

Military Police Support to Divisions and Separate Brigades

Military police units in divisions and separate brigades provide essential support to forward tactical commanders. Support is concentrated on MP combat operations and combat support operations. MP expedite the forward and lateral movement of combat resources. They evacuate EPWs from forward areas. They provide security for the main CP, and they operate EPW collecting points. They provide combat power; they are often an initial response force against the Threat in a command's rear area.

MP units are not resourced to perform all four MP missions at the same time. Because the need for MP support exceeds MP assets, careful planning of MP employment is essential. For MP units supporting divisions and separate brigades the need for flexible employment is critical. Flexible employment enables MP units to respond to the constantly changing tactical situation,

The PM plans the use of all MP assets supporting a division or a separate brigade. Anticipating the support needs of the combat commander, the PM plans MP employment to meet the commander's needs. The PM bases his plan on the tactical commander's concept of operation and intent. After learning the commander's concept of operation and estimating the situation, the PM decides which MP missions are critical to accomplish the commander's mission. He then recommends allocation of resources. And he tasks his assets to undertake the missions in the order of priority that supports the combat commander's tactical plan.

CONTENTS	
	Page
MP SUPPORT TO DIVISIONS	5-1
Organization of Division MP Units	5-2
Command and Control	5-3
Staff Relationships	5-3
Support Relationships	5-3
Employment	5-3
MP Supporting Heavy Divisions	5-4
MP Supporting Light Divisions	5-6
Airborne Division and Air Asssault Division MP	5-8
Light Infantry Division	5-8
Motorized Division MP	5-10
MP SUPPORT TO SEPARATE BRIGADES	5-10
Command and Control	5-10
Staff Relationship	5-10
Support Relationship	5-10
Employment	5-11

MP SUPPORT TO DIVISIONS

A division is the basic unit of combined arms services of the Army. It is the smallest unit in the Army in which all the arms and services are represented in enough strength to permit large-scale operations. MP support to a division is provided by an MP company

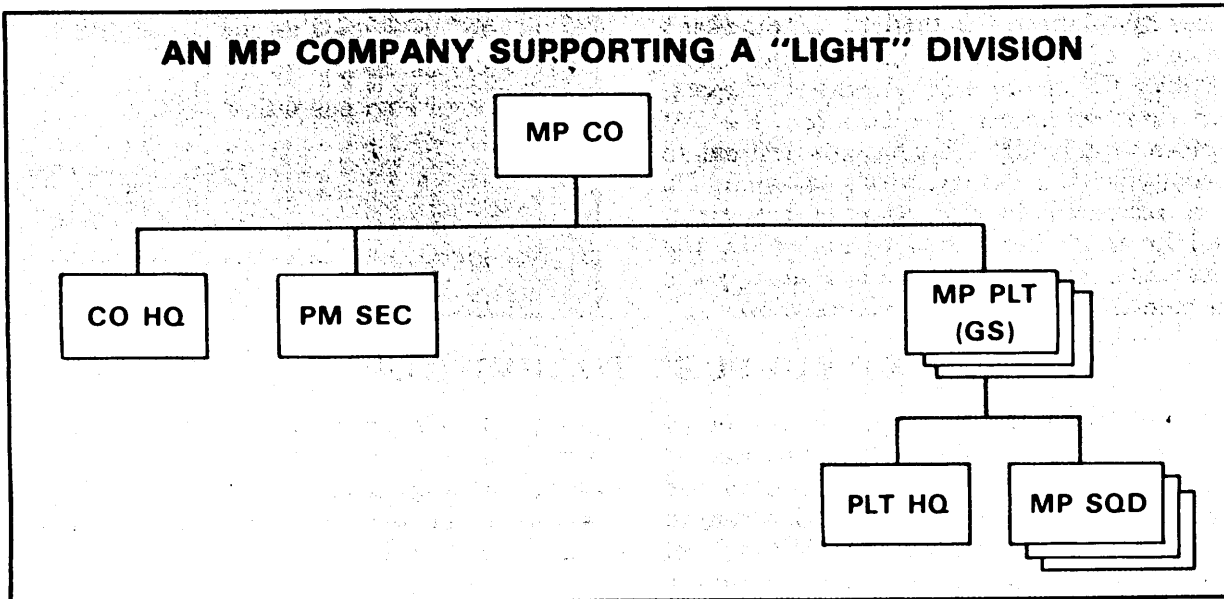
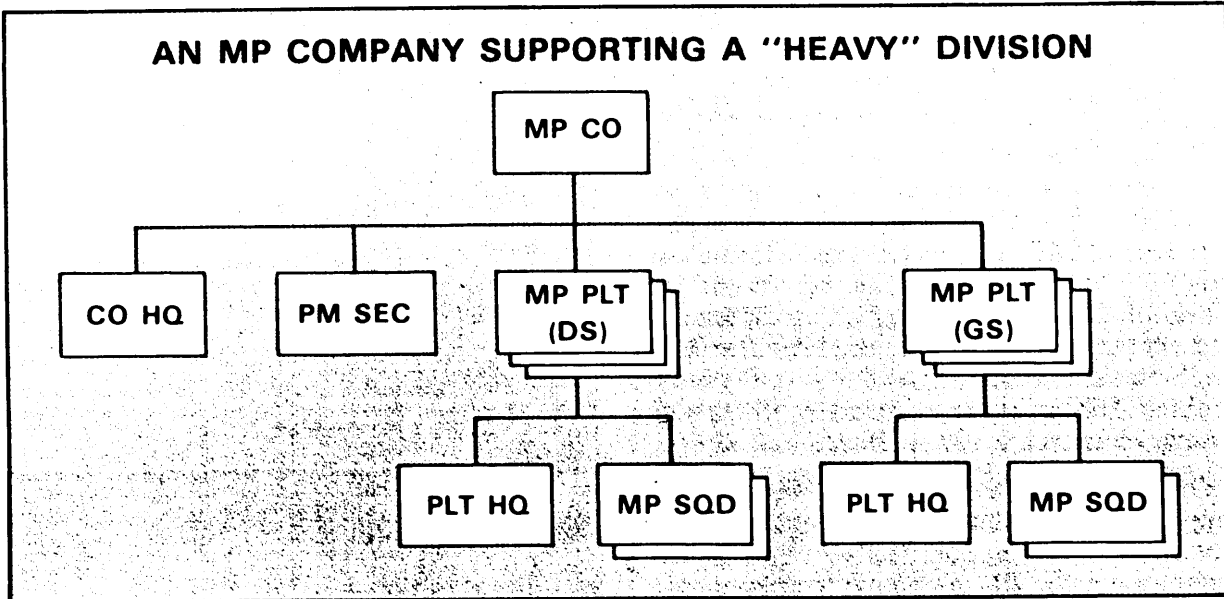
assigned to each division. The company provides support in the division and maneuver brigade rear areas. The company is fully mobile in order to frequently relocate under short notice.

