

APPENDIX F

PLATOON LEADER'S PLANNING GUIDE

FOR ROW MINEFIELDS

1. The platoon leader conducts troop-leading procedures.

2. The platoon leader *issues* a fragmentary order (FRAGO) to the platoon (includes the task, day/night, observation post (OP), times).

3. The platoon leader conducts a reconnaissance of the minefield location and coordinates with the maneuver force on the exact location.

- Ensures the maneuver force covers the minefield by observed direct or indirect fire.
- Ensures the final location is tied to existing or reinforcing obstacles.
- Determines the locations for mine rows, landmarks, fences, mine dumps, and approaches.
- Selects movement routes.
- Establishes local security and job site security.

4. The platoon leader calculates man-hours and logistical requirements and arranges for mines to be drawn. (See standard pattern minefield logistical calculations in Chapter 3, page 3-8.)

- Calculates the number of mines.
- Calculates the number of platoon hours to install the minefield.
- Calculates the amount of fencing and marking material.
- Calculates the number of trips to transport mines.

5. The platoon leader reports by secure means, to higher headquarters, the intention to lay

mines. The report includes the tactical purpose, number and type of mines, location, whether mines are surface-laid or buried, where lanes and/or gaps are located, and the proposed start and completion times.

6. The platoon sergeant organizes the platoon to emplace the minefield.

- Siting party.
- Marking party.
- Recording party.
- Laying party.
 - Burial party (if necessary).
 - Arming party.

NOTE: The size of these parties is determined by METT-T.

7. The platoon sergeant assembles all equipment and material to emplace the minefield.

- Equipment and materials include a map, lensatic compass, minefield record forms, stakes or pickets, sledgehammers or picket pounders, engineer tape on reels, nails, barbwire on reels, concertina, marking signs, wire cutters, gauntlets, metric tape, picks, shovels, and sandbags.

NOTE: The quantity of equipment and material required varies depending on the size of the minefield and the number of soldiers working.

- For night operations, equipment includes a HEMMS and/or them-lights to mark the lanes, turning points, intermediate row markers, and row markers. If possible,

coordinate with higher headquarters for use of night observation devices.

NOTE: The platoon must assume they are being observed by the enemy and must maintain noise and light discipline.

8. The platoon leader reports the unit has initiated emplacement to higher headquarters. The report includes the time, location, and obstacle number.

9. The platoon establishes a mine dump on the friendly side of the minefield.

- Selects a reasonably level site with adequate access for vehicles.
- May elect to keep mines in trailers (mobile mine dumps).

10. The platoon emplaces the minefield.

Siting party operations.

- The platoon leader designates the start point and the azimuth of the first row of the minefield. This is the row closest to the enemy.
- The siting party installs pickets at the row marker, siting picket (at the end of the first row), and intermediate markers as necessary.
- The siting party then installs pickets for the IOE (if applicable), short strips (if applicable), and second and subsequent rows.
- The platoon leader/sergeant designates lanes.
- The siting party lays tape for the lanes.
- When finished with these tasks, the siting party augments other parties as directed by the platoon sergeant.

Marking party operations.

- Once the last (rear) row has been sited by the laying party, the marking party

may install a concertina fence 10 meters on the friendly side from the last (rear) row. Forward minefields will be marked as necessary to protect friendly troops.

- Once lanes have been sited, the marking party installs a minefield fence.
- Upon completion, the marking party augments other parties as directed by the platoon sergeant.

Recording party operations.

- As the minefield is sited and marked, the platoon leader designates landmarks to the rear of the minefield.
- Beginning from one landmark, the recording NCO relates the minefield to the landmark by recording azimuths and distances.
- The NCO completes DA Form 1355.
- The platoon leader reviews DA Form 1355 for correctness and ensures the form is classified SECRET.
- The platoon leader signs DA Form 1355.
- The platoon leader submits one copy of DA Form 1355 to higher headquarters as soon as possible and retains one copy.

Laying party operations.

- Upon arrival, establishes mine dump.
- Uncrates and stacks AT mines.
- Leaves all other mines in their crates with the lids removed.
- Places fuzes and detonators in separate boxes; does not mix fuze types.
- Hauls the mines to the site.
- The APCs then load 20 to 30 mines (based on load plans). These mines are on edge and no more than three high.
- The APCs line up on the marked rows beginning with the first row (closest to

the enemy). The APCs will lay from right to left.

