

Where Do We Stand on NBC

by the CML Staff

During the Chemical System Program Review (SPR) in 1985, it was recommended that the NBC recon platoon be transferred from the cavalry squadron to the divisional chemical company. The commander, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) decided to relocate the NBC recon platoon as recommended in the Chemical SPR.

The Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) chemical company provides NBC equipment, decon, recon, and smoke support to the ACR. Its recon platoon consists of a headquarters and two recon squads (see figure 1). The NBC recon platoon's primary concern is the detection and marking of NBC

contaminated areas. It also takes soil samples for the identification of biological agents. This platoon operates forward in the covering force to locate uncontaminated areas of approach. Additionally, it may be required to survey areas during flank or advance guard missions. During rear guard operations, an NBC recon squad may be attached to a squadron to assist in the surveillance and security of rear areas.

The heavy division chemical company provides decon, NBC recon, smoke, and NBC staff support to the division. Its recon platoon consists of a headquarters and two recon squads (see figure 2). The NBC recon platoon primarily supports efforts for

contamination avoidance within the division. It accomplishes this by detecting nuclear and chemical contamination. This platoon may be attached to a maneuver force to support recon missions throughout the division. If it is not attached to or put in direct support of a maneuver force, it may be given separate NBC recon missions. These missions will be in or around (but not limited to) the division support area. If missions require the NBC recon platoon to be deployed forward of the battalion support area, it should be attached to a maneuver unit which can support it logistically. The maneuver unit will also provide necessary overwatch positions while the platoon

Figure 1.

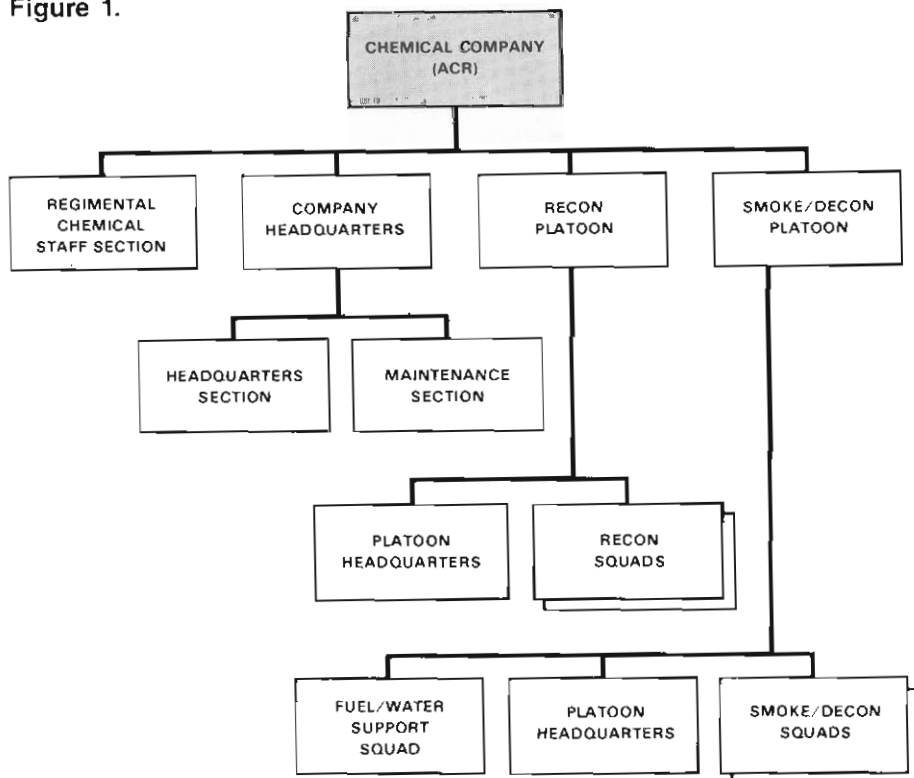
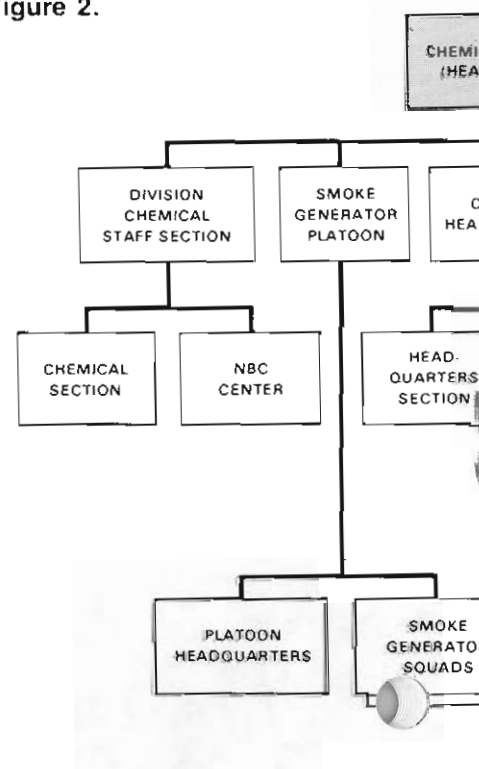


