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CANADIAN FORCES COLLEGE / COLLÈGE DES FORCES CANADIENNES
CSC 31 / CCEM 31

EXERCISE/EXERCICE

NEW HORIZONS

By /par Maj. M.U. ŞENOL

Term One, Syndicate 11

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La présente étude a été rédigée par un stagiaire du Collège des Forces canadiennes pour satisfaire à l'une des exigences du cours. L'étude est un document qui se rapporte au cours et contient donc des faits et des opinions que seul l'auteur considère appropriés et convenables au sujet. Elle ne reflète pas nécessairement la politique ou l'opinion d'un organisme quelconque, y compris le gouvernement du Canada et le ministère de la Défense nationale du Canada. Il est défendu de diffuser, de citer ou de reproduire cette étude sans la permission expresse du ministère de la Défense nationale.

ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a kind of violence, which has different types of dimensions. An exact solution will not be achieved just by using military forces, but also by social, political, and economical measures must be used. To counter destroy the threat: intelligence, military force, social-economic measures and physiological operations have to be used together. The military operations that has been conducted by domestic security units includes only fight dimension versus terrorists in the area. The other dimensions are intelligence, economy, social relations, and physiology. After 9/11 every country understood that terrorism is the most important issue for their domestic security.

Turkey has been fighting terrorist organizations in eastern and southeastern part of the country for 20 years. The Turkish Armed Forces have gained a lot of experience in counter terrorism operations in the mountainous part of the country as a result. One of the most important lesson that has been learned is the need to control and/or hold the critical points of a region which can be used by terrorists for their survival. In this concept, an internal security brigade controls its area of responsibility through its operational troops, the battalion task forces. The battalion task force assigns some of its teams the responsibility of territorial control in order to detect and overcome terrorist threats. Therefore, those points that control probable enemy locations have to be selected and the teams must be deployed in the most critical areas. This concept is called area supremacy and area control and is the one, which will lead to military success against terrorism in these situations.

"We all have to be concerned about terrorism, but you will never end terrorism by terrorizing others."¹

Martin Luther King III

"Terrorism [is] a biological consequence of the multinationals, just as a day of fever is the reasonable price of an effective vaccine . . . The conflict is between great powers, not between demons and heroes. Unhappily, therefore, is the nation that finds the "heroes" underfoot, especially if they still think in religious terms and involve the population in their bloody ascent to an uninhabited paradise."²

Umberto Eco

As we have entered the twenty-first century, terrorism remains a threat to national and global security interests. Thus, scores of countries have experienced sporadic and relentless subnational and government-sponsored terrorism. Epitomizing the state of anarchy in contemporary life and increasingly becoming a universal nightmare, terrorism includes kidnapping of businesspeople, assassination of political leaders, bombing of embassies, and hijacking of aircraft. So terrorism has become a main issue for all countries' domestic security.

Just as it did in the violence-ridden twentieth century, Turkey bears the dubious distinction of having to fight perhaps the most varied medley of outlaws bent on destroying its way of life in the new millennium. These terrorists target not only the Turkish state but also ordinary Turkish citizens. Even teachers, Muslim clergymen, technicians, and local administrators (village headmen) have been targeted, as they were perceived by the terrorists to be agents of the government.³ Turkey, especially the Turkish Armed Forces has been fighting terrorist organizations in eastern and southeastern part of country for 20 years. The Turkish

¹ Luther, Martin King III, Terrorism Quotes, <http://www.subzeroblue.com/archives>, internet accessed December 30, 2004.

² Eco, Umberto, Terrorism Quotes, <http://zaadz.com/quotes/topics/terrain/>, internet accessed December 30, 2004.

³ Alexander, Yonah, *Combating Terrorism*, Michigan 2002, p.260

Armed Forces have gained a lot of experiences in counter terrorism by the effect of this fight. One experience from this fight is to deploy the units into the different critical Base Region instead of keeping them in their garrison areas.⁴ This has increased the success of the military units and prevented and/or restricted the movement of the terrorists.

This paper will begin with an explanation of the general concept of domestic security and domestic security units in counter-terror operations. Then it will discuss the properties, tactics, and techniques of the terrorists. Finally it will describe area supremacy and area control as an effective method of contering terrorists.

Domestic Security Operation:

Domestic security operations are operations realized by the Armed Forces and other security forces of the state to protect and safeguard the indivisible integrity of the state with its country and nation with the support of civil institutions of the state, subject to powers vested by law in order to eliminate the occurring domestic threat and to ensure security.⁵ Operations may be realized in different ways according to characteristics of the threat at times and places where a threat occurs within the country. In the event of an armed threat, the operations conducted necessitate a domestic security operation. These operations are conducted pursuant to concepts of unconventional warfare rather than conventional warfare.

