



THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY



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THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

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PREFACE

This manual is based on the premise that although the unit organization, weapons systems, and conditions have changed, platoon maneuver, fire, and movement have not changed.

FM 3-21.11 describes the doctrinal and tactical employment principles for the Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) infantry rifle company, which is an element of the SBCT battalion. This field manual responds to a need for emerging doctrine, tactics, and techniques for the infantry companies of the SBCT. The fundamental shift and focus for the manual is the combination of an infantry-centric organization, three full platoons, and a mobile gun system (MGS) platoon. This is a departure from the light and mechanized infantry concept.

This manual provides the company commander with tactics and techniques to exploit the infantry capabilities, to reduce vulnerabilities, and to enable the unit to win on the battlefield. This manual borrows from “nested” concepts found in FM 7-10 and FM 71-1 and reemphasizes information from other manuals that are of critical importance.

The proponent of this publication is the US Army Infantry School. Send comments and recommendations to doctrine@benning.army.mil or on DA Form 2028 directly to Commandant, US Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ATD, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5000.

Unless this manual states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

The five types of infantry have historically been separated into two "schools of thought": light vs. mechanized. Both are extremely lethal in the terrain and missions for which they are best suited. Mechanized forces excel in terrain that supports rapid fire and maneuver while light forces excel in more restrictive terrain and accomplish their missions at the small-unit level. The overarching doctrine is the same across these two schools of thought; however, the tactics, techniques, capabilities, and limitations between light and mechanized infantry create a divergence. The Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) infantry rifle company, as a part of the SBCT battalion, fills this gap. The SBCT can operate independently, or it can supplement light and mechanized forces.

Section I. INTRODUCTION

This manual addresses the doctrine of the SBCT at the company level. The SBCT infantry rifle company capitalizes on the strengths and minimizes the limitations of mechanized and light doctrine. The light infantry ethos is the foundation of this organization but is combined with the speed, mobility, and precision of mounted warfare. Success is achieved by integrating the complementary characteristics of each type of infantry where decisive action must occur.

1-1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

Because the fundamentals of fire and maneuver are unchanged, the majority of the combat power of the SBCT infantry rifle company lies in its highly trained squads and platoons. The organic vehicles in the platoons are for moving infantry to the fight swiftly and providing tactical flexibility while tailoring the soldiers' loads through a "mobile arms room" concept. There is also a mobile gun system (MGS) platoon that supports the infantry fight with long-range precision fires. The MGS is a *fighting vehicle* but is not a Bradley or a tank and should not be employed in the traditional sense of a fighting vehicle. Flexibility is the key to the rifle company. Current and predicted global situations dictate the need for a force that is rapidly deployable (within 96 hours), lethal, and flexible enough to address the full spectrum of Army operations.

1-2. OPERATIONAL PREMISE

The SBCT was developed to address some of the changing situations the US Army currently faces. At the brigade level, there are significant changes that affect the way this unit fights. Although the changes at brigade level do not significantly change tactics at company level and below, they do affect the frequency with which companies, platoons and squads execute certain missions.

1-3. CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE SBCT FORCE

The SBCT infantry rifle company commander must understand the differences in the capabilities and limitations of this unit as compared to that of traditional infantry forces. The SBCT combines the tactical mobility aspect of mechanized units while emphasizing

and exploiting the infantry fight where decisive action occurs. Table 1-1 highlights the capabilities and limitations of the SBCT infantry rifle company.

CAPABILITIES	LIMITATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts organic combined-arms assaults in complex environments. • Strategic deployability. • Smaller logistical footprint. • Increased combat power with 4 platoons per company and 4 squads per infantry platoon. • Increased tactical mobility for infantry. • Carries and employs assortment of weapons to the fight with a “mobile arms room” concept. • 120-mm and 60-mm mortars organic to company. • Information dominance. • Can operate routinely in nonlinear and contiguous environments. • Organic capability to coordinate both lethal and nonlethal effects. • Responsible for a much larger area of operations. • Self-sustained operations for 72 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to indirect fires while dismounted. • Reduced overmatch capability. • Increased requirement for augmentation in a major theater war. • Reduced sustainability in forward units. • Reduced company logistical systems. • No organic maintenance sections. • Not an initial entry force. • Vulnerable to nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) attack.

Table 1-1. Capabilities and limitations of the SBCT infantry rifle company.

Section II. ORGANIZATION

The SBCT is capable of fighting combined-arms operations down to company level. This creates the necessary combat power and flexibility needed in complex environments.

