

Military Police Support to Theater Army Area Commands

Military police units assigned to TAACOMs perform combat, CS, and CSS operations. Like MP supporting divisions and corps, TAACOM MP perform the MP missions needed by their supported commanders.

TAACOM MP provide area security to extended LOC within the COMMZ. These supply corridors include ports, inland waterways, railways, pipelines, airfields, and MSR critical points. MP support the users of COMMZ LOC by aggressively patrolling the area through which the LOC pass. They play an important role in rear operations by performing combat operations against the Level II threat. They provide BCC on the COMMZ MSRs leading into the corps rear area. They implement the plans of HN and US staff elements to control the forward movement of combat resources along LOC. They also provide escorts to move US noncombatants from assembly points to theater embarkation terminals. On occasion, in the absence of a PERSCOM in a theater, TAACOM MP also perform the EPW operations and confinement operations more often done by special-purpose MP units assigned to a PERSCOM. *See Chapter 8.*

TAACOMs are command and control elements for units supporting the TA's functional commands and other units located in the COMMZ. The TAACOMs support all forces within their AOs in the COMMZ and as directed in the combat zone. *For detailed information on the organization and functions of TAACOMs, see FM 63-4.* In the

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COMMZ, TAACOM commanders carry out the TA's CSS responsibilities for geographical areas. The number of TAACOMs in a theater depends on the size of the force needed to support the theater. It also depends on the geographical area encompassed by the theater.

MP support to a TAACOM is provided by an MP brigade assigned to each TAACOM. The MP brigade provides general support throughout the territorial area of responsibility of the TAACOM. Thus subordinate MP units are not assigned to subordinate TAACOM 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 TAACOM commander's concept of operation.

ORGANIZATION OF TAACOM MP BRIGADES

The organization of an MP brigade assigned to a TAACOM contains a brigade headquarters and three to six MP battalions.

Battalion and company organization in the TAACOM MP brigade is the same as that in the corps MP brigade. *See Chapter 6.*

However, one of the TAACOM MP brigades in a theater is generally provided two additional MP companies to provide security of the unified command headquarters and the TA headquarters.

The size of a TAACOM MP brigade depends on many factors. It depends on the

number of US forces being supported. It depends on the number of kilometers of MSR and the number of critical facilities being supported. It depends on the availability of HN support. And it depends on the ability of the enemy to project his forces within the TAACOM's AO.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The command and control in a TAACOM MP brigade is consistent with that in brigades throughout the Army. The MP brigade commander works directly for the TAACOM commander. Battalion commanders work for the brigade commander. Company commanders work for their respective battalion commanders. Platoon leaders receive their orders from their company commanders. They direct their platoons to assure the mission is accomplished.

However, this usual command and control relationship is altered briefly for response force operations against a Level II threat. TAACOM MP units operating within an ASG are under the OPCON of the ASG commander for the accomplishment of that operation. As the size of the ASG makes coordination between the ASG and TAACOM impractical for Level II threats,

the ASG RAOC directly tasks MP units operating within the area to respond. Any conflict in mission priorities is resolved through MP command and control channels. *For further information on rear operations in the TAACOM, see FM 90-14.*

A variation of the usual command and control relationships occurs when a PERSCOM is not available in the theater. Then the TAACOM MP brigade becomes responsible for the evacuation and internment of EPWs/CIs and the confinement of US military prisoners. In such a case, a small command and control detachment is added to the brigade to command and control the EPW units operating within the TAACOM. The confinement battalion, however, reports directly to the TAACOM MP brigade. *See Chapter 8 for details on the MP support to the PERSCOM.*

STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

A TAACOM MP brigade commander, like a corps MP brigade commander, has two roles. He is both MP brigade commander and his command's PM. He advises the

TAACOM commander on matters pertaining to MP operations. As part of the TAACOM special staff, he works for the chief of staff.

SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

A TAACOM MP brigade supports a TAACOM in much the same way that a corps MP brigade supports a corps. A

