

071-COM-4408
Construct Individual Fighting Positions
Status: Approved

Security Classification: U - Unclassified

Distribution Restriction: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Destruction Notice: None

Foreign Disclosure: FD1 - This training product has been reviewed by the training developers in coordination with the G2, Fort Moore, GA 31905 foreign disclosure officer. This training product can be used to instruct international military students from all approved countries without restrictions.

Conditions: You are a member of a squad that has just occupied a defense position, security has been emplaced, and you have been directed to construct an individual fighting position. You have your assigned weapon(s) (M249 machine gun, M240B machine gun, M16-series rifle, M4-series carbine, and/or a shoulder launched missile), a blank DA Form 5517 standard range card, personal protective equipment, construction material, and camouflage material. You have been given your sectors of fire. Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP 4.

Standards: Construct a fighting position based on leadership direction and type of weapon(s) assigned. Ensure fighting position provides frontal, side, rear, and overhead cover (OHC), as required. Prepare a range card for the position.

Special Conditions: None

Safety Risk: Low

MOPP 4: Sometimes

Task Statements

Cue: None

DANGER

None

WARNING

None

CAUTION

None

Remarks: None

Notes: A fighting position provides cover from fire and concealment from observation while allowing you to engage the enemy with your weapon. There are two types of fighting position: hasty and deliberate. The type of fighting position you construct is dependent on: time available, equipment available, and the required level of protection required. If assigned an M4 rather than an M16-series weapon, add 7 inches (18 centimeters). The length of two M16s is equal to two and a half M4s. The widths of all the fighting positions are only an approximate distance and based on the individual Soldier's equipment.

OHC can be built up or down, this task covers built up OHC. Built-up OHC is constructed on top of the parapets up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) and provides for maximum room inside the fighting position and adequate space between the end walls of the fighting position and the OHC. Built-down OHC is constructed at or below ground level and should not exceed 12 inches (30 centimeters) above ground. This lowers the profile of the fighting position, which aids in avoiding detection. However, it restricts the fighting space between the end walls of the fighting position and the OHC. To account for this restricted space the width of the fighting position should be extended to three M16 lengths.

When selecting and constructing fight positions, and other types of positions, Soldiers should always consider the threat from enemy unmanned systems.

Camouflage systems and other natural/man-made material should be used to impede enemy unmanned systems (air and ground) access to friendly positions.

Performance Steps

1. Construct a hasty fighting position.

Note: A hasty fighting position should give frontal cover from enemy direct fire but allow firing to the front and the oblique. Hasty positions are used if there is little time for preparation, there is no requirement for a deliberate defensive position (such as a pause during movement) or you have just occupied the position. A hasty fighting position uses whatever cover is available. The position can be developed into a deliberate position, if in a suitable location.

a. Construct a shell crater.

Note: A shell crater is 2 to 3 feet (0.61 to 1 meter) wide and offers immediate cover (except for overhead) and concealment.

(1) Lie prone in the depression.

(2) Dig a steep face on the side toward the enemy.

b. Construct a skirmisher's trench.

Note: A skirmisher's trench is used for immediate shelter from enemy fire when there are no defilade firing positions available. In all but the hardest ground, you can use this technique to quickly form a shallow, body-length pit.

(1) Lie prone or on your side.

(2) Orient your position so you are oblique to enemy fire.

(3) Scrape the soil underneath or beside you with an entrenching tool.

(4) Pile the soil in a low parapet between yourself and the enemy.

c. Construct a prone fighting position (Figure 1).

Note: The prone position is a further refinement of the skirmisher's trench. It serves as a good firing position and provides you with better protection against direct fire weapons.

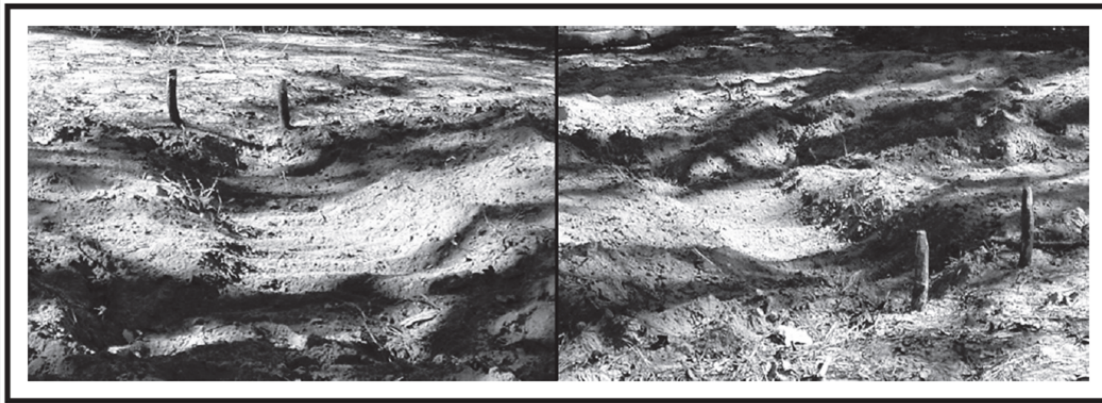


Figure 1.
Example of a prone fighting position (hasty).

