

ALCON,

What follows is a format for your Area Study. In the Army and Marine Corps, as you may know, we refer to it as Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB). Preparing an IPB product for your Area of Operations or community serves several purposes.

First and foremost, your IPB/Area Study is a finished intelligence product. During SHTF, when the internet goes off or when the lights go out; we have this document ready and already printed. It can be passed around or briefed to our existing teammates or to the friends and family coming out of the woodwork because they now recognize their mortality in the face of danger. When the time comes, we've already done our homework on both the threats and our operating environment. The time to build this Area Study is now when information is cheap and easy. Tomorrow, information comes at a premium, and the day after that, it's unavailable.

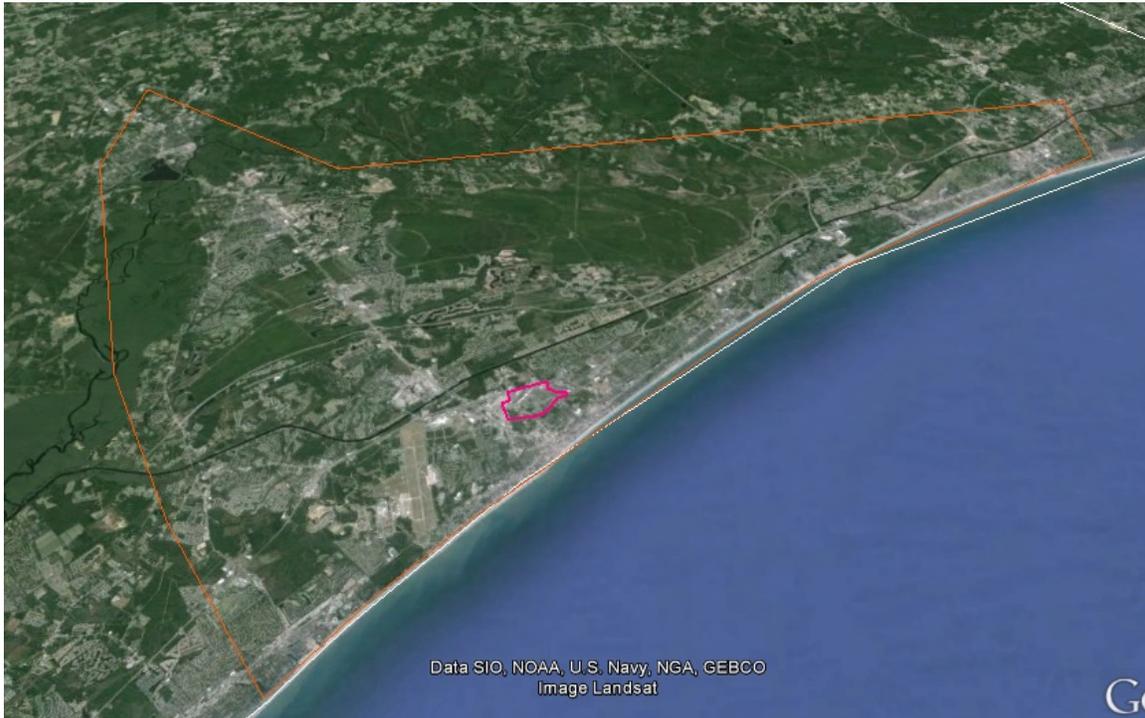
Secondly, it's a methodical and thorough approach to a complex problem. Understanding your operating environment – the physical and human terrain – requires a lot of information. How do we even know where to start and when we're finished? Well, just like building a house, we identify our needs, we design a blueprint, we gather the necessary materials and then we start building. We approach the work of intelligence in the same way. What are our knowledge requirements for accomplishing our mission? We identify those needs, we gather intelligence information, we process and analyze it, and then we build our Area Study. The information contained in this product will allow us to have an edge over our adversaries who don't understand our operating environment. The information not contained in this product will enable us to identify what we call intelligence gaps, literally the gaps in our knowledge. Once we know those gaps, we can record them as Intelligence Requirements, and now we know what we're lacking. Without recording and tracking your informational needs, the chances are poor that you will be able to satisfy them.

Finally, it presents an opportunity for each person to play an active role. Each individual on our team has some exclusive information, and it's the job of the intelligence section to gather it. As they saying goes, "No one is as smart as everyone." The Area Study should be a team approach, regardless of rank or position. The inherent problem with one person doing anything complex is that there's no help. In intelligence analysis, specifically, a team approach allows each analyst to externalize his or her internal thought processes. That helps us remove bias, correct poor assumptions, and identify alternative perspectives, ultimately achieving a more accurate intelligence product.

