

Building Clearing / Tactical Raid

Objective:

Explorers should learn the difference between a deliberate and dynamic building clearing. Explorers should be able to employ techniques for a regular patrol response to a building clearing situation and a tactical raid search typically used in narcotic raids. Explorers should be able to use tactical thinking during these scenarios and demonstrate the ability for a team to work together in clearing a building.

Foreword:

Tactical thinking is an active process where the officer must consider all the options and tactics available, when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. The bottom line is that the officer must pay attention to details. You must understand that you are the most important individual out there. Take responsibility before force is escalated. Tactical thinking is doing the very things that you have been trained to do - safely and efficiently. Can this happen? The answer is yes, but it takes effort on your part.

Tactical Thinking:

While most police actions are suspect-based, tactical thinking is officer- based. Suspect-based actions occur when we become too overwhelmed with the quick capture of the offender and forget about everything else going on around us. In this situation, things can get out of control quickly. This results in cross-fires, improper handcuffing techniques, and total convergence on the offender by all officers. It leaves no one to provide cover.

Ideally, an officer should not focus solely on the suspect. The officer should focus on his/her own actions, rather than what the suspect is doing. By maintaining this focus, you become more effective in controlling your own emotions. You make stronger tactical decisions and only escalate the force, if necessary. This internal focus protects you and allows you to make sound decisions. This is the officer-based approach to solving any difficult situation.

Mental and physical attitude and actions affect how the threat interprets the team's aggressiveness. A mindset of complete domination must be maintained throughout any building clearing operation.

Tactical fundamentals of building clearing are:

Mental Preparedness.

1. Be mentally prepared for the physical changes your body will experience as a result of the flight or fight response during these operations:
2. Increased blood pressure, heart rate, and blood flow to major muscle groups.
3. Decreased blood flow to extremities, making simple movements, and dexterity almost impossible.
4. Visual difficulties in tracking, ability to focus deteriorates; the peripheral field narrows.
5. Visualize success performing tasks under various challenging conditions. Control fear, it is normal, and everyone experiences it:
 - Do not let it overpower you.
 - Channel it into anger or aggression.
 - Remain in control, and you will be fine.
 - Have confidence in yourself.

Fight as you have trained. Hence the importance of "Train as you fight." Train to a conditioned response.

Move Without Detection.

The importance of this fundamental speaks for itself.

- Tactically and silently.
- Be in the correct order.
- Avoid unnecessary movement (foot shuffling, fidgeting, etc).
- Call a minimal amount of equipment to reduce noise and fatigue.
- Secure loose items (Jump check).
- Assume proper positions (stay off walls, keep your balance, etc).

Control the Distance.

An important fundamental of BC is controlling the distance to the threat. Avoid distances closer than six feet for a standing threat and four feet for a threat on the ground.

At a distance:

- Increased reaction time.
- Increased options in use of force, finding cover, and verbal persuasion.
- More team members and weapons on threat.

Up close:

- Less reaction time. Fewer options.
- Weapon retention concerns.
- May block target acquisition of other team members.
- Create distance by:
 - Use of weapon capabilities (eyes on target and or precision shooting).
 - Use thermal or other night vision imagery.
 - Use lighting.
 - Use less lethal options.

Dominate the Area. An area is dominated when a minimum of two members of the entry team move points that allow total control of the area with proper interlocking fields of fire. Occupation of these points with interlocking fields of fire serve to overwhelm the threat (create a dilemma) and provide different angles of fire to cover potential dead space. Be aware of your position and surroundings. Scan to break tunnel vision.

Eliminate the Threat. Eliminating the threat may be accomplished with lesser means of force than deadly force. When deadly force is used, the team must effectively eliminate the threat as quickly as possible with accurate and discriminating fire. This can be accomplished from or while moving to their dominating positions. As stated in Army FM 23-35, Combat Pistol, "the battle is not won with the first shot! It is won with the first accurate shot."

Control the Situation and Personnel.

It is essential that in the initial few moments of a clearing operation the team maintain total control of the situation and all personnel in the room. Lost control is not easily regained.

The dilemma, disorientation, confusion, and sometimes panic created in the mind of the threat must be fully exploited as a measure of control. Team members must communicate clearly and always ready to take charge.

Search the Area. A quick but complete search of the room is critical in determining if any potential threat to the team exists. Search anything that may conceal a threat (behind doors, furniture, etc).

The room search is conducted by a minimum of a two-man team. One covers and the other searches. Great consideration should be given when searching the room if the possibility of booby traps exists. What is the benefit or need? What are the likely results?

Search the Living, Injured, and Dead. The living, injured, and dead must be searched to ensure that they no longer pose a threat. The search is conducted by a minimum of a three-man team in large areas that contain a threat but are not cleared:

- One man searches the threat.
- One man covers the threat.
- One man covers the room.

Remove any weapons on or near the body. Cautiously check for signs of life on motionless and unresponsive threats. Provide medical attention if necessary.

