facilitate
14 planning and execution of the movement plan, artillery execution/position matrix may be prepared.
15 Appendix G provides an example of such a matrix.
16

17 **a. Battalion Position Areas.** Positioning of the regiment is accomplished by the assignment of
18 battalion position areas. Position areas do not constitute a rigid restrictive area for the battalion or its
19 batteries. They should be considered only as guides to be followed as closely as the mission, terrain,
20 and tactical situation permit. Battalion commanders conduct reconnaissance to find position areas to
21 meet their assigned mission requirements and to meet the guidance of the regimental commander.
22

23 **b. Regimental Headquarters Echelons.** The commander positions his headquarters echelons
24 to enhance control and support of his battalions and coordination with the division. The commander
25 locates himself where he can best obtain the information critical to his situational awareness and
26 command the regiment. The COC of the echelon where the commander is located is designated the
27 regimental CP.
28

29 **(1) Main Echelon.** The regimental commander selects the general position area for the
30 main echelon, with the S-3's recommendation. The selection is made by map reconnaissance or, when
31 possible, by ground and/or air reconnaissance. In consultation with the S-6, the regimental
32 headquarters battery commander conducts a reconnaissance to determine the specific positions of the
33 main echelon and the location for the COC within that position. During displacement, the main
34 echelon personnel, vehicles, and equipment moving to and occupying the new position are temporarily
35 designated the forward echelon until control of operations has been assumed from the main echelon.
36

37 **(2) Rear Echelon.** The S-3 selects the general position for the rear echelon, with the S-
38 4's recommendation. The S-4 or his representative conducts a reconnaissance to determine the
39 specific location of the rear echelon.
40

41 **c. Counterbattery Radar Platoon.** The CBR platoon commander moves and positions radars
42 operating under the regimental control for coverage of the areas designated by the S-3. The CBR

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1 platoon commander conducts reconnaissance for position areas, and the radar chief selects the actual
2 site for the radar.

3
4 **d. Meteorology Station.** The regimental meteorological officer normally conducts
5 reconnaissance and selects the position area for the met station. The meteorological chief selects the
6 actual site. The S-3 makes recommendations for the positioning and movement of the station.

7
8 **e. Reconnaissance.** Route reconnaissance is conducted continuously by all units. Route
9 reconnaissance facilitates the movement and CSS of artillery units. This is essential in certain types of
10 environments; e.g., mountains, jungles, and arctic areas. Routes are selected to maximize
11 trafficability and to minimize detection and attack by the enemy. The strength and condition of
12 bridges and the location of obstacles must be determined and routes/lanes marked. Roads may require
13 improvement by engineers. Information about routes is disseminated to all units.

14 15 16 Reconnaissance for Movement of the Battalion

17
18 The artillery commander initiates reconnaissance based on his knowledge of the tactical situation or as
19 a result of a change in mission. Movement and positioning are driven by fire support requirements,
20 the tactical situation, communications, and survivability. The artillery battalion commander selects
21 positions that allow the battalion to accomplish its mission.

22
23 **a. Planning the Reconnaissance.** To be effective, reconnaissance must be planned. The
24 planning will vary with the mission, time available, and method of reconnaissance.

25
26 **(1) Artillery Commander.** The commander plans and coordinates the reconnaissance.
27 He analyzes the tactical situation to identify positioning requirements. By map reconnaissance, he
28 identifies a potential position area(s). He coordinates the potential areas with the supported/reinforced
29 unit and higher artillery headquarters, as appropriate. The commander determines the presence of
30 other units or their planned occupation of positions in the vicinity of the area and routes to be
31 reconnoitered. Provisions may be required to bypass friendly units along the route. The commander
32 considers the distance and route to the new area, and personnel and equipment availability. He then
33 determines how the reconnaissance will be conducted, the composition of the reconnaissance party,
34 the route(s) of the reconnaissance, and the time available. He develops his plan, plans fires, and
35 issues orders for its execution.

36
37 **(2) S-2.** The S-2 provides information to help the commander plan and execute his
38 reconnaissance. This information includes the enemy threat, camouflage, visibility and trafficability,
39 weather, and obstacles. Sources of this information are reports from other units, from air observers,
40 FOs, and LNOs, and other sources.

41
42 **(3) S-3.** The S-3 recommends to the commander the movement and positioning of the
43 unit. He considers the coverage to the supported/reinforced unit, the ability to mass fires, terrain and

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1 weather, the enemy situation and, if necessary, the nuclear/chemical dosage rates and levels of
2 contamination. He ensures that the positions can be supported by communications and CSS, and that
3 the new position areas meet survivability requirements. Based on the commander's decision and
4 guidance, the S-3 makes position area assignments, designates azimuths of fire or aimpoints (e.g., grid
5 intersection), arranges for route precedence, and issues warning and/or movement orders. The S-3
6 directs survey operations to support the positioning plan. Close coordination is required between the
7 S-3, the survey officer, and battery commanders. The survey party may precede the battery
8 commander to a firing position designated by the S-3; link up with the battery commander during
9 RSOP; or extend survey to the position after the selection by the battery but before occupation.

10
11 **(4) S-4.** The S-4 plans CSS to support the movement and positioning of the unit. He
12 coordinates engineer support and arranges for CSS to displacing units; i.e., repair and replenishment
13 point (RRP). See MCRP 3-16.1B, *Logistics for Artillery*.

14
15 **b. Movement Briefing.** The artillery commander assembles key personnel and briefs them on
16 the details of his reconnaissance plan. The format for this brief may be referenced in ST 6-50-20,
17 *Battery Executive Officer's/Platoon Leader's Handbook*, Appendix D and is generally as follows:

18 **(1) Situation**

- 19
20
21 • **Enemy situation.** Include known or likely ground or air activity, obstacles, etc.
22 • **Friendly situation.** Include the locations of friendly units along the route(s) and in
23 the position areas, obstacles, etc.

24
25 **(2) Mission.** The mission to be accomplished from the new position.

