

immediately destroy the enemy in contact or to fully develop the enemy situation. Generally, if the leading element contacting the enemy cannot defeat him quickly, the commander must decide whether to conduct a HASTY ATTACK or to take time to develop the situation more carefully and then conduct a DELIBERATE ATTACK.

At times the intelligence available to the commander will indicate clearly which course he should follow. At other times, however, judgment may dictate he conduct a hasty attack to avoid being held up by inferior forces and being unnecessarily delayed. At the same time, he must be careful to avoid being drawn into an ambush.

Conduct of a hasty attack is a difficult and challenging operation. Ideally, there should be no pause in the forward momentum of the force upon initial contact. Maneuver units swing into action immediately, using movement techniques appropriate to enemy and terrain.

The commander must summon, and bring into the battle, fire support and all other available support. He must coordinate and maneuver all resources so as to apply the combat power needed against the enemy. The hasty attack must try to fix enemy elements in place with firepower and either overrun or encircle them. Speed is essential. The reserve force will have to be deployed early if maneuver elements become held up. IF MOMENTUM IS LOST, THE HASTY ATTACK WILL FAIL.

DELIBERATE ATTACK

When the commander of a force determines that he has encountered a strong enemy force in well-prepared defensive positions, he may conclude that a deliberate attack is necessary. A deliberate attack is characterized by greater and widely distributed knowledge of enemy positions, by greater volumes of effectively delivered supporting fires, by extensive deception, by full exploitation of electronic warfare (EW), and by employing measures beyond those possible in a hasty attack.

EXPLOITATION

If an attack succeeds, exploitation and pursuit should ensue. Exploitation is an operation undertaken to follow up success in the attack. Following the principle of reinforcing success, immediate exploitation using an uncommitted element of the force is advisable.

The exploiting force drives swiftly to disrupt command and control functions, sever escape routes, destroy reserves and equipment, and deny the enemy an opportunity to reorganize his defense. Such an exploitation force should be large, reasonably self-sufficient, and well-supported by tactical air, air cavalry, and attack helicopters. It should not pause to achieve minor tactical successes against isolated fleeing enemy units; it should attempt to fix them while concentrating on destroying the main guerrilla force. The commander must provide mobile support, including helicopters for emergency supply of POL and ammunition, and insure sufficient follow-on forces to attack guerrilla forces bypassed or fixed by the exploiting force.

PURSUIT

Pursuit is an offensive action against a retreating enemy. It is the final phase of the