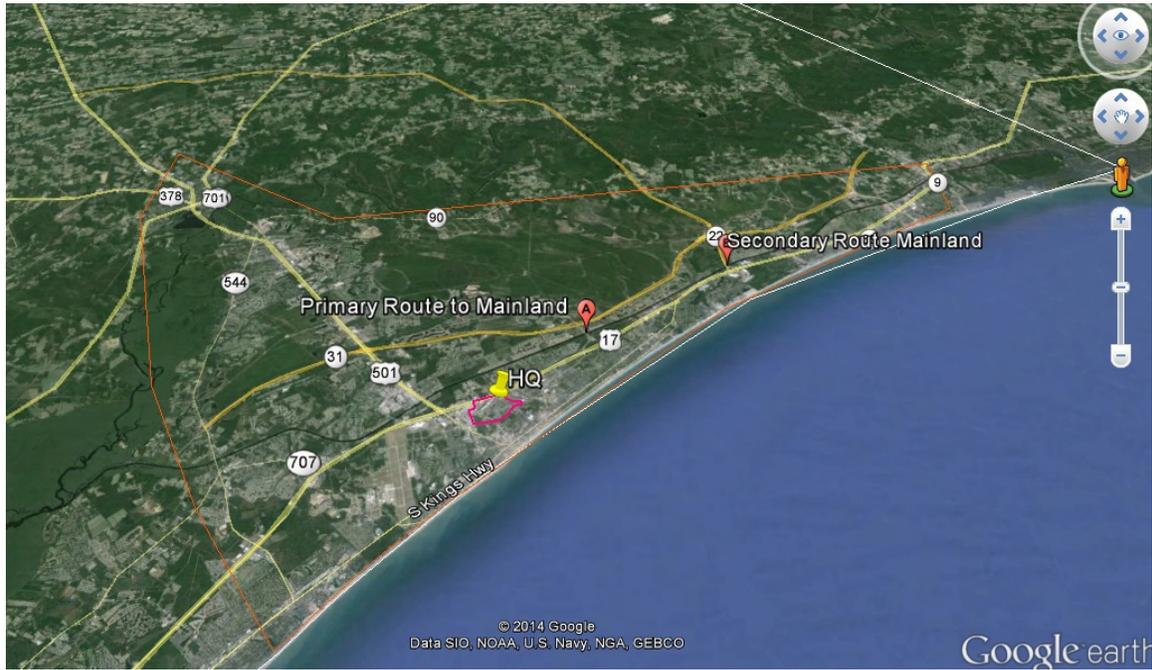
I write about and teach intelligence for a living, mainly to concerned veterans and citizens like yourself. For more information, check out Forward Observer Magazine at <https://readfomag.com> and my personal blog at <http://guerrillamerica.com>. You will find years of information that will help you in using intelligence to get better prepared. Better yet, come to one of my classes and spend a weekend learning how to set up your own intelligence section for the SHTF threat environment.

Always Out Front,
Samuel Culper
Executive Editor, Forward Observer Magazine

**Area Study
AO Cruisers
20140526**



The Area of Operations (AO) encompasses the coast from the southern boundary of North Myrtle Beach to the southern boundary of Surfside Beach and traveling north along U.S. Hwy 501 to Conway in Horry county. The Area of Interest (AI) includes the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, five routes to the mainland across the waterway, and the central crossroads of Horry County in Conway, SC.