ORGANIZATION OF DIVISION MP UNITS

The organization of MP units supporting divisions is set by tables of organization and equipment (TOE). Division MP companies fall mainly into two categories. They support "heavy" divisions. Or they support "light" divisions. The first category of divisions includes the heavy division and its variant,

the armored-infantry -mechanized (AIM) division. The second category includes the light infantry division and the airborne, the air assault, and the motorized divisions.

Regardless of the category, the assets in a division MP company provide a PM and his supporting staff and the company itself to perform MP missions. The PM controls employment of MP assets in the division AO through his PM section.



The MP company commander directs the employment of company assets. Through his company headquarters he provides administrative, maintenance and logistical support to the PM section and the company's platoons dispersed throughout the division area. The company headquarters contains headquarters, maintenance, supply, and communications sections. These sections are mobile to support the platoons without delay despite the extended distances separating the platoons. (The company commander is also mobile. He, too, travels extended distances from one platoon area to another when checking on the status of his soldiers and resolving the problems affecting mission accomplishment.) Mess support is provided by various division assets because of the company's dispersal throughout the division AO. Personnel administration is provided by the division's support command.

The number and kind of assets in a division MP company and the configuration of its platoons and squads are determined by the type of division to which the company is assigned. *See Appendix A.*

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The command and control of MP units supporting divisions extends downward from the tactical commander. The division PM has OPCON of the division MP company and any MP assets that have been provided from corps.

The MP company commander has day-to-day control of the unit. He commands the company and any platoons attached or OPCON from other commands. Each platoon leader directs and supervises his platoon and the execution of its missions.

STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

The PM advises the division commander on matters pertaining to MP operations. He is the MP special staff officer on the tactical commander's special staff. As such, he works for the chief of staff.

SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

The support relationships of MP units supporting divisions differ with the type of division to which the companies are assigned. In the light divisions MP companies are not resourced to provide direct support to maneuver brigades. These MP units provide only general support to their commands.

In the heavy divisions the MP companies provide general support to the divisions' rear areas and direct support to the divisions' maneuver brigades. (When a maneuver brigade receives an MP platoon for direct support, usually, because of distance, logistics, or missions, it is advantageous for the MP platoon to coordinate logistical support with that brigade's commander. For example, instead of performing maintenance at the MP company located in the division rear, the company commander may elect to provide the platoon with a mechanic who operates with a maintenance section in the brigade support area [BSA] to support the platoon's vehicles.) A platoon's DS relationship is seldom interrupted. But sometimes (as in a division-size river-crossing operation) an operation requires all platoons in an MP company to function as a unit. And sometimes, because augmentation from corps has not yet arrived, the PM must place all platoons in a GS role to support the division commander's concept of operation.

