

Military Police Battlefield Missions

The military police have four battlefield missions. They ensure battlefield circulation control (BCC). They provide area security. They take charge of EPWs. And they help provide law and order. These missions are composed of a number of combat, CS, or CSS operations. The operations are done independently or in any combination needed to accomplish the missions. The MP, in performing these operations, provide a full range of battlefield support.

Because MP assets are limited, all assets are committed at all times. The specific operations MP units perform at a given time are determined by the echelon commander's need, the intensity of the conflict, and the availability of MP resources. The echelon commander, through the command's provost marshal (PM), sets the priorities of need for MP operations

The PM, aware that not all MP missions can be accomplished all of the time, continuously effects a trade-off between the number and kind of MP operations that the commander requires and the number and kind of MP operations that can be resourced. To inert the priorities set by the commander's tactical plan, the PM recommends allocations of MP assets for MP combat, (CS, and CSS operations

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THE MP BATTLEFIELD CIRCULATION CONTROL MISSION

BCC is a major MP battlefield mission. It expedites the forward and lateral movement of combat resources. In an AirLand Battle this mission assumes more importance than ever before. Travel on main supply routes (MSRs) will be dangerous and extremely difficult. Traffic will be heavy. To reduce the effects of an active NBC environment on convoy operations, military vehicles will be more widely dispersed than on conventional battlefields of the past. Rather than traveling in long convoys, vehicles will move in many small formations. Access to alternate MSRs will be needed almost constantly as sections of MSRs become contaminated or blocked by road obstructions. There will be many stragglers as friendly forces become separated and disorganized by shock effects of nuclear and chemical warfare. Refugees, fleeing in panic in the face of such destruction, will be unlikely to follow the road directions of either civilian or military authorities. Routes set aside for military use can be expected to become clogged with refugees on foot and in privately owned vehicles. As the privately owned vehicles run out of gas, they will be abandoned all along the MSRs, creating further obstructions.

It is through this chaos that commanders must be able to shift elements of their combat forces quickly about the battlefield. Commanders must move widely dispersed tactical units to concentrate them when and where the units are needed. They must receive supplies, replacement personnel, and reinforcing units quickly. They must not have their support blocked by battlefield clutter or their combat operations hindered by refugees flooding MSRs.

MP, operating static posts, performing mobile patrols, and erecting temporary signs on MSRs, expedite military traffic. They move all units quickly and smoothly with the least amount of interference possible. MP in mobile patrols report on the status of key terrain influencing the military road

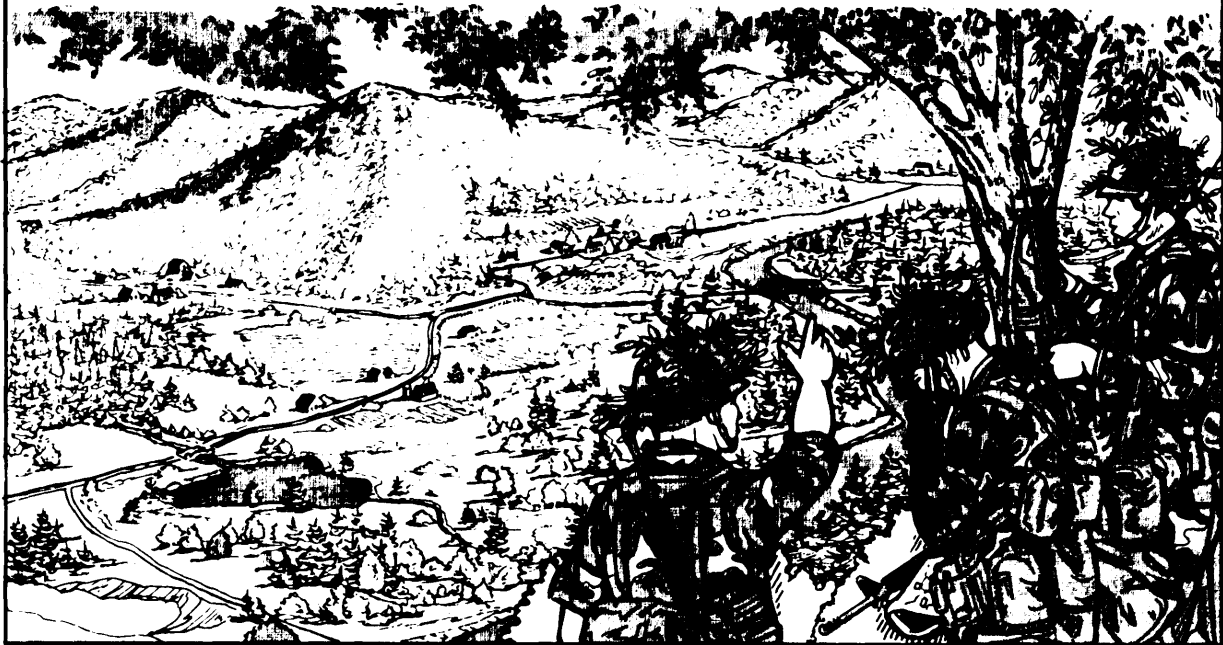
network. They monitor road and traffic conditions and the presence of NBC contamination in their AOs. Locating alternate supply routes, they reroute traffic to meet changes in tactical situations and route conditions. They rapidly disseminate the information friendly forces need on an ever-changing AirLand battlefield. *MP BCC operations help the commander get his people, supplies, and equipment where he needs them, when he needs them.*

ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE

As part of their BCC mission, MP conduct route reconnaissance operations to obtain detailed information on routes and on the nearby terrain from which the enemy can influence movement on those routes. MP continually monitor the condition of MSRs. They seek and report on routes that may be used as alternates. MP patrols look for restricting terrain, effects of weather on the route, damage to the route, NBC contamination, and the presence or absence of the enemy. When enemy activity is spotted, MP report it, maintain surveillance, and develop the situation. Seeking information for proposed traffic plans, they look at the type and number of routes that are available. They check load classifications, route widths, obstructions, and restrictions.

MP patrols report their observations of conditions on MSRs, including any priority intelligence requirements. The information gathered by the patrols serves as a resource for the combat commander for making operational decisions. It is quickly forwarded through the MP operational headquarters to the rear command post (CP)/rear area operations center (RAOC). It is also forwarded to engineer units to provide engineer commanders with a continuing source of information about route conditions. This information also goes to the echelon traffic controller at division, corps support command (COSCOM), and higher headquarters.

ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE



MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE REGULATION ENFORCEMENT

MP undertake MSR regulation enforcement to keep MSRs free for resupply operations. In this way MP units support the command's highway regulation measures. The measures, directed by whichever agency has jurisdiction over the road network in that AO, expedite movement on the MSRs. The measures are stated in the command's highway regulation plan. They also appear in the traffic circulation plan; the engineer route, bridge, and tunnel reconnaissance reports; unit standing operating procedures; and other command directives.

The traffic circulation plan contains the specific measures needed to ensure smooth and efficient use of the road network. It assigns military route numbers and directions of travel. It locates light lines and blackout signs, highway regulation points, and MP traffic control posts (TCPs). Most important to MP, it gives the control classification of routes.

MP ensure classified routes are used only by authorized traffic. Vehicles trying to

travel on roads too narrow for their passage or on roads unable to support their weight can obstruct the route. To expedite traffic on MSRs, MP operate static posts, such as TCPs, roadblocks, checkpoints, holding areas, and defiles at critical points. Mobile teams, patrolling between static posts, monitor traffic and road conditions. They gather information on friendly and enemy activity and help stranded vehicles and crews. They also place temporary route signs along MSRs. The signs warn of hazards and act as guides for drivers unfamiliar with a route.

STRAGGLER CONTROL

MP performing their BCC mission return stragglers to military control. Mobile patrol, TCP, and checkpoint teams do this as part of their day-to-day operation.

Most stragglers are simply persons who have become separated from their command by events on the battlefield. MP direct these uninjured stragglers either to their parent unit or to a replacement unit as command policies dictate. If stragglers are ill, wounded, or in shock, MP give them first aid.

Then they have them moved to the nearest medical facility. MP ensure stragglers attempting to avoid return to their units are escorted to their command.

Following NBC attacks or major enemy breakthroughs resulting in large numbers of lost, dazed, and demoralized military personnel, MP set up special posts for straggler control. Mobile patrols operate between posts and also direct or collect stragglers. When many stragglers are present in a combat theater, straggler collecting points are also needed. If allied forces are present in the theater, each nation establishes a straggler collecting point for its own personnel. MP teams are aware of each location. Using whatever transport is available, MP transfer stragglers from TCPs and checkpoints to a straggler collecting point. There they are screened and sorted for removal to a medical facility or returned to their units to reconstitute the tactical commander's combat force.