26 **(3) Execution**

- 27
28
29 • **Destination.** The commander points out, on the ground or on a map, the position(s)
30 and locations (or tentative locations) of installations within the position. For the
31 battery, the commander also identifies the azimuth of fire.
32 • **Route(s).** The commander traces the route(s) to be used during the movement. He
33 identifies potential trouble points along the route; e.g., likely ambush points,
34 obstacles, etc.
35 ▪ Order of March.
36 ▪ Potential emergency firing positions (during displacement).
37 ▪ Convoy control measures. See paragraph 9209.
38 ▪ Time of movement.
39 ▪ Security measures, to include immediate actions and planned fires.
40 ▪ Mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) status and areas of known chemical
41 or nuclear contamination.
42 ▪ Any special instructions.
43

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1 **(4) Administration and Logistics.** Administrative logistical information; e.g., vehicle
2 recovery, rations, water, fuel, etc.

3
4 **(5) Command and Signal**

- 5
6 •Prearranged codes and signals for the movement.
7 •Convoy communications; e.g., frequencies, net control restrictions, etc.
8 •Location of key personnel in the convoy; e.g., commander, corpsman.
9

10 **c. Battalion Reconnaissance Party.** The battalion commander (or his designated
11 representative) assembles personnel and equipment for the reconnaissance. The composition of the
12 reconnaissance party will vary with the mission and any restrictions that may apply. Normally, the
13 commander will include in his party the S-3, S-6, and survey officer. The S-2 may accompany the
14 commander to analyze security requirements and/or to identify position areas for radars, OPs, etc. In
15 some situations, battery commanders, survey personnel, wiremen, the ammunition NCO, and a
16 medical representative may accompany the battalion commander.

17
18 **(1) Actions Prior to Departure.** Before leaving on the reconnaissance, the commander
19 gives his XO as much information as he can to allow the battalion to continue operations and to
20 prepare for movement during his absence. He may provide instructions for the issuance of the
21 battalion order following the reconnaissance.

22
23 **(2) Reconnaissance Party in March Column.** During a march with the supported unit,
24 artillery reconnaissance parties usually precede the artillery units and march with the advanced
25 elements of the supported unit in column. The artillery commander can reconnoiter positions along
26 the route, as necessary. If time is limited, the commander may have to proceed to the position area,
27 conduct reconnaissance and select the position, and coordinate survey while the unit is on the march.
28

29 **(3) Conduct of the Reconnaissance.** The battalion commander seldom performs all the
30 operations of the reconnaissance personally. He normally assigns reconnaissance tasks to members of
31 this party. On arrival at the potential position area, the members accomplish their assigned tasks and
32 reassemble at a specified time and place. The tasks performed include the selection of positions for
33 the battalion headquarters echelons, routes, and communications sites. The battalion commander may
34 identify battery position areas and (battalion) position areas for any reinforcing artillery. Alternately,
35 he may give guidance and authorize the commanders to select their own position areas. He orients the
36 units by assigning azimuths of fire or aimpoints. The battalion commander may also identify position
37 areas for other artillery units under battalion control; e.g., CBR detachment. Following the selection
38 of position areas, the battalion commander determines the method and order of movement.
39

40 **d. Battalion Positioning Techniques.** Based on the tactical situation and the position selection
41 factors, the commander/S-3 may use the following positioning techniques.

42
43 **(1) Battalion Perimeter.** Firing batteries are positioned near each other with the
44 headquarters battery main echelon positioned central to firing batteries to form a battalion perimeter.

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1 This technique favors command, control, coordination, survey, CSS, communications, and local
2 security. This technique is desirable when the enemy has minimum detection and counterfire
3 capability, in close terrain, and on a relatively static battlefield. The battalion is vulnerable to
4 counterfire, radio and radar direction finding, artillery barrages, air strikes, and nuclear/chemical
5 attack. Displacement of the entire battalion may be necessary if the position is discovered.

6
7 **(2) Battery Perimeters.** Firing batteries are positioned in separate perimeters with the
8 headquarters battery main echelon positioned where it can best control the battalion. Command,
9 control, coordination, communication, survey, CSS, and local security become proportionally more
10 difficult with dispersion. Increasing dispersion is desirable when the enemy has acquisition and
11 counterfire capability, in open terrain, and on a relatively dynamic battlefield. The battalion as a
12 whole is less susceptible to enemy detection and less vulnerable to enemy attack. For short periods, a
13 control cell (e.g., S-3, S-2, and essential equipment) may be required to extend the battalion's
14 capability to maintain control.

15
16 **(3) Firing Positions Outside the Perimeter.** Firing batteries establish positions within a
17 battalion perimeter or in battery perimeters. Additionally, a battery(s) may prepare a firing position
18 outside the perimeter. The battery occupies the supplementary firing position with only the necessary
19 personnel, equipment, and supplies for a specific mission. Following the mission, the battery returns
20 to its primary position. The battery fires from within its perimeter only when it is infeasible to fire
21 from the outside position. This technique extends the range of the battery and reduces the enemy's
22 counterfire effectiveness. Command, control, CSS, and security are simplified, since the elements of
23 the battalion are together most of the time. However, the battalion's ability to deliver massed or
24 sustained fire is degraded. Additional positions and routes, time, survey, and communications are
25 required. Consider the vulnerability of the battery while displacing.

26
27 **e. Battery Position Areas.** Like battalion position areas, battery position areas are general in
28 nature. Battery commanders reconnoiter their assigned position areas as part of the battalion
29 commander's party, or they may plan and execute their own reconnaissance. When required, the
30 battalion may assign a battery a *position* to occupy. In contrast to the battery position area, the
31 position is the specific location occupied or to be occupied by the battery; i.e., grid coordinates. This
32 may occur when the battalion desires to positively control the positioning of artillery. Several factors
33 affect the selection of battery position areas. An important factor is control and coordination of the
34 battalion. The disposition of the battalion on the ground will affect its overall capability to meet its
35 fire support requirements and its survivability. Other considerations for the selection of position areas
36 include:

37
38 **(1) Supported Unit's Mission and Plans.** For example, in a movement to contact position
39 areas near roads allow artillery to keep up with the fluidity and speed of the battle. Position areas
40 should not interfere with other troops or installations.

