

## INTRODUCTION

History shows us that rear area offensive operations are extremely effective in disrupting operations throughout the battlefield. The following examples of World War II operations illustrate this point:

- Soviet special operations teams and partisan groups wrecked 20,000 trains, destroyed 12,000 highway and railroad bridges, disabled 4,000 tanks, killed or wounded 1,000,000 Fascists, and tied down 24 German divisions.
- In Burma, an indigenous regiment of Merrill's Marauders with three brigades tied down seven Japanese divisions in a rear area operations mission.

FM 90-14, Rear Battle, outlines Army organization, tactics, techniques and procedures to counter the rear operational threat. FM 3-4-1 is designed to complement current rear operational doctrine.

The NBC survivability actions outlined in this FM should be implemented now, during peacetime, rather than waiting until hostilities commence. In past wars, America had the time to mobilize her industrial and manpower base fully. The next conflict may escalate too rapidly to permit full mobilization. US Forces may be forced to fight a "come as you are" war with the soldiers, weapon systems, and supplies already on hand.

FM 100-5, Operations, the Army's keystone how-to-fight manual, defines ten combat imperatives. These imperatives are applicable to all armies and all services. The fourth combat imperative is "sustaining the fight." Battles or campaigns have often gone to the side that has been most successful in pressing the main effort to conclusion. Future conflicts will be intense and consume resources rapidly. Austerity will be the rule; efficiency will be mandatory. Commanders will have to conserve combat service support (CSS) resources, especially ammunition, fuel, and repair parts. The seventh combat imperative is "protect the force." Protection is the shielding of a force's potential so that it is available at the decisive time and place.

This FM is also designed to describe measures available to protect the force's capability to "sustain the fight." The defense measures described herein deal specifically with NBC warfare.

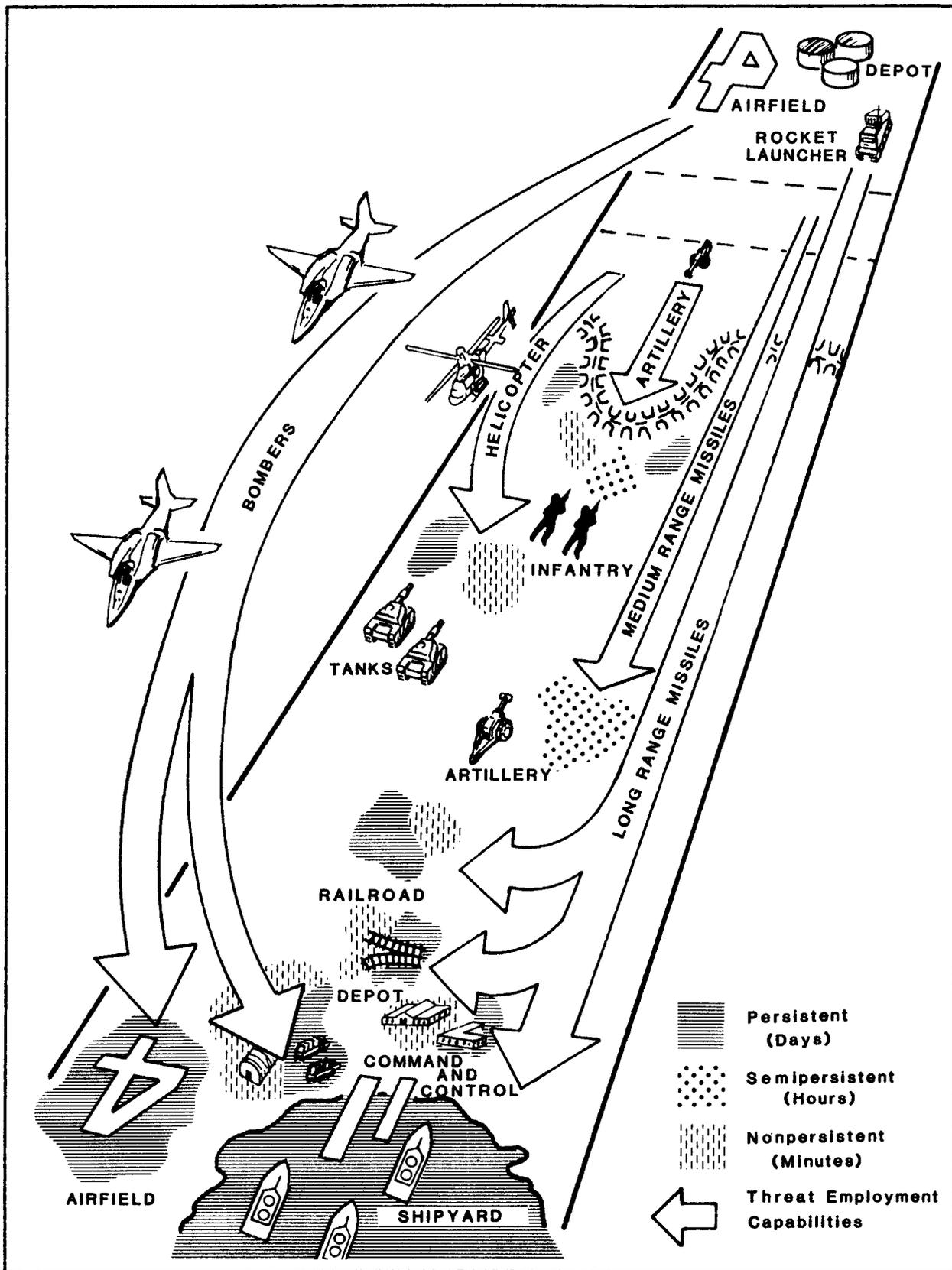


Figure 1-1. The Threat.