Observation Post

Duties

H.E.A.T
Hostile Environment Awareness Training

OSCE-SMM Course

Agenda

1. **Lecture´s Purpose**
2. **Purpose - Information flow**
3. **Definition and Types of OP / FPB**
4. **Organization of OP / FPB**
5. **OP Operations**
6. **Technical Monitoring**

Purpose

To <u>provide</u> a general outline of **preparations**, **requirements** and **tasks**, needed for duty and routine activities on an **Observation Post (OP)** or **a Forward Patrol Base (FPB).** This is a **<u>general</u>** outline.

Purpose - Information Flow

- **OP close to LoC, DMZ**

- **Open Sources**

- **Inspection - Investigation - Impact Site Assessment etc…**

- **Checkpoints**

- **Patrolling**

- **Aerial reconnaissance (UAV)**

Purpose - Information Flow

An effective Mission depends on:

Accurate, concise, timely and *impartial* **information**

- Daily information is gathered by **mobile** and **static** means

- A reported violation of an agreement may result in a protest to the involved party (Formal notification)

Mobile
- **Patrols**
- **Inspections**
- **Investigations**

Static
- **FPBs**
- **Ops**

Violation

Protest

Definition

An Observation Post is an occupied location from which *Monitors* cover a specific visual area (e.g.: Line of Contact (LoC)).

Good observation conditions have first (?) priority	**Occupied primarily to carry out OP tasks**	**Can also function as a base from which *Monitors* conduct other operational tasks (FPB)**

Types of OPs

PERMANENT OP/FPB

- Well <u>established</u>
- Mission flag flown all times
- Distinctly <u>marked</u>
- Well <u>illuminated</u>, including surroundings and the flag
- Surrounded by a <u>protected</u> barrier and barbed wires
- Local guards employed
- OP number clearly <u>displayed</u>
- UAV/Camera

TEMPORARY OP

- For a **short term**
- To <u>observe</u> a **temporary situation**

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Forward Patrol Base - FPB

➢ 10 FPBs on both sides of the LoC
  (N.B. may have changed)
➢ 2 permanent
➢ 8 rotational (appr. 10 days)

➢ Structures are guest houses; hotels;
  former brothels

➢ FPB Rotation
    -Usually every 7-10 days
    -5-8 *Monitors*, 1 LA, 1 Paramedic (may vary!)

OP / FPB Organizational principle

➢ **Impartiality**

- Minimum 2x *Monitors* of different nationality
- Confirmation!! Check – re-check – double-check

Team Tasks

➢ **Monitors on FPB**

- Receive visitors
- Maintain comms
- Supervise Situation
- Operate Camera/UAV

➢ **Others**

- Conduct patrols within AOR
- Monitoring weapons withdrawal
- Monitoring demonstrations
- OP Duty
- Overnight OPs
- Inspections
- Investigations (ISA/CIVCAS)
- ISA

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OP Operations: Tasks

➢ Show the **OSCE flag**

➢ Observe specific area (LoC ...)

➢ Maintain good contacts with all parties

➢ Observance of international agreements

➢ Observance of local agreements

➢ Report activities and violations
 (OSCE Operational Guidelines, Standard Operating
 Procedures / SOP)

OP Operations: Checklist

- ✓ **Binoculars**
- ✓ **Map**
- ✓ **Compass**
- ✓ **GPS**
- ✓ **Night Vision Devices**
- ✓ **Reports and returns**
- ✓ **Radio, Mobile Phone, Satellite Phone**
- ✓ **Camera**
- ✓ **Range Card**
- ✓ **Notebook**

Use mission specific check-list!

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OP Ops: Principles of Observation

- ➤ Search, see & confirm
- ➤ Listen and hear
- ➤ Understand
- ➤ Report

➤ *ACT*

Reports must be:

- **Accurate! Facts only! No guessing**

    Is it Confirmed? Must be cross-checked

- **Clear & Concise – As long as necessary**

    Count: Planes, vehicles, troops,

    Identify: Weapons, troops

    Time: Mark the time !

