



# Ministry of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom  
E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

Ref: Army/Sec/05/04/FOI2019/10663

Mr Jonathon Douglas  
[request-587116-  
b10c6156@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-587116-b10c6156@whatdotheyknow.com)

6 November 2019

Dear Mr Douglas

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2019 in which you requested 'pages from 1-1 to 1-8' from the Army Field Manual War Fighting Tactics Part 5a: Armoured and Armoured Infantry Sub Unit Tactics doctrine. I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). On 11 September 2019, we provided a copy of the contents pages under FOI2019/09573.

A copy of the information which can be released is enclosed however, as I have mentioned in previous correspondence, some information is exempt under Section 26(1)(b) (Defence) of the Act and is therefore being withheld. Section 26 exempts information that, if disclosed, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces. This is a qualified exemption which requires a public interest test to establish the balance on releasing or withholding information.

In this case, the arguments for release include the public interest in how Defence is run and the size of the British Army. Arguments to withhold information include that detailed information about the Army's tactics and procedures and how it is internally organised, particularly at sub-unit level, could give potential enemies details of capability which could prejudice our forces. It has been decided that, on balance, some information should be withheld as release would be likely to be prejudicial to the capability, effectiveness and security of our Armed Forces.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat

Enclosures:

Enclosure 1 – Downgraded 'Army Field Manual War Fighting Tactics Part 5a: Armoured and Armoured Infantry Sub Unit Tactics', pages 1-1 to 1-8

# CHAPTER 1

DOWN GRADED

## Organisation and structures

### Mission, roles and tasks of infantry

**1-01. Mission.** The infantry's mission is 'to defeat the enemy through close combat'. The core capability of the infantry is close combat. The role of the armoured infantry company group<sup>1</sup> in warfighting operations is to close with and destroy the enemy. The firepower, mobility and protection afforded to the armoured infantry company group mean that its capabilities are

Even when conducting defensive operations, the armoured infantry company group should be

The

armoured infantry company group

normally performs its role as part of a and operates

#### Organisation and structures

- Mission, roles and tasks of infantry
- Mission, roles and task of armour
- Task organisation
- Roles and responsibilities

#### Annex

- Armoured infantry and armour capabilities

**1-02. Operations.** Armoured infantry operations are characterised by shifting priorities and emphases which determine whether the action can be conducted

However, when the

Therefore the armoured infantry commander must decide the tactical priority and position themselves accordingly.

**1-03. Roles and tasks.** Warriors and their dismounting troops are normally employed as a and are

It is critical that armoured infantry troops retain the capability and skills to and

It is essential to retain the ability to

The ability to operate gives the armoured infantry its unique flexibility and versatility. The armoured infantry company group can:

<sup>1</sup> An armoured infantry company group is

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. [REDACTED]
- i. [REDACTED]
- j. [REDACTED]
- k. [REDACTED]

1-04. **Organisation.** The armoured infantry company consists of [REDACTED] Each company has [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The organisation of the armoured infantry company is illustrated at Figure 1-1 and is broken down as follows:

- a. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In addition, the [REDACTED] The [REDACTED]
- b. **Platoons.** Each platoon consists of [REDACTED] The [REDACTED]  
platoon [REDACTED] The remainder of the platoon is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] It consists of a [REDACTED]  
and a [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] is responsible for [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is [REDACTED] and would normally be [REDACTED]



**Figure 1-1.** Armoured infantry company

## Mission, roles and tasks of armour

1-05. **Mission.** [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]  
While all [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]  
Armoured forces can [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] They will [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] They provide the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Armoured forces' utility can [REDACTED]

1-06. Successful use of armour is built round [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

- a. [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] It is  
the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and from an [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] can contribute to [REDACTED] but it is the [REDACTED]  
and is [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] can be particularly effective if it can be [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] It should be [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED] As well as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] particularly in [REDACTED] The presence of [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is also an important factor in  
sustaining morale.
- c. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] by a [REDACTED] the  
purpose is both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Once the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Roles and tasks

1-07. The key roles and tasks of armour on the battlefield are:

- a. [REDACTED] provide a [REDACTED]  
of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
on the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] also provide a significant [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] as well as produce [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and by providing [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] are said to be [REDACTED]

c. [REDACTED] will normally be used to [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

d. [REDACTED] The general purpose of [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

This is a [REDACTED]

The aim of [REDACTED]

is to [REDACTED]

e. [REDACTED] This [REDACTED]

It will [REDACTED]

often be [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

f. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

and in [REDACTED]

1-08. **Organisation.** The armoured squadron consists of a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] The organisation of [REDACTED] squadron<sup>2</sup> is illustrated at Figure 1-2.

a. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

and the [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] also has [REDACTED]

b. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

and supported by [REDACTED]

and the [REDACTED]

consisting of a [REDACTED]

c. [REDACTED]

d. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

It contains a [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

any [REDACTED]

It also brings [REDACTED]

In addition to [REDACTED]

the [REDACTED]