Evacuate Personnel and Equipment.

If personnel or equipment recovery was the purpose of the clearing operation, these assets should be evacuated immediately. Account for all organic personnel and equipment.

Refer to team SOP and or rules of engagement for evacuation procedures of the threat(s), wounded, and dead.

Entry

Planning Considerations Determine number of necessary personnel for mission. Mandated by METT-T. A minimum of five personnel are necessary to conduct building clearing. Three (3) personnel per threat should be committed to any mission when multiple threats are expected. Three (3) to four (4) team members per room is ideal. The team must be prepared to deny the threat any chance of escape or effective retaliation.

The following details must be considered when determining the number of entry team members for the mission:

- Number of threats, non combatants, or bystanders and their equipment capabilities.
- Size, complexity, number, type of structures, areas, and exterior danger areas.
- Entry point number and type.
- Control and apprehension of the threat.

What equipment is necessary in order to effect a successful entry and clearing operation.

- What environment is the team likely to encounter?
- What is the anticipated reaction by the threat?
- Approach the Entry Point
- Time and distance from the last covered and concealed position (LCC) to entry must be as short as possible.
- Move with 360-degree security with cover from Marksman/Observers.

Team must be in proper order for necessary actions at the entry point. Have primary and alternate entry point selected prior to departing CP and have a contingency plan for compromise. Attempt a deliberate approach when possible.

Actions at the Entry Point

- Make a quick check of the entry point.
- Plan to breach two entry points.
- When entering at ground level with a small clearing team, it is preferable to enter at the end of the building rather from the middle. This will limit possible threats to the front.
- Entering the building in the middle will cause the small team to split-up.
- When entering at ground level with a large clearing team, a middle assault working outward can offer the fastest and safest method of clearing.

Actions Outside the Entry Point

Select a position based on the characteristics of the entry point. Team members must train to immediately recognize the characteristics of various entry points and setup to provide maximum security and the smoothest entry possible. Position on the side that provides the least path of resistance.

Maximize coverage whenever possible by positioning team members left and right of the opening. Team members lining up on the hinge side will have first view and easiest access.

Inward opening doors:

- Team Members position themselves on the opposite side of the door knob.



Outward opening doors:

- Team members position themselves on the door knob side.
- Prevents team members from having to deal with the door.
- Easy access to typical locks and doorknobs.
- Minimizes obstacles.
- Maximizing speed.



Individual Position.

1. Keep in mind that a threat may come from any angle.
2. Each member must be prepared to meet and defeat it.
3. A simple thing such as foot position or muzzle may give away your location to the threat.
4. The body must be positioned correctly to avoid compromise and facilitate surprise, speed, and aggressive action.

Head and Eyes: aligned with threat and or area of responsibility.

Shoulders: Align with hands and eyes, maximizing body armor protection. Stay off the wall.

Weapon

- Cover the entry point at the close in ready or low ready position. The number 2-man may be at the high ready.
- Finger indexed off the trigger.
- Ideally, weapon is carried in the hand opposite the wall side. However, careful consideration must be given to the skill of the entry team member. Can he shoot well with both hands. If not, keep it in the strong hand.
- Muzzle directed to indicate movement direction or aligned with threat and or area of responsibility.

Feet

Positioned as close to the door opening as possible to expedite entry. Feet comfortable distance apart, similar to boxers stance. Always think angles. Do not allow your foot position to compromise your position.

Stance

- Knees slightly bent.
- A stable base is critical.
- Body Weight is slightly forward in a crouched position.
- Never off balance.

Mind.

Ask yourself:

- Is this a safe entry point?
- Is there sufficient manpower (2 men per room, 3 men per threat)?
- Is the team position compromised? (if so, create a diversion or use another entry point) 0 Trust your senses (see, listen, smell, and feel).
- Focused and prepared to meet and defeat the threat.

Equipment

- Keep to a minimum to reduce noise and bulk.
- Do you have proper weapons and equipment for entry and clearing?

**Three methods of entry include:
Deliberate, Dynamic, Ruse**

Deliberate entry is used to enter quietly in an attempt to reduce the distance to the threat. Deliberate entry is used in friendly environments where the threat does not have sympathizers in the area to alert or assist them. Also known as the stealth or covert method. Very effective when entering large structures, particularly when the exact location of the threat is unknown and the size of the entry team is limited.

Dynamic entry may be used during any mission that requires immediate access into the objective. Virtually the same as deliberate. Distinguishing characteristics are speed and the method of breaching. The use of various tools is often required to gain immediate access into the structure.

Ruse entry is the use of a non-threatening posture during movement and gaining access to the objective. Examples include team member acting as an UPS driver, pizza delivery, maintenance man, etc. It is an effective and safe method of approach and entry when well planned and rehearsed. Requires same security as any other method of entry. Advantages of a ruse include:

- Point of entry is opened by the threat, thus achieving a successful breach and reducing risk to the team and building occupants.
- Approach to the objective can be accomplished without the need for concealment. Cover should be planned when available.
- Apprehension of one or more threats at the entry point.

