

CHAPTER 11

MAGTF Reconnaissance and Security Operations

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"The most certain method to uncover an enemy is to send scouts to visit suspected positions."

—*Small Wars Manual* (1940 Edition)

"Skepticism is the mother of security. Even though fools trust their enemies, prudent persons do not. The general is the principal sentinel of his army. He should always be careful of its preservation and see that it is never exposed to misfortune."

—Frederick the Great

The fog and friction of war will never allow the commander to have a perfect picture of the battlespace. However, reconnaissance operations can reduce uncertainties about an unfamiliar area and a hostile enemy who is actively trying to conceal information about his forces and intentions. Reconnaissance is an

essential and continuous operation conducted to collect information and to gain and maintain contact with the enemy. Reconnaissance of some type should always precede a commitment of forces. Failure to conduct a thorough reconnaissance may cause the loss of initiative or failure to exploit fleeting opportunities. Lack of reconnaissance can result in the enemy's achieving surprise, inflicting unacceptable losses on friendly forces, and causing the failure of the mission. As part of the overall MAGTF intelligence effort, reconnaissance operations support the commander's decisionmaking process by collecting information to develop situational awareness and satisfy CCIRs.

Security operations are an essential component of all MAGTF operations. They can reduce risk by providing the MAGTF with maneuver space and reaction time. They protect the force from surprise and attempt to eliminate the unknowns in any tactical situation. Security operations prevent the enemy from collecting information on friendly forces, deceive him as to friendly capabilities and intentions, and prevent enemy forces from interfering with friendly operations. Reconnaissance operations support security operations by providing information on enemy forces, capabilities and intentions, and by denying the enemy information of friendly activities through counterreconnaissance. To succeed, a MAGTF's security operations should be integrated with its reconnaissance operations. Security operations are required during offensive, defensive and other tactical operations.

MAGTF RECONNAISSANCE ASSETS

Reconnaissance is a necessary precursor to any military operation. It attempts to answer questions the commander has about the enemy that the MAGTF will fight and the battlespace in which the MAGTF will operate. The term reconnaissance describes any mission—aerial, ground or amphibious—undertaken to obtain, by visual or other detection methods, information about the activities and resources of the enemy or to secure data on the meteorological, hydrographic or geographic characteristics of a particular area. More simply, reconnaissance obtains information about the characteristics of a particular area and any known or potential enemy within it.

The commander uses reconnaissance to collect information and to gain and maintain contact with the enemy. Reconnaissance activities may range from passive surveillance to aggressive measures designed to stimulate a revealing enemy response, such as reconnaissance by fire. Passive surveillance includes systematically watching an enemy force or named area of interest; listening to an area and the activities in it to help develop intelligence needed to confirm or deny estimated threat course of action; or identifying threat critical vulnerabilities and limitations.

All MAGTF elements have reconnaissance capabilities. Each element brings to the MAGTF its own unique capabilities. Together they collect the information to plan and conduct MAGTF operations.

Command Element

The CE centralizes the planning and direction of the entire reconnaissance effort for the MAGTF. The CE can task any MAGTF element to conduct reconnaissance to satisfy the commander's information requirements. It also directly controls MAGTF-level reconnaissance assets as follows.

Radio Battalion

The radio battalion provides ground-based signals intelligence, electronic warfare, communications security monitoring, and special intelligence communications capability to support MAGTF operations. It plans and coordinates the employment of its subordinate elements, to include radio reconnaissance elements beyond the FEBA and mobile electronic warfare support system in light armored vehicles. It is the focal point for MAGTF ground-based signals intelligence operations.

Remote Sensors and Imagery Interpretation

The intelligence battalion provides remote sensor, imagery interpretation, and topographic intelligence support to MAGTF operations. In addition to the sensor control and management platoon, the force imagery interpretation unit, and the topographic platoon, the intelligence company establishes and mans the MAGTF's surveillance and reconnaissance center. It plans, executes, and monitors MAGTF reconnaissance operations.

Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence

The intelligence battalion provides HUMINT, CI, and interrogator-translator support to MAGTF operations. This support can include screening and interrogation/debriefing of prisoners of war and persons of intelligence interest; conduct of CI force protection source operations; conduct of CI surveys and investigations; preparation of CI estimates and plans; translation of documents; and limited exploitation of captured material. In addition to the specialized CI and interrogator-translator platoons, the company employs task-organized HUMINT exploitation teams in direct support of MAGTF subordinate elements. HUMINT exploitation teams combine CI specialists and interrogator-translators in one element, thereby providing a unique and comprehensive range of CI/HUMINT services.

Force Reconnaissance

Force reconnaissance conducts distant and deep reconnaissance and surveillance in support of MAGTF operations. It uses specialized insertion, patrolling, reporting, and extraction techniques to carry out amphibious, distant, and deep reconnaissance and surveillance tasks in support of the MAGTF. Force reconnaissance maintains the capability to perform special operations-capable tasks.

Ground Combat Element

The GCE has substantial organic reconnaissance assets. Those units in contact with the enemy, especially patrols, are among the most reliable sources of information. Combat engineers are also good sources of information. These engineer units often conduct engineer reconnaissance of an area and can provide detailed reporting on lines of communications; i.e., roads, rivers, railroad lines, bridges, and obstacles to maneuver.

The mission of ground reconnaissance is to provide immediate tactical ground reconnaissance and surveillance to the GCE. Like force reconnaissance, ground reconnaissance is employed to observe and report on enemy activity and other information of military significance. Their capabilities are similar to those of force reconnaissance but ground reconnaissance does not insert units by parachute. The division reconnaissance battalion provides the ground reconnaissance assets for the GCE. The division also has other reconnaissance assets.

Light Armored Reconnaissance

Light armored reconnaissance units usually operate in forward areas or along flanks and can be relied upon to report early warning of contact with an enemy force. The Marines in each light armored vehicle are trained in information collection and reporting. These units are capable of a wide variety of missions due to their inherent mobility and organic firepower. The division light armored reconnaissance battalion provides the GCE with its light armored reconnaissance capability.

Counterbattery Radar

The counterbattery radar platoon is located within the artillery regiment's headquarters battery. It is equipped with mobile radars that detect and accurately locate enemy mortars, artillery, and rockets permitting rapid engagement with counterfire. Information on enemy order of battle and locations derived from counterbattery radar detections are reported via the GCE to the MAGTF CE.

Scout-Snipers

The scout-sniper platoon is an organic collection asset of each infantry battalion. Although the platoon can be employed in support of a myriad of tactical missions in defensive and offensive operations, they are primarily employed to provide timely surveillance and tactical data and coordinate supporting arms and close air support. The scout-sniper platoon provides the infantry battalion with extended area observation.

Aviation Combat Element

The capability of the ACE to observe the battlefield and report in near-real time gives the MAGTF commander a multidimensional capability that should be used at every opportunity. Aviation combat units can view the entire AO in depth, providing early indications and warning and reconnaissance information that can be essential to the success of the MAGTF. Each ACE aircraft (rotary- or fixed-wing), can conduct visual observation of terrain and enemy forces that it may fly over. Given the combined arms capability of the MAGTF, these aircraft can engage enemy targets immediately or direct other supporting arms against the enemy forces. The ACE manages the following reconnaissance systems.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

UAVs provide day-night, real-time imagery reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition. Its unique capabilities can also be used to support real-time target engagement, assisting in the control of fires/supporting arms and maneuver. The UAV provides high quality video imagery for artillery or naval gunfire adjustment, battle damage assessment, and reconnaissance over land or sea. It is capable of both day and night operations using TV or forward-looking infrared cameras. UAV squadrons are under the ADCON of the ACE. The MAGTF commander retains OPCON because of the limited number of UAV assets and the critical reconnaissance capabilities they provide to the entire force. Mission tasking is exercised through the surveillance and reconnaissance center.

