

Excerpts from Team C, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry AAR:

Department of the Army
Team C, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment
Task Force 1-64 Armor
APO AE 09303

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Operation Iraqi Freedom After Action Review Comments

1. The purpose of this document is to provide after action review comments after combat operations conducted by TM C/3-15 Infantry, Task Force 1-64 Armor "Desert Rogues" during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

4. Training

Issue: Urban Operations Training for armor forces.

Discussion: The armor platoon attached to this CO/TM was fortunate enough to receive UO training prior to operations in Iraq. They learned valuable lessons such as firing from the GAS sight at extremely close ranges, entering a battle sight range of 300m while in urban environments for the main gun, and decentralizing the location of CL I, water, and CL III(P) on the tank in order to protect from losing all supplies due to a single hit or building strike. They learned to keep their tanks out of intersections and to scan the upper stories of buildings and rooftops for enemy forces. They practiced transporting infantry and coordinating direct fires with dismounted forces. These and other TTPs gave the platoon the confidence and experience required when attacks to Baghdad and raids south on HWY 8 were conducted.

Recommendation: All armor platoons should be trained and integrated into urban operations training. Although the tactics trained may not have been executed, the lessons learned regarding load plans, fire control system adjustments, fire patterns, and scanning responsibilities were instrumental to the platoon's success. Every effort should be made to teach these lessons prior to combat.

Tank platoons should also train with a dismounted squad under the control of a tank platoon leader. At a battle position in Baghdad, 3/A/1-64 AR was attached a weapons squad from an infantry platoon. These soldiers were critical to the platoon's defense. They were tied in between two tanks along a dismounted avenue of approach. It was composed of a heavy tree line and thick vegetation that closed to within 50 meters of the platoon's position. The squad repulsed an RPG team's attempt to infiltrate the platoon BP and also cleared seven bunkers full of weapons and ammunition. These feats could not have been accomplished without the task organized infantry squad.

5. Equipment

Issue: Effective communication between tanks and dismounted Infantry

Discussion: On several occasions, infantry squads were attached to the armor platoon in the CO/TM to provide additional security at checkpoints / blocking positions and to defend dismounted avenues of approach at battle positions. The tanks were forced to utilize Motorola “talkabout” radios to communicate with the squad. This was problematic for several reasons: 1. Lack of net security. 2. “Talkabout” radios are not integrated into the tank internal communication systems, 3. Lack, or prohibition of “talkabout” radios in theater. This is the same problem encountered by infantry platoons due to the lack of dismountable frequency hop capable radios at the platoon level.

Recommendation: Issue PRC148, frequency hop capable radios to all infantry squads of give each tank platoon an extra dismountable SINCGARS radio. TA1 phone mounted externally to the tank proved to be inadequate. They were unreliable and lacked the flexibility to successfully move with the infantry as they left their holes and cleared bunkers.