

Field Maneuvers

Layered Defense
“Reverse Leapfrogging”

Lesson Objective

- By the end of this lesson the learner will be able to:
 1. Understand the principles of a Layered Defense.
 2. Understand when to use a Layered Defense.
 3. Illustrate a Layered Defense maneuver on paper.
 4. Execute a Layer Defense in the field.

What is a Layered Defense?

- **Layered Defense** – is a team maneuver where members of the defending team have staggered field placements so that the opposing force encounters multiple assaults from each defense layer as they attempt to advance forward.

What are the Benefits of Using a Layered Defense?

1. If the opposing force manages to punch through or eliminate the first layer of defense, they will not be able to isolate and eliminate any remaining defenders due to the second layer of defenders.
2. If executed properly the defending team can inflict progressive amounts of damage to the opposing team, thereby, creating opportunities for flanking and advancing.
3. The opposing force cannot flank the defending team position because there are no weak points. The layered defensive setup is equally effective from any side. Staggered defense layers need only change the direction they are aiming to cover all angles of approach.

When is it Best to Use the a Layered Defense?

- When there are 2 or more team members.
- When there is semi-open terrain for team members to see one another and the opposing force.
- When there is sufficient cover for squad members to retreat away from target.
- When opposing force is concentrated in target area can be contained by suppression fire.

How is a Layered Defense Executed?

Steps to Execute Layered Defense

- Divide the defending force into at least 2 or more teams for layered formation (for example setup a team for Layer One Defense, Layer Two Defense, and Layer Three Defense).
- The teams agree on a signal or verbal field command for roles assignment for suppression fire and retreating.
- Layer Two Team will suppress enemy fire by firing upon the enemy's position while Layer One Team retreats to a cover spot aligned with or slightly behind the Layer Two Team.
- The signal is given and the roles of the two teams are switched (Layer Two Team – retreats from enemy and Layer One Team – applies suppression fire).

How is a Layered Defense Executed?

(continued)

Steps to Execute Layered Defense

• Execution Tips:

- When the opposing force makes initial contact (with first layer), the maximum number of markers must be fired at the attackers without running the risk of accidentally eliminating players on your team.
- Layered defenders should maintain differing firing angles and should not be lined up directly behind each other. This will minimize the firepower effectiveness of the defense force.
- All defending players should give each other mutually supporting arcs of fire in every direction. This will give every angle of approach to your position coverage by a minimum of two or three markers.

Illustration of a Layered Defense

Leapfrog back as Teammates within Layer
Two lay down suppression fire. This
process is repeated by each Layer as
opposing

