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Tactical Visual Information Doctrine

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Preface

Purpose and Scope

The support structure and sustaining requirements throughout the deployed theater recognized the need for specific resource-intensive visual information operations. Chapter 3 of this manual partially identifies the force structure required, which as of this date has not been approved for implementation. If the concept to implement is not approved by the print date of this publication, commanders and staffs should continue to be aware of the necessity to support and "capture the action" whether in support of operational requirements or for the preservation of history.

This publication is the Army's and the Marine Corps' principal manual for using visual information systems and forces in support of the operational through the tactical levels of war. It provides a foundation for understanding how visual information supports AirLand and Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations Doctrine and describes the qualities and features of visual media. This manual serves as a guide for all Active and Reserve Component personnel who plan, program, prepare, deploy, and use Army and Marine forces.

FM 24-40/FMFM 3-8 provides the doctrinal foundation for tactical visual information force design, combat development, professional development, and training. It establishes that visual images of the battlefield are important to the commander for operational decision making in the conduct of tactical operations. This manual clarifies the roles of the combat camera soldier and Marine in capturing visual information on the battlefield. It explains visual information capabilities and how visual information can be used at each echelon of command.

User Information

Users of this manual are encouraged to recommend changes which will improve its clarity and utility. Army personnel should send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 directly to Commander, United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, ATTN: ATZH-DLD, Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905-5075. Key comments and recommendations to pages and lines of text to which they apply. If DA Form 2028 is not available, a letter is acceptable. Marine Corps personnel should send comments and recommendations in a letter to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Code TE35 VIM, Quantico, Virginia 22134-5001. Provide reasons for your comments to ensure a complete understanding and proper evaluation.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

AirLand and Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations

1-1. Introduction

Visual information (VI) is an integral part of signal information management support in AirLand Operations working with communications, automation, records management, and printing and publications. For the Marine Corps, VI is a critical part of Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operations providing combat camera (COMCAM) imagery acquisition, imagery processing and duplication, and imagery retrieval and distribution. Beginning with preparation for AirLand Operations, all levels of command must be kept informed on the conditions and actions in the combat zone leading up to war. Battlefield commanders and strategic planners need accurate images of conditions and events before, during, and immediately after tactical operations. Commanders and staffs who are aware of critical events can react quickly and decisively to counter enemy strengths and exploit weaknesses. Visual imagery will assist commanders at all levels to make informed decisions about effective use of combat, combat support, and combat service support assets on the battlefield.

1-2. Definitions

VI is the use of one or more visual media, with or without sound, to communicate information. This includes conventional still photography, digital still video (DSV), motion video recording, conventional motion picture, manual and computer-generated illustrations, visual mono- and multimedia presentation services, and audio recordings.

NOTE: The terms VI, tactical VI, and COMCAM are used interchangeably by the Marine Crops throughout this manual.

a. Tactical VI is documentation of military operations — the processing, transmitting, reproducing, and distributing of visual imagery, graphics production, and the operation of video teleconferencing (VTC) and multimedia presentation services within the theater or tactical environment. Tactical VI includes COMCAM and functional VI services performed in a tactical environment. (See Chapter 5.)

(1) COMCAM is the visual documentation of ground, sea, and air actions of United States (US), allied, and hostile armed forces in combat and combat support operations, and in related peacetime training activities such as exercises, war games, and operations.

(2) The functional user establishes, installs, operates, and performs operational maintenance of organic VI systems and equipment for the functional commander.

b. Joint operations are military operations involving one or more of the military services when tasked through the Joint Operation Planning System (JOPS) by direction of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

1-3. Mission

Tactical VI provides commanders and staffs with visual products and services in support of all functional areas including operations, command and control, logistics, military intelligence (MI), engineers, public affairs (PA), personnel, medical, military police (MP), Special Forces (including Marine Special Operations Capable [SOC] units), psychological operations (PSYOP), civil affairs, and military history (including Marine Corps command chronology and historical report requirements).

1-4. Exclusions

The following functions are excluded from provisions of this manual in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 25-1 and Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5290.4:

• Photomechanical reproduction, cartography, x-ray, and microfilm or microfiche production.

• Command and control information displayed on or imbedded in weapons systems.

• Imagery collected exclusively for surveillance, reconnaissance, or intelligence, and VI equipment integrated in reconnaissance-collecting vehicles.

• Images used in cryptological operations.

• American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) facilities, services, and associated products.

• Visual images from self-processing (diffusion transfer process) still camera equipment used for generating identification or security badges.

1-5. The Threat

a. The threat to VI systems will be both physical and electronic. As new systems such as DSV are perfected, the electronic threat will increase.

(1) Automated systems could be damaged or destroyed by electromagnetic pulse (EMP). VI will also assume the vulnerabilities of the communications system used to transmit information. Potential adversaries possess various weapons systems that can interfere with or destroy friendly VI support systems. Threat forces use conventional; nuclear, biological, chemical; or directed energy weapons to physically damage, destroy, or disrupt COMCAM soldiers, VI operations, and communication systems. Signal information support systems are susceptible to electronic degradation by EMP.

(2) The chemical threat can be neutralized through—

• Avoidance—the most important and effective measure.

• Collective protective overpressure systems (built into newer systems and facilities) or protective measures that protect soldiers and equipment.

• Decontamination—a process which can do more damage to the VI equipment than the chemicals they are designed to neutralize.

b. The threat response to VI capability is expected to be slight and then indirect. Since images will be transmitted using existing signal tactical communications systems, the threat of interception at that point is the same as the threat of interception of any tactical communication. The threat would have to possess the proper transponder in order to intercept satellite transmissions of images. Images can be converted to digital form, encrypted, and transmitted with the required security classification. Analog image signals can be transmitted through secure telephone units using available technology.

Chapter 2

Capabilities

2-1. Introduction

a. Army and Marine Corps VI units in tactical environments have the capability to support the VI requirements of each level of command within the joint and service operational theater and extending to the national command authority (NCA). Tactical VI capabilities are executed with VI systems and procedures compatible with those of the military services, Department of Defense (DOD), and the NCA. Existing tactical and commercial communication systems are used to provide near real time image transmission. Army and Marine Corps VI capabilities permit the near real time flow of VI from the battlefield to the NCA with emphasis toward supporting tactical operational and functional mission requirements of the tactical commander.

b. Tactical VI capabilities include documentation, processing of VI products, and integration of various motion, still, audio, and graphics media into the operational decision-making process. COMCAM capabilities must be mobile, survivable, and capable of using available tactical, strategic, and commercial communication systems to transmit visual images in real or near real time from anywhere on the battlefield. In this manner, COMCAM serves as a decision-making tool and an element of combat power for the tactical commander.

2-2. Documentation

a. General. Army and Marine Corps tactical VI units support tactical joint and service missions with the capability to record still and motion images, create graphics images, and record audio information which is frequently embedded with motion media. Army and Marine Corps VI units provide ground, sea, and aerial coverage, and use organic or customer-provided transportation. COMCAM soldiers and Marines use durable, reliable, lightweight camera systems with appropriate lenses and accessories to permit coverage in any tactical situation, including extreme weather or near darkness. VI tactical units have the capability of forwarding documentation of significant activities through channels to the Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC) or the Marine Corps Multi-Media Preassessions Point (MMPP). This record material can be made available to the DOD and Department of the Army (DA) staff or the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and other Army and Marine Corps users for briefings, publications and reports, planning, posture statements, reports to Congress, and subsequent forwarding to DOD records centers and the National Archives.

(1) Documentation is the straightforward recording of any subject or action as it occurs. It may be later integrated or assembled into a motion media production, multimedia presentation, or a series of still images for a particular purpose.

(2) Documentation directly supports command and control, operations, plans, logistics, MI, medical, administrative, PA, and other imagery requirements to support the battlefield operating system (BOS) and the NCA. Documentation on the battlefield will support combat, combat support, and combat service support requirements.

(3) Documentation maybe converted to digital format for transmission, storage, retrieval, display, or processing to a conventional medium (such as photos, slides, videotape, or multimedia presentation).

b. Results. Documentation resulting from COMCAM capabilities include—

• Military operations in preparation for day one of the battle.

• Friendly positions before, during, and after the battle.

• Enemy positions, fortifications, and obstacles before and after the battle.

• Terrain analysis documentation to support operational maneuverability, traffic planning, and barrier location and identification.

• Aerial spot imagery providing still or motion media images of friendly and enemy positions.

• Battlefield damage of friendly force equipment to give tacticians, logisticians, and materiel developers immediate information to develop effective countermeasures.

• Battlefield damage to civilian property for adjudicating claims.

• Battlefield damage of enemy equipment to show tacticians, logisticians, and materiel developers the effectiveness of friendly weapons and enemy vulnerabilities for use in long-range research and development.

• Captured enemy supplies, materiel, equipment, personnel, and documents for evaluating enemy combat, combat support, and combat service support. This imagery may be important to MI, PSYOP, MP, and PA communities, and for possible ultimate use by military historians or archivists.

• Evidence for prosecuting war crimes.

• Visuals of military operations for the president, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and the Army and Marine Corps staffs for strategic decision making.

• Combat and doctrinal material for training developers and military historians.

• Initial battle engagements of new weapons, new combat support systems, and revised tactics. This gives the Army and Marine Corps staffs; field commanders; and combat, doctrinal, materiel, and training developers information and validation of new equipment and doctrine.

• For the Marine Corps, COMCAM also provides imagery material for training developers and military historians.

c. Support. VI units provide all VI personnel, equipment, and processing support required to accomplish a tasking. COMCAM units require customer support to obtain imagery in the following areas:

• Billeting and rations.

• Staff support for coordination, taskings, and clearance.

• Tracked vehicle support as required.

• Helicopter or fixed wing support for transportation or aerial imagery.

• Subject matter expert to assist in image acquisition to satisfy specific taskings.

d. Augmentation. In addition to its primary mission, COMCAM is capable of augmenting organic functional VI capabilities in MI, MP, PSYOP, civil affairs, PA, Special Forces, and Marine SOC units. Because these units have specific missions and require special training, augmentation is limited to processing support that is requested by a commander and for which the VI unit is equipped and trained. Additionally, Marine Expeditionary Force Combat Camera Units (MCCUs) are capable of augmenting or may be augmented by COMCAM teams of the Marine Corps Combat Camera Unit (MCCCU), as required.

e. Methods.

(1) Motion media.

(a) Motion media technology is a powerful means of individual and mass communication. Motion

media products inform soldiers, Marines, and the civilian population of studies in doctrination, training, and command and public information purposes. These products provide commanders the capability to review the operations and training of their forces, and introduce new and improved operational techniques and developments to subordinates. Units moving to new positions may be oriented with motion or still media imagery of terrain. Motion media technology can be used in daytime, nighttime, and limited visibility operations.

(b) Motion media provides the capabilities to support commanders with the following motion media services:

• Small format videotape documentation (such as the 8 millimeter [mm] high band). Applications include documentation in combat which requires light, highly portable systems that produce acceptable quality products. This service is normally used at COMCAM team level.

• Production format videotape documentation (such as Betacam). Applications include original materials to be used in sophisticated scripted video reports and transfer of unique-format COMCAM documentation, such as helicopter gun camera footage, to a standard format for archival, reproduction, and distribution uses. This format also permits broadcast use to support PA and PSYOP.

• Rough edit video report production. This service can be accomplished at the lowest COMCAM level to support the local commander and staff operational needs.

• Fully edited video production. This service is normally used at theater COMCAM level to support theater; joint; Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA); DOD; JCS; and NCA operational needs.

• Communication interconnectivity. VI units have organic capability to convert conventional film and analog electronic images to a digital format for transmission over tactical, strategic, or leased commercial satellite systems. (See Figure 2-2 on page 2-5.) Transmission of a nonencrypted National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) composite video signal requires a circuit conditioned for a 6.0 megahertz (MHz) bandwidth. An encrypted NTSC composite video signal requires a circuit conditioned for a 6.3 MHz bandwidth. This exceeds current capabilities of tactical and most strategic communication systems without preemption of priority circuits. Digital compression of NTSC composite video signals is being developed to compress composite video signals to 4.5 MHz bandwidth. Real time transmission of motion video requires VI units to have organic capabilities to access strategic or leased commercial satellite systems in the KU or C band to accomplish the mission. The Marine Corps will use communications interconnectivity through the joint combat camera team (JCCT) in theater.

(2) Digital still video.

(a) DSV enables timely transmission of critical still images such as terrain features, tactical deployments, intelligence information, and tactical operations directly from the battlefield through command levels to the NCA. DSV provides commanders with near real time still imagery to enhance critical and timely operational decisions.

(b) DSV cameras use a 2 1/2-inch floppy disk to capture images electronically with color prints available within seconds from a color printer. DSV cameras have night vision devices permitting use during darkness. DSV images can be transmitted on tactical, strategic, or leased commercial telephone and satellite systems. This permits the near real time transmission of DSV images to virtually anywhere in the world. (See Figure 2-1 on page 2-4.)

(c) DSV floppy disks can be copied and transported by courier or messenger to operational user locations throughout the battlefield. Current technology allows transmission of DSV images, using a modem, over existing 4-wire telephone lines conditioned from 300 to 9600 baud. VI units have organic DSV transceivers capable of interfacing with existing tactical and commercial telephone lines. The baud rate of the circuit determines the speed of the transmission. A 300-baud conditioned circuit can transmit a DSV image in 14 minutes. A 9600-baud

conditioned circuit can transmit a DSV image in 3 minutes. DSV images in their current format do not integrate into automated control systems being fielded. This issue is going to be addressed in future upgrades of automated control systems being fielded throughout the Army.

(3) Film-based still documentation.

(a) For tactical VI missions requiring top quality photographic images, Army and Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) VI units will have the capability to record still images using film-based technology. Because of the mobility required for combat documentation, cameramen must expedite exposed film with complete captions to the corps or theater VI unit for processing and printing. (Captions for documentation products are discussed in more detail later in this chapter.)

(b) Compact, low-quantity processors for color and for black and white film and prints are organic to Army and Marine Corps COMCAM units located to support corps rear headquarters. Capabilities for high-quantity production and volume printing exists at VI units located to support theater rear headquarters. As technology evolves, equipment will be authorized at the division level to convert film-based documentation products and captions into analog or digital format for near real time transmission.

(4) Audio documentation.

(a) Army and MEF VI units maintain the capability to provide audio documentation in support of tactical missions. Audio documentation is provided by portable microphones and audio recorders or by audio recording systems which are integrated with video tape recorders.

(b) Audio documentation uses high-fidelity sound technology and standard size magnetic cassette recording tape.

