

AIR CAVALRY EMPLOYMENT

Air cavalry units are used in offensive actions against guerrilla forces as separate maneuver units to support armor and infantry ground operations and airmobile operations. The tactics, techniques, and procedures for offensive operations contained in FM 17-95 are readily adaptable to counter guerrilla operations.

ARMORED CAVALRY EMPLOYMENT

Terrain permitting, armored cavalry units are well suited for offensive operations against guerrilla forces. Their extensive means of communications, mobility, combined-arms organization, and capability to perform reconnaissance and security missions permit their operation over relatively large areas. Armored cavalry units may be used as separate maneuver units or to support the offensive operations of larger units. Armored cavalry may require dismounted or mechanized infantry augmentation in whatever configuration used.

ARMOR EMPLOYMENT

Limited road nets, heavily wooded or inundated areas, and generally rugged terrain usually characterize a guerrilla force area. Since these areas considerably restrict tank movement, large-scale employment of tanks is usually not possible. Routes and axes of advance must be carefully selected. Armor units of the counter guerrilla force will normally operate with infantry-heavy teams or task forces. However, in areas that permit mounted operations, tank-heavy teams and task forces could use the tank's firepower, mobility, armor protection, and shock effect to advantage.

When committed, armor units will be used primarily in offensive tactical operations; but tank units may be used to reinforce police and other civilian agencies.

The armor commander must consider the requirement to use minimum combat power to accomplish his missions. In areas permitting cross-country mobility, uncontrolled movement of tanks may damage fields and crops and adversely influence the population. For further details on armor employment, see FM 17-95 and FM 71-2.

MECHANIZED INFANTRY EMPLOYMENT

Mechanized infantry units may operate independently or as part of a combined-arms team or task force. Attack and pursuit are primary roles for mechanized infantry when employed mounted. Mechanized infantry may be employed dismounted to conduct offensive operations when the situation so dictates. See FM 7-8, FM 7-10, FM 7-20, FM 71-1, and FM 71-2.

Mechanized infantry forces are suited to counter guerrilla operations because of their flexibility and ability to operate either mounted or dismounted. The increase in firepower and speed associated with mounted infantry forces can produce decisive results, especially against larger guerrilla forces.