

■ Control is the key to a successful base defense. To achieve the necessary control, a communication capability must be established between the base defense operations center and commanders of sectors of responsibility and between the sector commander and his bunkers, towers, and reserve. Additionally, bunkers within each section can communicate laterally within the sector, and flank bunkers of one sector can communicate with flank bunkers of adjacent sectors.

#### REACTION FORCE OPERATIONS.

■ When an enemy unit is located, the reaction force is deployed rapidly to engage the unit, disrupt its cohesion, and destroy it by capturing or killing its members. If the enemy force cannot be contained and destroyed, contact is maintained; reinforcements are dispatched if needed; and the enemy is pursued. When escape routes have been effectively blocked, the attack is continued to destroy the enemy force. The required mobility is provided by ground and air vehicles and by rapid foot movement. Wheeled vehicles for the use of reaction forces are predesignated and hardened with sandbags.

■ Reaction operations are simple, planned, and rehearsed because the majority of actions are required at night. Primary and alternate points are predesignated for the release of reaction forces from centralized control to facilitate movement against multiple targets. Such points are reconnoitered and photographed for use in planning and briefing. Within security limitations, actual release points are used during rehearsals to promote complete familiarity with the area.

■ Immediate reaction to any type of attack is essential and is attained through employment of firepower and movement of forces and their equipment. Immediate reaction to accurate and timely intelligence may permit destruction of the enemy before an attack. Immediate reaction to standoff mortar or rocket fire may permit destruction of the enemy during an assault on the base and facilitate blocking his route of withdrawal.

**HOST AND THIRD COUNTRY FORCES.** The BDF commander normally considers the integration of host and third country forces in the overall base defense effort. Particular emphasis is on integration of host country forces in patrol and populace control activities. Both host and third country forces provide local security for their own units; however, to insure maximum benefit, all such local plans should be coordinated with and integrated in the base master defense plan. The actual degree of host and third country force participation in base defense depends on the orders and guidance of their respective governments.

