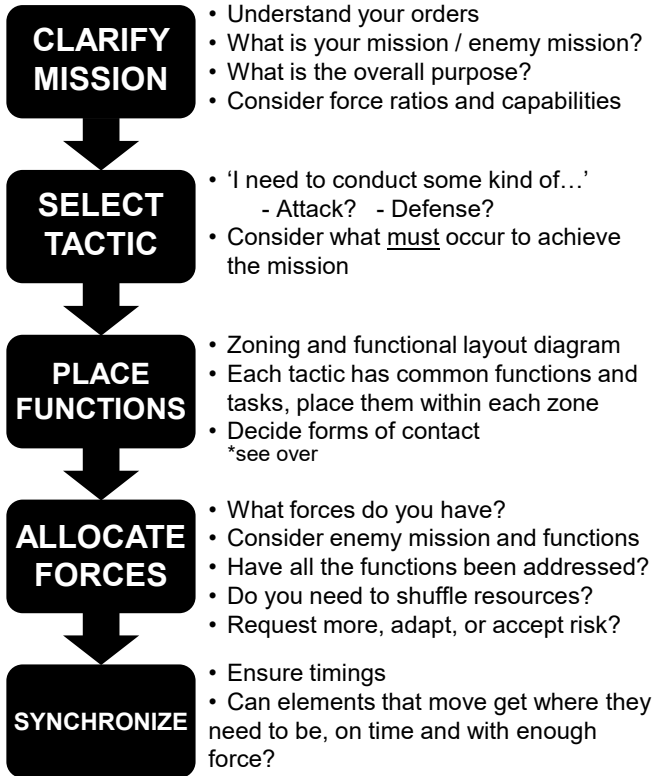



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Functional Tactics

The OPFOR commander's decision making process has at least three key elements: the concept of the fight, tactical missions and co-ordination



This process is scalable

 Real world adversary planning and decision making is highly centralized and takes place at a higher level than it would in NATO nations. This process simulates real world adversary thinking. Applied at lower levels it produces credible tactical actions as if they were at the forefront of a higher echelon commander's mind

OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Adaptive Strategies & Systems Warfare

• OPFOR mitigates Western advantages by using low-tech human solutions, accepting high casualties, leveraging non combatants and favoring 'fix and isolate' over 'contend'

OPFOR avoid the fight Western forces are configured for

- Control access to the AO
- Neutralize technical overmatch
- Cause unacceptable casualties
- Control the tempo
- Allow no sanctuary
- Shielding & cultural stand off
- Change the nature of the conflict



• **Systems Warfare.** Identify critical but weak and vulnerable targets; the loss of which degrade the overall system

• **INFOWAR** is a synchronized weapon and key enabler, it includes: EW, perception management, deception, physical destruction, protection and security, computer warfare and information attack - truth is not an OPFOR constraint

• **Fires / IDF.** The primary OPFOR killing system, massed fires at maximum range

• **Air Defense.** An integrated system that PROTECTs the Support Zone and assault elements from attack, DESTROYs enemy air assets and PREVENTs detection and penetration

• **Engineers.** Use of natural / improvised materials to deceive, increase survivability, enable mobility and conduct counter mobility - OPFOR will use techniques off limits to the enemy, like arson

7 Forms of Contact

- Direct Fire
- Indirect Fire
- Obstacles
- Air
- CBRN
- EW
- Sensor



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Assault

Task:

Destroy the enemy with firepower to physically occupy or destroy their position

Consider:

- Isolation of the objective
- Tactical security
- Suppression
- Violent fire and maneuver

Sub Tasks:

ISOLATE

- Prevent reinforcement
- Provide early warning
- Prevent the enemy from gaining information

SUPPRESS

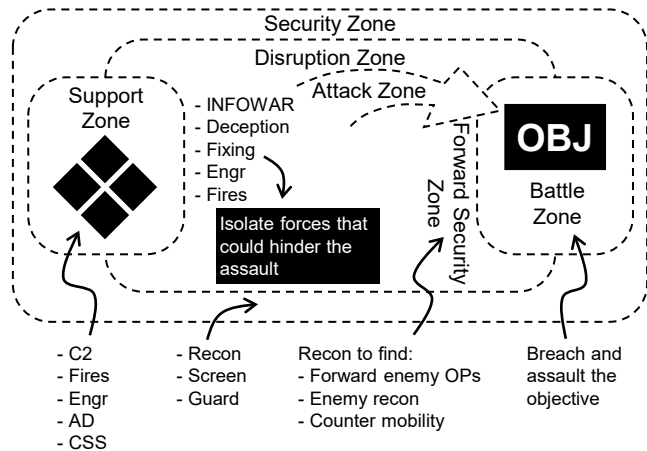
- Allow assault element to move into position free from destructive fire
- Lethal and non-lethal