A ruse is not recommended in barricaded situations, however, may be effective in raids. If the ruse fails, an entry team must be prepared to immediately execute entry and clearing. Attempting a ruse entry can be difficult due to the need for inconspicuous movement of equipment and personnel to the entry point and difficult transitioning from the ruse.

Breaching

A positive method of breaching must be determined during planning. Additionally, an alternate/back-up method should also be selected. Ideally, enough personnel and equipment resources should be dedicated to the operation to allow for a breach of the primary and alternate entry point. All entry team members must be capable of performing all breaching techniques.

Breacher

Improper breaching denies access into the objective and may cause injury to the team members, innocent bystanders, or the threat. Improper breaching may result in mission failure. Breachers must be capable of:

- Provide positive, safe entry for the team.
- Potential entry points.
- Potential danger areas. Analyze.
- Determine which potential entry points would make the best primary and alternate breach points.
- Determine the best primary breaching method technique to use for the primary, alternate, and unknown breach points.
- Remaining prepared to effect more breaching.

Manual and mechanical breaching is forced entry by manual and mechanical means. **This is the preferred method of breaching done by police Explorers.** This training manual will not cover other methods of breaching, such as explosive breaching, shot initiated breaching and thermal breaching.

Examples of manual breaching include the battering ram, hooligan tool, etc. Examples of mechanical breaching include the use of hydraulic tools and all-purpose saws. The nature of a particular mission or target may make manual or mechanical tools inappropriate or impossible to use. Even when other entry methods are used, manual and mechanical breaching should be considered and incorporated into plans as an alternate or secondary means for achieving entry.

Application of mechanical techniques is limited by the hardness of the target and the team's load carrying capacity. Most manual and mechanical breaching tools are heavy, bulky, and awkward to carry. Tool use requires time on target that may compromise the team's mission. Tools include:

- Battering ram
- Hooligan tool
- Sledge hammer
- Hydraulic spreader
- T-bars and J-hooks
- Bolt cutters
- Crowbar
- Center punch
- Fire fighting equipment
- Key

Inside Buildings:

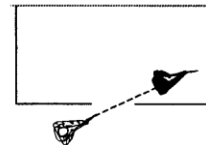
Don't pass unclear areas. Maintain coverage of all tactical angles towards unclear areas. Coordinate all movement. Communications are necessary, but keep them brief, to the point, and exact. Always be systematic and thorough. And always move at a speed where you are in control. Be prepared for changes. Stay on your feet. Enter and clear with three (3) personnel when possible, minimum two (2). Keep it simple.

Door Entry Techniques Suspect and Team View

The threat's view of his environment is very different than that of the entry team member. The threat knows the environment better and may have already made a decision to shoot. The entry team member is concerned with 360 degree security including up and down, entering an unknown, and use of force.

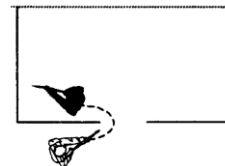
Crisscross

Entry is not required to achieve target acquisition; areas of responsibility are immediately visible. When team members use the crisscross, they must decide who will enter the room first based on which side of the door is hinged and room layout.



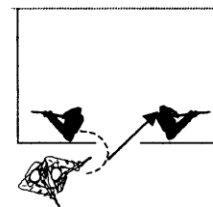
Buttonhook

Area of responsibility is not visible until entry. This technique allows simultaneous entry of two men through a large door.



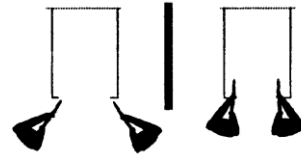
Combination

A combination of the buttonhook and crisscross are used to establish a split team entry technique. If your partner goes left, then go right in order to effect a split team entry. If a mistake is made, fill the gap.



Limited penetration

Limited penetration is used to barricade at the entry point when there is not enough room to execute a crisscross or buttonhook, and there is no chance team members will be confronted by a threat from his flank inside the entry point (i.e. pantry, closet or similar area).



Establish Dominating positions

These dominating positions include the:

1. Opposing corners.
2. Split team.
3. Same side.

Select the dominating position that gives maximum security and allows coverage of sectors of fire without having to know where other team members are positioned.

Because there is no margin for error in establishing dominating positions, the team members must become highly proficient. This is done through training.

In order for team members to feel confident about performing these tactics, their feelings of vulnerability must be addressed. The first reaction when confronted by danger is flight or fight. Flight is an unacceptable reaction by a team member. They must stand and fight. In a fight team members will protect themselves first, then team members, and innocent bystanders, and finally the threat. Feelings of vulnerability can be alleviated to a great extent by understanding the following:

Initially team members feel vulnerable from 360-degrees. Forward movement, clearing while moving, combined with protection from follow-on team members reduces vulnerability to 180-degrees. If team maneuvers along walls, this reduces vulnerability to 90-degrees. All clearing is done in two man teams. These dominating positions and their sectors of fire are illustrated in the following slides. Each member of the team must know their sector of fire and how the sector overlaps with other team members. Each clearing team member has a designated sector of fire and understand that it will change depending on individual location. It is critical they overlap with other team members. Note the sectors of fire extend to within 1 meter in front of their partner.