1-4. BRIGADE ORGANIZATION

The SBCT is an infantry-centric, full spectrum, early entry combat force pre-configured in ready-to-fight combined-arms packages (Figure 1-1). The design includes embedded unit-based capabilities such as military intelligence (MI), signal, engineer, antitank, artillery, and combat service support (CSS) elements. This organization allows the SBCT to fight using combined arms down to company level. The following are key organic assets that allow the brigade commander to conduct shaping and decisive operations more effectively:

- Brigade headquarters and headquarters company (HHC).
- Infantry battalion (x3).
- Reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) squadron.
- Antitank company.
- Artillery battalion.

- Medium engineer company.
- Military intelligence company.
- Signal company.
- Brigade support battalion.

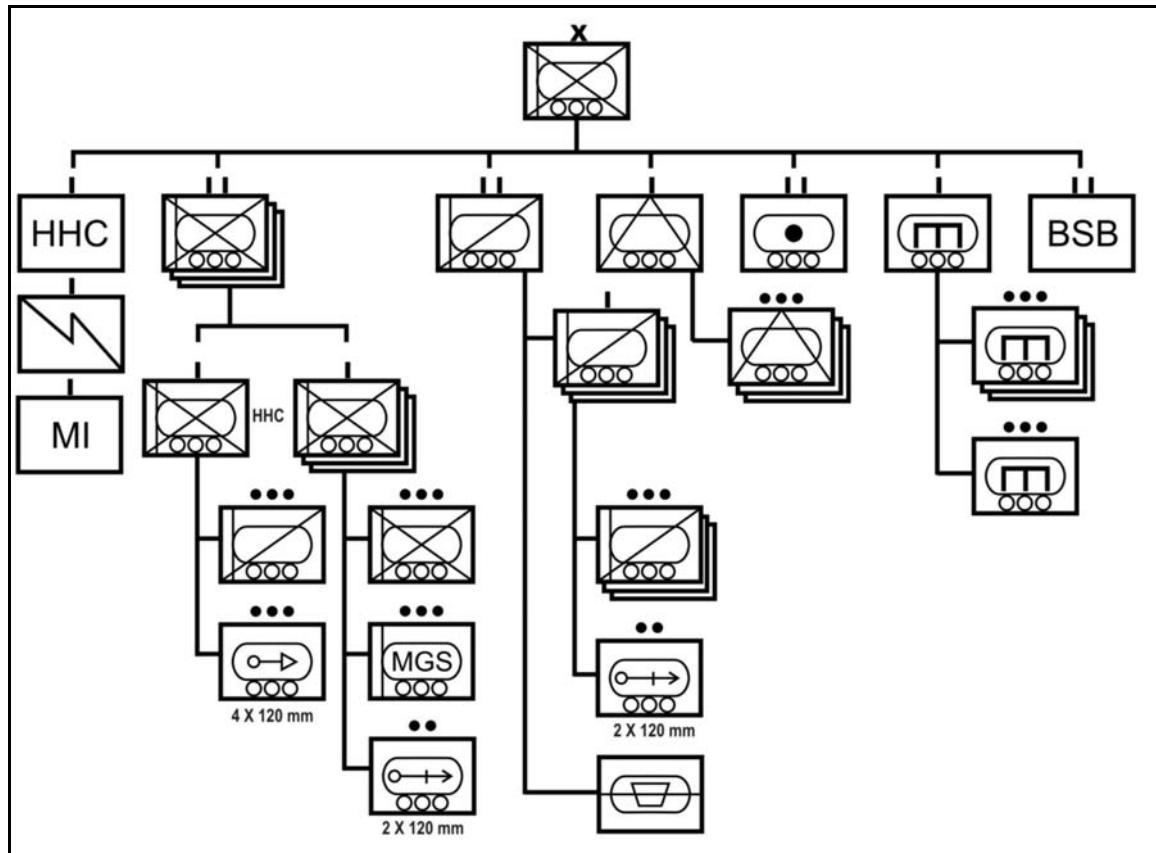


Figure 1-1. SBCT organization.

1-5. SBCT INFANTRY BATTALION ORGANIZATION

The SBCT infantry battalion (Figure 1-2, page 1-4) consists of three rifle companies and an HHC. The HHC provides support to the battalion commander and the staff and controls the battalion's reconnaissance platoon, mortar platoon, medical platoon, communication section, and sniper squad.