EMPLOYMENT

The employment of MP units supporting divisions differs somewhat with the type of division to which the companies are assigned. (See separate discussions that follow.) But some employment considerations remain constant.

In the division, where flexible employment of an austere force is crucial to mission success, the PM must be constantly aware of both friendly and enemy tactical situations. To get current information for projecting MP needs in the division area, he must conduct a split-cell operation. And he must be able to move throughout the division area as needed.



The assets available to the PM include the division MP company and, at times, the division band and/or the MP combat support company from corps that will augment the division. But the division MP company is likely to be the only asset immediately available to the division PM during the initial stages of a conflict. Augmentation by an MP company from corps is not likely to occur at that time, as corps requirements will initially exceed available MP resources. But augmentation from corps can be expected as soon as such augmentation will not degrade the corps commander's concept of operation. When the augmenting assets make up a company, the company is attached to the division. It comes under the OPCON of the PM, who assigns it an AO. The augmenting company is usually given an AO from the division rear boundary forward. The four platoons of that company provide general support in that AO. If division MP are augmented by MP platoons from corps, the platoons are attached to the division MP company as GS platoons. They are placed under the direction of the company commander, who assigns an AO to each platoon.

The division band may be available, at the direction of the division commander, to perform its secondary mission of supporting MP operations. When the tactical situation makes it impractical for the division band to perform its primary mission, the division commander may direct the band to augment the MP company. The band, employed as a unit under the direction of the bandmaster, is under the OPCON of the MP company commander. When available to augment MP assets, the band members provide security at the division main CP. And they can be tasked to provide security of EPWs at the division collecting point. The band is released to perform its primary mission as soon as the tactical situation permits.

MP SUPPORTING HEAVY DIVISIONS

The employment of MP assets supporting the heavy division and its variant, the AIM division, is very similar. In a heavy division the PM section is organized to support split-cell operations at the main and rear CPs. Because the PM must be mobile to ensure that he is fully aware of the current

status of critical MP operations, the operations officer in one of the PM cells handles the routine operation of the section. He monitors ongoing division operations and MP support. He helps provide long-range planning and interface with the primary division staff. He forwards the PM's taskings to the division MP company commander or augmenting MP company commander. The assistant PM and an operations sergeant are geographically separated from the PM. They set up operations at the other CP. From there they coordinate requirements with division staff personnel.

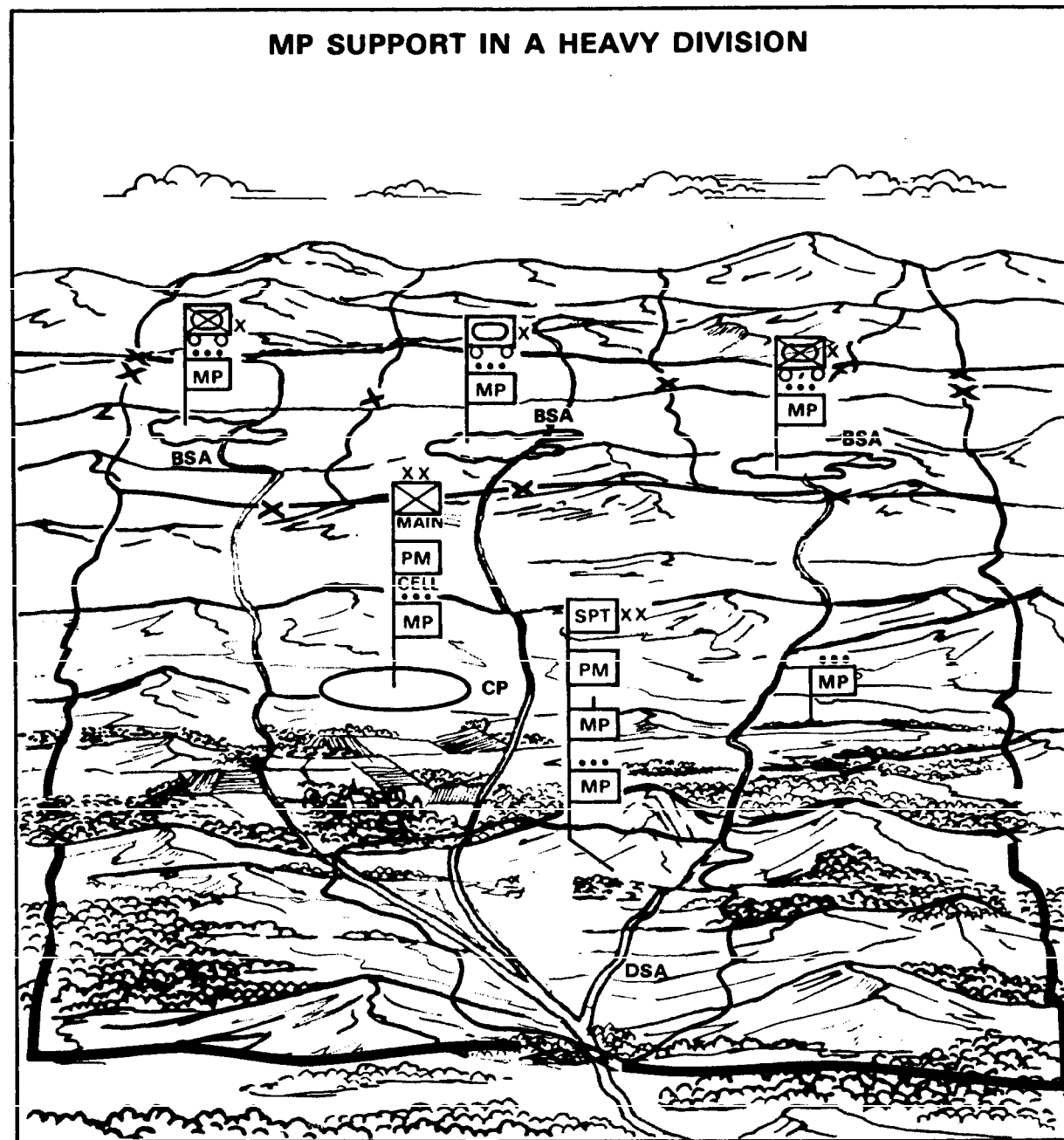
The company headquarters initially locates near the division rear CP in the division support area (DSA). Once augmentation arrives from corps, the headquarters relocates with one of its GS platoons operating behind the brigade rear boundary.