- **Timely: Report soonest info**

    (esp. Threatening security)

- **Impartial: dont omit details! Stick to facts!**

OP Ops: Observe & Report

- Know your Area! (limited FoM)

- Examine terrain and roads thoroughly

- Divide terrain into sectors (observe Left to Right and R to L)

- Observe from OP platform

- Use of binoculars

- Note incidents in log book

- Split up the work

- Send incident reports / Minsk violation reporting

- Take pictures

Heads Up

➢ **Pay attention to:**

- Approach path, narrow routes, bridges

- Village entry/exit/boundary

- Indication of vehicle movement (dust, noise)

- Tracks, trails

- Fire, smoke, light

- Flashing subjects (arms, ...)

- Escaping wild animals/birds

- Selective perceptions (hear, smell)

OP Observation

➤ <u>**Reporting Incidents use 4W's and H**</u>

✓**When** (Time of Incident; Date Time Group, e.g.311420jan18)

✓**Where** (Location of Incident, GRID or Reference point)

✓**What** (What happened; what was observed)

✓**Who** (Who is involved/observing/monitoring)

✓**How** (How is the situation, assistance, action needed)

Accurate, Concise, Timely, Impartial

- ~~Various Soldiers have been observed moving towards the CTL~~

- ~~On 01.08.2018 a platoon sized element of armored vehicles was observed firing~~

- ~~On 01.08.2018 14:00LT several explosions have been heard by Team 1~~

- ~~On 01.08.2018 12:21 Team 1 observed approx. 20 to 25 poor civilians that have deliberately been targeted by UAF Soldiers~~

OP Observation Mistakes

- Do not ASSUME!

- Stick to the truth!

- Always indicate absolute directions (Reports!)

- Familiarize yourself with mission specific assets / keyplayers /

- Do not let personal emotions influence your Reporting

- Do not "overrule" your teammates with regards of common observations

- Stay focused!

- Be creative (reliefs)

Sectoring

S3 / Airfield N

S2 / Airfield NE

S4
Pisky

S1 / Terminal

Area designation

STANDARD RANGE CARD

For use of this form see FM 3-21.71; the proponent agency is TRADOC.

May be used for all types of direct fire weapons.

SQD 2
PLT 1
CO C

MAGNETIC NORTH

EXAMPLE

DATA SECTION

POSITION IDENTIFICATION	FL93668141		DATE	9 Jun 05	
WEAPON	M240B		EACH CIRCLE EQUALS METERS	100 METERS	

NO.	DIRECTION/ DEFLECTION	ELEVATION	RANGE	AMMO	DESCRIPTION
1		+50/3	600		FPL
2	R350°	+50/45	600		LONE TREE
3	L300°	0/28	650		TRAIL JUNCTION

REMARKS:

Pinpointing

Direct

➢ **Direction** (straight, 1 o`clock)

➢ **Distance** (600m)

➢ **Observation** (e.g. 3 soldiers)