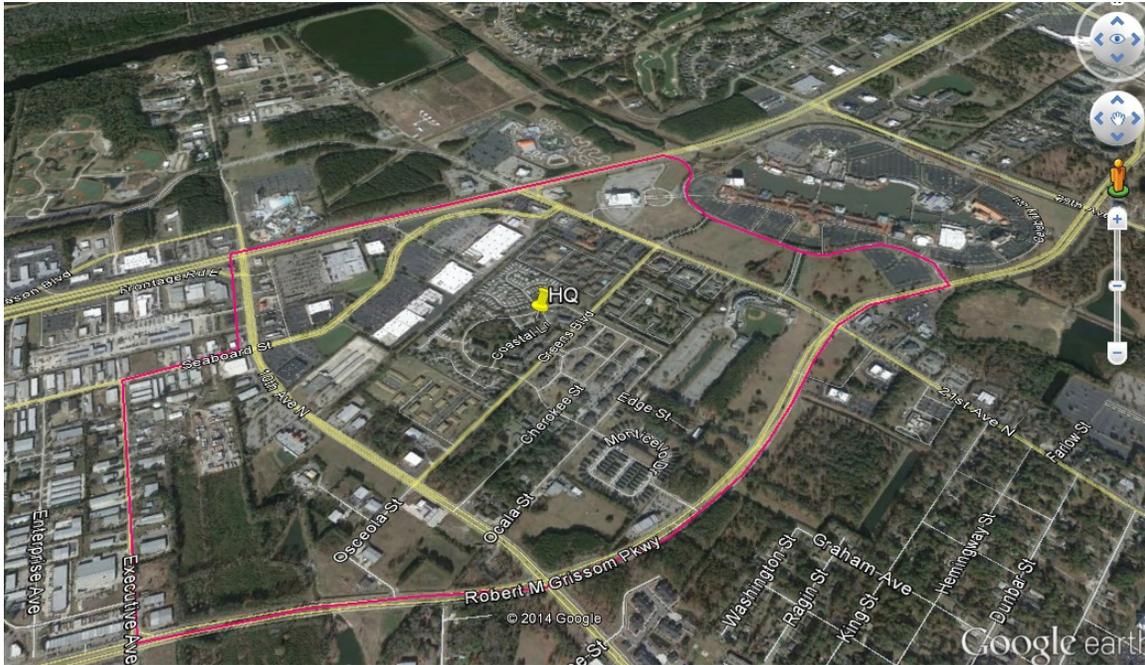
PRIMARY ROUTES WITHIN THE AI

- U.S. Hwy 501
- U.S. Hwy 17 Bypass
- U.S. Hwy 17 Business
- S.C. Hwy 31
- S.C. Hwy 22
- S.C. Hwy 544

SECONDARY ROUTES WITHIN THE AI

- S.C. Hwy 707
- International Dr.
- River Oaks Dr.
- Carolina Forest Blvd.

ROUTE MAP OF AO



PRIMARY ROUTES WITHIN THE AO

U.S. Hwy 17 Bypass
Robert M. Grissom Parkway

SECONDARY ROUTES WITHIN THE AO

10th Ave. North
21st Ave. North
Green's Blvd.
Osceola St.
Seaboard St.

REQUIREMENTS

1. What is the physical terrain that affects my area? **Swamps and thick pine forests.**
2. How does the physical terrain affect my area? **The area is typically flat with very small changes in elevation. The natural forest is usually lowland pine with mixed hardwoods. Swamps are located everywhere as this is what most of the area naturally is.**
3. What physical terrain is the most likely to change? **Swamps are continuously drained in an effort to produce more land for developers**
4. What man-made obstacles will affect my area? **The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway**
5. What seasonal climate factors affect my area? **Winters may have wide swings with 70 F one day followed by snowfall the next. Summers are more predictable with temperature staying in the 90 to 100 range with 80% or higher humidity. April and May followed by October to November are the only real comfortable months in the area.**
6. What electrical infrastructure affects my area? **There are no electrical production facilities located in the county. All power is brought in from no less than 60 miles away from my location.**
7. What hydrological features affect my area? **The Atlantic Ocean, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, and the Waccamaw River.**
9. What are the primary transportation routes in my area? **U.S. Hwy 501 and Hwy 17.**
10. What are the secondary transportation routes in my area? **S.C. Hwy 31, 22, 544.**

HUMAN TERRAIN INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. What is the population density in my area? **1686 people per square mile.**
2. Identify the areas of homogenous race, ethnicity, culture, and religion. **The BTW community to the east and south is predominately lower income black. Gangs run the area and the drug trade is lucrative here. In the immediate area of the HQ a large population of working immigrants from South and Central America inhabit the various apartment complexes.**
3. What is the socioeconomic breakdown in my area?
4. What are the crime patterns and high-crime sections in my area? **The BTW community to the east and south feature high levels of violence and drug crimes. During the summer tourist season this crime moves towards the ocean and features hotel-room invasions, muggings along the boardwalk, and muggings one block inland of Ocean Blvd.**
5. Identify the civic and social organizations in the area.
6. What media outlets affect my area? **The Sun News (print), WMBF Fox 10, WPDE ABC 15, WBTW CBS 13, WRNN 99.5**
7. Which groups or sub-groups are most aligned with our goals?
8. Which groups or sub-groups are least aligned with our goals?
9. Which groups or sub-groups will likely have a disposition towards violence during an emergency? **Bloods (BTW), Folk Nation (BTW), Crips (south end of Myrtle Beach), homeless (everywhere), and MS-13 (Socastee).**