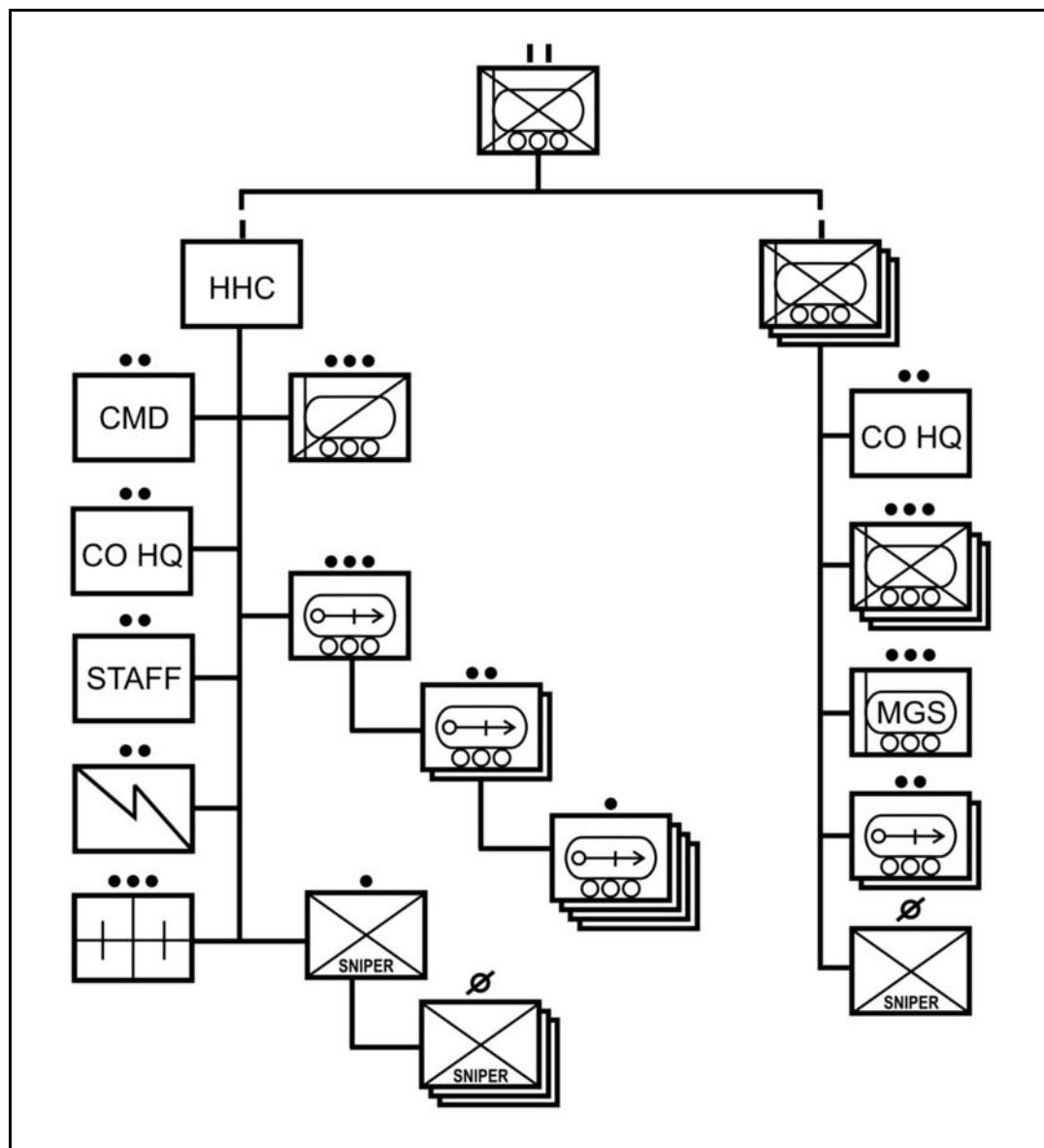


Figure 1-2. SBCT infantry battalion organization.

1-6. COMPANY ORGANIZATION

Figure 1-3, page 1-6, illustrates the organization of the SBCT infantry rifle company. The company headquarters section provides command, control, and supervision of all organic and attached elements. The company headquarters consists of the company commander, executive officer (XO), first sergeant (1SG), company supply and nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) personnel, infantry carrier vehicle (ICV) crews for the company commander (CO) and XO, and the company commander's radiotelephone operators (RATELOs). The company headquarters includes the following personnel and equipment:

-
- Two ICVs, each with a driver and a vehicle commander (VC), commanded by the CO and the XO.
 - Two high-mobility, multiwheeled vehicles (HMMWVs) with trailers, which are under the control of the 1SG. The NBC noncommissioned officer (NCO) and the communications specialist operate these vehicles.
 - Two trucks with trailers, which are under the control of the supply sergeant. The supply specialists drive these vehicles.

