

Battalion Attack

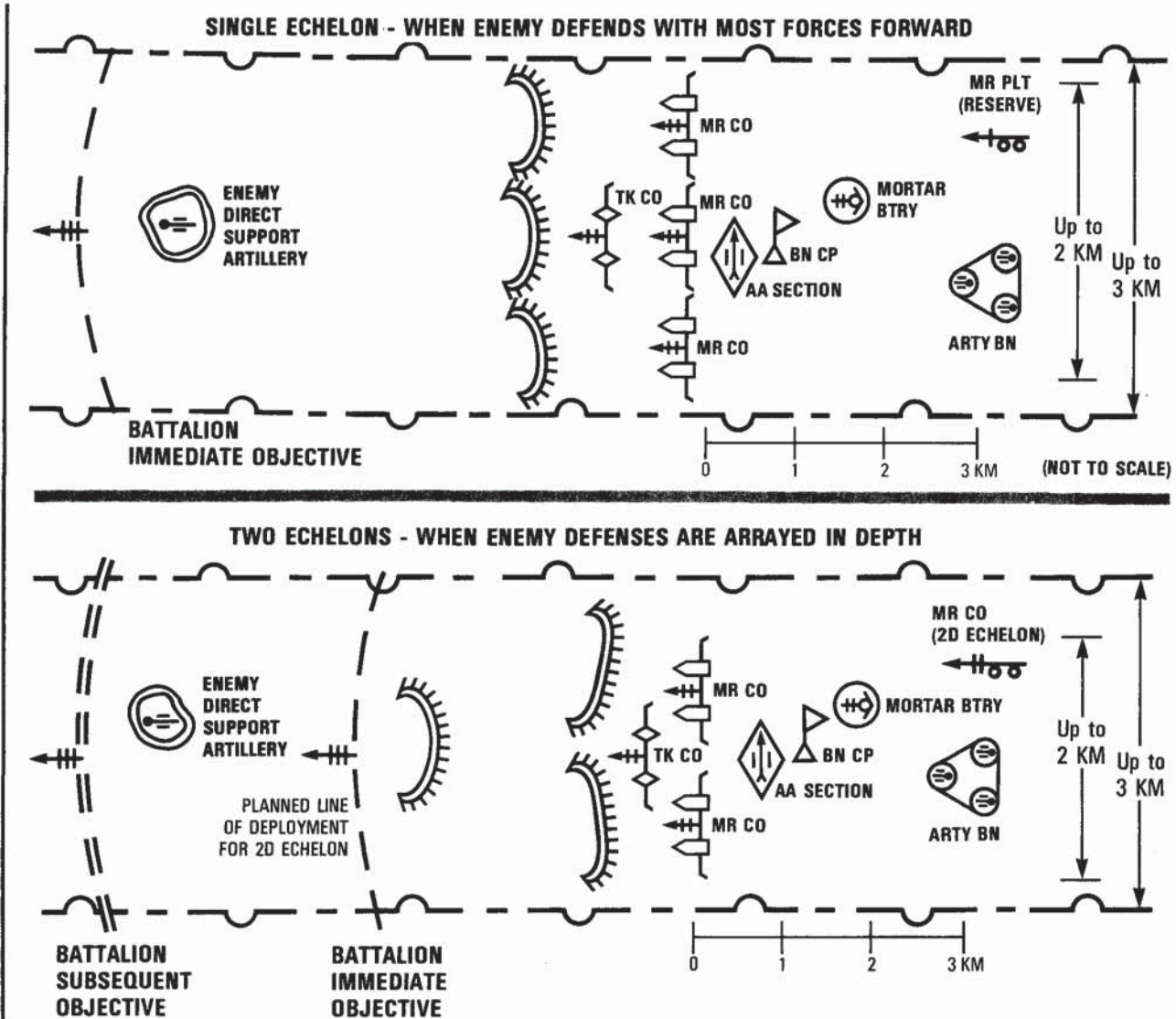
A battalion normally attacks as part of its parent regiment. A battalion does not have the organic combat support or combat service support required for independent action. The exception to this is the employment of a battalion as a forward detachment to accomplish a deep, independent mission. In such a circumstance, the battalion would be reinforced to sustain itself for as long as possible.

A battalion attacking in the first echelon of a first echelon regiment would probably have a mission to

attack through strongpoints of defending enemy battalions and to continue the attack in an assigned direction. Soviet subunits normally do not stop on objectives and consolidate them, but continue the attack deeper into the enemy rear.

A motorized rifle battalion has three motorized rifle companies and normally has a tank company attached, as illustrated below. A tank battalion has three tank companies and may have either a motorized rifle platoon or company attached.

Attack Formations, Reinforced Motorized Rifle Battalion



NOTE: Tank battalion formations are of same general configuration minus mortar battery.

