

BASE DEFENSE FORCE COMMANDER. The base defense force commander is normally appointed to supervise the preparation of detailed defense plans to include establishing defensive sectors, conducting required training, providing for or coordinating logistic support, and controlling base defense operations. As the base commander's special representative, the base defense force commander coordinates the planning efforts of all elements scheduled to participate in the base defense. During the defense, he exercises command authority over these elements. Commanders of base elements may be given responsibility for the defense training of their forces or for making their forces available to the base defense force commander for training. Additional requirements such as procurement and storage of essential supplies, construction of defense installations, medical support, and communications assistance may also be levied against these commanders, consistent with overall requirements.

BASE DEFENSE FORCE (BDF). The mission of the base defense force, whether it be an assigned or a provisional force, is to prevent or resist an enemy attack by destroying the enemy force, reducing the enemy capacity for offensive action, and denying the enemy entry into the base area. Detecting and destroying enemy forces organized in strength are responsibilities of the area commander; however, the BDF commander may initiate offensive action in areas over which he has operational control. The accomplishment of this basic mission requires thorough planning for an aggressive defense fully supported by the other forces of the area command.

MAJOR TENANT UNITS. All units assigned to the base constitute elements of the overall defense force of the base. During an enemy attack or threat, some elements may be required to continue their primary function longer than others. In this respect, all local unit defenses are coordinated by the BDF commander to insure that each contributes to the overall defense of the base as well as to the local security of the areas in which the unit is quartered or employed. Since all tenant units may not be regularly organized and equipped for base defense tasks, they must be provided with appropriate weapons, ammunition, and equipment, as well as combat and logistic support.

TRANSIENT UNITS. Transient units, or other units not a part of the base command, may be assigned to the operational control of the base commander or the base defense force commander for emergency defense. Transient units may be elements of US Service components, host country, or third country military forces.

PASSIVE DEFENSE. In addition to their assigned active defense missions (i.e., air defense force conducting operations against enemy aircraft and missiles), all units in the base area are responsible for maximum implementation of passive defense. Passive defense consists of measures taken to reduce the probability of and to minimize the effects of damage caused by hostile action, without the expectation of taking the initiative. Responsibility for conduct of specialized passive defense measures is assigned to firefighting units, chemical units, medical units, and other appropriate organizations capable of satisfying passive defense requirements. Additionally, all units assigned to the base initiate passive defense measures, such as dispersion, camouflage, blackout, and use of shelters. These measures will assist in preserving the operating integrity of the base and in insuring decisive and effective action against enemy attack.