

Military Police Support to Corps

Corps MP, like division MP, support their command by performing the MP missions critical to the success of their tactical commander's concept of operation. Corps MP expedite movement of combat resources on MSRs leading into division areas. They aggressively patrol their AOs to protect critical locations and facilities. They remove EPWs from forward areas. And, when directed to do so, they conduct law and order operations.

Corps MP provide combat power within the command's rear area. They perform combat operations to counter Level II enemy forces and to help counter Level III enemy forces. Corps MP also provide a critical link between MP operations in the division and MP operations in the COMMZ. Corps MP support division commanders by helping division MP conduct sustained operations. Corps MP coordinate with division MP for mutual support. They coordinate with MP in the COMMZ to ease operations on the MSR network and movement of EPWs to the rear.

A corps is the US Army's largest tactical organization that has organic combat, CS, and CSS functions. *A detailed discussion of the organization of a corps can be found in FM 100-15.* A control headquarters for two to five divisions of combined arms and services, the corps has many tactical and administrative responsibilities. Its AO, including division areas, may cover up to 35,000 square kilometers.

MP support to a corps is provided by an MP brigade assigned to each corps. The MP brigade provides general support throughout that corps' rear area. Thus subordinate MP units are not assigned to subordinate corps units. Instead, they are given AOs by the MP brigade commander that can be quickly shifted as needed to ensure MP accomplish their missions in accord with the corps

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commander's concept of operation. When possible these AOs coincide with the corps RAOC and corps support group areas of responsibility. This flexible employment fulfills the economy-of-force role that most MP have on the battlefield.

In addition to the general-purpose MP units organic to the MP brigade, other, special-purpose, MP units routinely support the corps. MP heavy security companies support the resupply of special ammunition to nuclear-capable units. They provide security for the special ammunition. And MP security companies provide security for conventional ammunition at ASPS and corps storage areas. Although these units operate most often in the corps area, they are usually organic to TA units. *These units are discussed in Chapter 9.*

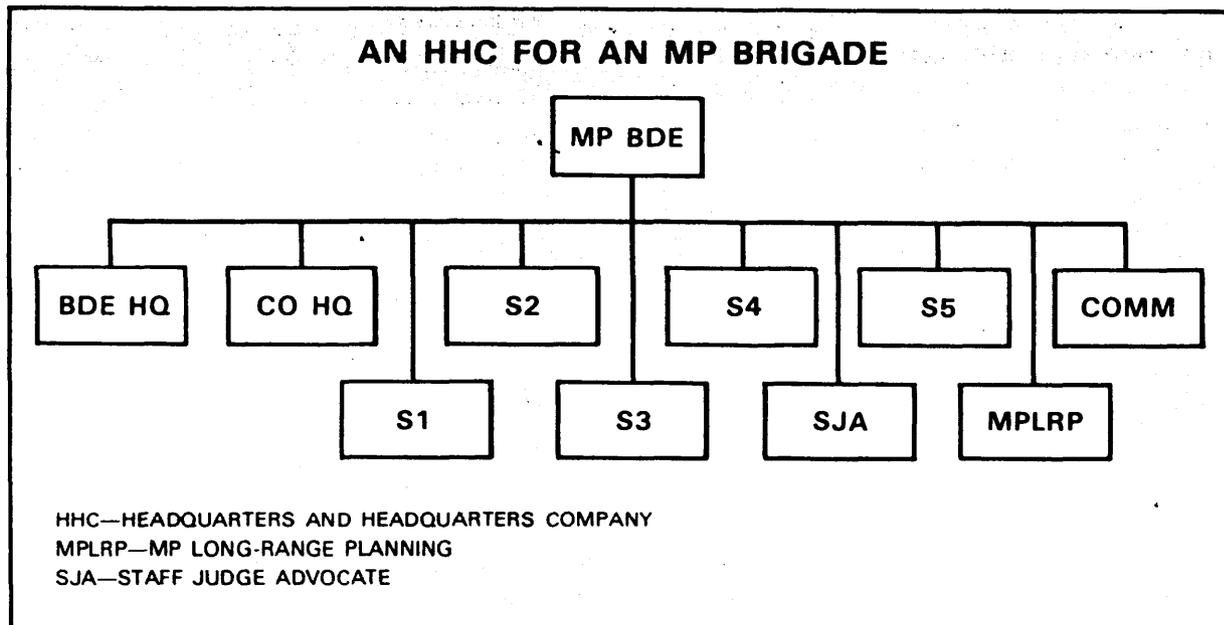
ORGANIZATION OF CORPS MP BRIGADES

The MP brigade supporting a corps contains a brigade headquarters and three to six MP battalions. Each MP battalion has three to six MP CS companies. Heavy security companies can be assigned to the battalions when a corps MP brigade has the mission of providing ammunition security for Lance field artillery battalions. See *Chapter 9*.