(1) Construct a crater or skirmisher's trench fighting position.

(2) Scrape additional soil from your position to a depth of about 18 inches (46 centimeters).

(3) Build cover around the edge of the position by using the dirt dug from the hole.

2. Construct a deliberate fighting position.

a. Construct a one-man fighting position.

Note: Except for its size, a one-man position is built the same way as a two-man fighting position. The hole of a one-man position is only large enough for you and your equipment. It does not have the security of a two-man position; therefore, it must allow you to shoot to the front or oblique from behind frontal cover.

b. Construct a two-man fighting position (Figure 2).

Note: A two-man fighting position is preferred over the one-man fighting position as it allows more flexibility and better security. A two-man fighting position is constructed in four stages with the chain of command normally inspecting and providing additional guidance between each phase.



Figure 2.
Two-man fighting position with OHC.

(1) Construct stage 1 of a two-man fighting position (Figure 3).

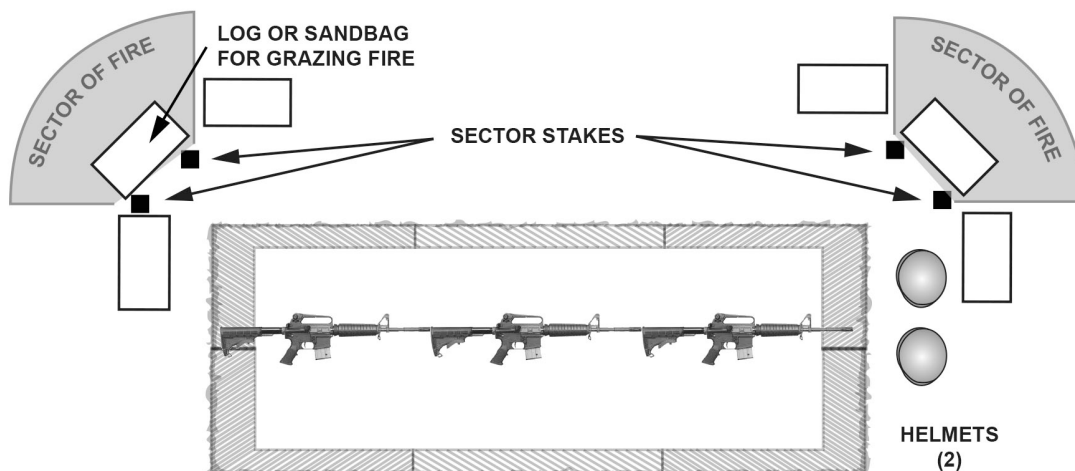


Figure 3.
Two-man fighting position - stage 1 (top view).

(a) Identify sector(s) of fire (at least primary and possibly secondary).

(b) Check fields of fire from the prone position.

- (c) Emplace sector stakes (right and left) to define your sectors of fire.

Note: The sector stakes must be sturdy and stick out of the ground at least 18 inches (46 centimeters); this will prevent your weapon from being pointed out of your sector.

- (d) Emplace aiming and limiting stakes as needed.

Note: Aiming and limiting stakes help you fire into dangerous approaches at night and at other times when visibility is poor. Forked tree limbs about 12 inches (30 centimeters) long make good stakes. One stake (possibly sandbags) is placed near the edge of the hole to rest the stock of your rifle on. The other stake is placed forward of the rear (first) stake/sandbag toward each dangerous approach. The forward stakes are used to hold the rifle barrel.

- (e) Emplace grazing fire logs or sandbags to achieve grazing fire 1 meter above ground level.

- (f) Scoop out elbow holes to keep your elbows from moving around when you fire.

- (g) Trace position outline.

Note: The length of two M16s is equal to two and a half M4s. The widths of all the fighting positions are only an approximate distance and based on the individual Soldier's equipment.

- (h) Clear primary and secondary (if applicable) fields of fire.

- (2) Construct stage 2 of a two-man fighting position (Figure 4).