MP report information about stragglers with whom they come in contact. This information, compiled by the PM section, is then forwarded to the assistant chief of staff, G1. Information given by stragglers that is of immediate tactical value is reported

through the PM to intelligence and tactical operations centers as soon as possible.

REFUGEE CONTROL

Refugee control operations are the responsibility of G5/S5 and/or host nation (HN) authorities. MP expediting traffic on MSRs may encounter refugee movements, which could hinder military traffic. MP assist, direct, or deny the movement of civilians whose location, direction of movement, or actions may hinder operations. The HN government is responsible for identifying routes for the safe movement of refugees out of an AO. When US commanders receive HN authorization for population movement control, MP redirect refugees to alternate routes established by the HN government.

US military forces do not assume control of refugee movement unless requested to do so by the HN or unless operating in an environment with a hostile government. When the senior commander assumes this responsibility, MP set up TCPs at critical points on the route to direct refugees to secondary roadways and areas not used by military forces.



INTELLIGENCE COLLECTING AND REPORTING

Timely and accurate intelligence can help defeat the enemy threat. Intelligence collecting and reporting play a vital role in supporting commanders on the battlefield. MP collect and report information and intelligence during the normal course of all MP missions. MP efforts support the echelon commander's overall intelligence collection plan. And MP are often specifically tasked to collect information.

In carrying out their BCC mission MP collect intelligence on an almost continuous basis. As MP aggressively patrol, they are able to gather information about the terrain, weather, and activities in their AO. As part of their BCC efforts, they routinely talk to soldiers, local police, and the populace, gathering "human intelligence." They question the local populace about suspicious activity. They also develop contacts with local authorities.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

On the AirLand battlefield, swiftly changing combat situations make timely and accurate information about the location of units imperative. MP provide information to soldiers, units, and other road users in the course of all MP missions. In carrying out their BCC mission MP do this on an almost continuous basis. Dispersed throughout broad AOs, MP acquire information from units and persons they encounter. They furnish this information to other MP units in the area, as well as forward it through their operational chain of command. In an AirLand Battle, MP also furnish information about their AO to others who find themselves in areas they do not know. MP inform personnel moving through their AO of recent enemy activity there. They provide directions. They also give locations of supply points and medical facilities. MP provide information about MSRs, critical points, contaminated areas, and holding areas, as well as the general location of major units.

THE MP AREA SECURITY MISSION

Area security is a major MP battlefield mission. MP perform their area security mission to help the tactical commander provide security and protection in the rear areas. MP employment for area security may become, at times, of greater importance to the echelon commander than MP employment for BCC. MP provide combat power for rear operations. The intent of the enemy in our rear may be to divert our combat forces from the MBA to the rear area. Commanders planning battles consider the need for forces supporting deep, close, and rear operations. MP employment in the rear area provides commanders with an available light, mobile force that can move, shoot, and communicate.

The AirLand Battle poses unique challenges to a commander's ability to safeguard operations in the rear areas. Against an enemy intent on disrupting its

adversary's rear area operations, a tactical commander's need for rear area security is critical. Command and control headquarters and communications networks must not be disabled. CS and CSS operations must not be disrupted. Protected equipment and commodities are essential for mission success. And special ammunition must have dedicated security. MP also provide security to designated critical assets.

The MP providing area security play a key role in the battle to protect the rear area. They are a response force to enemy attempts to disrupt or demoralize military operations in the rear area. Their mobility makes it possible for them to detect the threat as they aggressively patrol road networks and key terrain features throughout the rear area. Their organic communications enables them to advise the rear CP/RAOC, bases, base clusters, and moving units of impending enemy activity. MP providing area security

in rear operations help to retain overall freedom of action for units fighting the close and deep operations.

