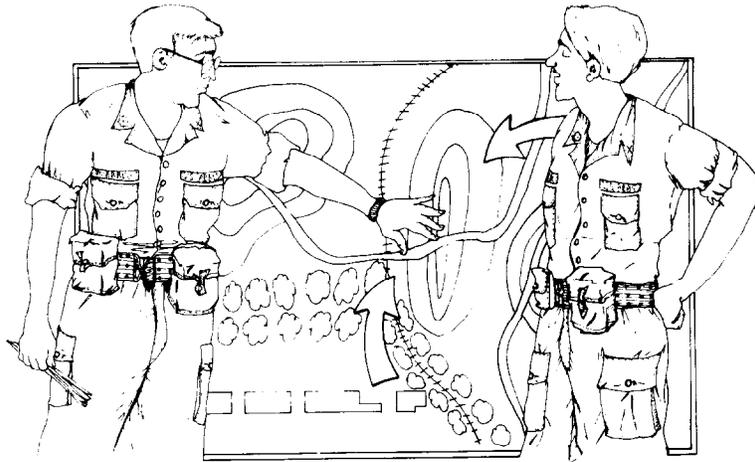


■ Conduct.



■ In selecting the area to be reconnoitered in force, the commander must consider the size of the assigned area of operations, the terrain and vegetation, size and location of any known or suspected enemy units, the size of the force available to him, and the support available, to include fire support and the Army aviation available.

■ Any number of techniques may be used to reconnoiter an area in force. To thoroughly reconnoiter an area, it must be saturated with ground elements aggressively patrolling their assigned areas. To accomplish the necessary complete saturation of an area, the controlling headquarters must subdivide the area into subordinate unit reconnaissance areas. To achieve maximum surprise and mutual support, the individual reconnaissance elements should be inserted simultaneously if possible. At times, however, saturation of an area of operations may not be possible, so a variation of the technique is used. The initial positioning of ground units and their movement plans are generally unlimited. Once inserted, the units act independently within their assigned areas of responsibility but coordinate with adjacent units. The overall objective is to locate and engage enemy forces. Once contact has been made, maximum fires are placed on enemy positions. The controlling headquarters directs adjacent units to occupy blocking or ambush positions along likely avenues of escape, while others may be directed to move in the direction of the target. Where large forces are encountered, the requirement is to fix the enemy until sufficient combat power can be massed to defeat him. Guerrillas characteristically operate in difficult terrain which limits the ground unit's ability to move rapidly to the decisive point. Where this occurs, fire support is employed while airmobile ready forces move in to destroy the enemy force. See FM 7-8 and FM 21-75 for detailed coverage of reconnaissance methods.

## HASTY ATTACK

Once contact with the enemy is made, the commander deploys his force, coordinating maneuver, fires, air support, and other means in an attempt to