

GUERRILLA BASES

A guerrilla base is HQ for any size guerrilla force. A base may be **temporary or permanent**, depending on the guerrilla's stage of development. Guerrilla C4I, support, facilities, and operational units are located within the base. LOCs (line of communications) connect the base and facilities within the area complex. The installations and facilities found within a guerrilla base are **the command posts, training areas or classrooms, a communications facility, and medical services**. The occupants and facilities must be capable of rapid displacement with little or no prior warning. There is usually more than one guerrilla base within a sector or JSOA. They are in remote, inaccessible areas and their locations are revealed only on a need-to-know basis. Personnel must use **passive and active** security measures to provide base security, employing **overhead cover**, concealment, and **escape routes**. A mandatory requirement for a guerrilla base camp is a **source of water**. Wells may be dug where permanent bases are established. Ideally, there will be an abundance of water sources to choose from in the area. All base camps should have an alternate location for contingency use. In case the enemy overruns the base, all personnel should plan for and **rehearse** rapid withdrawals.

TYPES OF BASES

There are three types of guerrilla bases. In order of development, they are mobile, semipermanent, and permanent. Initially, all guerrilla base camps are mobile, and as the JSOA matures, semipermanent camps are constructed. When the JSOA matures enough to conduct battalion combat operations, the semipermanent camps become permanent. Normal occupation time is based on **METT-TC**. (mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available—time available and civil considerations)

Mobile

Full-time guerrillas and local guerrilla forces establish mobile bases. These bases are at the periphery of their zones of responsibility. Mobile bases are normally occupied for periods ranging from **1 to 7 days**.

Semipermanent

HQ elements or sector commands establish semipermanent bases in the inner security zones. These bases are in areas that provide a tactical **advantage** for the guerrilla. Semipermanent bases are normally occupied for periods ranging from **1 to 2 weeks**.