Advanced Tactical Airborne Reconnaissance System

The F/A-18D can be equipped with the advanced tactical airborne reconnaissance system and the Radar Upgrade Phase II with synthetic aperture radar (SAR). The advanced tactical airborne reconnaissance system is a real-time digital package providing day/night, all-weather imagery capability. The imagery collected provides sufficient detail and accuracy to permit delivery of appropriate air and ground weapons, assist with battle damage assessment, and provide tactical commanders with detailed information about the enemy's weapons, units, and disposition. Imagery resulting from collection can be digitally disseminated to the

force imagery interpretation unit tactical exploitation group for exploitation, printing, and dissemination.

Electronic Reconnaissance and Warfare

Aerial electronic reconnaissance and electronic warfare is conducted using EA-6B aircraft. EA-6B aircraft also process and disseminate information from digital tape recordings obtained during electronic warfare missions to update and maintain enemy electronic order of battle information. The sensors are passive systems that require threat emitters to be active to collect.

Combat Service Support Element

The CSSE is limited in its reconnaissance capabilities, having no dedicated reconnaissance capabilities. However, it can conduct road and route reconnaissance with its engineer units, convoys, and military police. As the CSSE is often in more direct contact with the indigenous population, it can collect HUMINT unavailable to the other MAGTF elements. For example, medical battalion personnel can often provide information on health conditions and their potential impact on operations.

NATIONAL AND THEATER ASSETS

The MAGTF can draw on the full range of national, theater, joint, other Service, and allied reconnaissance assets. When made available, these capabilities will be fully integrated into MAGTF reconnaissance operations; e.g., Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), Navy SEALs or Army signals intelligence aircraft. During forcible entry operations, the MAGTF integrates its amphibious reconnaissance capabilities with national, theater, and special operating forces.

The Marine Corps component will support the MAGTF by monitoring the status of MAGTF reconnaissance requests to national and theater entities. The component coordinates the provision of Marine intelligence liaison to the joint task force and other component intelligence elements to satisfy the MAGTF's requirements. Some MAGTF reconnaissance assets, such as the radio battalion and the CI/HUMINT company, will usually have direct connectivity with appropriate external agencies to coordinate tasking or support.

RECONNAISSANCE PLANNING

Reconnaissance supports the MAGTF commander's intent and his CCIRs. While contributing to the commander's broad situational awareness and development,

reconnaissance assets tailor their efforts to support the specific CCIRs indicated by the commander's intent and subsequent unit intelligence and operations planning. Simultaneously, reconnaissance forces must remain alert to any developments that may cause the commander to reassess that intent.

MAGTF reconnaissance assets are best employed early to support the CCIRs and friendly course of action development and selection. When reconnaissance is initiated early in the planning cycle, planning and execution are driven by the flow of solid, timely information and intelligence. If reconnaissance is delayed, situation development will generally be more uncertain. In this case, planning and execution can either take place in an information vacuum or be driven by the search for such information.

Reconnaissance assets are best employed in general support. Because of the nature of warfare, MAGTF reconnaissance units will most likely be employed in rapidly developing and fluid situations. The main effort may shift quickly from one subordinate element to another. Such situations often require modifications or complete changes in reconnaissance elements' missions. The MAGTF commander and his staff are usually the most capable of determining the best use of MAGTF reconnaissance assets at any given time, to provide the necessary support, and to integrate the results of reconnaissance information with other intelligence sources. Although placing reconnaissance assets in direct support of some subordinate element or even attaching them to specific units is occasionally appropriate, in general, such support relationships make for inefficient use of specialized reconnaissance forces. Proper planning; the institution of flexible, responsive command and control and intelligence reporting procedures and networks; and clear intelligence reporting and dissemination priorities will ensure that the products of reconnaissance are shared to the maximum benefit of all potential users.

Reconnaissance requires adequate time for detailed planning and preparation. Most reconnaissance focuses on the enemy's activities and intentions to satisfy the commander's need to exploit the enemy's vulnerabilities or to attack his center of gravity. This frequently necessitates operating in and around the enemy's most critical and best defended areas. This normally requires that reconnaissance be conducted over long distances and well in advance of commencement of the operations it will support. These conditions usually dictate specialized methods of transportation, communications and information systems support, combat service support, equipment, and coordination.