41
42 **(2) Firing Capability.** Battery positions should be mutually supporting with at least 3,000
43 meters overlap in their firing capability fans. Other considerations include gun-target line, firing

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1 range, and capability to mass. Avoid positioning which requires a battery to fire directly overhead
2 another battery.

3
4 **(3) Enemy's Capability.** Positioning will be influenced by the enemy's capability and
5 means to detect and attack artillery.

- 6
- 7 • For a radio direction-finding threat, position batteries laterally to degrade this
- 8 capability.
- 9 • For counterfire threat, position batteries at least 1,000 meters apart.
- 10 • For an NBC threat, position batteries to minimize the effects and exposure to these
- 11 weapons.
- 12 • For an air threat, position batteries randomly and dispersed.
- 13 • For a ground threat, position batteries to take advantage of existing security of other
- 14 units. When possible, position batteries for mutual support and outside the range of
- 15 the enemy's long-range direct fire weapons.
- 16

17 **(4) Terrain.** Terrain can dictate the selection of position areas.

- 18
- 19 • Terrain can minimize detection and vulnerability to enemy attack. A position can be
- 20 selected against an embankment to afford protection from air attack; a battery can be
- 21 placed in a position area which has restricted armored vehicle access.
- 22 • Terrain can limit availability of suitable firing positions.
- 23

24 **(5) CSS.** Consider CSS during positioning. Generally, artillery position areas should be
25 road-accessible.

26
27 **(6) Communications.** Consider communications within the battalion, as well as with the
28 supported unit when selecting battery position areas. When possible, the capability for wire
29 communications should be sought.

30
31 **f. CBR Platoon Detachment.** When possible, a radar is positioned near one of the firing
32 batteries to ease security and support. Generally, radars are positioned at least 1,000 meters from
33 another unit to avoid increasing the vulnerability of the unit by the radar signal and vice versa.

34
35 **g. Battalion Headquarters Echelons.** The battalion headquarters echelons are located to allow
36 effective command and control of the firing batteries and, at the same time, communications with the
37 supported/reinforced unit. The battalion commander locates himself where he can best command the
38 battalion. The COC of the echelon where the commander is located is designated the battalion CP.

39
40 **(1) Main Echelon.** The battalion commander selects the general position area for the
41 battalion's main echelon, with the S-3's recommendation. The selection is made by map
42 reconnaissance or, when possible, by ground and/or air reconnaissance. This positioning is influenced
43 by the positions of the firing batteries and the supported unit headquarters. The headquarters battery
44 commander conducts a reconnaissance to determine the specific position of the main echelon and the

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1 location of the COC within that position. During displacement, the main echelon personnel, vehicles,
2 and equipment moving to and occupying the new position are temporarily designated the forward
3 echelon until control of operations has been assumed from the main echelon.
4

5 **(2) Rear Echelon.** The S-3 selects the general position area for the rear echelon, RRP's,
6 etc., based on the S-4's recommendation. The S-4, or his designated representative, conducts a
7 reconnaissance to determine the specific position for the rear echelon.
8
9

10 Reconnaissance by the Firing Battery

11
12 After receiving a warning order or movement order by the battalion, or on his own initiative, the
13 battery commander reconnoiters new firing positions. He plans the reconnaissance. He conducts a
14 preliminary map, ground, or air reconnaissance of the position area, whenever possible. He returns to
15 the battery, preferably on an alternate route, and briefs key battery personnel; e.g., the battery XO,
16 first sergeant, battery gunnery sergeant, local security chief, etc. The first sergeant assembles the
17 advance party. In some situations, the battery commander may decide to bring an advanced party on
18 his reconnaissance. If the battery commander is conducting the reconnaissance as part of the battalion
19 commander's reconnaissance party, the battery commander (and his reconnaissance party) meet the
20 battalion commander at the appointed place and time.
21

22 **a. Reconnaissance Tasks.** The battery commander leads the reconnaissance party (and
23 advanced party) to the new position. He selects locations for battery installations, formulates the
24 occupation plan, issues orders, and supervises the execution of the plan. During the reconnaissance,
25 the commander may sketch the route and general layout of the position. The sketch is useful for
26 briefing key personnel on the movement and to help orient personnel on arrival at the position,
27 especially at night. Navigation can be aided by annotating the route with mileage and times marks.
28 Tasks performed during the reconnaissance include --
29

- 30 • Route suitability, primary and alternate.
- 31 • Trafficability of the route and position, bridge classifications.
- 32 • Obstacles and possible ambush sites.
- 33 • Position(s) for emergency occupation (hip shoot).
- 34 • Security along route and defensibility of position.
- 35 • Control measures to facilitate movement.
- 36 • Battery positions and azimuth(s) of fire.
- 37 • NBC contamination.
- 38 • Availability/accuracy of survey. Use an aiming circle or compass to check the grid
39 azimuth to the EOL.
- 40 • Time and distance requirements.
- 41 • Order of march.
- 42 • Battery CSS area for ammunition and maintenance, if necessary.

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- Cover and concealment.

b. Advance Party. An advance party is a group of unit representatives dispatched to a planned new position in advance of the main body to prepare the position for the arrival of the unit and its equipment. A good advance party is critical to timely and orderly occupation of positions. The personnel in the advanced party should be trained and competent. These personnel must be capable of accomplishing assigned tasks with little or no supervision. When possible, the advance party should have regularly assigned personnel for continuity and consistency in advance party operations.

(1) Composition. The composition of the advance party is usually stated in the unit SOP and is changed based on the tactical situation and assets available. Figure 9-2 lists minimal assets for an advance party.

PERSONNEL	EQUIPMENT
Battery Commander, First Sergeant, and driver	Vehicle with radio, map, compass, chemical and nuclear detection equipment.
Local Security Chief	Map and materials for preparing defensive diagram, aiming circle, and necessary wire communications equipment
Battery Operations Center	Fire direction and communications equipment as necessary
Gun Guides	Compass, wire-communications equipment, and section gear necessary to prepare howitzer position
Communications Personnel	Necessary equipment to establish initial communications

Figure 9-2. Advance Party.