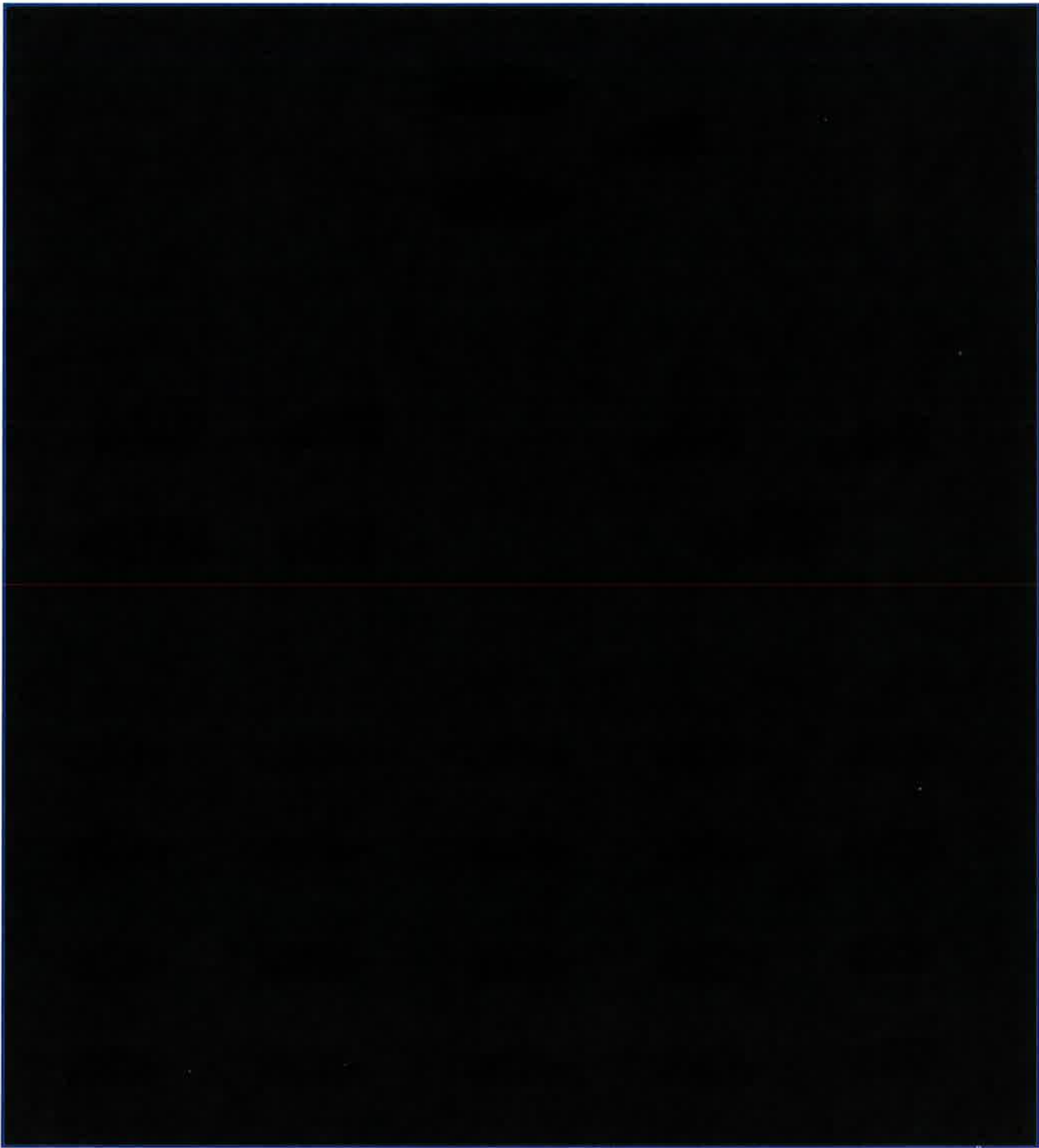
is responsible for the [REDACTED]

e. [REDACTED] The [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED]

2 This organisation [REDACTED]



[redacted] and [redacted]

Figure 1-2. [redacted] armoured squadron organisation



## Task organisation

**1-09.** Task organisation maximises the effects and capabilities of each element and minimises their vulnerabilities by mixing separate capabilities into a combined arms force. Subunits will [REDACTED] and the

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] These [REDACTED] will be [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] along [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

**1-10.** Armour should [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
More often than not, the squadron and company is better [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] These are formed by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Thus, a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]  
giving the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Equally a company [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]

**1-11.** Smaller elements than a subunit may be task-organised at troop/platoon level, such as [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] These groupings are [REDACTED]

**1-12.** When [REDACTED] is it important to consider command and control and combat service support. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and while some support may be provided by [REDACTED] In these cases the [REDACTED]

**1-13.** The advantage of the company group or squadron group is their [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] The disadvantage is the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

**1-14.** There are occasions when squadrons and companies are [REDACTED] An example is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Roles and responsibilities

1-15. Subunit commander. The subunit commander is responsible to the commanding officer for the training, operation, discipline, administration and welfare of the subunit. Responsibilities are as follows:

- a. [redacted]
- b. [redacted]
- c. [redacted]
- d. [redacted]
- e. [redacted]
- f. [redacted]

1-16. Subunit second in command. The subunit second in command must be conversant with all the duties and tactical responsibilities of the subunit commander so that they are capable of commanding the company effectively in their absence. Responsibilities include:

- a. [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]
- b. [redacted] and [redacted]
- c. [redacted]
- d. [redacted] This includes the [redacted] and ensuring that the [redacted]
- e. [redacted]
- f. [redacted]
- g. [redacted]
- h. [redacted]

1-17. [redacted] When established the [redacted] will [redacted] and may be [redacted] When the [redacted] The [redacted] tasks include:

- a. [redacted]
- b. [redacted]
- c. [redacted]
- d. [redacted]
- e. [redacted] and [redacted]