ASSAULT

- Breach defenses then exploit, seize or destroy targets on the objective

Common offensive activities in control zones:

*This is not a template, apply zones and activities to the situation and ground



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Assault

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare
hints and tips:

- 💡 Employ tactical shielding and cultural standoff. Use the enemies laws of armed conflict against them, use non-combatants in ways the enemy cannot
- 💡 Hide and disperse in complex terrain
- 💡 Attack weak, vulnerable but critical components. Avoid decisive engagement with superior forces
- 💡 Use deception to commit enemy forces to a killing zone or false main effort
- 💡 Use fires as the primary killing system

🇷🇺 **Russia.** Uses aggressive recon, fires throughout the enemies depth and breaching of defenses at weak points while bypassing strong points. Russia aims to be unpredictable. Radio, electronic and information warfare are well integrated

🇨🇳 **China.** Prefers separating and isolating portions of an enemy before defeating in detail. Envelopment of flanks, whether actual or ones created through action. Creates multiple dilemmas and uses deception to fix the bulk of an enemy while the action element (depth attack group) assaults

All material TRADOC G-2





OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Raid

Task:

Attack against a stationary target, for capture or destruction; the raiding force then withdraws to safe territory

Plan, prepare and recon, organize forces into **Raiding, Security** and **Support** elements

Sub Tasks:

INFILTRATE

- Undetected, security and raiding elements move into staging areas

ISOLATE

- Security elements block possibility of reinforcement and enemy interference
- Fixing elements also prevent enemy withdrawal

SEIZE / DESTROY

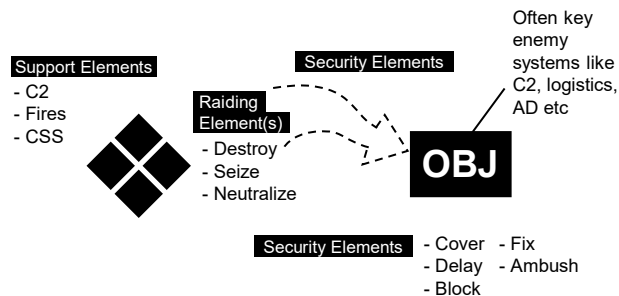
- Action elements breach - maximum surprise!
- Coordination of covering / suppressing fires

EXFILTRATE

- All elements extract using pre-planned or alternate routes for rapid, undetected movement

Consider:

- Recon of Obj and surrounding area
- UAS
- EW
- Block or contain QRF
- Location of reaction force



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Raid

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

Use open source maps and overhead imagery to research and plan the raid

Raids can be used to distract attention from other OPFOR actions

Create a window of opportunity for the raiding force; INFOWAR, fires, or an action that distracts local security forces from the raid site

Raiding detachments are reinforced Russian battalions, capable of functioning independently. They destroy vital equipment, disrupt C2, occupy key terrain and block enemy reserves. Some of their missions overlap with that of forward detachments, and forward detachments will also conduct raids

Types of Chinese raid: **Rapid** - Similar to a Western meeting engagement, rapid transition to an attack posture. **Long-Range** - Light forces or SOF infiltrate the enemies territory. **Sabotage** - Specific high-value assets are targeted for destruction through covert, aggressive action. **Sneak** - A Small-scale, short-distance raid making use of local conditions such as illumination or weather. They may seek to take enemy prisoners, probe defenses or conduct reconnaissance





OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Ambush

Task:

Surprise attack from a concealed position, against a moving or temporarily halted target to **Annihilate, Contain or Harass** the enemy

Plan, prepare and recon, organize forces into **Assault, Security** and **Support** elements

Sub Tasks:

INFILTRATE

- All elements move into position

ISOLATE

- Flank security communicates arrival of target and prevents re-enforcement during the attack

CONTAIN

- Hold the enemy in the Kill Zone

AMBUSH

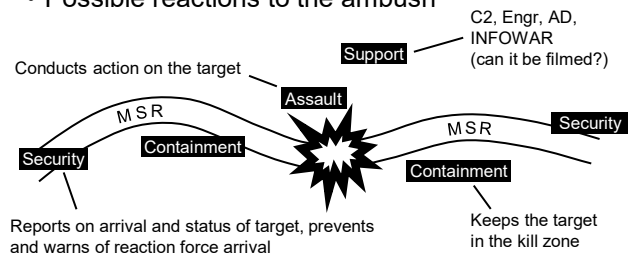
- Action element destroys or seizes desired assets
- Order of destruction - C2 and comms first?