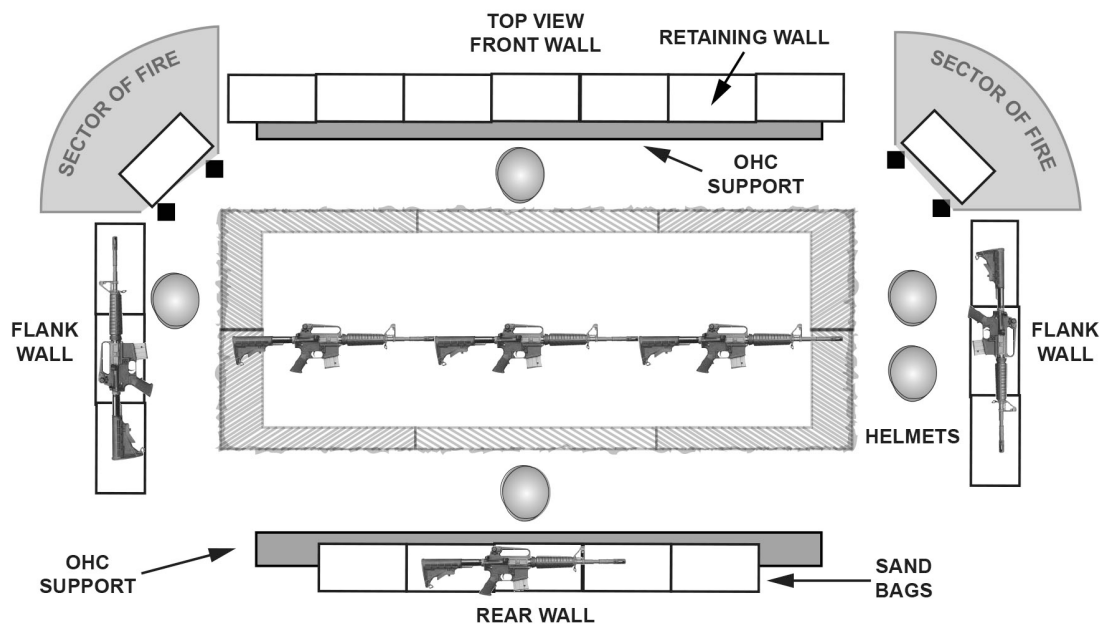


Figure 4.
Two-man fighting position - stage 2 (top view).

- (a) Emplace OHC supports to front and rear of position, at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) from the edge of the position outline.

Note: 12 inches (30 centimeters) is about 1-helmet length.

If you plan to use logs or cut timber, secure them in place with strong stakes from 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7 centimeters) in diameter and 18 inches (46 centimeters) long. Short U-shaped pickets will work.

- (b) Construct parapet retaining walls.

1 Construct the front retaining wall at least 10 inches (25 centimeters) high, two filled sandbags deep, and equal length of the fighting position.

2 Construct rear retaining wall--At least 10 inches (25 centimeters) high, and one M16 long.

3 Construct flank retaining walls--At least 10 inches (25 centimeters) high, and equal width of the fighting position.

(c) Remove the top layer of dirt from the hole.

1 Set aside grass or foliage for camouflage.

2 Use excavated soil to fill sandbags.

(3) Construct stage 3 of a two-man fighting position.

(a) Dig position with vertical walls to a maximum depth of armpit deep, if soil conditions permit (Figure 5).

Note: If the walls of the position are unstable, due to soil properties, you can use revetments and/or slope the walls. Plywood or sheeting material and pickets can be used to revet walls. For sloped walls you would first dig a vertical hole and then slope the walls at 1:4 ratio (move 12 inches [30 centimeters] horizontally for each 4 feet [1.22 meters] vertically).

