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# MAGTF Rear Area Security

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

MCCDC (C 42)  
27 Nov 2002

E R R A T U M

to

MCRP 3-41.1A

MAGTF REAR AREA SECURITY

1. For administrative purposes, FMFM 2-6 is reidentified as MCRP 3-41.1A.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Headquarters United States Marine Corps  
Washington, DC 20380-0001

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FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 2-6, *MAGTF Rear Area Security*, explains the doctrinal and Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) organizational basis for security of the rear area.

2. SCOPE

This manual sets forth the doctrinal foundation for rear area security. It completes and amplifies other publications in which rear area security is a factor.

3. SUPERSESION

OH 2-6, *Rear Area Security*.

4. CHANGES

Recommendations for improvements to this manual are encouraged from commands as well as from individuals. Forward suggestions using the User Suggestion Form format to—

Commanding General  
Doctrine Division (C 42)  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
2042 Broadway Street Suite 210  
Quantico, VA 22134-5021

5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



M. P. CAULFIELD  
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Deputy Commander for Warfighting  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
Quantico, Virginia

## User Suggestion Form

From:

To: Commanding General, Doctrine Division (C 42), Marine Corps Combat Development Command, 2042 Broadway Street Suite 210, Quantico, Virginia 22134-5021

Subj: RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FMFM 2-6, *MAGTF REAR AREA SECURITY*

1. In accordance with the foreword to FMFM 2-6, which invites individuals to submit suggestions concerning this FMFM directly to the above addressee, the following unclassified recommendation is forwarded:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article/Paragraph No.</u>	<u>Line No.</u>	<u>Figure/Table No.</u>
Nature of Change:	<input type="checkbox"/> Add		
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Change		
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2. Proposed new verbatim text: (Verbatim, double-spaced; continue on additional pages as necessary.)

3. Justification/source: (Need not be double-spaced.)

Note: Only one recommendation per page.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1001. General

Modern forces rely on complex weapons and equipment which usually require large sophisticated support organizations. Any major disruption in the functions of friendly rear area support will adversely affect combat operations—not only in today's battle but in tomorrow's battle. The key to success on the battlefield lies in the generation of combat power. If organizations such as the combat service support element (CSSE) or the aviation combat element (ACE) cannot adequately defend themselves, then combat power will be degraded and this will contribute to defeat.

Throughout the spectrum of conflict, rear support areas have increasingly become major targets. Tactical and technological developments have made rear areas extremely vulnerable. Enemy surveillance devices can locate and identify targets deep behind the forward edge of the battle area; accurate, long-range weapons can strike point targets or saturate large areas; aircraft provide rapid transport for troops; and motorized and armored vehicles greatly enhance enemy mobility and flexibility. To protect rear support areas, rear area security must counteract the effects of these sophisticated weapons systems.

### 1002. Rear Area Security Definition and Objective

Rear area security (RAS) includes measures taken prior to, during, and/or after an enemy airborne attack, sabotage, infiltration, guerrilla action, and/or initiation of psychological or propaganda warfare to minimize the effects thereof. The MAGTF rear area is defined as that area extending

rearward from the rear boundary of the ground combat element (GCE) to the MAGTF rear boundary.

The objective of RAS is to provide for the defense of all forces operating within the MAGTF rear area so that those functions associated with rear area operations may continue in an uninterrupted manner with minimum degradation to combat operations. In order to accomplish this objective, all units in the rear area must be prepared to defend themselves.

### 1003. MAGTF Commander's Role

The MAGTF commander is responsible for the security of the MAGTF rear area. The keys to credible MAGTF RAS are sound planning, early warning, continuous operations security, tactical deception, proper dispersion, cover and concealment, and rapid deployment of sufficient forces and resources to counter the threat. Rear area security for the MAGTF must be assessed by the MAGTF commander to ensure the sustainability of combat forces. The MAGTF commander then sets missions, tasks, and priorities for RAS as in any other type of operation. He may delegate the authority for the planning and execution of the RAS effort to that subordinate unit commander best located, organized, and equipped to accomplish the RAS mission. This task could be assigned to the CSSE commander or the ACE commander. However, the task is normally not assigned to the GCE commander unless the GCE's mission is diverted to the rear area. Usually, the CSSE commander will coordinate RAS because the preponderance of forces and activities are within his sphere of influence.