

The **CHEON IB** (supporting attack) is a tactical maneuver that stresses the exploitation of small gaps in CFC's defensive positions to allow for infiltration to the rear. It differs from the POCHO in that it normally would be conducted by small elements of the support attack.

During the deliberate attack, some NKA units may be assigned the mission of conducting a **pointed advance**. This would be conducted by straight-leg infantry units along a narrow front with the intention of penetrating CFC defenses along a perpendicular ridgeline that is linked to the defensive deep area. This form of maneuver would commonly be used in combination with the breakthrough of the main attack or with an envelopment, and calls for heavy fire support. Although a pointed advance would normally take place in an area adjacent to the main attack, it can also take place in the frontal area of the main attack when no avenue of approach exists that is favorable for a breakthrough deep into CFC's defense. In the execution of a pointed advance (and subject to terrain limitations), an NKA division would use two battalions located 1 to 1.5 km from the main assault to penetrate to a CFC battalion's front line and an NKA regiment would use

two companies located 500 to 700 m from the main assault to penetrate into a CFC company's front line.

## **Pursuit**

The NKA would execute the pursuit to block CFC's withdrawal routes. This maneuver calls for advancing to a point of key terrain before CFC forces begin to withdraw and destroying them in a series of meeting engagements.

Generally, NKA pursuit operations would use a column formation to provide speed and flexibility. The lead elements in the pursuit would attempt to apply pressure on CFC forces to prevent disengagement from contact. Concurrently, NKA artillery would attempt to form a barrier at road intersections or other choke points, in an attempt to cut off CFC withdrawal routes. Throughout the pursuit, the NKA plans for the forward deployment of artillery and mortars to maintain a high level of fire support. NKA engineers are expected to eliminate obstacles to facilitate the advance while the assault forces push forward in an attempt to commit the CFC reserve force. NKA reserve forces are expected to infiltrate CFC rear areas. NKA

doctrine includes three types of pursuit: frontal, parallel, and composite.

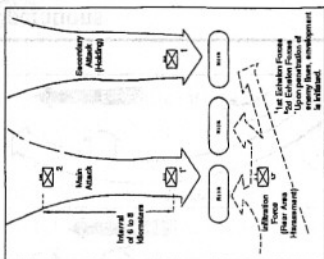
A **frontal pursuit** would be executed when there are no parallel bypass routes or when strong pressure is required to keep CFC forces from disengaging from combat. The NKA might also use frontal pursuit to cover other forces conducting a parallel pursuit into CFC's flank and rear areas.

The NKA would execute a **parallel pursuit** when routes exist on CFC's flanks. The NKA would attempt to conduct a surprise attack on these flank areas to cut off CFC withdrawal routes. The NKA might also conduct a **composite pursuit**, a combination of the frontal and parallel pursuits. The NKA main force would attempt to pressure CFC's covering forces, while simultaneously attempting to cut off CFC's withdrawal routes. An attack would be conducted into CFC's flank and rear areas.

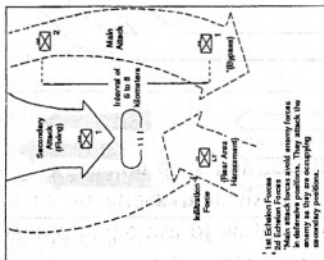
An NKA pursuit operation would cease when CFC forces are completely destroyed, NKA forces have outdistanced their logistic lines, NKA forces in the pursuit are overextended, or when confronted with a powerful CFC defensive position.

## Bypass

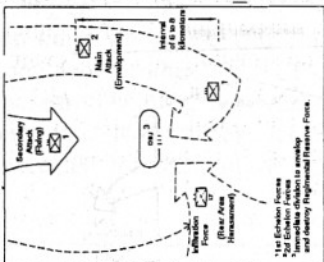
NKA forces would conduct a bypass maneuver in an attempt to force CFC forces to abandon or shift defensive postures. A bypass maneuver is characterized by an attempt to annihilate CFC reinforcements and block withdrawal routes to prevent a CFC withdrawal. An NKA bypass would have a secondary attack axis with emphasis on superior firepower and maneuverability and is a combined arms operations with a goal of striking deep into CFC's rear area. A successful bypass operation would make use of surprise, deception, and terrain. The bypass as an attack maneuver is like an envelopment, except the first echelon does not become engaged.



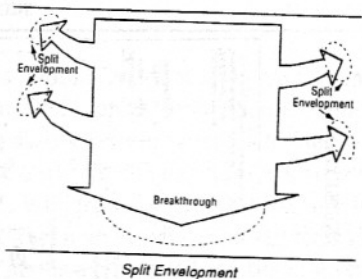
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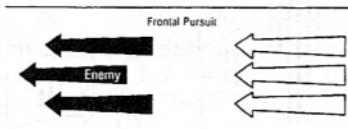
BYPASS



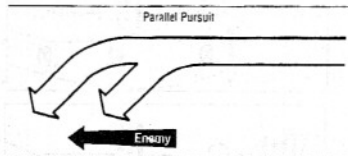
ENVELOPMENT



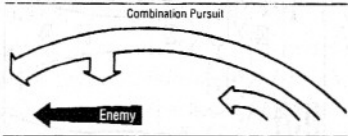
*Split Envelopment*



Frontal Pursuit



Parallel Pursuit



Combination Pursuit

## Night Attack

The NKA views night operations as offering the greatest opportunity for surprise and would use this method for closing with CFC forces without being detected by forward defenses, attacking targets, opening passages through obstacles, and secretly moving second-echelon forces forward.