AREA RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE

As a part of their area security mission, MP serve as the eyes and ears of the commander in the rear area by seeking and reporting information obtained by recon patrols. MP units conduct area reconnaissance to gain information to help guard against unexpected enemy attack in the rear area. They gain information about area activity on a planned basis to keep up with

changes in the battlefield environment. Based on the intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB) process, they monitor likely avenues of approach and LZs or DZs to give early warning of rear area enemy activity. MP seek specific information about towns, ridgelines, woods, and other terrain features from which the enemy can influence movements along road networks. They pay close attention to areas near facilities designated critical by the commander, such as key bridges, depots, terminals, logistic support clusters, nuclear ammunition supply points (NASPs), communications centers, and command and control headquarters.



SECURITY OF DESIGNATED CRITICAL ASSETS

MP usually perform their area security mission across their entire AO. But they may be tasked at times to provide security to key personnel and facilities.

MP provide security around critical facilities by operating a mobile security screen. This standoff protection detects and defends against the Threat before it can move within direct fire range of the facilities. MP provide security to critical cells within the corps and TAACOM main CPs.

When MP provide security for the division main CP, they secure the all source production section (ASPS). MP may also provide access-control posts and act as a response force. When the CP relocates, MP provide in-transit security.

MP may provide protective services to key personnel. They may do this by providing access control of restricted areas within CPs. They also may do this by providing close-in personal security. Or they may use in-transit and static security measures around the clock.

MP may provide convoy security for top-priority units transporting especially critical supplies to tactical forces. MP may help secure critical facilities like conventional ammunition supply points (ASPS), pipelines, railways, and deep water ports. Even critical structures, such as dams, bridges, and tunnels, may be secured. But MP are not resourced for this mission, and a trade-off in other MP mission areas will occur.

SECURITY OF SPECIAL AMMUNITION

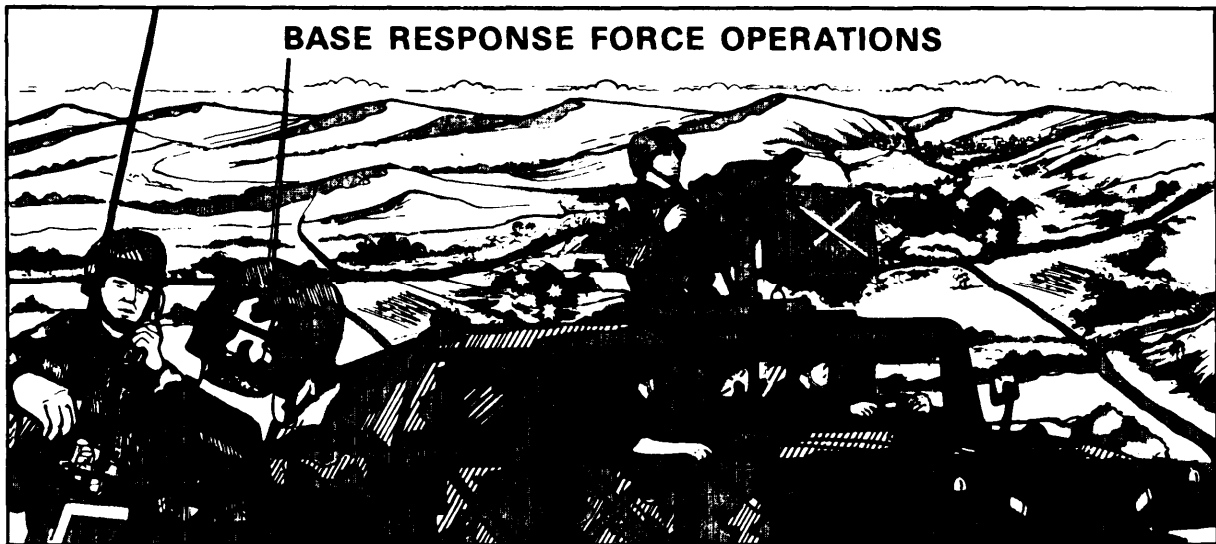
The security of special ammunition is vital because of the high expectancy of intensive combat operations in the rear and the high priority accorded the ammunition as a Threat target. MP defend this high priority Threat target by using proactive and tactical measures to counter the threat. MP provide security in depth using an all-around perimeter defense. This may be enhanced by military working dogs (MWDs), electronic sensors, and mounted and dismounted

security patrols. MP provide security and route recon for in-transit special ammunition convoys.