The CS companies in each battalion have an MP operations center and four standard MP platoons. Each platoon has a 3-man platoon headquarters and three 10-man squads. The standard MP squad consists of 10 MP organized into three 3-man teams and a squad leader. The squad leader is separate from any of his teams. This allows him to spend time with whichever team needs him without causing any team operating in the AO to be short one man. It also ensures the squad leader has a complete understanding of the area given to each team. He can give the platoon leader firsthand information on

all of his squad's area during critical periods of platoon actions for BCC and area security. Operating separately also allows the squad leader to coordinate with the platoon leader and the bases or base clusters in the squad's area to keep the squad sustained.

The MP brigade HHC provides command and control, administrative, and logistical support to the brigade. The brigade HHC consists of a company headquarters and a brigade headquarters that contains the command's immediate staff. The staff officers supervise the major organizational elements. These include the S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, MP long-range plans, communications, and staff judge advocate (SJA) sections. The long-range plans section works with the corps G3 plans element, operating out of the corps main CP. When necessary, the long-range plans section can revert to a PM cell. Because peacetime operations require this section to function as a PM cell, the transition is easily made.

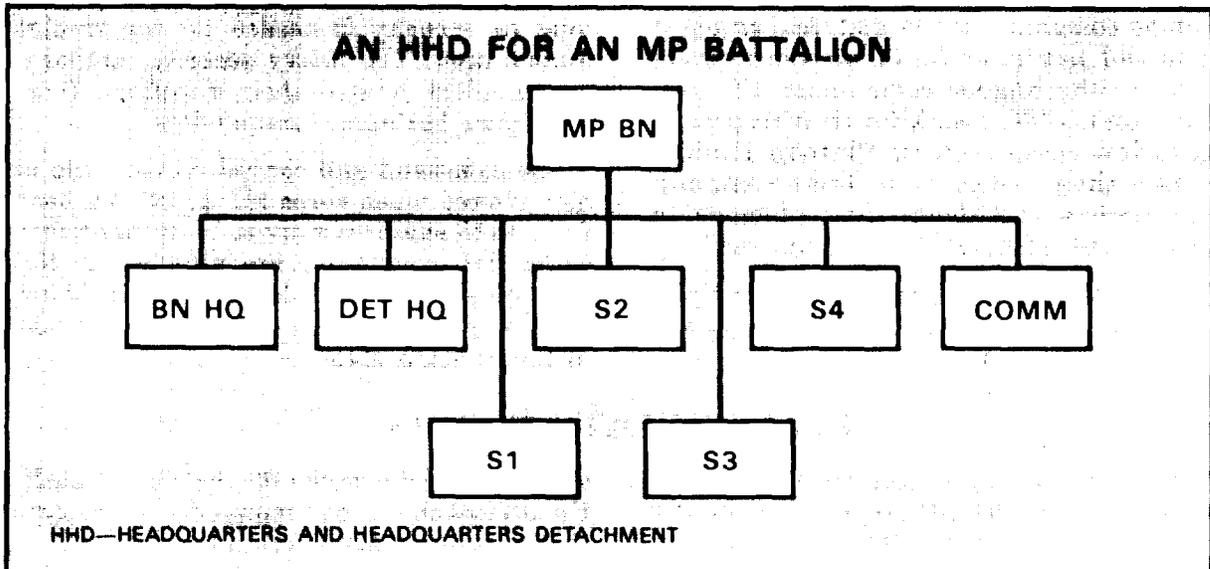


The MP battalion headquarters and headquarters detachment (HHD) provides command and control for MP CS companies

and any other MP elements assigned or attached. The battalion HHD consists of a detachment headquarters and a battalion