Opposing Corners:

This is the preferred dominating position. Communications and visual awareness between team members is critical. During opposing corners entry, team members execute entry and position themselves in opposite corners of the room. The first man evaluates the door and enters to the side opposite of the hinges, freeing him from having to pin the door, and continues along the long wall. It is very effective on small to medium sized rooms. Team members must use caution when establishing these positions due to the deep penetration of their areas of responsibility. Never bypass anything that may conceal a person and avoid exposing yourself to adjoining rooms.

If the first man cannot go long, the #2 man visually recognizes this and may attempt to go long. Advantages include:

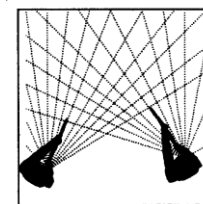
1. Provides good view of tactical angles.
2. Puts the threat at a disadvantage by forcing a decision.
3. Greater perspective of the room layout, eliminating dead space.

The disadvantage is that team members may be moving alone.

Split Team

During split team entry, team members initially position themselves on opposite sides of the entry point on the same wall. This is the preferred position for the following reasons:

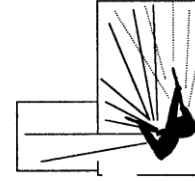
- Greater view of the room and better angles.
- Threat is put at a disadvantage because he must decide which targets to engage.



- Quickly allows the establishment of an effective shooting platform and security.
- Minimizes the chances of team members exposing themselves to unseen areas and or threats.

Same Side

During same side entry, team members initially position themselves on the same side of the room. This may be necessary because of the close proximity of adjoining rooms or the area is so small it restricts movement. This is the least preferred dominating position. It results in lesser coverage of angles and team members are a larger target for the threat to engage.



Immediate Threat.

Expect to encounter an immediate threat upon entry. Move to dominating positions. Do not change in mid-stream. Every effort must be made to stick to the plan even if an immediate threat is encountered. The engagement of the perceived immediate threat cannot slowdown the entry team. The first man encountering the threat is responsible for the threat and checking their sector of fire.

Ballistic Shield Entry

Apply the above mentioned entry techniques when employing a ballistic shield. Overall, tactics are the same as maneuvering without the shield. The difference being that the shield is placed forward of the team for ballistic protection. Entry with the shield can be executed during deliberate or dynamic operations.

- First entry team member enters with a shield.
- Shield is carried to position forward of the entry point, only far enough into the room to allow remaining team members complete access.
- Remaining team members establish dominating positions.
- All team members establish and collapse sectors on line.
- Never allow the forward security to enter any area alone.

Building Clearing

At this point the Team must clear the building or objective.

It is critical that all principles and fundamentals previously described in BC are carried on throughout the entire objective. Every room is approached using techniques and tactics previously described during entry.

Select a Clearing Method and Scheme of Maneuver

Select a clearing method and scheme of maneuver based on potential consequences of delay (hostage lives, evidence, etc.). Minimize risk to team members and occupants. Understand resource capabilities and limitations (personnel, equipment, and weapons).

Methods of Clearing

There are two primary methods of building clearing with variation of both which are directly influenced by the number of personnel in the clearing element or the configuration of the objective. The type of operation may directly affect the method used and how it is modified. These methods include deliberate and dynamic clearing.

Deliberate clearing: The base or minimum team size is five members. This method may allow the entry team to get closer to the threat or target before being compromised. The use of non-verbal communication, night vision devices, and the use of stealth as a means of surprise may be very effective in some tactical situations. Deliberate to dynamic if compromised.

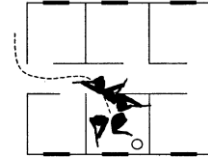
Dynamic Clearing: Dynamic clearing resembles in many ways the deliberate clearing method with the goal to immediately control the objective.

Determine the Scheme of Maneuver

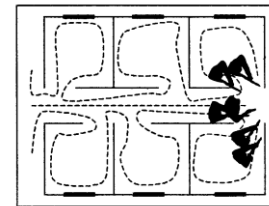
The team leader will determine which clearing technique will work best for each situation. The threat must feel there is an opportunity for surrender (not to be confused with escape) and resistance is futile. The selected technique must deprive the threat of space and provide the team time. Team tactical planners and team leaders must keep in mind that clearing techniques may be combined depending on the special threat situation. The following clearing techniques can be employed within most objectives to include multi-story and multiple objectives.

Coordinated Entries and Clearing

This clearing method can be either deliberate or dynamic. It can be multiple teams clearing the same objective or separate objectives. Coordination and communications are extremely important to prevent crossfire and fratricide when two or more teams work the same objective.