The MP company supporting a heavy division has either six or five platoons, depending on the type of division. As a general rule, one MP platoon is needed for each maneuver brigade that is to receive direct support. One GS platoon is needed to provide security for the division main CP. The other platoon or platoons secure the EPW central collecting point and perform other MP operations within the division rear.

The MP platoons providing general support to the division locate in the division rear area. A GS platoon's AO is configured on the basis of METT-T, the availability of MP augmentation from corps, and the availability of the division band. One GS platoon locates its platoon headquarters in the DSA. From there it performs BCC and area security. In addition, the elements of this platoon operate the division EPW collecting point. Another GS platoon locates its headquarters in the vicinity of the division main CP. This platoon provides security for the ASPS and some of the security for the CP. It may also have a limited AO in which it performs area security and other MP missions. If there is a third GS platoon, its headquarters is located where it can best support and control the platoon's operations.

The MP platoons providing direct support to the maneuver brigades have AOs coinciding with brigade boundaries. Each platoon headquarters locates within its brigade's support area. To accomplish its missions, a DS platoon must have at least three squads. One squad operates the EPW collecting point. The two remaining squads provide

BCC and area security within the brigade rear. Platoon assets performing EPW operations locate in the BSA. The remainder of the platoon is dispersed throughout the brigade rear. DS platoons conduct BCC and area security within their resources. They also receive and hold EPWs for evacuation to the division rear.



MP SUPPORTING LIGHT DIVISIONS

The employment of MP assets supporting one of the light divisions varies to some degree with the particular type of light division. The variation will depend on the number and configuration of platoons and squads in the company. But certain MP employment factors remain standard for all

light divisions. Missions are prioritized based on METT-T and the division commander's concept of operation. And the constrained size of a light division MP company makes augmentation crucial to the sustainment of the company performance of its missions.

