

scout dogs, and air reconnaissance and surveillance provide early warning. Civilian informants and actions of indigenous personnel near the base are excellent indicators of pending enemy actions. Security measures vary with enemy threat, forces available, and other factors; however, all-round security is essential.

MUTUAL SUPPORT. Defending forces are positioned to insure mutual employment of defensive resources, which include fires, observation, and maneuver elements. Mutual support between defensive elements requires careful planning, positioning, and coordination because of the circular aspects of the base area. Surveillance, obstacles, prearranged fires, and maneuver are used to control gaps. Defense plans provide for use of all available support, including attack helicopters and close air support.

ALL-ROUND DEFENSE. In defensive planning, the base commander has to be prepared to defend against enemy attack from any direction. Plans are sufficiently flexible, and reserves are positioned to permit reaction to any threat. BDFs are assigned primary and alternate positions and sectors of responsibility. ALL personnel are assigned duty stations or shelters.

DEFENSE IN DEPTH. Alternate and supplementary positions, combat outposts, and mutually supporting strongpoints in front of the base forward defense area extend the depth. The commander plans fires throughout the defensive area up to the maximum range of available weapons. Portable obstacles may be placed around critical targets during periods of reduced visibility to disrupt the enemy's plan and add depth to the defense.

RESPONSIVENESS. Attacks against a base may range from long-range sniper, mortar, or rocket fire to attacks by suicide demolition squads or major forces. The enemy has the advantage of deciding when, where, and with what force he will attack. The defender positions his forces and plans fires and movement so he can respond to the widest possible range of enemy actions. The defender prepares plans, to include counterattack plans, and rehearses, evaluates, and revises them as necessary.

MAXIMUM USE OF OFFENSIVE ACTION. Since the objective of the base defense is to maintain a secure base, the defender uses offensive action to the maximum to engage enemy forces outside the base. On initial occupation of the base site, friendly forces take offensive actions to destroy enemy forces in the immediate area. The area commander employs patrols, raids, ambushes, air attacks, and supporting fires to harass and destroy any remaining enemy force. Once the enemy has been cleared from the area, the base can be defended by a smaller force. The BDF commander maintains constant liaison with major tactical unit commanders in the area to stay abreast of efforts to remove the threat.

DEFENSE PREPARATIONS

Implementation of base defense measures in a new base begins before base units arrive, if possible. Normally, combat units provide the initial defense in a new base area. These combat forces remain in the base area, conducting aggressive offensive actions, until base units are capable of assuming the mission.

When base units arrive, they immediately start organizing the base defense. They