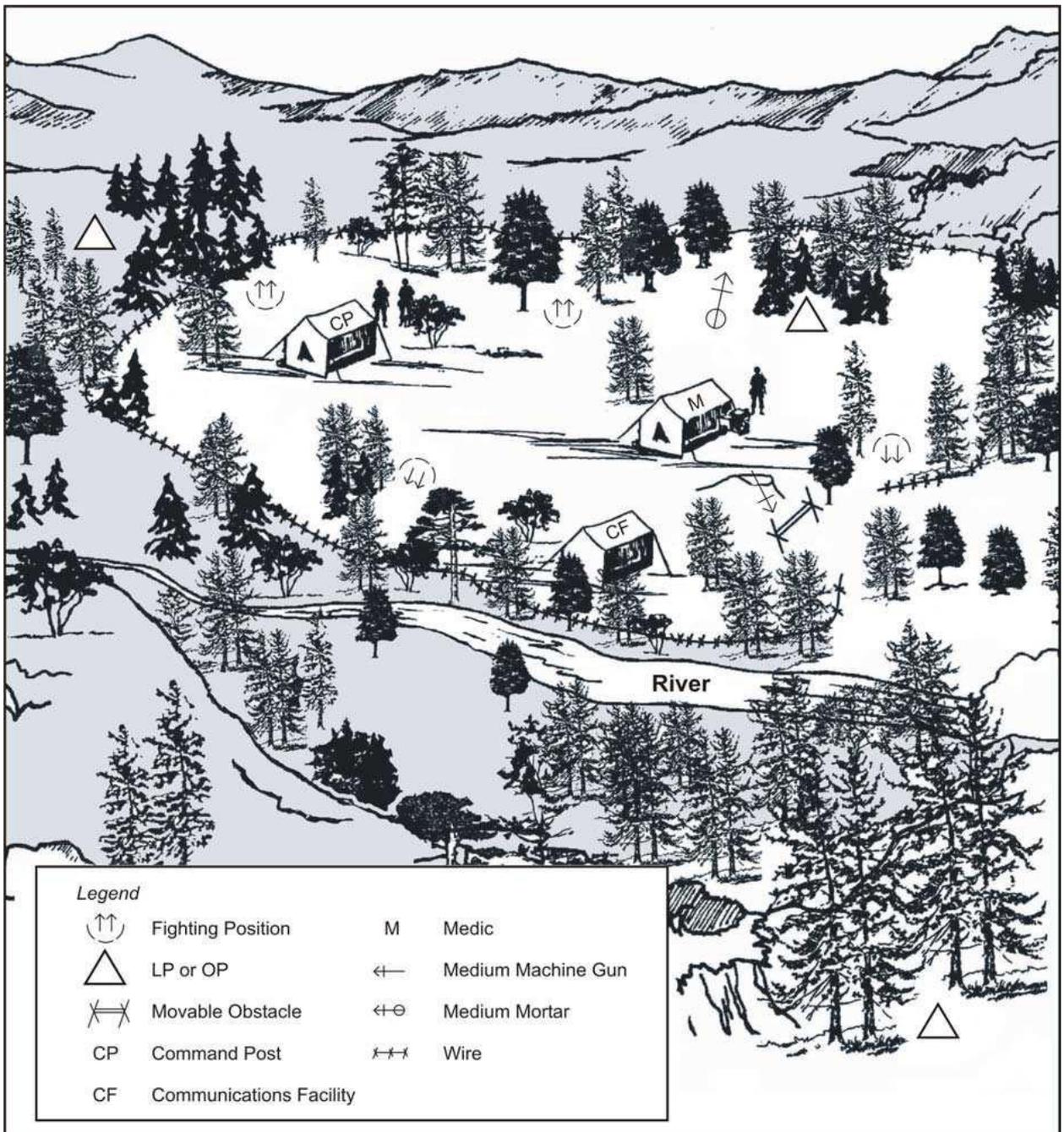
Permanent

This base is within the rear security zone of the area complex. The guerrilla command element, SFOD, and key installations and facilities are located here. Adequate training areas are established to support all the **training activities**. The guerrilla force protects the training areas, and an **SFOD** (Special Forces operational detachment) member, who is **the subject-matter expert (SME)**, monitors the training. When needed, personnel secure **drop zones (DZs)** and **landing zones (LZs)** to receive supplies and equipment. An SFOD member **accounts** for supplies. These DZs and LZs must be accessible to the appropriate aircraft and be a safe distance from the guerrilla base camp. Permanent bases may normally be occupied for periods ranging from **1 to 2 months**.

BASE SECURITY MEASURES

The defense of any base includes strict adherence to camouflage, noise, and light discipline. Defense measures should also include inner security posts, LPs and OPs, security and tracking patrols, antipersonnel mines, and other obstacles to **concentrate, impede**, or stop the enemy

Personnel should plan contingencies for rapid withdrawal from the area before any enemy attack.



Permanent Base Security

Inner Security Posts

Inner security posts are normally established within **100 meters** of the main body. The mission of the inner security posts is to delay a small reaction force that has penetrated the base perimeter and is closing in on the main body. This delay allows the main body to break out. During low visibility, inner security posts are closer, about **25 meters** from the main body. A challenge and password system should be implemented.

Listening and Observation Posts

LPs (listening post) and Ops (observation post) are established in unit **SOPs (standing operating procedure)** and based on observation and fields of fire, avenues of approach, key terrain, obstacles, and cover and concealment (OAKOC). At a minimum, LPs and OPs will be located on the most likely avenues of approach. They should be located on high and commanding ground surrounding the base, as per unit SOP. The **mission** of the posts is to detect and report in a timely manner enemy air and ground movement that threatens the guerrilla base. If the enemy is detected, post

personnel may not fire on the enemy but radio a size, activity, location, unit, time, and equipment (SALUTE) report. This tactic saves giving away their position and possibly the position of the base. These posts are normally within 400 to 800 meters from the base.

Security and Tracking Patrols

Security and tracking patrols may be carried out at dawn and dusk to provide security and early warning for the base. Each patrol should carry a frequency modulated short-range radio, enabling the patrol to relay information to the base in a timely manner. Patrols must search all areas, but give priority of search to the high ground surrounding the base and to creek and riverbeds in the area. Patrols also search roads and trails for tracks or signs of enemy presence. If there are friendly civilians in the area, they may be questioned regarding enemy activity. Civilians unfamiliar to the patrol may be a threat or sympathizer. Information provided by the friendly civilians is critical to the security of the guerrilla base camp. The mission of the security patrols is to detect signs or other indicators of enemy presence or activity. These indicators include—

- Tobacco, candy, gum, and food wrappers.
- Human excrement or other waste products.
- Tracks made by bare feet or boots on recently used trails.
- Broken branches and bent twigs suggesting direction of travel.
- Discarded rations, containers, and equipment.

Passive security measures that can be taken include camouflaging dwellings and hutches with vegetation. Personnel should change vegetation daily. They can also camouflage trails and erase tracks. Personnel should avoid smoke from cooking fires, especially during daylight hours, and maintain noise and light discipline at all times.

Antipersonnel Mines

SFODs may temporarily use antipersonnel mines along likely avenues of approach into the base. Creeks, riverbeds, and the surrounding elevations are good locations for placing antipersonnel mines. Personnel will warn the civilian population about the use of mines to preclude unnecessary civilian casualties. They may temporarily employ antipersonnel mines in the following areas not used by civilians:

- Near running water sources.
- Around fruit and shade trees.
- On little-used roads and trails.
- In and around abandoned fighting positions or around abandoned uninhabited dwellings.

MISSION SUPPORT SITES

A mission support site (MSS) is a temporary operational and logistics base for guerrillas who are away from their main base camp for more than a few days. It extends the range of guerrillas in the JSOA by permitting them to travel long distances without support from their base camps. The guerrillas should not occupy them for more than 24 hours. Guerrillas should always reconnoiter and surveil the MSS before occupying it. Personnel establish an MSS to support a specific mission and should not use it more than once. Using the MSS only once protects the force from setting up repeated patterns of movement. However, it may be used before and after a mission, based on METT-TC. The MSS may contain food, shelter, medical support, ammunition, demolitions, and other operational items. To preclude unnecessary noise and movement in and out of the MSS, auxiliary personnel may establish supply caches in the surrounding vicinity before the combat force arrives.

3-48. When selecting the location for an MSS, personnel must consider the following:

- Proximity to the objective.
- Level of enemy activity.
- Cover and concealment.
- Preplanned routes of withdrawal.
- Tribal or factional and religious issues.

METT-TC is very important when selecting the MSS. MSSs must not be near LZs, DZs, or any other sites of heightened activity.



**Професіоналізм
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