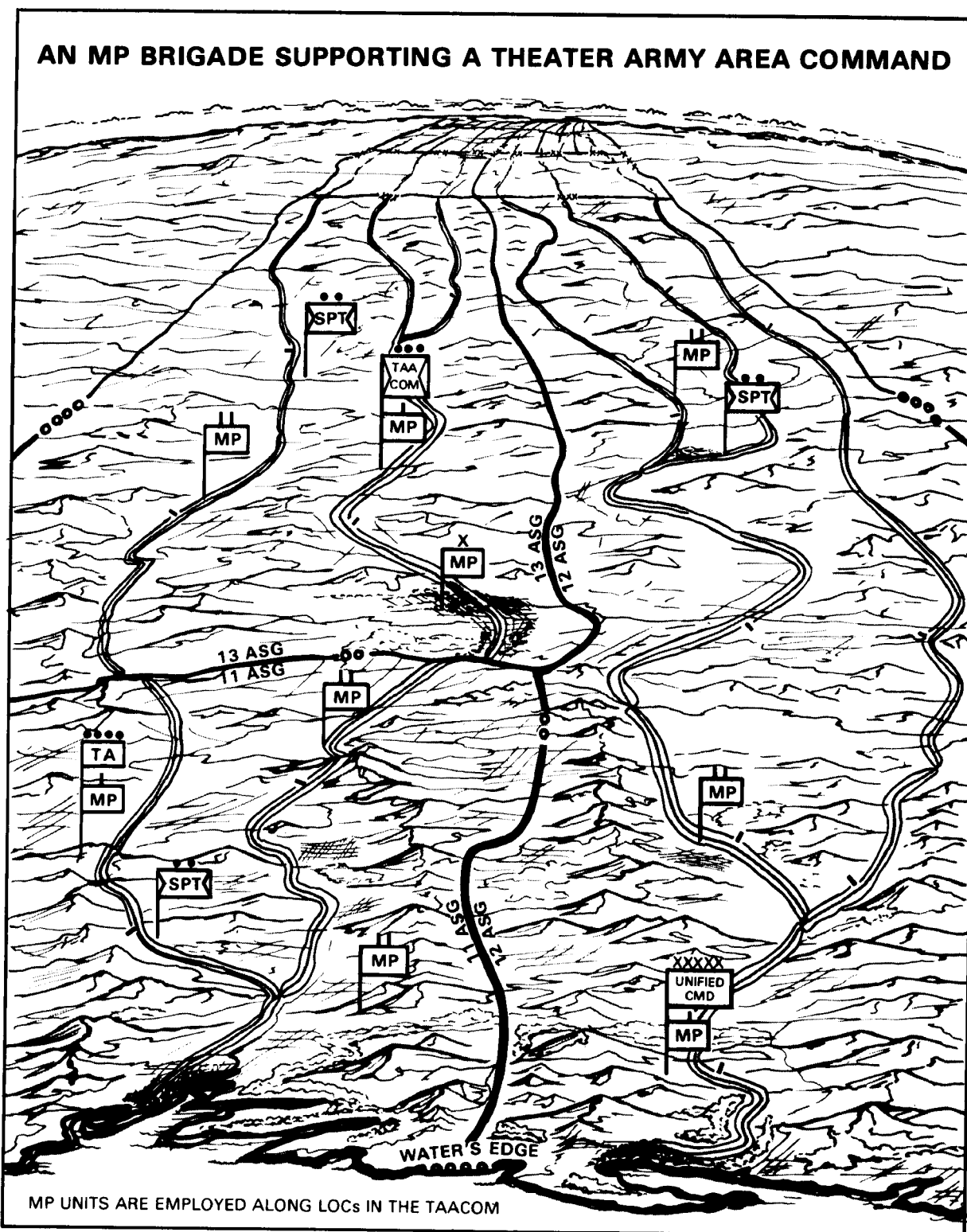
TAACOM MP brigade provides general support to all US forces operating in the TAACOM's AO.

EMPLOYMENT

Each TAACOM MP brigade commander employs his assets in accord with the factors of METT-T and the needs of US forces operating in his AO. Factors affecting his employment include—

- Ž Nature of the operation (unilateral, combined).
- Ž Ability of the HN to provide MP-related support.
- Ž Custody and location of EPWs during internment (US/HN custody, in-theater/ CONUS internment).
- Ž Number of kilometers of MSR in relation to movement control requirements.
- Ž Number and kinds of critical facilities.
- Ž Number of key personnel.
- Ž Ability of the HN to control the civilian populace.
- Ž Resupply strategy.
- Ž Degree of acceptable risk.

TAACOM MP brigade AOs coincide with the territorial area of responsibility of the TAACOM. The MP brigade commander assigns MP battalion AOS by the above factors as well as METT-T. The area of responsibility for an MP battalion, for example, may be a large population center of a larger geographical area in which CSS complexes are located and that includes an MSR. But as employment factors and the mission needs of the TAACOM commander change, so will MP areas of responsibility. The MP brigade commander must move his battalions and companies to tailor his forces to meet current and projected mission requirements. Thus unlike many other TAACOM assets, MP units, which are 100 percent mobile, frequently and rapidly shift AOs. The mobility of MP battalion placement makes it unlikely that battalion AOs will often coincide with the territorial areas of responsibility of the ASGs. This is especially true when the rear operations



commander directs that MP provide ABGD. The use of MP for ABGD immediately and directly impacts adversely on an MP brigade commander's ability to support other MP operations within a TAACOM. In part this is because ABGD is labor intensive. The TAACOM has multiple air bases and their defense can require two or more MP companies per air base.

Most TAACOM MP assets are employed along LOC within areas of high troop concentration. Few TAACOM MP assets are dedicated to support fixed commitments. Each TAACOM MP brigade commander provides dedicated security of his TAACOM's headquarters. In addition, the MP brigade commander in whose AO the theater headquarters and the TA headquarters are located dedicates one company to each of these headquarters for security. If

TAACOM MP units conducting combat operations in the rear capture EPWs, the MP brigade commander also may need to allocate assets to operate temporary EPW holding facilities.

In addition, in a developing theater, MP assigned to a TAACOM MP brigade can expect to perform functions that will later be performed by special-purpose MP units. Traditionally, special-purpose MP units are assigned to the PERSCOM, the TRANSCOM, and other functional TA units. They provide the single-function support needed in a mature theater for the evacuation and internment of EPWs and confinement of US military prisoners. They also provide TA support for the security of special and conventional ammunition and designated LOC facilities. *See Chapters 8 and 9.*