(2) Assembly of the Advance Party. The battery gunnery sergeant or local security chief assembles the required personnel and equipment for the advance party and ensures that equipment is operational. He coordinates security for the movement and for occupation of the new position. The commander briefs key personnel of the advance party. The unit SOP should have a prearranged signal or procedure that will specify the personnel, equipment, vehicles and their sequence in the march column, and the place of assembly.

(3) Firing Capability. Depending on the mission and tactical situation, the commander may take a howitzer section with the advance party. Taking a firing capability forward --

- Confuses enemy moving-target-locating radars, as part of the infiltration plan.
- Confirms suitability of the route and firing position when conditions are doubtful.
- Allows for conduct of a registration or an offset registration if use of BCS or BUCS is lost.

Selecting the New Position

The battery commander selects the firing position and (if needed) a separate battery CSS area. If assigned a battery position area by the battalion, the battery commander reconnoiters the area to locate suitable positions for his battery. If a battery position area is not assigned, the battery commander positions the battery to meet the considerations discussed above.

a. Firing Position Characteristics. The essential characteristic of a firing position is that it permits the unit to accomplish its mission. Operations should not be delayed by seeking a perfect position. A desirable firing position should --

- Allow all weapons to deliver fire for maximum coverage of the supported unit.
- Afford defilade and concealment from ground observation. Minimize observation of muzzle flash by defilade. Too much defilade may limit the field of fire of the weapons in close defense of the position against ground attack or may restrict low angle fires.
- Be free of obstructions which affect the firing capability of a howitzer(s); e.g., a cliff, building, or high tree to the flank.
- Allow for 6400-mil firing capability.
- Be accessible and have separate routes for entrance and exit, preferably in the rear. The position should not be on an enemy high speed avenue of approach. Concealed routes to and from the battery are desirable, particularly if the position will be occupied and resupplied during daylight. The close proximity of a helicopter landing zone is also desirable.
- Be on relatively level, firm ground. Very rocky, swampy, sandy, or uneven ground will slow the occupation of the position or prevent the effective operation of the piece. The position should be trafficable by all vehicles in the battery. Consider the weather and anticipated weather; e.g., rain, flash floods, snow.
- Be in small trees, in brush, or in isolated open spaces or irregular clearings in vegetated terrain. Good positions can often be found along the edge of a road or trail, but away from crossroads or junctions which may attract hostile artillery fire. Also, the battery should not be along the edge of a primary route for supply. Positions at the forward edge of a treeline, or in small clumps of woods, or under a solitary line of trees are easily spotted by the enemy.
- Be away from prominent landmarks when positioned in open terrain. The unit should be randomly dispersed over the ground, making good use of contours.
- Be in quarries, in ruins, or under the roofs of buildings in a town.
- Allow for good communications, preferably by wire, with the supported unit and higher headquarters.
- Be large enough for dispersal of weapons and other installations if there is an air or counterbattery threat or in barren terrain.
- Be in a compact, easily defended position in mountains or heavily wooded areas, when friendly forces have air superiority, or when the battery is threatened by guerrilla or

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1 infiltration tactics. The battery position should be away from enemy concealed routes of
2 approach.

- 3 • Allow for shelter and comfort of the battery personnel.
- 4 • Have survey control established or survey must be available in a short time. Hasty survey
5 may be required.
- 6 • Be selected in consideration of the battery's future mission or displacement.

7
8 **b. Types of Positions.** The battery commander selects primary, alternate, and supplementary
9 positions. These positions are selected to support the planned operation of the supported unit.
10 However, the battery must remain flexible and ready to displace in any direction in case the operation,
11 mission, or tactical situation changes.

12
13 **(1) A primary position** is the position from which the unit will accomplish its assigned
14 tactical mission.

15
16 **(2) An alternate position** is the position to which the unit will move and accomplish its
17 assigned mission should the primary position become untenable. The alternate position should be
18 generally 800 to 1300 meters away from the primary position. This separation allows the unit to
19 escape the effects of enemy indirect fire on the primary position, but close enough for rapid
20 displacement. An alternate position should be selected for each primary position. The alternate
21 position must have the same characteristics as the primary position. It should be reconnoitered and
22 prepared for occupation as time permits. Each section chief must know the route to the alternate
23 position, because movement to that position may be by section.

24
25 **(3) A supplementary position** is a position selected for the conduct of a specific mission,
26 such as an offset registration, a special fire mission, adjustment with a roving gun, or defense of the
27 primary position. Supplementary position(s) for howitzers should be selected to cover likely enemy
28 avenues of approach in the battery defense. Positions for offset registrations and roving guns should
29 be far enough away that counterfire will not affect the primary positions.

32 Organizing the New Position

33
34 The organization of the new position consists of those actions necessary to allow the battery to deliver
35 fire. The organization is a continuous process that begins during RSOP and ends when the position is
36 vacated. During RSOP, the advance party conducts those actions necessary for the immediate
37 delivery of fire. When the battery's main body arrives, actions are taken for the delivery of
38 continuous fire and the position improved. The longer a unit remains in a position, the more the
39 position is improved.

40
41 **a. Advance Party Operations.** On arrival at the new position, the advance party halts and
42 security personnel sweep and secure the battery position under the supervision of the local security
43 chief. Security personnel move through the position and the surrounding terrain to ensure the area is

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1 clear of enemy personnel, boobytraps, mines, and NBC hazards. As the sweep is completed,
2 personnel begin preparing the position for occupation. The extent of the preparation is time dependent
3 -- as much work as possible is done before the arrival of the main body. As the tasks are completed, a
4 hasty local security is established and vehicle ground guides await the arrival of the battery at the
5 pickup point. Advance party operations include the following tasks:

6
7 **(1) The commander:**

- 8
9
- Designates the azimuth of fire (if necessary).
 - Selects positions for howitzers, aiming circles, FDC, BOC, and other installations.
 - Provides guidance to the local security chief on the plan of defense.
 - Provides instructions concerning the preparation of the position to the battery gunnery sergeant.
 - As time permits, reconnoiters alternate and supplementary positions.
 - Supervises the preparation and occupation of the position.
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17 **(2) The Assistant Executive Officer** assists the battery commander in organizing the battery
18 position and establishes the BOC. He --

- 19
- Sets up and orients the aiming circle.
 - Determines initial deflections, subtense, and vertical angles from the aiming circle to the guns.
 - Supervises the establishment of wire communications with each howitzer position, FDC, and BOC.
 - Lays howitzers (if applicable) and prepares the XO's report.
 - Provides a vehicle guide to guide the FDC vehicle(s) of the main body into position.
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28 **(3) The battery local security chief** plans the battery defense.