(NOT TO SCALE)

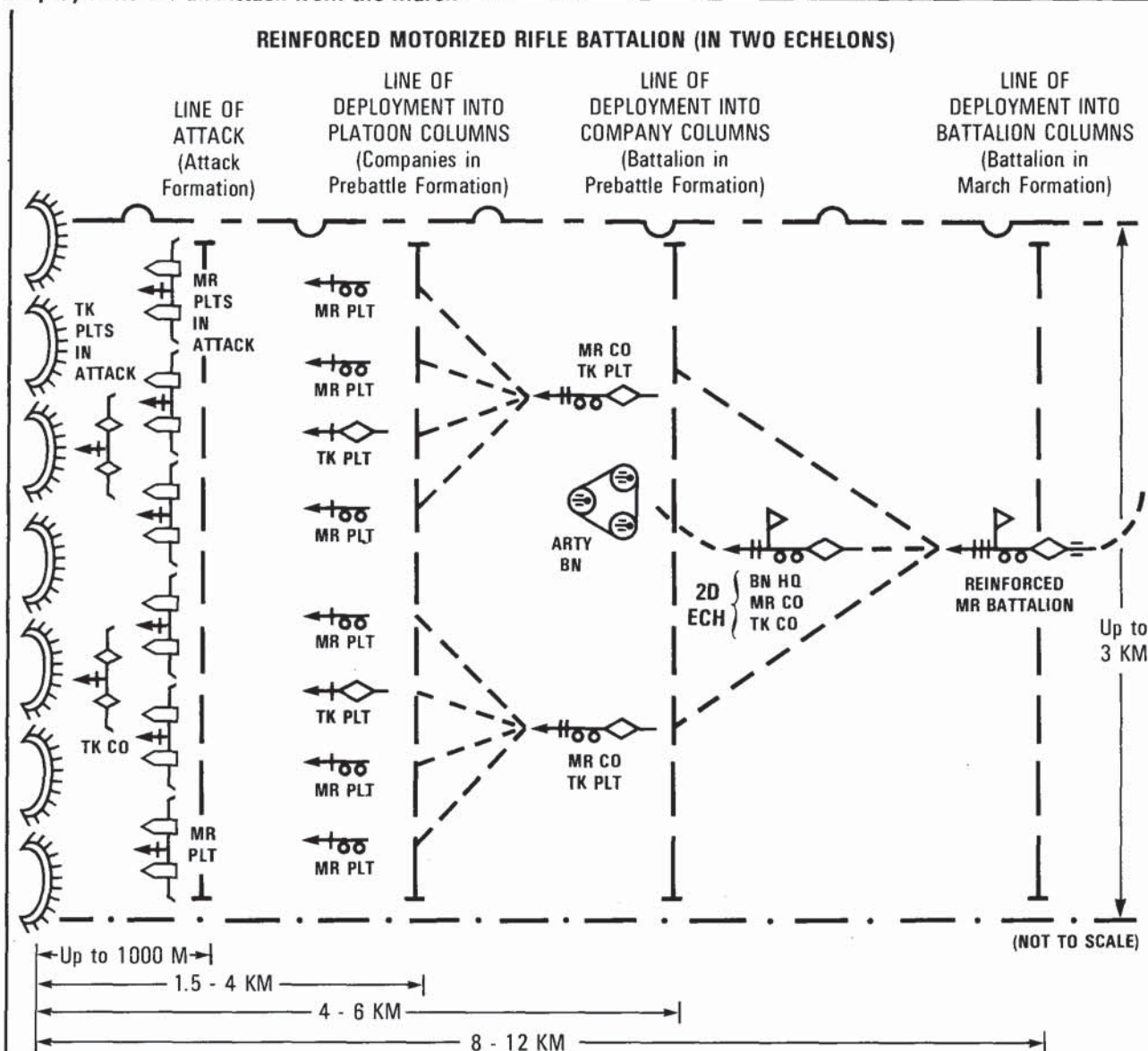
A battalion could attack with three reinforced companies in a single echelon, plus a small reserve, possibly a platoon. A battalion also could attack with two reinforced companies in a first echelon and one reinforced company in a second echelon. When two echelons are employed, a normal distance between echelons is 1 to 3 kilometers. A normal frontage for an attacking battalion is 1 to 2 kilometers, within a zone of 2 to 3 kilometers.

A battalion attacking in a regiment's first echelon

probably would have up to a battalion of artillery attached to it. This artillery is under the operational control of the maneuver battalion commander. It may be used for direct fire.

A typical tank or motorized rifle company attack frontage is from 500 to 800 meters. Platoons normally attack on a frontage of 100 to 200 meters, with 50 to 100 meters between vehicles. The frontage of a 4-tank platoon attached to a motorized rifle company could extend to 400 meters.

Deployment for an Attack from the March



There would probably be little maneuver evident in platoon and company tactics. These subunits normally attack on line, in unison. However, maneuver probably will be evident in the way a battalion commander moves his companies.

Normally, company and battalion commanders are located centrally and slightly to the rear of lead elements in combat vehicles with extra antennas. If com-

manders are killed, the attack probably would not grind to a halt but would be carried forward on its own momentum. However, elimination of tactical commanders would diminish coordination of the attack, especially fire coordination.

Shown below is a reinforced tank battalion attacking from the march against a strongpoint in the depths of the enemy's defense.

Tank Battalion (Reinforced) Attack from the March

ATTACK AGAINST A STRONGPOINT IN THE DEPTHS OF ENEMY DEFENSE