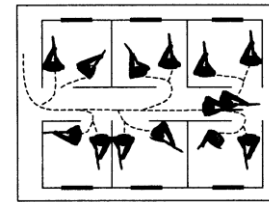


Room by room: Minimum team size is 5. The clearing element enters the objective clearing systematically one room at a time before moving to the next room. The size and layout of the structure may allow a 5-man team to clear more than one room at a time. The larger the clearing team the faster the objective will be cleared. Room by room may be done deliberate or dynamic.



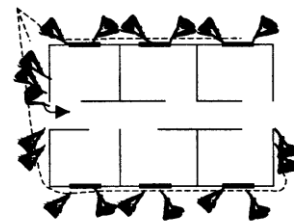
Flood:

The clearing element consisting of enough personnel to enter each room with a 2 man team, shield man designated to provide forward security and a team leader to control the movement. Support members may follow team leader. A 2-man team will enter each room moving to a split team dominating position and secure their room, which may reduce the possibility of fratricide or collateral damage. Team leader will check status of each room, after each room is secured team leader will tell each room one at a time or two opposing or staggered rooms to clear their room. If support is needed team leader may pull 1-man out of a secure room to send support where needed. Since the object is to secure the objective in a rapid manner it should be done dynamic. Intelligence such as layout and number of rooms is needed to conduct a flood.



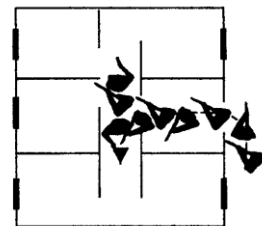
Enveloping:

The objective is surrounded and limited penetration is made at every possible porthole to dominate and clear as much as possible from the outside, denying the threat access to the controlled areas. Once control of the objective is achieved an entry element enters and clears the objective room by room. This should be considered when clearing a clandestine lab.



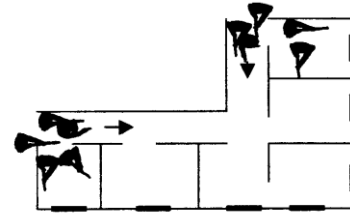
Split:

Entry team enters the center of an objective, half the team clears to the right and the other half of the team clears to the left. Team size should be relative to the objective. You may use a room by room, flood, scout/snake, or a combination. A split may be done deliberate or dynamic.



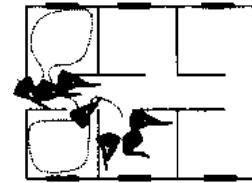
Hammer and anvil:

This is a coordinated entry; two teams enter simultaneously. One team enters and clears towards the other team, pushing the threat towards the awaiting team. The hammer and anvil works best in a "L" shape structure. May be done deliberate or dynamic or combination.



Scout or snake:

The clearing element, which is usually small, (2 or 3 man clearing element), clears the objective room by room. A support element follows the clearing element through the objective. May be done deliberate or dynamic.



If an entry team has adequate personnel, equipment and training it may choose to do a coordinated entry. It can be multiple teams clearing the same objective or separate objectives. Coordination and communications are extremely important to prevent crossfire and fratricide when two or more teams work the same objective.

Select a clearing method and scheme of maneuver based on potential consequences of delay (hostage lives, evidence, etc.), minimum risk to team members and occupants, and available resources (personnel, equipment, and weapons).

Cut the Pie

Cutting the pie is a method of clearing, which allows team members to visually check around a corner, doorjamb, or any other object for a potential threat. When approaching a corner or object, where you suspect a threat to be positioned, move in an arching pattern horizontally (sideways) while holding the weapon at ready. Shuffle the feet side to side in small steps. The head, body armor and weapon are aligned with the perceived threat area. Lean outward with the head and weapon, being careful not to expose your feet first. Exposing your feet will give the threat the opportunity to identify your position from his/her location. Then position your body upright by bringing your feet under your head and weapon in a comfortable firing position. Edge your way a small slice at a time, gradually increasing the field of view until the threat area is cleared to a point that the risk of entry is reduced. This technique should be conducted far away enough from the suspected threat area to maintain weapon retention. Remember to control the distance.

Room Clearing

Use two or more personnel to clear a room. Keep clearing as simple as possible. The sequence in room clearing is:

- Coordinated and communicated.
- Break the plane of the door immediately. Do not stand in the fatal funnel.
- Use the SEE acronym.
- Clear the corners and center.
- Move to dominating positions establishing control within the room.
- Give a momentary pause to collect your self and assess the situation quickly.
- Orientate yourself for the best clearing positions.
- Make a decision on how to clear.
- Act on that decision.

