

## US Army Criminal Investigation Command Support on the Battlefield

**The US Army Criminal Investigation Command is the Army's sole agent responsible for investigating felony crimes on or off the battlefield. USACIDC provides investigative support to commanders at every echelon.**

USACIDC personnel investigate offenses committed—

- Against US forces.
- Against US property.
- By military personnel.
- By civilians serving with US forces.

They investigate violations of international agreements on land warfare. They provide forensic science support to other USACIDC units in the theater of operations. And, at the direction of the commanding general (CG) of USACIDC or higher authority, they conduct special investigations.

Major USACIDC operations on the AirLand battlefield are the support of logistics security (LOGSEC) operations, the management of criminal and terrorist-related intelligence, and the conduct of criminal investigations. USACIDC conducts LOGSEC operations to prevent, detect, and investigate criminal actions. These actions may be undertaken by enemy or terrorist elements, HN, allied, or even US personnel. Their aim may be to divert or destroy supplies or to substitute products. USACIDC collects, analyzes, and disseminates criminal and terrorist-related intelligence aimed at US and allied interests and activities. USACIDC also provides battlefield investigative support to each echelon of command. USA CIDC's special agents investigate serious crimes. Such crime adversely affects morale and discipline.

USACIDC operations help the commander maintain discipline and order by preventing

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or investigating crimes that reduce a unit's ability to fight. Priority is given to helping keep the command's critical supplies from being diverted, Priority is also given to restricting the introduction of drugs into US units.

USACIDC operations undertaken at a given time are determined by the echelon commander's need, the intensity of the conflict, and the availability of USACIDC resources.

- The scope of USACIDC operations varies based on the following factors:
- **The Threat.**
  - **Land mass.**
  - **Density of supplies.**
  - **Transportation volume.**
  - **Troop population.**
  - **HN law and order requirements.**
  - **Initial phases of the property disposal process.**

Investigative requirements for ports, major resupply points, and laboratory facilities routinely increase with the maturity of the battlefield. As combat operations stabilize and the theater becomes more secure, the level of sophistication employed by the criminal element may increase. When this occurs, USACIDC agents must make use of advanced investigative skills and laboratory technology.

Like other MP units, USACIDC elements are located throughout the theater of operations. They provide support to US forces operating in a given geographical area. Unlike other MP units, USACIDC elements are not assigned to echelons in the theater of operations. They are part of a centralized command that reports directly to the CG of USACIDC.

### ORGANIZATION OF USACIDC UNITS

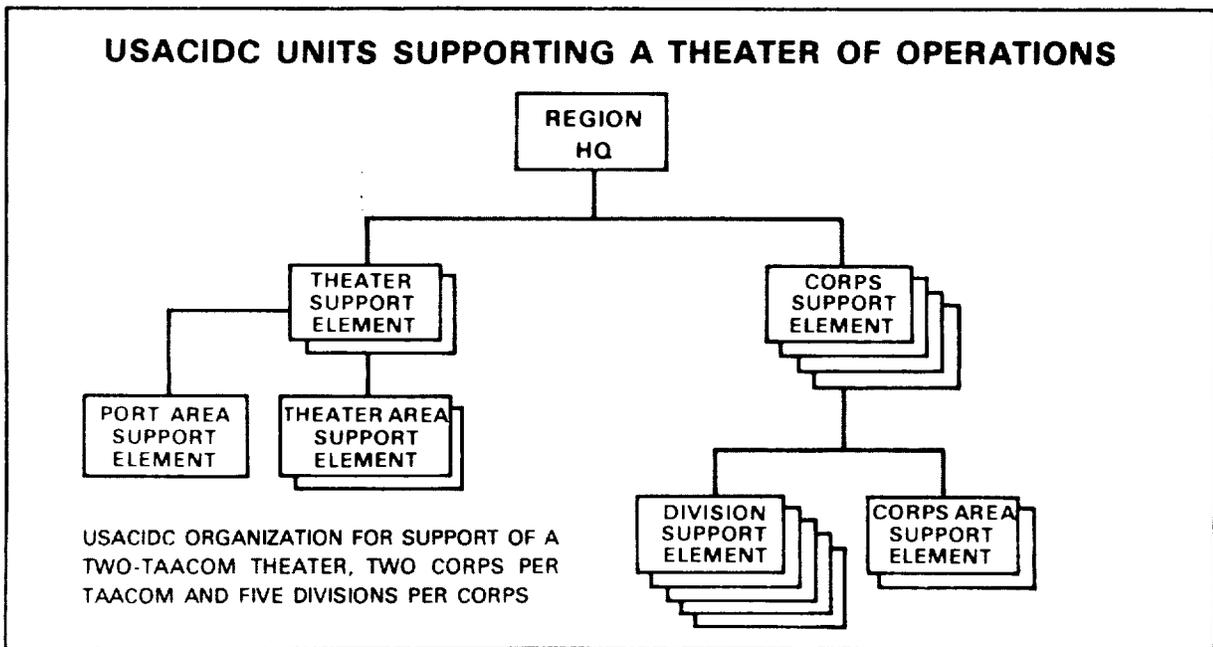
The organization of USACIDC units in a theater of operations is set by TOE. Each theater of operations is supported by a criminal investigation laboratory and a varying number of US ACIDC support elements. As the number of ASGs increases, so does the need for USACIDC elements. The major USACIDC unit in a theater of operations is USACIDC region headquarters. All USACIDC elements in a theater are assigned to this headquarters.

