

Obstacles, Barricades, Blockades, & Things that Get in the Way



Key Words

- Obstacle - a thing that blocks one's way or prevents or hinders progress.
- Barricade - an improvised barrier erected to prevent or delay the movement of opposing forces.
- Blockade – An organically interlaced network of hindrance and obstruction so as to prevent ingress or egress of a hostile force, and freedom of maneuver for the occupying force.
- In-Depth – Obstacles placed over distance and direction (depth).

Symbolism of the Barricade

- The myth of the barricade is built upon a body of images which instinctively evokes all the passions that correspond with different demonstrations of social revolution throughout history.
- It's transcends linear time, from *riot* to *insurrection*, it is a constant.



Elements of the Barricade

- Barricades can be instantly reproduced, even decades from their last appearance.
- Barricades are made up of singular objects, radically assembled, and working in cooperation with one another.
- Barricade's becomes the connective tissue that links the partisan to the surrounding environment (Buildings, Woods, Rivers, and other Barricades).



Elements of the Barricade



- The partisan, with projectile and rage, becomes a functioning piece of the barricade. Extending it's reach beyond just physical space.
- It works in Solidarity across vast distances. They do not necessary need to connect. A Tree Sit in one so-called county, combined with a road blockade elsewhere, is magnified in effect.
- They not only create the space for something new to grow, but they represent the break between Capitalism and Power.

Barricades to Blockades

- Barricades, connect to barricades by networks of partisans, built in solidarity; in order to transform space and abolish established relationships.
- The barricade is constructed. The Blockade is comprised.
- Blockades break with the tradition of defense, the blockade can be offensive.



Obstacles

- Grouped into two categories
 1. Existing – already present in the environment. Not deliberately placed by the Police/Military (i.e. fallen trees, rivers, construction fences, dumpsters)
 2. Reinforcing – Placed by police/military and designed to strengthen existing terrain in order to slow, stop, or canalize perceived enemy.
 - They are limited only by imagination. You can blow a bridge, construct a log crib, or employ an improvised mine field.

Classification and examples of obstacles		
<i>This classification list is not meant to be inclusive, but only to provide examples within each major classification.</i>		
EXISTING		REINFORCING
NATURAL	CULTURAL	MILITARY EFFORT
<i>Drainage Features</i> Lakes, rivers, streams, swamps, marshes	Man-made lakes, ponds, canals, paddy fields	Blowing dams to create flooded areas
<i>Soil and Rock</i> Soft ground, cliffs, boulders	Soft farmland, quarries	Craters
<i>Surface Features</i> Slopes, hills, cliffs, mountains	Cuts and fills on roads and railroads, dams	Craters, ditches, cuts on slopes
<i>Vegetation</i> Jungles, forests	Seeded forests, hedgerows	Abatis
<i>Built-up Areas</i>	Buildings, fences, towns, urban areas	Demolished buildings, rubble
<i>Other</i> War damage, rubble, fires snow, ice		Minefields, wire obstacles, falling block, prechambered targets, ADM, smoke, contamination, rubble