Room Search and Clearing Techniques

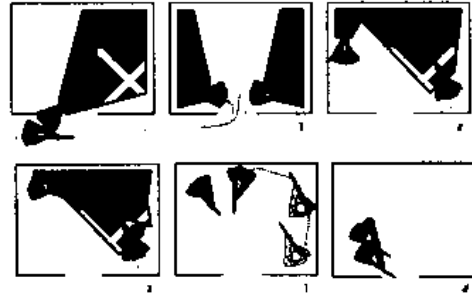
Once dominating positions and overlapping sectors of fire have been established, determine how each room will be searched. Regardless of the technique used to search the room, one-man cover and one man clear search fundamentals must be used.

Clearing techniques include:

- Sectors.
- Side-by-side.

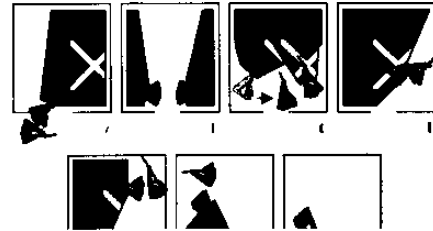
Sectors

The clear by sectors technique is used by a 2, 3, or 4-man clearing teams upon establishing opposing corners dominating positions. One team member maintains cover from their dominating position while the other advances and clears their sector of fire. This technique is effective on small to medium rooms. It should be avoided when connecting rooms, complex floor layouts, or heavy room clutter is encountered. During 3-man clearing, the number 3 man carries the ballistic shield and supports the clearing members.



Side-by-Side

Used by 2, 3, or 4-man clearing teams. During 2-man clearing, one team member maintains cover from the flank position of a second clearing team member. Both advance and clear the entire room or area. This technique is effective on small to medium rooms. A 4-man team is recommended while clearing large areas, particularly when effective connecting rooms, complex floor layouts, or room clutter is encountered. During 3-man clearing, the number 3 man carries the ballistic shield and supports the clearing members.



Hallway Clearing

Hallways are corridors or passageways in a building connecting the various rooms within the structure. They may be anything from a simple vestibule to a great hall stretching several hundred feet. The width may vary from very narrow to several yards wide.

Hallways offer an advantage to the SRT in that they can assist in limiting access and movement of the threat.

Halls may be:

Not part of the overall objective, but used to maneuver to other areas.

- Part of the objective requiring clearing and domination.
- Normally contain stairways for multiple story buildings.
- Normally contain closets.
- May contain attic or crawl space access.

Hallway Configuration

There are numerous hallway configurations. Their top down appearance best describes them. The common configurations include:

- Vestibule.
- Straight.
- L-shaped.
- T-shaped.
- U-shaped.
- Combination of the above.

The threat will recognize hallways as avenues of approach and anticipate the teams attempt to use them in gaining a dominating position. Serious consideration should be given to securing but avoiding movement through halls when possible. Go through walls or use connecting room doors when possible. Regardless, all halls must be secured and cleared at some point. Team members must be able to correctly approach, evaluate, and maneuver in or around halls.

This includes identifying and taking proper actions at:

- Various hallway and doorway configurations.
- When confronted with various effects of hallway and room dimensions.
- Danger areas within a hall.

Hall Door Layouts

The entry points for the majority of rooms within a structure are located in the hallway.

The position of rooms within that structure is limited only to the desired architectural affects or practical needs of the occupants.

Most entry points are in the form of basic doorway openings (layout) into the hall.

They include:

- Opposing doorways: Doors located directly across from each other within the hallway.
- Offset/staggered doorways: Doors alternating within the hallway, not positioned across from each other.
- Combination doorways: Any combination of opposing and staggered doorway layouts within the same hall.

Hallway Movement

The two basic techniques for moving in hallways are: File & Double file.

File Movement File movement is used in narrow hallways with or without the ballistic shield. The number 1-man (forward security) provides security to the front. His sector of fire includes any threat that appears in the hallway forward of the team. Remaining team members follow in the file formation directly behind the number 1-man. The number 2 and 3-man covers the left and right sides of the number 1-man. Their sectors of fire include any threat suddenly appearing from nearby doorways on either side of the hall.

They cover the number 1-man's flanks. The last man provides rear security against any threat appearing behind the clearing team. This technique may be used with large or small teams.

The file may be the only option in very narrow hallways. The advantage of this technique is that it is effective at providing protection to the team when a ballistic shield is used. The disadvantages are: Limits field of vision for the number 2 and 3-man forward of the number 1-man. Restrictive and slow when teams are confronted with opposing doors.

Double File Movement

Double file movement is used in wide hallways (at least 5 feet wide) with or without the ballistic shield.

Number 1-man (forward security) sector of fire includes any threats in his sector of fire including any threats that appear in the hallway forward of the team. Remaining team members follow in the file formation directly behind the number 1-man. The number 2 and 3-man covers the left and right sides of the number 1-man. Their sectors of fire include any threat suddenly appearing from nearby doorways on either side of the hall. They cover the number 1-man's flanks.

The last man provides rear security against any threat appearing behind the clearing team. This technique may be used with large or small teams. 2 ballistic shields may be used to provide security to the front. This technique allows teams to enter opposing doors within hallways more effectively than single file movement.

