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ATP-112

**MISSION TASK VERBS FOR USE
IN THE PLANNING
AND DISSEMINATION OF ORDERS**

Edition A, Version 1

NOVEMBER 2020



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ALLIED TACTICAL PUBLICATION

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NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION

17 November 2020

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for Zoltán GULYÁS
Brigadier General, HUNAF
Director, NATO Standardization Office

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| CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION |
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1.1. GENERAL**1.1.1. Aim**

The aim of this STANAG is to act as a single point of reference for all approved mission task verbs to be used by NATO land forces. A mission task verb is a transitive (action) verb used in a mission statement to indicate the assigned task. Formal definitions for these mission task verbs describe what is expected for their completion, and they may be found in the NATO Terminology Database (NATOTerm). Symbols for mission task verbs may be found in APP-6, *NATO Joint Military Symbolology* (reference A). For clarity of meaning, the mission task verbs in Table 1 should be used in operations orders and mission statements whenever appropriate.

This document is an update to the 2006 version of STANAG 2287 LO (Edition 1) *Task Verbs for Use in Planning and the Dissemination of Orders*. Specific mission task verbs and corresponding graphic symbols have been developed to aid common understanding and rapid passage of orders (particularly graphic fragmentary orders). Participating nations have agreed to use the terms in this STANAG when appropriate, in the issue of missions and tasks to land elements in NATO operations. Participating nations have also agreed to use the graphical symbols to represent the defined terms in schematics.

1.1.2. Context

This document has been updated and expanded to allow mission task verbs to be applicable to tactical stability activities, as detailed in AJP-3.2 *Allied Joint Doctrine for Land Operations* (reference B), ATP-3.2.1 *Conduct of Land Tactical Operations* (reference C), and ATP-3.2.1.1 *Conduct of Land Tactical Activities* (reference F), including targets and objectives beyond that of a formally defined enemy. It has also been updated to place greater emphasis on operations conducted in conjunction with other agencies and multinational partners.

1.2. USE OF MISSION TASK VERBS AND MISSION STATEMENT STRUCTURE

The term “mission” is defined as “a clear, concise statement of the task of the command and its purpose”¹. For clarity of meaning and efficiency, the mission task verbs in Table 1 should be used in operations orders and mission statements whenever appropriate.

The foundation upon which an operations order is built is the mission statement for the element issuing the order. In the execution paragraph of an operations order, a commander will issue subordinate elements one or more related tasks that are to be completed simultaneously or sequentially (reference D). Whenever possible, defined mission task verbs contained in this STANAG should be used in order to help ensure clarity and common understanding of what is intended. In keeping with the philosophy of mission command, ‘how’ the tasks are to be accomplished should be specified only in as much detail as is required to achieve the necessary coordination between subordinates. For each subordinate commander, their list of

¹ NATOTerm record #662 dated 1 August 1982.

assigned tasks will be summarized with a purpose statement, normally stated as “in order to” create a desired effect (result).

Subordinate commanders will take their own mission statements either directly from the higher commander’s orders or will devise their own after having conducted mission analysis (reference D). A proper mission analysis will identify all assigned and implied tasks including the task that is considered the most essential to meet the higher commander’s intent. This essential task will likely be the basis of the mission statement and will be the task used in the mission statement. (The commander must still ensure that any other tasks assigned by the superior are accomplished.) The “purpose” portion of the subordinate’s own mission statement will be taken from the higher commander’s orders or be devised by the subordinate based on their mission analysis.

