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21st Century US Military Manuals: Physical Security in the Army

Introduction

In the rapidly evolving world of modern warfare, physical security remains a crucial aspect of military operations. The US Army has developed comprehensive manuals to guide personnel on best practices for safeguarding assets, personnel, and facilities. One such manual is FM 3-1930, Building Security Concepts and Principles.

Question 1: What are the key principles of physical security outlined in FM 3-1930?

Answer: FM 3-1930 emphasizes the importance of establishing and maintaining a layered security system that incorporates barriers, access control, detection systems, and response forces. It underscores the need for risk assessment, vulnerability analysis, and the implementation of cost-effective measures based on the specific threats and resources available.

Question 2: What types of barriers are recommended for securing buildings?

Answer: FM 3-1930 provides guidance on various types of barriers, including fences, walls, gates, bollards, and landscaping. It emphasizes the importance of selecting barriers that are appropriate for the level of threat, terrain, and visual line of sight. The manual also covers the use of passive barriers, which deter unauthorized entry, and active barriers, which activate an alarm or signal upon being breached.

Question 3: How does the manual address access control?

Answer: Access control is a critical component of physical security, and FM 3-1930 provides comprehensive guidance on managing access to buildings and sensitive areas. The manual covers various methods of access control, including keypads, card readers, biometric systems, and manned guard posts. It emphasizes the importance of establishing clear protocols for granting and revoking access, as well as implementing procedures for visitor management and escorting.

Question 4: What additional value-added services are recommended for enhanced security?

Answer: FM 3-1930 introduces the concept of value-added professional services such as security patrols, guard force management, and security consulting. These services can supplement existing security measures and provide a more comprehensive approach to physical security. The manual provides guidelines on how to contract and manage such services to ensure their effectiveness.

Question 5: How does the manual address emerging threats to building security?

Answer: The manual recognizes the evolving nature of security threats and provides guidance on addressing emerging challenges. It covers topics such as electronic security systems, cybersecurity, and the use of asymmetric threats. FM 3-1930 emphasizes the importance of continuous monitoring, threat assessment, and adapting security measures as needed to maintain a high level of protection.

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