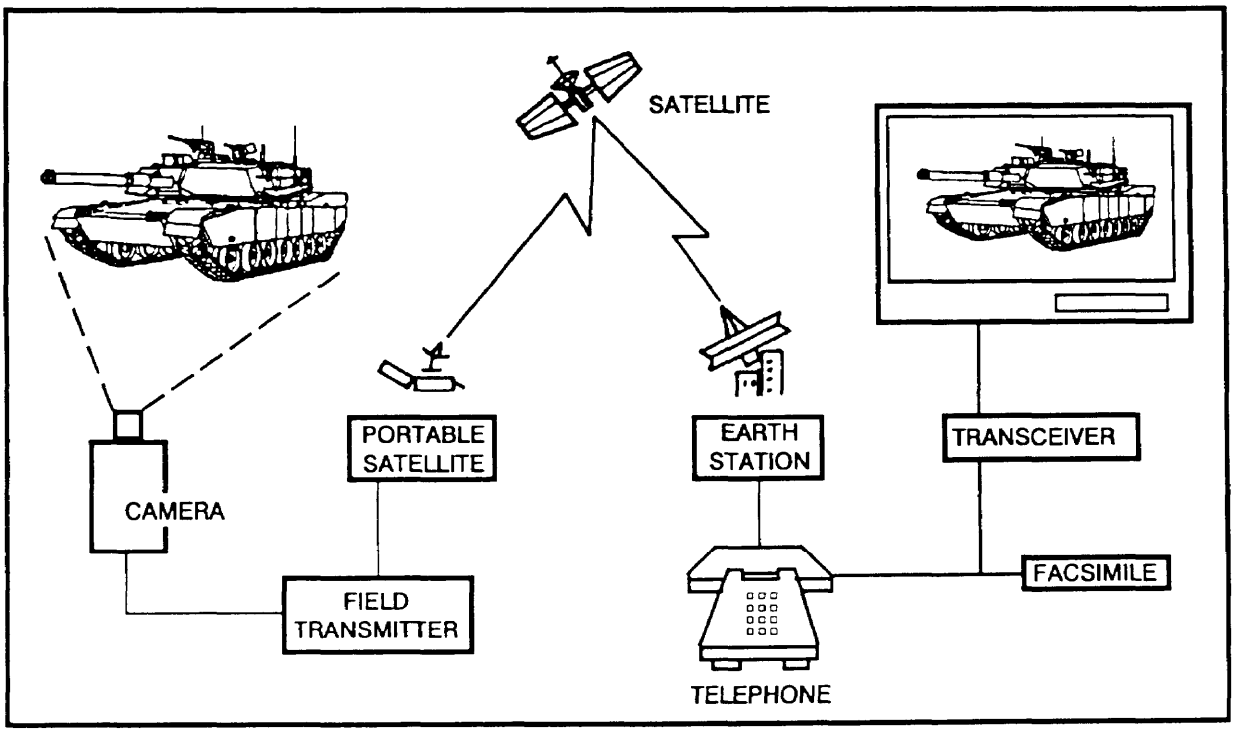


Figure 2-1. DSV transmission links.

(5) Graphics.

(a) The design, creation, and preparation of two-and three-dimensional graphic products manually or with computer-assisted imaging equipment is a dedicated support capability of the VI graphics documentation specialists. In the tactical environment, the VI soldiers perform several critical tasks for the commander, to include—

• Production of accurate and informative operational decision graphics.

• Enhancement of maps, aerial photographs, and satellite imagery.

• Creation of overlays with terrain, friendly and enemy positions, and targeting positions.

• Incorporation of visual imagery into maneuver control systems to enhance accurate representation of the battlefield.

(b) The graphics documentation specialists also prepare charts, posters, and visual materials for brochures, publication covers, briefings, displays, and models, along with rough sketches and paintings for operational and historic purposes.

NOTE: MEF COMCAM units do not possess graphic support capability at this time.

f. Captions.

(1) All Army and Marine Corps VI units supporting tactical missions must have the capability to caption documentation at the time visual images and sounds are recorded. Original captions are an integral and permanent record of the documentation. Still and motion media documentation will include captions in accordance with DOD Directive 5040.2, DOD Directive 5040.4, AR 25-1, and DA Pamphlet (Pam) 25-91, or MCO P5290.1 and MCO 5290.4.

(2) COMCAM soldiers who originate documentation will verify accuracy and security classification of caption information with the command they are supporting. Captions will be factual and objective.

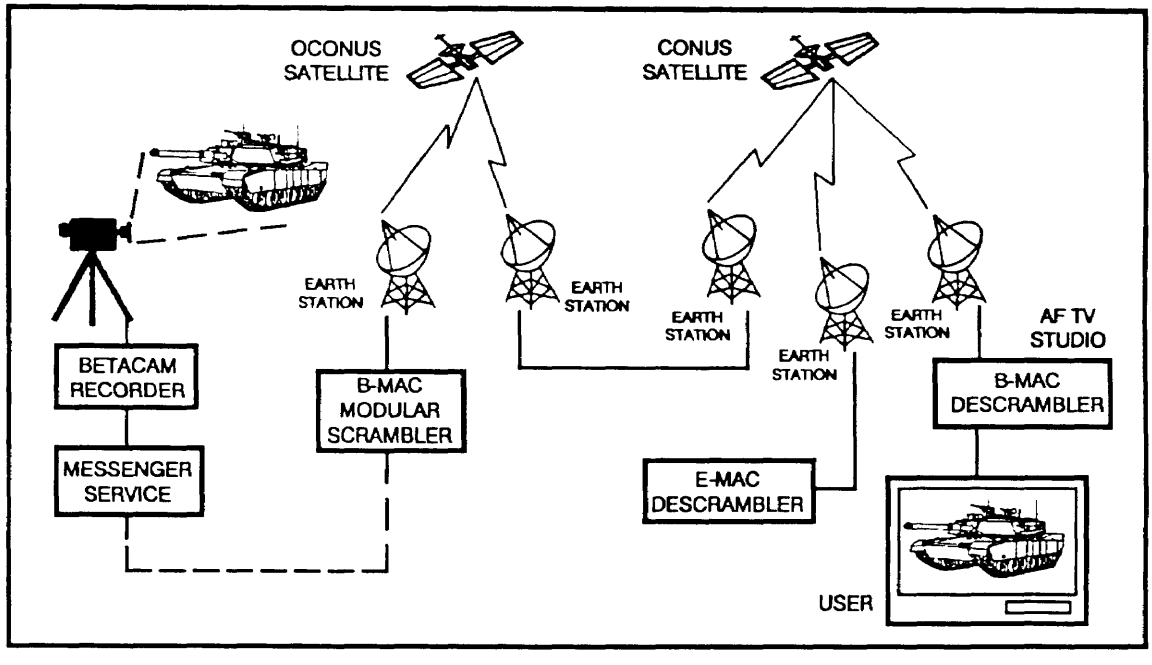


Figure 2-2. Motion video transmission links.

2-3. Conferencing

a. Conferencing capabilities in support of tactical missions range from simple, user-oriented audio and video display systems in tactical operations centers (TOCs) to automated multimedia presentation systems in theater operations centers. Conferencing supports one headquarters or electronically links tactical or strategic headquarters through audio for VTC networks. (See Figure 2-3.)

b. VTC permits interaction among participants linked by a secure or nonsecure telecommunications system. Capabilities include two-way electronic audio and video communications between two or more locations or fully interactive audio and one-way video. VI soldiers or Marines who perform VTC functions are assigned to the supporting COMCAM unit. Tactical VI documentation used in VTC is prepared by COMCAM units supporting the theater.

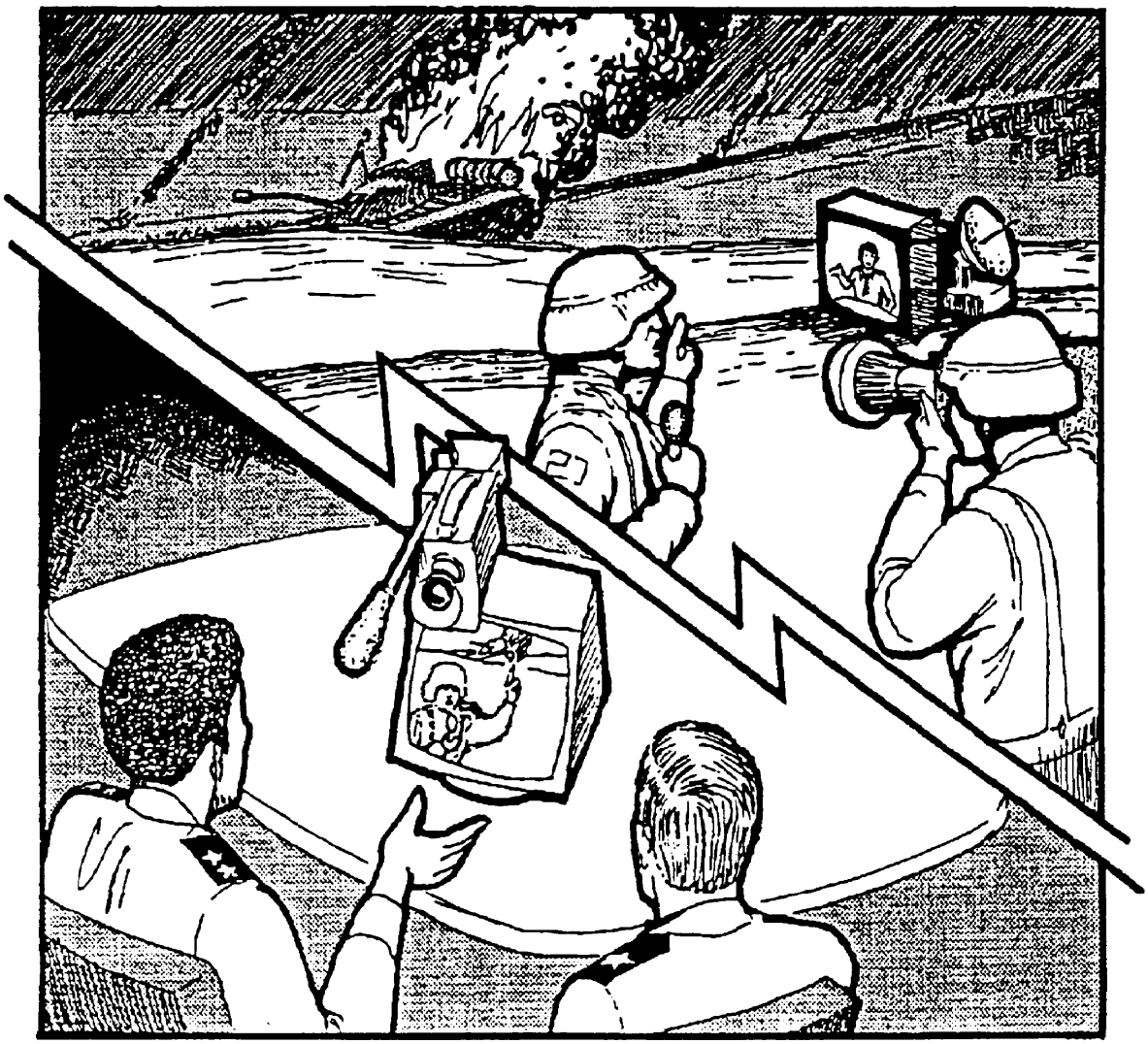


Figure 2-3. VTC networks.

2-4. Multimedia Products

VI units maintain the capability to combine still, motion, and graphics documentation into a VI product which satisfies specific information requirements of supported tactical or strategic commanders. Examples of these products include video reports and multimedia products.

a. Video reports are distributed on l/2-inch video home system (VHS) format. A video report may be a loosely-edited sequence of COMCAM documentation with simple graphics, with or without narration, used as a "quick-and-dirty" product for the tactical commanders immediate operational needs. Such video reports are produced by the supporting COMCAM unit. A video report for a strategic or tactical requirement will be edited according to a script narration with COMCAM documentation, sophisticated graphics, some special effects, and audio narration. VI units would produce such reports in support of the theater headquarters. Video reports have content of short-term use of about a year or less. They do not qualify as "productions," which require life cycle management and approvals through DOD and DA under provisions of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-114 and related DOD and DA regulations, and the Marine Corps Visual Information Management (VIM).

b. Multimedia products are typically done in digital form. They may include motion media, still, graphics, and audio narration which is digitized, stored, and assembled in a computer. (See Figure 2-4.)

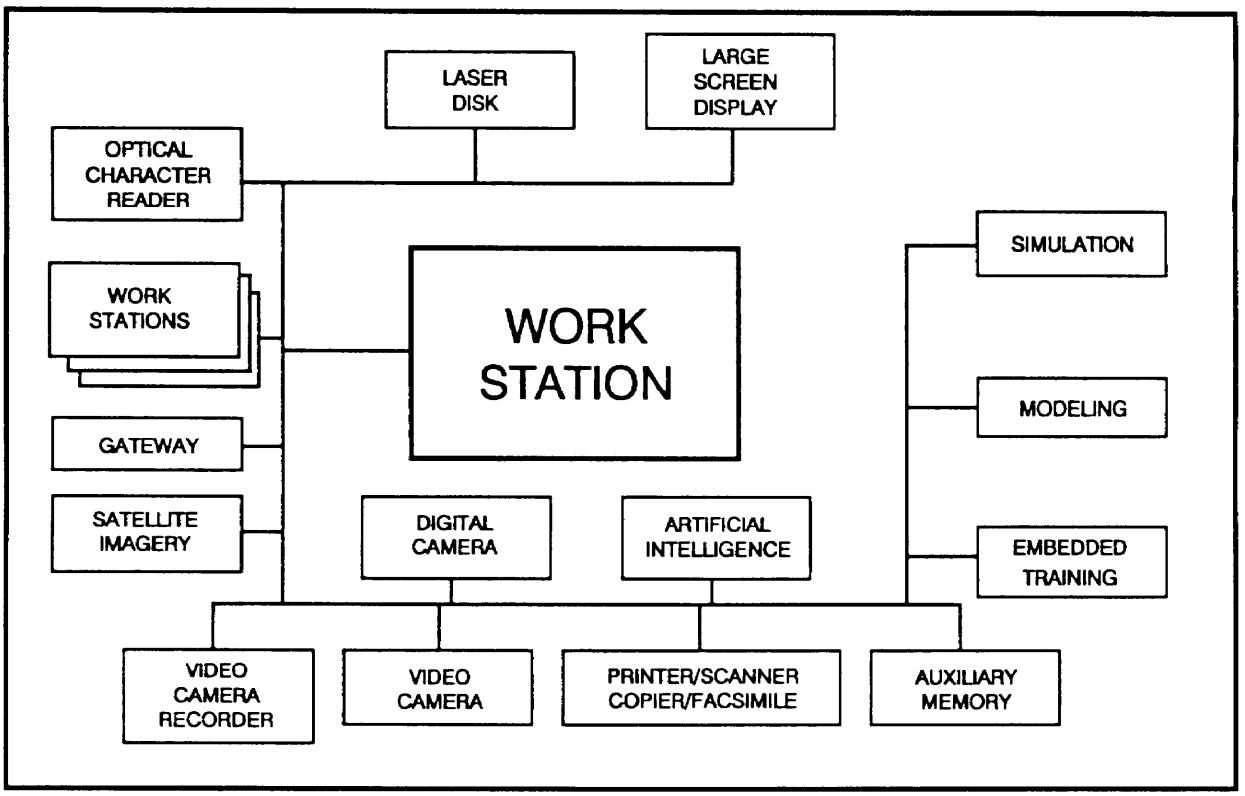


Figure 2-4. Multimedia.

2-5. Product Handling and Distribution

a. The exploitation and handling of all VI products follows a basic four-step procedure—processing, transmitting, reproducing, and distributing. Local VI officers will ensure that all VI products are handled and distributed to customers in an expeditious manner. For Marine Corps COMCAM units, particular emphasis will be placed on imagery duplication capability, as this is the key to customer satisfaction at all theater levels. (See Figure 2-5 below and Figure 2-6 on page 2-9.)

(1) Electronic movement of VI products (transmission).

- Digital transceivers (DSV).
- Military tactical telephone systems.
- Tactical satellite.
- Microwave.
- Allied or host nation military communications.
- Defense Communication System (DCS).
- Leased commercial satellites and land lines.

(2) Nonelectronic movement of VI products.

- Messenger/courier.

