

(20)

DISPLACEMENT OF THE INFANTRY AND
MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION COMMAND POSTS

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SUBJECT: Displacement of the Infantry and Mechanized Infantry
Battalion Command Post

1. PROBLEM. Should the infantry and mechanized infantry battalion command posts displace in one or two echelons.
2. ASSUMPTIONS.
 - a. Organization and equipment authorized by the final ROAD TOE for the infantry and mechanized infantry battalions will not change.
 - b. Units have completed organization and equipment transition from ROCID to ROAD.
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.
 - a. The command post is located to facilitate control of the battalion. (8:21)
 - b. Continuous communications must be maintained with higher, lower, attached, supporting, and adjacent units. (8:334)
 - c. The command post displaces whenever necessary to insure security and/or continuous control of the command. (8:23)
 - d. An echelon is " ... one of the divisions" as defined in Webster's dictionary. (10:315)
 - e. The command post usually displaces in two echelons to insure continuous control of operations. It may, however, displace as a unit in one move. (8:24)
 - f. Displacement of the command post normally is prescribed in the unit SOP. (8:21)
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. During any tactical operation the commander must know precisely where his troops are, what they are doing, and what they require. He commands his forces from a command post located so that he can effectively exercise control and be in constant communications with his superior, subordinate, attached, and supporting elements. In order to maintain the aforesaid control, displacement of the command post may be necessary.
 - b. Displacement of the infantry and mechanized infantry battalion command posts usually is accomplished in two echelons. (8:24) (Annex A)
 - c. The infantry and mechanized infantry battalions are not authorized adequate personnel and equipment to displace by two echelons as described in ST 7-20-2. (8:24) The command post displacing in this manner requires both echelons to function continuously; this is possible only in the second echelon. The other method, displacing as a unit in one move, as stated

in the manual, recommends the use of a command group for command and control. Separating this group from the command post is, in fact, displacing by two echelons. (Annex B)

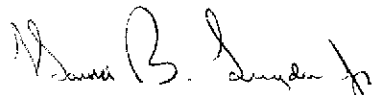
d. Displacement of the command post is normally described in the unit SOP. (8:21) These procedures must insure that:

- (1) There is proper coordination to avoid the possible loss of control and/or interrupted communications. (8:355)
- (2) Movement is secure from enemy detection and attack.
- (3) Continuous operation is maintained.
- (4) Staff coordination is maintained.
- (5) Rapid loading and unloading procedures are established to expedite displacement.
- (6) Logistical support is continued.

5. CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Displacing the command post by two echelons as described in ST 7-20-2 is impractical.
- b. Displacing the command post by two echelons utilizing the first echelon as a temporary installation to facilitate control, and using the second echelon as a permanent installation displacing by bounds is practical.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED. The procedure in Annex C be included as a change to ST 7-20-2, Infantry, Airborne Infantry, and Mechanized Infantry Battalions, August 1963.


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ANNEXES:

- A - Two Echelon Displacement
- B - Echelon Composition and Functions
- C - Proposed Change to ST 7-20-2, Infantry, Airborne Infantry, and Mechanized Infantry Battalions
- X - Bibliography

CONCURRENCES: (Omitted)
NONCONCURRENCES: (Omitted)
CONSIDERATION OF NONCONCURRENCES: (Omitted)
ANNEXES ADDED: (Omitted)
ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

Date:

Approved (disapproved), including (excluding) exceptions.

