

could interfere, measures are taken to prevent them from joining the inhabitants of the area under search. Air observers can assist by detecting and giving early warning of any large-scale movement toward the occupied area.

■ **Search parties.** The officer in command of the operation informs the inhabitants that the area is to be searched, that a house curfew is in force, and that all inhabitants must remain indoors. Or he may require the inhabitants to gather at a central point and then have the search party move in and begin the search.

### HOUSE SEARCH.

■ Each search party assigned to search an occupied building should consist of at least one local policeman, a protective escort, and a female searcher, if appropriate. The search party must first assemble everyone in one room. The civil police may give the necessary orders and do the actual searching. The object of this search is to screen for suspected persons. Apprehended persons are evacuated as soon as possible. Troops may perform this task. Escort parties and transportation must be planned in advance.

■ When a decision is made to gather inhabitants at a central point, the head of the house should accompany the search party when his house is searched. If this is not done, he can deny knowledge of anything incriminating that is found, or he can accuse the troops of theft and looting. In small searches, it may be practical to ask the head of each household to sign a certificate that nothing has been illegally removed, but in a very large search this may be impractical. In order to avoid accusations of theft, witnesses should be present during the search. A prominent member of the community should accompany each search team if possible.

■ Buildings are best searched from top to bottom if possible. Mine detectors are used to search for arms and ammunition. Every effort is made to avoid unnecessary damage. Each house or building searched is marked with a coded designation. This same designation can be used to list occupants who must be accounted for in subsequent searches and will help insure that no building is overlooked in the current search.

■ If a house is vacant or if an occupant refuses entry, it may be necessary to force entry. If a house containing property is searched while its occupants are away, it should be secured to prevent looting. Before troops depart, the commander should make arrangements with the community to protect empty houses until the occupants return.

### VILLAGE SEARCH.

■ Prior to conducting search operations in a village, a reconnaissance patrol must be sent out to gain information about the village and its inhabitants. The patrol should take care to avoid detection. A portion of the patrol should maintain surveillance over the village while the remainder of the patrol returns with the information. This is done to detect any changes which may take place prior to the security element going into position. Information of value to a commander is: