

- Formation will depend upon factors such as the mission, enemy, weather, terrain, and visibility. Organize formation to maintain unit integrity. Distribute crew-served weapons throughout the column. Habitually assign specific sectors of surveillance to all personnel within the formation to include rear and overhead surveillance.
- Insure that leaders continuously observe and take advantage of the terrain as they move so they are prepared to take proper action if ambushed.
- If a unit, or a portion of a unit, is caught in an ambush, immediate action is taken to return fire and move against the ambush party. See chapter 9 of this manual and also FM 7-8 and FM 21-75.

#### Convoy Operations.

- Long-range security measures:
  - Obtain timely and accurate intelligence about insurgent ambushes. An important source of such intelligence is the loyal population. Information such as where the insurgent force is operating, its size, pattern of ambush, and weapon capabilities is needed.
  - Counterintelligence.
    - Use alternate routes.
    - Vary timetables.
    - Change formation and location of principal weapons.
    - Practice good radio and telephone security.
  - Clear roadsides of vegetation.
- Organization of the convoy:
  - Reconnaissance elements should travel on the ground ahead of and in the air above the convoy to discover or trigger potential ambush. Normally the convoy requests reconnaissance elements from supporting forces. If none are available, the convoy must organize one from within its resources.
  - If fire support is available, plot on all likely or suspected ambush sites.
  - Do not overload vehicles in convoys. If troop-carrying vehicles are loaded to their maximum, troops cannot use their weapons effectively.
  - Post selected individuals as guards. In large vehicles, a man should be posted in each corner with assigned sectors of surveillance and fire. Guards should be armed with automatic weapons and fragmentary and white phosphorus grenades.