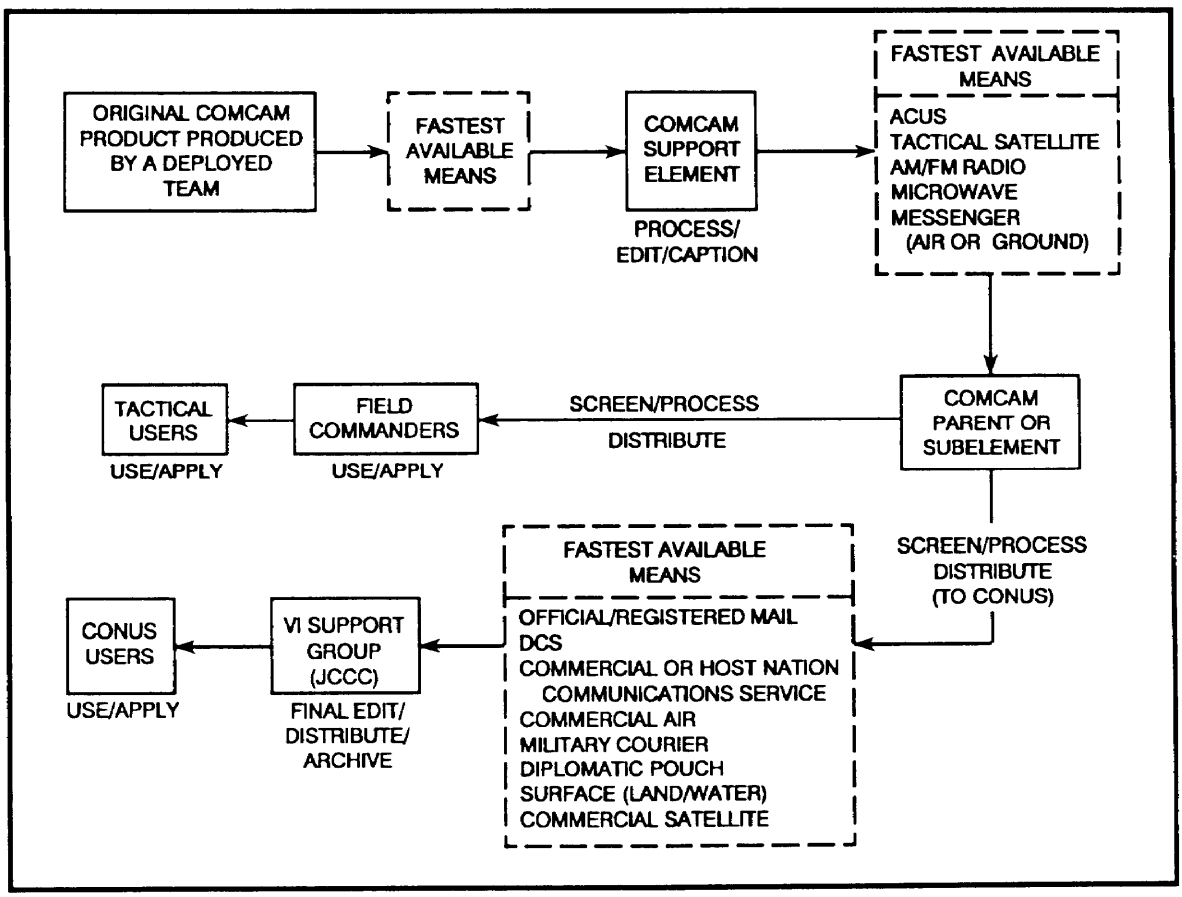


Figure 2-5. Distribution and flow of COMCAM products (Army).

• PA media pool.

• Official mail.

• Military air.

• Allied or host nation transportation systems.

• Commercial air or air express.

• Diplomatic pouch (to continental United States [CONUS]).

• Defense courier service (to CONUS).

• Registered mail (to CONUS).

b. VI documentation products (still and motion media) will be delivered directly to the requesting staff section. The distribution of VI imagery is prioritized as follows:

• On-scene commander.

• Joint task force (JTF) commander.

• Supported unified or specified commander.

• NCA, JCS, joint staff, and military services.

• Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) PA, when appropriate.

• After-action requirements for historical records.

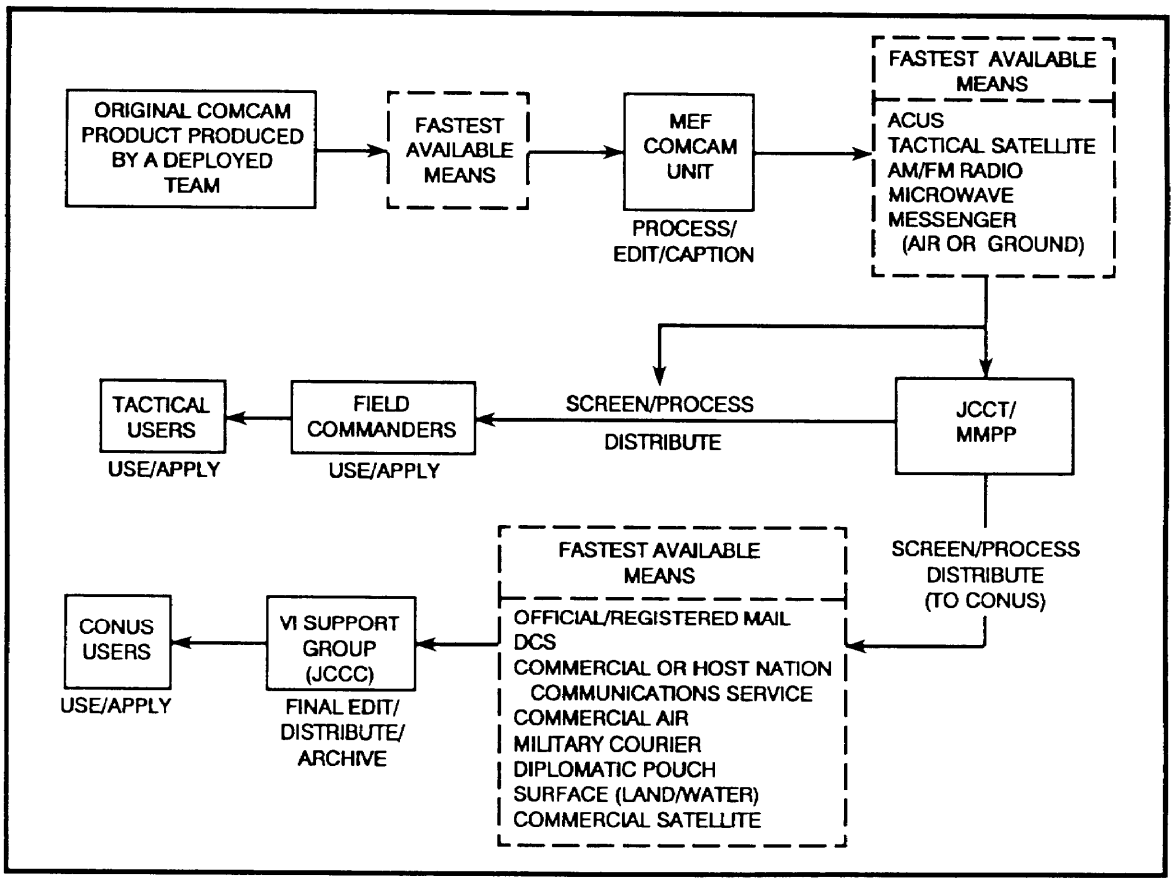


Figure 2-6. Distribution and flow of COMCAM products (Marine Corps).

c. VI imagery from the field will be edited by VI soldiers for technical acceptability. The VI staff which first receives the raw material evaluates and screens the contents to ensure it meets functional, operational, and quality requirements.

d. Processing services include—

• Converting conventional still negatives and transparencies into electronic images.

• Transmitting still images over tactical frequency modulated (FM) radio, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS), military tactical telephone systems, and tactical satellite communications systems.

• Making color prints or transparencies from electronic images.

• Reviewing motion and still imagery for quick and refined video reports.

• Duplicating and distributing video reports and still imagery.

• Preparing and shipping unedited material to the JCCC located in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

• Processing still negative and color slide film with conventional wet chemistry. Conventional film is used as a backup capability only. Negatives and slides are converted into electronic imagery for transmission and future use.

• Maintaining and repairing VI equipment and systems organic to COMCAM units and functional users with compatible equipment.

e. The JCCC is the single center in the National Capital Region (NCR) for ensuring that COMCAM imagery is received and then distributed to the JCS, military services, and other federal agencies. After satisfying the requirements of these organizations, the imagery will be returned to the originating military service.

Chapter 3

Operations and Organization in the Theater

Section I. Policies and Responsibilities

3-1. Introduction

DOD Directive 5040.2 dictates that activities of the military services shall be documented to the maximum practical extent by VI and COMCAM units. This documentation shall be considered for all theater operational decision making and historical documentation. Neither security classification, operations security (OPSEC), nor subject sensitivity should preclude VI operations. VI products can be classified to any level required. OPSEC must be observed when COMCAM assets are integrated into theater operations.

3-2. Responsibilities

Commanders operating in a tactical theater are responsible for VI operations and support at the operational through the tactical levels of war. Commanders at all levels identify requirements for VI support. Their signal staffs/MEF COMCAM officers are responsible for prosecuting the VI mission to support the AirLand and MAGTF Operations. This responsibility includes VI operations in all subordinate, assigned, or attached commands. Commanders are assisted in the discharge of these responsibilities by signal and VI staff officers or noncommissioned officers (NCOs) located at various levels of command. (See Figure 3-l.)

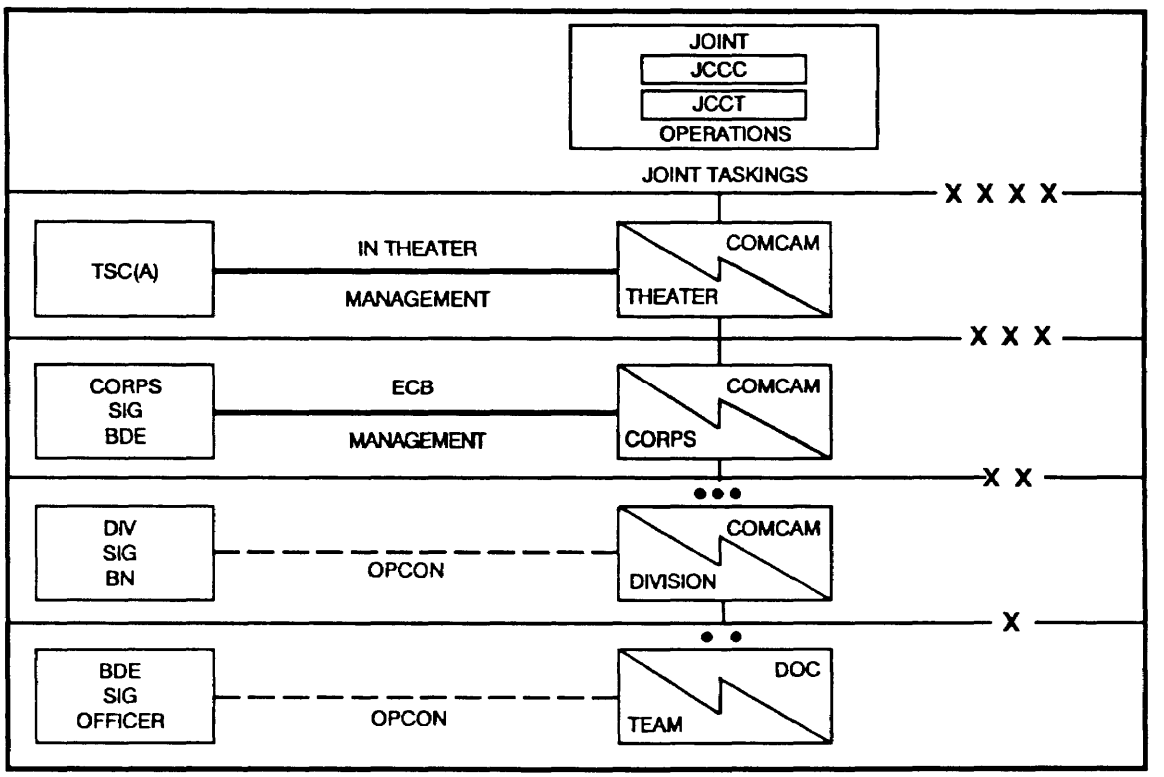


Figure 3 -1. Typical Army COMCAM structure.

a. Assistant Chief of Staff, G3 (Operations and Plans). The G3 is responsible for identifying and integrating VI requirements into the command battlefield information efforts. The integration of VI enhances the operational decision-making process in the prosecution of the AirLand and MAGTF Operations.

b. Signal staff officer. The signal staff officer at each level of command is responsible for directing VI in support of the assigned mission. He identifies and evaluates VI requirements and directs the preparation of planned operations, crisis, and exercise plans to ensure successful accomplishment of VI and COMCAM missions. The signal staff officer briefs commanders and staffs on the capabilities and limitations of COMCAM units and procedures for requesting COMCAM support. The signal staff officer is responsible for defining and integrating the role of VI in support of battlefield information systems at his level of command. The signal staff officer at each level of command will have a VI staff officer or NCO to advise on VI and COMCAM operations.

c. VI staff officer or NCO. The VI staff officer or NCO at each level of command is responsible for assisting the signal staff officer in the planning and execution of VI in support of the assigned mission. At all echelons of command, he identifies and integrates VI applications to support operational decision making to prosecute the AirLand Operations. He defines the capabilities and limitations of COMCAM units and establishes procedures for requesting, validating, and prioritizing COMCAM support. These duties and responsibilities are assumed by the signal staff officer at echelons corps and below (ECB).

d. Functional user. The functional user at each level is responsible for identifying, defining, coordinating, and integrating VI support into the operational decision-making process. Users must familiarize themselves with COMCAM capabilities, limitations, and procedures prior to requesting support. These will be outlined in local VI standing operating procedures (SOPs).

Section II. Theater

3-3. Introduction

Signal VI companies or MCCUs provide VI support to theater headquarters and assigned or attached units above corps or MEF for operational decision making and historical documentation. These VI companies are attached to the Theater Signal Command (Army) (TSC(A)) and are organized and equipped in accordance with approved table(s) of organization and equipment (TOEs). The TSC(A) provides VI and COMCAM resources to satisfy joint COMCAM mission requirements when directed by the JCCT.

3-4. Responsibilities

a. The theater G3 is the primary staff agency which identifies and prioritizes operational VI requirements for the theater headquarters. These taskings are based on operational needs to support the decision-making process.

b. The theater signal officer (TSO) receives operational VI tastings from the G3 and other theater staff agencies. He is responsible for the integration of VI into battlefield information systems to support planned operations, crisis, and exercise planning. He prioritizes tactical communication systems to ensure near real time transmission of visual imagery. The TSO ensures VI assets are properly used and sets priorities when the demand for VI support exceeds capabilities.

c. The VI officer at the TSC(A) or MEF is the principal link between the TSO and the theater's organic VI company. He identifies and prioritizes VI assets needed to support operational, crisis, and exercise plans for the theater. He advises the TSO on all aspects of the VI and COMCAM mission and makes recommendations on the economical use of assigned VI assets. He establishes policy on the disposition of visual imagery originating within the theater. The VI officer is the principal point of contact between the theater Army or the Marine Corps and the JCCT. He

ensures that visual imagery is provided to the JCCT for near real time transmission to the National Military Command Center (NMCC), joint staff, and HQDA or Headquarters, Marine Corps (HQMC). The VI officer is the principal point of contact for COMCAM missions tasked from outside the Army or Marine Corps theater.

d. The VI staff at the TSC(A) manages VI and COMCAM support within the theater. The staff prepares operational annexes to operation plans and tasks COMCAM units to accomplish the VI mission. (See Appendixes A and B.) Planned operations are prepared based on JCS Publication 5-02.1. Crisis operations are prepared based on JCS Publication 5-02.4. The VI staff works closely with the TSO and VI officer or MEF COMCAM officer to identify, coordinate, and execute all other VI taskings at the theater level.

3-5. Organization

Signal VI companies are organized and equipped in accordance with approved TOEs; MEF COMCAM units are organized and equipped in accordance with the approved Table of Organization (T/O) and the Table of Equipment (T/E). Platoons within those companies are tailored to satisfy COMCAM and tactical VI support requirements for the theater headquarters and assigned or attached units above corps. (See Figure 3-2.)