Signature

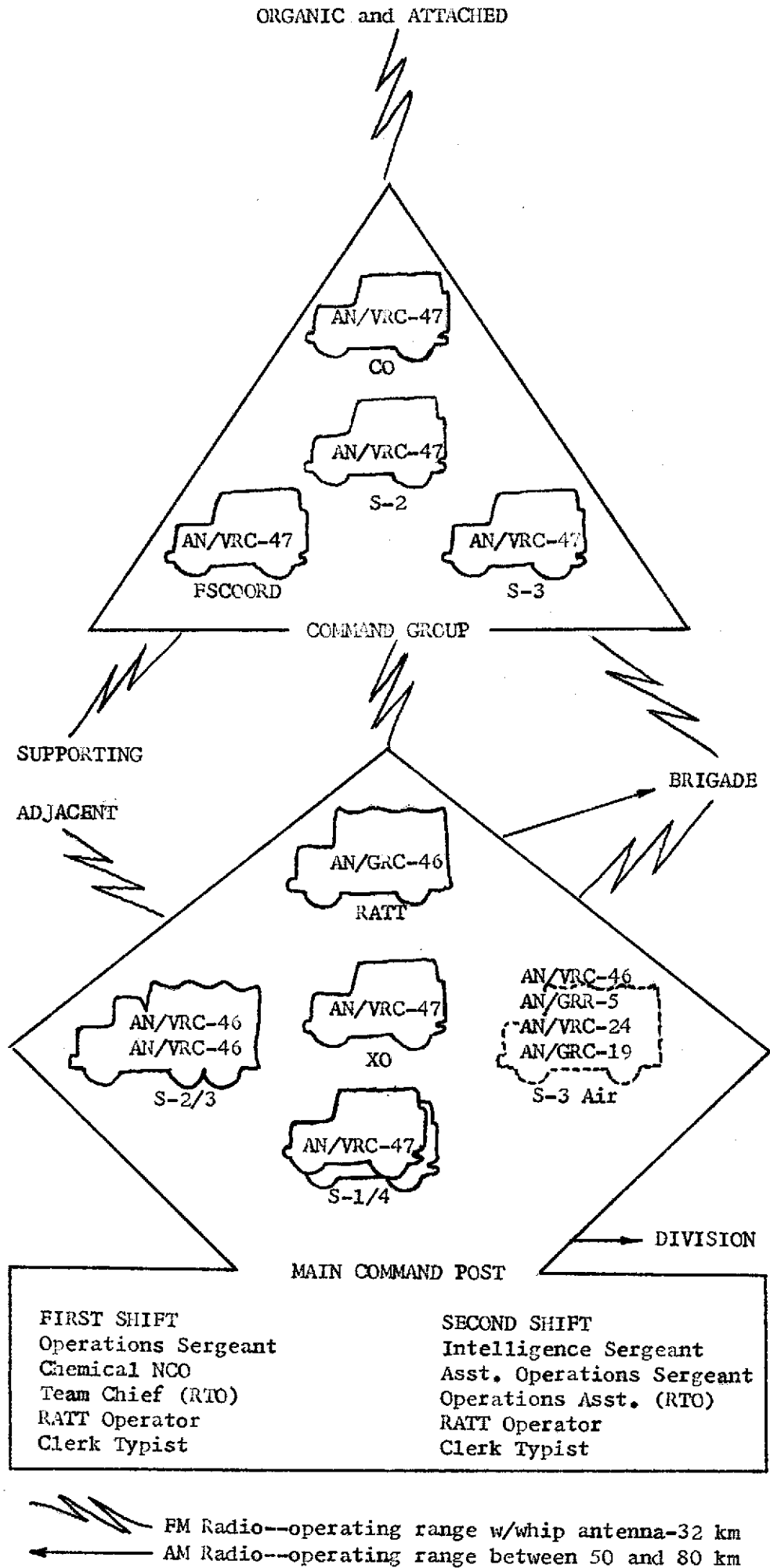
ANNEX A--Two Echelon Displacement

1. During any fluid operation displacement in two echelons is essential to insure security and/or control.
 - a. The first echelon (or command group) usually includes, but is not limited to, the battalion commander, S-2, S-3, FSCoord, and required enlisted personnel. This group is small, cohesive, and flexible; and yet it affords the commander mobility, communications, and staff coordination. Initially the command group is located as directed on the operations order; however, once the operation commences, the frequency of their moves depends on the progress and momentum of the forces as well as on communications, terrain, and enemy action.
 - b. The second echelon (or main command post) is supervised by the executive officer. It should displace by bounds as directed by the battalion commander, and it may displace only after notifying higher headquarters, organic, attached, and supporting units.
 - (1) A reconnaissance party consisting of the reconnaissance officer (the S-1 or headquarters commandant), communications officer, and selected enlisted personnel should reconnoiter possible command post locations on the axis of movement between the command group and the main command post. From this reconnaissance exact locations are selected to which the main command post can move.
 - (2) Following closely behind the reconnaissance party is a quartering party consisting of the S-1 or headquarters commandant (whichever is not with the reconnaissance group), security element, guides, communications personnel, and required enlisted assistants. Their function is to prepare the selected area for rapid emplacement of the command post as soon as it is ordered to displace.