- 29
- Establishes the track plan and vehicle dispersal area.
 - Plans and rehearses the occupation with vehicle ground guides.
 - Begins constructing a defensive diagram.
- 30
31
32
33

34 **(4) The gun guides** prepare howitzer positions for occupation. Each gun guide --

- 35
- Emplaces a aiming post (to indicate the exact position of the panoramic telescope of the weapon on emplacement) and a tape and stakes (to orient the weapon on the azimuth of fire).
 - Helps the AXO determine subtense from the aiming circle to their gun positions.
 - Records the initial deflection announced from the aiming circle.
 - Lays wire from the wire terminal to the howitzer position and from the gun display unit to the BOC/FDC terminal, and checks wire communications with the BOC/FDC terminal and aiming circle.
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- Each gun guide leads his section vehicle into position during occupation.

(7) The **communications personnel** establish battery communications.

b. Formations and Positions of Installations

(1) **Howitzers.** Howitzers are emplaced for mission accomplishment and survivability. The site should have maximum cover and concealment. The howitzers are dispersed consistent with control and the ability to deliver 6400-mil fire. The gun-line frontage varies with the threat and the terrain.

(a) **Terrain gun positioning.** Used in situations requiring howitzers to be dispersed over a large area with maximum use of natural cover and concealment offered by the local terrain. The BCS and BUCS can compute individual piece locations to enable the delivery of effective fire with terrain gun positioning.

(b) **The star formation.** Used when the threat or terrain requires howitzers to be positioned in a tight and defensible position. This formation also provides excellent 6400-mil firing capability.

(c) **The line or lazy W formations.** Used when a linear formation is acceptable. These formations are most often used for hasty occupations. These formations offer excellent command and control; however, they are vulnerable to air attack. This can be offset by dispersion and concealment.

(d) **Howitzer position numbering** is from right to left and front to rear as they face the azimuth of fire. An artillery section is associated with each gun position. This association remains unchanged from position to position. If a howitzer becomes disabled en route to a new position, its position and associated number are left reserved for that howitzer. The BCS and BUCS are initialized with individual howitzer MV data correlated with a specific howitzer. The numbering procedure allows howitzers to be referred to based on location and eliminates the requirement to vary the data base in each position.

(2) **Aiming Circle.** The aiming circle should be placed at a point from which all howitzers may be seen and easily laid. The location may be in front of or to the rear of the gun line and should be free of magnetic attractions. When survey control is established, the aiming circle will be directly over the OS. Another aiming circle(s) may be required for line of sight to all howitzers.

(3) **FDC.** The physical location of the FDC can, and should be, varied to meet changing conditions. The location should provide defense against attack, particularly in static operations. It should also be on the flank of the gun line.

(4) **BOC.** Similar to the FDC, the BOC location depends on the tactical situation. The BOC should be positioned away from the FDC to facilitate continuous fire support in case the FDC is

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1 hit by enemy fire. Since the BOC may also serve as the battery CP, it must be positioned to facilitate
2 the battery commander in the control and coordination of the battery. The local security chief may
3 control the local security from this location. The BOC should have a terminal connected with the
4 battery wire system. The site should be easily accessible without interfering with firing and should be
5 in a concealed position and in defilade.

6
7 **(5) Other Position Considerations.** Other positions are established, as required.
8

9 **(a) The ammunition section** should be located to the flank of the firing position and
10 be at least 100 meters from other installations. Dispersion, concealment, cover, and good drainage
11 are desirable.

12
13 **(b) The mess area** should be in a concealed, well drained site, and in defilade. The
14 site should be accessible without interfering with firing.

15
16 **(c) Sleeping areas** should be established by section to facilitate locating personnel
17 during darkness, to alert personnel for security or operational requirements, and to provide a measure
18 of safety to personnel. The areas should have cover and concealment, be well drained, be away from
19 the track plan, and, if possible, provide for shelter and comfort for personnel; e.g., wind break.

20
21 **(6) Track Plan.** The track plan should make use of existing roads. Routes should follow
22 natural terrain features, such as gullies and tree lines, and take advantage of natural overhead cover
23 and concealment. Vehicle ground guides must know the track plan. An exact route for each vehicle
24 may be dictated, when required. Provisions should be made to camouflage exits and entrance points,
25 as tracks of vehicles exiting/entering a position may reveal an otherwise carefully camouflaged site.

26
27 **c. A 6400-mil Sector of Fire.** Actions to secure a 6400-mil firing capability should not reduce
28 the unit's ability to deliver fire in the primary direction of fire. These actions include:

- 29
- 30 • Emplacing an additional pair of aiming posts and/or collimator for each howitzer, if
31 required.
 - 32 • Emplacing azimuth stakes for rapid re-orientation of howitzers when making large shifts in
33 direction.
 - 34 • Constructing gun emplacements for all-around firing capability.
- 35
36

37 Occupying the Position

38
39 The objective of the occupation phase of RSOP is to prepare to deliver fire. The battery is extremely
40 vulnerable during this phase. Thus, the occupation must be rapid, orderly, and quiet. Occupations
41 are enhanced by a well-established SOP, training, and a well-prepared position.
42

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1 **a. Deliberate Occupation.** On arrival at the position, vehicles move into the position without
2 halting or closing the interval between vehicles. Vehicle ground guides lead their assigned vehicle
3 from the pickup point to the appropriate location for unloading and/or parking.
4

5 **(1) Laying of Howitzers.** The unit is capable of delivering fire when the howitzers are
6 laid. Various methods are available to meet the needs of the situation. Detailed procedures for laying
7 are discussed in MCWP 3-16.3, *Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Artillery Cannon*
8 *Battery*. Reciprocal laying of aiming circles or howitzers can overcome line of sight problems and
9 expedite laying.
10