3-6. Functions

a. A signal company (COMCAM) is assigned to the TSC(A) (MEF COMCAM unit is assigned to the MEF headquarters unit) and resourced to support requests for original still and motion media imagery within the theater headquarters area. It also provides support services for images taken by organic COMCAM assets and functional users. (See Chapter 5.) These services include processing, editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmitting imagery for the theater headquarters and assigned or attached units above corps or MEF. Once operational imagery requirements are satisfied at the theater headquarters, camera original images are forwarded to the JCCT for use by the unified command.

b. The company or MCCU also provides general level maintenance support for all organic and functional user VI equipment deployed throughout the theater.

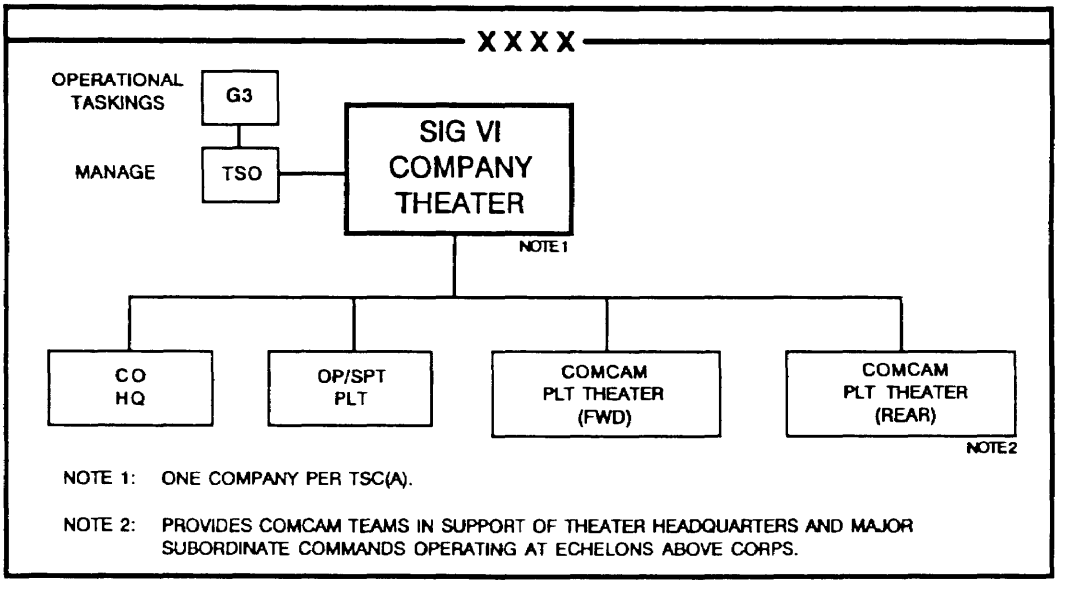


Figure 3-2. COMCAM at theater.

Presentation services are provided by the company for the theater headquarters. The VI company consists of a headquarters, operations and support platoon, and COMCAM platoons.

(1) The company headquarters provides command, control, and coordination of the company's VI and COMCAM missions. This includes execution of administrative, operational, and logistical functions required to accomplish the mission. The company commander performs VI staff officer functions on the TSO's staff.

(2) The operations and support platoon or MCCU is responsible for coordinating imagery acquisition, processing, editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmitting required to support theater and unified command requirements. It coordinates with all functional users (such as PSYOP, MP, and PA) to ensure compatibility with standard acquisition and processing equipment used by the VI company. The platoon catalogs and maintains Army theater-wide duplicate imagery. It reviews imagery for complete captions and technical acceptability to satisfy operational taskings. The platoon provides presentation support and services to the theater commander and staff. It provides general support maintenance of VI equipment deployed throughout the theater. The platoon consolidates theater-wide VI logistic requirements and processes requirements with the JCCT. The VI liaison NCO authorized in the operations section works full time on the VI staff.

(3) The COMCAM platoons execute imagery acquisition requirements for the theater headquarters and all assigned or attached units above corps or MEF. The platoons have tactical wheeled vehicles and are equipped with motion media, conventional still, and DSV camera equipment. All imagery is captioned by the platoons prior to being forwarded for processing. Processing and transmission support is provided by the company operations and support platoon.

3-7. Equipment

VI equipment is commercial off-the-shelf nondevelopmental items (NDI). (See Chapter 6.) Organic VI company or MCCU VI equipment and functional user acquisition formats at all levels must be compatible with VI company or MCCU processing and transmission capabilities.

a. Acquisition formats and capabilities. Acquisition formats for COMCAM documentation comply with standards established by DOD to ensure interoperability when operating on a JCCT. Motion media images are recorded on 8mm high band videotape format. Still imagery is recorded using DSV cameras and conventional 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) cameras. VI companies can obtain imagery at night using night vision devices designed to operate with both motion media and still imagery equipment. Production quality cameras and editing equipment are used at theater level for applications requiring high resolution imagery.

b. Mobility. VI companies have organic tactical wheeled vehicles to deploy with supported units. These vehicles are configured for self-contained VI processing and editing systems which can operate anywhere on the battlefield. For the Marine Corps, see section VI.

c. Processing. The operations and support platoon is capable of processing both DSV and 35mm slide and negative film. Still imagery is printed using electronic systems which import still imagery from DSV or film and provide both black and white and color prints.

d. Editing. All camera original videotape material is reviewed and edited by the operations and support platoon. Editing supports operational decision-making requirements outlined by the G3 staff and other theater requirements tasked by the VI staff.

e. Presentation support. The teams have organic capability to play back videotape and DSV imagery using portable color monitors.

f. Cataloging. All camera original imagery is reviewed and cataloged prior to being forwarded to the JCCT. Still and motion media camera original imagery for operational briefings and presentations is duplicated and kept by the operations and support

platoon. The platoon maintains an automated database using the visual information record identification number (VIRIN) system to track and describe all duplicate imagery retained at theater level.

g. Transmitting. Near real time transmission of imagery between corps and theater is the responsibility of the operations and support platoon. Camera original imagery is moved using the fastest means available. Satellites are the primary means used to move imagery between corps and theater. Secondary means consist of tactical area common-user systems (ACUS), microwave, radios, or messenger. The platoon or MCCU is responsible for coordinating the transmission of imagery to the JCCT at the unified command.

Section III. Corps/Marine Expeditionary Force

3-8. Introduction

Signal VI companies or MCCUs provide VI support to corps or MEF headquarters and assigned or attached units above division for operational decision making and historical documentation. These VI companies are attached to the corps or MEF and are organized and equipped in accordance with approved TOEs, T/Os, and T/Es.

3-9. Responsibilities

a. The corps G3 is the primary staff agency which identifies and prioritizes operational VI requirements for the corps headquarters. These taskings are based on operational needs to support the decision-making process.

b. The corps signal officer (CSO) receives operational VI taskings from the G3 and other corps staff agencies. He is responsible for the integration of VI into battlefield information systems to support planned operations, crisis, and exercise planning. He prioritizes tactical communication systems to ensure near real time transmission of visual imagery. He ensures that VI assets are properly used and sets priorities when the demand for COMCAM support exceeds capabilities.

c. The VI officer at corps or MEF is the principal link between the CSO and the corps-attached VI company. He identifies and prioritizes VI assets needed to support operational, crisis, and exercise plans for the corps or MEF. He advises the CSO on all aspects of the VI and COMCAM mission and makes recommendations on the economical use of attached VI assets. He establishes policy on the disposition of visual imagery originating within the corps or MEF. The VI officer is the principal point of contact between the corps or MEF and the theater. He ensures that visual imagery is provided to the theater for near real time transmission to the JCCT at the unified command. The VI officer is the principal point of contact for VI missions tasked from outside the corps or MEF.

d. The VI staff at the corps or MEF manages VI support within the corps or MEF. The staff prepares annexes to operational plans and tasks VI units to accomplish the VI mission. (See Appendixes A and B.) Planned operations, crisis, and exercise plans are prepared based on theater guidance. The VI staff works closely with the signal and VI staff officer to identify, coordinate, and execute all other VI taskings at the corps or MEF level.

3-10. Organization

VI companies are organized and equipped in accordance with approved TOEs. Platoons within those companies are tailored to satisfy COMCAM and tactical VI support requirements for the corps headquarters and assigned or attached units above division. (See Figure 3-3 on page 3-6.)

3-11. Functions

a. A signal VI company or MCCU is assigned to the corps (organic to MEF) and resourced to support requests for original still and motion media imagery within the corps headquarters area or MEF headquarters and major subordinate command (MSC).

It also provides support services for images taken by organic VI assets and functional users. These services include processing, editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmitting imagery for the corps headquarters and assigned or attached units above division. Once operational imagery requirements are satisfied at the corps headquarters or MEF and its MSCs, camera original images are forwarded to the corps signal VI company for use by the theater headquarters. (For Marines, imagery is forwarded to the JCCT.)

b. The company also provides direct support maintenance for all organic and functional user VI equipment deployed throughout the corps or MEF. Presentation services are provided by the company for the corps or MEF headquarters. The signal VI company consists of a headquarters, operations and support platoon, COMCAM platoon (corps), and a COMCAM platoon for each division.

(1) The company headquarters provides command, control, and coordination of the company's VI missions. This includes execution of administrative, operational, and logistical functions required to accomplish the mission. The company commander performs VI staff officer functions on the CSO's staff.

(2) The operations and support platoon is responsible for coordinating imagery acquisition, processing, editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmission required to support corps and theater requirements. It coordinates with all functional users (such as PSYOP, MP, and PA) to ensure compatibility with standard acquisition and processing equipment used by the VI company. The platoon catalogs and maintains Army theater-wide duplicate imagery. It reviews imagery for complete captions and technical acceptability to satisfy operational taskings. The platoon provides presentation support and services to the corps commander and staff. It provides direct support maintenance of VI equipment deployed throughout the theater. The platoon consolidates corps-wide VI logistic requirements and processes requirements with the theater signal VI company. The VI liaison NCO in the operations section works on the VI staff.

(3) The COMCAM platoons execute imagery acquisition requirements for the corps headquarters and all assigned or attached units above corps. The platoons have tactial wheeled vehicles and are equipped with motion media, conventional still and DSV camera equipment. All imagery is captioned by the platoon

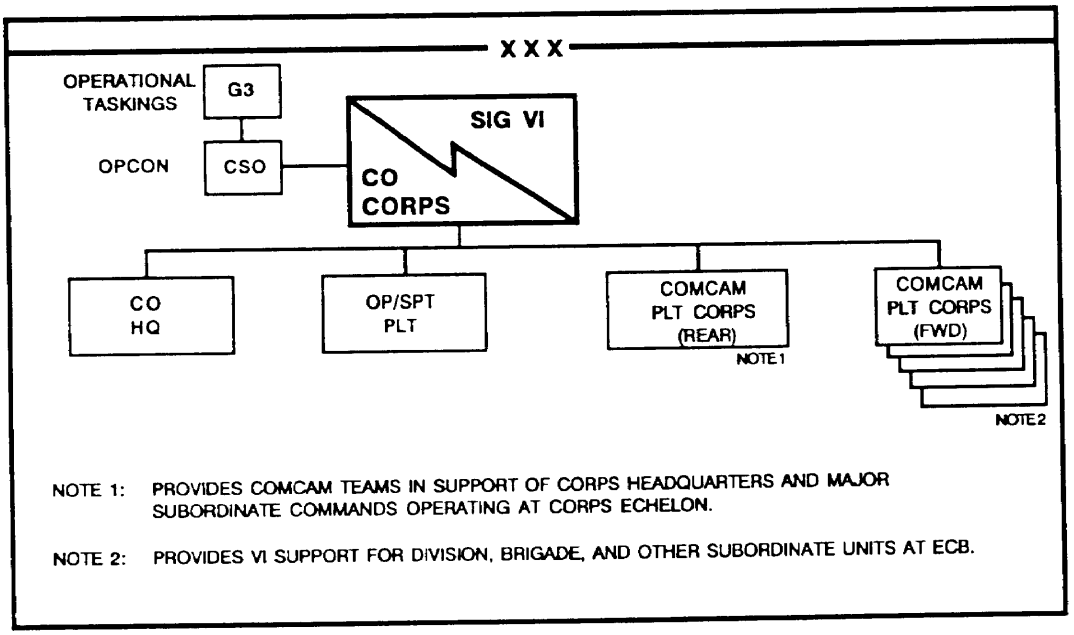


Figure 3-3. COMCAM at corps.

prior to being forwarded to the operations and support platoon for processing. Transmission support is provided by the operations and support platoon.

(4) The forward COMCAM platoons provide support for subordinate division and brigade headquarters and other major or subordinate unit headquarters at ECB as directed by the corps G3 or a subordinate echelon G3. These platoons execute imagery acquisition requirements for the division. (See section IV.)

3-12. Equipment

VI equipment is commercial off-the-shelf NDI. (See Chapter 6.) COMCAM company VI equipment and functional user acquisition formats at all levels must be compatible with VI company processing and transmission capabilities.

a. Acquisition formats and capabilities. Acquisition formats for COMCAM documentation comply with standards established by DOD to ensure interoperability when operating on a JCCT. Motion media images are recorded on 8mm high band videotape format. Still imagery is recorded using DSV cameras and conventional 35mm SLR cameras. VI companies can obtain imagery at night using night vision devices designed to operate with both motion media and still imagery equipment.

b. Mobility. VI companies have organic tactical wheeled vehicles to deploy with supported units. These vehicles are configured for self-contained VI processing and editing systems which can operate anywhere on the battlefield.

c. Processing. The operations and support platoon is capable of processing both DSV and 35mm slide and negative film. Still imagery is printed using electronic systems which import still imagery from DSV or film and provide both black and white and color prints.

d. Editing. All camera original videotape material is reviewed and edited by the operations and support platoon. Editing supports operational decision-rnaking requirements outlined by the G3 staff and other theater requirements tasked by the VI staff.

e. Presentation support. The teams have organic capability to play back videotape and DSV imagery using portable color monitors.

f. Cataloging. All camera original imagery is reviewed and cataloged prior to being forwarded to the JCCT. Still and motion media camera original imagery for operational briefings and presentations is duplicated and kept by the operations and support platoon. The platoon maintains an automated database using the VIRIN system to track and describe all duplicate imagery retained at corps level.

g. Transmitting. Near real time transmission of imagery between division and corps is the responsibility of the operations and support platoon. Camera original imagery is moved using the fastest means available. Satellites are one of the primary means used to move imagery between division and corps. Other means consist of tactical ACUS, microwave, radios, or messenger. The platoon is responsible for coordinating the transmission of imagery to the theater.

Section IV. Division/Marine Division

3-13. Introduction

COMCAM platoons or MCCCU teams provide VI support to division headquarters and are assigned or attached to units above brigade or the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) for operational decision making and historical documentation. These COMCAM platoons or MCCCU teams are attached to the division and are organized and equipped in accordance with approved TOEs, T/Os, and T/Es.

