

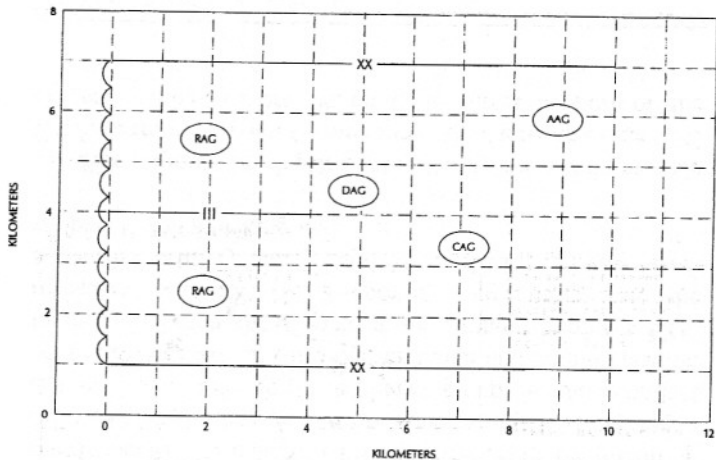
would be established at 200- to 400-m intervals from the offensive start line out to 2,500 m into the CFC's defensive depth.

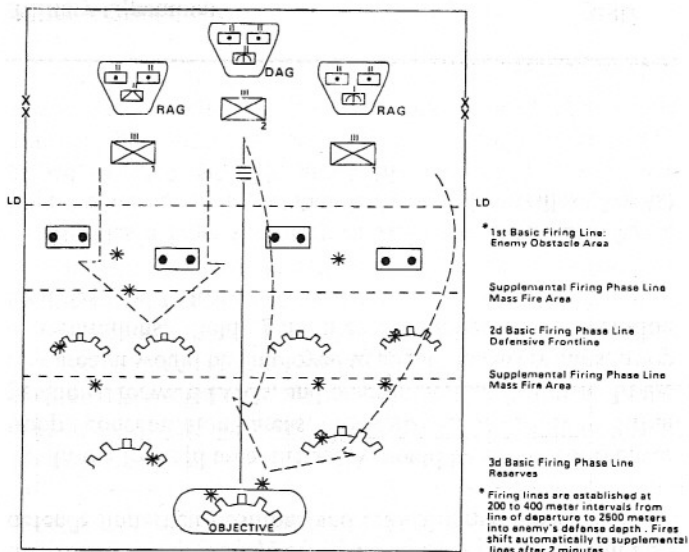
- 1st Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC obstacle area.
- 2nd Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC defensive frontline.
- 3rd Basic Firing Phase Line: CFC reserves.

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

ARTILLERY GROUPS - OFFENSE





Fire Support During the Attack

Air Defense Support to Offensive Operations

NKA air defense in support of offensive operations would be performed primarily by AAA units. Besides combating aircraft, AAA units, when needed, will reinforce ground firepower against ground targets. The larger AAA weapons have limited anti-armor capability.

The tactical mission of the NKA's AAA would be to cover the maneuver unit in support of the attack. The AAA unit also defends important positions and critical target areas.

In the forward area, the AAA would be deployed to cover troop concentration areas, forward CPs, artillery firing positions, forward LOCs, and other important facilities. In the rear area, it would be employed to cover maneuver units, troop concentrations, field gun areas, missile sites, munition facilities, and LOCs.

Besides a large inventory of AAA, the NKA also has a large number of man-portable surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to include SA-7, SA-14, and SA-16.

Engineer Support to Offensive Operations

Engineers are expected to expedite NKA offensive operations by assisting in increasing the mobility of attacking forces and performing countermobility operations against CFC. Other tasks would include providing camouflage, cover, and concealment support, and acting as infantry when needed.

Specific tasks of an NKA division's engineer battalion would include reconnaissance, route support, river crossing, obstacle clearance, obstacle laying, illumination, water supply, and fortification. Higher echelon assets, such as the corps' river crossing regiment and technical engineer and construction battalions, would provide the division river crossing and obstacle breaching support.