- 11 • Use the **orienting angle method** if an aiming circle, a line of known direction, and
12 an accurate location are available.
- 13 • The **grid azimuth method** requires a declinated aiming circle. Declination is
14 determining a declination constant to compensate for variation of the instrument.
15 Variation of the instrument can be caused during manufacturing, from shock during
16 handling, or due to a shift in magnetic North. Declination is conducted at a
17 declination station established by survey parties, established by simultaneous
18 observation, or scaled from a map.
- 19 • The **M-2 compass method** requires a declinated M-2 compass. One howitzer is laid
20 by the compass and remaining howitzers are reciprocally laid. Accuracy of this
21 method depends on the ability of the operator.
- 22 • The **aiming point-deflection method** requires line of sight between the howitzers
23 and a distant aiming point (DAP) which is at least 1500 meters away. This method
24 is used only for emergency firing positions. Howitzers will be laid parallel of the
25 DAP to the flank of the gun line. If the DAP is to the front, sheafs will converge.
26 If to the rear, sheafs will diverge.
- 27 • The **howitzer back-lay method** requires a declinated aiming circle or compass.
28 This method is used for emergency firing positions and when other methods are not
29 possible.
30

31 **(2) Security.** Each section must have a predetermined sector of responsibility during the
32 occupation. If the howitzer sections are dispersed over great distances, each section becomes
33 responsible for its defense. It must defend itself until help arrives. As the unit settles into position,
34 the security and defensive plan of the battery are formulated.
35

36 **(3) Position Improvement.** An order of work is established based on the threat and the
37 time that the unit is in position. The commander may establish an order of work as follows:
38

- 39 • Harden critical items of equipment.
- 40 • Prepare individual fighting positions.
- 41 • Establish security measures.
- 42 • Develop defensive plan.
- 43 • Prepare alternate position.
44

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1 **b. Hasty Occupation.** In some situations, there may not be enough time to prepare positions
2 for occupation. Limited-time preparations are accomplished by --

3
4 **(1)** Establishing a priority of tasks to ensure --

- 5 • Selection of howitzer positions.
- 6 • Set up of aiming circles.
- 7 • Preparation of howitzer positions, to include placing panoramic telescope and
- 8 marking stakes and recording initial deflections.
- 9 • Minimum essential internal wire communications are established.

10
11 **(2) Decentralization of Duties.** The commander selects the position and designates the
12 azimuth of fire. Gun guides select howitzer positions. The commander guides the entire unit into
13 position. Vehicle ground guides then meet their vehicle as the vehicle approaches their positions.
14 The AXO and battery gunnery sergeant conduct their normal duties as time permits.

15
16 **(3) Preparing to Fire.** The howitzers are laid using the most expeditious means. If wire
17 communications are not available, voice commands are relayed from the aiming circle to the gun line.
18 The situation may require firing to commence before making tests and adjustments. Firing data is
19 determined using the most expeditious means. The FDC/BOC initially should be set up close to the
20 gun line so that fire commands can be relayed by voice.

21
22 **(4) Organization and Improvement.** As time allows, action is taken to organize and
23 improve the position. Any inaccuracies in laying or boresighting are corrected. Communications
24 within the unit are improved and normal installations are established.

25
26 **c. Night Occupation.** Night occupation reduces the unit's vulnerability to detection during
27 occupation. However, night occupation **must** be smooth and orderly to avoid chaos and damage/loss
28 of equipment and/or injury to personnel. Night occupation is slower than a daylight occupation.
29 Light and noise discipline must be stressed. Night occupation is conducted following a daylight
30 preparation (ideally), or following a night preparation. Should daylight preparation be impossible,
31 night vision devices are vital.

32
33 **(1) Vehicle Ground Guides.** Guides must **know** their routes and the order of march.
34 Guides should walk their routes carefully before dark and at dusk, if possible, noting paces and
35 features to assist navigation. As each vehicle approaches the pickup point and is recognized (i.e., an
36 enemy vehicle may have infiltrated the column), the guide leads the vehicle into the position. Vehicle
37 blackout marker lights should be turned off. If the driver does not have night vision goggles, the
38 guide carries a flashlight with a filtered lens. If the driver fails to see the guide/light for some reason,
39 he should halt immediately; i.e., the guide may have fallen down. When the vehicle arrives at its
40 designated position, the guide signals the vehicle to halt. Talking should be kept to a minimum.

41
42 **(a)** If the guide does not have night vision goggles, he must rely on his night vision
43 skills. The use of silhouettes on the skyline (e.g., tall tree or the tip of a mountain) can help the guide
44

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1 maintain his orientation as he guides the vehicle into position. Navigational markings may be
2 emplaced at key points; e.g., engineer tape, chemlights, or a branch.

3
4 (b) Unit SOP should establish a technique for vehicle recognition. Example: A blink
5 of a color-coded flashlight by the assistant driver.

6
7 (2) **Lighting Devices.** The advance party emplaces lighting devices on marking stakes,
8 aiming posts, and instruments needed for laying; e.g., aiming circle. Unit SOP should establish
9 procedures to ensure the correct reference light is sighted when using fire control and laying
10 instruments at night; e.g., blinking lights in accordance with prearranged signals or using color-coded
11 lights. During laying, only the aiming circle and the weapon being laid should have lights on. Too
12 many lights cause confusion and destroy light discipline. At night, keep the laying instrument sighted
13 on one piece until it is completely laid. The EOL is placed at sufficient distance to eliminate the
14 possibility of parallax in the aiming circle. Parallax is the apparent displacement or the difference in
15 apparent direction of an object as seen from two different points not on a straight line with the object.

16
17 (3) **Loading and Unloading Equipment.** Rapid displacements and night movements
18 make it imperative that uniform load plans are established. The weapon position should be so
19 organized that each Marine knows where each item of equipment is located at all times.

20
21 d. **Emergency Occupation (Hip Shoot).** An emergency occupation results when a call for fire
22 is received while the battery is making a tactical movement. The convoy leader (normally the XO)
23 must know exactly where he is during the road march and constantly be selecting possible emergency
24 firing positions by map and visual reference.