3-14. Responsibilities

a. The division G3 is the primary staff agency which identifies and prioritizes operational VI requirements for the division headquarters. These

taskings are based on operational needs to support the decision-making process.

b. The division signal officer (DSO) receives operational VI taskings from the G3 and other division staff agencies. He is responsible for the integration of VI into battlefield information systems to support planned operations, crisis, and exercise planning. He prioritizes tactical communication systems to ensure near real time transmission of visual imagery. He ensures that COMCAM assets are properly used and sets priorities when the demand for COMCAM support exceeds capabilities.

c. The VI officer at division is the principal link between the DSO and the attached COMCAM platoon. He identifies and prioritizes COMCAM assets needed to support operational, crisis, and exercise plans for the division. He advises the DSO on all aspects of the COMCAM mission and makes recommendations on the economical use of attached COMCAM assets. He establishes policy on the disposition of COMCAM imagery originating within the division. The VI officer is the principal point of contact between the division and the corps. He ensures that COMCAM imagery is provided to the corps for near real time transmission to the JCCT at the unified command. The VI officer is the principal point of contact for COMCAM missions tasked from outside the division.

d. The VI staff at the division is the COMCAM platoon leader and sergeant. They manage COMCAM support within the division. They prepare operational annexes to operation plans and task COMCAM units to accomplish the VI mission. (See Appendixes A and B.) Planned operations, crisis, and exercise plans are prepared based on corps guidance. The VI staff works closely with the signal officer and VI officer to identify, coordinate, and execute all other VI taskings at the division level.

3-15. Organization

COMCAM platoons are organized and equipped in accordance with approved TOEs. Sections within those platoons are tailored to satisfy COMCAM and tactical VI support requirements for the division headquarters and assigned or attached units above brigade. The COMCAM section task organizes COMCAM teams to provide imagery acquisition support to the division headquarters and maneuver brigades. (See Figure 3-4.)

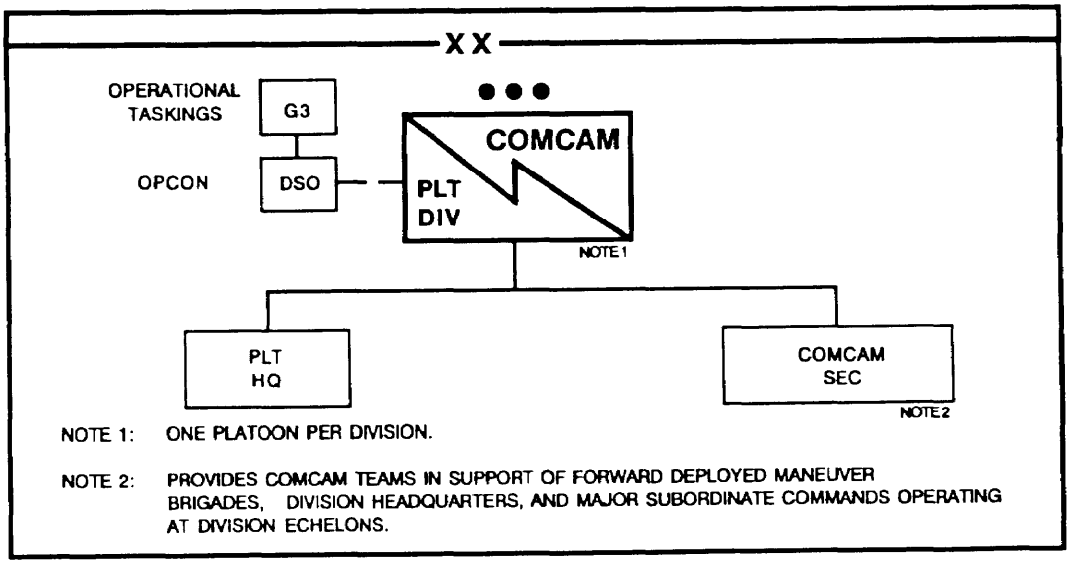


Figure 3-4. COMCAM at division.

3-16. Functions

a. A COMCAM platoon is attached to the division and resourced to support requests for original still and motion media imagery throughout the division. These services may include limited DSV processing, videotape editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmitting imagery for the entire division. Once operational imagery requirements are satisfied at the division headquarters, camera original images are forwarded to the corps VI company for use by the corps headquarters.

b. The platoon provides presentation services for the division headquarters. The platoon consists of a headquarters and COMCAM section.

(1) The platoon headquarters provides command, control, and coordination of the platoon's COMCAM missions. This includes execution of administrative, operational, and logistical functions required to accomplish the mission. The platoon leader and sergeant advise the DSO on all tactical VI issues. They coordinate and execute all imagery acquisition missions and ensure all functional users maintain compatibility with standard acquisition and processing equipment used by the COMCAM platoon.

(2) The COMCAM section executes imagery acquisition requirements for the entire division area. This section task organizes into COMCAM teams to provide support to the division headquarters, rear operations area, and maneuver brigades. The COMCAM section has tactical wheeled vehicles and is equipped with motion media, conventional still, and DSV camera equipment. All imagery is captioned by the teams prior to being forwarded to the operation and support platoon at corps for processing. Transmission of DSV is accomplished using portable satellite transceivers or ACUS. Teams have the capability to transmit DSV to all command echelons as required.

c. The operation and support platoon at corps is responsible to the division for DSV processing, videotape editing, duplicating, distributing, and transmitting imagery required to support division and corps requirements. The platoon catalogs and maintains division-wide duplicate imagery. It reviews imagery for complete captions and technical acceptability to satisfy operational taskings. It provides direct support maintenance of VI equipment deployed throughout the division. The platoon consolidates division-wide COMCAM logistic requirements and processes requirements with the corps signal VI company. It also provides tactial VI support services for images taken by organic VI assets and functional users.

3-17. Equipment

VI equipment is commercial off-the-shelf NDI. (See Chapter 6.) COMCAM platoon VI equipment and functional user acquisition formats at all levels must be compatible with COMCAM platoon processing and transmission capabilities.

a. Acquisition formats and capabilities. Acquisition formats for the COMCAM section comply with standards established by DOD to ensure interoperability when operating on a JCCT. Motion media images are recorded on 8mm high band videotape format. Still imagery is recorded using DSV cameras, conventional 35mm SLR cameras, and self-processing 35mm slide film systems. COMCAM teams can obtain imagery at night using night vision devices designed to operate with both motion media and still imagery equipment.

b. Mobility. COMCAM teams have organic tactical wheeled vehicles to deploy with supported units. These vehicles are configured for self-contained VI processing and editing systems which can operate anywhere on the battlefield.

c. Presentation support. The COMCAM platoons have organic capability to play back videotape and DSV imagery using portable color monitors.

d. Transmitting. Near real time transmission of imagery between division and corps is the responsibility of the platoon headquarters. Camera original imagery

is moved using the fastest means available. Satellites are one of the primary means used to move imagery between division and corps. Other means consist of tactical ACUS, microwave, radios, or messenger. The platoon is responsible for coordinating the transmission of imagery to the theater.

Section V. Brigade and Below/Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Below

3-18. Introduction

COMCAM teams from the division or MEF operate at brigade or MEB through platoon level as a normal requirement for accomplishing their missions. COMCAM teams are operationally controlled by the brigade signal officer (BSO) or the MEF COMCAM officer. Team VI support is used for operational decision making and historical documentation. COMCAM teams are task organized and placed at specific locations based on directives from the division G3 or in response to a request by the commander of a divisional unit.

3-19. Responsibilities

a. The brigade S3 is the primary staff agency which identifies and prioritizes operational VI requirements for the brigade headquarters. These taskings are based on operational needs to support the decision-making process.

b. The BSO receives operational VI taskings from the G3 and other brigade staff agencies. He is responsible for the integration of VI into battlefield information systems to support planned operations, crisis, and exercise planning. The BSO prioritizes tactical communication systems to ensure near real time transmission of visual imagery. He ensures that COMCAM assets are supported for quarters, rations, tracked vehicles, and air support when required to accomplish the mission. The BSO sets priorities when the demand for VI assets exceeds capabilities.

c. The COMCAM team chief is the principal link between the team and the BSO. He executes assigned COMCAM missions and ensures that imagery is transmitted or transported to the division COMCAM platoon in a timely manner. He advises the BSO on all aspects of the COMCAM mission and makes recommendations on the economical use of team assets.

3-20. Organization

COMCAM teams are task organized in response to mission taskings to provide flexibility and economy of resources. Team size is normally two to four soldiers. Team size, skill, and equipment needs are determined by the COMCAM platoon leader. (See Figure 3-5 on page 3-11.)

3-21. Functions

The COMCAM teams execute imagery acquisition requirements for the brigades and below. Teams have tactical wheeled vehicles and are equipped with motion media, conventional still and DSV camera equipment. All imagery is captioned by the teams prior to being forwarded to the COMCAM platoon support section for processing. Transmission of DSV is accomplished using portable satellite transceivers or ACUS. Teams have the capability to transmit DSV to all command echelons as required.

3-22. Equipment

VI equipment is commercial off-the-shelf NDI. (See Chapter 6.) COMCAM team VI equipment and functional user acquisition formats at all levels must be compatible with COMCAM platoon processing and transmission capabilities.

a. Acquisition formats and capabilities. Acquisition formats for the COMCAM teams comply with standards established by DOD to ensure

interoperability when operating on a JCCT. Motion media images are recorded on 8mm high band videotape format. Still imagery is recorded using DSV cameras, conventional 35mm SLR cameras, and self-processing 35mm slide film systems. COMCAM teams can obtain imagery at night using night vision devices designed to operate with both motion media and still imagery equipment.

b. Mobility. The teams have organic standard tactical wheeled vehicles to deploy with supported units.

c. Processing. The teams are capable of processing DSV and self-processing 35mm slide film. DSV is printed using a portable color DSV printer.

d. Editing. The teams have no organic videotape editing capability. All camera original videotape material is edited by the COMCAM platoon support section.

e. Presentation support. The teams have organic capability to play back videotape and DSV imagery using portable color monitors.

f. Cataloging. The teams have no organic cataloging capability. All camera original imagery is reviewed and cataloged by the COMCAM platoon support section.

g. Transmitting. The teams transmit near real time DSV imagery to all command echelons as required. Camera original imagery is moved using the fastest means available. Portable satellite transceivers are the primary means used to move DSV. Secondary means consist of tactical ACUS, microwave, radios, or messenger. Other imagery is moved using messenger service or organic tactical vehicles.

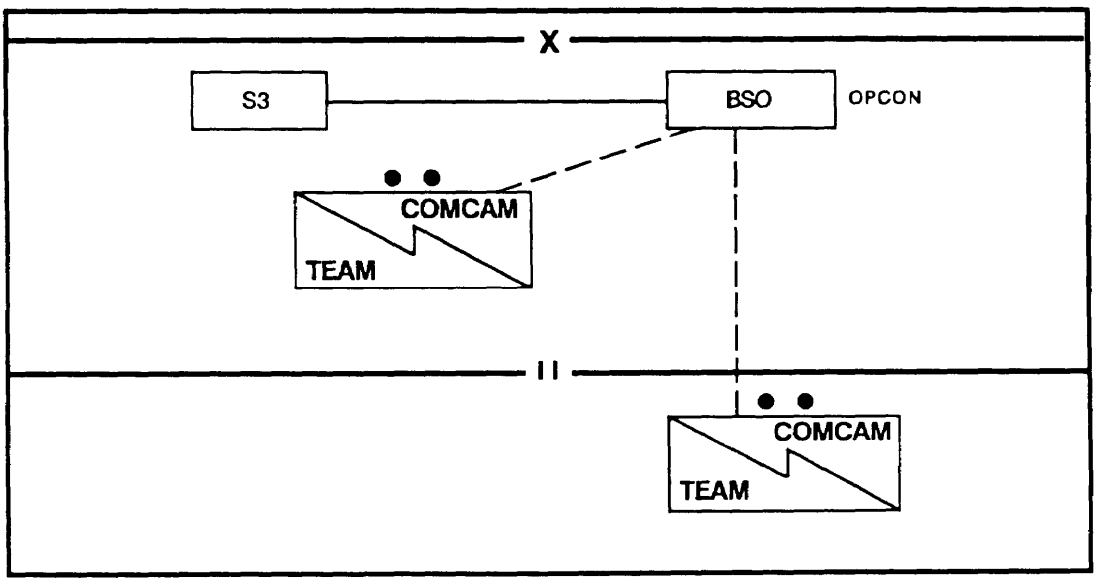


Figure 3-5. COMCAM at brigade and battalion.

Section VI. Marine Corps COMCAM Units

3-23. Introduction

Marine Corps COMCAM units are organic to each MEF and are known as MCCUs. The MCCCU is located at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), Quantico, Virginia and provides COMCAM documentation and category 2 production support on a corps-wide basis.

3-24. Responsibilities

a. The MEF COMCAM officer is the principal point of contact between the MEF and JCCT on matters related to COMCAM. He is responsible for advising the commanding general on the use of COMCAM assets, identifying and prioritizing COMCAM requirements of the MEF and its subordinate elements, and establishing policy and procedures for disposition of COMCAM imagery. The MEF COMCAM officer is also responsible for ensuring the proper use and placement of COMCAM personnel and equipment during war and peacetime operations.

b. Task-organized COMCAM teams are dispatched from the MCCU to support elements of the MAGTF. They are subordinate to the MEF COMCAM officer. The COMCAM team's senior member advises the supported commander on all matters relative to COMCAM and provides COMCAM support as required by the commander.

3-25. Organization

MCCUs are organized and equipped in accordance with T/Os and T/Es.

3-26. Functions

MCCUs maintain and provide conventional still photographic, video, electronic still video, and audiovisual equipment maintenance capability to the MEF and its MSCs. MCCUs also provide and maintain mass duplication capability for all imagery mediums.

3-27. Equipment

The MCCUs have a Mobile Photographic Lab (MPL) which consists of four vans. The MPLs are an essential element of COMCAM support to the MEF and its subordinate elements. They provide all necessary film and paper photo processing, video editing and duplication, maintenance, and administration. (See Figure 3-6.)

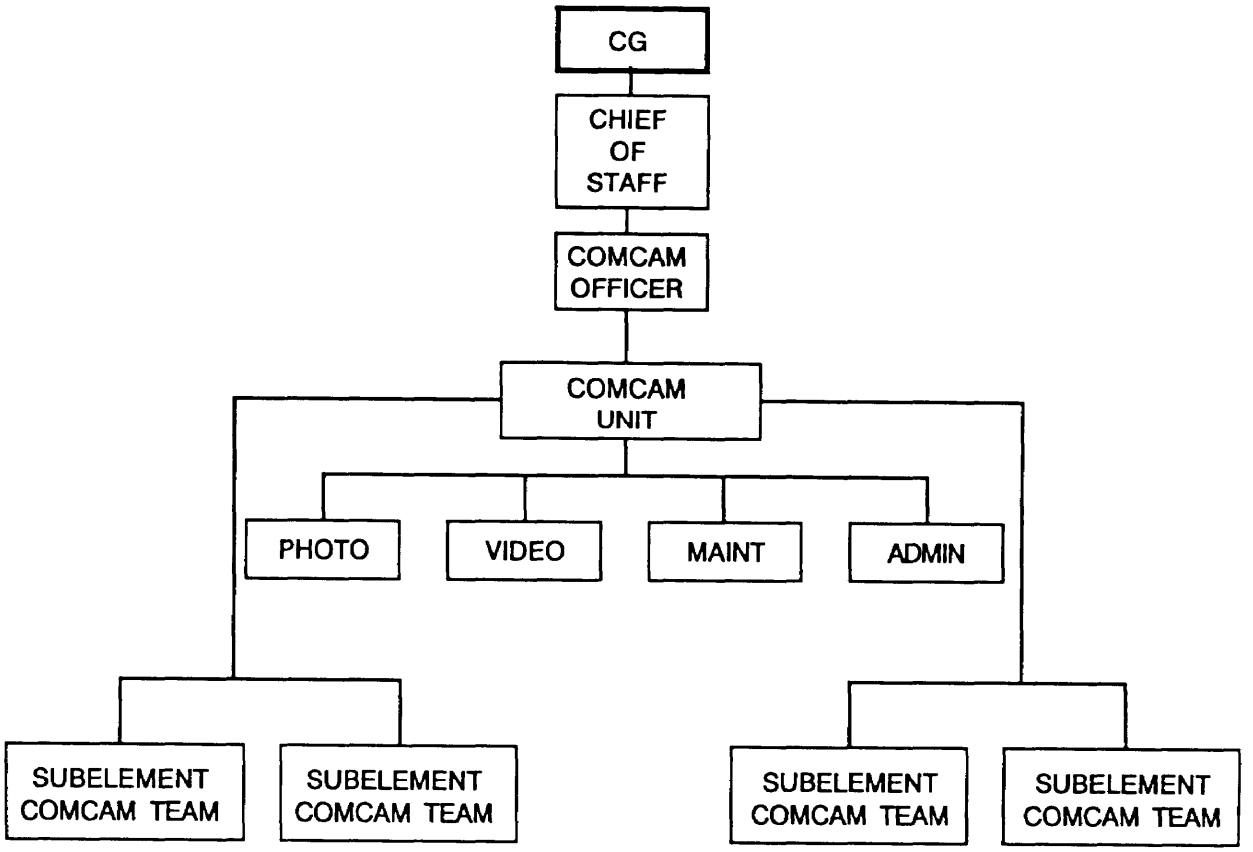


Figure 3-6. Typical Marine Corps COMCAM structure.