Figure 2.



Recon?

Eventually all NBC recon doctrine will be incorporated into FM 3-3...and FM 3-101

conducts recon missions.

The corps NBC recon company operates in corps and division areas. Normally, the NBC recon company is deployed as a separate company in the corps area under the operational control of the chemical brigade HHC. However, it may be attached to one of the corps chemical battalion HHDs.

The corps NBC recon company consists of a headquarters and three NBC recon platoons (see figure 3). Each platoon has three NBC recon squads, and each squad has four NBC recon teams.

This company employs its platoons to conduct route, zone, and large-area NBC recon in designated sectors

throughout the corps area. Within its designated sectors, the platoon uses its squads to locate, identify, mark, and report contamination and identify uncontaminated bypass routes. Recon squads also locate potential decon sites in the corps rear area.

NBC recon doctrine will be formulated at the US Army Chemical School. FC 3-19, NBC Reconnaissance, dated August 1986, is currently in the field. This FC serves as interim doctrine.

CPT Jim Hoffmann, US Army Chemical School, has put together a handy reference guide (shown on pages 24 and 25) based on information in FC 3-19.

Eventually all NBC recon doctrine will be incorporated into FM 3-3, NBC Contamination Avoidance, and FM 3-101, Chemical Staffs and Units (which was distributed) to the field in June 1987).

For the individual soldier, NBC recon is an additional skill identifier (ASI). Selected soldiers completing the 54B10 course at the Chemical School will attend the three-week ASI course.

ARTEP 3-307-10-MTP, Motorized NBC Recon Platoon, is scheduled to be fielded 2Q88. NBC Defense Company (3-087/3-087J), LA Recon Team (3-500H/3-592LA), and NBC Recon Company (3-307J/3-427L) will use this ARTEP for their unit training.

