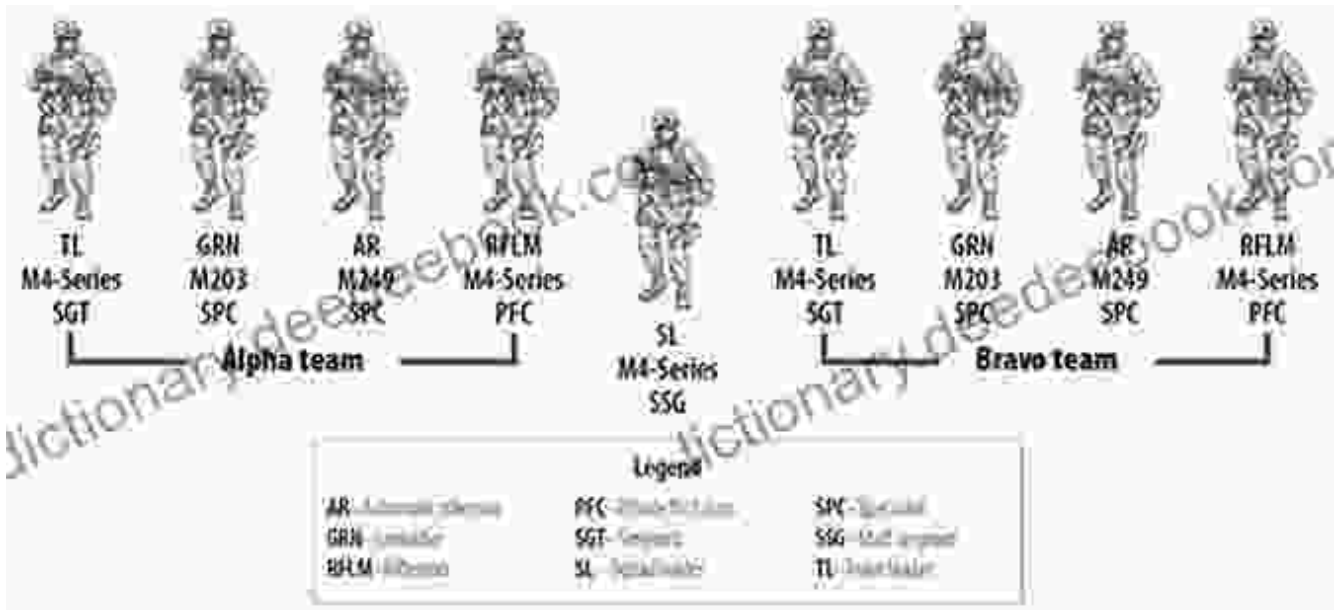


Field Manual FM 21-12: A Comprehensive Guide to Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad Tactics



Field Manual (FM) 21-12, published by the United States Army, serves as the definitive guide to infantry rifle platoon and squad tactics. It encompasses a comprehensive range of topics, from unit organization and equipment to combat operations in diverse environments.



Field Manual FM 3-21.8 Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad by Michael E. Sawyer

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 53555 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled
- Print length : 602 pages
- Lending : Enabled



Unit Organization

FM 21-12 outlines the organizational structure of infantry rifle platoons and squads. A platoon typically consists of three squads, each with a specific role:

- **Rifle Squad:** The backbone of the platoon, providing firepower and maneuverability.
- **Weapons Squad:** Equipped with heavier weapons, such as machine guns and anti-tank rockets, for enhanced firepower.
- **Headquarters Squad:** Led by the platoon leader, it coordinates operations and provides administrative support.

Equipment

The manual details the equipment assigned to infantry rifle platoons and squads, including:

- **Individual Weapons:** Rifles, pistols, and grenades for close combat.
- **Crew-Served Weapons:** Machine guns, anti-tank rockets, and mortars for suppressing enemy forces and engaging targets at a distance.
- **Communication Devices:** Radios and hand signals for effective communication within the unit.
- **Vehicles:** Humvees or other armored vehicles for transportation and protection.

Combat Operations

FM 21-12 provides detailed guidance on executing combat operations, including:

- **Offensive Operations:** Planning and conducting attacks to seize or destroy enemy objectives.
- **Defensive Operations:** Establishing and maintaining defensive positions to repel enemy attacks.
- **Stability Operations:** Conducting missions to support peacekeeping and counterinsurgency efforts.
- **Urban Operations:** Fighting in built-up areas with unique challenges and tactics.
- **Close Combat:** Engaging in hand-to-hand combat or using weapons at close range.

Movement and Maneuver

The manual emphasizes the importance of movement and maneuver in combat operations. Topics covered include:

- **Fire and Maneuver:** Coordinating firepower and movement to overwhelm the enemy.
- **Cover and Concealment:** Utilizing terrain and obstacles to protect soldiers from enemy fire.
- **Patrolling:** Conducting reconnaissance and surveillance to gather intelligence and identify enemy positions.

- **Ambushes:** Setting up and executing ambushes to surprise and eliminate enemy forces.

Fire Support

FM 21-12 highlights the crucial role of fire support in infantry combat.

Topics covered include:

- **Indirect Fire:** Using mortars, artillery, or airstrikes to engage targets beyond the range of infantry weapons.
- **Close Air Support:** Coordinating with aircraft to provide pinpoint strikes on enemy positions.
- **Firefighting Techniques:** Suppressing enemy fire and protecting friendly forces from imminent threats.

Training and Education

The manual emphasizes the significance of training and education for infantry rifle platoons and squads. Topics covered include:

- **Basic Training:** Developing fundamental skills in marksmanship, combat tactics, and physical fitness.
- **Advanced Training:** Specializing in specific roles, such as snipers, medics, or explosive ordnance disposal.
- **Leadership Development:** Training platoon leaders and squad leaders in decision-making, communication, and motivating soldiers.
- **Simulation and Exercises:** Utilizing simulations and field exercises to practice and refine combat skills.

Field Manual FM 21-12 provides a comprehensive and authoritative guide to infantry rifle platoon and squad tactics. It is an essential resource for infantry personnel, trainers, and military strategists. By adhering to the principles outlined in this manual, infantry units can enhance their combat effectiveness, protect soldiers, and accomplish their missions.



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