25
26
27
28 (1) When a call for fire is received, the XO --

- 29 • Authenticates the fire mission.
- 30 • Ensures FDC personnel monitor the call.
- 31 • Signals the convoy.
- 32 • Selects the firing position and passes the coordinates to the FDC personnel.
- 33 • Designates the azimuth of fire.
- 34 • Lays the unit in the following order of preference: aiming point-deflection, grid
35 azimuth, or howitzer back-lay methods.

36
37
38 (2) The FDC announces/indicates the azimuth of fire and computes initial data.

39
40 (3) Communications within the battery is by small-unit transceiver (if available) or by
41 voice relay.

42
43 (4) Aiming points are established in the following precedence: DAP, collimator, or aiming
44 posts.

1
2 (5) On completion of the mission, the unit moves on or continues position improvement.
3
4

5 RSOP by Headquarters Batteries

6
7 **a. Reconnaissance.** The headquarters battery commander and S-6 conduct a reconnaissance to
8 select the specific location of the headquarters main echelon. These officers are normally
9 accompanied by the battery first sergeant, local security chief, representatives from the various staff
10 sections, vehicle ground guides, and security personnel, as required. The headquarters battery
11 commander assembles, briefs, and conducts the reconnaissance similar to the firing battery
12 commander.
13

14 **b. Selecting the Position.** The location of the main echelon must meet the desires of the
15 commander and the requirements of each staff section as much as possible. The headquarters battery
16 commander selects the location for each element in the main echelon, in coordination with the S-6 and
17 section representatives. The main echelon position should have --
18

- 19 • **Suitable Sites.** Areas are designated for the COC/FDC, radio antennae, vehicle dispersal,
20 and (as applicable) for medical, supply, maintenance, and ammunition.
- 21 • **Cover and Concealment.** A position in defilade minimizes visual and radar observations
22 by the enemy. Heavily wooded areas provide good concealment, but may hamper
23 communications. In sparse or scattered vegetation, camouflage is necessary. In open
24 terrain, the main echelon should be well dispersed.
- 25 • **Defensible Terrain.** If possible, the position should allow mutual protection with other
26 units.
27

28 **c. Occupation of the Position.** After site selection, the headquarters battery commander plans
29 the occupation. The occupation must be coordinated carefully with the S-3 and S-6. If continuous
30 detailed control of the battalion must be maintained, a forward echelon will normally be formed from
31 the personnel and equipment of the main echelon to occupy the new position as the first increment of
32 the headquarters battery. The forward echelon's initial occupation is similar to that of the firing
33 battery (i.e., security sweeps, vehicle ground guides, prepare for operation, etc.). Once the forward
34 echelon has completed the initial preparation of the position and when the tactical situation permits,
35 the main echelon will pass control of operations to the forward echelon and then displace to complete
36 occupation of that position or to leap frog past the forward echelon to another position. The
37 headquarters battery commander provides general supervision of occupation, as required.
38

39 **d. Organization of the Position.** The organization of the position depends on the size of the
40 area, the technique of positioning used, the guidance of the commander and his staff, and the
41 requirements for coordination between sections.
42

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1 **(1) Traffic** within the position should be held to a minimum and controlled. Vehicles
2 should be stopped at a dismount point and directed to a vehicle dispersal area. Foot traffic should be
3 restricted to prescribed trails or paths. A local telephone should be connected from the dismount area
4 to the switchboard.

5
6 **(2) The COC (FDC, TPC, Intel section)** should be located in an area outside the normal
7 traffic flow of other activities. The COC should be marked for “authorized entry only”.

8
9 **(3) The message center** should be at the entrance of the position accessible to incoming
10 messengers.

11
12 **(4) A switchboard** should be located to facilitate installation of wire. It should be in a
13 covered area away from noise and interference. It must be protected from enemy attack.

14
15 **(5) The aid station** should be near a road or trail for rapid reception and evacuation of
16 patients.

17
18 **(6) Sleeping areas** should be established by section.

19
20 **(7) The messing facility** must be easily accessible within the position. It should be near a
21 road to facilitate supply.

22
23 **e. Displacement.** The method of main echelon displacement is based on the tactical situation
24 and the requirement to continuously control subordinate units. The main echelon may displace as a
25 unit when detailed control is not required. When continuous detailed control is required, the main
26 echelon will displace in increments. In incremental displacement, a forward echelon is normally
27 formed from the personnel and equipment of the main echelon to displace as the lead increment,
28 occupy and conduct initial preparation of the new position, and assume control of operations. The
29 remainder of the main echelon then displaces to complete occupation of that position or, depending on
30 the tactical situation, to leap frog past the forward echelon to another position. The timing and
31 method of displacement must be closely coordinated with the S-3 and S-6 to ensure the required
32 degree of control is maintained. Regardless of method, communications must be maintained
33 continuously with the supported unit, reinforcing artillery, higher artillery headquarters, and between
34 headquarters echelons. When displacing incrementally, the headquarters battery commander must
35 plan and coordinate the composition of the lead increment which is temporarily designated the forward
36 echelon during displacement and occupation of the new position until control of operations has been
37 assumed from the main echelon. Each section performs the necessary tasks to prepare for
38 displacement under the general supervision of the headquarters battery commander. The headquarters
39 battery commander may form a quartering party for accomplishing common area tasks; e.g., mess
40 area, field sanitation equipment, sleeping tents, etc. The quartering party is comprised of individuals
41 from each section who perform common area tasks, then return to their work section. The
42 headquarters battery must be prepared for hasty displacement because the headquarters echelons are a
43 high priority target for the enemy.

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1 **f. Transfer of Control.** When conducting incremental displacement, the main echelon
2 maintains operational control while the forward echelon (formed from the main echelon) displaces and
3 occupies the new position. At the new position, the forward echelon sets up equipment, establishes
4 communications, and obtains an update to the tactical situation from the main echelon COC. When
5 the officer in charge of the forward echelon's COC determines that it is operational and ready to
6 assume control of operations, he notifies the main COC and control is transferred when the tactical
7 situation permits. The main echelon then displaces to the new position and dissolves the forward
8 echelon or leap frogs to another position. In extreme situations during displacement, control of the
9 regiment may be transferred to one of the battalions or control of the battalion may be transferred to
10 one of the firing batteries.