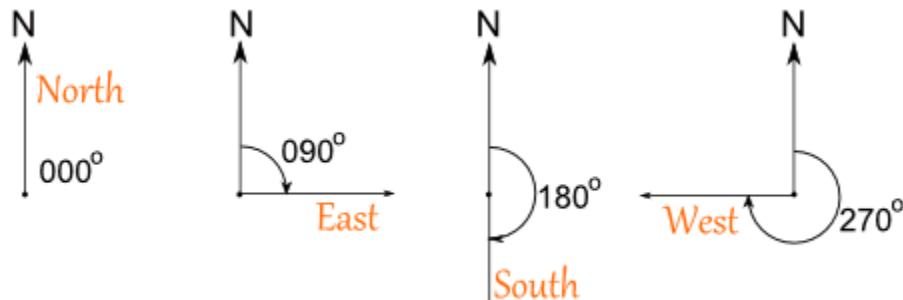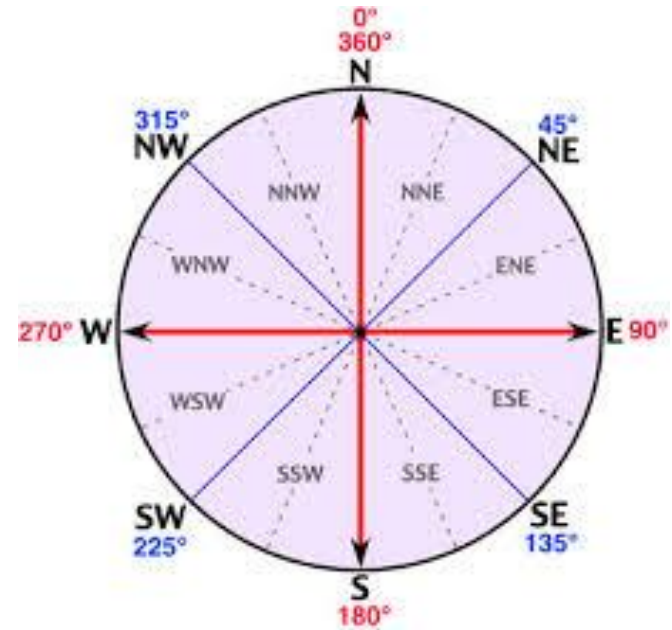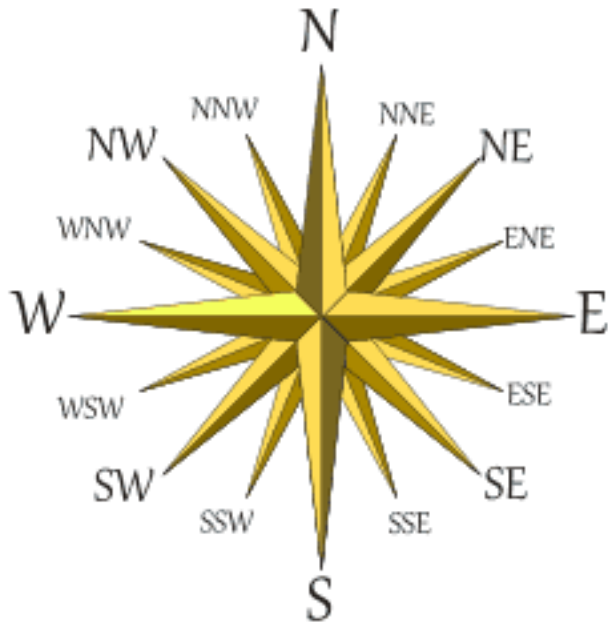## *Indirect*

