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

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What is counter-insurgency?

Counter-insurgency can also be known as COIN, it is not a new term in the international system, for millennium man has sought to reform, separate, and capitalize for personal reason on the unfavourable political situation of a countries ruling authority and the ruling authority equally sought to destroy the insurgents, counter-insurgency is the act of protecting the nation-state by the ruling government against an insurgent group. Counterinsurgency may be defined as ‘comprehensive civilian and military efforts taken to simultaneously defeat and contain insurgency and address its root causes’. COIN involves all political, economic, military, paramilitary, psychological, and civic actions that can be taken by a government to defeat an insurgency. COIN operations often include security assistance programs such as foreign military sales programs, the foreign military financing program, and international military training and education programs. Counter-insurgency can be said to be a comprehensive civilian and military effort taken to simultaneously defeat pr contain an insurgency as well as to address its root causes. To build popular support for a government and suppress or co-opt an insurgent group.

The U.S military defines counter-insurgency as the combination of measures undertaken by government and their multinational support partners to defeat an insurgency. Counter-insurgency makes use of all instruments of national power to integrate and synchronise the political, security, legal, economic development and psychological activities carried out by nations and their allies to create a holistic approach aimed at weakening the insurgents and while simultaneously bolstering the governments legitimacy in the eyes if the population. There are various tactics employed by the government regarding counter-insurgency and they are;

**Security**

In a nation-state there is always security sector whether strong or weak. But for a nation-state to be able to win a counter-insurgency their security sector must be strong, capable of defending it’s citizens at all times. The military forces has to be strong because not all insurgencies are domestic some are cross-border, they have to be able to secure the border and people of the nation-state with everything, the security of any nation that is suffering from an insurgency has to have a good budget to defeat an insurgency. The armed forces in a country are meant to protect the external boarders of the country from any external forces, they consist of the Army, Air force and Navy. The security sector has to always have adequate information to help employ a counter-insurgency method, and employ methods that allow the people to support them against the insurgents. This three help in protecting their countries boarders, they fight till death to protect their people, they must be vast, there must be a comprehensive plan of how nations security deals with an insurgency by degrading the insurgents or eliminating them in the safest way to protect their citizens. They employ conventional war tactics against insurgents as they are military personnel, they make use of population and enemy centric approach, eye for eye tactics and brutal actions to defeat and insurgency. For example; in the case of Boko Haram in Nigeria, there is a joint task force that is helping the military to ensure that the insurgents lose the insurgency at all cost, helping protect the people.

**Political**

Every nation-state has a governing body which falls under the political class of the society. The political class are the ones that make prior decision to any action that takes place in a nation-state, the political class once notified about upon coming insurgency attacks all depends on the action they take, if they don’t understand the problem as it is and take appreciate decisions there could be a problem in the society. The governing sector have to always put their people first, do right by them and always be at alert to solve national issues. The government has to have resourceful information on the insurgents to be able to have influence, they must also look for a way to gain back the support of the people in order not to lose their alliance, to be able to formulate policies to address the insurgency and evaluate these policies effectively, In a country your government has to be hard working and always prepared, A hard working government when faced with an insurgency make tactics of enemy or population centric approach to defeat the insurgents, to pursue a long term strategy to confront the insurgents and rebuild the nation and resolve the root causes of the insurgency. For example; In the case of Nigeria, when the government was warned about the uprising of Boko Haram in 2009 by Uzala they didn’t pay hind to the warning and set it off to be bandits and that it couldn’t rise to an insurgency and that decision has cost Nigeria a lot due to the lackadaisical attitude of the government. But know they are trying to regain the trust of the people hurt from the attacks by Boko-Haram to gain their support to defeat the insurgents.

**Economic**

In every country there is an economy, without an economy things will not move, the economy is the financial sector in the society. A country with a low economy cannot defeat an insurgency without running themselves into huge depths of loan; for a country to be able to defeat an insurgency they must have a very buoyant economy. The tactics to which the government use under the economy sectors are to address the standard of living and welfare in the society that led to the occurrence of an insurgency. The government during counter-insurgency may want to address economic marginalisation, unemployment, access to financial opportunities , in addressing these needs, the government generates confidence in its ability to provide essential services to it’s people and win popular support.

In conclusion, in order to destroy an insurgency, you need to have a buoyant economy or have allies, you must also have a very strong security sector and as the political sector you must be enlightened to be able to tell the difference between bandits and insurgents, you must also be able to carry out counter-insurgency tactics with full effectiveness to protect your citizens, everything you do as a counter-insurgency tactics, you must always think of your citizens. Some counter-insurgency tactics have led countries to victory and some to negotiate while some didn’t take the correct precautions and the insurgents have won. Insurgents will always come to fight with a legitimate government but the legitimate government of a nation always has to be prepared.

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