

5 INFILTRATION

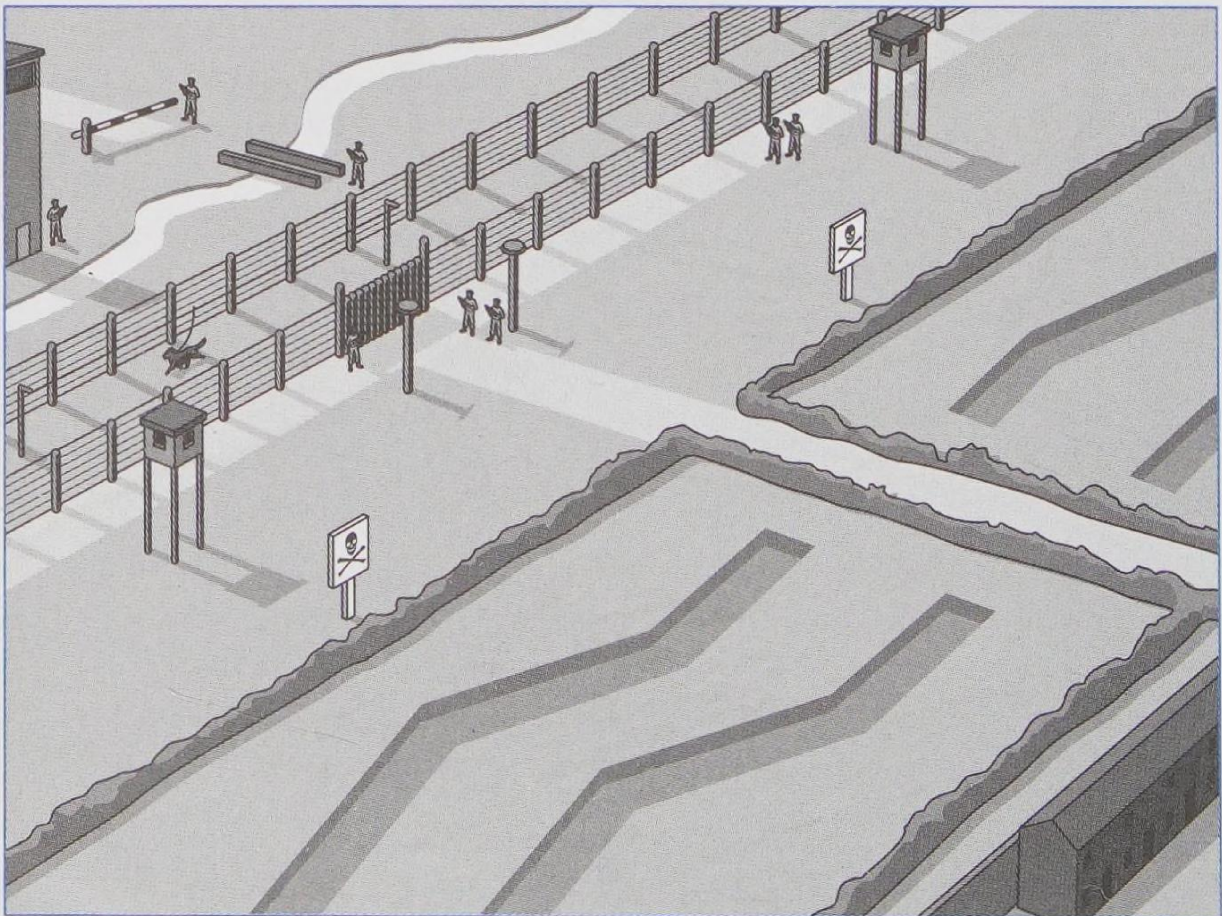
Planning any clandestine operation requires expertise, experience and a complete understanding of the operational task. For the agent or the special forces unit this is generally expressed as the "mission". Before any mission can start, however, there needs to be a planning phase; this will involve acquiring knowledge of the terrain, the prevailing weather conditions and, finally, the implementation of infiltration and exfiltration methods.





Factors Influencing Infiltration

- ▲ The type of mission to be undertaken is the first thing that is taken into consideration when it comes to selecting the means of infiltration.
- ▲ The target dispositions may restrict certain means of infiltration.
- ▲ Unfavourable weather.
- ▲ The topography of the land needs be considered.
- ▲ Hydrographical factors, such as tide-data, the depth of offshore water and the location of reefs and sandbars can all influence the selection of water as a means of infiltration.
- ▲ The number of personnel being infiltrated may be a limiting factor, as will the distance if part of the way is to be made on foot.
- ▲ The equipment required in order to carry out the operation successfully may also determine the infiltration method selected.



STEALTH TECHNOLOGY

Stealth is the simple act of trying to hide or evade detection. It is not so much a technology as a concept that incorporates a broad series of technologies and design features. Stealth technology is a prime goal for most military organizations, including the intelligence agencies. Stealth enables you to sneak up on the target undetected. Militarily, this catches the target unawares, giving you the advantage of surprise while seriously impeding both the target's resistance and defences. In the past, this would have been achieved through camouflage and concealment, but modern stealth technologies mean that in many instances the target cannot respond at all, because they simply cannot see you.

Stealth clothing has been a desirable asset on the battlefield for a long time, especially for special forces infiltrating behind enemy lines. This has been achieved to some degree. One British firm in Cardiff discovered that shredded foil, similar to that used for insulation, could be used to blank out any thermal or infrared signature. This provided perfect night-time camouflage for both soldiers and tanks. However, the insulation material caused the body to overheat and the suits had to be fitted with a cooling system. Despite these drawbacks, the race is on to produce a real day-night stealth system that is suitable for both men and machines.



Overcoming Sensors

Any sensing system, whether it is an electric fence or a seismic device, can be overcome by creating an error of reasoning. The easiest way to approach this is to have a long piece of rope with a large metal object tied to the end. This is thrown at the electric fence or onto the area where known seismic probes are buried. The result will be an investigation by the border patrol. Some borders are monitored by camera, so make sure that you operate from a concealed position. Once the patrol has come and gone, repeat the process. If this is done during a storm, or during a period of high wind activity, the border guards will eventually turn off that sector or ignore the alarms, putting it down to faulty equipment.