 - c. While the command group physically controls the operation, the main should monitor and record all information pertinent to the operation and act as a link for relaying all instructions, progress, and requirements to and from higher headquarters.

ANNEX B--Echelon Composition and Functions

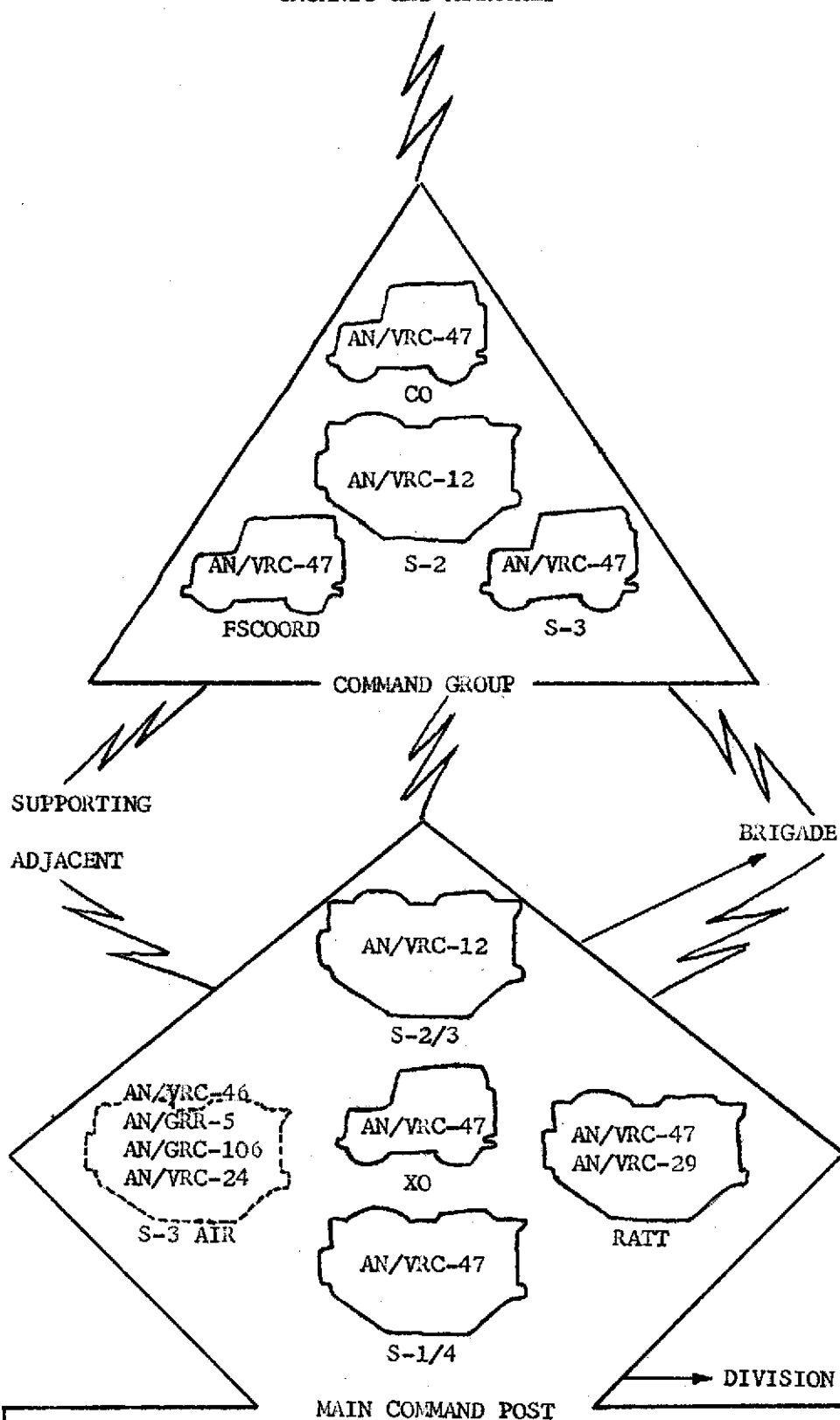
1. An echelon, as defined in Webster's dictionary, is "... one of the divisions." (10:315) Funk and Wagnalls dictionary calls echelon a "... subdivision" and " a military unit regarded as having a distinct function." (3:415)
2. The command group is a division of the command post (Annex A) and is commonly referred to as the first echelon. Although it affords the commander the necessary elements for control, personnel and equipment limitations preclude continuous operations for an indefinite period. It should be considered a temporary installation, designed to facilitate control during a particular time and over a limited period. The composition of the group, whether infantry or mechanized infantry, can maintain this control.
3. The main command post, on the other hand, is the nerve center of the battalion and must be organized to function continuously for an indefinite period. A system, therefore, must be established within the complex to insure this.
4. Composition, communications, and organization of personnel shifts for a typical unit SOP are diagrammed in Appendix 1 (infantry battalion) and Appendix 2 (mechanized infantry battalion).

APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX B--INFANTRY



APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX B --MECHANIZED INFANTRY

ORGANIC and ATTACHED



FIRST SHIFT

Operations Sergeant
Chemical NCO
Team Chief (RTO)
RATT Operator
Clerk Typist

SECOND SHIFT

Intelligence Sergeant
Asst. Operations Sergeant
Operations Asst.
RATT Operator
Clerk Typist

FM Radio--operating range w/whip antenna-32 km
AM Radio--operating range between 50 and 80 km

ANNEX C--Proposed Change to ST 7-20-2, Infantry, Airborne Infantry,
and Mechanized Infantry Battalions

That paragraph 50 d, ST 7-20-2, Infantry, Airborne Infantry,
and Mechanized Infantry Battalions be changed to read:

The command post usually displaces in two echelons to insure continuous control of operations. The first echelon usually includes, but is not limited to, the battalion commander, S-2, S-3, FSCoord, and designated enlisted personnel. Although this echelon affords the commander the necessary elements for control, it is considered a temporary installation, designed to facilitate control during a particular time and over a limited period. The second echelon operates continuously. It is under the control of the executive officer during the commander's absence. He may recommend to the commander a time and place for displacing the command post, but he must receive approval prior to displacing. Brigade headquarters, organic, attached, and supporting units are notified of the move and the new location.

ANNEX X--Bibliography

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4. Infantry Communication Data (Fort Benning, Ga.: United States Army Infantry School, June 1962).
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6. Mostinski, Colonel A., "Displacement of the Command Posts and Maintenance of Uninterrupted Communications" Voyenny Vestnik, No. 16, 1948. B-9173-e
7. Operations and Training Handbook w/change No. 1 (Fort Benning, Ga.: United States Army Infantry School, 1st ed., FY 1964).
8. ST 7-20-2, Infantry, Airborne Infantry, and Mechanized Infantry Battalions (Fort Benning, Ga.: United States Army Infantry School, Aug 1963).
9. ST 7-20-3, Infantry, Airborne, and Mechanized Division Brigades (Fort Benning, Ga.: United States Army Infantry School, Aug 1963).
10. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, Mass.: G.L.C. Merriam Co., Publishers, 5th ed., 1948).