Counter insurgency can be defined as comprehensive civilian and military efforts taken to simultaneously defeat and contain insurgency and address its root causes. An insurgency is a rebellion against a constituted authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents. It is the organized use of subversion and violence to seize, nullify or challenge political control of a region. As such, it is primarily a political struggle, in which both sides use armed force to create space for their political, economical and influence activities to be effective. Counter insurgency is normally conducted as a combination of conventional military operations and other means such as demoralization in the form of propaganda, psy-ops, and assassinations. Counter-insurgency operations include many different facets: military para-military, political, economic, psychological, and civic actions taken to defeat insurgency. To understand counter-insurgency, one must understand insurgency to comprehend the dynamics of revolutionary warfare. Insurgents capitalize on societal problems, often called gaps; counter-insurgency addresses closing the gaps. When the gaps are wide they create a sea of discontent, creating the environment in which the insurgents can operate. During insurgencies the government that struggle to counter or fight the insurgents with certain tactics such as:

1. Population control- with regards to tactics, the terms drain the water or drain the swamp involves the force relocation of the population to expose the rebels or insurgents in other words, relocation deprives the aforementioned of the support, cover and resources of the local population. This strategy was first applied by the British empire during the second Boer commandos, scorched earth tactics were used to destroy Boer farmland while Boers were shipped abroad or confined to concentration camps converted from refugee camps for displaced Boers. The tactic was later refined in the Briggs plan during the Malayan emergency, when predominately Chinese rural population centres with suspected Malayan races liberation army sympathizers were gutted and their population activity to improve local support for the British, new villages were equipped with adequate basic amenities including running water, electricity and the health and educational service. This same similar strategy or tactics was used by the US forces in south Vietnam until 1969, initially by forcing the rural population into fenced, secured villages, referred to as strategic hamlets, and later by declaring the areas people in the strategic hamlets had come from as free fire zones to remove the remainder of the population from their villages and farms. Widespread use was made of agent orange which was used on a large scale by the British during the Malayan emergency, sprayed from airplanes to destroy crops that might have provided resources for Viet cong and north Vietnamese troops and their human support base.
2. Public diplomacy- Counter insurgency field manual, one of the many tactics described to help win counterinsurgency warfare involves the use of public diplomacy through military means. Counter insurgency is effective when it is integrated into a comprehensive strategy employing all instrumentals of national power,” including public diplomacy the goal of coin operations is to render the insurgents as ineffective and non-influential, by having strong and secure relations with the population of the host nation. Ethics is a common public diplomacy aspect that is emphasized in coin warfare. Insurgents win their war by attacking internal will and the international opposition. In order to combat these tactics the counter insurgency operations need to treat their prisoners and detainees humanely and according to American values and principles. By doing this, coin operations show the host nations population that they can be trusted and that they are concerned about the well being of the population in order to be successful in warfare.
3. Air operations- air power can play an important role in counter insurgency capable of carrying out a wide range of operations. Like the transportation of combatant and civilians alike, intelligence gathering and surveillance, psychological operations through leaflet drops and air to ground attacks against soft targets.

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