EXFILTRATE

- On orders, all forces withdraw to a safe area
- Will covering fire be required?

Consider:

- Recon by (or disguised as) non-combatants
- Caching equipment before and after
- Camouflage and concealment
- Possible reactions to the ambush



All material TRADOC G-2

OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Ambush

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

💡 Periods of limited visibility offer a wider choice of position and better opportunity to surprise and confuse the enemy

💡 Consider ambushing troops as they return to garrison; tired, low on fuel and lax

🦋 Ambush teams are common elements of Russian combat formations, they attempt to inflict maximum destruction by sudden direct fire and use of minefields. They may consist of motorized platoons or squads reinforced by flamethrowers and engineers. Ambushes are placed in fortified positions on avenues of approach, flanks or outskirts of populated areas.

★ Ambushes may be conducted by Chinese defensive groups and Flank Guards as part of their comprehensive reconnaissance and surveillance effort

★ PLAA commanders seek to defeat or demoralize enemy attacks using ambushes that maximize the use of urban terrain, buildings or other hardened structures

★ Types of PLAA ambush: **Waiting** - Employed when an enemy transits a predicted route. **Decoy** - The enemy is tricked into moving into the ambush zone **Forced** - Feints, demonstrations or obstacles force the enemy into the ambush zone

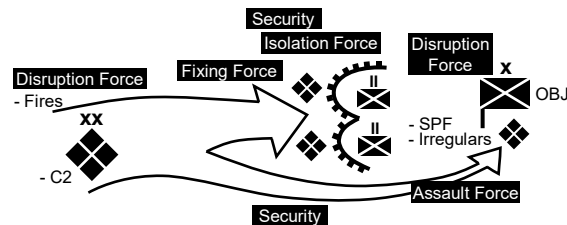
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OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Integrated Attack

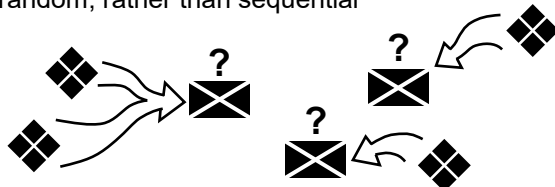
- Conducted by brigade and above
- Used when OPFOR have significant overmatch
- Execution and control zones similar to an assault
- There may be more than one Attack Zone
- Fix battle positions and isolate reinforcements
- The **Fixing Force** fixes forward battle positions, the **Isolation Force** prevents other enemy elements from interfering, **Disruption Force** likely to use fires, special forces and irregular forces, the **Assault Force(s)** seize the objective(s)



Dispersed Attack

- Often used against a superior enemy force
- Destroy key components / degrade overall force
- Fix and isolate, then conduct rapid simultaneous attacks from dispersed positions
- Concentrate forces at the last possible moment

💡 A Dispersed Attack seems similar to a blue force defeat-in-detail, but it will appear more random, rather than sequential



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OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Integrated and Dispersed Attacks

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

💡 Use SPF, intelligence and irregular forces to conduct deep recon

💡 Use long range recon and long range fires

Limited Objective Attack. Uses systems warfare to destroy critical enemy assets while preserving the OPFOR's own force

Spoiling Attack. Used to seriously impair an enemy attack while it is being prepared, or while forces are moving into position. It may seek to wear a force down rather than destroy them

Counter Attack. An attack by a defending force, the aim is to prevent an enemy from achieving their goal

✠ For Russia the attack is the main type of combat action, it involves rapid and non-stop movement of armored and motorized rifle sub-units in a combat formation using integrated and intense fire by tanks, BMPs and BTRs

★ The idea that war can only be won by attacking is fundamental to PLA theory. Chinese leaders have emphasized the cultivation of 'fighting spirit' as the key to overcoming superior opponents. This remains true, but now there is greater focus on firepower, joint integration and maneuver instead of only the traditional approach of infiltration followed by close combat.