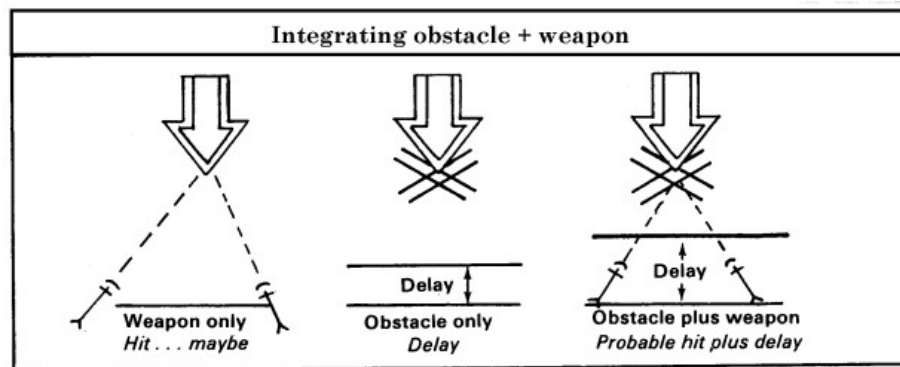
Existing Obstacles

- Terrain, as it exists can be extremely significant to the success of obstacles.
 - All ground movement, friendly or enemy, is dictated by existing obstacles.
 - Terrain Analysis can be conducted as part of a larger process known as Information Preparation of the Action Space.
- Before constructing or utilizing an obstacle, conduct reconnaissance by any means necessary.
 - Ground recon. Electronic Recon (Google Maps). USGS Maps
- Take into account cultural terrain, such as roads, trains, and buildings.
 - These terrain features can dictate direction to obstacle, but also present the best location for an obstacle to be placed



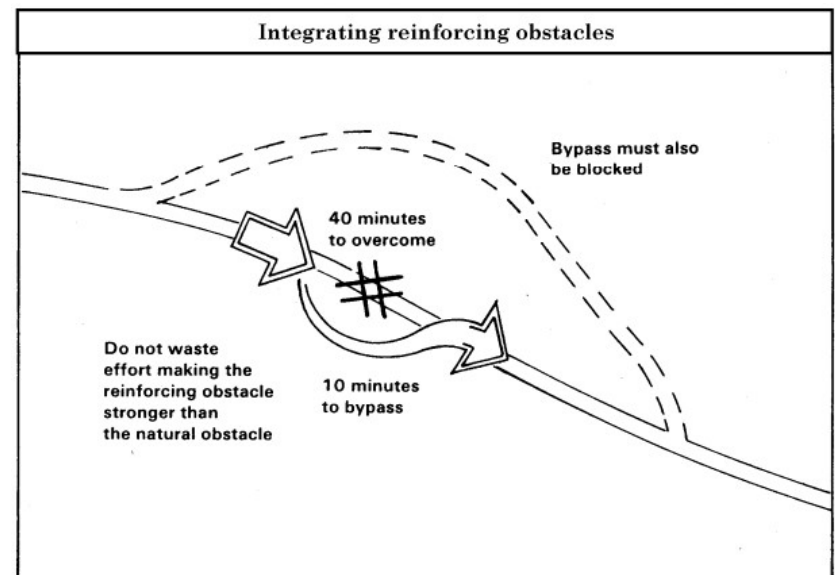
Reinforcing Obstacles

- Reinforcing Obstacles are integrated to strengthen and extend the reach of existing obstacles and reach (fields of fire).
- They are created in both a constructive and destructive manner.
- Must be expedient and are dictated by the time in which they take to create.