Domestic Security Units

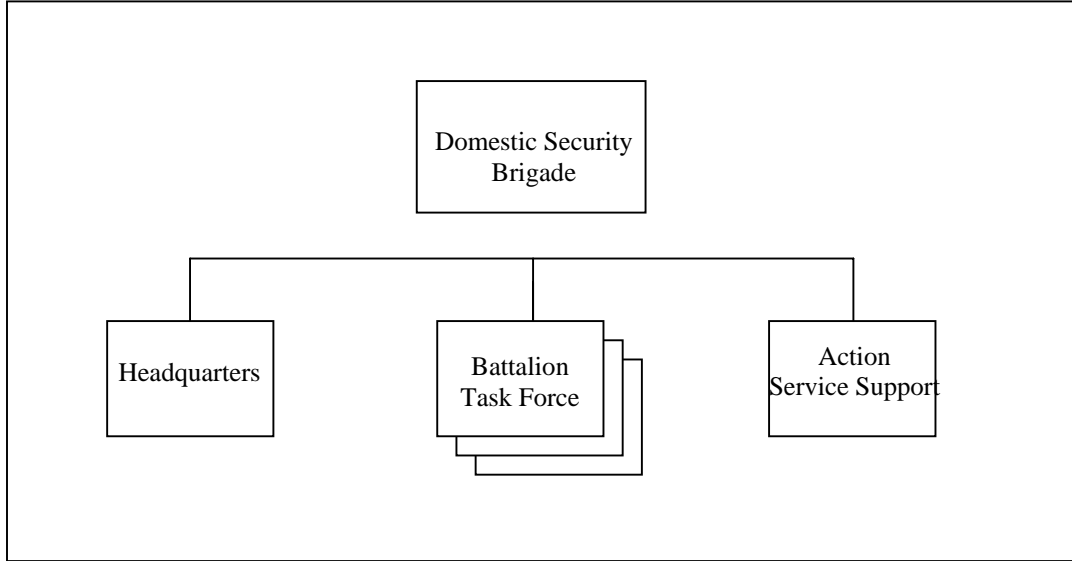
Armed Forces need to establish an organization that can eliminate the threat in the urbanized terrain and rural sections where the domestic threat occurs. Thus, units must be formed

⁴ Ilhan, Suat, *Teror: Neden Turkiye? (Terror: Why Turkey)*, Ankara 1998, p.156

⁵ EDOK (TRADOC), *Alan Hakimiyeti/Alan Kontrolu (Area Supremacy/Area Control)*, Ankara 1998, p.68

to encounter the threat in the domestic security operations rather than the conventional warfare techniques and tactics. In this context, domestic safety brigades may be established as shown in the figure herein below.⁶

A model domestic security brigade is presented in Figure 1.



A Domestic Security Brigade Organization

Battalion task forces are main operational units.⁷ The battalion task forces realize reinforcement and replacement of the teams⁸ within the area of responsibility, provision of supplies and execution of other logistic actions. These actions are carried out from the battalion main base regions, which is in the area of responsibility of the battalion task forces. Battalion

⁶ Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanligi (Turkish Land Forces), *KKT 31-2, Domestic Security Operations (National Military Source)*, K.K.Basimevi-Ankara 1998, p.48.

⁷ Genelkurmay Baskanligi (Turkish General Staff), *Istikrar Harekati (Stability Operations)*, Ankara 2001, p.119

⁸ In general concept, a Battalion Task Force structure includes three infantry companies and an infantry company has three teams. These teams include three groups: attack group, security group, and support group. All groups have seven people: one group commander, and the others are the elements of the group. A team has also one team commander, two medical expert, and one explosion expert: all teams have twenty-five people totally.

main base regions must be of sufficient size to be occupied by the units forming the battalion task force and must be located in a more secure area compared to the location of the teams. Other features related to the battalion main base regions are determined with certain military rules. Half of the teams in a battalion task force are located in the critical area while the other half is located in the battalion main base region. The security of the battalion main base region is ensured by those teams engaged in training, target practice and resting in the battalion main base region.

The structure of the Brigade, which is based on the infantry battalion, includes three Infantry Battalion Task forces, the headquarters where the operation planning is conducted and a combat service support element, which is responsible for all kinds of supplies. The Battalion Task Force structure includes three infantry companies. These companies are special units with special training in counter terrorism domestic operation. The infantry companies again have a team structure in themselves. Teams are the smallest basic units that can perform a task. Various tasks may be assigned on an individual basis.

The brigade which is assigned to the domestic security operation is required to render the terrorists in its area of responsibility ineffective.⁹ To place the region under control it takes critical locations under control and prevents the utilization of them by terrorists. Then it returns to its base region forces after leaving an appropriate force to prevent use of the region again by terrorists.

Terrorist Tactics

Domestic security operations differ from the conventional operations. The difference is due to the difference of the land, and the counter-force (terrorist). The units shall apply the

⁹ Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanlığı (Land Forces Command), *İç Güvenlik Harekati (Domestic Security Operations)*, Ankara 1998, p.236

methods of action in their organization to counter the adverse impacts of these conditions.