TYPES OF RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS

There are four basic types of reconnaissance: route, area, zone, and force-oriented. Each type provides specific details for mission planning and maintaining situational awareness.

An important factor in characterizing reconnaissance missions is the depth of penetration they require, which has important implications in terms of time, risk, coordination, and support requirements. The depth of penetration can be close, distant or deep.

Close reconnaissance is conducted in the area extending forward of the forward edge of the battle area to the fire support coordination line. It is directed toward determining the location, composition, disposition, capabilities, and activities of enemy committed forces. Close reconnaissance is primarily conducted by combat units manning the FEBA.

Distant reconnaissance is conducted in the far portion of the commander's area of influence. It is usually directed toward determining the location, composition, disposition and movement of supporting arms, and the reserve elements of the enemy committed forces. Distant reconnaissance is conducted beyond the FSCL to the limits of the commander's area of influence.

Deep reconnaissance is conducted beyond the commander's area of influence to the limits of the commander's area of interest (i.e., the geographic area from which information and intelligence are required to execute successful tactical operations and to plan for future operations). It is usually directed toward determining the location, composition, disposition, and movement of enemy reinforcements.

Route Reconnaissance

Route reconnaissance is a directed effort to obtain detailed information of a specified route and all terrain from which the enemy could influence movement along that route. Route reconnaissance is focused along a specific line of communication, such as a road, railway or waterway to provide new or updated information on route conditions and activities. Route reconnaissance normally precedes the movement of friendly forces. It provides detailed information about a specific route and the surrounding terrain that could be used to influence movement along that route.

Area Reconnaissance

Area reconnaissance is a directed effort to obtain detailed information on the terrain or enemy activity within a prescribed area, such as a town, ridge line,

woods or other features critical to operations. Area reconnaissance can be made of a single point, such as a bridge or installation, and could include hostile headquarters, key terrain, objective areas or critical installations. Emphasis is placed on reaching the area without being detected. Hostile situations encountered en route are developed only enough to allow the reconnoitering units to report and bypass.

Zone Reconnaissance

Zone reconnaissance is a directed effort to obtain detailed information on all routes, obstacles (to include chemical or radiological contamination), terrain, and enemy forces within a zone defined by boundaries. A zone reconnaissance normally is assigned when the enemy situation is vague or when information on cross-country trafficability is desired. Zone reconnaissance concerns itself with the total integrated intelligence picture of a space defined by length and breadth. The size of the area depends on the potential for information on hostile forces, terrain, and weather in the zone; the requirements levied by the commander; and the reconnaissance forces available to exploit the intelligence value of the zone.

Force-Oriented Reconnaissance

Force-oriented reconnaissance is focused not on a geographic area but on a specific enemy organization, wherever it may be or go. Force-oriented reconnaissance concerns itself with intelligence information required about a specific enemy or target unit. Reconnaissance assets orient on that specific force, moving when necessary to observe that unit and reporting all required information (both requested and other pertinent observed and collected information).

RECONNAISSANCE PULL AND RECONNAISSANCE PUSH

A MAGTF can conduct reconnaissance using one of two basic methods—reconnaissance pull and reconnaissance push. In operations based on reconnaissance pull, information derived from reconnaissance forces guides friendly force activities. Reconnaissance elements identify the surfaces and gaps in overall enemy dispositions and permit the commander to shape the battlespace. Making rapid decisions based on the flow of information, friendly combat forces are drawn to and through the weak spots in the enemy defense and seek to quickly exploit the advantages gained. Reconnaissance pull requires early commitment of reconnaissance elements, allowance for the time to fully develop the reconnaissance picture, and a smooth flow of information from

reconnaissance elements directly to higher and supported commanders and staffs in immediate need of reconnaissance data.

The landing at Tinian during World War II is an example of reconnaissance pull. Aerial and amphibious reconnaissance determined that the Japanese defenders had largely ignored the northern beaches, while focusing most of their defensive effort on most likely beaches in the southwest. The landing was changed to the northern beaches, and when coupled with a deception operation off the southern beach, resulted in a complete surprise. As Marines have done in the past, current concepts for MAGTF operations such as OMFTS and STOM depend on the ability of the MAGTF to use reconnaissance pull to determine enemy dispositions, and find or create exploitable gaps through which the MAGTF can pass while avoiding obstacles and strong points.

