

If the enemy returns the fire, the unit proceeds to develop the situation. If the fire is not returned, the unit continues on its mission. Care must be taken, however, since reconnaissance by fire may fail to draw the fire of seasoned enemy troops but may draw out hiding, innocent civilians who have become endangered by the fire.

RESERVES

Reserves (reaction forces or ready forces) are retained by brigade and subordinate units to be deployed at a decisive time and place. Reserves also provide commanders with means to deal with contingencies. Mobility, particularly air mobility, vastly enhances the employment of reserves.

Reserves may be used to exploit success by - -

- Reinforcing the attack.
- Maintaining or increasing the momentum of the attack.
- Defeating or blocking counterattacks.
- Providing security.
- Creating diversions.

Dispersal of reserve elements into multiple assembly areas or march columns provides flexibility and facilitates rapid movement. In strike campaign operations, emphasis should be placed on deploying reserves by air. Regardless of how they move, reserves must be positioned within supporting distances of committed forces.

T37 plans for employment of reserves against each assumed guerrilla action are made and kept current. These plans must be simple, coordinated in detail, and rehearsed where possible.

A current list of possible guerrilla targets must be maintained. It should include such places as airbases, ports, important road and railroad junctions, defiles, bridges, homes of important persons, military and police installations, communities, public utilities, public gathering places, and commercial establishments. Since the guerrilla is most active during the hours of darkness, reserves will often be used at night.

In areas where only small unit guerrilla forces are operating, the reserve force may be small with a unit's maximum effort devoted to aggressive patrolling. If the guerrilla force can mount large-scale operations, large, well-supported reserves capable of rapid employment should be used.

Since the guerrilla force will often use attacks on small outposts or installations to draw a reaction force into a well-prepared, deliberate ambush, means of transportation and routes should be carefully selected when reacting to an attack. Aircraft priority must be given to the movement of the reserves. Depending on the situation, aircraft may be habitually located with reserves.