

Once guerrilla forces have been located and fixed, combat forces maneuver to kill or capture the guerrillas. The guerrillas may try to conceal weapons and hide their guerrilla identity. Thus, the attacking forces must conduct a thorough search of the area to capture and collect all known and suspected guerrillas. In conducting operations, commanders must allow sufficient time to search thoroughly. Suspects must be handled firmly, but with fairness and respect.

First, reconnaissance and intelligence are required to develop the situation. When small reconnaissance units discover relatively large guerrilla forces, reserves (ready forces) are required to destroy the guerrilla forces. If guerrilla forces are fixed and time permits, the reserves will make a deliberate attack; otherwise, a hasty attack. Similarly, if intelligence locates guerrilla installations, a raid may be feasible. If an area is suspected of harboring guerrilla forces or installations, a reconnaissance-in-force may be conducted. If it locates a guerrilla force larger than it can defeat, ready forces conduct a hasty or deliberate attack.

## MOVEMENT TO CONTACT

Movement to contact in counterguerrilla tactical operations is basically the same as in conventional operations. However, night movement and counterambush precautions are emphasized. For example, elements of advancing units should always be covered by an element in position to bring fire on whatever enemy weapons may open upon the moving force. Additionally, terrain and experience with the enemy will influence how movement to contact is conducted.

Leading elements of the strike forces gain and maintain contact with the guerrillas. If the guerrillas withdraw, every effort will be made to block withdrawal routes by fire and to maintain and regain contact. As a result, operations may be characterized by a series of meeting engagements and hasty attacks.

To reduce the likelihood of ambush while gaining or reestablishing contact, movement is best accomplished by airmobile elements. Movement by air insures speed, helps surprise, and avoids some of the dangers inherent in ground movement.

## RECONNAISSANCE-IN-FORCE

Reconnaissance-in-force is a limited-objective operation to discover and test the enemy's positions, location, and strength and to gather information. In counterguerrilla operations, its objective is to collect information of the enemy and to destroy his units and facilities. The commander must be prepared to exploit a meeting engagement, targets of opportunity, and meaningful intelligence.

Reconnaissance-in-force operations normally develop enemy information more rapidly and in more detail than do other reconnaissance methods; therefore, when firm intelligence is lacking, the principal effort of the committed unit may be widespread and continuous reconnaissance-in-force operations which support security missions. In arriving at a decision to reconnoiter in force, the commander considers - -

- Overall mission.
- Knowledge of the enemy situation.