Creating Obstacles and Barricades

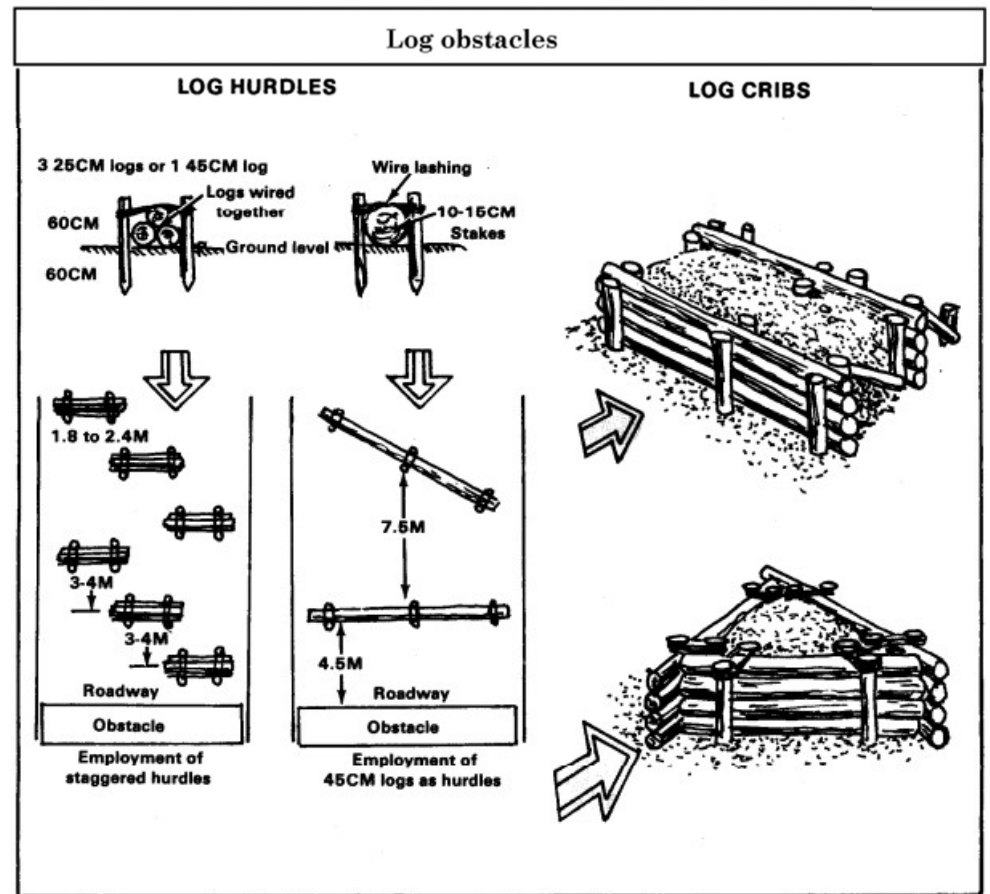
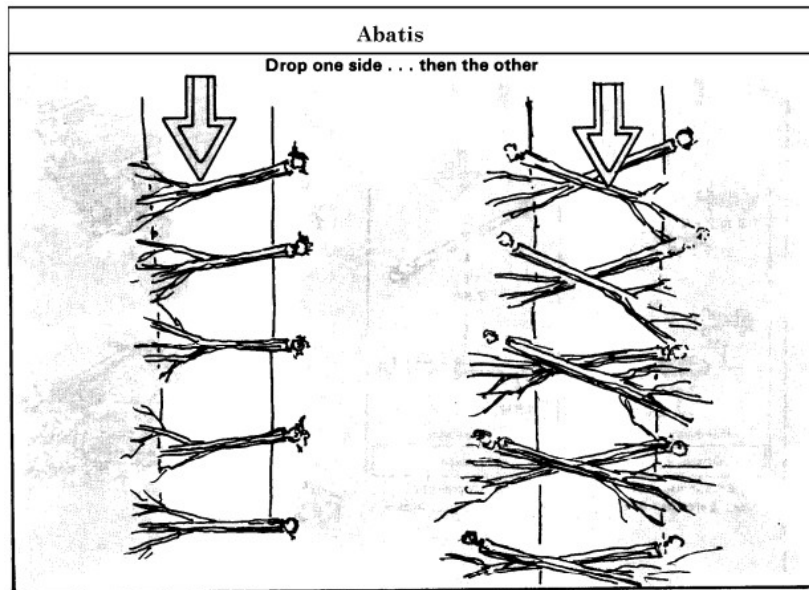
- Obstacles, barricades, and blockades are organic.
 - Integrate obstacles into existing terrain, existing obstacles, and fields of fire.
 - Employ obstacles “in-depth.”
 - Employ as a matter of surprise.
- When employing obstacles consider:
 - Terrain & Weather
 - Logistics & Resources (Time, Materials and People)
 - Local Support
 - Task Organization and Sequence
 - Electronic Surveillance



