

protective masks or oxygen equipment; headlamps or flashlights; and possibly offensive hand grenades.

- Wear protective masks. If the tunnel lacks adequate oxygen, personnel should wear special masks with an oxygen-generating system.
- Be alert for booby traps and insurgents remaining in tunnels.
- Chart and map layout of tunnels.
- Remove all intelligence information from the tunnel. Supplies and equipment useful to the insurgent should be confiscated or destroyed.

Destruction of tunnels may be accomplished by - -

- Cratering charges.
- High explosives (may require large quantities).
- Any innovations designed for the collapse or destruction of tunnels and caves.

SEARCH OPERATIONS BY AIRMOBILE FORCES

Search units mounted in armed helicopters can use both the mobility and firepower of these craft to the maximum. This will seriously affect the morale of the guerrilla force.

Airmobile combat patrols, conducting an aerial search, reconnoiter an assigned area or route in search of guerrilla forces. When a guerrilla force is located, the airmobile combat patrol may engage it from the air or may land and engage it on the ground. This technique has little value in heavily-vegetated areas. Use of airmobile combat patrols should be limited to those operations in which sufficient intelligence exists to justify their use and then normally in conjunction with ground operations.

In ground search operations, helicopters drop off troops in an area suspected of containing guerrilla elements. With the helicopters overwatching from the air, troops search the area. Troops are then picked up, and the process is repeated in other areas.

Members of airmobile combat patrols should be trained in tracking procedures and may follow guerrillas to their base. If the patrol encounters a large guerrilla force, the reserve (ready forces) are committed. Plans must provide for evacuation of prisoners, casualties, and materiel.

PATROLS

Conventional patrolling doctrine normally applies to counter guerrilla operations, but some techniques must be oriented to meet the insurgent's activities and the operational environment. Patrolling becomes more significant in counter guerrilla operations because of the difficulty in locating and identifying insurgent forces and