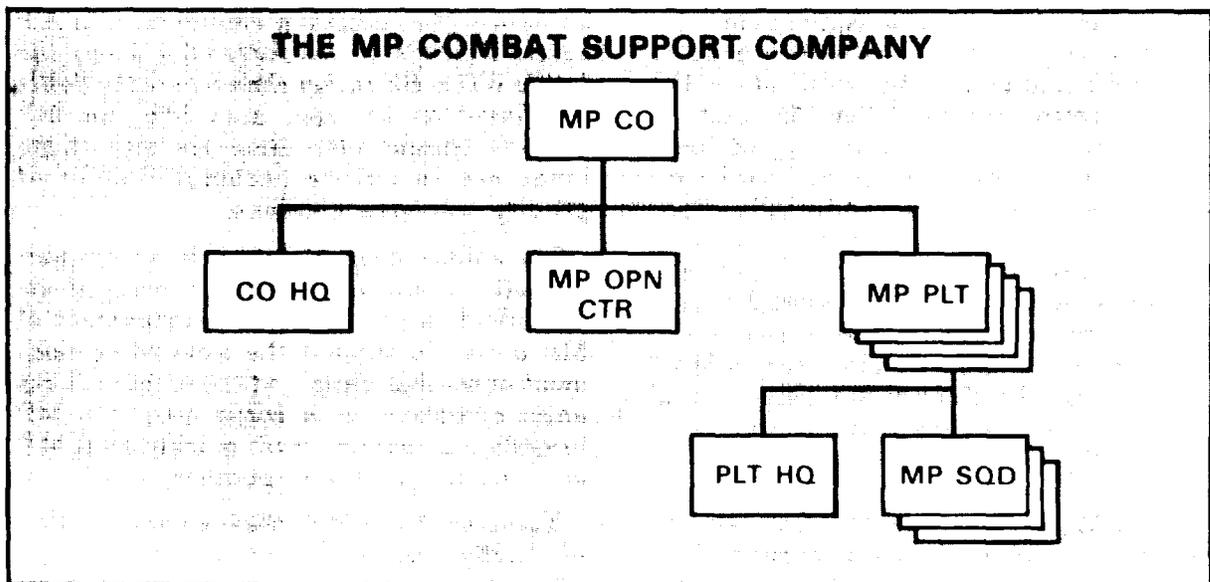
headquarters that contains the battalion commander's staff. The staff officers supervise the major organizational elements. These include the S1, S2, S3, S4, and com-

munications sections. The support section (not yet present in all units) is vital to an MP battalion commander's ability to sustain his units for BCC and area security operations.



The MP CS company provides support to an assigned AO. The company headquarters provides maintenance, supply, medical, communications, and mess support to the unit. An MP operations center is required to support the unit's operation. The center maintains and plans BCC and area security

operations within the company AO. It operates the transmission equipment when it is needed. In addition, the center has MP investigators for battlefield law and order operations. And it is organized to operate an MP station within a company area when the needs of the command require it.



COMMAND AND CONTROL

The command and control in a corps MP brigade is consistent with that of brigades throughout the Army. The MP brigade commander commands the brigade and attached units and personnel. Battalion commanders work for the brigade commander. CS company commanders work for their respective battalion commanders. Platoon leaders receive their orders from their company commanders and direct their platoons to assure their missions are accomplished.

This command and control relationship is sometimes altered. When heavy security MP

companies are present in an MP brigade, the heavy security MP companies are placed under the OPCON of Lance battalions for as long as security is needed for the special ammunition. The heavy security company commanders receive their directions from the Lance battalion commanders.

The command and control relationship is also altered when corps MP assets are sent forward to augment a division MP company. Corps MP companies are attached to the division and placed under the OPCON of the division PM for as long as the unit is needed in the division area.

STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

The senior MP in a corps MP brigade has two roles. He is the MP brigade commander and the corps PM. As PM, he is a special

staff officer who works for the chief of staff. He advises the corps commander on matters that pertain to MP operations.

SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

A corps MP brigade provides general support to all US forces operating in its

command's AO. The MP units assigned to the MP brigade provide general support throughout the corps' rear area

EMPLOYMENT

Each corps MP brigade commander employs his assets in accord with the principles of METT-T and to meet the needs of the US forces operating in his AO. Few MP assets in a corps area are employed to support fixed commitments. Rather, based on broad considerations of the enemy and friendly situation, corps MP are employed to support friendly forces engaged in close and rear operations. MP forces are dispersed throughout the corps area. The concentration of US forces and the number of kilometers of MSR to be controlled influence the dispersion of MP assets. So, too, does the location and vulnerability of critical facilities.

The PM devises his MP concept of operation based on the corps commander's concept and the rear operations officer's

guidance. *His successful employment of MP assets depends on his foreseeing where the battle WILL BE rather than where the battle IS.* Based on the rear area IPB, the MP brigade commander allocates and shifts resources to ensure accomplishment of priority rear area missions.

The ability of the MP brigade commander to shift his assets to meet the needs of the battlefield is crucial to the employment of MP units. To support the forward sustainment of combat units and the safety of CSS units operating in a corps area, the MP brigade commander must quickly shift MP units from one area to another.

To support the MP brigade commander's planning, MP in brigade headquarters operate from several locations. Most of the

staff normally locates in the vicinity of the rear CP where they can interface with the corps staff responsible for the planning and execution of rear operations.

The control element of brigade headquarters must be where it can command and control its subordinate units. The brigade commander and his staff decide the best place to locate this element. The planning elements of the headquarters locate near the corps main CP where they can interface with general, special, and personal staffs of the corps commander. From there they monitor MP operations and integrate MP support with corps plans for future operations. There they can learn the enemy situation through G2 threat analysis almost immediately. Having current intelligence information ensures the MP brigade commander can employ his austere force in the right place at the right time. The detailed information on rear area activities and operations provided by the corps staff enhances the accuracy of his long-range planning.

The brigade S3 section, which provides day-to-day planning and execution of MP missions, locates with the MP brigade headquarters and provides a responsive CP that can relocate frequently on the battlefield. The S3 will normally provide liaison personnel to the corps rear CP and selected COSCOM units.

When possible battalion AOs coincide with the territorial areas of responsibility of the corps RAOC. The MP brigade commander usually tailors battalion AO boundaries to ensure responsive and flexible support on the MSRs leading to the divisions. He pays particular attention to the MSRs behind the most heavily committed division and near critical bases and facilities in that area. But he also ensures MP are available to quickly respond for combat operations in the rear.

The MP brigade commander, coordinating with his battalion commanders, locates the

CS companies where they can provide combat power and general support throughout the corps AO. He bases his decisions on—

- Ž Size of MSR network.
- Ž Number and composition of urban areas.
- Ž Location of CS and CSS facilities.
- Ž Location of critical facilities that may require dedicated security.
- Ž Expected enemy activity.
- Ž Degree and frequency of support needed by divisions.
- Ž Current and projected tactical situation.

This is especially true during the early stages of a war when it is unlikely that an MP brigade commander will have a full complement of CS companies. Augmenting the division MP company with corps MP assets may not be possible at that time. Until it is, the MP brigade commander must locate corps MP assets to help meet the needs of the division while fulfilling the needs of the corps.

Like the brigade commander, battalion commanders plan employment of their companies using the factors of METT-T and the information they receive about the friendly and enemy situations. Certain corps MP employment needs are constant. One MP company must be dedicated to secure the corps main CP. One platoon from that company can be used to secure the corps tactical CP. Assets must be dedicated to operate the corps EPW holding area. Usually this will be a platoon from a second MP company.