Though based on simple movements and attack formations, the NKA regard the night attack as an important and complex form of combat requiring close control, detailed reconnaissance, and daylight preparation. It could be a continuation of a daylight attack or a counterattack from an established defensive position.

Although the starting time for an NKA night attack could vary depending on the situation, the NKA would take into consideration times when CFC patrol activities appear to be relaxed, during poor weather, when CFC troops are asleep, or when they appear to be off-guard because of lack of previous combat operations. Night attacks launched before midnight would be executed for the purpose of expanding previous

daytime exploitation operations. Night attacks launched after midnight would be executed as the beginning of daylight offensive operations.

Night attack formations would be selected based on the location of the attack starting position. NKA doctrine includes three types of night formations: the column, standing abreast, and dispersed. The column formation would be used when the attack starting position is located a long distance from CFC defensive lines. The standing abreast formation is the standard night attack formation. The dispersed formation would be used when the attack starting position is located near CFC's defensive lines.

The NKA night attack formation would normally use a narrower front than in the day. Also, the assault line would normally be closer to CFC positions than in the day (less than 150 m) and movement to this point would stress the need to avoid detection by CFC reconnaissance or surveillance. During the advance, NKA personnel would quickly drop to the ground at CFC employment of illumination and then quickly resume the advance when the illumination is negated. Should they encounter a CFC patrol or security force, the advancing force



would attempt to quietly capture or dispose of these forces with "gun barrel or soundless arms."

To improve command and control, precise avenues of approach would be designated. Easily recognizable terrain features would be selected as control points to facilitate movement and to indicate the direction of the attack. Additionally, a compass-bearing specialist would be assigned to each sector unit.

Should the NKA force conducting a night attack be discovered and come under fire and illumination, it would move promptly, without stopping, towards the attack line, avoiding fire as much as possible and maintaining communication silence. Upon initiation of the attack, artillery and mortar units would open fire at designated targets while the infantry initiates the attack throwing hand grenades, engaging in hand-to-hand combat, and shouting battle cries. To maintain the proper direction of the attack, tracer and artillery illumination rounds may be used. Armor assets would be held at the initial attack positions and, on order, advance to join the infantry.

## Armor Support to Offensive Operations

NKA armor units are designed to act decisively in combat and operate independently or as part of combined arms operations providing direct support to the infantry, conducting anti-armor operations, and facilitating the seizure of territory and the annihilation of CFC forces through maneuver and pursuit.

When the NKA tanks are operating in small groups, it is normal to have one or two platoons of infantry attached to a company, or vice versa, where tanks support an infantry attack. In larger unit operations, a company of mechanized infantry is attached to tank battalions performing independent tasks; likewise, a tank company will be attached to a mechanized infantry battalion when attacking a strong defensive position. Attached companies may be employed as whole units or be divided and distributed as needed.

NKA armor and infantry forces are expected to coordinate their efforts during the attack, each using its strength to compensate for the weaknesses of the other. Tanks would

propel the attack, maintaining a vigorous pace, attempting to destroy CFC vehicles and hardened positions. Armored forces would be capable of delivering firepower to a greater depth than most infantry weapons and would be expected to destroy CFC obstacles such as pillboxes, wire entanglements, and minefields (through the use of anti-mine rollers and blades), as well as providing the infantry cover as it advances behind NKA artillery shelling. The infantry would be tasked with destroying any antitank positions, reporting other targets for destruction by tanks, and providing cover for damaged tanks pending their recovery.

NKA armor units would perform the same types of offensive maneuver as the infantry and are well suited to attacking directly from the march. In the movement to contact, a tank formation would leave its assembly area with its elements deployed in such order as to allow for a quick transition to the attack formation. In the attack and penetration, NKA tank formations would be selected to allow tanks and infantry to arrive at CFC's first line of defense at the same time. Tanks would support the infantry advance by fire and destruction of antipersonnel obstacles. During exploitation operations, tanks would assist the infantry in carrying the

assault into CFC's defensive positions. Here, the speed and shock value of armor would be stressed in denying CFC an opportunity to counterattack or reinforce the defense. Tanks would also assist in bypassing CFC defensive strongpoints by blinding or screening through the use of smoke. In the pursuit, the speed and maneuverability of NKA armor assets would be used to maintain pressure directly on CFC forces and to envelop for eventual annihilation.

In organizing for combat, an NKA armor brigade's assets would be assigned to the two combat echelons and reserve of the unit conducting the attack. These echelons would be reinforced according to their assigned combat tasks.

NKA armor formations would include the column, rank, wedge, inverted wedge, and echelon to the right or left.