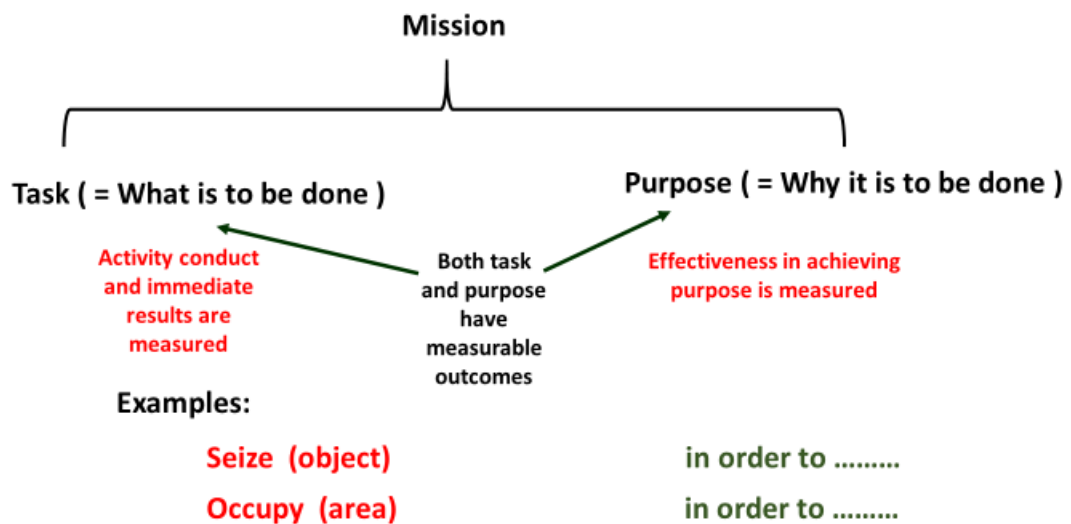


Figure 1: Mission Statement Structure

In simple terms, a mission statement is a task with its purpose (see Figure 1). The following should be noted with respect to writing a mission statement:

The mission statement developed by a commander describes *what* is to be completed by the formation or unit issuing the order, along with the purpose (the reason *why*). The two combined are based on orders received from a higher commander (one level up) that reflect the higher commander’s (two levels up) intent.

While the ‘*what* is to be done’ and ‘*why* it is to be done’ form the core of a mission statement, the statement may also include any limitations to the mission (i.e. the time by which the mission must be completed or the boundaries within which it must occur). Locations are

normally specified using a graphical representation. Timings are normally specified in the coordinating instructions section of the operations order but may (for ease of reference) also be specified on the graphical representation of the orders.

The mission statement is an inherent part of, and reflects, the overall activity that the force is conducting. Its selection is based on the commander's estimate. For example, in the defence, the mission statement may use the task verb "occupy" if holding a piece of ground were to be considered essential to the overall defence.

A mission task verb will have an object of the action specified (e.g. occupy Hill 123).

The mission statement ends with a purpose that puts the task in the context of the higher commander's intent. The description of the purpose is normally separated from the mission task verb by the phrase "in order to". The purpose may be expressed as a resulting effect or condition to be achieved, such as "in order to protect the left flank of the brigade". The purpose is vital to the mission command philosophy. Should the tactical situation change at any time, and one or more tasks become irrelevant, the commander and all subordinates will still understand the overall purpose of the mission and be able to continue to work towards it (and the commander's intent) using their initiative and best judgement.

The task (once completed) and purpose should be measurable in terms of the subject of the mission task verb (be it an enemy, friendly forces or terrain). Thus, for example, in a mission statement of "X battalion will occupy Hill 123 to deny enemy movement through the area", both the occupation of the feature (Hill 123) and its effect on the enemy (denying it freedom of movement) can be assessed and measured. A measure of performance is applied to the task while a measure of effectiveness is applied to the purpose (reference D). In an example such as, "The battalion will secure bridge X in order to support a forward passage of lines", the *performance* of the task may be assessed; the *immediate results* of the task may be assessed (based on the definition of "secure"); and the *effectiveness* of the whole purpose of the task (to be able to support a forward passage of lines) may be assessed.

Should a commander decide to use a non-NATO approved mission task verb it must be clearly defined and easily understood so as not to cause confusion. A clear and shared understanding of its meaning should be confirmed in any back-briefing to the higher commander and in orders to subordinates. For example, a battalion commander's orders may assign to a subordinate company commander the essential task of seizing an objective—as well as one or two supporting tasks—with the overall purpose to protect a brigade flank. Based on this, the company commander's mission statement to their company would read as follows: "*C Company will seize Objective BIG BEN by 111800Z Oct 2019 in order to protect the left flank of the Brigade*".