Reconnaissance pull requires a high tempo of intelligence operations to collect and report timely information. To sustain such operations, a reserve must be carefully maintained so that fresh reconnaissance elements are always available to support developing situations. Maintenance of a reconnaissance reserve requires adequate consideration of the time required for reconnaissance unit preparation, insertion, mission execution, extraction, and recovery. Reconnaissance pull is easiest to execute early in an operation. It is difficult to support over a lengthy period of high-tempo operations.

Operations based on reconnaissance push use reconnaissance elements more conservatively. They are often used as a tactical resource and generally with a shorter timeline. Reconnaissance push uses reconnaissance forces as the lead element of pre-planned tactical operations, detecting enemy dispositions during the movement of the entire friendly force. I MEF operations in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 were characterized by reconnaissance push. Reconnaissance forces, assisted by aggressive patrolling by combat forces, located Iraqi forces (to include the counterattack by the Iraqi 5th Mechanized Infantry Division from the Burqan oil field) forward of advancing friendly forces in enough time to prevent them from interfering with I MEF operations.

Reconnaissance pull is preferred when the MAGTF can maneuver freely and exploit the enemy weaknesses located by reconnaissance forces. It is the preferred method during offensive operations (it takes advantage of the MAGTF's inherent flexibility and reconnaissance capabilities). Reconnaissance push is more often used when the MAGTF is following a predetermined course of action, targeting and destruction of enemy forces is a priority, freedom of maneuver is limited, and usually when on the defense.

Reconnaissance, although naturally oriented towards the battlespace beyond the FEBA, should not ignore the threat to the rear area, attacking friendly command and control nodes, lines of communications, and logistics facilities. To prevent the enemy in the rear area from interfering with friendly combat operations, sufficient MAGTF reconnaissance capabilities should be devoted to the rear area.

Reconnaissance efforts must be coordinated between different echelons of command within the MAGTF as well as within the joint force to avoid duplication of effort by scarce reconnaissance assets and to facilitate turnover of reconnaissance responsibilities as units maneuver throughout the battlespace.

Reconnaissance assets may be given the additional mission of engaging enemy forces with combined arms to disrupt and delay their advance. With advances in technology, there is now an emerging capability to directly communicate between a specific MAGTF reconnaissance asset via automated data link and a fire support unit (sensor to shooter). Automatically transmitting target data from the sensor directly to the aircraft or firing unit brings combat power to bear against the enemy before the situation can change.

In MOOTW reconnaissance forces provide a broad range of capabilities from direct-action combat missions to support for disaster relief and humanitarian operations. MOOTW calls for pinpoint intelligence collection accuracy and timely reporting to support MAGTF delivery of services, fires or other support, and also usually for great restraint in the use of force. Reconnaissance operations may emphasize objectives such as the location and identification of lines of communications, services, and infrastructure to support threatened civilian populations. The CI/HUMINT capabilities of the MAGTF are exceptionally useful in the surveillance of indigenous peoples and identification and targeting of the hostile segments of the population.

COUNTERRECONNAISSANCE

At the same time that the MAGTF is conducting its reconnaissance operations the enemy will be conducting similar operations to determine the disposition of friendly forces. For example, when the enemy comes under indirect fire, they will increase their counterreconnaissance operations to locate and destroy the friendly reconnaissance elements controlling the fire. Counterreconnaissance prevents the enemy from collecting sufficient information about friendly activities to interfere with them. Counterreconnaissance consists of all measures taken to prevent hostile observation of a force, area or place. It focuses on denying the enemy access to essential elements of friendly information, information about the MAGTF in the security area, the flanks, and the rear that would further enemy objectives.

