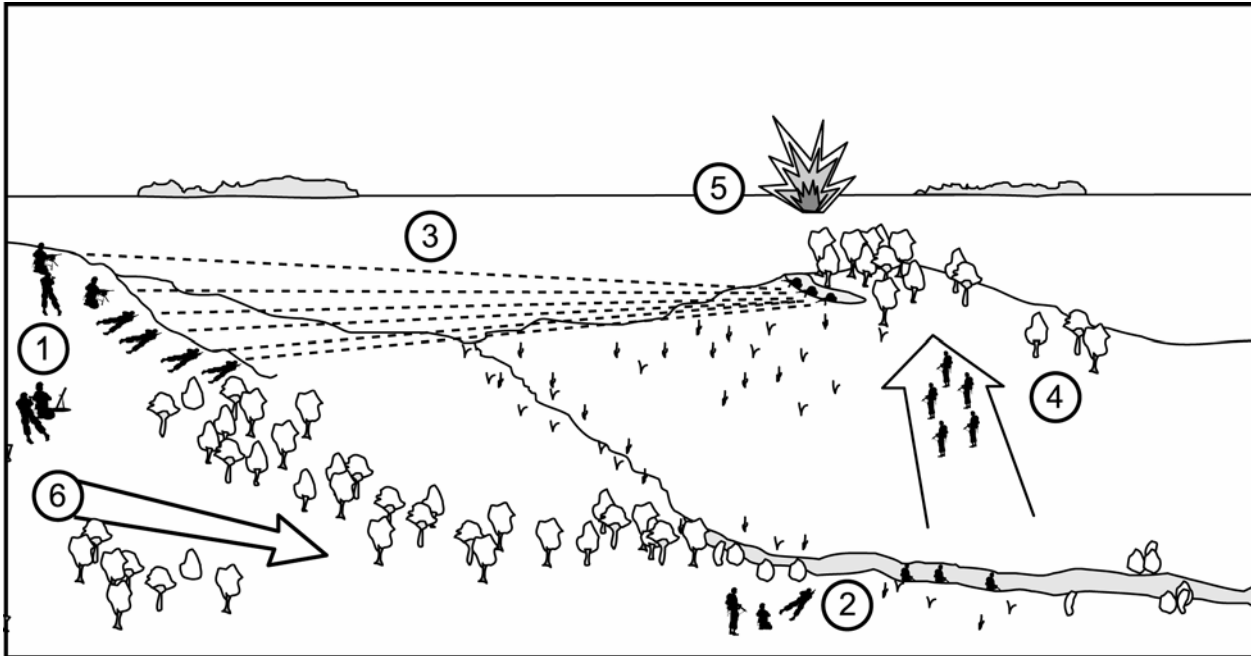


The Infantry ATTACK

While a **support element** suppresses the enemy with overwhelming fires from a fixed location, a small **assault element** moves around and assaults the enemy flank. This *fire and maneuver* attack, known as a *single envelopment* or *flank attack*, is the key infantry tactic for all echelons, from squad, to platoon, to company and battalion.



Attack Sequence

1. The *support element* is composed of the majority of your unit, including all available machineguns and supporting weapons. It sets up at the *support-by-fire position* (SBF) in order to overwatch the movement of the *assault element*.
2. The *assault element* avoids detection by moving along a covered route to a covered assault position on the enemy's flank.
3. The *support element* fixes the enemy and shuts down their fires with overwhelming suppressive fire. **See SBF Tactics.**
4. Once the enemy is suppressed, the assault element assaults. Suppression must be maintained until the last possible minute.
5. The support element shifts or ceases fire.
6. A third element, the *reserve* or *exploitation element* can follow the assault element into the enemy position and exploit the attack.

Enemy Positions

This tactic is most effective against isolated positions. Mutually supported positions must be attacked simultaneously or not at all.

If no covered approach exists, the assault element is completely dependant on continuous, effective suppression. This is difficult. Surprise the enemy by assaulting behind darkness, fog or smoke.