At the regimental level, the engineer company would assist offensive operations by performing reconnaissance, route support in the rear area, limited river crossing support, obstacle clearance, and fortification. The regimental engineer company would normally attach platoon-size elements to infantry battalions and squad-size elements to infantry companies.

Higher echelons would assist the regiment with engineer support for such tasks as obstacle breaching and river crossing.

In organizing for combat, engineer battalions and companies would provide sapper elements to carry out tasks separately or as part of a combined arms team. A reconnaissance team would conduct engineer reconnaissance. An advance guard engineer team would construct routes. A clearance team would precede the infantry, clearing obstacles and constructing routes of advance to include detours for the main body. A raiding team, composed of engineers and SOF elements, would attack special targets and reinforced CFC positions. A mobile obstacle team would emplace obstacles to protect the flanks of attacking NKA units and an engineer element in the antitank team would set up camouflage and field fortifications.

Reconnaissance and Surveillance Support to Offensive Operations

In NKA offensive operations, the infantry division would have the primary responsibility for reconnaissance and surveillance. This includes all aspects of the area of operations, to include weather and terrain, and CFC

capabilities. However, every echelon of each of the armed services is expected to conduct military reconnaissance and surveillance in support of NKA offensive operations.

By echelon, regimental reconnaissance and surveillance would extend into the rear of a CFC regiment and that of a front line division. Division would be expected to cover a CFC division's rear area and that of a front line corps. Corps would be tasked to cover the rear area of a CFC corps as well as the rear area of the next higher CFC echelon. Reconnaissance assets at the service and national level are expected to cover the entire rear area of CFC.

NKAF aerial reconnaissance is expected to acquire information on the nature of CFC locations, groupings, and activities along a broad front in a relatively short period of time. Surveillance, photography, and radar detection would be performed by reconnaissance aviation, bombers, and pursuit aviation in support of combined arms operations.

NKN reconnaissance would be conducted by naval platforms, technical surveillance sentries, naval reconnaissance aviation forces, coastal defense forces, and coastal artillery

forces to quickly identify an area threatened by CFC amphibious forces.

The mission of ground reconnaissance would be to acquire detailed information concerning CFC combat forces, terrain, and weather, by using the special skills and assets of army technical personnel. This information along with that collected by air and naval reconnaissance would be combined in an attempt to verify CFC disposition, strengths, and weaknesses.

Amphibious Support to Offensive Operations

Though North Korea does not have the capability to conduct large amphibious operations, it can insert small units of landing parties from the sea to accomplish the following:

- Support the advance of NKA ground offensive operations
- Conduct amphibious raids to occupy/destroy critical targets in CFC's rear area
- Surprise and harass CFC's rear area.

Forces that would conduct amphibious operations against CFC would come from the two amphibious landing brigades and naval forces. Specific missions would include the following:

- Encircling and destroying CFC defensive positions
- Delaying reinforcement of CFC defensive frontlines
- Occupying or otherwise paralyzing CFC air bases/operations
- Occupying/attacking island groups, harbors, naval bases, and areas in which future operations are anticipated
- Destroying CFC command and control centers/systems and other critical targets in CFC's rear area
- Occupying/destroying bridges, river crossing sites, or other targets to reduce CFC maneuverability
- Conducting missions to harass or otherwise create confusion in CFC's rear.

NKA TACTICS IN THE DEFENSE

The defense would be used by NKA in an attempt to gain time, prevent troop losses, or cover a unit short of personnel. A defensive area would be selected because it gives mutual support and provides all-around defense. NKA doctrine calls for three types of defensive operations: position defense, mobile defense, and retrograde operations. The position defense would be used to hold or destroy CFC's attack or to hold key terrain or a key area. A mobile defense would be used to gain time, exact losses on CFC forces, and preserve combat strength while losing ground. NKA retrograde (or disengagement) operations would be used to gain time to plan for the next operation or to restore combat capability. In all three types of NKA defensive operations, the organization and composition would be similar, but the conduct would be different.

NKA defensive plans will vary depending on the type of defense required and the status of contact with CFC forces. The integration of mechanized, artillery, armor, AAA, and antitank fire support (both organic and adjacent unit's), and the

use of engineers, camouflage, and deception will all be vital elements of a NKA defensive operation. However, NKA planning and execution of antitank defense may well be the number one priority when preparing for a CFC attack.