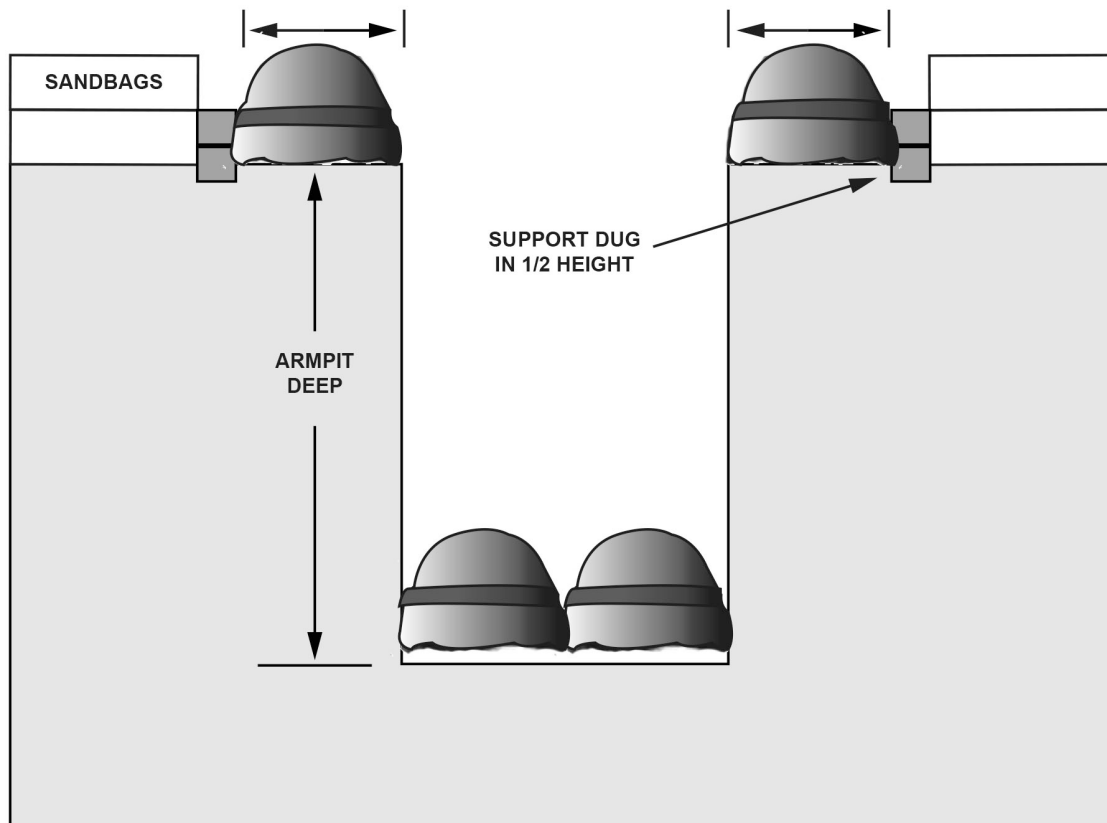


Figure 5.
Digging the position (side view).

(b) Use excavated soil from hole to fill parapets in the order of front, flanks, and rear.

(c) Verify you can cover the entire sector of fire from this position.

(d) Dig two grenade sumps in the floor one on each end.

Note: Grenade sumps are as wide as the entrenching tool blade; at least as deep as an entrenching tool and as long as the position floor is wide.

(e) Slope the floor toward the grenade sumps.

(f) Dig a storage compartment in the bottom of the back wall; the size of the compartment depends on the amount of equipment and ammunition to be stored.

(g) Install revetments, if required, to prevent wall collapse/cave-in.

(h) Emplace standard length stringers for OHC (Figure 6).

Note: The standard length of stringers is 8 feet (2.4 meters). 2x4s, 4x4s, or pickets ("U" facing down) can be used, if available.