Counterreconnaissance consists of active and passive measures. Active measures detect, fix, and destroy enemy reconnaissance elements. Passive measures conceal friendly units and capabilities and deceive and confuse the enemy. There are two components of counterreconnaissance—the detection of enemy reconnaissance forces and the targeting, destruction or suppression of those reconnaissance forces so they cannot report friendly unit positions or activities. Counterreconnaissance consists of—

- Developing named areas of interest and targeted areas of interest for likely enemy reconnaissance forces.
- Conducting continuous surveillance of designated named areas of interest and targeted areas of interest.
- Executing targeting plan against enemy reconnaissance forces.
- Recovering forward security elements.

Reconnaissance operations support counterreconnaissance through collecting information on enemy reconnaissance forces, assets, and activities. Counterreconnaissance in turn supports security operations by protecting the MAGTF from enemy collection.

SECURITY FORCES AND MISSIONS

Security is inherent in all MAGTF operations. MAGTF security forces aggressively and continuously seek the enemy and reconnoiter key terrain. They conduct active reconnaissance to detect enemy movement or preparations for action and to learn as much as possible about the terrain. The ultimate goal is to determine the enemy's course of action and assist the main body in countering it. The security force uses a combination of ground patrols, observation posts, electronic warfare, and aviation assets.

Security in offensive operations is achieved by employing security elements to protect the MAGTF from unexpected attack, long range fires, and observation by the enemy. The MAGTF commander can employ a wide range of forces and capabilities to conduct security operations. This can include—

- Aviation forces to screen the main force from enemy interference during fast moving offensive operations.
- Ground forces to control, seize or retain terrain to prevent enemy observation.
- Sensors (UAVs, radar and seismic sensors) to detect the enemy or his long range fires.

Planning of security operations must consider the possibility of security forces making contact with the enemy and, if the situation dictates, include provisions for handing over the battle to the main force.

In the defense, the security force engages the enemy in the security area, screening, guarding, and covering as ordered. Normally, the commander designates the security force as his initial main effort. This force maintains contact with the enemy while falling back under pressure. At a predetermined location, normally a phase line designated as a handover line, control of the battle is transferred to the main battle force. A handover line is a control measure, preferably following easily defined terrain features, at which the responsibility for the conduct of combat operations is passed from one force to another. The transfer of control must be carefully coordinated. The main battle force supports the disengagement of the security force as it withdraws in preparation for its subsequent mission. The commander may shift the main effort to the appropriate element of the main battle force. As the enemy's advance force approaches the main battle area, execution of the defensive battle becomes increasingly decentralized.

At some point, the defending commander must plan for the enemy force breaking through the friendly security forces and approaching the main battle force. This requires transitioning friendly forces and control of the battle from security forces to the main battle force. Whenever the battle is transitioned, it requires coordination from the highest common commander.

There are three types of security missions. They vary in the degree of security provided, the forces and capabilities required, and the degree of engagement with the enemy that the commander desires. From the least degree of protection to the greatest, they are screen, guard, and cover. The forces that conduct these security missions are called a screen, a guard or a covering force. These forces may be further identified by the establishing headquarters and the location of the security force; e.g., MEF covering force, division advance guard or regimental flank screen. Security forces may consist of existing units, reinforced units or task-organized forces.

Screen

A screen observes, identifies, and reports information. It only fights in self-protection. A screen—

- Provides early warning of enemy approach.
- Gains and maintains enemy contact and reports enemy activity.
- Within capabilities, conducts counterreconnaissance.
- Within capabilities, impedes and harasses the enemy.

A screen only provides surveillance and early warning of enemy action, not physical protection. It can be employed as an economy of force measure in a low risk area because it provides security on a broad frontage with limited assets. A screen provides the least amount of protection of any security mission. It does not have the combat power to develop the situation. Aviation combat forces may be used to screen large, open areas during rapid and deep offensive operations. Terrain, weather, and the duration of the screen are critical considerations when assigning screening missions to aviation forces. The screen may operate within range of friendly artillery positioned with the ground forces because of its immediate availability. The ACE can also provide this fire support capability, but the cost in resources versus time is a factor; e.g., one section of F/A-18s may require an entire squadron for 24-hour coverage.