Chapter 4

Joint Operations

4-1. Introduction

Unified or specified commanders generate requirements for VI and COMCAM support. There are four outside continental United States (OCONUS) unified commands—US European Command, US Pacific Command, US Southern Command, and US Central Command. Within CONUS, US Army Forces are tasked through US Forces Command. Once in theater, COMCAM teams are placed under the operational control of the supported unified commander or JTF commander. The senior deployed COMCAM officer or NCO serves as a member of the Operations Directorate (J3) staff to coordinate joint COMCAM requirements and direct the activities of the JCCT.

4-2. Joint Combat Camera Teams

Army and Marine Corps COMCAM units deployed in joint operations are considered part of the theater JCCT. COMCAM personnel document the activities of their own service when this is practical. JCCTs will be formed only when all team members are adequately trained for the environment and the mission. The senior COMCAM officer or NCO serves as an ad hoc member of the J3 staff. The JCCT is task organized according to standing operation plans or operation orders developed by the supported unified or specified command and can be modified during the course of an operation.

4-3. Joint Combat Camera Center

a. The JCCC is the single receiver of joint COMCAM imagery for distribution to the NCA, JCS, joint staff, military services, OASD (PA), and other authorized agencies.

b. The 1361 Audiovisual Squadron, Andrews AFB, Maryland is the collection agent for all COMCAM materials shipped to the JCCC in Washington, D.C. Imagery is sent to the JCCC by the fastest possible means after clearance by the theater commander. Approval is not required for requests for visual imagery initiated by Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). Specific guidance for shipping COMCAM materials is provided in DOD Directive 5040.4.

c. After satisfying the requirements of these organizations, the imagery is returned to the originating military service.

4-4. Tasking Procedures

a. In a joint environment, only the NCA CJCS, joint staff, unified commanders, and specified commanders (when not directly supporting a unified commander) have the authority to task service COMCAM resources. All other organizations, including service components and specified commanders supporting a unified commander, can request support through the CJCS, joint staff, or the supported unified command.

b. Specific tasking guidance is detailed in operation plans and tabs. Actual tasking will occur in an execution order from the appropriate command authority to the supporting component organization.

Chapter 5

Functional Support

5-1. Introduction

a. Functional VI support is the capabilities (systems and equipment) organic to functional units and organizations. Functional VI is user-owned and -operated and does not include COMCAM. The primary purpose of functional VI is to support the unique information and decision-making requirements of the functional commander. Examples of functional VI are the organic VI activities of MI, PSYOP, PA, medical, and Special Forces.

b. VI supports functional areas with graphics, still photography, DSV, motion media, and when required, motion picture. These services include—

- Ground, sea, and aerial coverage.
- Image processing.
- Image transmission.
- VI equipment repair.

c. COMCAM provides functional commanders, who may not necessarily be on the scene of deployment, the ability to visualize ongoing operations. COMCAM requirements are not PA or press media pool requirements. While COMCAM imagery may eventually be used for PA purposes, its primary use is as an operational decision-making tool. COMCAM personnel must be allowed to photograph all aspects of an operation or event regardless of classification or sensitivity. Decisions on classification, sensitivity, or release may be made afterward through command, intelligence, operations, and PA staff coordination. COMCAM imagery requirements include, but are not limited to—

- Key actions before, during, and after mobilization, deployment, force generation, and force employment.
- Assessing the effectiveness of force preparations, support operations, and attainment of objectives; problem identification; evaluating the effectiveness of weapons systems; intelligent related activities; medical support; PA purposes; and countering enemy propaganda.
- Historical documentation.
- Stock footage.

d. In operational documentation, it is important to maintain realism and spontaneity. COMCAM personnel are documenting the action as it appears; they must not attempt to influence a situation or impose control over the action. Most military operations documentation is not intended for public release. It is normally intended for internal operational and information uses within the Army and the Marine Corps.

5-2. Responsibilities

a. The staff signal officer or the MEF COMCAM officer must—

- Establish VI policies and procedures.
- Coordinate VI support not available through organic functional assets.
- Provide technical assistance for integration and standardization of VI equipment and systems.

b. Functional systems must—

- Interface with wide area network (WAN).
- Use frequency spectrum of battlefield spectrum management (BSM).

c. The functional staff must—

• Develop their own VI requirements and standardize VI equipment and systems to DOD and COMCAM unit standards.

• Manage organic VI systems and equipment.

• Coordinate WAN interface and BSM requirements with the signal officer.

• Coordinate VI requirements external to organic capability with the signal officer or the MEF COMCAM officer.

• Establish VI policies and procedures in accordance with directives of the signal officer or the MEF COMCAM officer.

d. The users must—

• Install, operate, and maintain user-owned and -operated VI equipment to include the coordination of COMCAM unit processing, transmission, and repair support.

• Coordinate VI requirements along functional lines to avoid duplication of VI assets in the same mission area.

5-3. Types of VI Support

a. The inherent qualities of COMCAM prompt its use in many ways to accomplish and document the Army and Marine Corps mission. VI systems are employed if capabilities make it the most suitable means of meeting an operational communication need.

b. The S3/G3 operations staffs of maneuver and combat support units have organic VI assets which include VI soldiers and equipment. These assets are used to operate training support centers (TSCs) and produce graphic illustrations, briefing charts, and map overlays. They also operate maneuver control systems in support of the operational decision-making process. These VI soldiers operate independently of the supporting COMCAM unit within their approved capabilities. COMCAM unit support is required for equipment repair support and image acquisition, processing, transmitting, reproducing, and distributing operational and training products required to support the mission.

(1) Organic capabilities include—

• Advanced computer graphics and color printer capability.

• Drafting table and required illustration and art supplies.

• User-operated television and l/2-inch VHS players.

• Library data management system for control of operational and training still images and video reports.

(2) The operations VI staff section manages and coordinates headquarters VI work orders which task the supported COMCAM unit.

c. COMCAM personnel support the commander by documenting specific types of VI support operations.

(1) Medical.

(a) Although medical documentation is normally accomplished by medical personnel, COMCAM units augment this service using all documentation formats-still, motion picture, video, audio, and graphic arts. High resolution videotape is the desired medium.

(b) Medical requirements call for a sterile field around the patient. Documentation personnel must comply with medical personnel instructions prior to documenting a procedure.

(c) Equipment must be close enough to record the procedure, but far enough away so as not to interfere with medical personnel.

(d) Any lights used to supplement available lighting must be shielded to remove heat and retain arty exploding glass.

(e) Film-based still, DSV, videotape, and motion picture cameras with required lenses are capable of documenting medical procedures. Microphotography, microphotography, and microcinematography are accomplished with special adaptors which match optical systems to the camera.

(2) Military intelligence.

(a) General intelligence support is limited to documentation required by activities of the G2 and supporting MI units at division and corps or MEF levels. Individual assignments deal with such functions as coverage of prisoners of war; captured enemy equipment reproduction of enemy documents; detailed documentation of captured enemy installations, armament delivery recording, and other special targets. COMCAM units will process, edit, reproduce, and distribute captured opposing forces (OPFOR) VI products.

(b) Technical intelligence (TI) documentation is the coverage of items of material and equipment of intelligence value. This type of augmentation supports the work of TI teams and their analysis by supplementing their finished reports.

(c) Strategic intelligence (SI) documentation deals with every facet of strategic subjects, both military and political. Whenever SI documentation is of direct concern to a commander in a theater of operations, a COMCAM unit may be directed to accomplish SI support missions. They are concerned primarily with coverage of conditions that have a bearing on the mission of the unit supported. Since COMCAM soldiers are not usually trained to determine strategic requirements, a plan is developed to indicate the potential subjects to be documented. This plan includes a map overlay of the operational area, map sheets of the area, and written instructions to outline the types of coverage expected.

(3) Military police.

(a) MP organizations normally provide visual documentation using assigned assets.

(b) COMCAM documentation units support MP by augmenting documentation of enemy prisoner of war (EPW) activities, prisoner control, rear area protection procedures, and investigations.

• MP activities are documented to show handling of EPW. This includes identification of prisoners and their state of care, morale, and welfare.

• The adequacy of prisoner control procedures includes the initial handling of EPW, construction of enclosures, layout of camps, and security arrangements.

• Documentation of rear area protection procedures includes camouflage discipline, potential fields of fire, barrier preparation, and fighting positions.

• Augmentation of MP capabilities for investigations and other activities are provided as requested.

(4) Psychological operations.

(a) COMCAM support augments Army PSYOP by providing suitable subject matter produced by COMCAM units essential to PSYOP. COMCAM imagery enhances the PSYOP message effectiveness toward the target civilian population and the enemy.

• Graphic illustrations, still photography, and videotape reports provide PSYOP support coverage and increase the value of printed and broadcast PSYOP material.

• PSYOP effect coverage shows the effectiveness of those operations such as a large number of deserters or hastily abandoned fortifications and materiel.

(b) PSYOP units use all means of persuasion to support activities designed to implement US policies and attain national objectives. Video tape, motion picture, and audio tape recordings inform an audience on areas of mutual interest.

(c) The following types of VI enhances the credibility of PSYOP printed material:

• Documentation of ralliers, deserters, enemy soldiers, or refugees being given humane treatment, food, shelter, and medical care.

• Documentation showing evidence of friendly superiority in clothing, weapons, ammunitions, tanks, vehicles, aircraft, missiles, and other combat materiel.

• Documentation obtained from enemy sources that would discredit enemy leaders and activities.

• Aerial photographs that show destroyed enemy installations, fortifications, cities, factories, and communications facilities.

• Documentation that gives evidence of friendly guerrilla and unconventional activities behind enemy lines.

• Documentation that shows unpatriotic behavior by enemy civilians.

• Documentation that depicts scenes of reconstruction and rehabilitation with respect to installations, housing, and people-connected facilities in war-devastated areas under friendly control.

(5) Public affairs.

(a) Both PA and COMCAM share similar visual acquisition capabilities on the battlefield. The missions and end users of the acquired information greatly differ; however, there exists commonality in acquisition equipment, editing, and production systems.

(b) PA and COMCAM have two distinct and separate missions. PA assets are not used in the combat documentation role, and COMCAM assets are not used primarily for PA purposes. However, still and motion media acquired by PA and COMCAM can be used by both entities to complement each other's mission. The COMCAM mission is to provide visual combat documentation to the NCA assist the tactical commander in operational decision making, and to create a visual record of unit operations on the battlefield. The PA mission on the battlefield is twofold—encompassing command information (CI) and public information (PI).

• CI is a proven combat multiplier and is the most important PA function on the battlefield. The commander, through his public affairs officer, uses CI to keep soldiers and Marines informed of where they fit in, what is expected of them, and how they help accomplish the mission. CI is normally disseminated through field expedient newpapers, fact sheets, VI reports, and AFRTS outlets.

• PI is the gathering and dissemination of information directed toward US and international publics through civilian news media. PI includes the planning and coordinating of news media coverage; responding to media queries; releasing news and feature stories, photos, and audio and videotapes; and supervising the Hometown News Release program.

(c) PA TOE units own and operate systems to acquire still and motion media as well as chemical-process photography. However, few PA organizations are authorized to process and print still photography, edit and reproduce audio-video products, disseminate electronic still and motion video products, or maintain still and motion video systems above the operator echelon.

• COMCAM units augment and provide processing, editing, reproducing, distributing, and equipment maintenance support to PA organizations at all echelons.

• COMCAM units may have access to areas and operations which PA units will not. When this situation arises, DOD Directive 5040.4 provides for PA exploitation of COMCAM imagery.

• Release of COMCAM products is accomplished through PA channels in accordance with published PA guidance and appropriate operational security channels.

d. Required functional support.

(1) FM 11-23 dictates COMCAM will augment functional (user-owned and -operated) information systems only when they cannot provide the required support.

(2) Functional support to PA offices and TOE units is required in the form of maintenance of PA user-owned and operated systems above operator level maintenance, such as DSV, 35mm cameras; video recording systems; 8mm high band cameras; recorders, editors, and monitors, audio recording systems; and cassette recorders.

Chapter 6

Logistics Management

6-1. Introduction

a. Procurement and distribution of VI supplies and equipment are essentially the same as for other types of Army and Marine Corps supplies. Exact determination of overall requirements and careful requisitioning are essential. Local procurement of certain items may be authorized to support ongoing operations. Expendable items scheduled for disposal because of expiration date or excess will, where appropriate, be coordinated with theater VI units that may use them.

b. Tactical VI equipment and systems are NDI—a generic term that covers materiel available from a variety of sources with little or no development effort by the Army or Marine Corps. These are commercially available standard items.

6-2. Equipment and Systems

a. Tactical VI equipment and systems are items that are capable of continuous or repetitive use by tactical VI personnel or activities. These items are used to record, produce, reproduce, process, broadcast, edit, distribute, exhibit, and store VI.

b. A tactical VI system exists if a number of VI components will be interconnected and designed primarily to operate together. Systems with an intent to satisfy a specific requirement must not be acquired in a piecemeal fashion. The total system cost will include the aggregate cost of all new equipment items, accessories, and associated software costs required to complete a totally functional system. When tactical VI systems hardware and software requirements are specified in the contract, include all installation and training costs in the total contract cost.

c. A tactical VI upgrade is a change or modification to an existing system which improves performance, increases capability, or supports additional users.

d. When items qualify as tactical VI equipment and are integral parts of a functional VI system or device (existing or under development), the items will be managed as a part of the functional VI system or device; for example, an oscilloscope microscope with an embedded camera.

e. When items identified as functional VI equipment are integral parts of a tactical VI system or equipment (existing or under development), these items will be managed as a part of the tactical VI system or device; for example, a computer embedded in a video switcher or a computer embedded in a computer graphics system dedicated to graphic production.

6-3. Materiel Development

The Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), United States Army Materiel Command (AMC), and Marine Corps Research Development and Acquisition Command (MCRDAC) serves as the materiel developer for tactical VI equipment and systems. It provides centralized procurement, maintenance, and logistical support for type-classified VI equipment and systems. AMC and MCRDAC also plans, programs, and manages research, development, testing, and evaluation of VI technology.

6-4. Combat Development

a. The combat developer of tactical VI systems is the United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon (USASC&FG), United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). MCRDAC is the counterpart developer for the Marine Corps. In coordination with the materiel developer, USASC&FG and MCCDC develops plans and concepts for tactical VI organizations and VI equipment systems, and prepares the TOE within the force structure.