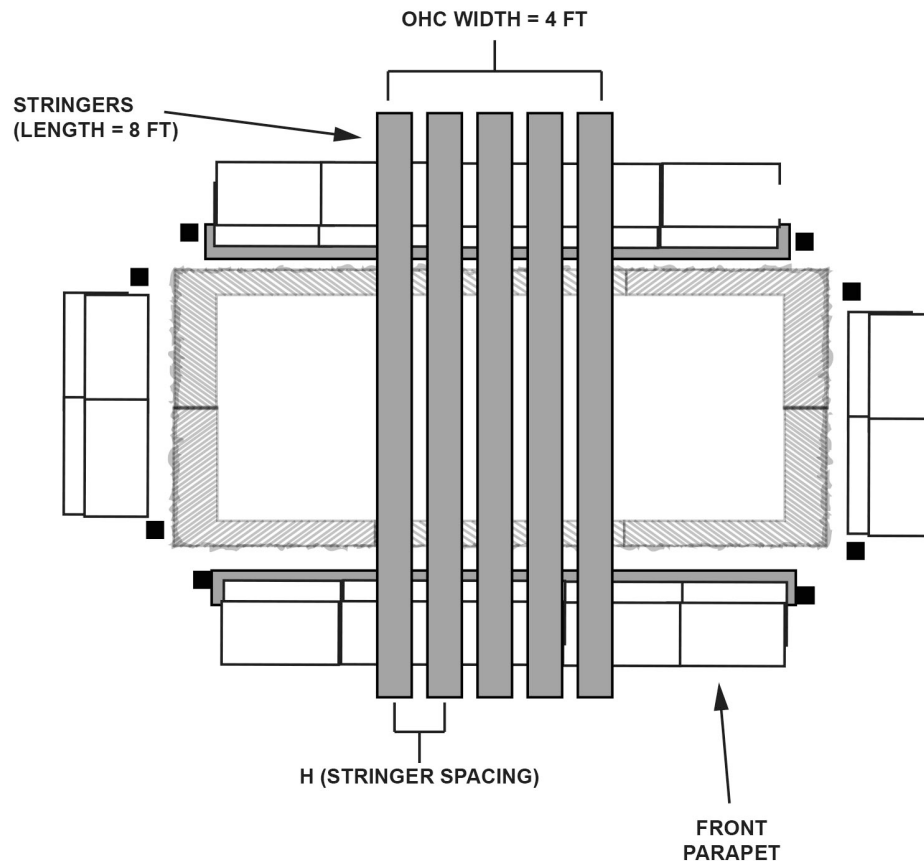


Figure 6.
Placement of stringers for OHC.

(4) Construct stage 4 of a two-man fighting position.

(a) Install OHC (Figure 7).

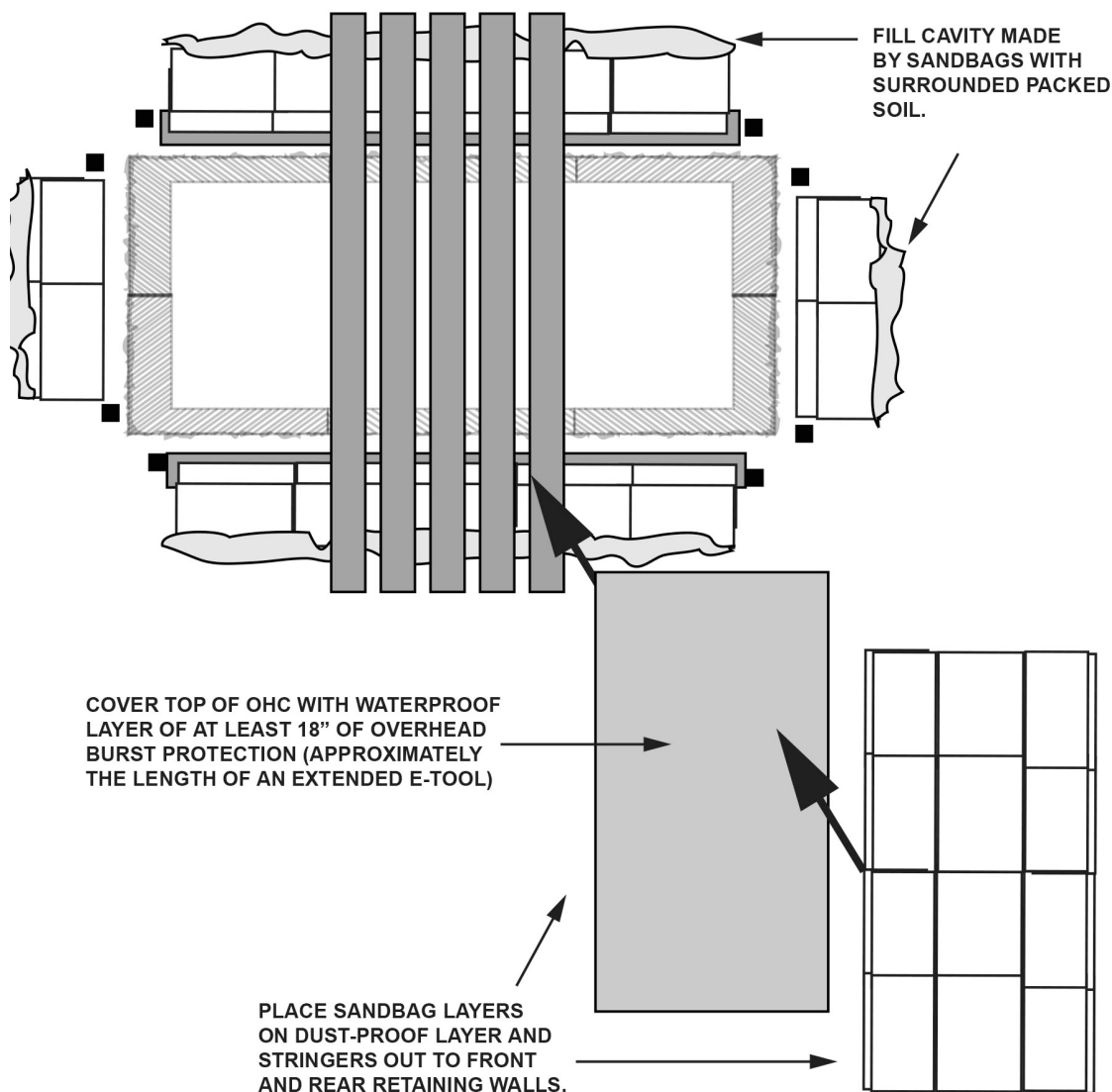


Figure 7.
Installation of OHC.

