



**CENTER FOR ADVANCED  
DEFENSE STUDIES**

# A Bad Suit- The Strategic Challenge of Irregular Warfare

Innovation for Peace



# Outline

- Introduction
- What is Irregular Warfare?
- How do we address Irregular Warfare?
- What are the implications for the Future?
- Conclusion

**War is a chameleon**

## What is Irregular Warfare

?

# Definitions

- References: JOC 2007; JOE 2008; CCJO 2009
- IW= Population Focus v. CW =Military Focus
- COIN, UW, CT, FID, SSTR
- Supporting Activities: IO, Psyops, Strategic Communication, CMO, Law Enforcement Against Transnational Crime....
- Simultaneous with Conventional Warfare or independent
  
- Definitely not Irregular and often not War  
--Cigarette Smuggling in Mali?

## What is Irregular Warfare

?

# Cause

- Total War Paradigm- Mechanism is....
- Strategic Problem is a balance of Capacity, Demand and Time to achieve a solution
- Faction without Capacity changes time and Demand parameters

***Mines are the poor man's  
tank***

## What is Irregular Warfare ?

# A Conflict Sine Wave

- **Spectrum of Conflict** (High, Medium, and Low Intensity= Amplitude)
- **Phases of Conflict** (Strategic Engagement, Initial Entry, Build up, Decisive Combat Operations, Stability and Reconstruction, Transition= Frequency)
- **Conflict is Persistent and Dynamic— Mao's Protracted Warfare**
  - - Resource Competition; Trans-National Crime; Population Migration; Clashes of Perception

**Policy is War by another Means-  
A corollary**

*How do we address Irregular Warfare?*

# A Human Problem

- Information Age Warfare- Alberts et al.
- OODA Loop- Col. John Boyd, USAF
- Emotional Decision Making
- Understanding Intent and Perception/ Apperception—Somalia Story
  
- Red Teaming (UFMCS)
- Dynamic Social Network Analysis (CADS/ MIT Program)

How do we address Irregular

Warfare?

# The Counter-Threat Cycle

- Deter
  - Detect
  - Prevent
  - Protect
  - Remediate
  - Recover
- 
- Requires a System of Systems approach, dynamic and persistent.

**What are the implications for the  
Future?**

# Strategic Evolution

- Combined Arms
- Joint
- International
- Inter-Agency
- Comprehensive



**Making the Suit Fit the Fight**

**“ We do not draw our boundaries where you draw yours”- USC Representative 1993, Near Baidoa, Somalia**



# Conclusion

- “Irregular Warfare” has always existed and always will
- Managing perception (ours and theirs) is the critical element
- Capacity- Demand- Time Analysis= Get a better fitting suit or change the requirement to wear one



# Questions

- So Why Should I Care?



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