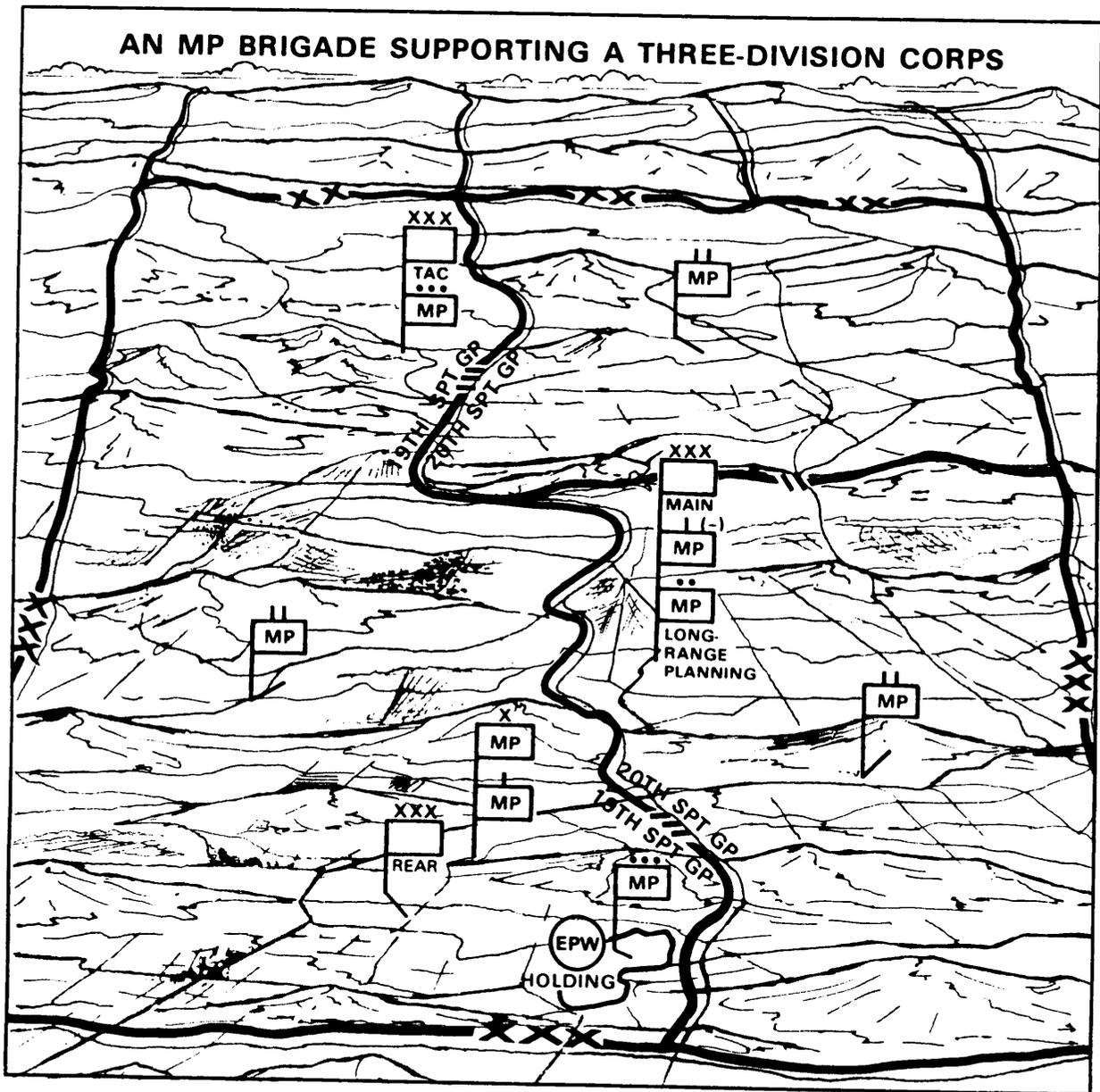
In general, battalion commanders place their companies where their assets support the brigade commander's concept of operation. They employ MP to support troop concentrations, bases and base clusters in the rear area, and traffic on the road network, and to defend critical and other likely rear-area targets. They position MP where

they can aggressively patrol critical terrain and monitor LZs and DZs to detect and deny enemy incursions.

They concentrate assets along the road network. From there, they are available to respond to enemy assaults and to expedite the movement of combat resources into the division area. At the same time, other employment needs may be expected.

Battalion assets must be on hand to remove EPWs from division collecting points. And battalion commanders may choose to place a company behind the division rear boundary to ease the coordination between the MP units in the corps area and those in the division area.

If there is a need for a temporary confinement facility in the corps, it is operated by confinement teams organized and trained to



perform confinement operations. But when corps confinement operations are limited to prisoners to be evacuated to a confinement battalion in the PERSCOM, a platoon from a CS company can operate the temporary confinement facility.

When MP heavy security companies are assigned to a corps MP brigade to provide security for Lance field artillery battalions,

they generally operate within the division rear at field storage locations with the firing platoons. The firing platoons provide security for the exclusion area. MP provide security on an outer perimeter. The perimeter is far enough away from the exclusion area to keep enemy forces from destroying the weapons system with their organic weapons and from emplacing a beacon to significantly increase the accuracy of indirect fire.