1 Emplace dustproof layer.

Note: Plywood, sheeting mats can be used as a dustproof layer (could be boxes, plastic panel, or interlocked U-shaped pickets). A standard dustproof layer is 4'x4' sheets of 3/4-inch plywood centered over dug position.

2 Nail plywood dustproof layer to stringers, if required.

3 Emplace at least 18 inches (46 centimeters) of filled sandbags for overhead burst protection (four layers).

Note: At a minimum, the sandbags must cover the area between the front and rear retaining wall sandbags.

4 Use plastic or a poncho for waterproofing layer.

5 Fill center cavity with soil from dug hold and surrounding soil.

(b) Camouflage the fighting position.

1 Mold the OHC and parapets to blend with the surrounding terrain.

2 Camouflage the position with natural materials that do not have to be replaced.

Note: Rocks, logs, live bushes, grass, and other available materials can be used to make the position blend with surroundings, or camouflage screen systems.

3 Employ camouflage techniques to prevent detection from multi-spectrum sensors.

Note: The enemy may employ optical, thermal, radar, and electronic warfare systems to detect your position. You must know the enemy's capabilities and take the appropriate measures to prevent detection.

3. Construct a machine gun fighting position (Figure 8 and 9).



Figure 8.
Machine gun fighting position with OHC.

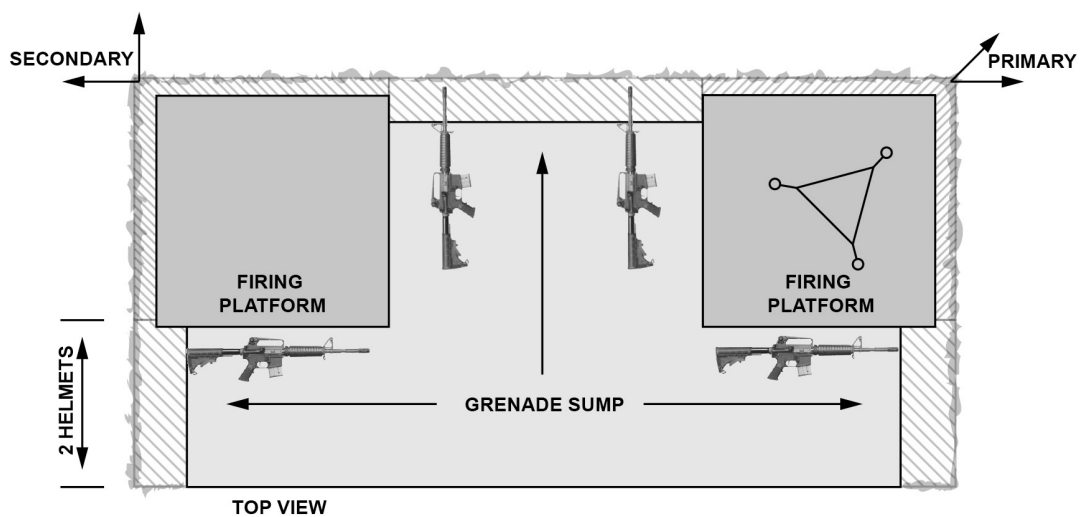


Figure 9.

Machine gun fighting position (top view).

a. Construct stage 1 of a machine gun fighting position.

(1) Establish sectors (primary and secondary) of fire.

(a) Check fields of fire from the prone position.

(b) Assign sector of fire (primary and secondary) and final protective line (FPL) or principal direction of fire (PDF).

(c) Emplace aiming stakes.

(d) Decide whether to build OHC up or down, based on potential enemy observation of position.

(2) Mark the outline of the position.

(a) Trace position outline to include location of two distinct firing platforms.

(b) Mark position of the tripod legs where the gun can be laid on the FPL or PDF.

(3) Clear primary and secondary fields of fire.

b. Construct Stage 2 of a machine gun fighting position.

(1) Dig firing platforms 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters) deep and one M16 in length and width.

(2) Emplace the OHC supports to front and rear of the position.

Note: The supports are placed the same as for a two-man fighting position.

(3) Construct the parapet retaining walls.

Note: The parapet retaining walls are constructed the same as for a two-man fighting position.

(4) Position the machine gun to cover primary sector of fire.

c. Construct stage 3 of a machine gun fighting position.

(1) Dig position and build parapets.

(a) Dig the position to a maximum armpit depth around the firing platform.