In offensive operations, a screening force primarily engages and destroys enemy reconnaissance elements within its capability but otherwise fights only in self-defense. It primarily uses indirect fires or close air support to destroy enemy reconnaissance elements and slow the movement of other enemy forces. The screen has the minimum combat power to provide the desired early warning while allowing the commander to retain the bulk of his combat power to execute the decisive action.

In defensive operations, security elements screen a stationary force by establishing a series of positions along a designated screen line. Positions are located to provide overlapping observation. Areas that cannot be observed from these positions are normally patrolled. Screening forces report any sightings of enemy activity and engage enemy forces with fires. Maintaining contact, the screen falls back along previously reconnoitered routes to subsequent positions. Screening forces should avoid becoming decisively engaged.

Guard

A guard protects the main force from attack, direct fire, and ground observation by fighting to gain time, while also observing and reporting information.

A guard—

- Provides early warning of enemy approach.
- Provides maneuver space to the front, flanks or rear of the force.
- Screens, attacks, defends or delays, within its capabilities, to protect the force.

A guard force protects the main body by fighting to gain time while also observing and reporting information and preventing enemy ground observation of and direct fire against the main body. A guard differs from a screen in that a

guard force contains sufficient combat power to defeat, repel or fix the lead elements of an enemy ground force before they can engage the main body with direct fire.

The commander may assign guard missions to reinforced light armor units or task-organized maneuver elements, including ACE assets. A guard normally operates within range of friendly artillery positioned with the ground forces. It normally operates on a narrower front than a screen because it is expected to fight. In extreme cases, a guard may have to conduct sustained and prolonged fighting against the enemy to fulfill its primary mission to protect the force. The commander may order the guard to hold for a specified period of time.

An offensive guard may be established to the front, flanks or rear to protect the main body during the advance. Guard forces orient on the movement of the main body of the MAGTF. They provide security along specific routes of movement of the main body. They operate within the range of the main body's fire support weapons, deploying over a narrower front than a comparable-size screening force to permit concentration of combat power.

A security element guards the MAGTF in the defense by establishing a series of mutually supporting positions. The guard may establish a screen line forward of these positions. These positions immediately report any enemy contact and engage with fires at maximum range. The guard defends in place, attacks or delays to rearward positions. Routes and subsequent positions should have been previously reconnoitered.

The three types of guard forces are advance, flank, and rear.

The advance guard operates within supporting range of the main body and protects it from ground observation and direct fire.

A flank guard operates to the flank of a moving or stationary force to protect it from enemy ground observation, direct fire, and surprise attack. It must protect the entire depth of the main force's flank.

A rear guard protects the rear of the column from hostile forces. It attacks, defends, and delays as necessary, but it does not develop the situation to the point that it loses contact with the main force.

Cover

A cover operates apart from the main force to intercept, engage, delay, disorganize, and deceive the enemy before he can attack the main body. It prevents surprise during the advance. A cover—

- Gains and maintains contact with the enemy.
- Denies the enemy information about the size, strength, composition, and intention of the main force.
- Conducts counterreconnaissance and destroys enemy security forces.
- Develops the situation to determine enemy dispositions, strengths, and weaknesses.

A cover screens, guards, attacks, defends, and delays to accomplish its mission. It is a self-contained maneuver force that operates beyond the range of friendly artillery positioned with the main force. A cover may be task-organized, including aviation, artillery, tank, reconnaissance, and combat service support, to operate independently. The cover mission may be expressed in terms of time or friendly and enemy disposition; e.g., “Engage enemy forces until our main body deploys for attack.”

A covering force protects the main body by fighting to gain time while also observing and reporting information and preventing enemy ground observation of and direct fire against the main body. A covering force operates outside supporting range of the main body to develop the situation. It deceives the enemy about the location of the main body while disrupting and destroying his forces. This provides the main body with the maximum early warning and reaction time. The distance forward of the main body depends on the intentions and instructions of the main body commander, the terrain, the location and strength of the enemy, and the rates of march of both the main body and the covering force. The width of the covering force area is the same as that of the main body.

Unlike a screening or guard force, a covering force is self-contained and can operate independently of the main body. A covering force or portions of it often becomes decisively engaged with enemy forces. The covering force must have substantial combat power to engage the enemy and accomplish its mission. A covering force develops the situation earlier than a screen or a guard. It fights longer and more often and defeats larger enemy forces.