BASE RESPONSE FORCE OPERATIONS

The MP are the base and base cluster commanders' link for detection, early warning, and deployment against enemy attacks in the rear. Information gathered by MP units dispersed throughout the rear area helps apprise commanders of enemy activity near bases. And when the rear CP/RAOC determines the need, MP respond to bases under attack.

A base commander's defense of a base is the cornerstone of the rear operations missions. *The base commander is responsible for the defeat of all Level I threats.* When this threat exceeds his capabilities, he may request MP support. MP near bases and base clusters respond quickly. They consolidate into squads or platoons and arrive to help defend against the threat.



COUNTERINCURSION OPERATIONS

MP conduct counterincursion operations to discover the enemy. Their intent is to keep the enemy from dictating the time and place of an encounter. Threat doctrine sets high

priority on capturing or incapacitating special weapons ammunition storage and delivery means. Equally important objectives are communications nodes and centers and air bases. General-purpose MP units providing area security operate near many

of these objectives. Organic special-purpose MP security companies are often part of the main defense element for these bases. Thus it is likely that MP will come in contact with incursions of enemy tactical units with great frequency.

The MP are *the response force for Level II threats in the rear area*. MP act to small enemy incursions attempting to gain access to LZs, DZs, and avenues of approach to critical assets. MP also react to airborne, airmobile, or ground incursions in the rear area.

For *Level III incursions*, MP respond to learn the size and apparent intent of the Threat. They stay to monitor Threat activity and to delay or disrupt its progress. If the MP are tasked by the G3 to delay a Level III threat, the MP commander (PM/MP brigade commander) will consolidate MP assets, take OPCON of other forces specified to support, and execute a delay until the TCF arrives. The MP assist in moving the TCF into position, brief the TCF commander on the tactical situation, and, if tasked to do so, stay to help defeat the Threat.

AIR BASE GROUND DEFENSE OPERATIONS

On the AirLand battlefield, air support of ground operations is imperative. The US Army has assumed the mission of providing exterior defense against ground attack of US Air Force bases. If MP are tasked to defend air bases, they will defend with aggressive defense tactics. MP employ screening measures, mounted and dismounted patrols, and the use of listening posts (LPs), observation posts (OPs), and defensive positions located on key terrain. Where agreements so specify, the HN will assume the external air base ground defense (ABGD) mission.

TERRORISM COUNTERACTION

In a theater of operations, MP conduct terrorism counteraction to maintain or restore control in areas vulnerable to

terrorist actions. MP use both reactive and offensive actions to attempt to destroy terrorist operations in the rear area. MP counteractions include raids and rescues as well as shows of force and intelligence gathering. MP coordinate terrorism counteraction with HN officials. This coordination ensures MP action accords with the HN internal defense policy.

AREA DAMAGE CONTROL OPERATIONS

MP units take measures to support ADC before, during, and after hostile actions or natural and man-made disasters. In the AirLand Battle, ADC takes on added significance. MSRs damaged by enemy NBC action can become contaminated or unusable from battlefield clutter. ADC operations help reduce the level of damage or lessen its effect. This helps restore combat operations and support. Maximum use should be made of any HN capabilities. MP provide support that includes but is not limited to BCC, refugee control, straggler control, NBC detecting and reporting, and some local physical security when required.

MP will report and block off affected areas. They also secure critical activities and reroute battlefield movement to alternate road net works.

NBC DETECTING AND REPORTING

On the AirLand battlefield the need to detect, report, and mark NBC hazards is significant. MP play a vital role in NBC operations by detecting, monitoring, and reporting the presence of NBC hazards. They do this in the course of performing any of their MP missions. As part of their area security mission, MP moving off-road for area reconnaissance and other area security operations are especially well suited to detect NBC hazards. Each MP team has equipment to do so. And because MP are mobile and have communication assets, they can detect and monitor large areas. Once an NBC hazard has been detected MP monitor the

hazard, mark the area, and report its status through their operational channels. MP can direct units to bypass contaminated road

networks or areas. MP performance of this operation is essential to the early detection of NBC hazards in the rear area.

