

**PART THREE**  
**EXTERIOR GUARD**  
**CHAPTER 8**  
**FUNCTIONS OF THE EXTERIOR GUARD**

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**77. General**

Exterior guard is a term used in this manual to classify those guards outside of a military installation, guards in a combat area, guards in hostile or unfriendly territory, and guards (located anywhere) who have to perform their duties in such a manner that the general orders prescribed for interior guard are not applicable or practicable. The conduct and actions of exterior guards are limited only by the desires and instructions of the commanders and small unit leaders and by the training and initiative of the guards themselves. This manual is not intended to limit or dictate the actions of exterior guards but to familiarize the individual soldier with some of the responsibilities and actions of exterior guards. The situation and mission will be the deciding factor when the commander plans for the security of his unit and the actions of his exterior guards.

**78. Composition**

The composition of an exterior guard is in no way related to that of an interior guard. No commanders

are detailed for that specific duty. The guards are appointed or selected from small units and function under the control and supervision of the small unit leaders (chain of command). The actions and responsibilities of the guards are prescribed by instructions from their leaders, SOPs, and by appropriate field manuals.

## **79. Responsibilities**

A unit must be protected at all times from surprise. Exterior guards are utilized to protect a unit from surprise and to give the unit time to prepare to counter any threat. Guards must be alert for surprise by ground, airborne, and air attacks; to provide early warning of chemical, biological, radiological (CBR) attack or contamination; and to protect supplies and supply installations. If the unit is moving, security may vary from observation to the use of security patrols. During short halts, guards, small security detachments, and forward patrols are used to provide all-round security. For stationary positions in combat or hostile areas, unit commanders use exterior guards to establish a surveillance system to operate day and night throughout the unit area. The commander may use guards, listening posts, observation posts, patrols, aerial observers, and any other available means. The guards may have any number of special devices to assist them in performing their duties. These may include CBR detection devices, electronic detection devices, infrared or other night vision devices, trip flares and antipersonnel mines, noisemaking devices

or any other device to provide early warning to the guard and unit.

## **80. Patrols**

Patrols may be used to cover an area not otherwise under surveillance or gaps between units. To avoid establishing a pattern of operation, these patrols operate at irregular intervals over a variety of routes.

## **81. Communications**

All exterior guards must have an adequate communications system. Special orders or instructions will govern the type of communications. These may be radio, wire, arm-and-hand signals, sounds, or any method specified by the commander or leaders.

## **82. Areas of Unconventional Operation**

Providing adequate and effective guards in areas threatened by a guerrilla force is probably the most difficult task to accomplish in unconventional operations. To increase their effectiveness against guerrillas, all soldiers must be trained in tactics to be used against guerrilla forces. All members of the unit must be thoroughly briefed on known or suspected guerrilla forces. The commanders and guards must use all combat security measures when operating in areas threatened by guerrilla forces. Guards must be particularly alert when in seemingly safe areas, especially when in friendly rear areas. The guerrilla is usually a highly motivated and an able fighter whose actions are characterized by surprise, rapid movement, deception, secrecy, and stealth.

This demands commanders and leaders to exercise methodical supervision and checks on the exterior guard and overall security discipline. The routine means of security are altered frequently to prevent guerrilla forces from obtaining detailed and accurate information about the composition, habits, and location of the exterior guards. In this environment two or more guards should be placed at each post so that one guard provides security for the other when challenging.

### **83. Tour of Duty**

The tour of duty for exterior guards may not be the same as suggested for interior guards. Normally no guardhouse is used; the guards perform their duties and also rest at the same location. When practical, guards operate in pairs or larger group and rotate the watch and rest periods among themselves to insure that the required number of guards are alert at all times. If means are available, personal contact may be made with the guard at irregular intervals. This contact may be made by other guards, patrols, or unit leaders.

### **84. Countersigns—Challenge and Password**

The guards must know and properly use the challenge and password (chap 9). The guard should remain concealed and in a “ready” position at all times when challenging (app F). The regular countersign is used within friendly areas. When outside friendly areas (e.g., on patrol) a different challenge and password should be used. In all cases

when operating outside friendly areas, a means or recognition must be established and properly used.

## 85. Use of the Countersign

a. A guard should never allow an unidentified person to approach too close to his position. This is important at night and during other periods of poor visibility. Special instructions will be given the guards on the use of the challenge and password (app F). Normally, the challenge and password are always used in friendly rear areas. A guard in a forward position may be instructed to challenge, avoid, or shoot persons near his post. Normally, when the guard is instructed to fire without challenging, all friendly forces have been instructed to remain concealed in their positions and any movement is assumed to be enemy.

b. A guard must be extremely cautious at all times (day and night ) about revealing the *challenge and password*. Never use these words unless the unidentified person first exposes himself to view, thereby indicating he is friendly by allowing the guard an opportunity to fire at him. An enemy probably would not expose himself at any time, but would try to learn the *challenge and password* in order to pass through your lines at another point (app F). For example:

(1) An unidentified person approaches your post and calls "friendly party," or "friend," but does not come into view.

(2) If you call "Halt!" and then give the challenge, "Boston", the enemy will simply fade away and go to the next outpost.

(3) At the second outpost the enemy will, when halted, called out “Boston,” hoping to confuse the guard and get him to say the password, “Beans.”

(4) Again, the enemy will slip away, armed with the challenge and password, ready to approach a third outpost where he may be passed through the lines.

## **86. Challenging Unidentified Persons**

*a.* To challenge unidentified personnel, the guard will call (app F) “Halt!” clearly and just loud enough to be distinctly understood by the challenged party. Keep the party covered without exposing yourself. When he halts, ask in a low, clear voice, “Who is there?” He should reply in a low, clear voice giving the answer which best identifies him self. For example, “Sergeant Black, first squad,” or “Friendly patrol leader.” You then say, “Advance, Sergeant Black, to be recognized,” or “Advance, friendly patrol leader, to be recognized.” Always advance persons by the name with which they identified themselves. This insures that only *that* person advances toward your position. Continue to keep him covered without exposing yourself and halt him again when he is close enough to be identified. If possible, never advance a person closer than 2 meters to your position. In a low, clear voice give him the challenge, for example, “Rainbow.” He should answer with the password, for example, “Archer.” If you are not completely satisfied, question him further. Ask only questions a friendly person would be likely to know.

*b.* Other men with the challenged person, such as members of a patrol, must be identified. This can be done in one of two ways. Your commander will prescribe the method for you to use.

(1) The leader can vouch for the others and pass them to the flank of your position. This method reduces movement and noise at your position, and helps prevent revealing your location to the enemy.

(2) The leader, or his representative, can identify each man as he passes, notifying you when the last man has passed.