1.3. USE OF NON-STANDARD MISSION TASK VERBS

On some occasions, a required mission does not lend itself to the use of mission task verbs given below. Such cases occur when there is no immediate object of the task. Such mission statements will likely not use a defined mission task verb. These important cases do not break the doctrinal principles for mission statements, because the task is clearly described by the doctrine for the type of task to be undertaken. In such cases, these orders may take the form of, "conduct [type of activity] in order to [purpose]". In some cases, the imperative is more direct (i.e. "withdraw in order to avoid decisive engagement"). Other transitive verbs (e.g. "establish") may be suitable so long as the meaning is clear and conforms to the

Concise Oxford English Dictionary definition. The types of tactical operations that are often tasked in this manner mainly belong to the categories of Enabling and Stability activities. Examples include:

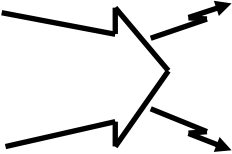
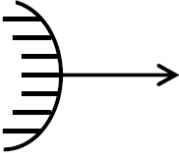
- a. area reconnaissance;
- b. advance to contact;
- c. deception;
- d. route reconnaissance;
- e. route clearance;
- f. security patrols;
- g. checkpoints;
- h. crowd control;
- i. link-ups;
- j. surveillance;
- k. relief of encircled forces;
- l. a march/move;
- m. screens;
- n. reliefs in place;
- o. guards;
- p. forward/rearward passage of lines;
- q. covering forces;
- r. withdrawals;
- s. raids;
- t. retirements; and
- u. spoiling attacks.

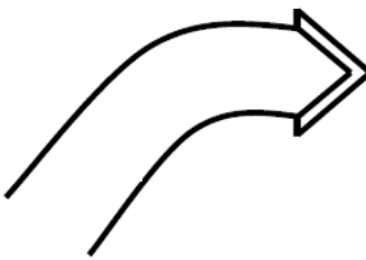
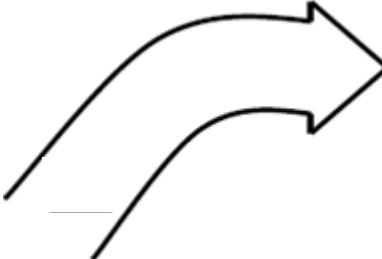

CHAPTER 2 MISSION TASK VERBS

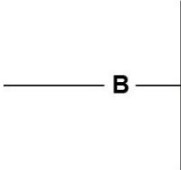
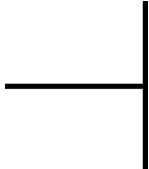
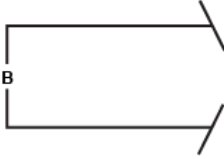
2.1. EXPLANATION OF TABLE 1

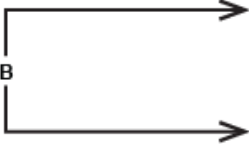
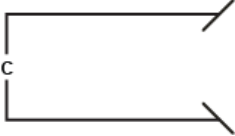

NATO Agreed mission task verbs are listed in Table 1 (below). The mission task verbs and, as applicable, any identical obstacle terms are listed in the first column. The second column shows the definition of the term including any notes included with the definition. The third column of the table shows the verb's graphic symbol as well as a basic description of the symbol's orientation. The last column contains notes that describe how the verb is commonly used as well as any related mission task verbs. At the bottom of the table are listed words that have been excluded from the set of task verbs with notes for possible alternatives. The most current version of APP-6, *NATO Joint Military Symbolology*, is the authority for symbol draw rules and colour codes. Symbols for mission task verbs are included in the following table for ease of reference.

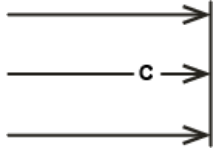

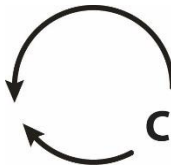
2.2. TABLE 1 – NATO AGREED MISSION TASK VERBS

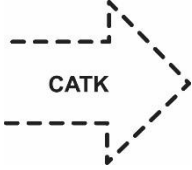

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|--------------------|--|--|---|
| advance to contact | To gain or re-establish contact with an enemy within assigned boundaries. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the general direction of the enemy and the friendly force advance. The symbol of the tasked unit(s) is placed within the arrow shaft.</p> | <p>In a mission statement, the transitive verb used for this is normally 'conduct' as in, "conduct an advance to contact in order to..."</p> <p>The advance to contact is an Enabling activity.</p> |
| ambush | To conduct a surprise attack from concealed positions on a moving or temporarily halted enemy. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points towards the enemy in the direction of fire. The back side of the curve is located at the ambush site.</p> | <p>Related verb: attack</p> |


