

CHAPTER 7

bases. Gaining and maintaining contact with the guerrillas characterizes these operations.

Once a guerrilla force is fixed, combat power, consistent with the needs for population safety, is used to destroy it. Normally, for such operations, the friendly force must be much larger than the guerrilla force. Encirclement offers the greatest possibility for fixing and destroying the guerrilla force, provided the following conditions are met:

- Accurate intelligence provides the location of the guerrilla elements.
- Troops are emplaced rapidly to maximize surprise.
- An effective counterintelligence system insures security of plans and movement.
- Sufficient troops are used to achieve an effective encirclement.
- Sufficient time is taken to search the encircled area.
- Actions are taken to prevent the guerrillas from taking advantage of darkness.

Harassment operations may be conducted as an economy-of-force measure in order to deny the guerrilla freedom of operation. Harassment will prevent the guerrilla from resting and reorganizing, inflict casualties, prevent massing of personnel and supplies, aid in gaining intelligence, and cause the guerrilla to expend his resources. During harassment operations, the brigade will operate from operational bases and maintain continuous pressure on the guerrilla force by vigorous patrolling. Harassment is conducted primarily by using - -

- Reconnaissance patrols to locate guerrilla units and bases.
- Extensive ground combat patrolling and raids.
- Airmobile combat patrolling and raids.
- Ambushes.
- Indirect fires (artillery, mortars, and naval gunfire) on targets in guerrilla base areas.
- Air Force bombing and strafing on targets in guerrilla base areas.
- Mines on guerrilla routes of communication in remote areas (location of mines must be recorded and indiscriminate effects on noncombatants must be considered).
- Continuous aerial surveillance.