Base Region

Base Regions are those areas where shelter, training and food requirements of the terrorist groups are fulfilled and where their headquarters are located base. The following issues are taken into consideration in the selection of the base regions, which are generally located in mountainous, forest regions, passages and defiles:

- ✓ Concealment against air and land surveillance,
- ✓ Remote distance to settlements and main roads,
- ✓ Provision of shelter, food and survival means under all seasonal conditions,
- ✓ Suitability for manoeuvres,
- ✓ Provision of internal and external security with a small group,
- ✓ Availability of passages to approach the target in a concealed manner if it is an operations base.
- ✓ Possibility of approaching and retreating to and from the target in one night.¹⁰

Shelters are secret safety points used by the terrorist forces to realize their efforts to achieve their goal in a sound manner.¹¹ Shelters are selected at quiet and secluded locations which are at a distance to certain points like roads, junctions, fountains, caves etc., which are not occupied constantly for animal grazing, leaf and wood collection, which do not have soil that makes excessive marks, which are suitable for defense against all conditions, where the removed

¹⁰ Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanligi (Turkish Land Forces), *KKT 31-2, Domestic Security Operations (National Military Source)*, K.K.Basimevi-Ankara 1998, p.304.

¹¹ Kundakci, Hasan, *Guneydoguda unutulmayanlar (Forgottens in the Southeast)*, Istanbul 2004, p.151

soil can easily be camouflaged and where the ground is not sandy and not located in a pit or on a gradient water course (stone piles located at valleys, forests, bushes and fields). They are generally used in late hours of the night and care is be exerted not to leave any traces or make noises, prevent eating and smoking in the environs, not to have excessive belongings, not to shed light to the exterior, and to have a reserve shelter made nearby and to provide alternative exits (tunnels).¹² Terrorists always make ready at least two points to use inside their regions. They don't move and don't stay at these points or near these points during day. They move and continue to do their actions between these points at night. For their attacks, they select and control specific points. The terrorist groups gather at these specific points before their attacks. After preparation they attack and all the member of groups disperse to their own places. They also choose special places for emergency or to use in case of unexpected events. Terrorist groups continue their attacks and their trainings inside these places according to this concept, which is related with these points. (Figure-2) The terrorist group's size and numbers depend on the limit of region. These places provide movement and flexibility for the terrorists. Therefore, a new type of combat called active combat is required to counter comes to table versus well-organized terrorists. The main idea of area supremacy is to control these terrorist points. Since these points are vital for the terrorists, to control these places will bring the success required for area supremacy.

Marching Tactics and Techniques of Terrorists:

Vanguard and security columns are formed when marching, and halts are made at certain distances at suitable times and locations. While they were in a halt, they were also ready for any

¹² Kislali, Mehmet Ali, *Guneydogu: Dusuk Yogunluklu Catisma (The Southeast: Low-intensity Conflict)*, Ankara 1996, p.273.

conflict. River coasts are used rarely down movements and the movements are generally made over slopes; straits are not used and movement during daytime is avoided unless necessary. Movement is started as soon possible after sunset and is completed before sunrise. Terrorists can walk minimum 20 km in 8 hours. In exceptional cases, movement shall be continued until the target is reached.¹³ The terrorist unit shall not be in much difficulty if shelters and supply depots are provided on the route. If this is impossible, the movement is made with a guide over narrow tracks and secret roads, and security elements are be used, the march is made in line within line of sight. Halts are made at suitable locations away from roads. Meeting points are determined in advance in the event of any disruptions.

Ambush Tactics and Techniques of Terrorists:

Ambush is an assault in the form of a raid aiming at achieving one or more objectives to harass, eliminate or demoralize the security forces, to acquire weapons, equipment and supplies required, to obtain public support by creating a powerful image and to increase morale and gain experience.

Terrorist organizations are organized with the elements of assault, support, and safety (defense) for ambush. The assault element is composed of one or more teams consisting of 2-3 persons. The safety element is formed of sufficient numbers of personnel to support early warning and retreat. The support group aims at ambushing the reinforcement group that comes into the ambush area.

They are based on detailed intelligence and reconnaissance. Prepared ambush is made against units which are observed as lacking training and proper precautions and which pass certain points in a planned manner at routine times. The ambush mechanism is established within

¹³ Imset, Ismet, *PKK*, Turkish Daily News Publication, 24 August, 1993

a distance of approximately 100 m. of killing zone.¹⁴ Retreat is realized in small groups and in different directions. As it is the case in all actions, the impacts of the action on the public and the security forces are determined and propaganda activities are realized.

Raid Tactics and Techniques of Terrorists:

Raids are conducted with the aim of achieving one or more objectives of destroying or capturing security forces, or forcing the security forces to break up. The following elements are organized for the raid;

- ✓ Assault group,
- ✓ Defense group,
- ✓ Waylay group (Support),
- ✓ Reserve group (for assault or defense).

The most suitable time for the raid is the darkness condition weathers when the visibility is limited. However, in the event it is determined that military units do not take efficient safety measures and the possibility of escape exists raids may be conducted close to sunset. Raids are started with rocket, mortar (if any), automatic rifle fire upon the sign in order to create a shock and panic. After penetration of the assault element into the close and remote safety positions of the security forces, and especially to determine the heavy weapon locations and to cover these with fire, and by keeping the target under pressure with automatic gun fire the penetration group is given the chance to throw grenades to the positions. If the action is a success, the positions shall be entered to collect weapons, ammunition and materials and to kill the survivors, after

¹⁴ Major Ahmet Otal from Turkish Special Forces Command, telephone conversation with person,05 January 2005

which retreat occurs. Safety elements are left behind during retreat depending on the risk of being followed and movement is made in the opposite direction of the planned location for a while and the meeting point is reached via the actual direction afterwards. Booby traps are placed if their dead and injured cannot be carried away.