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OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Reconnaissance

Task:

A tactical, offensive action that involves organizing, collecting and studying information about the enemy and operational environment

Organize forces into **Action, Enabling** and **Support** elements

Sub Tasks:

PLAN

- Designate Areas of Responsibility (AORs) and Predicted Enemy Locations (PELs); what are the Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIRs)?

PREPARE

- Functionally organize forces; who will collect what, and how? Consider reserve forces, support weapons and the need for special equipment

FIND

- Coordinate and synchronize collection assets

CONTACT

- Actions on: Bypass, reposition or fight through?

REPORT

- Layer reports to build enemy picture, consider own counter reconnaissance plan

Consider:

- Distracting the enemy • Civilian reporting • SPF
- Irregular Forces • UAS • SIGINT / EW

Elements:

Action

- Surveillance
- Observation
- Ambush
- Raid
- Recon Attack.. etc

Enabling

- Ambush
- Block
- Canalize
- Isolate
- Delay.. etc

Support


- Deceive
- Support by fire
- Disrupt
- Fix
- Suppress.. etc


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OPFOR Tactical Tasks


Reconnaissance


Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

 OPFOR reconnaissance is focused, continuous, aggressive, timely, accurate and reliable; it is conducted using camouflage, concealment, cover and deception

 **Recon by fire.** Provoke a reaction, make the enemy expose themselves - force them to move or return fire

Recon Attack. During uncertain situations, once enemy dispositions and capabilities have been understood, recon can transition to attack in the sequence of FIND, ISOLATE and DESTROY. This requires strong C2 and dynamic coordination. During the FIND, objectives are likely to be terrain orientated. Targets selected for destruction are isolated and assaulted using combinations of other tactics described in these cards. This should not be considered an 'advance to contact' but a 'rolling fix', it does not seek to gain and maintain contact with the enemy

 For Russia, recon is linked to security. It is an aggressive and focused activity. Divisions and brigades have dedicated recon battalions. Examples of platoon size formations include Combat Recon Patrols and groupings of specialized Spetznaz forces

 The PLAA is shifting toward advanced techniques. Above brigade, satellite, cyber and SOF are used. In principle it is: target orientated, well-planned, well-hidden and selective. It uses a simple robust process similar to the intelligence cycle

All material TRADOC G-2

OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Counter Reconnaissance ^{Task:}

Continuous, offensive, Combined Arms action to **locate, track and destroy** enemy recon and security elements in a given area of responsibility

Consider available ISTAR assets and organize forces into **Action** and **Enabling** elements

Plan: Predict the enemy's likely recon activity. Split the AOR into agreed Zones - Counter Reconnaissance Zones, Control Zones, Predicted Enemy Locations (PELs) and Kill Zones

Sub Tasks:

FIND

- FIND and TRACK by matching available assets with identified PELs and observation points

REPORT

- Assisted by pre-determined zones

CONTACT

- In Kill Zones that use choke points, restricted terrain, obstacles and indirect fire target areas

DESTROY

- Can forces switch between Kill Zones?
- Exploit destroyed targets for intelligence

Consider:

- Integration with activity at other echelons
- Counter Reconnaissance in offence and defense

Elements:

Action

- DESTROY
- Assault
- Ambush
- Raid.. etc

Enabling

- FIND, TRACK & SUPPORT
- ISTAR
- Fires
- CSS.. etc

ISTAR Assets:


- Recon troops
- Ground sensors
- UAV
- Long Range Recon
- SPF • Open Source
- Civilians.. etc


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OPFOR Tactical Tasks


Counter Reconnaissance


Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:


 Deny the enemy's ability to gain situational awareness

 Consider likely enemy recon missions, objectives and routes

 Rapidly exploit the information gained for INFOWAR to direct EW and deception

 Russia seeks to locate, defeat and destroy enemy reconnaissance efforts through camouflage, dummy positions and false movements. Dummy radio nets may be used. Decoy positions will also be camouflaged. The effectiveness of camouflage will be regularly checked, particularly from the air

 Counter Reconnaissance is an important element of Chinese operations, it incorporates active and passive activities. It is often the primary or secondary task of screening, covering or guarding forces who provide support and protection to main body elements. It is a key activity conducted in Frontline Battle Zones during offensive action and Frontline Blocking Zones during defensive operations

 **'Standing-off'** by engaging at or near the maximum effective range of weapon systems, the PLAA makes it difficult for adversaries to get close enough to conduct effective reconnaissance

