

Host Nation Support

In theaters in which the Army has forward-deployed forces, allied military and civil authorities are a source of considerable potential support and assistance. Allied support and HN support (HNS) are based on two different sources. Allied support is based on multinational alliance treaties like that of NATO. In general, alliances provide support for and between military units of the nations concluding a treaty. HNS is based on bilateral nation-to-nation agreements like the US-German Host Nation Support Agreement. HNS includes support from civilian resources as well as military resources. The available level of support that can be expected by US forces is established during negotiations of the treaties or the agreements.

KINDS OF HOST NATION SUPPORT

HNS from civilian resources can provide US forces with supplies and equipment that may be more readily acquired locally than through the US support system. Host nationals are familiar with local customs, facilities, equipment, and other resources. Thus, HN personnel are likely to be more able to provide some forms of support than US personnel. This support may range from agricultural and dairy products to locally crafted products and locally produced repair parts.

HNS to US forces from military resources can include the efforts of transportation units, decontamination units, casualty evacuation, and security and other units. These HN units may be organized into HNS commands to act as central coordinators for HNS requirements and assignments. In some cases, an HN may develop units specifically designed to support US forces. For example, these HN units may provide traffic control and convoy escort. Or HN guard companies may provide installation security. Truck companies may be used for cargo and troop transportation. And repair units may provide maintenance support.

CONTENTS	
	Page
KINDS OF HOST NATION SUPPORT ...	12-1
HNS FOR MP RESPONSIBILITIES	12-2
Battlefield Circulation Control.....	12-2
Area Security	12-2
EPW.....	12-3
Law and Order	12-3

The TA commander determines the functional types of support needed. And in coordination with Headquarters, DA, he determines the level of support that can be accepted without risking US unilateral capability. The scope of such support is limited only by the availability of resources and by the ability to reach an agreement concerning its use.

To be effective, HNS must be planned and coordinated well in advance. There must be firm understandings and commitments. HNS is theater- and situation-dependent.

The form and degree of support that is available depends on resources of the geographical area and/or prior agreements.

Specific peacetime planning for wartime HNS is essential. To accomplish this coordination, the TA provides liaison teams that may be collocated with HN territorial or gendarme forces or may be located at US headquarters. Liaison teams support all US forces within the boundaries of the HN

headquarters with whom they work. They coordinate all aspects of wartime HNS. This includes support from civilian resources and support from military resources. US civil affairs staff elements provide interface with civil authorities to coordinate and assist with HNS. These elements help acquire the use of HN resources like services, facilities, transportation, and labor. Coordination with HN government agencies that operate railways, highways, and waterway systems is invaluable.

HNS FOR MP RESPONSIBILITIES

In some circumstances an HN's CS operations may directly impact on the priority of MP employment. This occurs when, by agreement, an HN retains responsibility for operations that would otherwise be assumed by US Army MP. These HN operations may include aspects of BCC, area security, EPW, and law and order operations. HN personnel are familiar with terrain, transportation, and communications networks. They are well able to perform CS missions on their local terrain. HNS is welcomed wherever functional types and levels of support can be accepted without risking overall mission accomplishment.

BATTLEFIELD CIRCULATION CONTROL

HNS can expedite movement of combat resources. By agreement, HNs in some locales are responsible for highway traffic. An HN usually provides battlefield traffic control in the COMMZ. The HN ensures that MSRs are designated, open, and able to be used. US traffic management headquarters provides US requirements to the HN system and ensures coordination is complete. MP remain responsible for MSRs designated exclusively for US Army use.

When an HN has responsibility for controlling traffic in the COMMZ, the HN coordinates with the Theater Army Movement Control Agency (TAMCA). The TAMCA develops and administers transportation policy and functions under policies established by the joint transportation center.

AREA SECURITY

Where agreements exist, an HN may have primary responsibility for security in a COMMZ lying within its national boundaries. If so, the HN may be responsible for NBC defense and ADC. (ADC includes engineer support, maintenance, and explosive ordnance disposal.) It may provide communications support. And the HN may gather and provide information and intelligence.

The availability and capability of HN forces for security operations will greatly influence a theater commander's decision to assign rear area security missions to US forces. The HN may provide security to selected LOC facilities used by US forces within the COMMZ. Such facilities include terminal transfer points at railways and ports and on inland waterways and terminals and pumping stations on pipelines. But most often the use of these facilities is shared. The HN is usually responsible for operating theater ports. US port requirements are coordinated by the US military traffic management command. The operation of waterways and railways is also often the responsibility of the HN. US requirements for use of these LOCS are coordinated by the TAMCA. MP provide security for wharfs, loading areas, warehouses, and other such facilities that are used only by the US. Security of pipeline systems is coordinated by the joint petroleum office. *See Chapter 9.*

If an HN is responsible for rear area security, an agreement may require the HN

to furnish TCFs. If so, MP operating in the AO of the HN TCF could be placed under the OPCON of the TCF during Level III attacks. When HN and allied forces provide rear area security or provide support to tactical forces, liaison must be provided. MP maybe a part of the TA liaison to contribute to allied requirements and priorities. They exchange information and intelligence on current and projected capabilities. They help coordinate allied and HN activities.

EPW

The US retains responsibility for the processing and retention of all US-captured

EPWs. Thus use of HN support for EPW operations is limited. However, in some cases, HNs do provide limited support to help guard EPWs.

LAW AND ORDER

The HN continues its police services to its civilian communities. In wartime the HN expands these services to include control of refugees and regulation of civilian transportation. Whenever possible, MP provide liaison to allied and HN police as well as to other HN government and US military units. But only the US MP provide law enforcement support for US forces.