AREA SUPREMACY

Organization based on Area Supremacy and Area Control must be realized in order to render the terrorist elements, applying the tactics listed above, ineffective,

Area Supremacy

With the objective of placing the region under control; taking control of the critical locations and prevention of use by terrorists with the operations, cleaning the region of terrorists, leaving behind an efficient force to prevent use of the same region by terrorists again and returning to the base, and realization of operations in a continued manner during day and night is called Area Supremacy.

Area Control:

With the objective of preventing movement of terrorists and their preparation and organization for reconnaissance actions and attacks in the region; restriction of all kinds of terrorist actions by keeping control of the area of responsibility by the operation units in Domestic Security Operations. (Figure-3) This can be explained with an example as follows:

In some cases, the quality of a service given by a company can be evaluated by its reaching the specific place on time with its high standards. For instance, a pizza company delivering to houses guarantees to deliver pizza at most 30 minutes. This company's success can be measured by its 30 minutes delivery time. In order to realize the service, this pizza company

has to have enough stores, which dispersed as they can meet any pizza order within 30 minutes. In this example, the disposition of all stores is very important. If you place all stores in appropriate positions you can realize the orders on time.

As seen in the example above, deployment of the units in a region must be realized so as to ensure area supremacy. The concept functions as follows:

During the application of the area supremacy and area control concept, an initial operation is required with priority in the area to remove the terrorist control. For this purpose, a large-scale operation must be conducted in the area with large units at the beginning. The action must be commenced once the area is evacuated or the terrorists in the area are scattered into small groups and are in hiding.¹⁵ With the area control being achieved: the terrorist must not be able to benefit from the area or must only be capable of realizing actions with great risks or should shift their actions to other areas. Where it is determined that the area is evacuated, the large operation in the beginning may be omitted. In such cases, units must be appointed directly for area control.

As area control is generally realized in areas where the terrorists are obliged to establish contact with the underground or affiliates, measures related with defense operation must be applied with care and operational security must be taken into consideration. Since area supremacy is a continuous activity, due to the fact that the assigned units shall become immobilized and conduct standard movements, the initiative and control may be lost. The area would turn into a suitable area for actions of terrorists and vulnerability of the units would increase. For this reason, the safety measures must be concealed, routine actions must be avoided

¹⁵ Koknar, Mehmet Ali, *The Internationalists: PKK's German Legion*, First International Symposium on Security and Peace In Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia, Firat University Press 2000, p.116.

and deception measures must be applied. Efforts must be exerted to keep the initiative. If a unit shall be left in the area after the initial operation, the unit to be left behind and actions must be planned comprehensively. The principle of secrecy must be observed. Deception must be applied in the event the units in the area are revealed or determined by the terrorist.¹⁶ If units are not left at the area and the area will be controlled with infiltration patrols. The patrol basis must be selected with care and concealed buildup must be realized, and the control points to be used during operation must be determined. Moreover, the use of a reserve must also be planned. If the incoming unit shall conduct the area control, the coordination of the unit with the operation unit must be established in full.

The area supremacy task should also incorporate the local units in the area into its command or under its operational control. Basic intelligence related with the area must be obtained and the intelligence must be kept updated. An effective surveillance system must be established within the area and the system must be reinforced with an intelligence network in line with the relations with the urbanized terrain. An appropriate Warning-Alarm system should also be formed in the area. The system must be supported with audio-visual communication means.

Fire support must be planned for every point of the area and fire support must be provided as soon as possible upon demand. The patrols must always conduct activities under a curtain of fire support.

Patrols and the reconnaissance-surveillance columns must be equipped with necessary materials for determination of the targets and observation of fire to the target. The elements must be briefed on fire planning. Sensor devices placed at outposts, bases and passage routes (devices

¹⁶ Koknar, Mehmet Ali, *Threats From Above*, Armed Forces Journal International 137, No:6 (January 2000), p.37

detecting human presence on thermal basis) must be used with other reconnaissance and surveillance means in the determination of the target. Connections must be established with the systems and the weapon systems to provide for fire cover over the determined targets with the weapon systems. (Figure-4) The target must be first approached under fire support with maneuver elements and rendered ineffective.

In addition to explanations above, the disposition of the units is one of the most important issue in the area supremacy. The appropriate disposition of the units is one of the important factors that affect the success of units. The time of intervention to a probable event is very important after the disposition of the units. In order gain contact with the terrorists; it is necessary to make sure they can not move to that to intervene without allowing them any other places. As well, the counter terrorist units are exposed to terrorist attacks while they are shifting and reinforcing. Therefore, these activities have to be done in a short time period. In order to control the places which are used or can be used by terrorists, the critical points that are appropriate in sense of military have to be controlled 24 hours a day by the help of military units. These units not only control the entire region and prevent terrorist activities, but also to react to any terrorist attack by holding these critical points. Time is the main reason for insufficient reaction to terrorist attacks. That means the military units are not able to react to terrorist attacks in time.

