

Strike campaigns include offensive tactics such as raids, reconnaissance-in-force, hasty or deliberate attacks, and pursuit, or combinations of these operations.

ORGANIZATION

Brigades assigned strike campaign missions either are relieved from area responsibility well in advance of the strike mission or, preferably, will be constituted as specialized forces held at the national or regional levels. Brigade strike forces are organized as self-sufficient task forces capable of operating in areas remote from logistical bases, when they are logistically sustained by air. Brigades are assigned "home bases" in secure areas for elements not committed to operations.

OPERATIONS

Brigades committed to strike campaigns are assigned a tactical area of responsibility. They coordinate operations through area coordination centers which have overall responsibility for the areas in which the brigades will operate.

The brigade commander normally will assign operational areas to the subordinate battalions which, in turn, may assign areas to companies. Company commanders may assign specific areas to platoons at times; however, platoons are normally assigned specific missions rather than operational areas. Each battalion normally will establish a separate combat base. Companies normally will operate from patrol bases, but at times may operate separate company combat bases. When the areas assigned to units are too large to be reconnoitered concurrently by subordinate units, commanders establish an order of priority for reconnaissance of the areas.

Battalion commanders maintain reserve forces (ready force) to react quickly to situations requiring an immediate response. Each rifle company patrols its area of operations continuously and aggressively. The location of the company patrol base and patrol routes must be varied to insure complete coverage of the area.

The rifle company moves to, secures, and occupies the company patrol base with sufficient supplies to permit limited independent operations. If it is to operate in the same area for an extended period of time, it should consider establishing small ration and ammunition reserves.

The company area is patrolled to provide complete coverage day and night with emphasis on the night patrols. Generally, a platoon-size patrol will have sufficient firepower; but if additional support is needed, the company commander may request assistance from the battalion reserve (ready force). Emphasis is placed both on engaging the guerrilla with organic means of fire and maneuver and on employing supporting artillery and air support.

Orders issued to the company commanders include the area assigned and resupply instructions. The conduct of operations is based on decentralized planning and execution. Company commanders plan and coordinate platoon activities to insure completion of the overall company mission. Platoons on patrol carry light rations and store unneeded equipment at company or battalion bases.

Rifle company mortars may at times be located in battalion combat bases, while