### **Artillery Support to Offensive Operations**

In the offense, the mission of NKA artillery would be to suppress or destroy CFC personnel and equipment which pose a threat to NKA infantry and tank units. The NKA is capable of delivering massed or dispersed fires from fixed positions

over relatively long ranges with highly destructive power. The NKA considers the ability of artillery to maneuver and to fire accurately under limited visibility, weather, and terrain conditions to be very important.

Tactical employment of NKA artillery would be based on flexibility of organization, integration of the fire plan, centralized control, concentration of firepower, and mobility:

- **Flexibility of organization** would be used to concentrate firepower on the axis of the main attack by forming temporary mission-oriented artillery groups at all echelons.
- **Integration of the fire plan** would be used for the integration of the fires of field guns of various calibers with the machinegun fires of infantry companies into a single fire plan.
- **Centralized control** would give the maneuver unit commander at each echelon control over artillery assets as the NKA does not assign tactical missions to its artillery. As the attacking units advance, control of

artillery would be decentralized starting at the lowest echelon. The maneuver commander would centralize the control of artillery again as needed.

- **Concentration of power** would be achieved through the use of all calibers of guns in concentrated fire to the maximum extent possible.
- **Mobility** would be used for quick dispersion or the concentration of artillery fire in support of a maneuver unit.

The combined arms theory of the NKA is similar to that of the former Soviet Army in that artillery fire support required for regiment and division-size battles exceeds the organic fire support capabilities of regiments and divisions. Therefore, the NKA would form multi-battalion artillery groups at all echelons to support specific combat missions. The groups would be formed at army, corps, division, brigade, and regiment level and would include artillery assets organic to these echelons plus artillery attachments. At least a corps artillery group (CAG) would normally consist of two to three long-range artillery battalions that have the mission of general

support to the corps, support of the division(s) conducting the main attack, counterbattery fire, and deep fire on CFC's rear area. A division artillery group (DAG) would normally be composed of at least two or three battalions equipped with guns, howitzers, mortars, and multiple rocket launchers (MRLs). A regimental artillery group (RAG) would normally be composed of two to four battalions provided by division or corps and would provide support to forward maneuver units. This organization of artillery groups allows for a concentration of firepower to support the main attack, the ability to support unanticipated requirements, or the requirements of a higher echelon.

During the attack, NKA artillery firing positions would be selected through reconnaissance of the actual location. Subsequent firing positions would be selected through visual reconnaissance (observation) and by selecting a general area on the map and moving to that area. After destroying pre-planned targets during the preparatory fire, the guns would change positions. Normally, artillery pieces would be placed at a distance of one-third of their maximum range from the line of contact with CFC forces. When needed, the firing positions

would be set up in an area where artillery can conduct direct fire.

In order to assure continuous and effective command of artillery asset and fire direction, the NKA would establish and employ artillery observation posts (OPs) at each echelon. Based on their surveillance of the terrain and CFC activity, the OPs would observe and adjust artillery fire as well as provide command and fire direction.

NKA conduct of artillery fire in the offense would be broken down into three types of fire: preparatory fire, fire support of the attack, and fire support in depth during the attack.

In the offense, **preparatory fire** would be conducted to destroy CFC CPs and observation facilities, to cause the collapse of defensive organization, and to clear a path through obstacles for infantry, tanks, artillery, and engineers. Fire would be sustained for 10 to 20 minutes in preparation for a hasty attack, or 30 to 40 minutes for a deliberate attack. Preparatory fire would normally be divided into four phases:



- 1st Phase: CFC front platoon area (suppressive fire)
- 2nd Phase: CFC company reserve area
- 3rd Phase: CFC battalion reserve area
- 4th Phase: CFC front platoon area (annihilation fire).

Preparatory fire probably would not be divided into phases when visibility is poor and observation of fire is not possible or when CFC has gone into a hasty defense and has not yet constructed its defensive positions.

**NKA fire support of the attack** would be conducted to assist the advance of maneuver units by shifting fires at pre-planned rates (normally 2 to 3 minutes) deeper into the defense. For this purpose several basic firing phase lines would be established at 200- to 400-m intervals from the offensive start line out to 2,500 m into the CFC's defensive depth.

- 1st Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC obstacle area.

- 2nd Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC defensive frontline.
- 3rd Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC reserves.

The supporting artillery unit or artillery group would provide general support to the maneuver unit by providing rolling barrage or successive fire concentrations. Long-range artillery and the corps artillery group would conduct counterbattery fire and fire on command and communication facilities. When the maneuver unit cannot suppress CFC resistance with its own firepower, some units from the supporting artillery units would be attached to provide direct support to the attacking unit.

**Fire support in depth during the attack** would provide fire for exploitation units penetrating into the depth of the CFC defense. The artillery which is in direct support of the penetrating force would have the mission to continue suppressing CFC resistance and blocking counterattacks or withdrawals. Accompanying artillery gives priority to destroying individual enemy weapon positions and conducting suppressive fire. Missions for long-range artillery are to conduct counterbattery fire, suppress and destroy strongholds