

ammunition storage sites, aircraft facilities, and artillery emplacements.

Defense of a military base involves a combination of area denial actions, aggressive offensive operations, hardening and dispersal measures, and immediate reaction to enemy threat or attack. While hardening of facilities and maintaining an immediate reaction force are the responsibility of the base commander, area denial actions and major offensive operations are the responsibility of the area commander. Use of barriers, field expedient flame weapons, natural obstacles, and aggressive offensive action denies the enemy access to the area immediately surrounding the base. If he is kept at a distance, he cannot launch damaging attacks at the base. If he penetrates the area to within range of his rockets or other long-range weapons, hardening and dispersal of base resources reduce the damaging effects of the fires employed.

Plans are prepared to counter the threat or attack, and reaction forces are kept ready to immediately implement these plans. This includes plans by area commanders to commit other forces to defense of a base. Base defense plans are coordinated with host country officials and third country forces through use of the area coordination center.

Responsive rapid fire support is required for base defense operations. Artillery and mortar fire support provide responsive reaction to the infiltration and standoff attack threats in minimum time. If in range, naval gunfire is used the same as artillery fire. In base defense operations, base-positioned fire support units follow normal fire support procedures. Fire support units positioned outside the base area, but within support range, are considered and included in the overall base defense fire support plan. Also included are the fire support capabilities of host country and third country forces.

The fire support coordination center must be fully operational 24 hours a day. It must have immediate access to host country officials with authority to authorize fire within areas not predesignated as free fire zones.

## **SECTION IV FUNDAMENTALS OF BASE DEFENSE**

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General

Fundamentals

Defense Preparations

Employment of Forces

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