

- Urgency of other information.
- Capabilities and speed of other intelligence collection agencies.
- Possibility that the reconnaissance may lead to a general engagement under favorable conditions.
- Continuing requirements for local and area security.
- Availability of adequate reserves (ready forces) and of resources to deliver them quickly where needed.
- Availability of adequate all-weather fire support means.

The ground maneuver elements conducting the reconnaissance-in-force should have mobility at least equal to that of the enemy. Reserves (ready forces) must be able to quickly exploit enemy weaknesses and influence the action.

The size of the subordinate reconnaissance units depends on the mission, size of the area being investigated, combat power available, ability to quickly commit reserves (ready forces), and the enemy's strength.

A reconnaissance-in-force operation is an offensive action designed to develop enemy information rapidly within a specific area. It is conducted when available intelligence is inadequate to support operations against more specific targets. These operations are conducted in areas where guerrilla elements or installations are most likely to be found based on the best intelligence available.

■ **Concept.**

- In reconnaissance-in-force operations, commanders - - especially small-unit commanders - - may have restrictions placed on them to avoid decisive engagement. Aggressive patrolling by small reconnaissance elements allows the ground maneuver unit to gain contact while exposing a minimum of forces to surprise attack or ambush.
- The commander exploits contacts gained by the reconnaissance-in-force by destroying, when possible, any enemy unit or facilities located. Commanders must be prepared to reinforce or extract the friendly unit before it becomes decisively engaged.
- The destruction of large enemy forces, usually occupying prepared fortifications, is accomplished by a coordinated attack of the enemy's position supported by all available combat power, including artillery, tactical air, naval gunfire, Army aviation fires, and armor. During the conduct of the attack, possible escape routes are observed and are blocked by maneuver elements and firepower. The attack force executes the ground attack after firepower has neutralized the enemy unit and his defensive position to the degree possible. When available, other units are prepared to conduct pursuit operations and, if contact is lost, to attempt to regain it.