

# Master the Art of Recon with Army Techniques Publication ATP 20-98: Scout Platoon

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern warfare, reconnaissance and surveillance have become indispensable tools for military success. The Army Techniques Publication ATP 20-98: Scout Platoon serves as an invaluable resource for Scout Platoons, providing a comprehensive framework for conducting effective reconnaissance and surveillance operations.

## Key Concepts and Principles

ATP 20-98 establishes a solid foundation for Scout Platoon operations by introducing key concepts such as:



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by United States Government US Army

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- **Mission and Purpose:** Clearly outlining the Scout Platoon's primary mission of conducting reconnaissance and surveillance to gather vital intelligence for decision-making.

- **Organization and Structure:** Providing a detailed overview of the Scout Platoon's organizational structure, including its elements and subunits.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Defining the specific roles and responsibilities of each member within the Scout Platoon, ensuring a cohesive and efficient team.
- **Command and Control:** Establishing clear lines of communication and authority within the Scout Platoon, enabling effective mission execution.

## Techniques and Procedures

Beyond establishing key concepts, ATP 20-98 delves into the practical aspects of reconnaissance and surveillance, providing detailed guidance on:

- **Reconnaissance Techniques:** Covering various reconnaissance techniques, including patrolling, observation, and target identification.
- **Surveillance Techniques:** Outlining different methods for conducting surveillance, such as covert observation, electronic eavesdropping, and aerial reconnaissance.
- **Target Analysis and Reporting:** Emphasizing the importance of analyzing and reporting target information accurately and promptly.
- **Planning and Execution:** Providing a step-by-step guide for planning and executing reconnaissance and surveillance missions.

## Strategies for Success

In addition to outlining techniques and procedures, ATP 20-98 also emphasizes the importance of developing effective strategies for reconnaissance and surveillance operations. Key strategies covered include:

- **Mission Analysis:** Conducting a thorough analysis of the mission objectives, enemy capabilities, and terrain to develop a tailored approach.
- **Risk Management:** Identifying and mitigating potential risks associated with reconnaissance and surveillance operations.
- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Emphasizing the need to adapt strategies and tactics to changing operational conditions.
- **Interoperability:** Highlighting the importance of coordinating with other units and assets to enhance overall mission effectiveness.

## **Training and Proficiency**

ATP 20-98 recognizes the crucial role of training and proficiency in developing a highly skilled and effective Scout Platoon. The publication outlines comprehensive training programs that cover:

- **Individual Skills:** Emphasizing the development of individual skills in areas such as marksmanship, navigation, and communication.
- **Team Training:** Fostering teamwork and coordination through exercises and simulations that replicate real-world scenarios.
- **Mission Rehearsals:** Conducting mission rehearsals to refine plans, identify potential challenges, and enhance overall readiness.

- **Continuous Evaluation:** Regularly assessing training progress and providing feedback to improve performance.

Army Techniques Publication ATP 20-98: Scout Platoon is an indispensable guide for Scout Platoons seeking to excel in the demanding field of reconnaissance and surveillance. By embracing the concepts, techniques, strategies, and training outlined in this publication, Scout Platoons can significantly enhance their operational capabilities and contribute decisively to mission success. As the battlefield continues to evolve, the ability to gather and analyze critical intelligence remains paramount, and ATP 20-98 provides the essential knowledge and guidance to master this vital skill.



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