Hasty Attack

Finding the enemy first is critical. Developing a hasty attack while under enemy fire is difficult. The support element will probably expend all their ammunition before the assault element can get into place. The assault element, moving rapidly, may not find a covered route and may not surprise the enemy. Undetected enemy units may engage to prevent the assault.

"Fire without maneuver is indecisive. Maneuver without fire is fatal."

SBF Tactics

The support element executes the **Support By Fire (SBF)** mission. While the assault element moves to outflank the enemy, the support element suppresses the enemy with overwhelming fire.

The SBF:

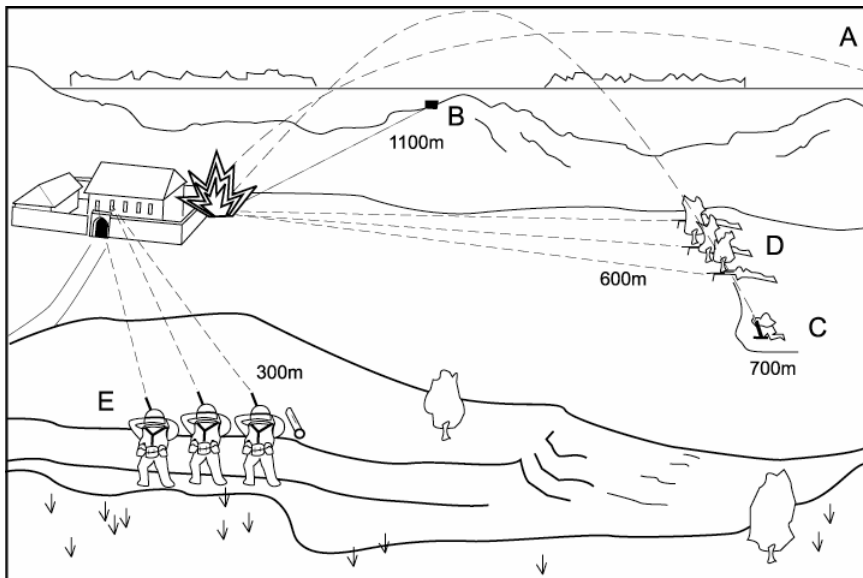
- Reduces the volume and effectiveness of enemy fire by *suppressing* the enemy—forcing him to take cover.
- Kills exposed enemy and destroys his unprotected weapons.
- Reduces the effectiveness of the enemy's observation.
- Permits the assault element to close on the objective, ideally without being observed or taking any casualties.

The Support Element:

- Should be reinforced with all available machineguns. *Machineguns are the primary and most effective suppressive weapon in the infantry.*
- Should be supported by mortars for obscuration fires.
- Should be 3 to 8 times larger than the assault element. This insures responsiveness and overwhelming fire.

The Ideal SBF Position:

- Is protected from enemy return fire by partial defilade.
- Has good visibility of the enemy position.
- Overlooks the assault element's route.



From over the horizon, A, artillery, battalion mortars, and CAS attack the objective. Heavy weapons, HMGs, AAVs, or tanks, fire from defilade at B. The support element at the SBF position fires company mortars from defilade at C, and machineguns and rifle squads fire from D. The exploitation element, responsible for overwatching the assault element, fires their small arms from E. The assault element started at E and used the cover and concealment of the sunken road to an assault position near the objective.

The Integrated SBF

The support element integrates all available supporting arms. Large weapons—artillery and CAS, if available—fire first. Vehicle-mounted weapons, mechanized or armor support, and mortars fire next. The machineguns and small arms of the support element then fire. Decreasing the size of the weapons permits the assault element to close on the enemy.

SBF Sequence

Occupy SBF. The support element overwatches the assault element's movement. If the assault element is engaged, the SBF provides immediate mutual support.

Fire Suppressive Fires. The support element calls supporting fires and then fires organic fires to permit the assault element to close on the enemy.

Shift Fires. As the assault element assaults, fires shift to suppress other positions, attack retreating forces, or prevent enemy resupply, reinforcement, or counterattack efforts.

Targeting

The support element fires at known and suspected enemy positions. Too many positions cannot be suppressed. Fires need to be *concentrated* and *overwhelming*.