The PM section is located either in the vicinity of the division main CP or the

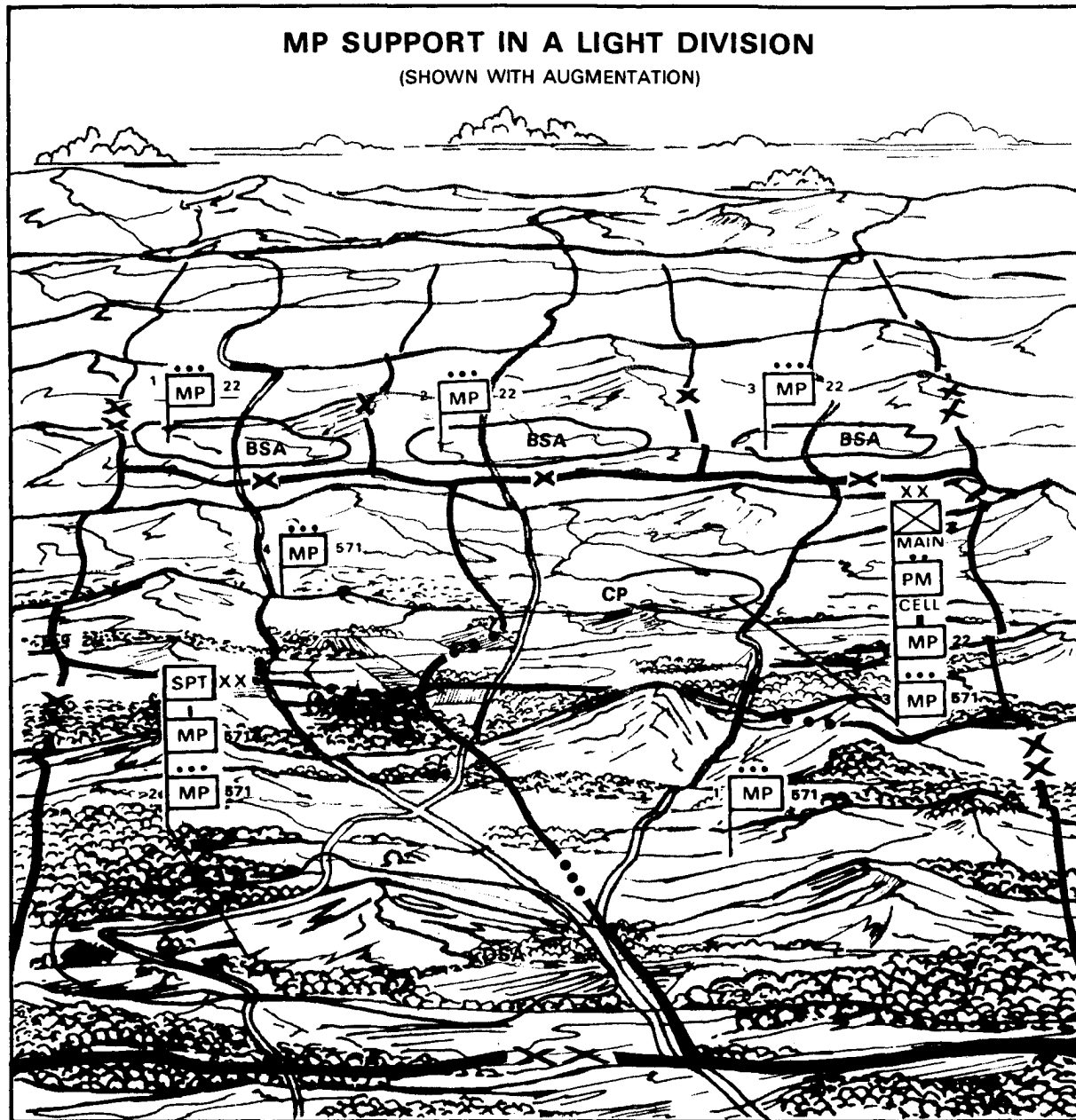
vicinity of the rear CP/RAOC. The exact location is based on the current operational status. The PM's responsibilities dictate a need to conduct split-cell operations. But only after augmentation arrives from corps can he do so. The PM cell may initially collocate with the company headquarters near the division main CP. Collocating these limited-resource sections allows them to sustain operations around the clock. It also allows the PM cell access to the company's net control station and other communications equipment. The staff in the PM cell supervises the execution of MP missions and coordinates with members of the division staff located at the division main and rear CPs.

AIRBORNE DIVISION AND AIR ASSAULT DIVISION MP

The airborne and air assault divisions are light, rapidly deployable units that can conduct parachute or air assault operations. The likelihood of these divisions being used as part of a rapid response force in a low- to mid-intensity conflict as well as in an AirLand Battle is high. MP companies assigned to an airborne or an air assault division, like MP companies assigned to other divisions, are employed to support their division commanders' employment concepts.

