

GENERAL

This section outlines brigade planning activities for counter guerrilla operations in low intensity conflict. It discusses command and staff actions from initial planning concept to final approval of plans. For further guidance on planning, see FM 101-5 and branch field manuals.

FACTORS AFFECTING PLANNING

The principles of command and staff action in battalions and brigades discussed in FM 7-20 and FM 7-30 are applicable to counter guerrilla operations. Counter guerrilla operations in internal defense operations emphasize political, economic, sociological, and psychological considerations to a much greater degree than in limited or general war operations.

Maintaining high morale in brigades engaged in internal defense operations presents problems different from those in limited and general war operations. Operating against an elusive force that seldom offers a clear target, and where tangible results are seldom obtained, requires continuous troop indoctrination and training.

During independent missions of prolonged periods, brigade support depends on the ingenuity, courage, and tenacity of commanders and staffs at all echelons.

Other factors which are unique to counter guerrilla operations and require increased emphasis are - -

- Maintaining a combat attitude while making little contact with guerrilla forces. To counter a false sense of security, commanders must continually stress security even though guerrilla activity within their areas has apparently diminished.
- Operating in a strange type conflict coupled with language difficulties and foreign customs and religions.
- Operating with less desirable food, shelter, and sanitary conditions.
- Accepting the reality of guerrilla operations which include terrorism and murder of civilians.

Command and staff action in counter guerrilla operations emphasizes - -

- Detailed planning of small-scale, decentralized operations.
- Command and control over extended distances.
- Extensive contingency planning for employment of reserves and fire support.
- Deception operations.