



**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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