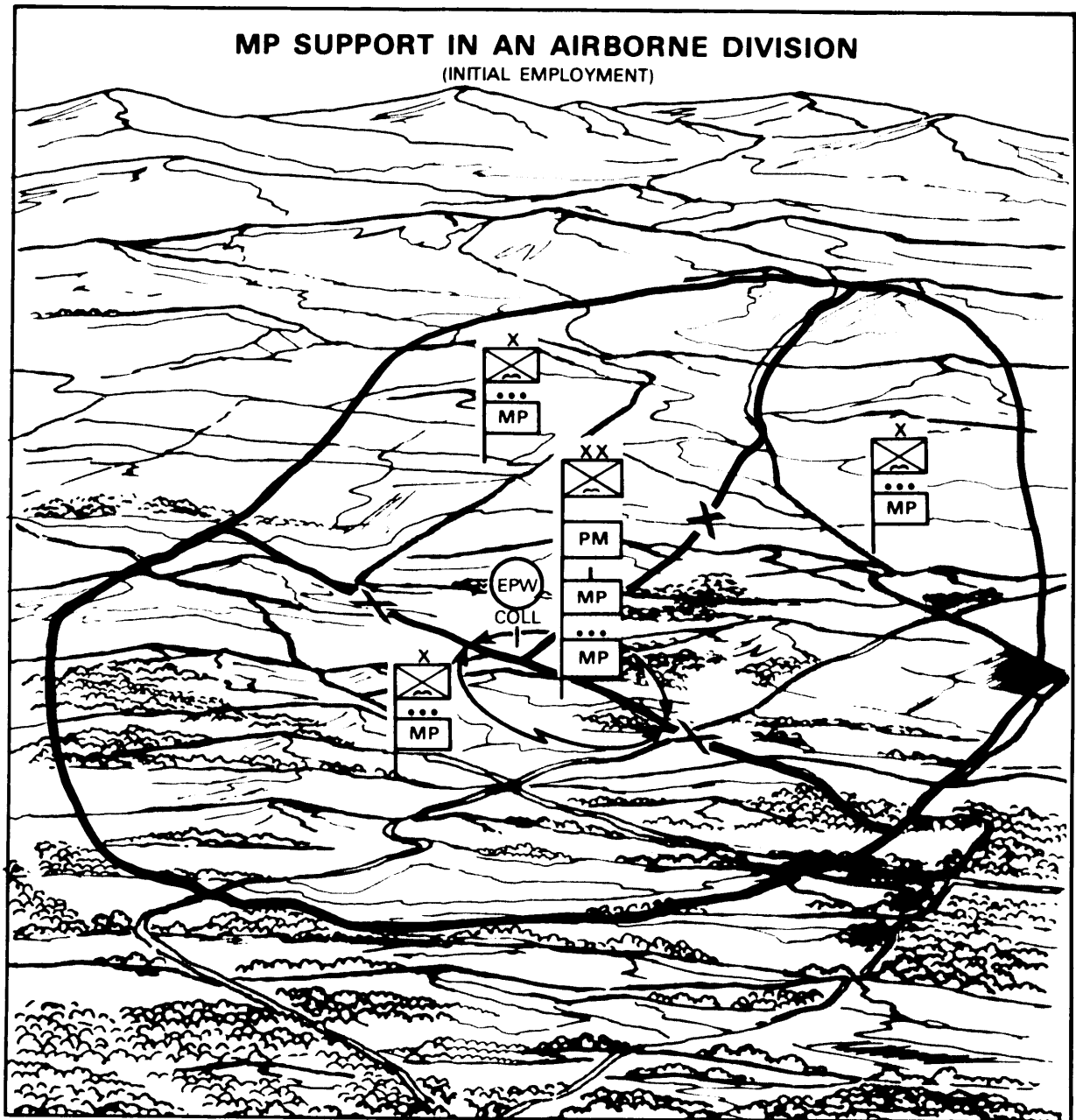
Airborne and air assault divisions conduct operations in two phases, an *assault* phase and a *defense* phase. The division accomplishes the assault phase in three stages. They deploy in the first stage. They establish the airhead in the second stage. They extend the logistic base and build their force in the third stage.

In airborne and air assault operations the PM's exact location depends on the current phase of operation. See *FM 71-101 for further information on airborne and air assault division operations*. The company headquarters and one of the platoon headquarters normally collocate with the PM section.



Airborne and air assault MP companies each have four platoons to support their divisions. Airborne MP operate in a DS role for the brigades during the assault phase of their operations. The remaining platoon provides BCC and area security in the vicinity of the division main CP. Air assault MP operate primarily in a GS role for the division. Unlike other divisions, the LOC for an

air assault division may be extensive, stretching for hundreds of miles. Consequently, air assault MP perform BCC and area security to maintain the uninterrupted flow of logistical support to the brigade AOs. Air assault platoons are given AOs extending from the BSAs to the division rear.



Airborne and air assault division MP accompany their divisions during the assault phase to provide MP support to their division's airheads and support areas. Airborne MP generally provide direct support to the maneuver brigades during the assault. But after the assault is complete and the airhead is established, the airborne MP generally go into a GS role. Air assault MP may be employed as a company or by platoons in accordance with METT-T. Depending on the type of operation, air assault MP will generally operate in a GS role although a platoon can be placed in direct support of an air assault task force. A security element from the GS platoon operating in the vicinity of the division main CP also accompanies the initial assault force. It provides security for the division tactical CP. As the assault forces clear the area, division support elements arrive and establish the airhead. The remainder of the division MP company arrives with the division's support elements.

The nature of airborne and air assault operations makes the capture of EPWs likely. Thus, during the first stage of the assault phase, priority of MP support is given to EPW operations. After assembly on the DZ or LZ, MP collect EPWs captured during the assault. Combat elements are relieved of EPWs as far forward as possible, and the EPWs are collected in the airhead. In air assault operations, EPWs may be evacuated by aircraft returning to the operation's staging areas. In airborne operations, EPWs are held for later movement to a central collecting point. Also during the first stage of the assault, MP perform limited straggler and refugee control and undertake recon operations. They also provide security for critical supply storage points when possible.

