

may incite rioting, seize portions of the city, erect barricades, and resist military forces entering the area. Insurgent forces may hold noncombatants in the area as hostages and use them as shields to deter application of combat power by counter guerrilla forces.

When an urban area has been seized by insurgent forces, an evaluation must be made from both a tactical and psychological perspective whether to recapture it using major military force or using other techniques. The amount of force and the specific techniques to be used to recapture the area are decided based on the probable psychological impact on the enemy, noncombatant civilians, and friendly troops; the safety of civilians and friendly troops; the destruction of buildings; and the military forces available. The principle of "minimum essential force" will help reduce casualties in the noncombatant civilian population.

Riot control munitions can be used against targets so that military forces can close with and capture the enemy with minimum injury to the noncombatants. Operations may be in the form of assistance to civilian police. In any event, military operations **MUST** be coordinated with the civilian police.

For details of combat in fortified and built-up areas, see FM 90-10 and TC 90-999A.

## RECONNAISSANCE BY FIRE



Reconnaissance by fire can be used in areas where noncombatants will not be endangered. It is done by firing on likely or suspected enemy positions in an attempt to cause the enemy to disclose his presence by movement or firing. During reconnaissance by fire, positions being reconnoitered must be continuously observed so that any enemy movement or return fire will be definitely located.

Reconnaissance by fire is used when time is critical or intelligence and experience indicate the likelihood of concealed guerrilla forces in the area. The lack of civilians and absence of routine movement and activity in the area may indicate enemy presence. Reconnaissance by fire is used at the cost of losing surprise, but it lessens the probability of moving unaware into a well-concealed enemy position.