

CHAPTER 1

The Challenge to Military Police on the Battlefield

Military police on the battlefield support the combat commander's mission to win the battle. They help the commander achieve his objective of destroying enemy forces, large or small, wherever and whenever the Army is sent to war.

MP provide a wide range of support to contribute to the Army's battlefield success. They combat enemy forces in the rear areas, They expedite the movement of critical combat resources. They evacuate enemy prisoners of war (EPWs). They provide security to critical Army facilities and resources. And they provide commanders and soldiers with police services, as needed.

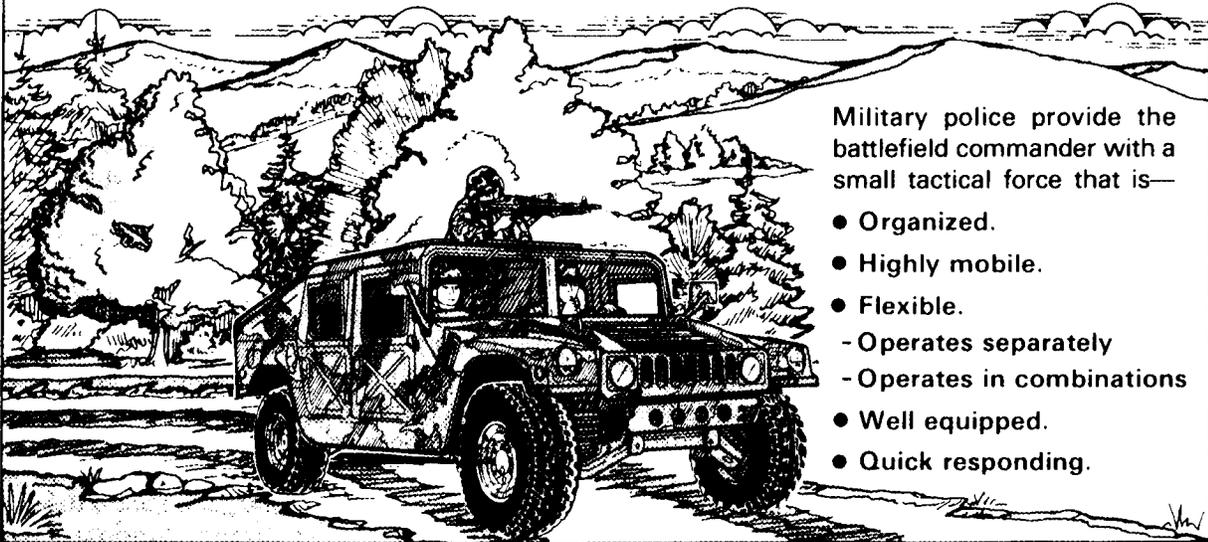
MP on the battlefield operate as a flexible, economy-of-force organization. Organized in small tactical elements, they perform a wide range of support—keyed to the echelon commander's priorities. MP three-man teams are versatile. Their experienced use of

CONTENTS

	Page
CHANGES AND CHALLENGES ON THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD	1-2
THE MP ROLE IN COMBAT SUCCESS	1-3

initiative, their mobility and firepower, and their communications ability enable them to operate separately as well as in combination. The team is the building block of MP units. Reconnoitering their area of operations (AO) in teams, they operate with economy of force. As squads or platoons defending a base they can generate substantial short-term combat power for the tactical commander.

MILITARY POLICE THREE-MAN TEAM



Military police provide the battlefield commander with a small tactical force that is—

- Organized.
- Highly mobile.
- Flexible.
 - Operates separately
 - Operates in combinations
- Well equipped.
- Quick responding.

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES ON THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD

On the modern battlefield the US Army may face heavy forces in large-scale battles in fully developed areas of the world. Or it may face light forces in small, limited battles in undeveloped and developing areas. In either place the Army must be ready to fight enemy forces ranging from light, well-equipped, Soviet-supported insurgents to highly mechanized forces typical of Warsaw Pact nations. Wherever the Army is committed to war, it must be able to meet a conflict greater in scope and in intensity than ever before. *Its battles may well be more deadly than those fought on any battlefield in history.*

Previous wars have provided us little experience in fighting in an environment made chaotic by both nuclear and chemical weapons. Today, the number of nations that can employ these weapons is growing. The Army must be able to fight where nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons, as well as directed energy weapons and enhanced conventional weapons, have been employed.

In prior wars, the area of actual combat was usually shallow and linear. The modern battlefield will extend in all directions. AirLand Battle doctrine recognizes that there will be three operations: deep operations, close operations, and rear operations. Forces will rarely fight along orderly, distinct lines.

Today, increased air mobility and weapons with longer ranges are coupled with a tactical emphasis on striking deep into an enemy's territory. In an AirLand Battle this will pose an unprecedented likelihood of extensive combat action in what were previously "safe" rear areas. Sophisticated and highly accurate weapons systems can inflict heavy damage on both sides. Forces will direct active reconnaissance and surveillance against both forward and rear areas. Target-acquisition efforts and electronic warfare will be directed against forward and rear areas on both sides.

Massive troop concentrations and/or immensely destructive firepower will make some penetration by both sides nearly inevitable.

The Army also must be prepared to face a numerically superior force. The need for rapid and constant maneuver, relocation, and logistical support will place great demands on MP to ensure that resupply facilities remain secure and operational. Joint operations will be a certainty, and combined operations will be quite likely. Interoperability of equipment and doctrine will play an increasing role in the combat effectiveness of the MP.

In previous wars, military operations were often followed by lulls. During this time both sides could rearm and reconstitute their forces. The next war is likely to be a continuous operation. There may not be hesitations in battle during which forces can be reconstituted and resupplied. Yet doing so will be imperative. Rapid movement and replacement of troops, ammunition, and materiel will be critical to combat success.

