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DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY.  
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DISCUSS THE TACTICS EMPLOYED IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS.  
  
  
  
The US military defines Counter insurgency as the combination of measures undertaken by government and their multi-national support partners to defeat an insurgent. Counterinsurgency—frequently observed by the acronym COIN—is the mix of measures undertaken by a government to defeat an insurgency. COIN involves all political, economic, military, paramilitary, psychological, and civic actions that may be taken by a government to defeat an insurgency. COIN operations include supporting a number Nation’s military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological, and civic actions taken to defeat an insurgency. Avoiding the creation of latest insurgents and forcing existing insurgents to finish their participation is important to defeating an insurgency. COIN operations often include security assistance programs like foreign military sales programs, the foreign military financing program, and international grooming and teaching programs. There are certain strategies employed by the leadership of any government in fighting insurgency strategies committed counter insurgency operations.  
the primary strategy to be discussed is that the Urban strategy, during this variety of strategy the insurgents attack government forces with the intention of causing the govt forces to overreact against the population. Basically the insurgents cause government to require certain actions which will enrage the people causing them to arise,overthrow the government  and support the insurgency. However, an insurgency occurring in an geographical region doesn't necessarily mean that it uses the urban strategy. On November 1, 1954, the National Liberation Front in Algeria used a style of the urban strategy after they launched a series of bombings and attacks, causing significant civilian casualties, so as to shock the French into negotiations. Actions of this strategy are often predictable such as; the insurgent use terrorist attacks not intended to cause fear but to impress the govt to overreaction, the propaganda of insurgent groups who use this strategy tend to specialise in government brutality etc.  
The second strategy is that the military focused strategy, this can be of the believe that military actions can cause the success of the insurgency. it also believes that a little group of guerillas operating in a neighbourhood where grievances exists can eventually gather enough support to attain their aims. the foremost iconic samples of military-focused strategy are revolutionary and Fidel Castro; both proposed attacks on military and government targets until they gathered the support necessary to seize power. Some characteristics include; attacking host nation target to realize popular support, the propaganda of the group incites people to affix the group and arise against the government etc.  
The third strategy is protracted popular war strategy, this strategy is counteracted into three phases: latent or incipient, guerrilla warfare and war of movement. Each phase builds upon the previous phase and continues activities upon the previous phase. It employs two wings; political wing and therefore the military wing. It takes continuous and future efforts to create popular support.  
Insurgencies employ both violent and silent tactics. because the name implies the silent tactic try to achieve political goal without the employment of force. Violent tactics are amid silent tactics. Used along with a supporting propaganda can assist in recruiting and gathering popular support.  
The end state of counterinsurgency operations could be a legitimate Host Nation government that may provide effective governance. This includes providing for his or her populace, eliminating the foundation causes of the insurgency and preventing those root causes from returning.  
COIN operations include; Full spectrum operation: Full spectrum operations entail simultaneous and continuous combinations of offensive, defensive, and stability or civil support operations. supported the mission, one variety of operation may predominate. Commanders shift the predominant variety of operation supported the present situation and their assessment as they shape the operational environment and set the conditions to attain the end-state.  
Offensive operations; these are combat operations conducted to defeat and destroy enemy forces and seize terrain, resources and population centres. They impose the commander’s will on the enemy. This active imposition of land power potentially makes the offense the decisive variety of operation, whether undertaken against irregular forces or the soldiers of a nation-state supporting the insurgency. The successful counterinsurgent unit designs their offensive operations to enhance their other defensive and stability operations.  
Defensive operations: These are combat operations conducted to defeat an enemy attack, gain time, economize forces, and develop conditions favorable for offensive or stability operations. They defeat attacks, destroying as many attackers as necessary. The defense preserves physical dominance over land, resources, and populations. Defensive operations retain terrain, further as protecting the HN population and key resources. Defensive operations during an insurgency aim at securing the population, protecting counterinsurgent forces, securing key sites, and securing key personnel.  
sStrike operations: Strike operations are short duration (generally in the future to many weeks) offensive, tactical operations conducted in contested or insurgent controlled urban or rural areas to seek out, fix and destroy insurgent forces. Strike operations seek to destroy insurgent forces and base areas, isolate insurgent forces from their support, and interdict insurgent infiltration routes and features of communications (LOCs). Strike forces are organized as self-sufficient task forces capable of operating in areas remote from logistical bases.  
Populace and resource control operations: Populace and resource control (PRC) operations are government actions to shield the populace and its materiel resources from insurgents, to deny insurgents access to the populace and material resources and to spot and eliminate the insurgents, their organization, their activities, and influence while doing so. the target of populace and resources control is to help in preserving or reestablishing a state of law order within a neighborhood or entire nation.  
  
  
  
REFERNCES  
\* HQ Department of Army, 2009, Tactics in Counter Insurgency.