Efficient defense measures must be taken against the terrorist attacks that may be conducted in base regions or vulnerable locations under protection. A reserve force must be allocated to conduct the response operation and intervention plans must be developed for the reserve. Battalion main base regions shall be selected in a very secure area. Teams shall be assigned from the Battalion main base regions for area supremacy with the objective of enemy

tracking, capturing or making them incapable of fighting. These units shall be allocated an activity area. These units must be commando or other units with special training. Assigned elements start off from the support bases and occupy the operation bases. Units perform various tasks such as surveillance, interception and ambush position occupation in the area. They have the capacity of performing a termination operation against detected terrorists. The units need to be able to maintain operation of efficient capacity to stay on duty for seven days and to continue the operation for three days without reinforcement.¹⁷

The units controlling the area must have secret bases in addition to the open bases. The battalion support base must be open and well protected. The company bases must be concealed and must change location every 3-5 days. These bases must not have foods, ammunition, and other requirements. The company elements must continue their actions by movement from the bases. Units assigned to control tasks for area supremacy must be oriented towards actions that will provide for contact with the terrorists rather than holding certain hills and regions. For this purpose, the points where the terrorists can be located and the technique of movement like a master fox hunter must be used at these locations. Detecting of counter terrorist units positions by terrorists must not be permitted. The impression of “Being everywhere” must be given.

Area supremacy and area control concept may require control of several critical areas in a broad region. In this case, the supremacy areas must be controlled and operations must be performed in plain areas and in the valley.¹⁸ Entrance and exits of the areas must be taken under control especially in winter since they have not so much capability of moving due to the air

¹⁷ Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanligi (Turkish Land Forces), *KKT 31-2, Domestic Security Operations (National Military Source)*, K.K.Basimevi-Ankara 1998, p.322.

¹⁸ Pamukoglu, Osman, *Unutulanlar Disinda Yeni Bir Sey Yok (There's no change except forgottens)*, Istanbul 2004, p.236

conditions and savings must be made in terms of forces. If sufficient units are available, it must be made possible to narrow down the action area of the terrorists and to force them to contact. If the forces are not sufficient, the message that controls are in place throughout the region must be sent with the application of deception measures.

One of the most critical issues is to take the control on time in order to destroy the terrorists. Once terrorists are detected, control and initiative must be taken as soon as possible to prevent the terrorist's movement to any other location.¹⁹ The shortness of intervention time directly affects the success of operation. The other factor of success is the quickness of the reinforcement units.

A contingency reserve must be allocated during the control task. Measures must be developed for transfer of sufficient number of forces to the contact point at the time of contact. Efforts must be exerted to sustain the contact. Employment of sniper teams must be given special consideration. One of the most common mistakes made in Domestic Security Operation is the use of ordinary, stereotype and routine base and outpost safety measures, which the terrorists easily determine. The weak measures that are unknown and undiscovered are more effective than powerful safety measures that are known. Base/Outpost safety measures must be taken and implemented as close and remote safety measures, which are different for night/day time. Units that only employ close safety measures facilitate reconnaissance activities of terrorists. Terrorists must be prevented from approaching the base/outpost regions by means of assignment of small external posts (similar to "Hillman" tactics of the terrorists") at a distance of 2 - 3 km from the base / outpost on the external circle (Remote Safety Circle) to perform the tasks of

¹⁹ Major Ahmet Otal from Turkish Special Forces Command, telephone conversation with person, 05 January 2005

reconnaissance, surveillance and ambush at day and night time.²⁰

External posts assigned for the external security of the unit must be equipped with efficient level of communication means and night vision devices. These elements shall move from the base region with sunset to the suitable surveillance and ambush locations. Ambushes shall be conducted so as to block the approach direction of the terrorists in the assigned region. While some of the terrorists are at rest during the daytime, the others shall remain in surveillance. The external posts completing their tasks shall return to the base region while the other posts will leave the base region as per the same principles. The desired level of task performance by these posts shall be possible by observance of the principle of “Seeing without being seen”. Some of the figures, which are related with the tactics and techniques of area supremacy shown in the figure 5,6,7,8,9.

Based on explanations above, the first principal of fighting with terrorists and destroying them whose properties, tactics, and techniques are mentioned is area supremacy and area control. The right and exact disposition of the military units by holding critical points is the main issue of area supremacy. By doing that, terrorist groups can be destroyed easily and military units can be achieve their aims quickly.

FIGURES

²⁰ Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanligi (Turkish Land Forces), *KKT 31-2, Domestic Security Operations (National Military Source)*, K.K.Basimevi-Ankara 1998, p.332