Log Obstacles

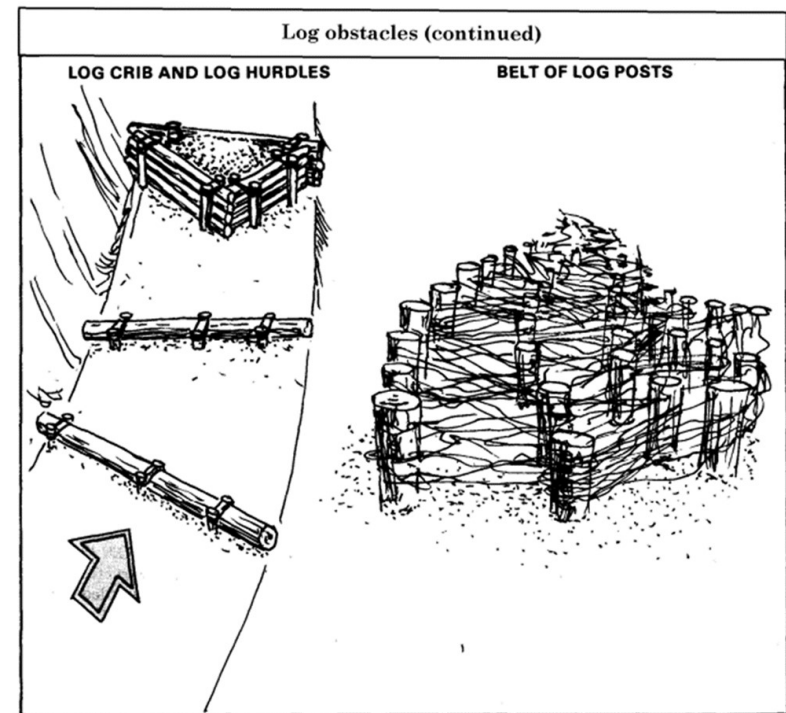
- Log obstacles are most effective when the lack of a bypass forces the opposition to breach them.
- Can and should be used in conjunction with other obstacles.
- Abatis
 - Effectively utilized in heavily wooded area with few roads or trails.
 - Fell trees at a 45-degree angle to road or trail.
- Log hurdles:
 - Can be constructed using logs greater than 10 inches in diameter.
 - Use to slow down vehicles.
- Log cribs:
 - Rectangular or Triangular, can be used effectively to block roads if there is available timber, and it can't be easily bypassed.
 - Fill them with dirt and rubble to strengthen them.
 - Hurdles in front of cribs, can seriously effect vehicular traffic.

Log Obstacles



Log Obstacles

- Log Posts
 - Some of the best antivehicular obstacles.
 - Each post should represent a breaching problem.
 - Hardwood with a minimum diameter of 15.8 inches
 - Bury 1.5 meters into the ground. Vertically or at a slight angle toward enemy.
 - Height should vary from post to post
 - Space irregular with at least 1 meter, and not more than 2 meters, between posts.
 - Effective when using depth.



Other Obstacles

- Junk
 - Cars, Fences, Benches, Newspaper Stands, Signs, Trashcans, can all be utilized to construct obstacles.
 - To increase strength, securely anchor to the ground (netting or ropes)
- Fires
 - Can deny entry into an area.
 - Can create smoke that creates a surveillance barricade (cameras, drones).
- Booby-Traps
 - Hidden obstacle.
 - Creates a fear that can alter movement & behavior.



Process for Decision Making

- Identify and articulate goals for action.
- Recon and analyze potential sites.
- Territorial Implications - You are on stolen Indigenous Land.
- Pick your target.
- Get the shit that makes it happen.
- Create an Entrance Plan.
- Fill Roles.
- Create a System of Solidarity and Support.
- Have Several Exit Plans.



Possible Supplies Needed

- Charged cell phones (disposable) and extra battery packs (solar and conventional)
- Legal Support and Number
- Water and Food
- Bathroom?
- Camera
- Comms Device
- Environmental shelter
- Banner's, signs, black flags
- Press statements (pre-prepared) and talking-points
- Tents
- Sleeping Bags
- Coolers
- Tarps, poles, chairs, hammers, stakes, rope
- Whiteboard for planning and task organization



References



- FM 5-102 Counter Mobility (March 1985)
- Elements of a Barricade – Sprout Distro
- 10 Steps for Setting Up a Blockade – Sprout Distro
- Blockades – Sprout Distro