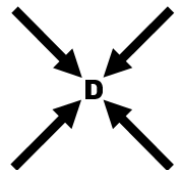
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| attack | To take offensive action against a specified target. |  <p>Main Attack</p>  <p>Supporting Attack</p> <p>Symbol orientation: APP-6(D)V1 has graphic symbols for both <i>Main Attack</i> and <i>Supporting Attack</i>. In both cases, the arrow points towards the target and in the direction of the attack. The symbol of the attacking unit(s) is located within the shaft of the arrow.</p> | A general, all-embracing term used to describe a tactical offensive activity. Care should be taken in its use as a mission task verb. Use a more specific verb when possible. |
| attack by fire | To engage a target with direct and/or indirect fire without closing with that target. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The back side of the symbol encompasses the firing position. The arrow points in the direction of the target.</p> | Related verbs: demonstrate, neutralize, support by fire |



| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| block | To deny access to a given area, movement in a given direction, or movement along a route or avenue of approach. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As a mission task verb, the top of the T (the vertical line in this instance) faces towards the enemy.</p> | <p>Related verbs: canalize, deny, disrupt, fix, turn</p> <p>A blocked force can move in any direction other than the one obstructed.</p> |
| block (for an obstacle effect) | An obstacle effect that integrates fire planning and obstacle effort to stop an attacker on a specific avenue of approach, or to prevent an enemy from exiting an engagement area. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As an obstacle effect, the top of the T faces the friendly force while the horizontal line points towards the enemy. The letter B is not used in the obstacle symbol.</p> | <p>A blocking position is a <i>defensive position sited so as to deny the enemy access to a given area or to prevent his advance in a given direction.</i> (NATOTerm 1330 dated 1 Jun 1978)</p> |
| breach | To force a passage through an obstacle or fortification. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening defines the span of the breach and faces the obstacle or fortification.</p> | <p>Related verbs: infiltrate, penetrate</p> |

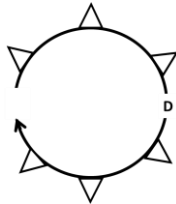


| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|----------|---|---|--|
| bypass | To move around an entity or obstacle to maintain momentum. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening defines the span of the bypass and faces the entity. The entity to be bypassed is placed at the opening of the symbol.</p> | Related verb: envelop |
| canalize | To constrain movement to a specific, narrow zone. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening defines the span of the canalization and faces the entity to be canalized. The symbol of the entity to be canalized is placed at the opening.</p> | <p>Related verbs: block, contain, deny, disrupt</p> <p>The desired zone must be stated in the task.</p> |
| capture | To take possession of enemy personnel, materiel and/or information. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrowhead identifies the location of the object to be captured and the symbol of the tasked unit(s) is placed in the circle.</p> | Related verbs: arrest, seize |

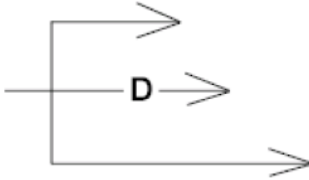
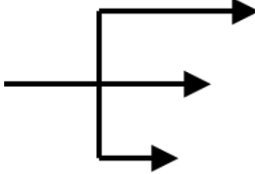

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|---------|---|--|--|
| clear | To ensure an area is free of enemy troops and their obstacles. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrows point towards the enemy.</p> | |
| contain | To restrict an entity's freedom of movement to within a specified area. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening faces the entity to be contained and its symbol placed in the opening.</p> | <p>Related verbs: block, canalize, control, fix, isolate</p> <p>The limits of the containment may be expressed in terms of geography or time.</p> |
| control | To exert influence over an entity, process, object or area to establish, maintain or prevent a specific situation or event. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be oriented towards friendly forces.</p> | <p>Related verbs: contain, deny, isolate, retain, secure</p> |