When the airhead is established in the second stage of the assault, MP support is reevaluated. The priority of MP support normally shifts to BCC. Although vehicle support is limited in the airhead, especially in the early phase of the assault, BCC

measures are needed because few roadnets exist within airheads. BCC measures ensure timely and efficient use of roadways by vehicles needed to support the assault. MP give priority of employment at this time to BCC to speed the movement of combat support vehicles along the narrow corridors to the airhead. Also during the second stage of the assault, MP elements take on much of the EPW and security support requirements. They provide area security in the expanding rear areas created by the outward-bound tactical forces. They begin to move EPWs to the central collecting point for later movement to a holding area.

As the airhead is expanded in the third stage of the assault, MP stress BCC, area security, and EPW operations to support the division commander's tactical plan. When the operation enters its second phase, the defense, MP support expands to include all four MP missions.

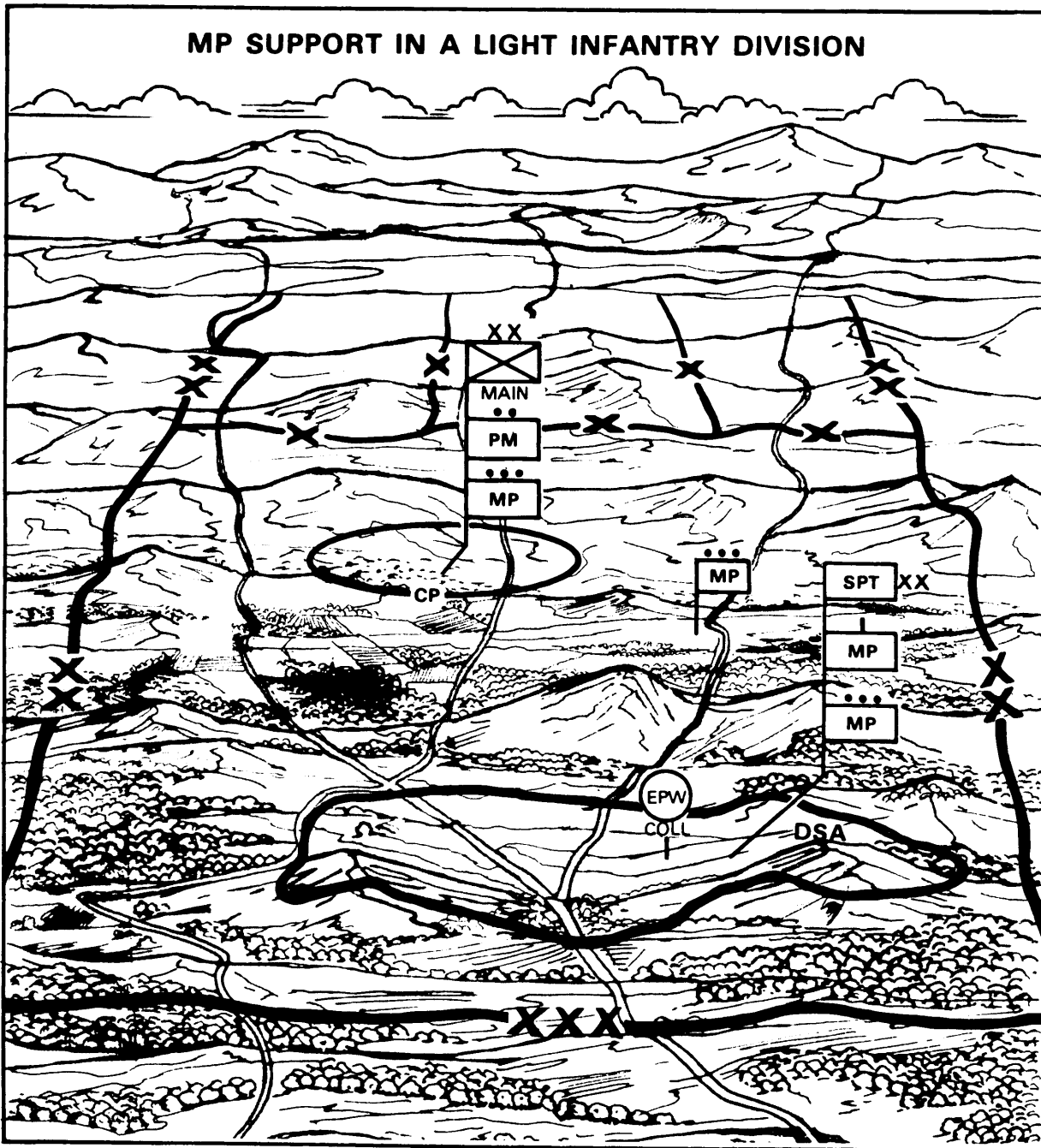
LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION

