

## WATER MOVEMENT

In an area of operations containing inland waterways, small boats may provide a high degree of mobility for military operations.

**MISSION AND CONCEPT.** Boats may be used to perform a variety of tactical as well as logistical tasks. Waterways movement of troops and supplies is planned and conducted in much the same manner as mounted movements on land; however, special characteristics of water transportation means must be considered.

**ORGANIZATION.** When a large waterborne force moves, it adopts a march formation similar to a ground convoy. Advance and rear guards in boats are organized. Flank security may be provided by patrols in boats in adjacent streams or on foot on the banks. Unlike ground convoy procedures, movement is not necessarily in file or column formation. The formation depends upon the purpose of the movement, the strength of the friendly force, and the width of the stream and is based on the same considerations as those for combat formations on land, to include control, security, flexibility, speed of reaction, observation, and fields of fire.

**OPERATIONS.** Waterways afford little cover and concealment. Power-driven boats are noisy and attract attention. Boats can be seen and fired on easily in daylight, but this disadvantage can be reduced by night movement and by traveling close to the stream banks where shadow and overhead branches aid concealment. Boats must go to or near the shore to unload, thus affecting the reaction time in case of an ambush. Landing operations may be difficult due to unfavorable characteristics along the banks. Transported troops should be assigned firing positions on board their vessels for defense against ambush. The transported units should position the maximum number of crew-served weapons on board to engage enemy on the near bank or both banks of the waterway.

## FOOT MOVEMENT

Dismounted movements by small units are planned and conducted using the principles for patrolling (FM 21-75); for larger units, the principles for movement to contact will apply (FM 7-8, FM 7-10, and FM 7-20).

## AIR MOVEMENT

Air movements are an integral part of counter guerrilla operations. The principles governing security of such movements are contained in FM 7-10, FM 7-20, and FM 57-35.