Appendix C. Air Base Ground Defense Planning Checklist

This checklist is a tool to assist air base ground defense (ABGD) planners and base defense operations center (BDOC) supervisors in effectively assessing threat conditions (THREATCONs), establishing a sound ABDG plan, and operating a BDOC.

THREAT LEVELS

- LEVEL I—enemy controlled agents, sabotage, terrorism.
- LEVEL II—unconventional warfare, raids, ambushes, reconnaissance operations.
- LEVEL III—airborne, amphibious, ground deliberate, infiltration operations.

OBJECTIVES

- Secure rear area, local areas, and facilities.
- Prevent or minimize enemy interference with command, control, and communications operations.
- Prevent or minimize disruption of aviation operations.
- Prevent or minimize disruption of aviation ground support (AGS).
- Provide unimpeded movement of friendly units through the area.
- Find, fix, and destroy enemy incursion areas.
- Provide quick and responsive area damage control.
PRINCIPLES

- Establish unity of effort.

- Consider economy of force:
  - Establish air base defense forces/perimeter security and defense.
  - Use military police as initial reaction force and security screen.
  - Augment with ground combat element (GCE), if required.
  - Employ military police and engineers in ABGD planning and operations.
  - Establish a BDOC for ABGD coordination and control.

- Establish responsiveness criteria.

SECURITY TASKS

- Secure necessary support to sustain AGS/combat service support.

- Emphasize local security (every Marine’s responsibility).

- Detect the enemy by using observation, patrols, and electronic sensors.

- Delay the enemy by using firing positions, sectors, obstacles, etc.

- Destroy the enemy (immediate reaction requires thorough planning, coordination, and rehearsal).
BDOC RESPONSIBILITIES

O Ensure units are responsible for their living and workspace defense.

O Man BDOC 24 hours a day.

O Develop a defensive plan that includes reaction forces.

O Establish a reaction force for internal security and reinforcement of the air base.

INTELLIGENCE PREPARATION OF REAR AREA/AIR BASE

O Consider area of operation, area of influence, area of interest, and battlespace.

O Convert terrain analysis into graphic information.

O Analyze weather.

OPERATIONS

O Include military police patrols, reconnaissance, cover and concealment, deception, immediate reaction to attack, reinforcing obstacles, natural obstacles, observation post, listening post, and sentry post.

O Consider base configuration and positioning:

  m Define perimeter and establish access controls.

  m Defend against Level I and Level II threats without augmentation.
m Defend against a Level II threat with use of MAGTF response forces.

m Defend against a Level III threat with GCE augmentation.

m Identify natural and manmade obstacles for defense.

O Disperse personnel, equipment, and facilities against enemy air/ground attack.

O Locate units to mutually support one another.

O Identify need for both cover and concealment.

O Establish internal accessibility (airfield and base camp internal infrastructure and road networks).

O Establish external accessibility (close to main supply route [MSR]/alternate MSRs).

O Identify proximity (close enough to support facilities).

O Determine security and defense capabilities (adequate against Level I threat).

O Establish communications (BDOC has own net, thorough conductivity and redundancy).

O Plan fire support.

O Plan close air support.
AIR BASE DEFENSE SYSTEM

- Secure the base (based on mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available).
- Use early warning systems and procedures.
- Phase defense posture against increasing threat levels.
- Use base alarm to signal alert posture.
- Use available resources to augment defense.
- Rehearse air base defense plans, increased readiness postures, and reaction forces.

THREATCON POSTURES

- THREATCON Normal—general threat exists, warrants routine security posture.
- THREATCON Alpha—low/general threat, no attack probable within 96 hours, unpredictable natural/extent, measures can be maintained indefinitely.
- THREATCON Bravo—medium threat, probable attack within 96 hours, increased predictable threat exists, measures can be maintained for weeks.
- THREATCON Charlie—high threat, attack expected within 24 hours, incident has occurred elsewhere, intelligence received indicates action imminent, measures can be sustained for days.
- THREATCON Delta—imminent threat, attack expected within 24 hours, attack has occurred in immediate area, intelligence shows action against specific location/person, localized warning.
SECURITY AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

- Subject individuals entering base to identification check.
- Specify points of entry and exit.
- Reinforce high-speed avenues of approach and entry points with crew-serve weapons.
- Provide redundancy in communications (telephone and radio).
- Use rally points and staging areas.
- Use night vision devices and other security enhancing equipment (e.g., flood lights).
- Develop range cards and a fire support plan.
- Harden critical facilities and defensive/security positions.
- Position listening post/observation post/sentry post based on threat (locate enemy before he can disrupt operations).
- Solidify reporting procedures and signals.
- Establish vehicle search procedures.
- Rehearse immediate actions and upgrade threat response posture.
- Conduct random patrols (unpredictable).