

**PRINCIPLES.** The basic principle of a search of a built-up area is to conduct it with a limited inconvenience to the population. The populace may be inconvenienced to the point where they will discourage guerrillas and insurgent sympathizers from remaining in the locale, but not to the point that they will collaborate with the guerrilla force as a result of the search. The large-scale search of a built-up area is normally a combined civil police and military operation. It is planned in detail and rehearsed when possible. Physical reconnaissance of the area just prior to a search is avoided. Information needed about the terrain may be obtained from aerial photographs. In larger towns or cities, the local police may have detailed maps showing relative size and location of buildings. For success, the search plan must be simple and be executed swiftly. Methods and techniques may be varied.

- **Organization of troops.** Built-up areas vary; therefore, the search force must be task-organized for each search. A task organization consisting of military troops, civil police, and other required elements is designed to:
  - Surround the area to prevent escape.
  - Establish checkpoints and roadblocks to prevent entrance to or exit from the area to be searched.
  - Prevent an attack or interference by personnel coming from outside the area.
  - Search houses and individuals as necessary to identify suspects and locate contraband material.
  - Escort apprehended persons and evacuate confiscated material to designated locations.
- **Command and control.** Normally, a search involving a battalion or larger force is best controlled by the military commander with the civil police in support. A search involving a smaller force is best controlled by the civil police with the military in support. Regardless of the controlling agency, however, the actual search is performed by host country police when they are available in adequate numbers and have been trained in search operations.
- **Method.**
  - **Approach.** On some operations the situation may allow mounted movement directly into the area to be searched. On others, the situation may dictate dismounted movement into the area. Emphasis should always be placed on rapid and coordinated entrance to the area to be searched.
  - **Surrounding the area.** During darkness, troops should approach silently by as many different routes as possible. At first daylight, the area can be occupied by a chain of observation posts with gaps covered by patrols. Normally, a large area cannot be completely surrounded for any length of time because of the number of troops required. If necessary, troops dig in, take advantage of natural cover, and use barbed wire to help maintain their line.
  - **Reserves.** If there is a chance that hostile elements from outside the area