

## **AMBUSH AND COUNTER AMBUSH TECHNIQUE**

**Ambush** - is a sudden or surprise attack from a concealed position upon a moving or temporarily hated enemy force.

Ambush is executed to reduce the enemy's combat effectiveness by harassment or destruction. When ambushes are staged more frequently against all types of hostile targets, the enemy tends to be more reluctant to send combat patrols in convoys or in a small group, especially if these enemy force are in the rear acting as security troops. Consequently, they lose their aggressiveness and become more defensive minded.

The loss of men and equipment has a critical effect on the part of the enemy. The interference with and the ultimate destruction of hostile reconnaissance and combat patrols will result in the non accomplishment of the patrol mission, thus depriving him of valuable intelligence information so necessary to effectively combat the guerrillas.

### **ORGANIZATION OF AMBUSH PATROLS**

Two principles of ambush patrols:

1. Security - The primary function of the security elements is to protect the rear and flanks of the assault element.
2. Assault - is the force that captures or destroys the enemy. The ambush patrol leader places himself with assault element at the point where his first shot at the head of the enemy column signifies his command to open fire.

Automatic weapons are placed to obtain enfilade fire on the enemy column and the remainder of the assault elements is placed so that their sector of fire cover the entire target. Once the action is completed at the objective and make a hasty retreat. After job completed, the assault element starts movement to a nearby rallying point proceed as rapidly as possible.

Factors peculiar to an ambush that are considered essential to its successful execution:

1. patience
2. camouflage discipline
3. a good plan that is well-rehearsed
4. prior knowledge of the enemy

The most important factors to consider is the selection of ambush site is influenced by the following:

1. Mission - the ambush site should be ideally suited for the conduct of a single mission, or a series of action.
2. Enemy - one should consider the probable size, strength, or composition of the hostile force to be ambushed. One must also know the likely combat formations the enemy uses and his reinforcement capabilities.

3. Terrain - the ambush site should be on a vantage point that provides clear fields of fire and observation, good cover and concealment, and good routes of withdrawals.

## **CONDUCT OF THE AMBUSH**

On the arrival of the enemy force at the ambush site, the ambush patrol delivers a heavy volume of fire that should be able to annihilate them, or exact a heavy toll on his rank. The volume of fire delivered should not allow the enemy to fire back and maneuver his forces in an attempt to overrun the ambush positions.

All point of entry and scape should be fully covered by automatic weapons fire. This should prevent the enemy from making retaliatory moves against the patrol, or from escaping from the scene with minimum casualty toll.

Then as rapidly and quietly as possible, the ambush patrol withdraws to pre-designated rallying points for reorganization. If the enemy is not totally annihilated, care must be taken that the withdrawing ambush party should adequate rear security to impede or harass enemy reaction forces to make a successful pursuit. Escape from the ambush site can best be accomplished by breaking down the whole ambush patrol into one-man or two-man teams and regroup at a rallying point.

## **COUNTER AMBUSH TECHNIQUES**

In an offensive or attack operation the key to success is the use of fire and maneuver. This applies as well to an ambush. By fire and maneuver, an ambush patrol can easily untangle itself from one difficult position to another. This is no different from a counter attack situation.

The counter-ambush scenario follows: (far ambush) At the initial burst of gunfire from a hostile ambush party, the first impulse would be for each member to seek cover and then retaliate by fire. The security elements would provide the holding fire to allow the assault elements to maneuver and establish their positions. (near ambush) If the troops entered the killing zone of the ambusher, take immediate frontal attack. If in case other member of the patrol escape from the killing zone, take maneuver and counter attack.

From vantage points, the assault elements, together with the security force, would attempt to establish fire superiority over the enemy, engage him in this hunting ground, out-manuever him, and neutralize him. Once this is done the counter-ambush can be anything else other than a success. In this situation, it is well and most desirable to apply the basic knowledge on the conduct of a counter-attack.

## **WITHDRAWAL:**

After the action, the ambush patrol ensures the successful accomplishment of its mission by making a reconnaissance and survey of the ambush site to be assured that the enemy force had been completely destroyed and that no further action is anticipated. The withdrawal to a rallying point follows the sequence of action as in a normal ambush operation.