

Operational Level Defense

In the defense, DPRK forces have an operational objective of coordinating the defense and conducting counterattacks to repel CFC forces from DPRK- controlled territory and adjacent waters. The DPRK views the offensive as the **only** means with which to achieve decisive victory. Thus, DPRK forces would use the defense only to consolidate gains, await additional resources when temporarily halted, protect flanks, repulse CFC counterattacks, or free resources for other offensive actions.

In the defense, DPRK forces plan to use counterattacks to quickly disrupt CFC offensive operations. Once it appears that these forces have been, or will be, successful in breaching the defense, DPRK forces will attempt an immediate counterattack.

Fire support in the defense is well planned and highly concentrated to cover flanks and forward sectors. Artillery fires in the defense include:

- **Long-range fires:** Designed to engage CFC forces before they can organize into attack formations.
- **Close combat fires:** Designed to concentrate fire on CFC forces just prior to the assault on DPRK defensive lines.

Final protective fires: Designed to begin just prior to CFC breaching operations and intended to limit avenues of approach and thwart CFC penetration of the main defensive position.

- **Fires within the defensive positions:** Designed to blunt CFC penetrations of the defense while DPRK forces mount a counterattack.

In the defense, the DPRK also places great emphasis on anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) and engineer support. The first priority of AAA is the protection of artillery assets, but they would be deployed to cover the defense in depth. Engineer support would include the use of antitank and antipersonnel obstacles to deny CFC avenues of approach, especially armor, into the main defensive area. The antitank plan is an integral

part of DPRK defensive operations. They view tanks as a primary threat to a successful defense. As such, a DPRK defensive plan would include antitank operations, engineer support, and artillery support. In all defensive operations, the North Koreans plan for an antitank support area forward in the defensive zone.

NKA TACTICS IN THE OFFENSE

NKA Tactical Principles

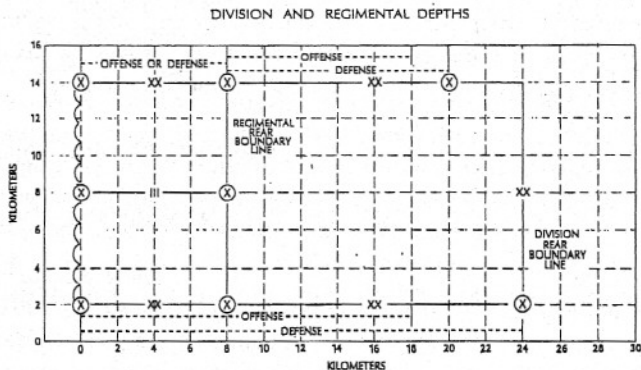
Division and lower echelon units are considered tactical level elements. They are charged with winning battles and engagements that support operational objectives. Combined arms operations constitute the foundation of tactical battle in NKA doctrine. The most important tactical principles of this doctrine are as follows:

1. **Mass:** The focusing of sufficient combat power against CFC's center of gravity to disrupt operational or tactical decision making.

2. **Surprise:** Used to significantly multiply combat power to provide a decisive advantage over a numerically or technologically superior CFC force.

3. **Annihilation:** Of utmost importance to the NKA, used so that CFC formations cannot regroup to counterattack or reconstitute.

4. **Fluidity:** The NKA emphasizes the need for a continuous flow of battle. Forces designated to achieve breakthroughs in CFC defenses are quickly followed by mechanized forces that are tasked to penetrate deep into CFC's rear area.

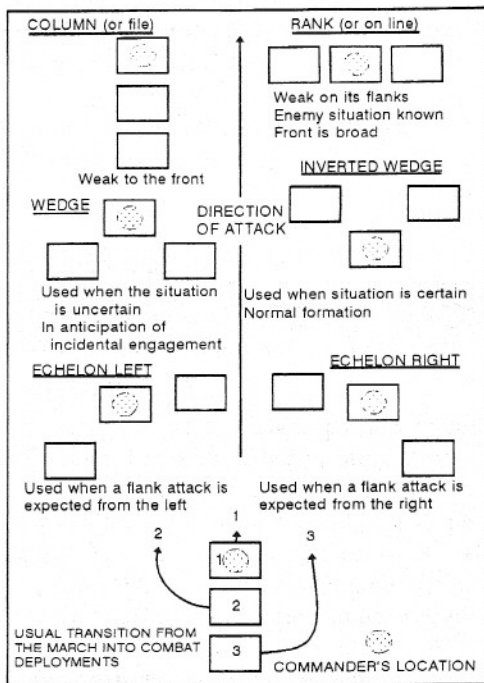


NKA Tactical Formations in the Offense

The infantry division is the basic combat unit in the NKA and was designed to provide maximum flexibility for maneuverability. Infantry divisions are organized with tanks, artillery, and engineers to aid in accomplishing the mission. Artillery provides orchestrated fire support, and during offensive operations, it is designed to protect the advancing force by continually placing a heavy barrage in front of the assaulting echelons.

The NKA uses two primary tactical formations for the division, brigade, regiment, and battalion: the march formation and the attack formation.