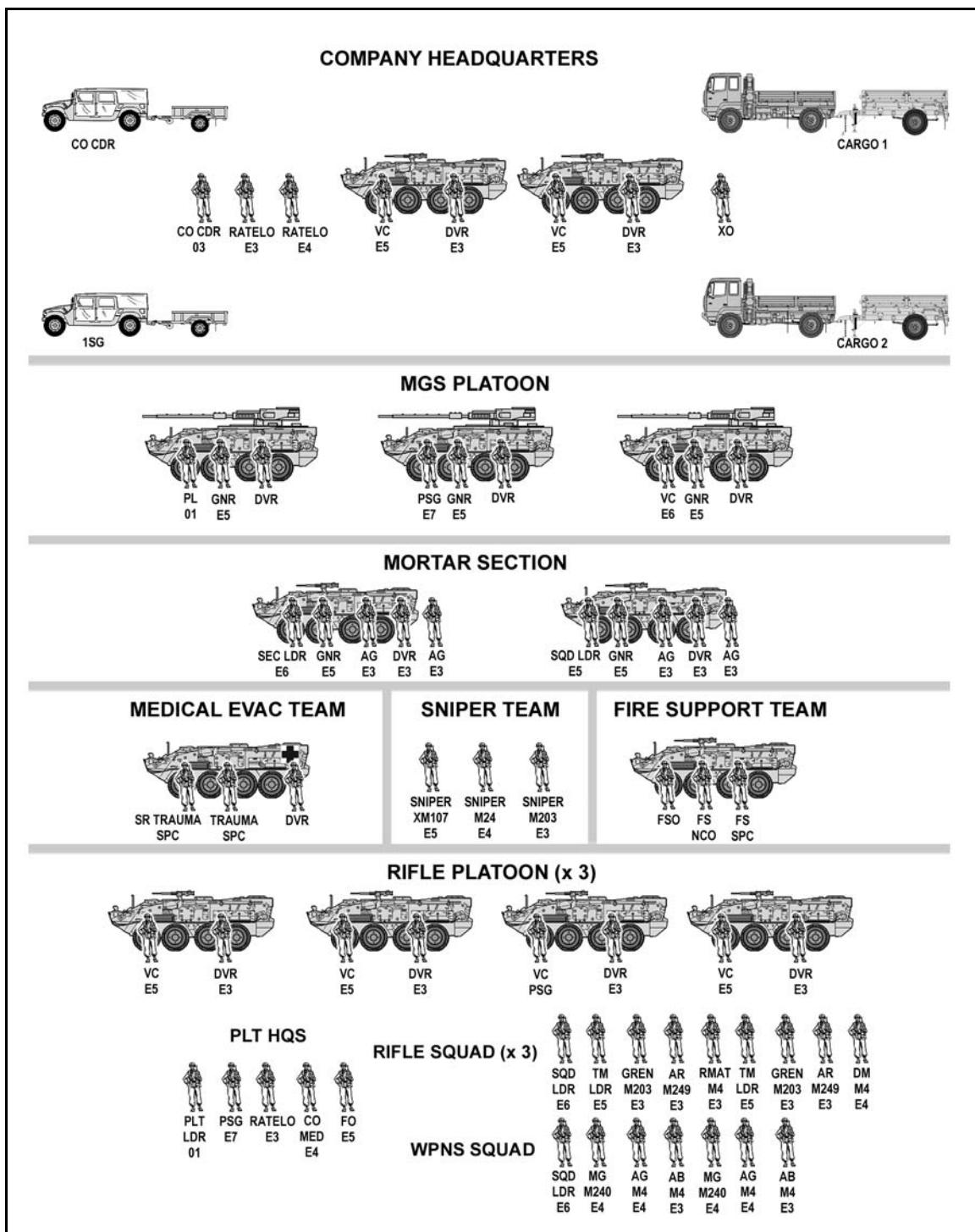


Figure 1-3. SBCT infantry rifle company organization.

1-7. SBCT INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON

Figure 1-4 illustrates the organization of the SBCT infantry rifle platoon. The platoon includes the following personnel and equipment:

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