All material TRADOC G-2

OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Defend from a Simple Battle Position

An SBP is a defensive location orientated on the most likely enemy avenue of approach or objective area; defenders of SBPs will take all actions necessary to prevent enemy penetration of their position, or defeat a penetration once it has occurred

Functionally organize forces into elements for:

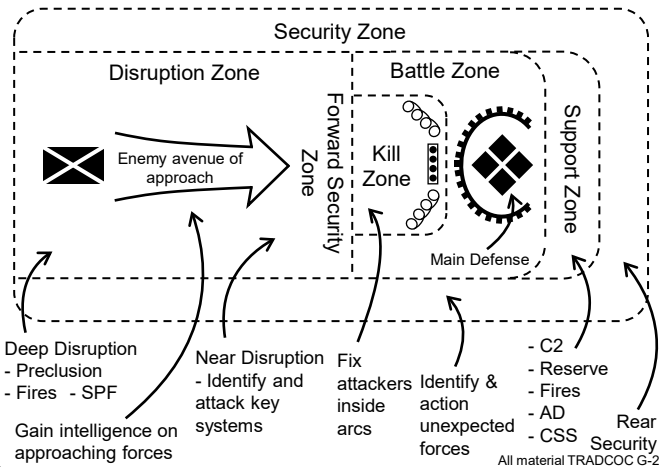
Disruption	Main Defense	Reserve	Support
• Ambush	• Defeats an attacking or penetrating force	• Counter attack	• C2
• Attack		• Breaking contact	• Fires
• Delay		• Deception	• EW
• Fix			• Engr
			• CSS

Consider:

- Restrictive terrain
- Engr efforts to restrict enemy maneuver
- Concealment of troops forward of the Battle Zone
- The desired effect of each element (destroy, fix..)
- Shape the battlefield

Common defensive activities in control zones:

*This is not a template, apply zones and activities to the situation and ground



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Defend from a Simple Battle Position

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

Combat Security Outposts (CSOPs). To accomplish their tasks, Disruption Elements may form CSOPs. They prevent enemy recon or small groupings from penetrating defenses and gaining momentum. CSOPs are positioned forward of the Battle Zone on key terrain, on key avenues of approach. They don't necessarily cover Kill Zones, but might be able to fire into them. If overmatched they can withdraw to the Battle Zone

💡 Leverage non-lethal actions such as jamming and psychological operations

💡 Create multiple dilemmas, force the enemy to protect from all directions

🛡️ In defense, Russia aims to deflect superior forces and inflict maximum losses. It aims to retain important areas, terrain or objects while creating the conditions for transition to offensive operations. It is **stable** and **active**, able to withstand any attack and destroy any penetrating force

★ Chinese principles: **Depth** - Defense-in-depth, but integrated across all domains. Space can be traded for time. **Consolidation** - Combat power will be grouped and deployed to Key Defensive Points. **Integration** - Throughout the entire defensive area and across all systems, particularly in the information domain. **Flexibility** - Defending forces are encouraged to use Localized Initiative and take prudent risks to gain advantage

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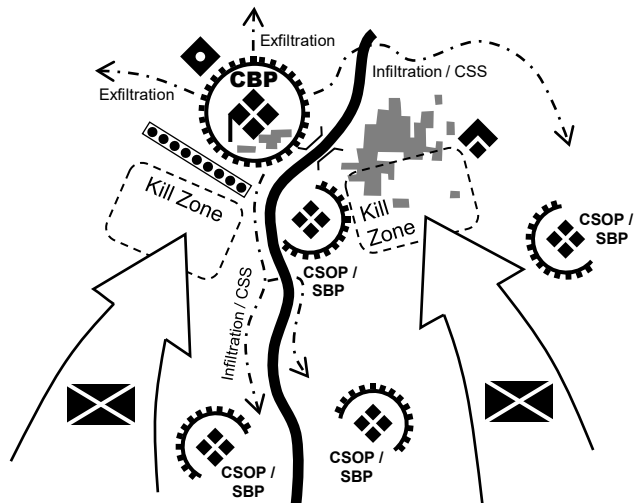


OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Defend from a Complex Battle Position

CBPs are designed to protect the units within them from detection and attack while denying their seizure and occupation by the enemy, CBPs protect forces while providing sanctuary from which to launch local attacks