Generally, when in the defense, the NKA will organize and manage the conduct of the defense into four defensive echelons/zones, and areas: the security echelon, the main defensive echelon (or main defense line), the rear area defense echelon, and the antitank support area. Distances, frontages, and depths are situational dependent. They will be adjusted by NKA defenders in accordance with time to prepare the defense, terrain, and combat strength of both NKA defenders and CFC forces expected to attack.

The **security echelon** will consist of three zones: the general outpost, the combat outpost, and local security. Each will be organized for the purpose of holding and frustrating attacking CFC forces while gaining time. The security echelon will be reinforced by engineer, artillery, and armor units. The main purposes of the security echelon will be as follows:

- To cause early deployment of CFC forces into attack formations
- To prevent CFC surprise attacks
- To hamper CFC forces from conducting reconnaissance and artillery observation
- To mislead CFC forces in finding the actual location of the main defensive echelon
- To provide concealed lookouts during the withdrawal of NKA forces.

The **general outpost** will be established approximately 10 to 15 km forward of the defensive front line and would be manned by a reinforced battalion. It would be established by a division or army group and would not have to be deployed if there is not enough time. Its mission will be to impede the CFC advance and to cause early deployment.

The **combat outpost** will consist of a reinforced platoon and would be established approximately 1 to 2 km forward of

the defensive front line. The division would establish it and the regiment would be responsible for this outpost. Its mission will be to prevent CFC surprise attacks, confuse CFC reconnaissance, and deceive CFC as to the location of the main defense echelon.

Local security will consist of a small number of NKA troops and would be established approximately 200 to 400 m forward of the defensive front line under authority of the forward company commander.

The main defensive echelon would contain most of the defense's firepower. NKA units with the strongest firepower and most of the antitank weapons would be assigned missions within this echelon. The main defensive echelon is organized into two smaller echelons and a defensive perimeter would be established to check CFC attacks from any direction.

The **first echelon** of the main defensive echelon would be responsible for determining whether CFC is moving to conduct a deliberate attack and if so, where. If CFC forces are moving to attack, a combat security detachment or a smaller unit would be dispatched to conduct reconnaissance in force or limited

spoiling attacks, respectively. Tanks dug in at the front line will engage at 1,000 m. If CFC forces reach the front line and threaten penetration, defending forces will strengthen their flanks and engage with all available fire support. As CFC enters the defensive area, tanks and antitank teams will attempt to ambush and destroy the attackers' mobility and inflict heavy combat losses. If CFC reaches this point, the NKA defenders would probably commit their reserves.

The **second echelon** of the main defensive echelon would be responsible for holding one or two blocking positions or to counterattack to regain the initiative and drive out penetrating CFC forces. If CFC attempts a flanking movement, a company from the second echelon will take defensive positions on that flank.

The **rear area defense echelon** would usually be 8 to 12 km deep. Positions will have been prepared in advance. This echelon would be used to prevent an advance following the penetration of the main defense echelon, to slow a CFC advance, to provide logistical support during the defense, or to execute a counterattack. Underground positions, artillery, and rear area service support will be located in this area. Mobile

units that could conduct counterattacks or serve as reinforcements will be deployed here. NKA reserves will be deployed in such a manner that allows counterattack in any direction.

The NKA considers antitank defense as one of the most vital components of the defense and will establish the **antitank support area (ATSA)**. NKA doctrine calls for the employment of from two to five antitank guns within every 100 m of the defensive front.

The maneuver unit would establish the ATSA and locate it where it would be inaccessible to tanks or IFVs. NKA forces assigned to the ATSA would be tasked to establish several indirect fire rolling barrier fire lines and direct fire antitank security lines along potential CFC tank approach routes. Antitank security lines would be established in the forward security zone, near the defensive front line, and in the depth of the main defensive zone. Rolling barrier fire lines would be established parallel to the MDL, starting 300 to 400 m forward of the defensive front line. From this point outward, additional lines would be established at intervals of 300 to 500 m. Each

fire sector should be observable from a ground OP and located at a point that CFC tanks cannot bypass.

