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**Question:**In not more than 3 pages, discuss the tactics employed in counter-insurgency operations?

An insurgency is a rebellion against a particular authority when those involving in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents. It is "the organized use of subversion and violence to stop or challenge political control of a given area or region. As such, it is primarily a political struggle, in which both sides use armed force to create space for their political and economic activity to be effective Counter-insurgency campaigns of duly-elected or politically known governments take place during war, occupation by a foreign military or police force, and when internal conflicts that include strong subversion and armed rebellion occur.

The tactics employed in counter insurgency can also be said to be the strategy used to carry out counter insurgency

Some of them include

1. Oil spot
2. Air operations
3. Public diplomacy
4. Information operations
5. Cordon and search

Explanations:

**Oil spot:**

The oil spot approach is the concentration of counter-insurgent forces into an expanding, secured region. The beginning of the expression is to be found in its initial use by Marshal Hubert Lyautey, the lead or main theoretician of French colonial warfare and counter-insurgency strategy.

**Cordon and search:**

Cordon and search is a military tactic, one of the most important counter-insurgency operations. In which a region is cordoned off and premises are searched for weapons or insurgents. Other related operations are "Cordon and knock and "Cordon and kick". "Cordon and search" is part of counter insurgency doctrine called Stability and Support Operations or SASO. It is a method used where there is no hard intelligence of weapons in the house and therefore is less intense than a normal house search. It is used in urban neighborhoods. The use of the mission is to search a house with as little or no inconvenience to the resident family.

**Air Operations:**

Air power can play a very serious role in counter-insurgency, capable of carrying out a large range of operations:

Transportation in support of combatants and civilians alike, including casualty evacuations;

Intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

Psychological operations, through leaflet drops, loudspeakers, and radio broadcasts;

Air-to-ground attack against 'soft' targets.

**Public Diplomacy:**

one of the tactics described to help win in counterinsurgency warfare include the use of public diplomacy through military methods.Counterinsurgency works when it is integrated "into a comprehensive strategy employing all instruments of national power," involving public diplomacy. The goal of COIN operations is to render the insurgents as ineffective and non-influential, by having strong and control relations with the population of the host nation.

Political, social, and economic programs are often more valuable than conventional military operations in addressing the root causes of the conflict and undermining the insurgency. These programs are essential in order to gain the support of the population. These programs are designed to make the local population feel secure, safe, and more aligned with the counterinsurgency efforts; this helps the citizens of the host nation to confide in the goals and purposes of the counterinsurgency efforts, as opposed to the insurgents’. A counterinsurgency is a battle of ideas and the implementation and integration of these programs is needed for success.

A counterinsurgency is won by utilizing strategic communications and information operations successfully. A counterinsurgency is a competition of ideas, ideologies, and socio-political movements. In order to combat insurgent ideologies one must understand the values and characteristics of the ideology or religion. Additionally, counterinsurgency efforts need to understand the culture of which the insurgency resides, in order to strategically launch information and communication operations against the insurgent ideology or religion. Counterinsurgency information operatives need to also identify key audiences, communicators, and public leaders to know whom to influence and reach out to with their information.

**Information Operations:**

Public diplomacy in information operations can only work by a complete understanding of the culture it is operating in. Counterinsurgency operations must be able to perceive the world from the locals’ perspective. To develop a comprehensive cultural picture counterinsurgency efforts should invest in employing "media consultants, finance and business experts, psychologists, organizational network analysts, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines.”Most importantly, counterinsurgency efforts need to be able to understand why the local population is drawn into the insurgent ideology, like what areas are appealing and how insurgents use information to draw their followers into the insurgency. Counter insurgency communication helps in giving a baseline understanding of values, attitudes, and views of the people in the area of operations to conduct successful public diplomacy to defeat the enemy.

**Reference**

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