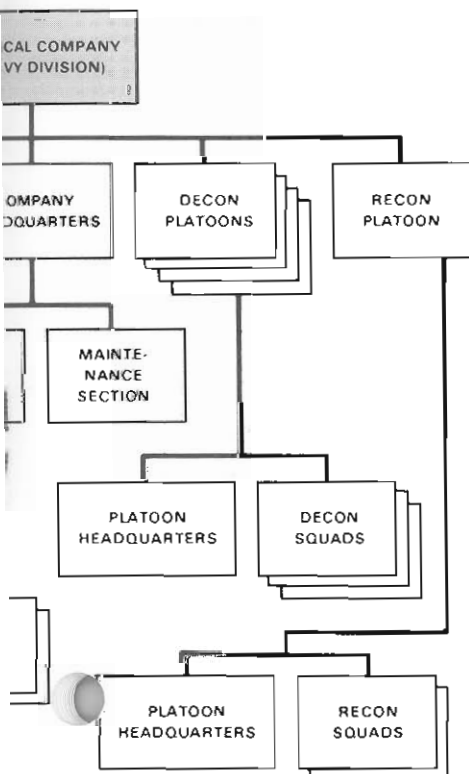
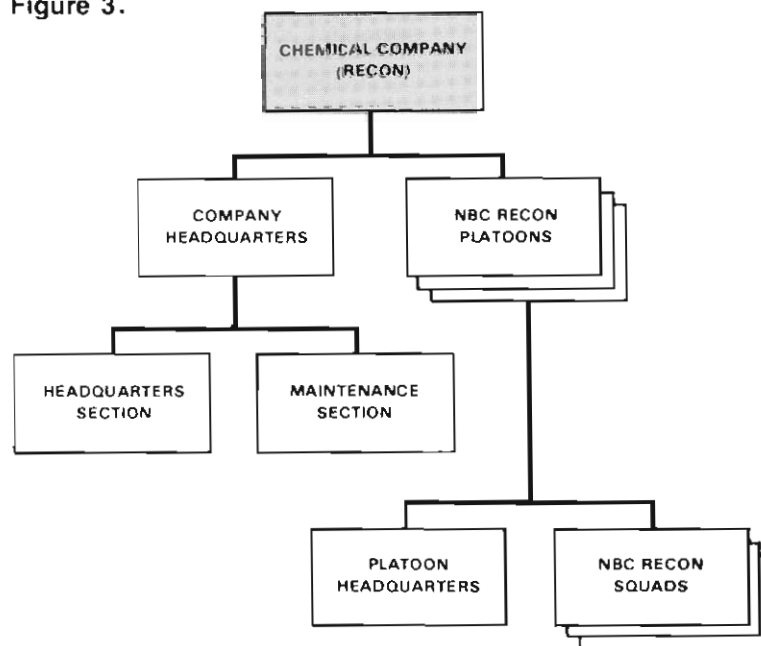


Figure 3.



NBC Recon Guide

You can use this guide to help effectively plan, conduct, and use the results of NBC recon. The information contained here is an additional tool for division and subordinate staff personnel, NBC recon units, and other units tasked to perform NBC recon missions. It is designed primarily for use by members of NBC recon units and chemical officers and NCOs. It can be used by non-NBC unit personnel to assist them in NBC recon missions.

This guide is not all-inclusive on the subject of NBC recon—it is a handy reference or memory jogger. NBC unit members should refer to their doctrinal publications for recon details. Non-NBC units should contract their battalion chemical officers or NCOs for such information.

Mission

The mission of NBC recon units is to minimize the effects of enemy NBC attacks by—

- Detecting
- Identifying
- Marking
- Collecting
- Reporting

These measures—

- Provide information for the commander's risk assessment.
- Locate clean routes for troops and vehicles.
- Locate and mark contaminated routes and areas.
- Locate contaminated choke points and clean bypasses.
- Locate and mark hazard areas.
- Assess the downwind vapor hazard in the area of interest.
- Provide input on mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) and "all clears."

Mission Request

NBC recon elements receive their missions in operations orders (OPORDs) or fragmentary orders (FRAGOs). Mission requests include—

- Type of mission
- Objective/purpose
- General area, if known
- Enemy and friendly situation
- Unit being supported
- Coordination instructions

Patrol Order Format

Upon receipt of the mission, the recon element leader formulates mission-specific requirements based on METTT:

- Time of departure and return.
- Movement techniques and order of movement.
- Route (primary and alternate).
- Departure and reentry of lines.
- Rally points and actions at rally points.
- Action at danger areas.
- Action on enemy contact.
- Action at the objective.
- Fire support (if not already covered).
- Intelligence requirements.
- Other tasks (stream crossings, boat operations, and so forth).

Reconnaissance Techniques or Types

Route—To obtain detailed information of NBC contamination on a specified route and adjacent terrain on which contamination is suspected or reported.