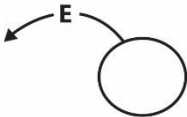

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| counter-attack | To take offensive action against an attacking force. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrowhead points towards the enemy. The symbol of the tasked unit(s) is placed at the base of the arrow.</p> | <p>This is an imprecise task, open to wide interpretation. It is normally best to specify the effect required, such as destroy, seize, block, etc.</p> <p>A counter-attack normally occurs as part of a defensive or delay battle.</p> |
| cover | To protect the main body of a force by engaging an enemy while also observing and reporting. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The symbol is placed to indicate the general area where the task is to occur. The length and orientation of the arrows can vary independently. The symbol of the tasked unit is placed in the box.</p> | <p>Related verbs: guard, screen</p> <p>A covering force is <i>a force operating apart from the main force for the purpose of intercepting, engaging, delaying, disorganizing and deceiving the enemy before he can attack the force covered.</i> (NATOTerm 2087 dated 1 Mar 1973)</p> <p>A covering force is normally only used at division level and higher.</p> |


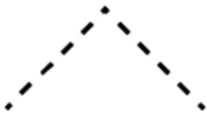

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|---------|--|---|--|
| deceive | To mislead an entity by manipulating its perceptions to induce it to react in a manner prejudicial to its interests. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow generally faces the entity. The symbol may be used in conjunction with other symbols to show the deception nature of the task.</p> | <p>Related verbs: demonstration, feint</p> <p>The mission statement will likely specify the type of deception. The graphic may be used in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. as a modifier, it indicates some other task is a deception; or b. on its own, to indicate an unspecified form of deception. |
| defeat | To diminish the effectiveness of an enemy or adversary to the extent that it is unable or unwilling to resist or achieve its intent. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The graphic is centered over the specified enemy's/adversary's location.</p> | <p>Related verbs: capture, destroy, neutralize</p> <p>Normally another, more specific mission task verb is better to use, particularly below formation level.</p> |


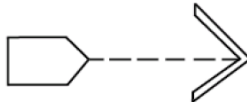

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| delay | To slow an enemy by trading space for time while inflicting maximum damage on them without becoming decisively engaged. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the action. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The base of the arc faces the enemy. The tasked unit's current location or start point is represented by the base of the arc. The unit symbol may be placed within the arc.</p> | Related verbs: disrupt, withdraw |
| demonstrate | To dissuade a hostile entity by a show of force, without seeking contact. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the action. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The arc faces the hostile entity. The symbol of the tasked unit may be placed within the arc.</p> | <p>Related verbs: deceive, feint</p> <p>A demonstration may be used to deceive a hostile entity. In such a case the mission verb of 'conduct' may be used in the mission statement, such as "conduct a demonstration in order to..."</p> <p>In a 'demonstration', no intentional contact is made with the hostile entity while in a 'feint', contact is intentionally made to reinforce the deception.</p> |



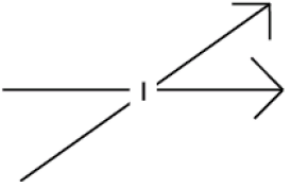
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| deny | To prevent an entity from using specified people, space or infrastructure. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic and the graphic will be centred on the thing to be denied.</p> | <p>Related verbs: block, canalize, contain, control, demonstrate, fix, retain, secure</p> <p>The mission may be stated in terms of a specific time until which denial is to be conducted.</p> |
| destroy | To damage a target to such an extent that it is unable to fulfil its intended function without being reconstituted or entirely rebuilt. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The graphic is centered over the specified target.</p> | <p>Related verbs: capture, defeat, neutralize</p> |
| disengage | To break contact with a hostile entity. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the movement. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The unit's current location is represented at the base of the arc.</p> | <p>Related verbs: retire, withdraw</p> |

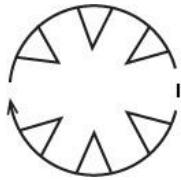

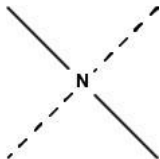
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| disrupt | To negatively affect a hostile entity's formation, tempo and/or timetable. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As a mission task verb, the arrows point towards the target of the disruption.</p> | Related verbs: block, canalize, delay, deny, fix, interdict, turn |
| disrupt (for an obstacle effect) | An obstacle effect that focuses fire planning and obstacle effort to cause the enemy to break up his formation and tempo, interrupt his timetable, commit breaching assets prematurely, and attack in a piecemeal effort. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As an obstacle effect, the short arrow indicates where the enemy is to be disrupted by obstacles. The longer arrows indicate where movement is allowed and the enemy is to be attacked by fires.</p> | |
| envelop | To pass around or over an enemy's principal defensive positions to secure objectives to their rear. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the action. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The tasked unit's current location is represented at the beginning of the straight line. The symbol of the enemy to be enveloped may be placed within the arc.</p> | Related verbs: bypass, isolate |