- Like other tasks, the battlefield for a CBP is organized into **Disruption, Battle** and **Support Zones**. Likewise, forces are organized into **Disruption, Main Defense, Reserve** and **Support Elements**
- Defenders in the Battle Zone will attempt to defeat attacking forces. If defeat is not possible, defenders will cover the withdrawal of the unit before retiring themselves
- If enemy penetration occurs, reserves may be committed to delay the attacking force while the remainder of the unit withdraws



OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Defend from a Complex Battle Position

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

- 💡 Camouflage, concealment, cover and deception is essential to the success of a CBP, it should remain undetected
- 💡 Disperse within the CBP to negate the effects of precision munitions
- 💡 The disbursement of defending forces will make C2 more difficult, lines of communication and carefully planned responses to various enemy actions are essential
- 💡 Use AD to PROTECT the CBP and Main Defense elements from attack, DESTROY the enemies air assets and PREVENT detection / penetration

🦋 Russian military thinkers believe the future conventional battle will be fragmented. The Russian Army will have to fight with open flanks protected by fires, counterattacks, strong points, difficult terrain and obstacles. Battles in the Security Zone combined with maneuver defense will be common, leading to a positional defense where the greatly weakened and disorganized aggressor will crash into a toughened and prepared defense

★ When a Chinese unit is encircled, out-flanked or in danger of being surrounded, the PLAA may attempt a **Breakout**. Rapid maneuver, deception and massed fire against a weak point. If successful a rear-guard is employed while the rest of the formation withdraws

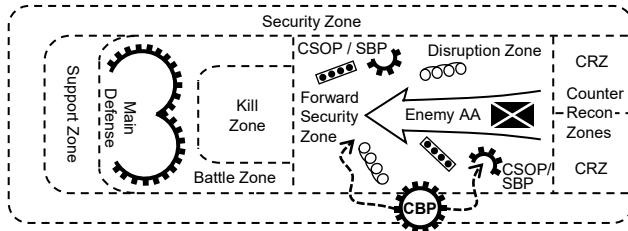
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OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Area Defense

Used when OPFOR is overmatched or access to key areas must be denied. Force the enemy to culminate in a Kill Zone, or deny his objective.

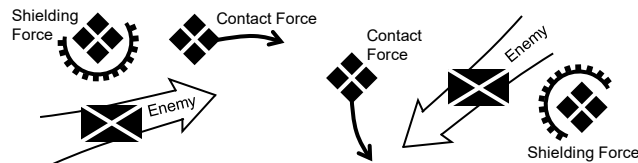
- Employed at all levels
- Prevent enemy recon within Counter Recon Zones, survive to report on enemy dispositions
- Degrade enemy in the Disruption Zone
- Force the enemy to culminate before attacking
- Receive the attack in the Battle Zone / Kill Zone
- Transition between defense and counter attacks



*This example is linear, but the Main Defense may be attacked from multiple flanks
This is not a template, apply zones and activities to the situation and ground

Maneuver Defense

- Choose when not completely overmatched
- The Maneuver Defense force divides into two groups, a Contact Force and Shielding Force
- The groups alternate these roles, conducting fire and maneuver to degrade the enemy
- Trade terrain to destroy key enemy systems
- Maintain continuous fire on enemy forces
- Can be combined with Area Defense



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OPFOR Tactical Tasks

Area Defense / Maneuver Defense

Adaptive Strategies and Systems Warfare hints and tips:

💡 Inflict maximum enemy losses while retaining own combat power

💡 Employ engineer assets to prepare routes and create obstacles. Can local material or terrain be used to create obstacles or increase survivability?

💡 Use INFOWAR to target enemy C2, morale and create confusion. Consolidate and amplify gains, own the narrative

🇷🇺 Russia will use fires throughout the enemies depth, but seeks decisive blows against critical centers of mass

🇷🇺 Russian strategist Aleksander Svechin, advocated a period of dispersed defense, drawing an enemy into Russia's depth, when the enemy drive culminates the Red Army would counter strike to destroy the aggressor

★ Chinese Defensive Tactics: **Counter Recon** - This effort is conducted by Screening and Covering forces, PLAA recon forces are lighter and less powerful than Western equivalents. **Blocking Actions** - Forces in static positions to stop an enemy advance. These actions make use of firepower and obstacles rather than movement. **Repositioning Actions** - Shifting of combat power during defensive operations. Repositioning actions should be concealed as units are vulnerable during movement. **Breakout** - See reverse of the Defense from a Complex Battle Position card

All material TRADOC G-2