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 11. Crime rates: | | | | |
| murders | 4 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| per 100,000 | 12.7 | 3 | 14.6 | 24.9 |
| Rapes | 29 | 39 | 36 | 43 |
| per 100,000 | 92.2 | 118.5 | 131.3 | 153.1 |
| Robberies | 154 | 189 | 160 | 195 |
| per 100,000 | 489.4 | 574.3 | 583.4 | 694.3 |
| Assaults | 188 | 254 | 243 | 227 |
| per 100,000 | 597.5 | 771.9 | 886.1 | 808.3 |
| Burglaries | 664 | 793 | 590 | 670 |
| per 100,000 | 2110.3 | 2409.8 | 2151.3 | 2385.6 |
| Thefts | 3056 | 3061 | 3243 | 3300 |
| per 100,000 | 9712.4 | 9302 | 11825 | 11750 |
| Auto thefts | 264 | 301 | 354 | 343 |
| per 100,000 | 839 | 914.7 | 1290.8 | 1221.3 |
| Arson | 3 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| per 100,000 | 9.5 | 15.2 | 7.3 | 46.3 |
| City-data crime rate | 579.4 | 622.9 | 725.6 | 763.7 |
| U.S. Average 296 | | | | |

POLITICAL TERRAIN INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Who is the political leadership in my county/AO? **The local leadership is the Horry County GOP and all elected offices are basically beholden to this organization**

2. Who are the civil servants who wield political influence?

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| Horry County | Chairman | Mark Lazarus | City of Myrtle | Mayor | John Rhodes |
| | District 1 | Harold Worley | | | Michael Chestnut |
| | District 2 | Brent Schultz | | | Wayne Gray |
| | District 3 | Marion Foxworth | | | Mike Lowder |
| | District 4 | Gary Loftus | | | Susan Means |
| | District 5 | Paul Price | | | Phil Render |
| | District 6 | Bob Grabowski | | | Randall Wallace |
| | District 7 | James Frazier | | | |
| | District 8 | Carl Schwartzkopf | | | |

3. Who are the civil servants who wield administrative influence?

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Horry County | Admin | Chris Eldridge |
| | Public Safety | Paul Whitten |
| | Police | Saundra Rhodes |
| | Fire | Fred Crosby |
| Myrtle Beach | Admin | Tom Leath |
| | Police | Warren Gall |
| | Fire | Alvin Payne |

4. Who are the known pro-Constitution politicians and civil servants?

5. Who are the known statist/anti-Constitution politicians and civil servants? **Although most are not anti-Constitution, none display any great desire to follow it or defend it from intrusive governance.**

6. What is the organizational structure of county governance? **Both the city and the county are council-manager government systems. The county has 11 districts and one at large chairperson who is a tie-breaker vote. The city has six districts and a mayor who again is a tie-breaker vote on council. Day to day operations are run by the county administrator and city manager.**

7. What are the perceived strengths of the county government?

8. What are the perceived weaknesses of the county government? **Local governments all operate at the behest of land developers with little planning, regard for the populace, and complete lack of respect for the environment.**

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9. How effective at maintaining security will the county government during an emergency? The local and county police departments are all residents of the area. Any large-scale disruption of services or threat to the area will quickly result in officers protecting their own homes and families. Local fire departments are also residents of the area, but are generally better prepared to deal with emergencies. Fire departments will fail, but much slower than police departments.

10. What is the overall quality of governance of the county government? Governance is great if you have money and access to the system but seems like a hindrance if you have neither.

11. Where are the county and local government offices and buildings? They are widely scattered around the county in many areas. The city of Myrtle Beach is a little more condensed with a majority of their offices on Mr Joe White and Oak St.

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Who are the major job providers in the county? **The local population mostly works in low income jobs related to the tourism industry. Hotels, restaurants, and Wal-mart are the largest employers outside of government agencies and the school system.**
2. What industries operate in the county? **Most people are employed in retail trade, followed by food-service/hospitality and finally construction.**
3. What are the service industries dependent on industrial production? **Service industries are dependent upon tourism almost exclusively.**
4. What is the unemployment in the county? **Using unreliable government numbers, 6.6%.**
5. What are the trends or indicators regarding economic stability? **The area is dependent upon tourism and retirees buying homes. Without an influx of northeastern liberals to escape high-taxation the construction industry will collapse. Should the economy tank again the tourism industry gets very scarce as happened from 2008 to 2012. The numbers have returned en mass.**
6. What factors threaten future economic stability? **The entire national economy produces tourists to visit Myrtle Beach.**
7. What is the distribution of socioeconomic levels? **81.9% of the workforce is in hourly, low-paid wage jobs serving tourism.**
8. What are the dual-use manufacturing companies?
9. Where are the manufacturing plants? **There are a few metal fabricators and a chemical company along Hwy. 501 between Conway and Myrtle Beach.**
10. Which economic infrastructures are directly related to the political infrastructure? **Tourism**

