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Question: In not more than three pages, discuss the tactics employed in counter-insurgency operations.

Counter insurgency is the use of security forces and multinational partners ,it is a holistic approach embarked upon by government forces and their multinational partners and sponsor to contain ,diminish or eliminate an Insurgency. 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 assassination. Counter insurgency operations include many different facets: Military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological, and civic actions taken to defeat an armed movement by a non-state opponent aimed at the overthrow or territorial change of an incumbent government. Insurgency leads to counter insurgency operations, insurgency means an organised movement to seize control of territory.

A counter insurgency is defined by the U.S Military as the combination of measures undertaken by government and their multinational support partners to defeat an insurgent .It makes use of all instrument of National power to integrate and concronise the political ,security, legal,development and psychological activities that is carried out by Nations and their allies to create holistic aimed at weakening the insurgent and simultaneously bursting the government legitimacy in the eyes of the population.

The basic tactical considerations common to counter insurgency operation are Terrain and Troops. As for any type of operation, the commander and staff must consider all relevant operational and mission variables, and their effects on operations. These additional considerations for terrain and troops allow the commander to better visualize the conduct of counterinsurgency operations as he accomplishes the assigned mission.

**Terrain** Terrain plays a key role in counterinsurgency operations. It is fought through either urban or a rural terrain.

URBAN AREAS

The urbanization of the world population continues to increase. The concealment and anonymity that was once only provided by remote rural areas to the insurgent is now available in urban areas. The transient nature and size of urban populations increasingly hinder a counterinsurgent’s ability to detect and identify insurgents. Insurgents use urban centers for freedom of movement, easy access to their mass base and proximity to targets. Popular support at the outset of this kind of insurgency is not necessary, but can be gained through intimidation and attacking basic services provided by the government. With a greater population density, urban areas need more government functions and services than rural areas. This requires more government organizations for operations and a balanced approach using all LOEs. Insurgencies thrive in an urban environment. Operations against urban insurgents vary from operations designed to control the population to operations that involve seeking out and killing or capturing the insurgent. In these urban areas, counterinsurgency forces may have to emphasize intelligence and police operations to counter clandestine organizational, intelligence, logistic, and terrorist activities.

Counterinsurgency forces may be required to reinforce HN police forces in combating riots and disorders provoked by the insurgents as well as conducting raids and cordon and searches. Military counterinsurgency forces must be able to communicate with HN police forces and other agencies involved in operations.

**Considerations during Counterinsurgencies**

When military forces must reinforce police or defeat insurgent forces inside the urban area, leaders must closely control and coordinate operations. However, the local government determines the level of intensity at which urban operations are conducted. Military forces should be withdrawn as soon as police forces can manage the situation. Basic urban counterinsurgency considerations include, Maintaining a constant, forward presence with the population, Acquiring and disseminating accurate and timely intelligence, Avoiding overreaction to insurgent activity, Ensuring the population has the basic level of essential services, Developing relationships with competent Host Nation officials. ,Using counter sniper operations, especially at roadblocks, outposts, and sentry posts. , Reacting to the ambush of patrols and firing on helicopters. , Emphasizing countermeasures against explosive hazards (to include improvised explosive devices and mines) and booby traps of all types ,Controlling access to weapons, uniforms and other supplies the insurgents may use, Protecting industry and public services from attack and sabotage. , Preventing riots, protests and other large population incidents.

**Lines of Effort**

All urban operations require careful planning and coordination, particularly those operations involving application of force. The most vital requirement is accurate and timely intelligence. Military forces must be able to communicate with police and other agencies involved in the operations. During urban operations, actions must be taken across the all LOEs. Examples of actions along each LOE are Establish Civil Security, Establish Civil Control ,Support HN Security Forces ,Support to Governance ,Restore Essential Services ,Support to Economic and Infrastructure Development.

**RURAL AREAS**

Much of the guerrilla warfare in the 20th Century occurred in a rural setting the mountains of Yugoslavia in WWII, the jungles of South Vietnam in the 1950s and 1960s, and the jungles of Columbia in the 1980s and 1990s. The reduced potential for collateral damage, limited infrastructures, and the lack urban development, and the characteristics of the rural setting itself influence both insurgent and counterinsurgent operations.

Considerations during Counterinsurgencies

Counterinsurgency operations in a rural environment may allow for the potential application of full military combat power, conventional fire and maneuver, and less restrictive rules of engagement due to a lower population density. However, leaders, still plan for the application of the minimum-essential force required to accomplish the mission. In the rural environment, insurgents rely on friendly elements within the population to provide supplies and intelligence. Rural insurgents prefer to operate in regions providing plenty of cover and concealment such as heavily forested and mountainous areas that hinder the counterinsurgency force in gaining access and intelligence. Often operating from their own home or village, rural insurgents will often move to camps if security does not permit them to remain at home. Insurgent camps are also chosen with a view toward easy access to the target population, access to a friendly or neutral border, prepared escape routes, and good observation of counterinsurgency force approach routes. When counterinsurgency operations force the insurgents out of his preferred base camps, he tends to establish camps in rugged inhospitable areas not easily penetrated. Like COIN in urban areas, rural counterinsurgency operations must focus on both locating and killing the guerrilla and on severing the supportive element of the population, such as the mass base and auxiliary, from providing supplies and intelligence. Offensive operations are usually conducted in areas that either are under insurgent control or are contested. In these areas, ground or water modes of entry are often used, but air assault or parachute operations can also be employed. These operations use offensive tactics such as a raid, a reconnaissance in force, a cordon and search, a hasty or deliberate attack, a pursuit, or a combination of these.

**TROOPS**

Counterinsurgency operations typically involve actions that combine joint, interagency, multinational, and nongovernmental organizations efforts. The increased number of military and nonmilitary participants and their divergent missions and methods are a coordination and unity of effort challenge. Achieving unity of effort requires the greatest possible common purpose and direction among all agencies. One means of achieving this is using a long-range plan designed around the seven COIN lines of effort.

**TASK ORGANIZATION**

The organization for, and conduct of, counterinsurgency operations depends on the mission variables and the OE. However, COIN operations place a premium on boots on the ground. Task organization is the temporary grouping of forces designed to accomplish a particular mission . Task organization for counterinsurgency operations is often substantially different from how units are task organized in conventional operations. During counterinsurgency operations, many units do not perform their traditional role. For example, in Iraq and Afghanistan, many artillerymen have served in infantry, civil affairs, military police, or intelligence roles.

**TROOPS-TO-TASK ANALYSIS**

Given the extended nature of COIN, tactical units must maximize all available assets to accomplish missions in each of the COIN LOEs and sustain Soldier proficiency, physical fitness, and emotional and psychological well-being. A means to maximize the employment of all assets is referred to as troops-to-task analysis. This process enables units to correctly assign tasks to units of appropriate size and capabilities. Often conducted during MDMP, staffs and tactical units begin troops-to-task analysis by determining a standard size element to use as a baseline (Infantry platoon, Armor platoon, Cavalry platoon, company, or others). The staff determines the forces available (often including HN security forces). Then, the staff or tactical unit lists and prioritizes each task and determines the forces required to accomplish each task using the baseline unit as a measure,. Finally, the tactical unit and staff uses the commander’s planning guidance to array forces and assign tasks. It identifies specified and implied tasks, a baseline number of unit or units, including HN security forces, required to accomplish a task, and assigned them higher headquarters. The troops-to-task process is also useful for establishing unit AOs.

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