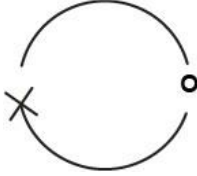
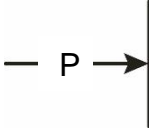

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|------------|---|--|--|
| escort | To accompany and protect an entity that is on the move. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The symbol is placed over the symbol of the unit or element to be escorted. The box contains the symbol of the unit tasked with the escort.</p> | Related verb: guard |
| evacuate | To remove people, animals or materiel from a place of actual or impending danger. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The circle is placed over the element to be evacuated. The shaft and arrow indicate the general direction of the evacuation. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude.</p> | |
| exfiltrate | To covertly extract a force from an area under hostile control. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of friendly forces. The start of the line may indicate the current location of forces tasked to exfiltrate. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude.</p> | Related verb: withdraw Exfiltration is <i>the removal of personnel or units from areas under hostile control by stealth, deception, surprise or clandestine means.</i> (NATOTerm 18064 dated 3 Feb 2011) |

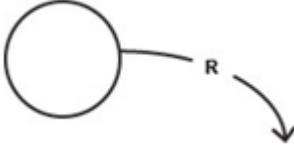

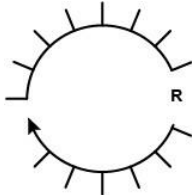
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|---------|---|---|---|
| exploit | To utilize successes or opportunities to maximize advantages or gains. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the action. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The tasked unit's current or projected location is at the base of the symbol.</p> | <p>Related verb: pursue</p> <p>In terms of engaging an enemy, exploitation is normally conducted as an offensive activity that usually follows a successful attack and seeks to disorganize the enemy in depth. It may manifest as a pursuit or follow-on attacks.</p> |
| feint | To distract an enemy from the main effort by seeking contact while avoiding decisive engagement. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The symbol is identical to that of deception but used in conjunction with others. Specifically, it is placed in front of the symbol for an attack to indicate the intent of deception only.</p> | <p>Related verbs: deceive, demonstrate</p> <p>In a feint, contact is intentionally made with the enemy. In a demonstration, no intentional contact is made.</p> |
| fix | To prevent any part of a hostile entity from moving from a specified location for a specified period of time. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As a mission task verb, the arrow points towards the hostile entity with the tip of the arrowhead indicating the location of the action.</p> | <p>Related verbs: block, contain, isolate</p> |



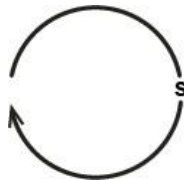
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| fix (for an obstacle effect) | An obstacle effect that focuses fire planning and obstacle effort to prevent a hostile force from moving from a specified location for a specified period of time. |  <p>Symbol orientation: As an obstacle effect, from the start of the irregular part of the symbol to the tip of the arrow indicates where enemy advance is slowed by obstacles. The orientation is determined by the anchor points. The letter 'F' is not used in the obstacle symbol.</p> | |
| follow and assume | To follow a force and be prepared to continue its assigned mission. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the likely task. The symbol of the unit tasked to follow and assume is placed within the box at the base of the arrow.</p> | <p>Related verbs: follow and support</p> <p>A force assigned this task is not considered a reserve force for it is already committed.</p> |
| follow support and | To follow a force and be prepared to support it. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the likely task. The symbol of the unit tasked to follow and support is placed within the box at the base of the arrow.</p> | <p>Related verbs: follow and assume</p> <p>A force assigned this task is not considered a reserve force for it is already committed.</p> |