USACIDC support in the COMMZ is provided by theater support elements (TSEs). Their subordinate units are theater area support elements (TASEs). One TSE supports

ports each TAACOM. One TASE supports each TAACOM ASG .

Each ASG that contains port operations within its area of responsibility will, ideally, be supported by a port area support element (PASE). The PASE provides additional manpower and expertise for port security and for preventing supply diversion, The PASE reports directly to the TSE.

USACIDC support in the forward combat zone is provided by a corps support element (CSE). Its subordinate units are corps area support elements (CASEs) and division support elements (DSEs). Two (CASEs support each corps. One DSE supports each division.



For contingencies, the USACIDC region may task-organize available resources to cover prioritized operations. Reallocation of

resources by USACIDC between or within theaters is likely.

## **COMMAND AND CONTROL**

The focal point for command and control of USACIDC operations in theater is at the echelons-above-corps (EAC). The USACIDC command element is collocated with the senior Army headquarters in the theater. It exercises overall management of all USACIDC investigative elements in the theater.

Control is maintained through a vertical command structure and reporting system. USACIDC units in the combat zone are under the command and control of the CSE headquarters. In the COMMZ they are under the command and control of the TSE headquarters. These headquarters are under the command and control of USACIDC region headquarters. USACIDC region headquarters works directly for the CG of USACIDC.

But USACIDC units are small. And they are often widely dispersed across the battle-

field. If the tactical situation precludes effective centralized command and control, USACIDC units may be attached briefly to the supported command. Attachments require the concurrence of the next higher USACIDC headquarters. The commander receiving the attachment gains command authority, except for promotion, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and reassignment authority, which are retained by the CG, USACIDC. Units receiving USACIDC support, regardless of type, provide the USACIDC element with administrative and logistical support not organically available to the USACIDC element. USACIDC units are usually attached for this support to the headquarters of the MP unit with which they collocate.

## **STAFF RELATIONSHIPS**

Although there is no formal staff relationship, USACIDC commanders advise their supported commanders on criminal investigation matters. Investigative elements at all echelons interact with the echelon com-

mander and his staff. They coordinate with police, intelligence, and inspector general staffs. This enhances the quality and reliability of intelligence information without duplication of effort.

## **SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS**

Usually, USACIDC elements provide general support within their supported command's AOs. Sometimes USACIDC units provide direct support. The selection of

the most appropriate method of support is coordinated between the appropriate USACIDC headquarters and the headquarters planning the operation.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

When they can be, USACIDC units are collocated with MP units. This provides unified law enforcement support on the battlefield. In the COMMZ, the TSE collocates with MP brigade headquarters. Each TASE collocates with an MP battalion headquarters. In a corps, the CSE collocates with the MP brigade headquarters. Each CASE collocates with

an MP battalion headquarters. In a division, each USACIDC detachment collocates with a division PM cell.

USACIDC elements maintain active coordination with other elements of the supported command. USACIDC elements coordinate on a day-to-day basis with intelligence and PM activities. They coordinate

often with HN and allied law enforcement agencies, usually at the civil-military integration center.

Criminal and terrorist activities are directed primarily against the local commander's logistical capability, which is essential for maintaining momentum on the battlefield. LOGSEC maintains the integrity of the logistics flow from the manufacturer to each combat soldier. LOGSEC operations identify and assess logistical security weaknesses. Then the commander can be provided a list of actions, prioritized to reduce the vulnerability and further degradation of the logistics pipeline. When possible, actions may be recommended to recover logistical losses.

By conducting criminal and terrorist-related intelligence operations, investigators help develop appropriate countermeasures to identified threats. Criminal intelligence collection augments military intelligence with crime data. The consolidation of this criminal and military intelligence provides comprehensive intelligence data. Investigators collect and process terrorist-related and other criminal intelligence. They provide its timely dissemination to counterpart MP, MI, and AFOSI units and to supported commanders, RAOCs, and HN criminal intelligence networks. Investigators provide technical assistance in developing terrorism counteraction plans and antiterrorist programs. They also provide hostage negotiation support.

USACIDC elements stationed throughout the theater provide criminal investigative support. Investigators conduct investigations of war crimes and other serious crimes. They protect designated key personnel. They conduct operations to prevent the introduction of drugs or illegal substances to US units. And they provide investigative support to US commanders of EPW camps. USACIDC units perform other law enforcement activities as requested by the supported command or as directed by the CG, USACIDC. USACIDC elements also provide specialized technical services, such as polygraph and laboratory analysis.

The USACIDC helps identify and verify the abilities and intent of the criminal and terrorist threats. USACIDC also helps the supported command eliminate Threat activities or minimize their effects. Criminal investigative operations detect and deter criminal and Threat activities. They enhance security of the logistical system on the Air-Land battlefield. They ensure criminals are apprehended and prosecuted, even in a battlefield environment.

Felony crimes can be reported directly to local USACIDC units. However, they are usually reported to an MP unit, which then refers the case to USACIDC for investigation. Personnel in USACIDC units and MP units must maintain a close working relationship. This relationship ensures good results in investigations and the apprehension of offenders. It also helps in acquiring and transmitting criminal information and preventing criminal activity.