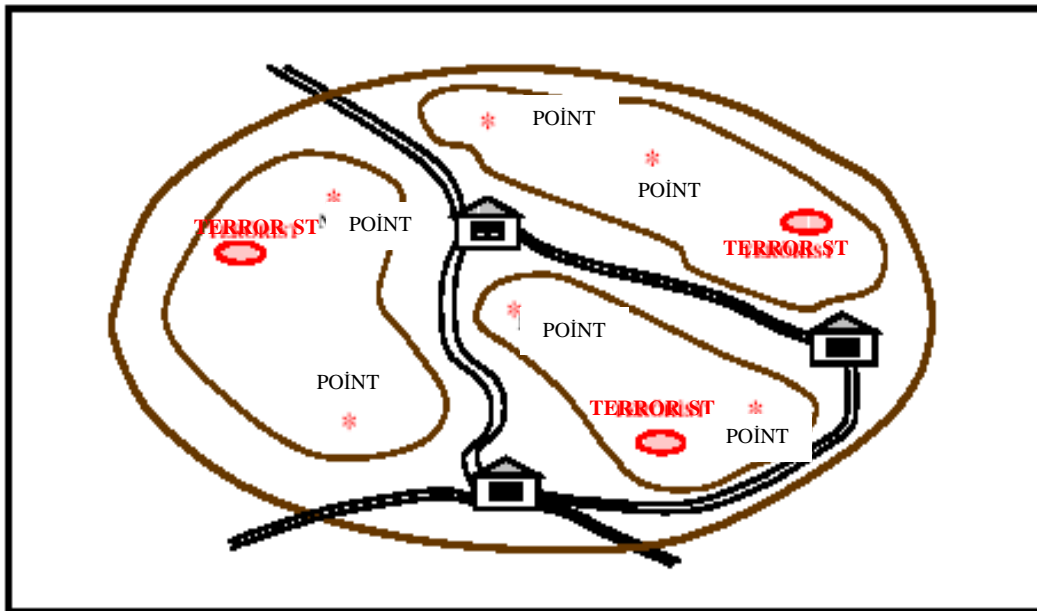


Figure-2: Movement Concept related with the points

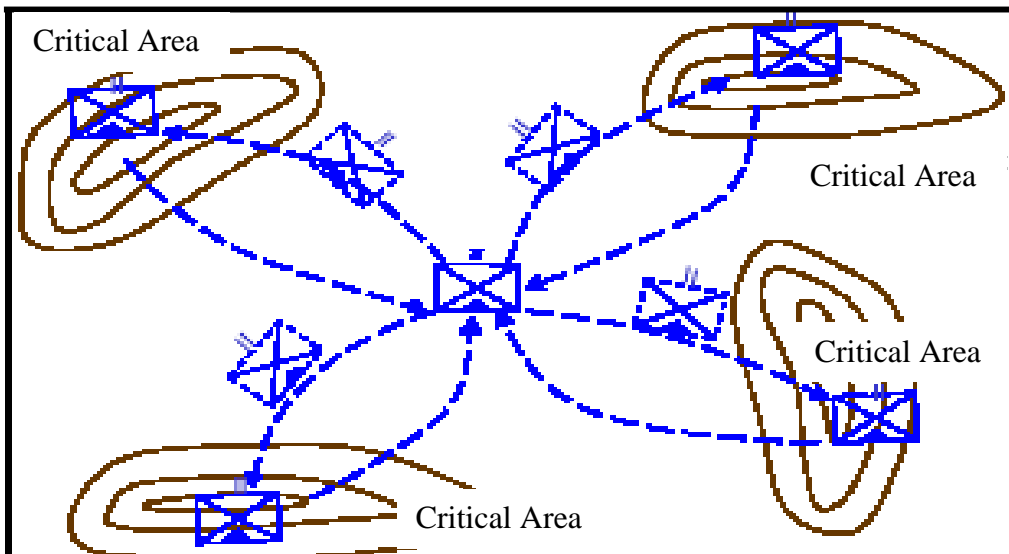
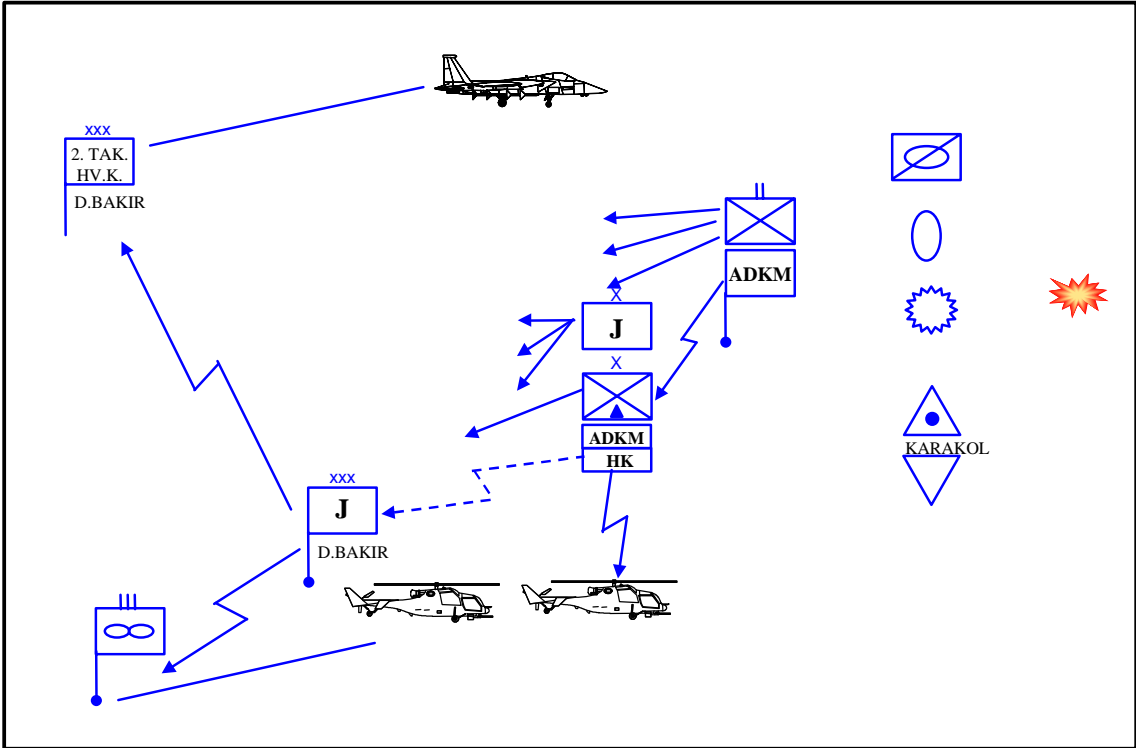