THE MP ENEMY PRISONER OF WAR MISSION

The MP EPW mission is of humane as well as tactical importance. In any conflict involving US forces, safe and humane treatment of EPWs is essential. MP ensure this is accomplished. MP perform their EPW operations to collect and evacuate EPWs throughout the theater. In an AirLand Battle, many EPWs can be expected to be captured. Entire units of enemy forces, separated and disorganized by the shock of intensive combat, may be captured. This will place a tremendous challenge on tactical forces and their commanders. Tactical commanders must have their forces available for combat. But at the same time they must resolve the problem of removing EPWs from an MBA. *MP support tactical commanders by undertaking EPW operations. They relieve the tactical commander of the need to use his combat forces to do this.*

EPW COLLECTION OPERATIONS

MP tasked with EPW operations collect EPWs and civilian internees (CIs) from combat units and from other MP units in the area. MP make these collections as far

forward as possible. MP operate collecting points and holding areas to briefly retain EPWs and CIs until they can be evacuated to the rear. They safeguard and maintain accountability of EPWs and CIs at all times. They protect them and provide humane treatment for them.

EPW EVACUATION OPERATIONS

MP ensure that EPWs and CIs are evacuated from collecting points and holding areas as soon as possible. They accept accountability for EPWs and CIs. And they safeguard them while evacuating them promptly to the rear.

EPW INTERNMENT OPERATIONS

In a mature theater of operations, MP escort guard companies, guard companies, and prisoner of war processing companies guard and process EPWs and CIs collected by MP teams in the combat zone. MP units also guard EPWs and CIs at camps in the COMMZ, in allied countries, or in the continental US (CONUS). *EPW internment operations are discussed in detail in FM 19-40.*



THE MP LAW AND ORDER MISSION

The MP law and order mission extends the combat commander's command and control. MP perform their law and order operations to suppress the chance for criminal behavior and to confine US prisoners. They conduct law and order operations only when the combat commander requires it and when battle intensity permits. The commander's need for these operations depends on the tactical situation.

During intense and continuous combat like that expected in a developing theater of operations, MP are needed to expedite and conserve vital resources for combat forces. The need for MP to perform law and order operations increases during lulls in battle or in areas not actively involved in combat operations. Law and order operations are more likely to be performed in a mature theater of operations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

MP law enforcement operations help the commander keep his command combat efficient. MP maintain liaison activities with other Department of Defense police organizations and with HN authorities and allied police agencies. MP at all levels coordinate actions to remove conditions promoting crime and to reduce opportunities allowing crime.

Law enforcement operations on the battlefield are most often done as a part of other MP operations. MP perform physical security measures as part of their area security operations for designated critical assets and for special ammunition. They regulate traffic and investigate accidents as a part of their BCC mission. They investigate deaths or special accidents only when the commander directs them to do so and in the absence of HN agreements. Investigations will often be conducted by HN authorities. Crime prevention measures and selective enforcement measures are also performed as part of other missions.

During stand-down periods, courtesy patrols may be performed by non-MP if the commander so directs. *Law enforcement considerations are discussed in detail in FM 19-10.*

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

MP investigate offenses against US forces or property committed by persons subject to military law. There are two types of criminal investigations on the battlefield. Minor crimes usually are investigated by MP investigators. During periods of combat, few MP investigations of minor incidents will be required. Major incidents involving death, serious bodily injury, and war crimes are referred to investigators of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC). They provide criminal investigation support to all US Army elements. *A more complete discussion of USACIDC support to the battlefield is in Chapter 11.*

US MILITARY PRISONER CONFINEMENT

MP detain, sustain, protect, and evacuate US military prisoners. Whenever possible, soldiers awaiting trial remain in their units. Only when they present a hazard to the mission, themselves, or others are they placed in pretrial confinement under the control of MP. Convicted military prisoners are moved as soon as possible to confinement facilities outside the AO.

MP confinement operations parallel, but are separate from, the MP EPW evacuation system. A confinement facility is maintained within the theater of operations only if distance or lack of transportation for prisoners demands it. When military prisoners are retained in-theater, temporary detention facilities may be established in the combat zone and in the COMMZ.

TERRORISM COUNTERACTION

As part of their law and order mission, MP effect terrorism counteraction to prevent or

defeat terrorists operating within MP jurisdiction. MP antiterrorist and counterterrorist measures include implementing installation vulnerability assessments, developing procedures to detect terrorist actions before they occur, hardening likely targets, and offensive action to attempt to

destroy terrorist elements when necessary. Specially trained MP provide protective services to protect key personnel against terrorist actions and conduct hostage negotiations to obtain the safe release of captives. *For a detailed discussion, see FM 100-37.*
