

COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

Command relationships for base defense operations must provide unity of command while preserving simplicity. The urgency of base defense operations requires clear-cut authority.

An area command is composed of those organized elements of one or more of the Armed Services designated to operate in a specific geographical area; these Armed Services are placed under a single commander. The area command may range in size from an area (theater) of operations to a small urban complex. The purpose of such area assignment is to - -

- Secure unity of effort in such operational missions as may be assigned to commanders.
- Coordinate defense, logistics, and the use of available facilities.

To provide for the effective defense of a base within his command or for joint planning within his area of responsibility, The commander of a unified or specified command must:

- Assign the responsibility for defense of the base and surrounding local defense areas.
- Establish the method of command or coordination to be exercised.
- Insure the establishment of appropriate command relationships between subordinate area and base commanders.

Command relationships and security/defense responsibilities vary at the base command level because of the possible multi-national and multi-Service force combinations involved in the overall defense effort of a given base. In the majority of cases, base ownership, national level agreements, and mutual agreements among senior commanders determine relationships and responsibilities. The relationship between US Service components and host country forces is included in the directive of the US establishing authority. This relationship is generally one of mutual coordination and cooperation. Relationships between/among US Service components using the same base are also outlined in the directive of the establishing authority. These relationships follow the principles designated for joint operations, attachment, or support as outlined in JCS Pub 2.

ORGANIZATION OF FORCES

The overall organization for base defense includes three types of elements:

- Those permanently assigned base defense/security responsibilities.
- Those assigned base defense responsibilities on an “as required” basis.
- Those assigned base defense responsibilities on an “as available” basis.