Historically, our military has had the luxury of time in which to mobilize manpower. It has had time in which to achieve air and ground superiority. In other wars, between the outbreak of hostilities and the onset of decisive battles, the enemy could be delayed to gain time. That much-needed time was used to move equipment and supplies. It was used to develop industrial support. It was used to acquire and train troops. And it was used to prepare for decisive battles.

But on a modern AirLand battlefield, the Army will face large, heavily mechanized forces intent on quick victory through sustained, unrelenting battle. It will face forces like those of the Warsaw Pact whose doctrine of mass, momentum, and continuous combat intends the first battle to be potentially overwhelming. Against such

forces the Army cannot afford prolonged mobilization.

To survive such an opening onslaught, the Army must fight, outnumbered, with everything it has—and win. The furious battle will be fought by forward deployed

forces and their immediate reinforcements. Every major combat unit will be needed to fight the battle against a numerically superior threat. The Army will have few tactical or operational level reserves—particularly at corps or higher echelons—to hold back from the battle.

THE MP ROLE IN COMBAT SUCCESS

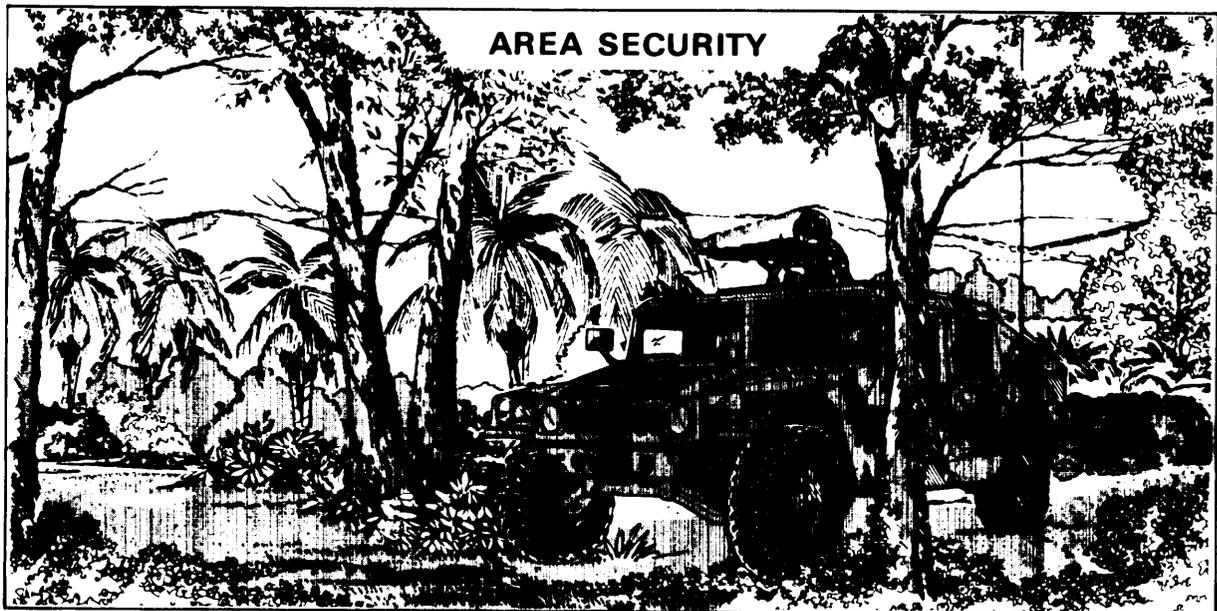
MP will help tactical commanders meet the challenges of AirLand Battle. MP have always provided the Army a wide range of diverse support. MP are ready to perform this wide range of support with a limited but flexible force. Each MP team is ready to conduct—

- Ž **Combat** operations against the rear area threat.
- Ž **Combat support (CS)** operations expediting the movement of combat resources and evacuating EPWs from the battle area.
- Ž **Combat service support (CSS)** operations providing commanders and soldiers with law and order services.

In previous wars MP have often performed a rear security role. *On the modern*

battlefield the need for protection against a rear area threat will be vastly increased. The MP role in the rear may, for short periods of time, become a direct combat role. The MP, based on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T) and the commander's priorities, have the responsibility to seek out, close with, and, when they can, destroy enemy forces in the rear area.

When MP fight as a combat force they will help keep the enemy from delaying the commander's reinforcing units and disrupting his command and control. They will defeat as much of the rear area threat as possible. Enemy forces too large to be defeated by MP will be quickly identified, reported, and, if possible, delayed and disrupted until the commander can deploy a tactical combat force (TCF) to defeat them.



MP will reconnoiter routes to and within the battle area. They will find alternate road networks to ensure a way is open to move reinforcing troops, fuel, food, and ammunition across the battlefield. MP will expedite the rapid movement of units and essential supplies. They will spot and block off contaminated or damaged areas. They will identify bypasses to restore the commander's tactical mobility. And MP will support major operations like river crossings and passages of lines.

MP will ensure tactical commanders are not impeded by the burden of guarding and caring for enemy prisoners. MP will quickly take EPWs from combat units. They will rapidly remove them from the battle area to meet the obligations of international law.

When needed, MP may be called on to assist commanders and fellow soldiers by providing a variety of police services. They may be tasked to prevent diversion of military resources. They may be tasked to investigate criminal activity. And they may be tasked to deal with military offenders.

MP on the battlefield, with their ability to move, shoot, and communicate, can significantly multiply a commander's combat power. *See Appendix A for information on personnel and equipment.* They can do this without increasing the commander's total force or diverting resources from more critical operations. MP therefore play an important role in meeting the challenges of the AirLand Battle.