Figure -3: Area Supremacy / Area Control Concept



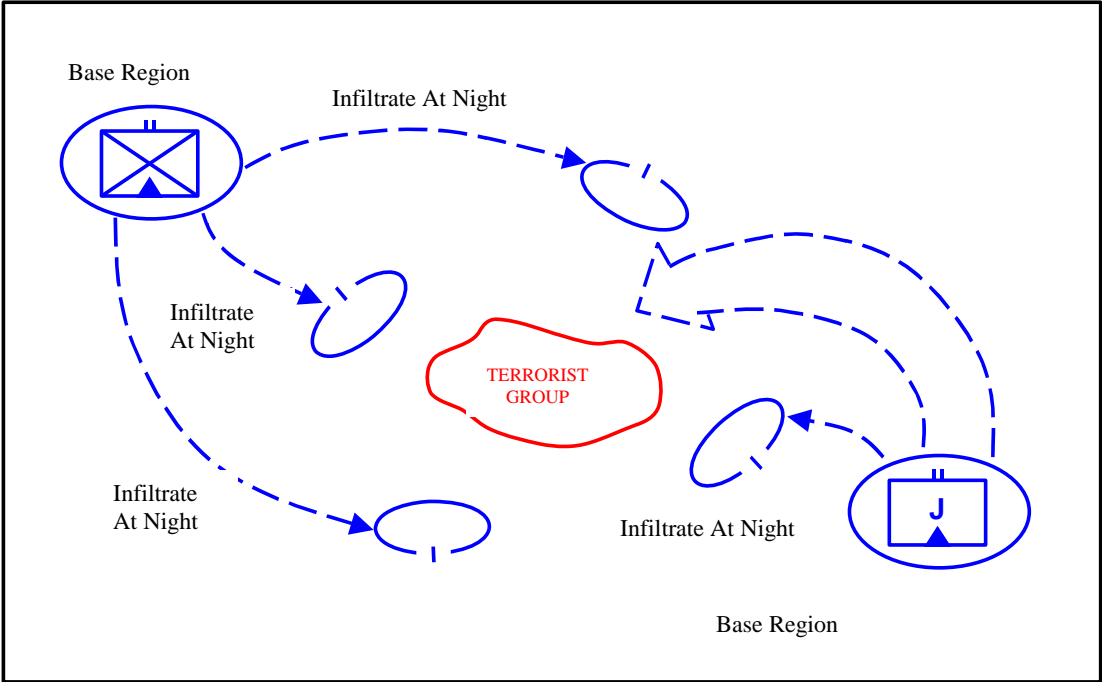


Figure-5 Infiltrate at night and to encircle

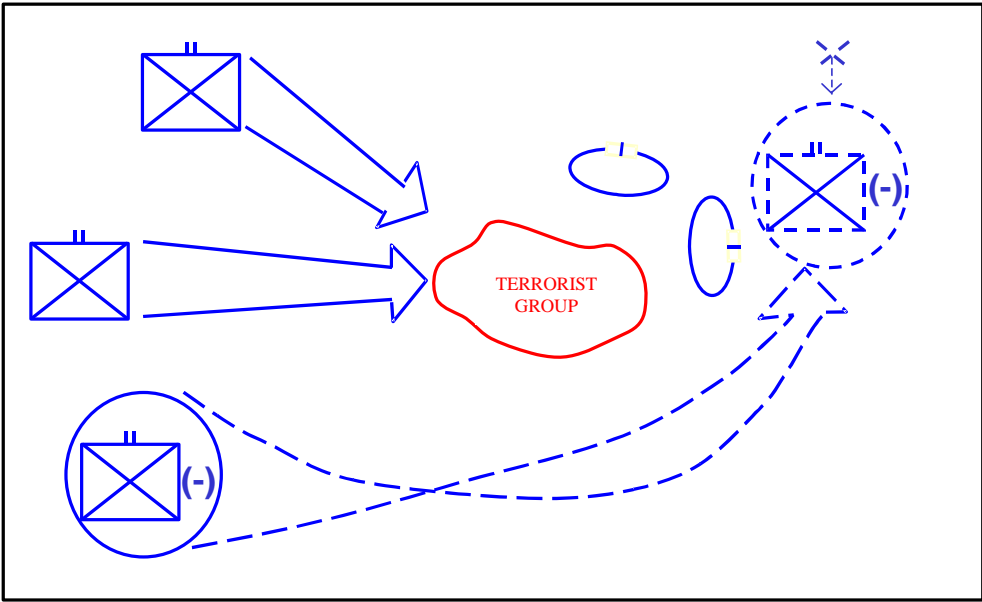


Figure-6 Envelopment by air assault

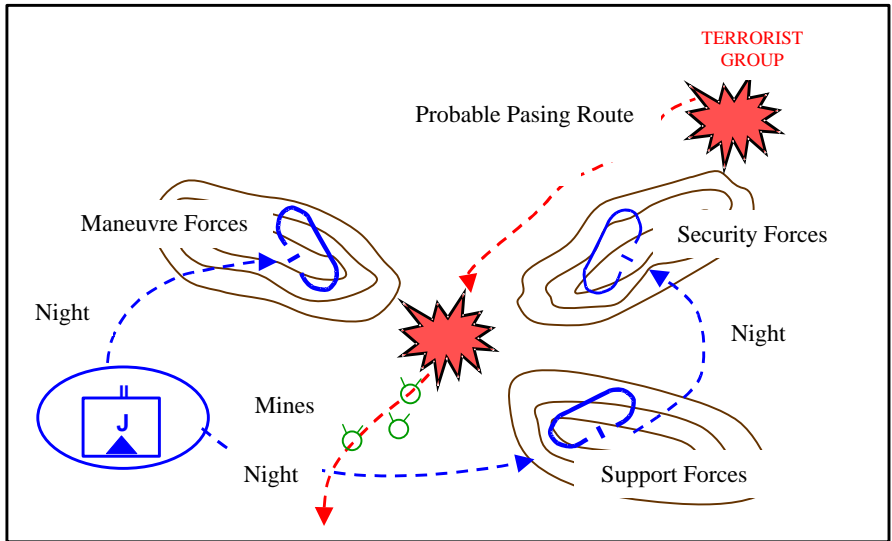