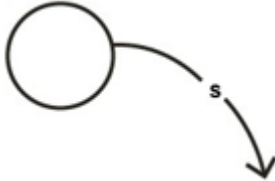
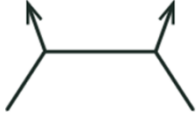
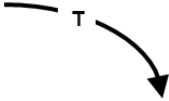
| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|------------|---|---|--|
| guard | To protect the main body of a force through the application of combat power while also observing and reporting. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The symbol is placed to indicate the general area where the guard task is to occur. The length and orientation of the arrows can vary independently. The symbol of the tasked unit/formation is placed in the box.</p> | <p>Related verbs: cover, delay, screen</p> <p>A guard force normally operates within indirect fire support range of the main body. The transitive verb 'conduct' may be used.</p> |
| infiltrate | To covertly move into or through an area under hostile control. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of enemy forces and indicates the general direction of infiltration. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude.</p> | <p>Related verbs: breach, penetrate</p> <p>Infiltration is a <i>technique and process in which a force moves as individuals or small groups over, through or around enemy positions without detection.</i> (NATOTerm 6610 dated 1 Aug 1982)</p> |
| interdict | To impede or disrupt a hostile entity's lines of communication or forces in depth. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The graphic is centered over the desired location or force where the interdiction is to occur.</p> | <p>Related verbs: disrupt, neutralize</p> |



| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|------------|---|--|---|
| isolate | To prevent a hostile entity's freedom of movement and contact with external support. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic. The symbol is centred on the entity to be isolated.</p> | <p>Related verbs: contain, control, deny, disrupt, fix, neutralize</p> <p>A combination of physical and psychological means may be used.</p> |
| locate | To determine the geographical position of a specified entity or object. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic. The symbol should be placed over the geographic area where the task will take place.</p> | |
| neutralize | To render a hostile entity or its materiel temporarily incapable of interfering with friendly forces. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The graphic is centered over the location of the entity to be neutralized.</p> | <p>Related verbs: deny, fix, interdict, isolate</p> |

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| occupy | To position a force in a specified area or location that is free of active opposition. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic. The symbol is centred over the area to be occupied.</p> | Related verbs: capture, clear, control, retain, secure, seize |
| penetrate | To break through the enemy's defence and disrupt its defensive system. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points towards the enemy while the line delineates the enemy's line of defence.</p> | Related verbs: breach, infiltrate |
| pursue | To catch or cut off an enemy attempting to escape, with the aim of destroying it. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the action. The tasked unit's current location is represented at the start of the arrow. The symbol of the enemy force being pursued is placed beside the vertical line.</p> | Related verbs: capture, destroy, exploit |

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| recover | To extract a friendly entity or materiel from an area or location not under friendly control. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrowhead identifies the location of the element or materiel to be recovered. The symbol of the unit tasked with the recovery is placed inside the circle.</p> | Related verbs: evacuate |
| relieve in place (relief in place) | To replace a force with an assigned mission in a specified area with a different force to continue that mission. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The unit being relieved is located at the base of the arc. The symbol of the unit performing the relief is located at the start of the line. The arrowhead points in the direction of travel of the relieved unit and may even point to the specific location to which the relieved unit is to move.</p> | Related verbs: disengage, follow and assume, retire The transitive verb 'conduct' may be used in the mission statement as in "A Squadron will conduct a relief in place...". |
| retain | To hold an area or location to ensure it is free of hostile occupation or use. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic. The symbol is centred on the location to be retained.</p> | Related verbs: control, occupy, secure |

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|--------|---|--|--|
| retire | To move away from a hostile entity while out of contact. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction of the movement to retire. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The arc faces the hostile entity. The location of the unit tasked to retire is represented at the base of the arc.</p> | Related verbs: disengage, relieve-in-place, withdraw |
| screen | To protect the main body of a force by providing early warning. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The symbol is placed to indicate the general area where the screen task is to occur. The length and orientation of the arrows can vary independently. The symbol of the tasked unit/formation is placed in the box.</p> | <p>Related verbs: cover, guard</p> <p>When screening, fighting is only conducted in self-defence.</p> <p>The transitive verb 'conduct' may be used.</p> |
| secure | To gain possession of a specified area, location or objective and prevent its use or destruction by a hostile entity. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The opening will be on the friendly side of the graphic. The symbol is centred on the location to be secured.</p> | Related verbs: clear, control, occupy, retain, seize |

