NAME:MGBEZE EKENE MICHAEL

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QUESTION:

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

**INTRODUCTION**

Counter insurgency (COIN) is defined by the United States Department of States 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 .

In international relations ,for anything to be carried out there must be protocol and when it comes to counter-insurgency or counter insurgency we talk about tactic .

**Tactics in Counterinsurgency**

When we talk about the tactics employed in counterinsurgency, the US can be used the best case study .*COIN*  is a complex subset of warfare that encompasses all military ,paramilitary ,political, economic, psychological , and civil actions taken by a government to defeat an insurgency at the company ,battalion, and brigade levels. To do this, the manual merges traditional approaches to COIN with the realities of the current operational environment .

The tactics of counterinsurgency is divided into Violent and Nonviolent .

***VIOLENT TACTICS***

Violent insurgent tactic are normally characterized by elusiveness, surprise ,and brief ,violent action. These tactics are often divided between terrorism and guerrilla warfare early in the insurgency .In Phase III of the insurgency ,it is common to see more conventional operations. There are three general tactics available to insurgents that use violence-terrorism, guerrilla tact6ics, conventional tactics and criminal activity. The challenge is that at any given time the insurgent could use any of these tactics .

**TERRORISM**

A terrorist is an individual who uses violence ,terror, and intimidation to achieve a result (DOD), Insurgents may use terrorism. Terrorism attacks employ violent primarily against noncombatants as a way to increase the population’s vulnerability and decrease their perception of security. Insurgent terrorism techniques includes assassination, arson, blackmail, bombings, hijacking, kidnapping ,threats, murder, mutilation and torture. The insurgent using terrorism often targets economic and political symbols to undermine the legitimacy of the government .Insurgents using terrorism generally require fewer personnel than guerrilla warfare or conventional operations . Inherently, these activities have greater security and lower support requirements. Their attack can be effective in generating popular support within one faction when used against a competing faction. They can also be effective in forcing government reaction that alters government policies to benefit insurgent objectives.

**GUERRILLA TACTIC**

This tactics are typified hit-and-run attacks by highly armed ,small groups. Guerrilla tactics emphasize ambushes ,raids, snipers ,rocket and mortar attacks, and the use of explosives devices. Guerrilla tactics may also include assassination, coercion, and kidnapping to achieve support or eliminate opposition.

Principle of guerrilla tactics as stated by Mao Zedong are still valid: “Enemy advances ,we retreat. Enemy halts, we harass. Enemy tires, we attack. Enemy retreats ,we pursue.” Guerrilla operations are generally offensive ,not defensive ,and are often harassing in nature .Their overall aim is often to cause confusion ,to destroy infrastructure or security forces ,and to lower public morale.

**NUMERICAL SUPERRIORITY**

While government forces outnumber the guerrilla ,the guerrilla seeks to attain local numerical superiority. If guerrillas can successfully concentrate against counterinsurgents, they can attain victory over small elements of government forces.

Conventional Tactics

Conventional operations are not always necessary for success; however, guerrillas may engage in conventional operations after an insurgency develops extensive popular and logistical support.

Criminal Activity

***NONVIOLENT TACTICS***

Successful insurgents use nonviolent tactics in conjunction with violent tactics . Subversion and propaganda are the two most prevalent forms of nonviolent warfare . Although some subversive activities can bleed over to violent activities, for the purposes of this FM ,subversion .Nonviolent tactics include , but are not limited to demonstration , denial and deception ,hoaxes, infiltration ,and strikes.

**SUBVERSION**

Some actions when employed by the insurgents to undermine and weaken the economic, military, political , or psychological strength of a regime (DOD). Some revolutionary are used by the insurgents in their attempt to convince the population to support their insurgents and resist the government and COIN forces. These techniques which the insurgents employ include radio broadcast ,pamphlets , demonstrations and others .

**PROPAGANDA**

Propaganda are information and communication that is spread for the purpose of promoting opinions, attitudes, emotions ,or behavior .In this case ,the insurgents use propaganda to increase their support but at the same time reduce support for COIN forces. The insurgents uses activities like clandestine radio broadcasts, newspaper, the internet that challenges the legitimacy of the established government openly .The insurgent increases civilian crisis .They create a religious unrest .

Additionally , counterinsurgents must have a coherent and unified information engagement plan. This information engagement (IE) plan must be prepared, planned ,and executed with input from all appropriate civil and military agencies.

***REFERENCES***

WIKIPEDIA

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Tactics in Counterinsurgency on MARCH 2009 by the HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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