NOTE: For the Marine Corps, T/O and T/E validation is accomplished by the Marine Corps Warfighting Center.

b. Requirements for tactical VI equipment and systems are submitted as indicated below. Approved requirements will be subsequently included in the appropriate authorization document TOE/modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE) proponent approved per AR 310-49. Tactical VI organizations with an approved unit identification code will maintain a centralized listing of tactical VI equipment and systems per AR 735-5.

c. Authorizations of tactical VI equipment and systems will be validated by HQDA ATTN: SAIS-PDD-V, The Pentagon, Room 1C710, Washington, D.C. 20310-4800, or the Warfighting Center, MCCDC prior to documentation into a TOE/MTOE or T/O, T/E to ensure compliance with DOD Directive 5040.2. The United States Army Information Systems Command (USAISC) will centrally manage commercially available tactical VI equipment and systems included in the TOE/MTOE as specified in AR 710-1 and AR 708-1.

d. Tactical VI organizations with an approved TOE/MTOE authorization will use type-classified standard equipment. (See AR 70-1.) This equipment, when authorized, is requisitioned through the Army Wholesale Supply System (WSS). When equipment in the WSS does not meet the operational requirements, the materiel developer will initiate product improvements in accordance with AR 750-10 or add new requirements to the system in accordance with AR 71-9.

NOTE: To facilitate T/E equipment changes for MEF COMCAM units, a Fleet Operational Needs Statement is required. (See MCO 3900.4D.)

e. Equipment standardization and interoperability is a goal of tactical VI resource management. Tactical VI equipment must meet military and federal standards and specifications (Defense-approved industrial standards) in accordance with DOD Directive 4120.3-M. Supply Bulletin 700-20 provides currently adopted tactical VI equipment identification and may be used as a guide for selecting equipment.

f. The materiel developer at AMC or the MEF COMCAM officer will establish annual review procedures to ensure that tactical VI equipment and repair part allowances and inventories are valid. Obsolete or underused equipment and parts will be redistributed for disposal.

6-5. Supplies and Repair Parts

The Army WSS or the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia/Barstow, California will support repair parts for approved VI equipment and systems. Repair parts for commercial NDI equipment which are not type-classified standard are procured through the Television-Audio Support Activity (T-ASA).

6-6. Maintenance

a. Maintenance of tactical VI will be performed and managed in accordance with AR 750-1, section IX or MCO P4790.2. Preventive maintenance is all actions to retain an item in an operational condition by providing systematic inspection, detection, and prevention of failures. Corrective maintenance entails all maintenance actions needed because of equipment failure.

b. The categories of maintenance and their responsibilities are listed below:

(1) Organizational maintenance. Performs scheduled and unscheduled preventive maintenance tasks including tightening, adjusting, cleaning, lubrication, and testing. Replaces minor items such as knobs, lamps, fuses, and interconnecting cables, and makes operational checks to verify equipment readiness.

(2) Direct support maintenance. Designated maintenance activities perform this maintenance in direct support of using organizations. It is limited to the repair of end items, components, and assemblies on a return-to-user basis. Direct support maintenance is performed at corps or MEF level by VI units. Board level controlled substitution is authorized at the direct support level.

(3) General support maintenance. Designated activities perform this maintenance in support of Army and Marine Corps area supply requirements. Personnel perform repair or overhaul necessary to restore materiel to a ready-for-issue condition based upon published Army maintenance standards for the particular item of equipment. TSC(A) VI units will perform general support maintenance at theater level. Warranty items will be reported to T-ASA for disposition instructions. Component and part-controlled substitution is authorized at the general support level.

(4) Depot maintenance. An industrial-type facility performs this highest category of materiel maintenance. It includes necessary disassembling, overhauling, rebuilding, testing, and inspecting of operating components; servicing required to obtain the desired performance; and return of the item to the Army or Marine Corps supply system when it meets maintenance standards established for the equipment.

(a) TSC(A) VI units or MCCUs will determine requirements to evacuate equipment to T-ASA for depot maintenance.

(b) Selected equipment or components which cannot be repaired in the theater will be returned directly to the depot facility for overhaul, return to contractor, or disposal.

c. Implement all requests for maintenance support and equipment improvement recommendations by completing DA Form 2407 for units supported by The Army Maintenance Management System (TAMMS). DA Form 5504 is used for units supported by the Standard Army Maintenance System (SAMS). See DA Pam 738-750 for preparation of forms and an explanation of different maintenance systems.

Chapter 7

Personnel Training

7-1. Introduction

VI training prepares soldiers and Marines to provide COMCAM support to commanders in all BOSs. VI training acknowledges that the maneuver commander controls and orchestrates the basic combat, combat support, and combat service support systems. The goal of combat-level training is to achieve combat-level standards. Leaders demand realism in training within the bounds of safety. They must seize every opportunity to move soldiers and Marines out of the classroom and into the field.

7-2. Training Requirements

a. Commanders will identify mission essential tasks to accomplish the organization's wartime mission. VI units attached to an organization must be habitually trained to support the organization's mission essential task list (METL).

b. VI mission essential tasks provided through the VI structure are trained concurrently.

(1) **Active Component (AC).** Once VI soldiers complete advanced individual training (AIT), sustainment training will be provided through the organization's training program to guarantee COMCAM support to the METL.

(2) **Reserve Components (RC).** Fulfilling training requirements for the RC is more challenging than for the AC. Training time and training locations are limited. VI RC units should plan and prepare for integration upon activation.

7-3. VI Training

a. The commanding general, USASC&FG, directs and supervises all service school training of VI military occupational specialties. For the Marines, this is the responsibility of the commanding general at MCCDC.

b. Resident training in support of the VI mission includes—

• Formal AIT at Lowry Technical Training Center, Lowry AFB, Colorado 80230-5000. The US Air Force provides a joint training environment as host service under the Interservice Training Review Organization (ITRO).

• The Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC). These courses enable the soldiers to develop advanced leadership skills, exercise COMCAM team management skills, and receive advanced technical VI training. Training is collocated at Lowry AFB, Colorado.

• The Signal Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and the Signal Officer Advanced Course (SOAC). These courses provide training on the use of VI in the TSC(A). Training is conducted at USASC&FG, Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905-5000.

• Specialized training which is unprogrammed training required to fulfill a specific unit's mission. Certain units require VI soldiers to be airborne qualified. The unit commander is responsible for identifying and programming training. Requirements must be documented on unit TOE or tables of distribution and allowances (TDA).

c. Nonresident training includes Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) subcourses supporting VI training. These subcourses are available from the Institute for Professional Development, Newport News, Virginia. Specific information of courses offered is contained in DA Pam 351-20.

d. Formal school training is supplemented by on-the-job training (OJT) to improve individual proficiency and to develop teamwork. OJT and cross

training of VI soldiers is a command responsibility. Cross training provides for continuity throughout the organization.

7-4. Unit Training

a. Leaders in VI units are responsible for planning training that guarantees a high standard of wartime proficiency. This is best done by using the hands-on approach.

b. Training must be intellectually and physically challenging to both excite and motivate soldiers and leaders.

c. Sustainment training must provide training in two areas.

• COMCAM documentation—COMCAM training in support of the battlefield documentation mission. Training must emphasize image acquisition, processing, reproducing, and distributing in an operational tactical environment.

• Multiechelon training. To effectively use available time and resources, commanders must simultaneously train individuals, leaders, and units at each echelon in the organization during training events. Using this technique trains and sustains skills in a diverse number of mission essential tasks within limited periods of training time.

d. Maintenance is vital to VI and must be a part of the training program. Soldiers, Marines, and their leaders are responsible for maintaining all assigned equipment in a high state of readiness in support of training or combat employment.

Appendix A

Sample VI Appendix to Operation Order (Army)

CLASSIFICATION

HEADQUARTERS, US EUROPEAN COMMAND
APO NEW YORK 09128
18 August 19XX

APPENDIX 12 TO ANNEX C TO USCINCEUR OPLAN 4999A808 ( )
AUDIOVISUAL AND VISUAL INFORMATION DOCUMENTATION ( )

( ) REFERENCE: List pertinent regulations, manuals, related plans, and other relevant documents or governing policies. Include appropriate Military Department visual information regulations.

1. ( ) GENERAL. Include all information necessary to lead to a clear understanding of documentation requirements, support, and known limitations.

2 ( ) MISSION. Clearly state the specific OPDOC and PA AV/VI objectives or purposes of visual information documentation in support of the basic plan. Include a statement such as "Normally, the initial AV/VI team will provide both COMDOC and PA support for operation."

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CLASSIFICATION

3. ( ) TASKED ORGANIZATION. Specify what AV/VI information forces are tasked to provide visual information documentation in support of the basic plan. Specify what organizations will provide support to visual information forces.

4. ( ) SITUATION. Give detailed attention to this portion of the appendix. It is the primary means of determining optimum selection and deployment of visual information resources.

a. ( ) Background. Include pertinent information that describes or relates the requirement for visual information documentation to the basic plan.

b. ( ) Facts. Include the facts and specifics that are needed to spell out the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the situation. Give any facts that will enable visual information personnel to expect and ensure adequate coverage of events worthy of documentation. Detailed information concerning expected tactics is essential for correct equipment selection and positioning.

C-12-2
CLASSIFICATION
A-212

Format,
Appendix 12
to Annex C
to Appendix A

CLASSIFICATION

c. ( ) Policy. Specify the level of documentary effort required. Specific AV/VI support requirements for PA plans should be identified IAW procedures outlined in Annex F. Successful documentation depends on proximity to the action. Establish policy for maximum allowable access to areas and events of importance.

d. ( ) End Products. Visual information documentation is used for operational briefings, reports, collateral intelligence support, historical records, and public affairs purposes. If known, specify what end products are required. Release authority for internal and public use of materials will be in accordance with policy outlined in Annex F.

5. ( ) ASSUMPTIONS. Provide detailed planning assumptions regardless of classification.

a. ( ) AV/VI coverage is desired by the NCA.

b. ( ) OSC agrees that AV/VI coverage can be supported.

c. ( ) Initially, the AV/VI team should be capable of conducting operations in support of both COMDOC and PA AV/VI requirements.

CLASSIFICATION

6. ( ) RESPONSIBILITIES. Specify who is responsible for the implementation and support of each aspect of the projected documentation effort. If not previously covered in the basic plan, define the responsibilities of each major component, command, or agency concerned. In cases where Joint Staff visual information management skills are not available, the desirability of forming a staff should be evaluated and responsibility assigned.

7. ( ) ADMINISTRATION. Provide specific reports, requirements, procedures, product distribution, disposition instructions, and interim administrative actions. For specific delivery instructions for PA material, see Annex F.

8. ( ) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. Visual information documentation is often classified, politically sensitive, or both. Tasked agencies must be aware of the need to protect documentation and prevent unauthorized public release. Every consideration should be given to the desirability of obtaining operational documentation. Political sensitivity should not be used as the sole reason to deny operational documentation. The control should be on the use or release of any product obtained. These provisions for control should be clearly stated in the policy portion of the plan.

9. ( ) COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS. Summarize command, operational control, communications, and related matters.

Appendix B

Sample Combat Camera Annex to Operation Order (Marine Corps)

CLASSIFICATION

Copy of copies
HEADQUARTERS,
MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Camp
Date/Time Group

ANNEX [ ] (COMBAT CAMERA) to CG [ ] MEF Operation Order

REFERENCES:
(a) DOD DIRECTIVE 5040.2
(b) MCO P5290.4
(c) FORO P5290.

Time Zone:

1. (U) SITUATION.

General. The purpose of this Annex is to establish responsibilities, policies and guidance which will govern [ ] MEF Combat Camera (COMCAM) activities during (exercise/operation). [ ] MEF COMCAM will be the responsibility of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the [ ] MEF Combat Camera (COMCAM) Unit. COMCAM support will be coordinated through the [ ] MEF G-3 and will be conducted in accordance with references (a) through (c).

a. Enemy Forces. Annex B (Intelligent).

b. Friendly Forces. (Note higher, adjacent, and supporting forces involved in the operation.)

(1) COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (ATLANTIC/PACIFIC) (CINC).

(a) Provides COMCAM coordination, policy and guidance to subordinate commanders.

(2) COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP [ ].

(a) COMCAM matters at sea prior to D-day will be coordinated with the COMPHIBGRU [ ] Visual Information Officer.

(b) Provides photographic laboratory support to embarked COMCAM Unit.

c. Attachments and Detachments. (If required.) (Refer to Annex A [Task Organization].)

d. Assumptions.

(1) COMCAM teams will be engaged in still and motion media documentation of all phases of the operation to include planning, preparation, embarkation and execution of the mission. The potential value and use of visual imagery necessitates a concerted effort to task, support, and obtain Combat Documentation (COMDOC). Therefore, all facets of the operation (combat, combat support, and combat service support) warrant documentation. The visual images and audio information will furnish HQMC staff, training and operation personnel and military historians with combat and doctrinal material for evaluation to facilitate development, planning and preparation of future operations.

(2) The amphibious assault on D-day is expected to require "saturated" coverage.

(3) It will be the responsibility of attached, detached and subordinate commanders to ensure that COMCAM teams are not hindered in the execution of their mission. At the same time, COMCAM teams will ensure that they do not interfere with the operation.

(4) Attached, detached and subordinate commanders will be responsible for providing logistical support to assigned COMCAM teams (to include transportation, ammunition, rations and POL, as required) during the period of their assignment.

2. (U) MISSION. The COMCAM mission is to provide timely still and motion media and audio documentation of the operation to support operational briefings, after-action reports and historical documentation, and to augment military intelligence operations, psychological operations, and civil and public affairs requirements.

3. (U) EXECUTION.

a. Concept of Operations.

(1) The OIC [ ] MEF COMCAM Unit will be responsible to the CG [ ] MEF for all matters concerning the planning, acquisition and utilization of COMDOC imagery and the readiness of COMCAM personnel, equipment and materials during the operation.

(2) The OIC will coordinate, direct, and supervise all COMCAM operations for the MEF under the staff cognizance of the [ ] MEF G-3. He will act as the primary liaison between all higher, adjacent and subordinate commanders and the G-3 concerning [ ] MEF COMCAM operations.

(3) COMCAM operations will begin on the execution of this OpOrder.

(4) The OIC will establish liaison with the Navy COMCAM unit, while embarked aboard shipping, for use of facilities and equipment as required.

(5) When possible, COMCAM teams will be included in the first wave of the amphibious landing or helo assault.

(6) The [ ] MEF Mobile Photographic Laboratory (MPL) will be fielded in direct support of the operation.

(7) The MPL will be located in close proximity to the MEF headquarters and have ready and reasonable access to air and ground transportation for the movement of COMCAM teams to and from assigned areas of coverage.

(8) All COMCAM personnel have a secret clearance and should be briefed on the OpOrder so they can plan effective documentation of upcoming events and engagements.

(9) COMCAM personnel will be given daily documentation assignments and tasks on the basis of prioritized coverage requirements and available assets as established by the G-3 and OIC, COMCAM Unit.

(10) The COMCAM Unit within capabilities, will process captured enemy still photography, and convert or duplicate opposing force video and audio products. They will also provide still photographic processing and printing, and video and audio editing and duplication of recorded products from MEF intelligence, civil and public affairs units.

(11) COMCAM teams will augment military intelligence operations, psychological operations, and civil and public affairs requirements, as required.

(12) Organic maintenance and repair of visual information equipment within the MPL will be conducted by COMCAM personnel.

(13) When not engaged in COMCAM operations, COMCAM personnel will be located at the MPL in order to complete processing, printing, administrative and maintenance requirements.

(14) COMCAM personnel may be assigned certain additional duties as is normal for security and routine functions of a headquarters position as directed and coordinated by the Headquarters Commandant. However, such duties should not be such as to preclude or interfere with the performance of their primary mission of combat documentation.

(15) Upon completion of the operation, the OIC, COMCAM Unit will compile an after-action report of the COMCAM operations conducted and provide, as required, copies of COMDOC products to MEF staff sections and subordinate commanders for inclusion in their after-action reports.

b. Tasks.