Zone—A detailed NBC recon of natural and manmade features within specified boundaries. It is more time-consuming and thorough than other types of recon.

Area—To obtain information concerning a specified area. An area recon mission is assigned when the commander desires information about a town, ridge line, woods, or other feature that may be critical to operations.

Movement Techniques

Enemy Contact Technique

Not likely	Traveling
Possible	Traveling overwatch
Expected	Bounding overwatch

Leader Employment Considerations

For each recon mission, the leader must consider these factors:

- Task organization.
- Type of recon to be conducted.
- Time available.
- Data.
- Control measures.
- Security.

Leader Responsibilities and Checklist for Recon Missions

Extract minimum information from OPORD/FRAGO to conduct the mission.

Type of recon to be conducted:

- ☐ Route
- ☐ Zone
- ☐ Area

How many vehicles will be used?

Actions at first obstacle:

- ☐ Sample
- ☐ Identify
- ☐ Report
- ☐ Locate bypass route (if contamination is located)
- ☐ Continue mission

Analyze the recon mission:

- ☐ Number of samples to be taken.
- ☐ Intervals at which samples will be taken.
- ☐ Is a survey mission or a recon mission to be conducted?

Concepts of Employment

Advantage Disadvantage

Platoon (6x1)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Most coverage *Maximum use of available assets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *All recon assets dedicated to one area; no multiple missions. *More logistical support required. |
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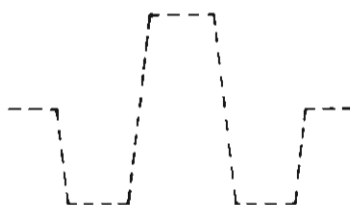
Squad (2x3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *NBC recon missions conducted simultaneously *Easier to support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *More time-consuming *Less area covered |
|--|--|

Team (1x6)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *NBC recon missions conducted simultaneously *Easier to support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *More time-consuming *Less area covered *More vulnerable to enemy fire *Reduced command and control *More coordination involved with maneuver units for security. |
|--|---|

Mounted NBC Recon



Typical zig-zag pattern for mounted recon.

Mounted recon is preferable to dismounted recon when—

- More than one vehicle is available.
- Terrain permits vehicular traffic.
- Time is a critical factor.

Mounted Reconnaissance Operations

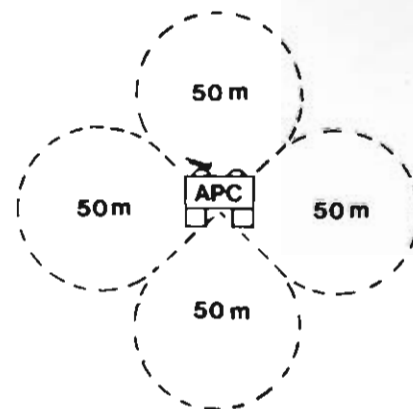
Sampling intervals are based on—

- Time available to complete the mission.
- Size of the area to be reconnoitered.
- Terrain.
- Likely areas for chemicals to collect or remain (such as low areas, wet areas, places sheltered from sun and wind).
- Reported or suspected areas of contamination.

Visual indicators of chemical attacks include—

- Dead or discolored vegetation.
- Discolored soil.
- Unusual liquid droplets.
- Oily film on water.
- Craters caused by bursting munitions.
- Lack of insect life.
- Dead animals or birds.

Dismounted Recon



Clover-leaf pattern for dismounted recon.

Dismounted NBC recon is preferable to mounted recon when—

- Only one vehicle is available.
- Terrain prohibits vehicular traffic.
- Small area recon is to be performed.
- Recon is in urban, jungle, or mountainous environments.

Identification of Samples (Biological Recon)

Each sample taken during a biological recon mission should include the following data:

- Location of sample (six-digit grid coordinate).
- Date sample was taken.
- Description of sample.
- Details of collection (who collected sample, why it was collected, how it was collected).
- Symptomology (details about any illnesses that might assist in identifying the agent).