(b) Use soil from hole to fill parapets in order of front, flanks, and rear.

(c) Dig grenade sumps and slope floor toward them.

(d) Install revetment if needed.

Note: Follow same steps as for two-man fighting position.

(2) Place stringers for OHC.

Note: Stringers are placed the same way as for a two-man position.

d. Construct stage 4 of a machine gun fighting position.

(1) Install OHC.

Note: Build the OHC the same as you would for a two-man fighting position.

(2) Install camouflage.

(a) Use surrounding topsoil and camouflage screen systems.

(b) Employ camouflage techniques to prevent detection from multi-spectrum sensors.

Note: The enemy may employ optical, thermal, radar, and electronic warfare systems to detect your position. You must know the enemy's capabilities and take the appropriate measures to prevent detection.

(c) Use soil from hole to fill sandbags and OHC cavity, or to spread around and blend position in with surrounding ground.

4. Construct a close combat missile fighting position.

a. Construct a shoulder launch munition fighting position.

Note: An shoulder launch munition fighting position is a standard two-man fighting position that includes basic considerations for firing shoulder launched missile. The shoulder launched missile is fired from a modified standing position by leaning against the rear wall of the fighting position and ensuring the rear of the weapon extends beyond the rear of the fighting position.

(1) Construct stage 1.

Note: Only additional consideration is identifying the backblast area to ensure it is kept cleared. Leaders must ensure that shoulder launched missiles are positioned so that the backblast misses other fighting positions.

(2) Construct stage 2.

Note: Only additional consideration is the rear parapet does not block the backblast area.

(3) Construct stage 3.

Note: No additional considerations.

(4) Construct stage 4.

Note: Only additional consideration is ensuring any camouflage in the backblast area is secure and not easily combustible.

b. Construct a standard Javelin fighting position with OHC. Figure 10)

Note: The standard Javelin fighting position has cover to protect you from direct and indirect fires. The position is prepared the same as the two-man fighting position with two additional steps.