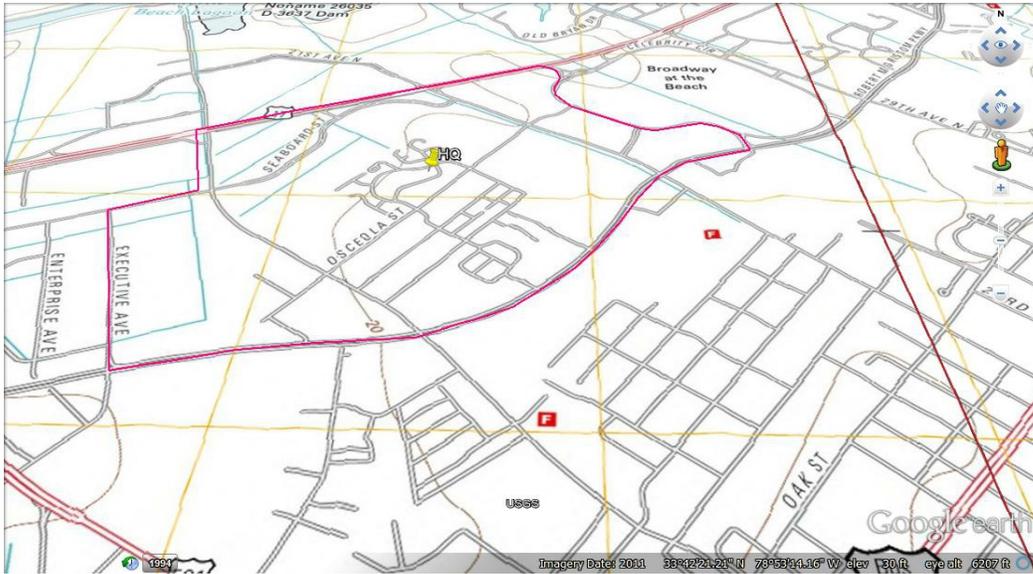
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Identify the state and local law enforcement organizations in the AO. **HCPD, MBPD**
2. Identify the federal law enforcement organizations in the AO. **None regularly engage**
3. Identify the organizational structure of law enforcement organizations in the AO.
4. Identify the leadership of law enforcement organizations in the AO. **County police chief Sandra Rhoades and City Police chief Warren Gall.**
5. What is the strength and disposition of law enforcement organizations in the AO? **There are nearly 400 full-time officers in the cities of Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Conway, and Loris plus another 300 officers in Horry County police.**
6. What are the attitudes of law enforcement leadership towards the Constitution/Liberty in the AO? **MBPD is mostly filled with power hungry statists. HCPD is a mixed bag of right-leaning and statists.**
7. Which law enforcement officers are pro-Statist/anti-Bill of Rights?
8. Identify the private security apparatus in the AO. **American Protective Services has armed officers who patrol several private apartment complexes in the AO. These officers are often decked out in SWAT style gear with M4 type rifles. They appear loaded out for extended patrol in the Pushtu regions.**
9. What is the quality of security in the AO? **MBPD has effective patrols along the major routes, but rarely if ever extends these patrols into the high-crime target areas.**
10. What is the quality of justice in the AO? **Frequently, violent criminals are released on bond and given lighter than expected sentences. There are numerous examples of murders committed by people awaiting sentence for another violent crime or having been released early.**
11. How does the populace view law enforcement in the AO? **Most locals love the police and believe them to be regular heroes.**