➢ **Direction (straight)**

➢ **Distance (600m)**

➢ **Auxiliary Observation (e.g. House)**

➢ **Indicator (4 Fingers left)**

➢ **Observation (e.g. 3 Soldiers)**

Indicate Directions
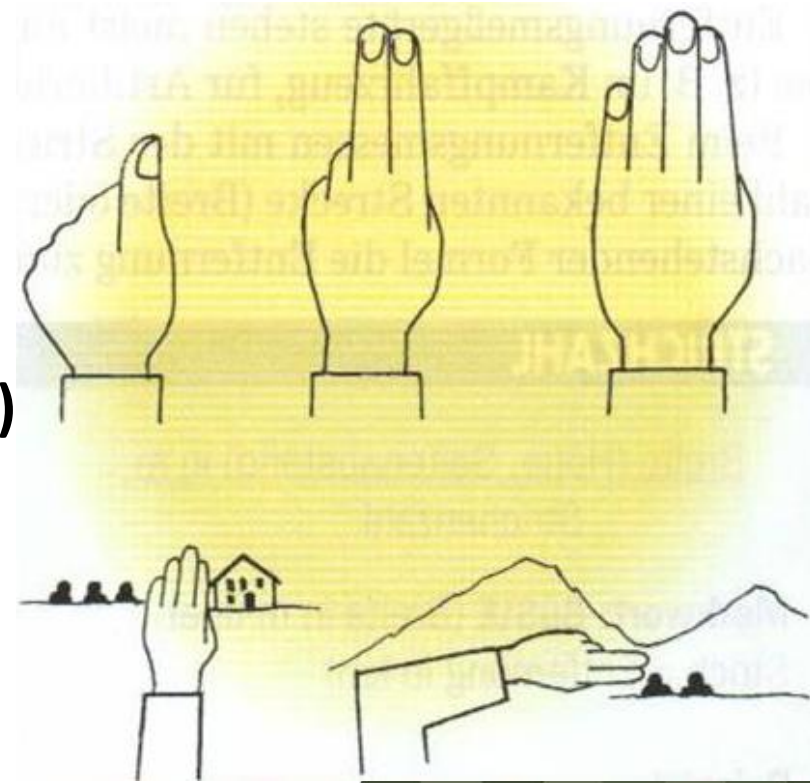
Geo - Directions

OP Ops: Routine

- Meet / contact your OP Team member, check the time for picking him/her up

- Check the latest operational situation at Duty/Ops Officer at Hub/Team

- Check your equipment, (Radio, Binos etc...) vehicle & fuel

- Collect OP Supplies from Supply Officer

- Pack all your things into your OP KITs/ BOXs
  (get what you need)

OP Ops: Routine

- Properly Plan your Route

- Schedule & Conduct the radio check before leaving

- Movcon!

- Observe and make notes of the overall situation in the area, write an immediate incident or routine report

- Maintain regular communications with your HQ/Team
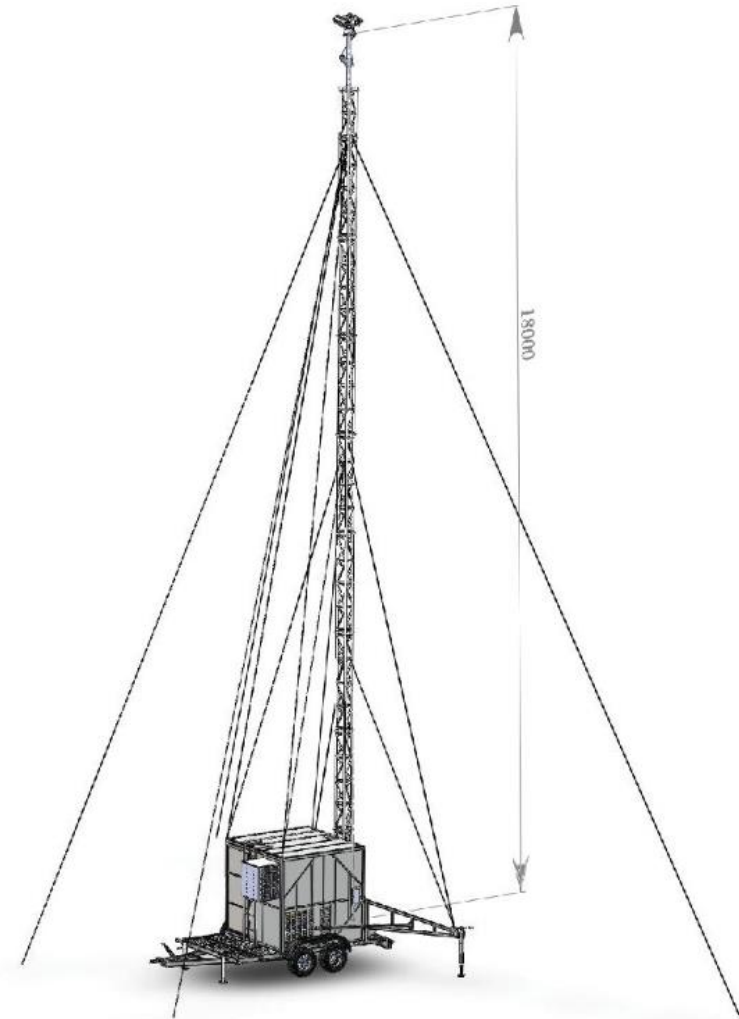
OP Ops: Emergency procedures

- Set (personal) alert procedures
- Know the shelter instructions and keep it in good condition
- Know the escape route (Evacuation order)
- Know alarm signals
- Have PPE & grab bag at hand

Technical Monitoring

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Camera Monitoring Systems

Technical Monitoring

- Remote observation capacity
- Direct link/records
- Deployed in areas where SMM has limited access (i.e. security)
- Encrypted transmission
- Night time monitoring

Technical Monitoring

Technical Monitoring - UAV

Take Aways

➢ <u>**SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST**</u> **!**

- ▪ **Know the safety regulations**

- ▪ **PLAN your stay at the OP**

- ▪ **Integrate yourself in the team**

- ▪ **Use your common sense**

Expect the unexpected !