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**LEVEL: 200 LEVEL**

**QUESTION: IN NOT MORE THAN 3 PAGES, EXPLAIN THE TACTICS, EMPLOYED IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERTAIONS.**

**Insurgency** can be said to be asymmetric warfare because, it is focused on avoiding the strength of the enemy and exploiting their weakness. **Counter insurgency** can be defined as the means whereby, state officials make use of all instrument of National power (political, security, legal, economic) to create a holistic approach aimed at weakening the insurgents while simultaneously bolstering government legitimacy, in the eyes of the population.(Guide to Analysis of insurgency, 2012).

**Tactics differ from strategy.** While **strategy** can be defined as a comprehensive plan made by government to fulfil their overall objectives. **Tactics** refers to the various skills/ action plan the government would use in handling this situation. Subsequently, I would be explaining the various tactics used by government to tackle insurgents.

**First, Clear, Hold and Build. Also Known as CHB (to NATO).** This has to do with offensive, defensive, stability activities. Thus, it emphasizes finding and eliminating the insurgents, protecting the population, building back infrastructures, increasing the legitimacy of government and establishing a firm rule of law. Of my own opinion, the citizens play a very important role in countering the insurgents. Gaining their support is paramount and this can only be done by creating a secure, psychological environment for them. This tactic is a long-term operation and requires lots of resources and time.

**How this operation is carried out: Clear:** This is tactical mission that requires the commander to eliminate all enemy forces. Offensive operations are used here such as, patrol, raids, ambushes are also used during this operation. If insurgents are being expelled from the location, all means such as, patrols (equipment should be modified) to cut down crimes. Defensive actions include, educating the people on the risk they face if they protect the insurgents and also, letting the insurgents know that surrendering is the best option for them.

**Hold:** This action is to ensure that all “Clear” conditions are maintained. And the region is under the governments control. Host nations also help to execute this part. Government infrastructure should be protected at this time. Jobs should be created as they say “An idle man, is the devil’s workshop”. More so, security forces should have good relationship with them, to reassure the citizens that, they have the presence of the government.

**Build**: Deals with stability of the mission. How capable and constant are the local institutions in delivering promised services. The activities of this stage are carried out by Non-military agencies. Building support of the population, as when the citizens fill unsafe, they run to the insurgents for harbour. Control measures include, providing identification cards, curfew rules established, limiting visitors coming in and out at certain hours.

**FOR INSTANCE**: The clear, hold and build tactic was employed in 1925-1926, in Morocco during the Rif war. To regain control of their region, the French cleared the area by driving Abd el Krim’s the Riffian leader back to the mountains and out of the area. The French governor Yautery Marshall began the Hold mission by undermining Abd el Krim’s authority and using political and psychological tactics against the Tribes and to conclude, the Build stage, the Sultan’s authority and administration - political primacy was restored in the country.

**CROWD CONTROL**: Crowd control operation also known as, CCO. This is important for the government to maximize knowledge of how to control the crowd/population. At certain times insurgents manipulate them for personal gains. The insurgents use crowd demonstrations to discredit the government. They draw crowds, provoke security forces to over react to achieve a successful propaganda campaign. Though it is solely the duty of the police to put the crowd under control, when things get out of hand, the presence of the military will be needed, depending on the size of crowd. Controlling the crowd would depend on the leaders and commander’s assessment of it.

**How it is employed**: Variety of options are also considered during the operation. Monitoring the crowd to gather information. 2. Disperse the crowd to avoid destruction of property or facilities. 3. Contain the crowd to that particular area so they don’t spread to other communities. 4. Extraction plans should be made with flexible withdrawal drills. 5. Move the crowd but don’t smash them or they will fight back. 6. When crowds gather, the approach of properly prepared troops can help discourage them from turning violent.

**COMMAND AND CONTROL**: This mission has to do with a commander exercising authority and direction over assigned forces. His duty is to provide operational vision, plan, and direction, communicating necessary information. A centralized planning, command and control system for the purpose of directing the police unit should be instituted. Problems, such as jurisdictional barriers and communication limits should be worked on. “The right hand must be aware of the actions of the left”.as such, boarder operations should be planned, directed and supervised from national level, authorities delegated to other commanders.