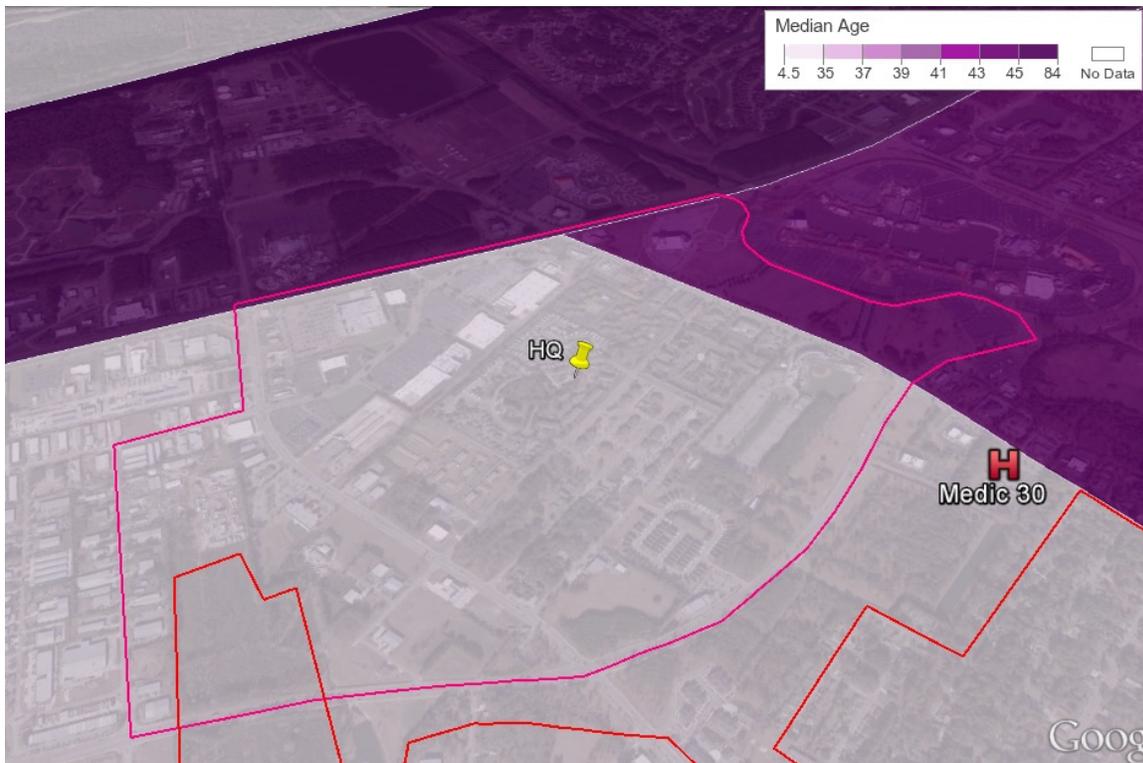
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. What military installations are in the AO? **Cached supplies exist in a hanger along the flight line for the USAF at the airport. A single facility housing vehicles for the SCNG artillery battalion on US 17 Business below 17th Ave S. The Myrtle Beach International Airport features an 11,000' runway that was built by the U.S. Army Air Corps and upgraded repeatedly by the U.S. Air Force. This was a runway capable of landing a space shuttle and both Air Force and current civilian firefighters were trained in dealing with the shuttle. Boeing has tested its dream liner on the airfield and it is suitable to land any military aircraft in existence.**
2. What is the strength and disposition of active duty forces in the AO? **None**
3. What is the strength and disposition of Reserve/National Guard forces in the AO? **Artillery battalion and a water company.**
4. What are the capabilities of all federal and state military forces in the AO? **Rapid setup and deployment from the airport.**
4. Which units are trained to provide security and/or force projection in the AO? **43rd WMD-CST from Eastover, SC**
6. Identify the leadership of military units that could provide security in the AO.
7. What are the attitudes of military leaders towards the Constitution?
8. What is the strength and disposition of unorganized militia units in the AO? **None known**
9. What are the attitudes of the populace towards military forces in the AO? **The military are treated as Gods by the local populace.**
10. What are the attitudes of the local government towards military forces in the AO? **Same as above**

