

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Base Defense Environment

PURPOSE

This chapter provides guidance to those concerned with the defense of various types of semipermanent bases, such as logistic installations, base camps, airfields, and airbases, under varying conditions of security that may exist in an area of operations.

BASE DEFENSE ENVIRONMENT

Defense and security of tactical units and installations are integral parts of the combat mission. Defense and security under combat conditions are covered in branch and combined arms field manuals and doctrinal publications.

Base defense operations are executed under the guidance of an area commander, whose responsibilities include protecting the resources of his area from interruptions caused by enemy activities or natural disaster. This is a territorial responsibility in which base commanders must provide for the local defense of their immediate base areas. In addition, base commanders may be asked to provide resources for other activities which may be classified as rear area protection (RAP) as outlined in FM 90-14.

The base defense environment is established in an area generally controlled by friendly forces but not sufficiently secure to prevent movement of small groups of insurgents, establishment of firing positions, or mounting of small-scale attacks. Therefore, the provisions of this chapter are applicable to the defense of bases in LIC operations and are similar to RAP operations.

Listed below are conditions which may characterize the environment for base defense in LIC operations.

- US forces are in a host country.
- Other nations in similar roles may be in the same host country.
- Unity of command or a combined headquarters may or may not exist.
- Although there is organized armed conflict, there is no recognized state of war.