**How it is carried out: Command:** It refers to how effectively the available limited resources are adequately utilized to accomplish this mission. The ability to quickly make effective decisions which allows the commander more control of the time and tempo of operations, also maintain and control strategic areas.

**Control**: Which is an attribute of command. How these forces can consistently manage the directives and functions ensued by the commander. Control is very important to correct and report progress. With control freedom of action is possible and authority also can be delegated, operations easily directed from any location.

**AIR OPERATIONS:** Air power can play sufficient role when it comes to counter insurgency operations. It also portrays the potentials of advanced technology for surveillance, target acquisition, intelligence gathering, air to ground attacks, transporting combatants and even civilian casualties. It must also, be intelligence driven, so it would minimize disruption to the population, focus on only insurgent targets and avoid collateral damages.

**How it is carried out**: It supports effective governance by delivering humanitarian to remote areas within a short period of time. It also, carries ground forces into specific areas, its ability to lift or move small units around the battlefield has been valuable in COIN activities. Mostly noted, is its ability to maneuverer threats. Commanders must assess the benefits against risk of every air strike. For a good course, this tactic helps the governance structures to be seen by the population as having the ability to reach and support**. FOR INSTNACE:** The ability of this tactics was demonstrated during the Kosovo campaign of 1998-1999.

**CORDON AND SERACH**: This is a military operation. However, police forces are also involved. It is used in both urban and rural areas. They are usually somewhat complicated and require extensive training, as large members of troops are required to effectively Cordon an area to search for targets, weapons and any benefitable information that can be used to discredit the insurgents and disrupt their activities. Operations should be rehearsed over again to avoid loose ends, all treatments that could possibly alienate the population, should be avoided, key facilities such as police stations, administrative buildings, News media house, schools, hospitals, transportation offices must be properly cordoned.

**How it is employed**: Inside and outside cordons are provided. That is, outside cordon is security for the forces inside the objective area and the inner cordon prevents the insurgents from escaping. It is important to conceal all cordons search information until the last minute. After cordoning, search forces carry out the search. Search teams are stationed one target per team. Security is also provided for the search teams. Entrances, roofs, corridors, halls, tunnels should be guarded. During the search, third teams are placed for recording purposes and seizing of important files and documents. Cordon and search operations should only be done with valid information. Fruitless operations may only end up alienating the population.

**For instance**, on the 9th December 1957, in FEDJOUDJ, in Algeria. A clean-up operation was launched and at 9:00 and 9:40 the area was cordoned off, and units placed in different areas. By 10:45 on air, insurgent positions were spotted and pinned down by artillery fire. At 12:15, search operations began and at 12:30, the insurgents refuge area was captured. It was concluded by intervention from the unit that coordinated the cordoning operation.

**COMBINE ACTION PROGRAM:** This mission for counter insurgency operations is mostly sufficient where the insurgents lack influence or resources to manoeuvre. It aims to achieve stability in a local area. Usually, In the area, there must be limited number of roads. Familiar local defence forces should always be available.

**How it is employed**: The combined action unit members live among the people to demonstrate commitment. It would build trust and re-invent political primacy. Team work is critical to success of each team. For the overall program, preferably, team members should have had experiences in prior missions, cultural awareness of the environment, patience and tolerance when it comes to learning language.

**It was used in early 20th century.** Marine corps implemented it in south Vietnam 1965. The platoons (Company of Soldiers, forming a tactical unit). They operated in villages in the northern provinces of South Vietnam. Gaining the villagers trust by living amongst them and teaching them self-defence. Marines led and trained the local defence forces and got acquainted with their language. The operation was a successful one as it denied the “Viet Cong” access to areas under their control. It was subsequently used in other operations. Like, Restoring hope in Somalia (1992 -1993). Providing comfort in Northern Iraq (1991).

**Conclusively,** Insurgencies are not same with conventional wars. Therefore, require innovative methods to defeat them, as you can see in the various aforementioned tactics. Like I would always emphasize, securing the population is always central in the efforts used to tackle insurgents, the government must never neglect them.

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