Clearing Stairs

Stairways and staircases are a series of steps and a supporting structure connecting separate levels. A stairwell is a vertical shaft around which a staircase has been built in a multi-story building. Whether a team must move up a short stairway or multi-level stairwell, these structures will constrict the SRT, making the stairwell an area of tactical disadvantage. Careful movement planning for stairs is important. The types and configuration of stairs are immeasurable, not to mention the danger areas found in and around stairs. Never assume one stairwell will be identical to another, even if the blueprints indicate they are built to the

same specifications. The following guidelines are provided and should be considered before taking entering the stairwell.

Guidelines for Stair Clearing

Movement in or on stairs is based on their construction and characteristics. All stairs are different. Concrete stairwells will create ricochet problems. Enfilade (cover with gunfire) and defilade (fortifications against enfilade) cannot be assumed in any stair movement.

Use blind side reconnaissance or other devices (infrared viewers, thermal imagery, mirrors, existing cameras, etc.) when ascending or descending stairs when possible.

Consider eliminating lighting.

Apply slow foot pressure, avoiding squeaky stairs and floors.

Walk along the sides of the stairs where the steps are supported and they make less noise. This may not always be possible.

Take advantage of tactical angles.

A diversion or the use of chemical irritants to facilitate entry in the stairwell may be an option depending on the operation. Remember what goes up must come down. Use of fragmentation grenades while climbing stairs is extremely dangerous and should be avoided.

Check stairwell doors to ensure that they allow the team to exit on any floor. Expect them to be locked.

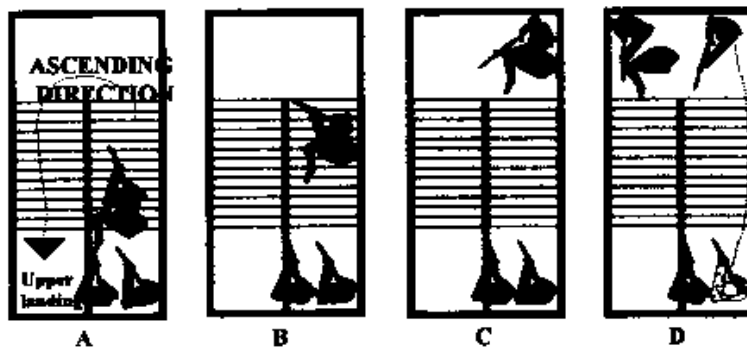
Some fire stairs only allow an exit on the ground floor. A means of breaching must be available.

Avoid bunching in stairwells. Normally, no more than 3-team members at any given location are required.

During clearing a 2-man scout team can adequately clear and control most stairwells.

Ascending Stairs

Ascending a stairwell puts clearing teams at a tactical disadvantage; however, this may be necessary to accomplish the mission. When viewed from below, most stairwells reveal nothing more than the bottom of landings and stairs. Careful movement, whether using deliberate or dynamic methods, is necessary. Two methods of ascending include:



Side by Side Method.

Split team into two elements during deliberate clearing (scout/advance and follow on team). Scout team consists of two personnel. These two team members ascend together side-by-side.

- Number 1-man climbs forward covering the forward threat area (landings, floor, and lower stairs). Positioned to the center of the stairs and slightly forward.
- Number 2-man walks up stairs backwards covering the rear (balconies, railings, and upper landings), positioned on the outside wall.
- Support team is made up of remaining personnel with sectors of fire upwards through the center areas of stairwells or other danger areas (landings, windows, etc.).
- The weapon is in the shooting position and pointed at the threat area as you ascend. Advance to the next step with one foot and stabilize it, apply pressure, and then pull the trailing foot up to the same level-. Never cross legs or feet over each other while moving. Maximize tactical angles at every step,
- Ballistic shields carried by number 2-man or both men.

- Follow-on team provides cover and security.

Upon reaching each landing, follow-on team members are moved up and positioned for rear security and cover.

Back-to-Back Method.

Split teams into two elements during deliberate clearing (scout/advance and follow on team). Two team members ascend back-to-back. This is necessary in confined stairwells.

- Close contact maintained between team members.
- Maximize tactical angles at every step.
- Ballistic shield carded by the number 2-man or both.
- The number 2-man may lift shield to provide overhead security if visibility and sector of fire permits.
- Support team is made up of remaining personnel with sectors of fire.

Descending Stairs

It is recommended that buildings be cleared top to bottom thus allowing team members to move down stairwells. The advantages include the principle elements of speed, surprise, and aggressive action.

Additionally this type of clearing provides:

- Improved tactical angle. The view looking down stairwells reveals the tops of stairs, landings, doorways, and balconies (the likely location of threats).
- Increases chance of detecting booby traps.
- Minimizes physical stress.
- Gives threat flight option, which assists in driving the threat out.

When descending stairwells:

One man provides cover down the stairwell.

The scout team carefully descends the stairwell until a secure or dominant position is reached.