- Each carrier has three soldiers inside—one driving, one manning the .50 caliber machine gun (for security), and one inside handing the mines out the rear door (or inside the trailer handing out the back). Another soldier walks behind the carrier and places the mines on the ground (see Figure F-1).
- The driver drives along the marked row slowly so the soldier walking behind may lay the mines correctly.
- Each mine is laid 6 meters apart. This is measured by a rope that extends off the back of the carrier or the trailer that is 6 meters long. The rope is anchored to something heavy (for example, a partially filled sandbag). When the sandbag

reaches the last laid mine, another un-armed mine is placed on the ground.

- Mines are emplaced in this manner until the carrier has no more mines and returns to the mine dump for a replenishment.
- The IOE short strips are emplaced at the same time the first (baseline) row is emplaced.
- Burial party operations (if required).
 - The burial party follows immediately behind the laying party. The depth of each hole is in accordance with the depth specified in the technical manual for that mine.
 - Burial party operations may be combined with arming party operations.

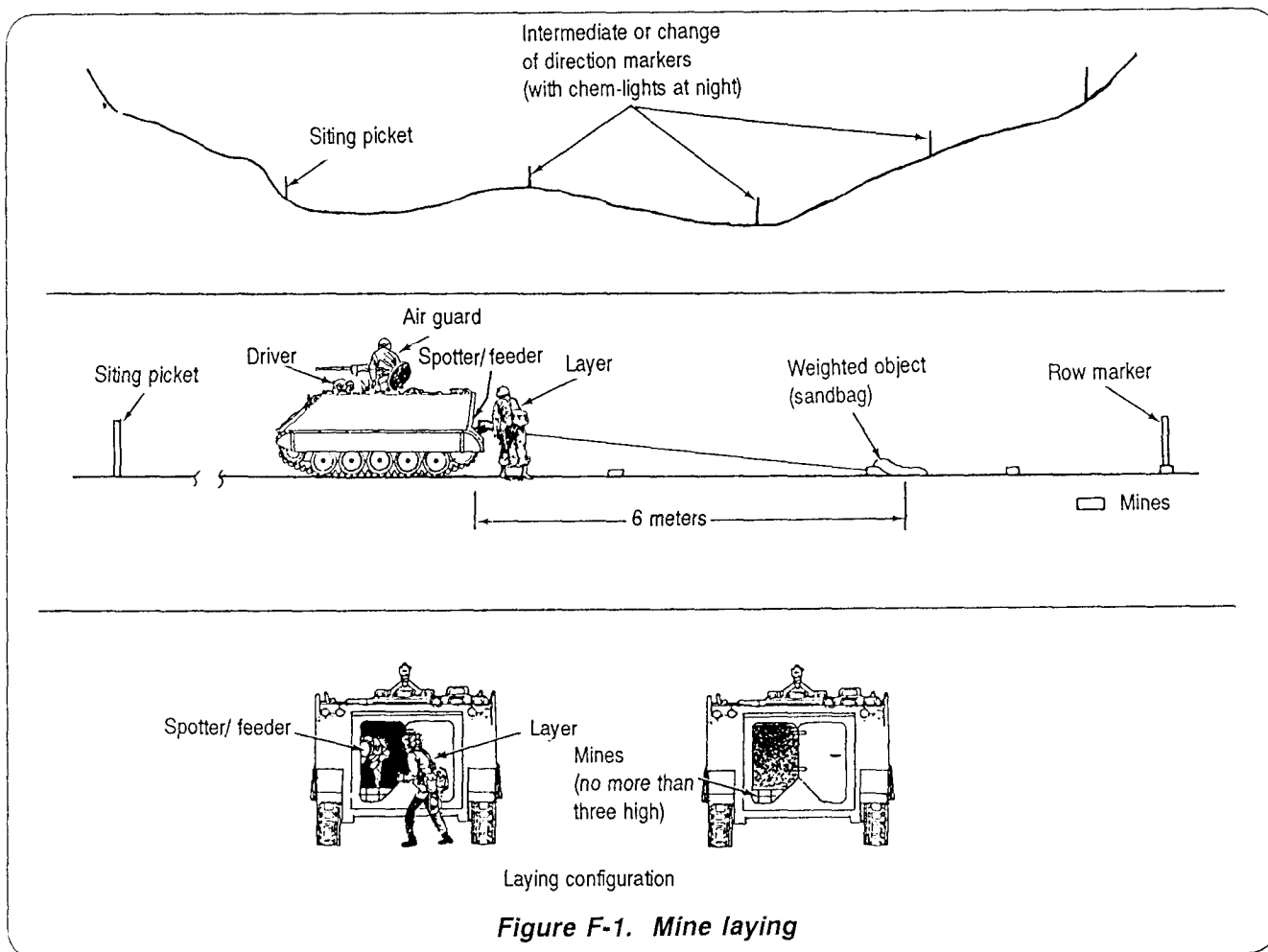


Figure F-1. Mine laying