11
12 **g. Rear Echelon.** The rear echelon is positioned based on the location of the main echelon, the
13 tactical situation, security, supply, and accessibility. Good drainage, concealment, and adequate space
14 for a vehicle dispersal area and maintenance facilities are desirable.

17 **Displacement**

18
19 Artillery displaces to provide continuous support, to maintain communications, and to enhance
20 survivability. The terrain and tactical situation influence the distance and frequency of displacements.
21 Generally, the distance of displacements is at least one third the maximum range of the howitzer.
22 However, survivability moves may be a shorter distance. The route and timing of displacement must
23 conform to the operation or the supported or reinforced unit. The movement may be deliberate or
24 hasty. Artillery can displace by ground or by helicopter.

27 **Considerations for Displacement**

28
29 Movement of artillery must be coordinated for continuous support, adequate control during
30 movement, and survivability. Considerations include security requirements, enemy activity, time
31 available to move, distance to be covered, the scheme of maneuver, and the availability of artillery.

32
33 **a.** Artillery must never get caught in a traffic delay. When two or more artillery battalions
34 displace over the same route, the higher artillery headquarters coordinates the movement. When
35 artillery must displace on a route used by other units, the maneuver commander coordinates the
36 movement and establishes route precedence. DS units have route precedence over all other artillery.

37
38 **b.** During displacement, reliance is on radio communications. Displacements and the daily
39 change of call signs/frequencies should be coordinated to prevent interference between the two
40 actions.

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1 c. Arrange for transfer of fire support responsibility as early as possible, when required.
2 Priority targets must be covered during displacements.
3
4

5 Methods of Displacement

6
7 **a. Unit Displacement.** The battalion displaces with all elements moving at once. Unit
8 displacement is fast and can be easily controlled since no firing is required. This method is useful
9 when a battalion is supporting a unit not presently in contact; when a battalion is making a long move;
10 and when a reinforcing unit is available to deliver fires to the supported unit while the DS battalion is
11 displacing. Considerations include the size of the convoy, traffic conditions, and the loss of flexibility
12 once the movement has started.
13

14 **b. Displacement by Echelon.** The battalion displaces one or two firing batteries, an increment
15 of the headquarters, and some CSS elements in one echelon while the rest of the battalion stays in
16 position. When the first echelon is in position and ready to fire, the second echelon displaces. This
17 method provides continuous but degraded support to the supported unit; facilitates command and
18 control; and reduces the size of the convoys. It is useful when the supported unit is
19 expecting/encountering light resistance. The commander's flexibility is limited. The commander
20 normally goes with the first echelon; the XO stays with the second.
21

22 **c. Displacement by Battery.** Each battery moves only after the preceding battery has
23 completed its move and is prepared to fire. This method provides maximum continuous fire support
24 and centralized command and control, but is slow and difficult to control over any distance. It is used
25 primarily by a battalion supporting a unit in contact and is normally accomplished in a series of short
26 moves.
27
28

29 Execution of Displacement

30
31 **a. Artillery in DS.** A unit in DS displaces when deemed necessary by the artillery unit
32 commander based on the operations of the supported unit or when ordered by higher artillery
33 headquarters. The artillery commander coordinates the time of movement, the route, the method of
34 displacement, and the new position area with the supported unit.
35

36 **b. Reinforcing Artillery.** An artillery unit with a reinforcing mission displaces on request of
37 the reinforced artillery unit or when ordered by higher artillery headquarters. The reinforcing unit
38 notifies the higher artillery headquarters of the method of displacement, completion of displacement,
39 and new position location.
40

41 **c. Artillery in GS or GS-R.** An artillery unit with a GS or GS-R mission displaces when
42 ordered by the artillery regiment. The unit commander recommends to the regiment the position area,

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1 route, method of displacement, and time of displacement. For GS-R artillery, the regiment may
2 assign the GS-R mission to another unit while the displacement is in progress.
3
4

5 Hasty Displacement

6
7 The tactical situation may require the unit to displace with little warning or preparation time. The
8 battery conducts a hasty displacement when it has some time available to expeditiously organize and
9 conduct the displacement. This situation may arise because of imminent enemy attack or a change in
10 the friendly situation. The senior man in the position must quickly assess the situation and signal the
11 hasty displacement by audible and visual means. An advance party is rapidly assembled and departs
12 to the new position. A limited-time preparation of the new position may be required. Firing elements
13 and a fire direction element depart after the advance party has left. Remaining elements close to the
14 new position as soon as possible.
15
16
17
18

19 Emergency Displacement

20
21 The tactical situation may require a battery to displace **immediately**. An emergency displacement is
22 conducted when the battery must urgently leave its position to avoid casualties and damage to
23 equipment. This situation normally occurs as a result of enemy attack. Time is not available for
24 organization for the displacement. The displacement is guided by unit SOP, training, and small unit
25 leadership. A reconnaissance party with minimum essential personnel, equipment, and vehicles meets
26 at a predetermined point as rapidly as possible and departs to the new position. A limited-time
27 preparation of the position is made. **Mission essential equipment and equipment of value to the**
28 **enemy** are loaded as rapidly as possible and moved to the rally point. Mission essential equipment
29 includes prime movers, howitzers, FDC and BOC, and enough communications, ammunition, and
30 other assets to begin firing at the next position. Non-essential equipment is left in the position and
31 recovered after the attack has ended and the unit is reassembled. In these situations, the senior man in
32 position must rapidly assess the situation when deciding to signal an emergency displacement. He
33 must consider the exposure of personnel and equipment in executing the displacement; i.e., the unit's
34 vulnerability may increase. During position improvement, a unit can enhance its capability to conduct
35 an emergency displacement by practicing the following measures:
36

- 37 • Position vehicles close (e.g., near gun line, FDC, etc.), but dispersed.
- 38 • Operate with only mission-essential equipment and personnel.
- 39 • Download equipment/supplies only as necessary.
- 40 • Prepare positions for rapid exit; e.g., camouflage nets suspended overhead with exit
- 41 readily accessible, use radio vehicles and field expedient antennae for communications, etc.

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