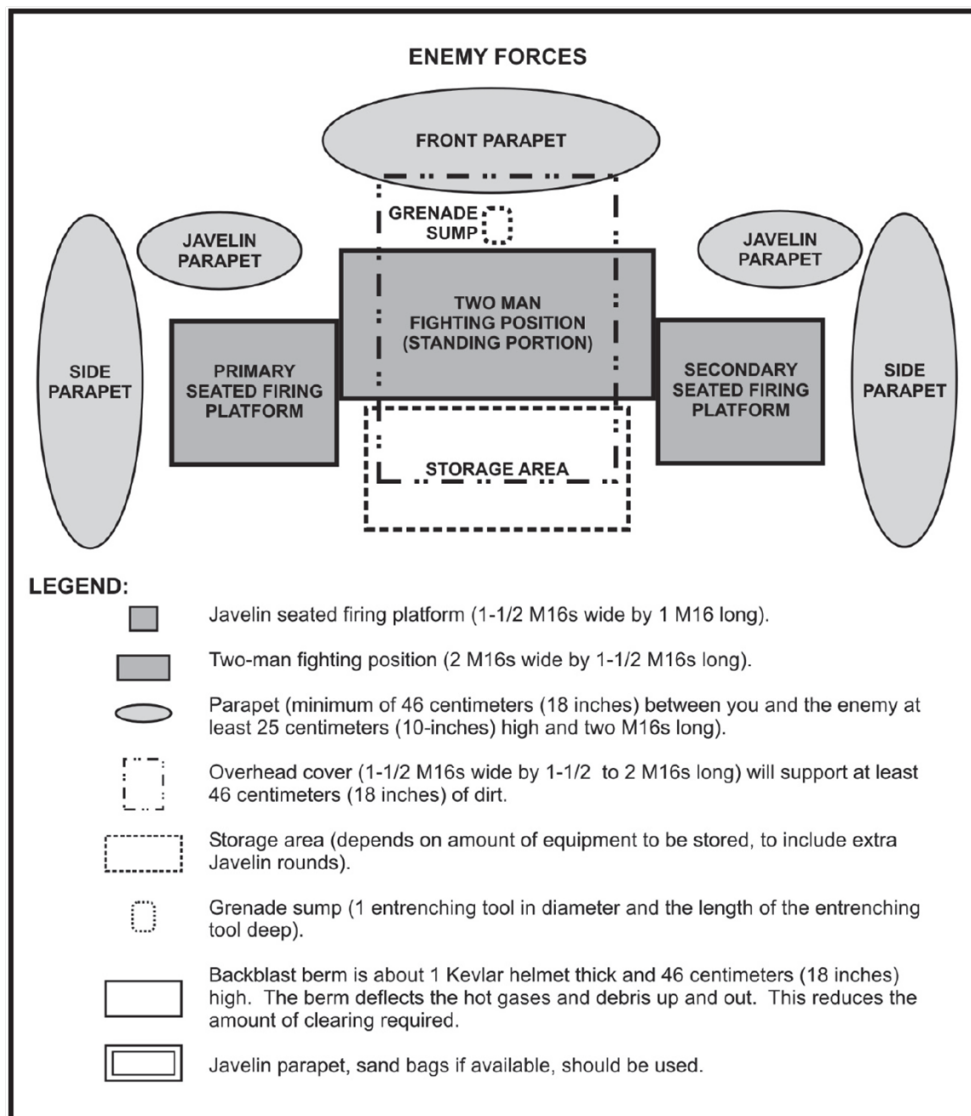


Figure 10.
Standard Javelin firing position.

(1) Extend and slope the back wall of the position rearward to serve as a storage area.

(2) Extend the front and side parapets twice the length as the dimensions of the two-man fighting position with the Javelin's primary and secondary seated firing platforms added to both sides.

5. Ensure position cannot be seen (detected) within 115 feet (35 meters).

Note: If available and feasible, an unmanned aircraft system can be used to ensure position is not detectable from the air.

The position should be checked to ensure it is not detectable using optical, thermal, or other multi-spectral devices the enemy may employ.

6. Prepare a standard range card for the fighting position.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

Evaluation Guidance: Score the Soldier GO if all performance measures are passed. Score the Soldier NO-GO if any performance measure is failed. If the Soldier scores a NO-GO, show the Soldier what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.

Evaluation Preparation: Setup: Provide the Soldier with the equipment and materials described in the conditions statement.

Brief the Soldier: Tell the Soldier what is required to successfully complete the task by reviewing the conditions and standards. Stress the importance of observing cautions, warnings, and dangers, as applicable.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Constructed a hasty fighting position.			
2. Constructed a deliberate fighting position.			
3. Constructed a machine gun fighting position.			
4. Constructed a close combat missile fighting position.			
5. Ensured the position could not be seen (detected) within 115 feet (35 meters).			
6. Prepared a standard range card for the fighting position.			

Supporting Reference(s):

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary	Source Information
	ATP 3-21.8	INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON AND SQUAD	Yes	No	
	DA Form 5517	Standard Range Card	Yes	No	
	TC 3-21.75	THE WARRIOR ETHOS AND SOLDIER COMBAT SKILLS	Yes	Yes	
	TM 3-23.25	Shoulder Launched Munitions	Yes	No	

TADSS : None

Equipment Items (LIN):

LIN	Name
M09009	MACH GUN 5.56MM M249
C06935	CARBINE 5.56MILL M4A1
FB959X	Javelin HT550 RF Unit
M92841	MACH GUN 7.62MM M240B
R05631	RH EX 84MM M136 (AT4)
R95035	RIFLE 5.56MM M16A2

Materiel Items (NSN) :

Step ID	NSN	LIN	Title	Qty
	5120-00-878-5932		Intrenching Tool, Hand	1
	8465-01-524-8407	DA6545	Carrier, Intrenching Tool, MOLLE, Universal Camouflage	1
	5510-00-276-3321		Post, Wood, 4 Inch Diameter, 7 Foot	1

Environment: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to the current Environmental Considerations manual and the current GTA Environmental-related Risk Assessment card.

Safety: In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the TRADOC Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW current CBRN doctrine.

Prerequisite Individual Tasks : None

Supporting Individual Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
071-000-0008	Prepare a Range Card	071 - Infantry (Individual)	Approved
071-COM-0513	Select Hasty Fighting Positions	071 - Infantry (Individual)	Approved

Supported Individual Tasks : None

Supported Collective Tasks : None

Knowledges :

Knowledge ID	Knowledge Name
071-OPN-0022	Threat
071-WPN-0077	Range Cards
071-OPN-0023	Terrain
071-WPN-0079	Principal Direction of Fire
071-OPN-0017	Safety Procedures
071-NAV-0023	Cardinal Directions
071-OPN-0019	Tactical Doctrine
071-OPN-0020	Specified Missions
171-K0436	Understand the concept of defense in sector.
071-NAV-0025	Terrain Association
071-WPN-0075	Fighting Positions

Skills :

Skill ID	Skill Name
071-WPN-0026	Assume Firing Positions
071-MNT-0003	Ability to Use Tools
071-WPN-0030	Orient a Range Card to the Terrain
071-WPN-0038	Determine Dead Space
071-WPN-0039	Identify Dead Space on a Range Card

ICTL Data : None