Figure-7 Ambushes

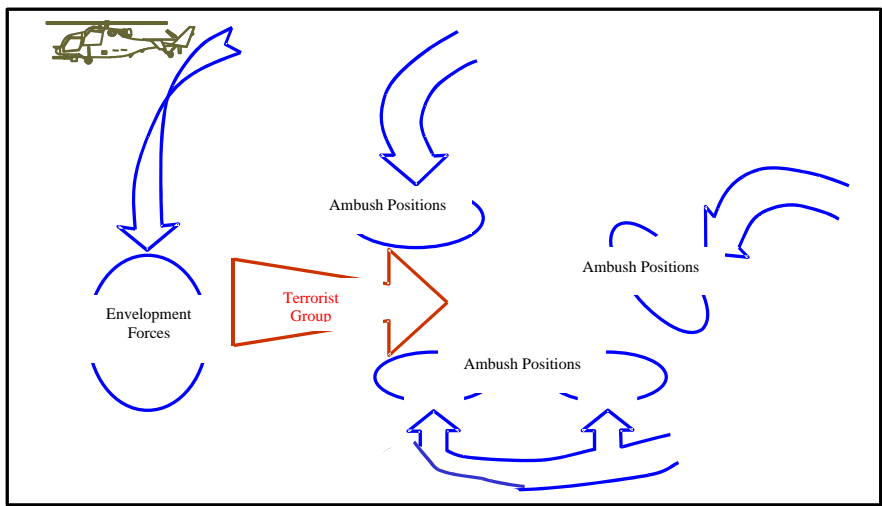


Figure-8 Pursuit, Envelopment and Ambush

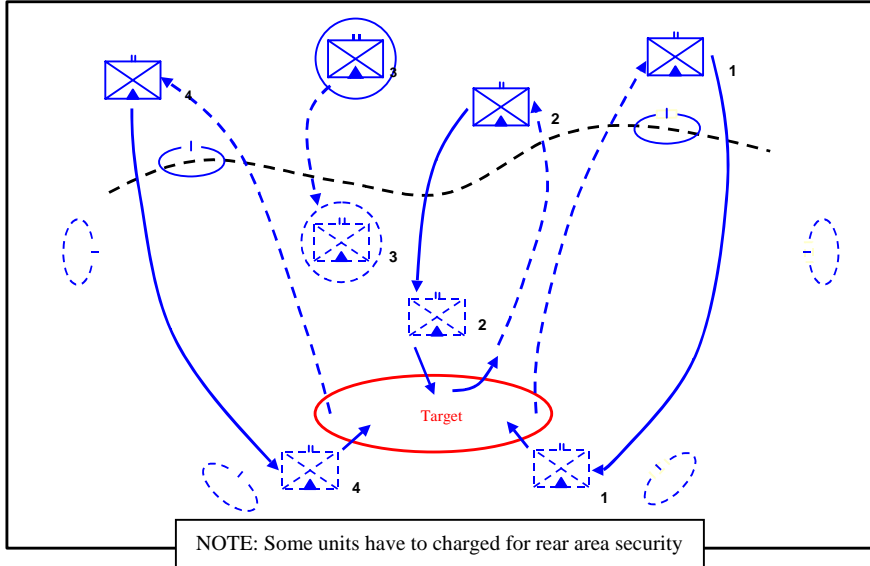


Figure-9 Tactical Attack on Domestic Operations

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