BASIC FORMATIONS



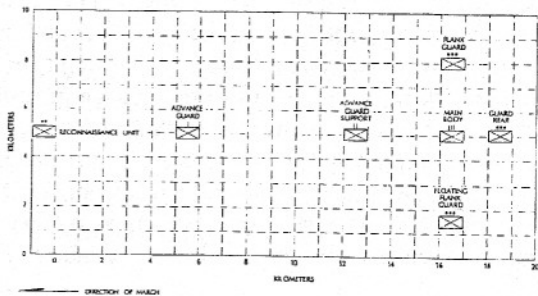
NKA March Formation

Generally, the NKA plans to move during darkness or under conditions of limited visibility. When forces move during daylight hours, special countermeasures, such as camouflage, anti-air and antitank defense, are emphasized.

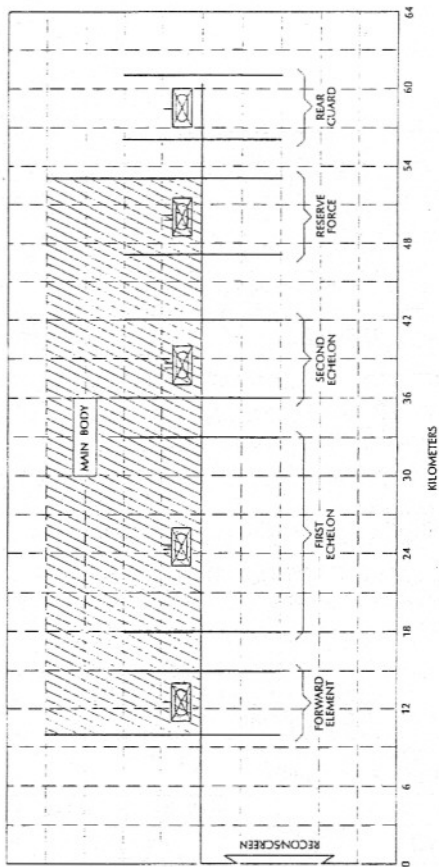
The composition of the march formation includes a forward deployed reconnaissance unit, advance guard, security force, main body, and a rear guard. For an NKA regiment, the forward security for the main body is a reinforced company, located 5-10 km forward of the main body. Flank security for the regiment are reinforced platoons, one each, operating 2-3 km to each flank. The main body consists of two-thirds of the combat power of the march formation. Its mission is to maneuver and destroy CFC formations that cannot be overcome by the advance guard. The regiment's rear guard usually consists of a platoon that follows 2-3 km behind the main body. During a retreat, the rear guard probably would

consist of a reinforced company, operating 5-10 km behind the main body.

INFANTRY REGIMENT IN MARCH FORMATION



MECHANIZED BRIGADE MARCH COLUMN



Average March Rates:

<u>March</u>	<u>Rate of March</u> (Km/Hr)		<u>March Distance</u> 1 Day (Km)	<u>Remarks</u> (Hrs)
	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>		
FOOT	4-5	4-5	Regular: 30 Forced: 45	Regular: 7-8 Forced: 10-12
VEHICLES	15-20	10-15	Regular: 150 Forced: 200	

Average Vehicle Speed:

<u>Type of Road</u>	<u>Undamaged Surface</u>	<u>10% Surface Damage</u>	<u>>10% Surface Destruction</u>
Paved	40-50 KPH	20-35 KPH	10-20 KPH
Gravel/Rubble	40-45 KPH	20-30 KPH	10-20 KPH
Dirt	15-25 KPH	8-15 KPH	5-10 KPH

Unit/Vehicle Intervals:

<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Intervals</u>
Companies	25-50 Meters
Battalions	3-5 Kilometers
Regiments on the same route	5-10 Kilometers
Div.main body & Div. rear svcs	15-20 Kilometers

NKA Attack Formation

NKA combat organization is determined by the mission assigned, terrain, and enemy capabilities. Combat formations are divided into the forward element, the first and second maneuver echelons, and the reserves. The first echelon is responsible for penetrating initial CFC positions and achieving the immediate objective. The second echelon or reserve, is tasked with destroying all bypassed CFC elements. The second echelon is also used to secure the flanks and rear area of the first echelon. The reserve forces are used to reinforce the first and second echelons and as a standby for a counterattack. Divisions and regiments will also have an artillery group (DAG or RAG) consisting of organic artillery augmented with artillery from higher echelons. For offensive operations, forces are organized as follows:

1. Division

- **Forward Element:** Reinforced light infantry battalion.
- **First Echelon:** Two regiments reinforced by tanks and artillery. Responsible for accomplishing the division's immediate objective, the destruction of CFC's regimental reserve. On order, continue the attack to accomplish subsequent objective of destruction of CFC's division reserve.
- **Second Echelon:** One regiment (-). Follows the first echelon by 6-8 km, reinforced by tanks and artillery when committed. On order, continue the attack to accomplish division's subsequent objective.
- **Reserves:** Battalion-size element, composed of infantry, tank, and antitank reserve. Responsible for flank and rear area security for attacking echelon and mop up operations to exploit success. Acts as replacement or infiltration force as needed.

2. Regiment

- **Forward Element:** Reinforced infantry company.