

## **Definitions of Military Terms as used in the course.**

You will not be tested on these terms and definitions, but they are key to understanding the themes of this course.

### **Strategy:**

The art and science of developing and using political, economic, psychological, and military forces as necessary during peace and war, to afford the maximum support to policies, in order to increase the probabilities and favourable consequences of victory and to lessen the chances of defeat. The science or art of planning and directing large scale military operations. Strategies are developed to win campaigns, tactics to win battles.

### **Operations:**

The level of war at which campaigns and major operations are planned, conducted, and sustained to accomplish strategic objectives within theatres or areas of operations. Activities at this level link tactics and strategy by establishing operational objectives needed to accomplish the strategic objectives, sequencing events to achieve the operational objectives, initiating actions, and applying resources to bring about and sustain these events. These activities imply a broader dimension of time or space than do tactics; they ensure the logistic and administrative support of tactical forces, and provide the means by which tactical successes are exploited to achieve strategic objectives.

### **Tactics:**

The science or art of engaging enemy forces in battle with reference to short range objectives (as opposed to long range strategic objectives)

### **Battle Doctrine:**

The concept of how to fight a battle with the available equipment, tactics, and personnel

### **Infantry section:**

The smallest military unit commanded by a junior NCO, non-commissioned officer: 5-11 riflemen

### **Infantry platoon:**

unit of 40-50 men commanded by a Lieutenant

### **Infantry company:**

unit of 180-200 men made up of three or four rifle platoons commanded by a Major.

Infantry battalion:

unit of 800-900 men containing 3 rifle companies and one support company with heavier weapons, especially mortars and anti-tank guns, commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel.

Brigade:

In Canadian/British usage, a military unit composed of 3 battalions.

Division:

A military unit large and diverse enough to operate with a fair degree of self-sufficiency. Possesses its own transport, artillery, signals, engineers, etc. as well as fighting components.

Regiment:

In the German & American Armies a sub-unit of a division, composed of three battalions. Equivalent unit in British and Canadian Armies is 'Brigade'.

Regiment: (Britain and Canada)

A military organization based in a specific locality, with a distinct name, dress and 'traditions'. British regiments often created a number of battalions, i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd Green Howards, but no Canadian regiment sent more than one battalion overseas.

Armoured Troop:

Four or five tanks commanded by a junior officer or senior NCO

Armoured Squadron:

Three or four troops commanded by a captain or a major

Armoured Battalion:

(as regiment U.K./Canada) Four squadrons plus H Q squadron and ancillary troops

Armoured Fighting Vehicle - AFV:

Term used to include tanks, and armoured vehicles mounting anti-tank guns or artillery. (A tank has a turret which can rotate; other AFV's usually can only fire forward)

Blitzkrieg:

An invented word said to mean "lightning war" - probably coined by Time magazine: an example of Allied fears of German military prowess, more than a description of German tactics

Panzer Division:

Means simply armoured division.

The use of such terms as Panzer, Panzer Grenadier -- (infantry units in Panzer divisions) is part of the tradition of according particular respect to the fighting power of the German army.

A more comprehensive listing of military terminology can be found online at [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org) (Search the following terms: "List of established military terms"; "List of military tactics" as a starting point)