- Similar to the back-to-back and side-by-side technique.
- Move over watch to cover new stairwell position.
- Repeat descent to the next landing if necessary.
- Whether ascending or descending stairs, check the stairwell doors before entry to ensure that they allow the team to exit on any floor.
- Some fire stairs only allow you to exit on the ground floor.

Marking Procedures

When the objective is cleared, area should be marked to positively identify cleared rooms, medical needs, and danger areas. This is to aid follow on entry or support team members. There is a variety of marking methods to include chalk, tape, chemical lights, etc. The preferred method is to use chemical lights.

A variety of chemical lights are available (IR, high intensity, multiple colors). Chemical lights can be seen in a variety of conditions (light, dark, smoke, etc.). Identify a color indicating your marking SOP. Mark cleared rooms by placing a chemical light in the center of the doorway, on the floor, just inside the room. Mark medical needs by placing a chemical light, a different color than room clearing, in the vicinity of the wounded. Mark hazardous areas by placing a chemical light in the vicinity of the hazard, being careful not to disturb IED's (photocell, pressure sensitive, etc.).

Upon clearing the objective an immediate back clear should be conducted. Conduct the back clear in the same manner, with the same tactical intensity, as the initial clearing process. The only difference is you are now clearing the objective in reverse sequence. Back clear everything! Upon clearing previous rooms marked with chemical lights, remark the room by kicking the chemical light from the doorway to the center of the room.

Establish Phase Lines

Plan phase lines inside the building only when control measures must be implemented to reduce risks and coordinate clearing operations. They are imaginary lines located throughout the objective used to control movement, make stopping points, and confirm locations.

Reorganization upon completion of the mission

Upon completion of the mission the entry team leader and team members must conduct the following.

- Assess the situation. Ensure that all areas are clear and all hazards are addressed (fires, structure damage, etc.).
- Security posture positions.
- Account for personnel (team members, occupants, innocent bystanders, and threats). • Account for equipment and sensitive items.
- Provide immediate medical needs if not already addressed.

Building clearing points for first responders:

- Is there evidence of a break-in (broken glass, damaged doors, etc.)
- Explorers should announce themselves and turn on the lights. The bad guys already know you are there, so turn on the lights so you can see them.
- Maintain cover and concealment.
- Was the break-in reported immediately or has a lot of time passed since it was discovered.
- Has the property owners been contacted to verify who is supposed to be at the building.
- Can you verify by other means (business directory, telephone call back lists, previous calls for service.)
- Has the building been released to the owners or operators after the scene has been cleared?
- Are you taking notes, names and addresses from witnesses, suspects and complainants?
- Does the business owner wish to file charges?

Tactical raid points for team members:

- Always announce yourself (POLICE, SEARCH WARRANT)
- Always leave a copy of the search warrant at the building
- Always leave a list of the items confiscated at the building
- Finish clearing the building and securing and searching suspects before searching for evidence
- If the building can not be secured (broken locks from kicking down the door) contact someone who can take custody of the building before leaving
- Have at least one of the suspects in the building when searching for evidence. This will help later when cases go to court.

Definitions:

Breacher: Breacher is a team member assigned the duties of breaching an objective. They provide an immediate and positive access to an objective through an obstruction/barrier (door, window, wall, etc).

Breaching: Breaching is the making of a hole or gap in the objective that allows the entry team access to the objective.

Ballistic Breaching: Ballistic Breaching is an alternate means of gaining entry into a structure through an existing opening with the use of shotgun or rifle ammunition.

Building clearing: A coordinated team effort of entering, dominating, searching and clearing an objective.

Coordinated Operations: Coordinated operations are the use of two or more entry teams positioned to assault (enter and clear) one or more objective(s). These teams may be collocated or separated, entering the same point or at separate locations, and execute entry simultaneously or delayed, all depending on the desired effect of the plan. All teams involved are capable of operating independently.

Deliberate Clearing: Deliberate clearing is a systematic method of clearing with the goal of controlling the objective.

Dynamic Clearing: Dynamic clearing resembles in many ways the deliberate clearing method with the goal to immediately control the objective.

Diversion: Diversion is a maneuver that draws the attention of the threat away from the planned point of attack.

Dominating Position: The dominating position is a position that offers the best control of an area.

Fatal Funnel: Fatal Funnel is any entrance or constructed area (window, door, or breach point) that will be the focal point of attention or anticipated avenue of approach. The fatal funnel will likely draw fire from the threat.

Flagging: Flagging is the unintentional alerting of the threat to the team's presence. This may occur by extending a muzzle of the weapon or part of the body (foot, elbow, etc.) in an area being observed by the threat.

Fratricide: Fratricide is the accidental killing of friendly forces by other friendly forces during battle. Fratricide is avoided by doctrine; by tactics, techniques, and procedures; and by training.

Hides: Hides are places the threat uses for cover and concealment within an objective.

References:

Portions of the training information in this chapter was gathered from the United States Army Military Police School for Counter Drug Special Reaction Team Training.