Terrain

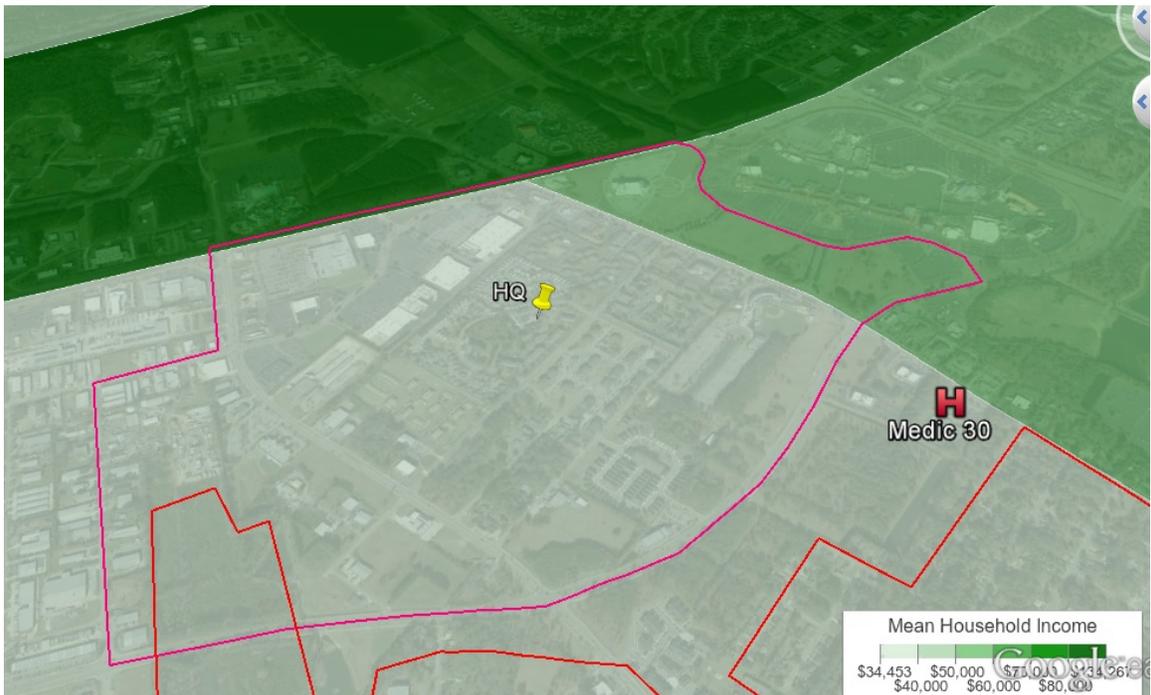


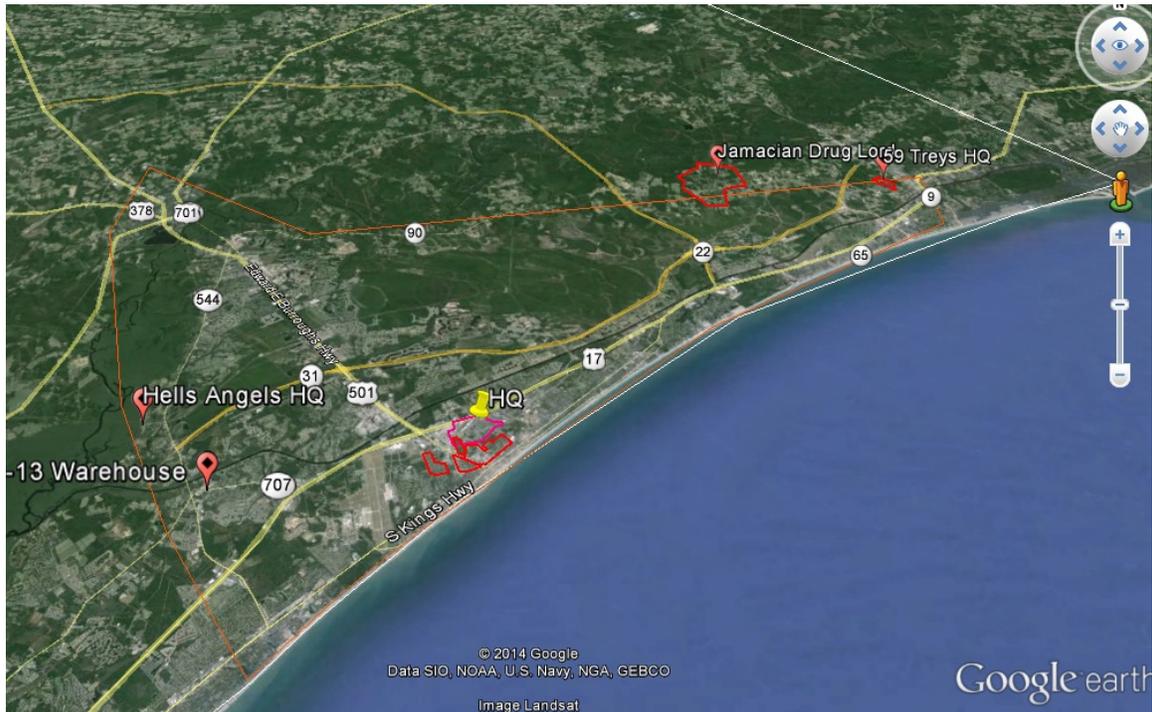
Median Age



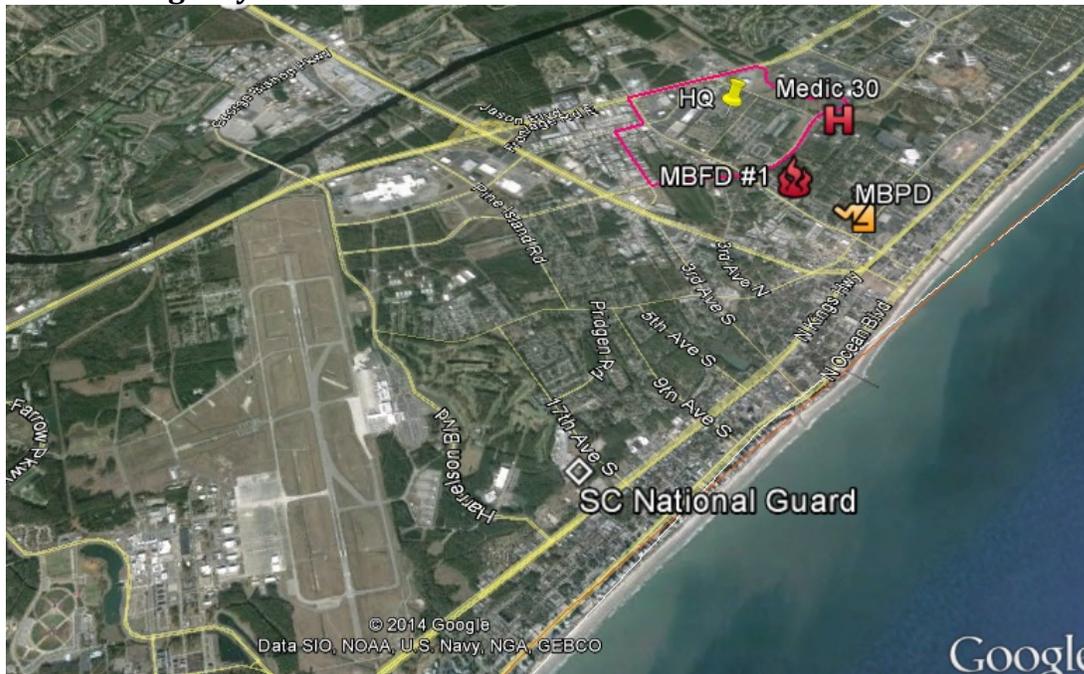


Household Income





Local Emergency Services



METT-TC ANALYSIS

MISSION.

The Neighborhood Security Team will secure, protect and defend the community from conventional and irregular threats.

ENEMY.

Based on our current intelligence holdings, we expect the primary threat to be irregular. Those irregular threats will likely include common individual criminals, and the probability of gangs and/or roving looters. Early warning of irregular threat activity may be possible through news stations (television and radio) and through ham band contact from others within Horry County. The possibility of a conventional threat is diminished, however, mobilization of Army reserve/national guard units is possible but would be slow. A secondary conventional threat could include state law enforcement agencies. Their potential missions could range from providing security during an emergency to targeting 'extremist elements' and military members throughout the region. We would expect those units to be based locally and likely receive support or direction from regime agencies. The most likely location for a base of operations for federal forces would be the airport.

TERRAIN & WEATHER.

Our AO's terrain is conducive to defense, however, our position sandwiched between major primary routes could making defense extremely vulnerable. The terrain is flat with the only real elevation change being ditches beside roadways. Planted pine forests border several areas and are interspersed with native hardwoods and pine forests in a few undeveloped areas. These areas in the AO are mostly (one exception noted in maps) cleared of undergrowth to prevent homeless camps.

Weather from December to March can be volatile in that temperature swings can be great. 75 degree days are not unheard of followed by snow two days later. Few, if any locals (government included) are skilled at traveling in snow conditions. May through October are very hot with high humidity and almost daily thunderstorms between 1500-1700 hours.

TROOPS & SUPPORT.

No local militia is visibly active in the area.

TIME.

Defense of the area will rapidly become untenable within three days due to the proximity of a dependent population on almost all sides. No ground is readily available to plant and soil is not always conducive to farming. There is no time available to become fully self-sustained in the AO.

CIVIL CONSIDERATIONS.

Local governance claims to be favorable towards the defense of traditional American values and the Constitution, but as evidenced in regulations and ordinances they are actively engaging in statism. There are numerous local politicians and organization who will likely seek to disrupt pro-FREEFOR activities.

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Local news media, as a whole, cannot be counted upon to provide pro-Constitution or pro-FREEFOR coverage. Based on the threat, our ability to hold critical infrastructure within our AO is unlikely. Our ability to hold critical infrastructure within the AI is impossible.