In antitank defense, NKA artillery units will attempt to deliver battalion-size salvos of antitank support fire before CFC tanks can advance to within the effective ranges of antitank weapons. At the request of the OP, several battalions may concentrate fire on key areas, firing at maximum rate. If CFC penetrates the fire areas and the tank advance continues, the artillery units would shift fire to subsequent fire areas. During rolling barrier fires, whenever CFC tanks advance within 1,000 m of antitank gun positions, antitank guns would engage with direct fire.

Individual antitank guns will also conduct ambush fires from positions along high speed avenues of approach. In addition, antitank obstacles will be positioned so that they can receive protecting fire from antitank weapons. The NKA will also make use of both man-made and natural obstacles.

Defensive Frontages & Depths

Unit Frontage Depth (km)

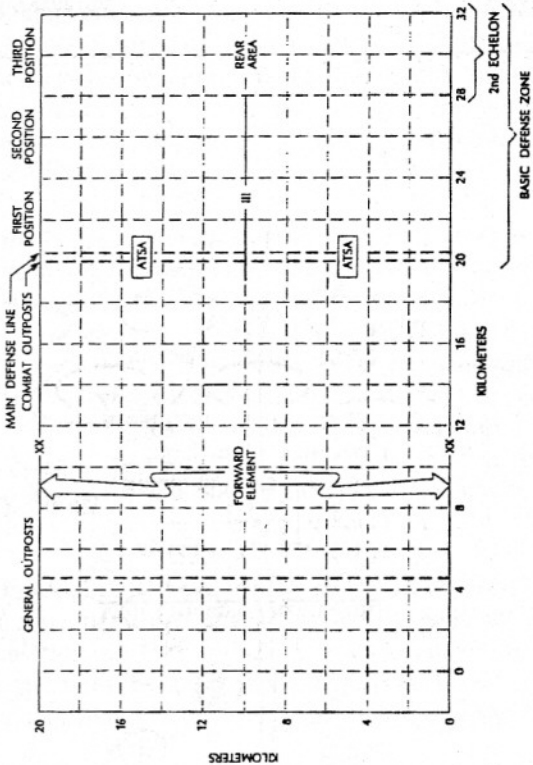
Company 1.5-2.5 1-1.5

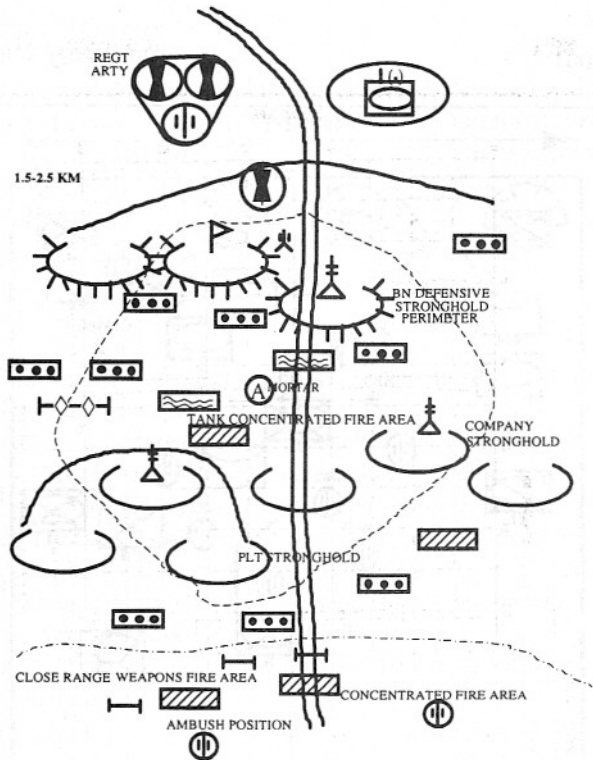
Battalion 3-5 \leq 3

Regiment 6-10 8-12

Division 12-20 16-22

DIVISION DEFENSE ZONE





NKA BATTALION DEFENSE PLAN