While a covering force provides more security than a screen or guard, it also requires more resources. Before assigning a cover mission, the commander must ensure that he has sufficient combat power to resource a covering force and the

decisive operation. When the commander lacks the resources to support both, he must assign his security force a less resource-intensive security mission, either a screen or a guard.

In the offense, a covering force is normally expected to penetrate the enemy's security forces and main defensive positions sufficiently for MAGTF main body units attacking the enemy's main defenses in depth; to identify the location and deployment of enemy forces in the main defensive positions; and to limit the ability of the enemy security forces to collect intelligence and disrupt the deployment and commitment of forces from the main body.

In the defense, a covering force conducts operations to either defend against or delay an attacking enemy force. A defensive covering force may be tasked to force the enemy to prematurely deploy and commence his attack; to identify the enemy effort; and to reduce the enemy's strength by destroying specific maneuver units and stripping away essential assets such as artillery. The defensive covering force must have mobility equal to or greater than that of the enemy.

SECURITY OPERATIONS IN OTHER TACTICAL OPERATIONS

Inherent in the conduct of security operations, especially in the defense, is the requirement to execute a passage of lines. In an advance, security forces may be required to fix enemy forces in place and allow the main body to pass through in the attack. Faced with a superior enemy force or in the conduct of security operations in the defense, security forces must fall back and execute a rearward passage of lines, handing the battle over to elements of the main body. During retrograde operations, the covering force may be used to facilitate and protect the withdrawal of the main body. At the appropriate time, the security must break contact with the enemy. To avoid decisive engagement, security forces must have the mobility and firepower to disengage. During obstacle crossings, the security force is required to protect the breaching force and prevent the enemy from interfering.

MILITARY OPERATIONS OTHER THAN WAR

Security operations in MOOTW are complicated by the requirement to extend the protection of the force to include civilians and other nongovernmental organizations, the desire for minimal casualties, and the effect of media coverage. The MAGTF commander must be ready to counter any activity that could endanger friendly units or jeopardize the operation. Even in a nonhostile operation with little or no perceived risk, all MAGTF personnel should be

prepared to quickly transition to combat operations should circumstances dictate. In these situations, the mission of military forces commonly has aspects that are *preventive* in nature. That is, the MAGTF can accomplish its mission by preventing individuals or groups from carrying on undesirable activities such as rioting and looting or attacking, harassing, and otherwise threatening opponents. Sometimes hostile elements blend in with the local population of uninvolved citizens. Other times, sectors of the local population may rise against MAGTF forces and become active participants in acts of violence. Factional alignments, the level of violence, and the threat to mission accomplishment may change frequently and with little or no warning. Under such circumstances, the identity of opponents is uncertain, and the use of deadly force for purposes other than self-defense may be constrained by rules of engagement or by the judgment of the commander on the scene. See appendix E.

Nonlethal weapons expand the number of options available to commanders confronting situations where the use of deadly force poses problems. They provide flexibility by allowing the MAGTF to apply measured military force with reduced risk of serious noncombatant casualties, but still in such a manner as to provide force protection and effect compliance. Because nonlethal weapons can be employed at a lower threshold of danger, the MAGTF can respond to an evolving threat situation more rapidly. This will allow the MAGTF to retain the initiative and reduce its vulnerability. Thus, a robust nonlethal capability will assist in bringing into balance the conflicting requirements of mission accomplishment, force protection, and safety of noncombatants. It will therefore enhance the use and relevance of military force as an option while simultaneously enhancing the security of the MAGTF. The capabilities of reconnaissance forces can take on an unusual importance in MOOTW. Missions can range from direct-action combat missions to disaster relief and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations. Such operations call for pinpoint intelligence collection accuracy and timely reporting to support the MAGTF's delivery of services, fires or other support. They also usually require great restraint in the use of force. Reconnaissance operations may emphasize objectives such as the location and identification of lines of communications, services, and infrastructure to support threatened civilian populations.