

Appendix D

Training Areas

The unit's training needs influence the training area selection. If only simple training is to be done and no pyrotechnics or blanks are used, local maneuver areas may suffice. If the training is more complex and requires a more varied landscape with cover, obstacles, and an impact area, then a range or training area designed for that type of training must be found. The following discussion will guide the commander in determining the type of training area needed and where it may be located.

DETERMINE UNIT NEEDS

Simple Training Tasks

If training involves the accomplishment of a simple task or tasks, the commander may locate a suitable area within walking distance of the unit to conduct training. Usually an open area, a parking lot, a stand of trees, or even the edge of a large wooded area can be found nearby. Obviously, training sites within proximity of the unit are both economical and convenient. They may be used for formal instruction or for practicing tactics and unit SOPs prior to departure for other training areas. Although a close training site is preferred, trainers must also be aware of local regulations on environmental impact before scheduling unit training. They must also check with the unit S-3 before training close to billeting and work areas.

CAUTION

Open areas, wooded areas, or areas close to personnel are not suitable if training involves the use of hazardous pyrotechnics or munitions.

Complex Training Tasks

If the planned training is too complex to make use of local areas, the trainer must request a suitable training area that meets the planned training requirements. Range control can provide detailed information on available training areas and firing ranges aboard the base. The commander will need to know the following information in order to secure the appropriate training area.

Number of Personnel to Train. The commander must know the maximum number of personnel to be trained during the evolution. This determines the size of the training area. If platoon tactics are the terminal objective, the area will need to be larger than the area typically assigned to a squad. If three platoons are training in an area, but only one needs the use of a live fire range, then maneuver areas adjacent to the range that will allow the other platoons to conduct their training must be requested.

Length of Stay in the Area. The amount of time required to perform the training determines if the training area can support the unit for the duration of the training. The sanitation and environmental impacts of living in the field are important considerations when planning a training evolution.

Training Conditions and Standards. Training conditions and standards, references, and range regulations are reviewed to determine—

- The type and quantity of weapons to be fired.
- The ammunition and pyrotechnics required.
- The targets and simulators required and if training support personnel are needed.
- If terrain satisfies the training objectives.
- Specific objectives; e.g., bunkers, trenches, or built-up areas.

ESTABLISH THE TRAINING AREA

Before the commander schedules the training area, he/she must conduct a reconnaissance of the area to verify that it meets the unit's needs. If the training area does not meet the unit's needs, then another, more suitable area must be found. The training area must be subdivided in order to facilitate control and safety. Figure D-1 shows an example of an infantry company's training area layout. For example, an infantry company usually needs an area equivalent to a grid square (1000 X 1000 meters). Each platoon has a 500-meter square area to conduct its training. This allows simultaneous evolutions to occur without one platoon interfering with another platoon. Each platoon area is further divided to facilitate squad training. Obviously, training that requires considerable tactical movement requires a larger area.

Consideration should be given to segregating the training site into the following areas:

- An administrative area for troop staging and inspection.
- A concurrent training area where Marines may practice skills that allow them to accomplish the terminal objective, such as tactical weapons handling and selecting cover and concealment for a terminal objective of assault on a fortified position.
- A teaching and practice area resembling the actual exercise area. This area cannot interfere with adjacent training evolutions.
- An assembly area for final inspections, preparation, and safety checks prior to the final evaluation.

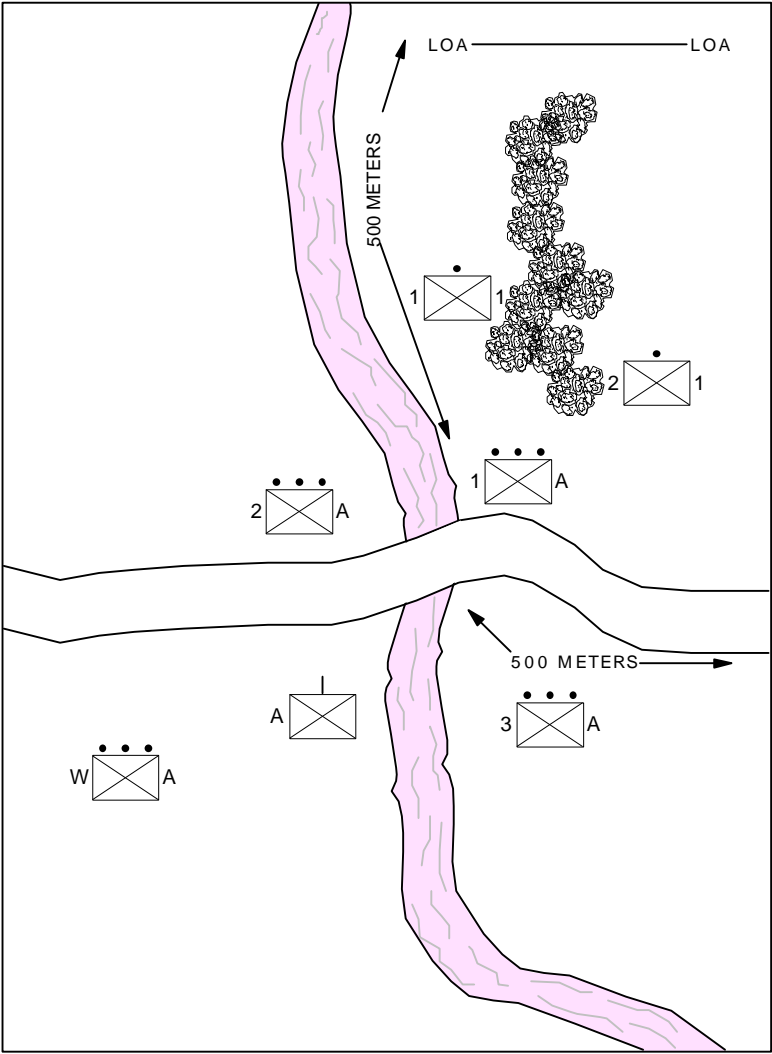


Figure D-1. Example of an Infantry Company's Training Area Layout.