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| seize | To take possession of a specified area, location or object by force. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrowhead identifies the location to be seized. The symbol of the tasked unit/formation is placed inside the circle.</p> | Related verbs: capture, occupy, secure |
| support by fire | To engage the enemy by direct fire in support of another manoeuvring force. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The back side of the graphic encompasses the firing position. The arrows point towards the enemy and indicate the arc of coverage that the firing position is meant to provide. The symbol of the tasked unit may be placed on the friendly side of the symbol.</p> | Related verbs: attack by fire, neutralize |
| turn | To force a hostile entity to move in a desired direction. |  <p>Symbol orientation: For both a mission task verb and an obstacle effect, the rear of the graphic identifies the hostile entity's location and the arrow points in the direction to which the action or obstacle should force the entity to turn.</p> | Related verbs: block, deny, disrupt |

| Verb | Definition | Graphic Symbol | Related Verbs and Notes |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| turn (for an obstacle effect) | An obstacle effect that integrates fire planning and obstacle effort to drive an enemy formation from one avenue of approach to an adjacent avenue of approach or into an engagement area. |  <p>Symbol orientation: For both a mission task verb and an obstacle effect, the rear of the graphic identifies the hostile entity's location and the arrow points in the direction to which the action or obstacle should force the entity to turn.</p> | |
| withdraw | To disengage and move away from a hostile entity. |  <p>Symbol orientation: The arrow points in the direction in which the tasked unit is to withdrawal. The tip of the arrowhead may indicate the location where the action is to conclude. The location of the unit tasked to withdraw is represented at the base of the arc.</p> | <p>Related verbs: disengage, exfiltrate, retire</p> <p>A withdrawal operation is <i>a planned operation in which a force in contact disengages from an enemy force.</i> (NATOTerm 4303 dated 1 Jul 1983)</p> |

2.3. NOT NATO AGREED MISSION TASK VERBS

The following verbs are not NATO Agreed mission task verbs. Their meanings can be met using the mission task verbs in Table 1 or by other means as indicated:

- a. Find: use advance to contact or locate;
- b. Assault: use ambush, attack, seize, etc.;
- c. Hold: use contain, control, occupy, retain or secure;
- d. Attrit: use capture, defeat or destroy;
- e. Link-up: the requirement to conduct a link-up may be used in the purpose of the mission statement;
- f. Blind: use disrupt or neutralize;
- g. Lure: use deceive, demonstrate or feint;
- h. Combat search and rescue: use evacuate or recover;
- i. Move: may be tactical or administrative but it does not require further definition;
- j. Protect: use cover, secure, escort, guard, screen, etc.;
- k. Counter-reconnaissance: not a distinct mission. Use cover, guard or screen;
- l. Push: use block, deny, disrupt, fix or turn;
- m. Cut-off: use contain, envelop, fix, interdict, isolate, pursue, etc.;
- n. Reduce: use defeat, destroy or neutralize;
- o. Scout: use advance to contact, cover, locate or screen;
- p. Dislocate: use attack, attack by fire, disrupt, feint or seize;
- q. Consolidation of a position: use retain, secure or seize;
- r. Defend: use block, defeat, destroy, etc.;
- s. Draw: use demonstrate, feint or withdraw; and
- t. Reconstitute: this is administrative rather than a tactical task verb, although "conduct resupply" or similar wording as appropriate may be used.

As noted, the commander issuing the orders should use the most appropriate mission task verb possible. Whenever possible, a back-brief from the subordinate to the commander should occur so that the commander can be assured that the subordinate understands the meaning of the orders and the commander's intent.

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| <p>ANNEX A - REFERENCES</p> |
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- A. STANAG 2019 - NATO Joint Military Symbology - APP-6
- B. STANAG 2288 - Allied Joint Doctrine for Land Operations - AJP-3.2
- C. STANAG 2605 - Conduct of Land Tactical Operations - ATP-3.2.1
- D. STANAG 2199 - Command and Control of Allied Land Forces - ATP-3.2.2
- E. NATO Terminology Database
- F. STANAG 2606 - Conduct of Land Tactical Activities - ATP-3.2.1.1

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