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ASSIGNMENT

In not more than 3 pages, discuss the tactics employed in counterinsurgency operations.

Counterinsurgency can be defined as all the economic, military, political as well as psychological actions taken by the government in order to tackle insurgencies. The term is defined by the U.S military as the combination of measures undertaken by the government and their multinational support partners to defeat an insurgent. For a counterinsurgency to be effective, there has to be use of all factors such as political, security, legal, economic as well as psychological that targets the weakness of the insurgents wherever it may be. There are various tactics that can be employed. Enemy centric approach is among the various tactics that can be used. The government is focused basically on the rebuilding of the reputation and integrity of the government in the eyes of the people, s it must have been tarnished by insurgent activities as this is one of the weapons they use, and also the support of the citizens will go a long way to provide positive results. Another approach is the enemy centric approach. From my understanding, this is approach includes raw use of military strength to bring down an insurgency before any other issue is addressed. Insurgent organizations are targeted as well as their infrastructures. In order for this to work, persistence is the key, the governance has to understand the pertinence of the situation. Also, there is an authoritarian approach that imposes sanctions on the insurgents as well as the people and organization that have aided the insurgents in any form. This form my perspective actually helps a lot, in the sense that it helps to curb any means of further rising.

Terrains also a determinant of success in counter insurgency. As the world develops, there are little to no remote or rural areas which can serve as a safe heaven for insurgents. They may also seek to blend in with the community. If so it is advisable, that military personnel step back and allow the police force to handle the situation better, so as not to cause a panic or alert the insurgents. But if they stick to a rural setting the best way to deal with that would be use of total military combat, because there are less rules of engagement, because the population is lower there than in urban areas. Since insurgents normally use heavily dense areas as hideouts because it is easy to hide.

The insurgency could also set up base in the borders of another country, and the government wont be able to gain access without the approval of the host country and if they forcefully gain entrance it would be an act that could spark war. In such a situation, it would be better to the country to work side to side with the host government in order to flush out the insurgents from their hiding spots.

References

Tactics in counterinsurgency (2009). PDF

Guide to insurgency and counterinsurgency (2012). PDF