

IMMEDIATE ACTION DRILLS FOR FOOT PATROLS

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Signals

There are no standard silent signals for *freeze*, *hasty ambush*, and *all clear*. The standard silent signals for *halt* and *enemy in sight* (with direction indicated) require exaggerated arm motions which increase the danger of detection.

The *special silent signals* shown in figure 94 may be used to halt a patrol *in place*, to indicate detection and direction of the enemy, to initiate the drills discussed here, and to indicate that all is clear.

Units designing other immediate action drills should devise and use special silent signals only when there are no appropriate standard signals.

Immediate Halt Drill

When the situation requires the immediate, in place halt of the patrol, the immediate action drill *freeze* is used. This is the situation when the patrol detects the enemy but is not itself detected. The first man detecting the enemy (visually or otherwise) gives the special silent signal. *FREEZE*. Every man halts *in place*, weapon at the ready, and remains absolutely motionless and quiet until further signals or orders are given.

Chance Contact Drills

Hasty Ambush. This immediate action drill is both a defensive measure used to avoid contact and an offensive measure to make contact. It may often be a subsequent action *freeze*. When special silent signal *hasty ambush* is given (by point, patrol leader, or another authorized man), the entire patrol moves quickly to the right or left of line of movement, as indicated by signal, and takes up the best available concealed firing positions. The patrol leader initiates ambush by opening fire and shouting, "Fire." This insures initiation of the ambush if his weapon misfires. If the patrol is detected before this, the first man aware of detection initiates ambush by firing and shouting.

1. When used as a defensive measure to avoid contact, ambush is not initiated unless the patrol is detected.
2. When used as an offensive measure, the enemy is allowed to advance until he is in the most vulnerable position before the ambush is initiated.
3. An alternate means for initiating the ambush is to designate an individual (for example, point or last man) to open fire a certain portion of the enemy reaches or passes him.

Immediate Assault. This immediate action drill is used, defensively, to make and quickly break undesired but unavoidable contact (including ambush), and, offensively, to decisively engage the enemy (including ambush). When used in chance contact, men nearest the enemy open fire and shout, "Contact, Front (Right, Left, or Rear)." The patrol moves swiftly into line formation and assaults.

1. When used defensively, the assault is stopped if the enemy withdraws and contact is broken quickly. If the enemy stands fast, the assault is carried through enemy positions and movement is continued until contact is broken.
2. When used offensively, the enemy is decisively engaged. Any one attempting to escape is pursued and destroyed.

Counter-ambush Drills

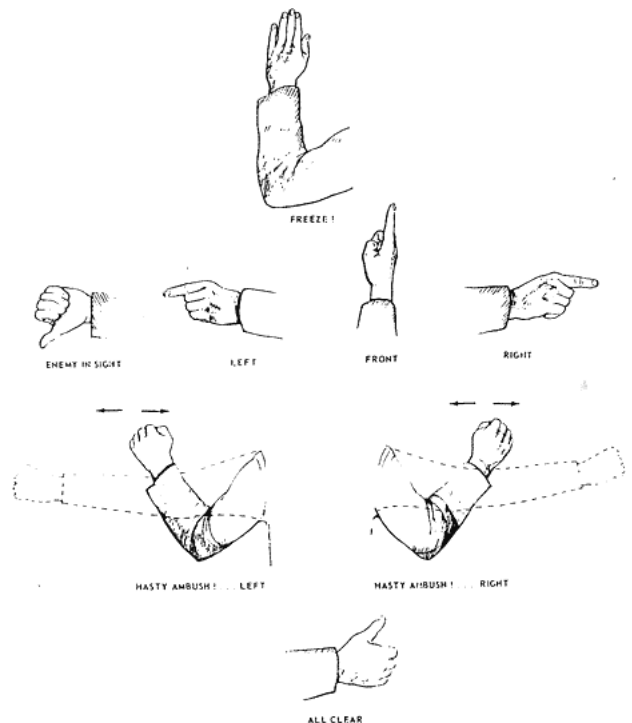
When a patrol is ambushed, the immediate action drill used is determined by whether the ambush is *near* or *far*.

In a *near* ambush, the killing zone is under very heavy, highly concentrated, close-range fires. There is little time or space for men to maneuver or seek cover. The longer they remain in the killing zone, the more certain their destruction. Therefore, if attacked by a near ambush react as follows:

1. Men in the killing zone, *without order or signal*, immediately assault directly into the ambush position, occupy it, and continue the attack or break contact, as directed. This action moves them out of the killing zone, prevents other elements of the ambush from firing on them without firing on their own men, and provides positions from which other actions may be taken.
2. Men not in the killing zone maneuver against the attack force and other elements of the ambush, as directed.
3. The attack is continued to eliminate the ambush or to break contact as directed.

In a *far* ambush, the killing zone is also under very heavy, highly concentrated fires, but from a greater range. This greater range provides men in the killing zone some space for maneuver and some opportunity to seek cover at a lesser risk of destruction. Therefore, if attacked by a far ambush react as follows;

1. Men in the killing zone, *without order or signal*, immediately return fire, take the best available positions, and continue firing until directed otherwise.
2. Men not in the killing zone maneuver against the ambush force, as directed.
3. The attack is continued to eliminate the ambush or to break contact, as directed.



ANY SIGNAL MAY BE GIVEN WITH EITHER HAND

Figure 94. Special silent signals.