

THE ART OF WAR

WARRIOR TASKS

PLAN CONVOY SECURITY OPERATIONS



Sergeant Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston
13th Sergeant Major of the Army

“Our enemy on freedom’s frontier is adapting to our tactics every day, so we must adapt and change our tactics to defeat this threat.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder
13th COSCOM

“The greater challenge for noncommissioned officers is how to train your Soldiers on reacting to hidden improvised explosive devices and vehicle borne improvised explosive devices. The fact of the matter is that no one can be trained to a level that totally guarantees 100 percent accuracy in locating and identifying these hazards, so Soldiers must be taught how to withstand an attack and how to respond correctly. This includes vehicle hardening techniques, pedestal mounted crew served weapon operations, communicating with a radio, first aid/buddy aid, crew skills, combat marksmanship techniques while in a moving vehicle, 9-line MEDEVAC procedures, submitting spot/SALUTE reports, and more. A thinking enemy who changes his own tactics on the fly as we change ours requires the NCO to keep one step ahead of his aggressor and to always be seeking new and better ways.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery A. Butler
16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne)

“Every NCO needs to know the planning requirements to safely execute a convoy operation. In combat, any portion that is not properly planned, briefed and rehearsed can and will result in serious consequences. Note that convoy tasks refer to MP escorts numerous times. Usually, only critical or sensitive military convoys receive MP escorts in combat. Military Police currently escort only civilian supply convoys (KBR, fuel, construction, etc.) and those designated as sensitive. An example would be a recent escort of the Republic of Korea element supporting the coalition.”

Mr. Ralph D. Nichols
Center for Army Lessons Learned

“For more information on convoy operations please refer to the United States Army Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). The CALL site has many products that can help deployed Soldiers. To access the site you will have to go to <http://call.army.mil> and on the left side of the screen you will see “DOD Users” click there and then use your AKO login information to access the site. You will be brought to the CALL Products screen, under the left column, Warfighting, you will find a link to handbooks. For the article mentioned below, from the same CALL Products screen, click on News From the Front, Nov-Dec, and you will see the article.

Convoy-related products include:

No. 04-5: USSOCOM Combat Convoy Handbook
 No. 03-33: Convoy Leader Training, Version V
 No. 03-31: Route Clearance Handbook
 No. 03-6: Tactical Convoy Operations
 News From the Front article, “Evolving Convoy Operations TTP: Recent Observations from OIF.”



U.S. Army Photo

A convoy of vehicles from the 1st Cavalry Division prepares to move from the Abu Ghraib neighborhood in Baghdad to White Gold Village.

TASK 191-379-4407**GO****NO-GO****Plan convoy security operations.****Performance Measures**

1. Received the OPORD.

Note: Followed all steps in troop-leading procedures.

2. Coordinated with the host nation security personnel.

3. Consulted all sources of information, especially the engineers and the HTD, to obtain as much information as possible.

4. Reconnoitered the convoy route and identified the following:

a. Likely trouble spots and ambush sites.

b. Possible locations for TCPs and/or checkpoints.

c. Route conditions.

d. Location of friendly units in the area.

5. Coordinated with the convoy commander to determine:

Note. Ensured 360-degree security was maintained from the point of origin to destination when escorting special weapons.

a. Actions to be taken if enemy contact was made.

b. Protective measures for mines and booby traps.

c. Convoy organizations.

d. Primary and backup frequencies.

e. Emergency communications procedures.

f. The timetable for movements (especially for serials and march units).

g. Coordination points (assembly area for everyone).

h. Start and release points.

i. Security measures to be used at halts and rest stops.

j. The time and place that MP support begins and ends.

k. Expected changes in the routes.

l. Road conditions.

m. Supporting fires to include artillery support, engineer support (for minesweeping of the route), gunship support, and host nation support, if applicable.

n. Primary and alternate routes.

o. The location where MP vehicles and personnel would be positioned in the convoy.

p. The method of escort for the convoy.

6. Briefed personnel on the mission, enemy situation, and specific individual duties to be performed.

7. Coordinated with friendly units (in the area where the convoy would pass) to identify:

a. The support the friendly units could provide.

b. What restrictions applied for the use of indirect fire?

8. Coordinated with artillery units.

9. Coordinated with helicopter and/or Air Force units for gunship support.

10. Inspected equipment.