

Considerations in the Selection of UW Areas and
for the Intelligence Support of UW Operations

CIA/RR GR 59-24

1. The general considerations in the selection of the recommended areas:

a. Factors applying to the selection of all types of UW areas:

(1) Terrain difficult enough to preclude effective security controls by the enemy but not formidable enough to impede movement unduly.

(2) Cover of forest or other vegetation to provide fair-to-good concealment during all seasons.

(3) Climatic conditions not severe enough to limit seriously survival possibilities over an extended period during any season.

(4) A combination of position, and size of area that would tend to preclude encirclement or trapping by enemy forces.

(5) Terrain that will permit initial entry of UW forces or isolated personnel into the area by air, sea, or overland movement.

(6) Low overall population density and minimum number of settlements.

(7) Location relatively remote from concentrations of enemy security or other armed forces.

(8) Local availability of sources of water, food, and shelter. (It is recognized that many areas offer only marginal subsistence.)

(9) Wherever possible, location of the area in the midst of a minority or dissident population group that might actively assist -- or, at least not actively oppose -- UW and E and E operations.

b. Additional factors applying specifically to the selection of areas suitable for multipurpose UW operations, which include sabotage and guerrilla warfare.

(1) Freedom from organized security forces of effectiveness sufficient to prevent initial infiltration of personnel and the initiation of UW operations.

(2) Terrain that includes sites suitable for drop zones and bases for operations.

(3) Location of potential significant targets for attack either on the periphery of the area or within feasible striking distances from it.

c. Additional factors applying specifically to the selection of areas suitable primarily for survival of E and E.

(1) Distance from major urban, industrial, or transportation centers of at least 25 miles and preferably 75 miles.

(2) Availability of routes of ingress and exit feasible for individuals or small groups but not numerous enough to implement effective enemy security control.

(3) Availability of or proximity to suitable landing sites or pick up points for light- and/or medium-type aircraft (both land and water) and, in coastal regions, landing sites for small craft.

2. It should be clearly understood that many variables must be considered and that all factors are relative, especially in UW operations. No attempt has been made to delineate rigidly the type of UW operation that should be conducted within or from the recommended areas. The fact that some areas are described as primarily for E and E does not preclude their use for small-scale guerrilla warfare or as bases for saboteurs. Conversely, some of the multipurpose areas recommended are also the areas most suitable for E and E activities. Furthermore, the selection does not presume to include all possible UW areas, since the number was limited to a maximum set forth in the basic requirement.

3. It should be understood that this report was not influenced by the previous selection of UW and E and E areas by Joint or Service Headquarters and that the recommended areas were selected without reference to any current war plans or programs and capabilities of specific operational missions. Finally, and most important, the effects of possible nuclear fallout on the recommended areas were not examined in making the selections.

4. In summation, it should be emphasized that this report is a first phase intelligence study designed to assist in determining the most suitable areas for UW operations. It does not purport to provide

the detailed current intelligence essential to successful UW operations. This report represents only a first step. After its coordination with and dissemination to the Unified and operational Commands concerned, it is anticipated that subsequent action may include the following:

- a. The alignment of Theater plans and Service requirements to permit a maximum utilization of the most suitable areas.
- b. A statement of the expected priority for the several types of UW activities, particularly as applied to multipurpose areas.
- c. The selection and analysis of additional UW areas that may be necessary to support Theater plans, or further analysis of the initially recommended areas as required for their expansion and full utilization.
- d. A review of the requirements placed on CIA, and a reappraisal of CIA capabilities, especially after the completion of the steps indicated in paragraphs a, b, and c above.
- e. Service action to obtain and disseminate detailed information on the UW areas in relation to approved war plans, which will include the location of drop zones, landing sites, specific sabotage targets, and guerrilla warfare objectives.
- f. Finally, the collation and production of operational intelligence in support of the UW areas and of other current requirements of Theater war plans. This last step could be most effectively accomplished by a coordinated CIA/Services joint effort.

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