A light infantry division is optimally designed for a low-to mid-intensity conflict. But as the division was designed to be able to sustain itself for only 48 hours of combat operations, augmentation for this division is especially critical. So, too, is augmentation for the division's MP company. The company has three GS platoons to support the division. one platoon is located in the vicinity of the division main CP so its resources can support CP security. Another platoon locates in the DSA and operates the division EPW collecting point. The remaining platoon has an AO configured in accord with METT-T and the commander's priority of MP missions. When required, this platoon evacuates EPWs from the brigade collecting points to the division EPW collecting point. Each GS platoon has a platoon headquarters and three squads. With only two 3-man teams in each squad, a separate squad leader is not provided. The teams are equipped similarly to other division MP teams. However, each team receives training and is equipped to fire man-portable air defense

systems. They are “nondedicated gunners” and engage only those enemy aircraft that are attacking.

As the most austere division MP company, DS platoons are not provided to the maneuver brigades. Their traditional

MP responsibilities within the brigade area are absorbed by the brigades. For example, operation of the brigade EPW collecting point is performed by brigade personnel. The company headquarters and one platoon headquarters generally collocate with the PM section.



MOTORIZED DIVISION MP

The organization of a motorized division MP company is similar to that of the light infantry division MP company. But this MP company has *two added squads* assigned to the company headquarters. These squads help provide security for the division main CP. They operate outside the CP perimeter, where they provide a 360-degree screen around the CP.

The motorized division is a highly mobile force designed to move quickly over open ground. Consequently, the division's need for BCC operations is significant. The company's three platoons provide general support to the division. Traditional MP responsibilities within the brigade area are absorbed by the brigades. This includes the operation of the brigade EPW collecting point. Direct support to a brigade may be performed. But it is usually done on a specific-mission basis, usually for the most heavily committed brigade.

MP SUPPORT TO SEPARATE BRIGADES

A separate brigade is used by the Army to inject a small but powerful force where it is needed. It must be able to fight and win while operating on its own for a sustained period of time. It must be able to defend itself on a 360-degree front in a friendly or hostile HN. While there are many variations of separate brigades, it is the heavy separate brigade that is most commonly found within the force. Although this unit has been developed for both armored and mechanized infantry variations, the organization of the MP support remains the same. MP support is provided by an MP platoon assigned to the brigade headquarters and headquarters company (HHC). A separate PM cell within the brigade HHC serves as the command and control element for the platoon.

Support to the platoon and to the PM section for maintenance, supply, mess, and the like is provided by the brigade HHC. As there is no organic support for the platoon or the PM section, close coordination for this support is required. The platoon must compete with other brigade HHC assets for priority of repair for weapons, vehicles, and communications equipment.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The command and control of MP units supporting separate brigades extends downward from the tactical commander. The separate brigade PM has OPCON of separate brigade MP assets the way the division PM has OPCON of division MP assets. The brigade PM also has OPCON of any MP assets that have been provided from corps. The platoon leader directs the execution of his platoon's missions.

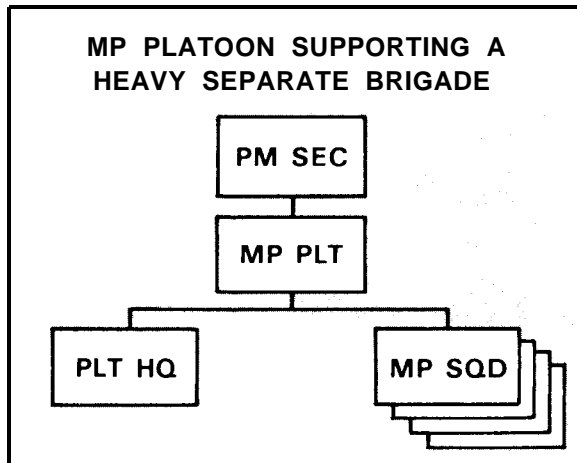
STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

The PM advises the commander of a separate brigade on matters pertaining to MP operations.

SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

The support relationships of MP units supporting separate brigades differ with the type of brigade to which the platoon is assigned.

In a heavy separate brigade, the MP platoon employs all of its squads to provide



general support to the entire brigade AO. Thus the support relationship of an MP platoon supporting a heavy separate brigade and that of an MP company supporting a light infantry division are the same. The number of squads employed will vary with the brigade's size and the needs of the brigade's missions.

EMPLOYMENT

The MP platoon supporting a separate brigade can perform any of the four MP battlefield missions. However, its resources are quite limited.

The PM has a small section that operates out of the brigade main CP. The section is not organized for split-cell operation. Corps augmentation is not provided on a routine basis and must be requested.

The platoon supporting a separate brigade has four squads instead of the three found in the division platoon. One squad operates the EPW collecting point while another provides security at the brigade's main CP. The remaining two squads conduct BCC and area security operations throughout the brigade's rear area.