(1) OIC [ ] MEF COMCAM Unit.

(a) Establish the MEF MPL to support COMCAM operations and VI requirements for the MEF.

(b) Coordinate, direct and supervise MEF COMDOC operations.

(c) Keep the MEF G-3 apprised on the capabilities and readiness of COMCAM personnel, equipment and materials.

(d) Establish, with the concurrence of the MEF G-3, a prioritized list of documentation requirements.

(e) Establish close liaison with the separate staff sections to ensure full documentation of all facets of the operation.

(f) Establish liaison with higher and adjacent COMCAM Units to ensure effective coordination.

(g) Establish the COMCAM unit journal to provide a chronological record of all COMCAM activities and COMCAM operations.

(h) Provide the G-3 with daily briefs on COMCAM activities.

(i) Make COMCAM assignments daily, as required, to meet documentation requirements as established by the MEF G-3.

(j) Task organize COMCAM teams to meet mission requirements of COMCAM assignments.

(k) Ensure COMCAM teams are fully briefed on the OpOrder so they can plan documentation of upcoming events and engagements.

(1) Ensure COMCAM teams do not interfere with the operation during assignments.

(m) Task organize and assign COMCAM teams to augment military intelligence, psychological, civil and public affairs operations as directed by the [ ] MEF G-3.

(2) HEADQUARTERS COMMAND, [ ] MEF.

(a) Provide field equipment and ground transportation as requested in separate correspondence.

(b) Provide field messing and billeting support for COMCAM Unit personnel.

(c) Provide security and routine support to the MPL and the COMCAM Unit.

(3) [ ] MEF COMMANDS.

(a) Ensure COMCAM teams are not hindered in the acquisition of COMCAM while assigned to your units.

(b) Provide logistical support to COMCAM teams (to include transportation, ammunition, rations and POL), as required, during COMCAM assignments.

(4) CG [ ] MAW.

(a) Provide reasonable access to air transportation for the movement of COMCAM teams and imagery to and from COMCAM assignments.

(5) CG [ ] FSSG.

(a) In accordance with Annex P, provide landing support with the ship-to-shore movement of the [ ] MEF MPL.

(b) In accordance with Annex P, provide vehicles, generators, air conditioners and refrigeration units to augment and support the operation of the MPL.

(c) In accordance with Annex P, provide engineer support to include POL, water, and necessary construction for the MPL site.

(d) In accordance with Annex P, provide supply support with the maintenance of adequate levels of photographic materials and supplies.

(e) In accordance with Annex P, provide 3rd and 4th echelon maintenance of the MPL and organic VI equipment.

(f) Refer to Annex P, Appendix (10) for special support requirements or agreements concerning logistical support for the MPL.

(6) MEF G-2 INTELLIGENCE.

(a) Establish close Iiaison with the MEF COMCAM Unit for the processing of intelligence imagery and captured enemy VI products.

(b) Review all COMDOC imagery for possible intelligence value.

(c) Provide logistical and administrative support to COMDOC teams assigned to augment intelligence operations.

(7) MEF G-3 OPERATIONS.

(a) Provide [ ] MEF COMCAM policy and guidance to [ ] MEF commands.

(b) Provide to the OIC COMCAM Unit, policy and guidance to establish a prioritized list of documentation requirements.

(c) Ensure that the OIC COMCAM Unit is briefed on the operation order so that he can pre-plan and recommend effective documentation of events and engagements.

(d) Direct the augmentation of military intelligence, psychological, civil and public affairs operations as required.

(8) MEF G-5 CIVIL AFFAIRS.

(a) Establish liaison with the MEF COMCAM Unit for the processing of VI imagery recorded by Civil Affairs Units.

(b) Review all COMDOC imagery for possible value and use in Civil Affairs operations.

(c) Provide administrative and logistical support to COMDOC Teams assigned to augment Civil Affairs operations.

(9) MEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

(a) Establish liaison with the MEF COMCAM Unit for the processing of VI imagery recorded by Public Affairs personnel.

(b) Review all COMDOC imagery for possible value and use in Public Affairs releases.

(c) Provide administrative and logistical support to COMCAM Teams assigned to augment Public Affairs assignments.

c. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) COMCAM teams are authorized and encouraged to communicate directly with each other for coordination or mutual assistance to support COMCAM assignments. Ensure the OIC COMCAM Unit is advised of liaisons.

(2) Coordination and liaison by COMCAM Teams with units and commands involved in events or engagements requiring documentation will facilitate full cooperation and provide COMDOC personnel with the greatest opportunities for complete coverage.

4. (U) ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

a. Administration.

(1) A COMCAM Unit Journal will be established to provide a chronological record of all COMCAM activities and COMDOC operations.

(2) All COMDOC imagery will be field slated, marked and captioned in accordance with reference (b).

(3) All COMDOC imagery will be identified, filed and forwarded in accordance with reference (b).

(4) The COMCAM Unit will establish and maintain VI and maintenance records in accordance with reference (b).

(5) Recommendations and reports will be provided and forwarded as required, in accordance with instructions and guidance established by the [ ] G-3 and higher headquarters.

(6) Personnel requirements, refer to Annex P (Combat Service Support), Appendix (1) (Concept of Combat Service Support) and Appendix (9) (Personnel) for those matters and procedures concerning assignments, replacements, services, and so forth. Assignment of Women Marines should be addressed for consideration of billeting aboard ship and in the field, and so forth.

b. Logistics. Refer to Annex P (Combat Service Support), Appendix (1) (Concept of Combat Service Support) for all matters concerning obtaining logistical support. Provide information and special instructions for logistic considerations of photographic materials, supplies and support to include power, water and disposal of chemistry.

5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL.

a. The [ ] MEF COMCAM Unit will be located within the Command post compound.

b. Refer to Annex K (Communication-Electronics). Two field phones are required by the MEF COMCAM Unit.

ENCL 3

COMBAT DOCUMENTATION

1. General.

a. Combat Documentation is performed by Combat Camera Units, organic to the MEF, which provide still photography, motion media (video or motion picture), audio documentation, photographic laboratory services, and VI equipment maintenance and repair.

b. MEF Commanders are provided Combat Camera Units to support combat documentation missions throughout the theater of operations, covering air, sea and ground actions of MEF units in combat, combat support and combat service support.

c. Combat Camera Units provide combat documentation and operational documentation of MEF units participating in related peacetime training activities, exercises, war games, disaster relief, joint operations, and such other operations and activities as directed by the MEF Commander.

d. VI Combat and Operational Documentation activities support command and Marine Corps missions, and US national objectives.

e. VI Combat Documentation operations will augment but not replace or duplicate the VI capabilities of public affairs, intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and aerial reconnaissance units.

2. Combat Documentation.

a. Combat Camera Teams will be engaged in still and motion media operations before day one of any operation. Documentation should begin as soon as the operational organization begins preparations for deployment. Commanders must recognize that all facets of military operations (combat, combat support, and combat service support) warrant documentation. Visual images and audio information furnish HQMC staff, training and operational personnel, and military historians with combat and doctrinal material for evaluation, developmental, and historical purposes.

b. Documentation before the battle consists of, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Documentation, when possible, of the receipt of the mission, the development and planning of the execution of the mission, and the initiation of the preparation for the mission (such as staging, loading, and embarkation).

(2) Documentation of individual preparations for the operation aboard ship or in rear areas behind the FEBA.

(3) Documentation of the loading and boarding of helicopters and or amphibious vehicles and boats aboard ship or behind the FEBA.

(4) Documentation of the movement to contact during the amphibious landing, vertical envelopment or move toward the FEBA.

c. Documentation on the battlefield must cover all facets of military operations from day one of the battle and consists of, but is not limited to, the following coverage:

(1) Employment, command and control, and offensive operations of infantry maneuver elements before, during and after the battle.

(2) Direct fire and indirect fire weapons (Dragon, TOW, mortars, 50 cal. mg) organic to the infantry unit before, during and after fire missions (such as movement to, emplacement, camouflage, ammo handling [unpacking, arming, loading], aiming, firing, displacement, and movement from).

(3) Armor in direct support of infantry units during mechanized infantry engagements or providing direct fire support during defensive operations.

(4) Employment and operations, as possible, of opposing forces before, during and after the battle to document tactics and performance during the engagement.

(5) Friendly positions before, during and after the battle (such as front and rear panoramic, camouflage, and fields of fire, and so forth).

(6) Opposing force positions, as possible, before, during and after the battle to document camouflage, construction and damage from friendly fire.

(7) Battlefield damage of friendly force equipment.

(8) Battlefield damage of opposing force equipment.

(9) Battlefield damage to indigenous property for possible use by Civil Affairs personnel.

(10) Field medical procedures of a general nature during and after the battle and as required by the field medical commander.

(11) Documentation of captured opposing force supplies, material, equipment, personnel and documents. This material may be of immediate importance to the Intelligence, Psychological Operations (PSYOP), Military Police and Public Affairs communities in formulating estimates and recommendations for the Commander.

(12) On the scene, close-in terrain analysis documentation for operational traffic supportability planning.

(13) Visual and audio documentation of initial battle engagements of new weapons, support systems and revised tactics to provide HQMC staff, local commanders and staff with combat and doctrinal material for evaluation, validation, and development.

(14) Aerial spot imagery to provide the commander with still or motion media coverage of friendly and opposing force positions to augment aerial intelligence and surveillance photography.

d. Combat support is that direct support provided the combat maneuver elements in the execution of the mission. Documentation of combat support operations consists of, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Artillery (both towed and self-propelled) and the forward observer (FO) and his team engaged in the calling and direction of fire missions, before, during and after fire missions (such as movement to, emplacement, camouflage, ammo handling [unpacking, arming, loading], aiming, firing, displacement, and movement from).

(2) The Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) and Fire Direction Center (FDC) engaged in the coordination and direction of supporting arms available to the MEF.

(3) Close air support (CAS), as possible, before, during and after the mission; to include the aircraft, munitions, loading, fueling and delivery of the ordinance when possible and the Forward Air Controller (FAC) and his Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) engaged in the calling and controlling of CAS aircraft in support.

(4) Marine Air Command and Control Systems (MACCS); to include the Tactical Air Command Center (TACC), Tactical Air Direction Center (TADC), Tactical Air Operation Center (TAOC), Direct Air Support Center (DASC) and the Air Support Radar Team (ASRT) engaged in the controlling and coordination of air assets in support.

(5) Helicopters engaged in direct support of MEF units involved in vertical envelopment operations before, during and after the insertion.

(6) Armored personnel carriers Infantry (Assault Amphibian Vehicles [AAVs] and Light Armored [LAIs]) in direct support of infantry units during amphibious operations, mechanized infantry engagements or providing direct fire support during defensive operations.

(7) Combat engineer support which includes obstacle emplacement and breaching, demolition operations, tactical bridging operations, engineer reconnaissance, and so forth.

e. Combat Service Support (CSS) organizations are structured to provide varying degrees of supply, transportation, material handling, maintenance, engineer, medical and dental, and law enforcement capabilities. Combat documentation of CSS operations consists of, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Documentation of the Landing Support provided to the assault units (both surface and heliborne) during an amphibious operation.

(2) Documentation of CSS supply, transportation, and material handling which includes all types of support vehicles, handling equipment, and the myriad of supplies and material (such as ammunition, rations, spare parts, and so forth).

(3) Documentation of CSS maintenance facilities performing repairs and maintenance on battle damaged vehicles and equipment.

(4) Documentation of CSS Engineer support: such as construction, utilities, fuel handling systems, and so forth.

(5) Documentation of field medical/dental facilities established in the CSS area providing surgical, life support and follow on care, and further evacuation, for casualties evacuated from the battlefield. This includes medical care provided the indigenous civil population affected by the battle.

(6) Support of PSYOP by documentation of prisoners of war (POW); morale, welfare and condition of clothing and equipment. Also document the effect of battle on the civil population.

(7) Support of military police by documentation of:

(a) POW identification and enclosure construction.

(b) POW morale and welfare.

(c) Control procedures (towers, patrols, guards, and so forth).

(d) Plans and procedures for rear area protection, which includes camouflage discipline, fields of fire, and fighting positions.

(e) Support for investigations as required.

(8) Augmentation of public affairs units as required.

(9) Documentation of other miscellaneous CSS functions such as food service, graves registration, non-tactical communication, postal, use of indigenous civilians on CSS tasks, and so forth.

Glossary

Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

AC	Active Component
ACCP	Army Correspondence Course Program
ACUS	area common-user system
AF	audio frequency
AFRTS	American Forces Radio and Television Service
AIT	advanced individual training
AM	amplitude modulated
AMC	United States Army Materiel Command
ANCOC	Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course
AV	audiovisual
BNCOC	Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course
BOS	battlefield operating system
BSM	battlefield spectrum management
BSO	brigade signal officer
CECOM	Army Communications-Electronics Command
CI	command information
CJCS	Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
CMC	Commandant of the Marine Corps
COMCAM	combat camera
COMDOC	combat documentation
CSO	corps signal officer
DCS	Defense Communications System
doc	documentation
DSO	division signal officer
DSV	digital still video
ECB	echelons corps and below
EMP	electromagnetic pulse
EPW	enemy prisoner of war
FM	frequency modulated (When used with a number, FM means field manual.)
FORO	Force Order
FWD	forward
HQDA	Headquarters, Department of the Army
HQMC	Headquarters, Marine Corps
ITRO	Interservice Training Review Organization
JCCC	Joint Combat Camera Center
JCCT	joint combat camera team
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff

JOPS	Joint Operations Planning System
JTF	joint task force
MAGTF	Marine Air-Ground Task Force
MCCCU	Marine Corps Combat Camera Unit
MCCDC	Marine Corps Combat Development Command
MCCU	Marine Expeditionary Force Combat Camera Unit
MCDU	Marine Corps Documentation Unit
MCO	Marine Corps Order
MCRDAC	Marine Corps Research, Development, and Acquisition Command
MEB	Marine Expeditionary Brigade
MEF	Marine Expeditionary Force
METL	mission essential task list
MHz	megahertz
MI	military intelligence
mm	millimeter
MMPP	Multi-Media Preassessions Point
MP	military police
MPL	Mobile Photographic Laboratory
MSC	major subordinate command
MTOE	modification table of organization and equipment
NCA	national command authority
NCO	noncommissioned officer
NCR	National Capital Region
NDI	nondevelopmental items
NMCC	National Military Command Center
NTSC	National Television Standards Committee
OADR	Originating Agency's Determination Required
OASD	Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
OJT	on-the-job training
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
op	operation
OPCON	operational control
OPDOC	operation documentation
OPFOR	opposing forces
OPLAN	operation plan
OPSEC	operations security
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
PA	public affairs
PI	public information
PSYOP	psychological operations
RC	Reserve Components
SAMS	Standard Army Maintenance System
sec	section
SI	strategic intelligence

SINCGARS	Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems
SLR	single lens reflex
SOAC	Signal Officer Advanced Course
SOBC	Signal Officer Basic Course
SOC	Special Operations Capable
SOP	standing operating procedure
spt	support
T-ASA	Television-Audio Support Activity
T/E	Table of Equipment
T/O	Table of Organization
TAMMS	The Army Maintenance Management System
TDA	tables of distribution and allowances
TI	technical intelligence
TOC	tactical operations center
TOE	table(s) of organization and equipment
TRADOC	United States Army Training and Doctrine Command
TSC	training support centers
TSC(A)	Theater Signal Command (Army)
TSO	theater signal officer
TV	television
USAISC	United States Army Information Systems Command
USASC&FG	United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon
USCINCEUR	United States Commander in Chief, Europe
VHS	video home system
VI	visual information
VIM	Visual Information Management
VIRIN	visual information record identification number
VTC	video teleconferencing
WAN	wide area network
WSS	Wholesale Supply System

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