



Counterinsurgency SITREP – 18 February 2009

Director's Comments:

Would like to apprise you of a recent organizational change that will impact across the greater COIN, Stability Ops, & Security Force Assistance fields of interest. On 22 Jan 09, Commander, Combined Arms Center (CAC) was designated as the Army Proponent for **Stability Operations (SO)** and **Security Force Assistance (SFA)**. The COIN Center will serve as the initial nucleus of both SO & SFA Proponent Offices and will focus on integration, coordination, and collaboration with Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, & Multinational partners to effectively address complex challenges in support of a comprehensive approach to winning the current fight. One the first priorities of this Proponency initiative is to rapidly put *Security Force Assistance* doctrine into the hands of troops in the field. In that light, I'd like to pass on the following request to you from the CAC Commander:

"Team -- we would appreciate your assistance and support in refining the attached draft [Field Manual Interim, FMI 3-07.1, "Security Force Assistance."](#) We are on a tight timeline to produce this FMI and provide it as rapidly as possible to those who need it. This doctrine provides a framework for Army forces to conduct SFA within the construct of full spectrum operations. It addresses the operational and tactical levels, while focusing on the brigade combat team conducting security force assistance and advising. The suspense to return comments to our Lead authors is 4 March. We would ask for a thorough review of this Draft as we do not plan to do multiple reviews. Please feel free to share this Draft with whomever else you think would have an interest in this subject. Our POCs are MAJ Jonathan Klug, Commercial 913-684-2627, DSN 552, jon.klug@us.army.mil and CPT Nathan Finney, Commercial 913-684-2603, nathan.finney@us.army.mil, Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate (CADD)."

*William B. Caldwell, IV
LTG, USA
Commander, Combined Arms Center*

We will publish an initial **Stability Ops & SFA SITREP** in late February to highlight ongoing efforts in SO/SFA doctrine, organization, training, material, leader development & education, personnel, & facilities (DOTMLPF). We encourage your use of <http://coin.army.mil> to keep the COIN, SO, & SFA communities of interest informed on relevant issues and insights in these areas.

Thanks for your efforts in support of our troops,
Colonel Dan Roper

MONTHLY COIN ACTIVITY SUMMARY

INTEGRATION.

- **COIN Triad Implementation Status:**
 - Conducted CALL CSTC-A Theater Observation Detachment (TOD) Embed Training (12 Feb)
 - Continue to collect POIs from organizations providing COIN training and post them in [COIN Knowledge Center](#). If your organization has a COIN training program that we should be aware of please contact [MAJ Niel Smith](#).
 - HQ ISAF 27 Dec 08 FRAGO on Mandatory COIN Training: Recent ISAF FRAGO 442- 2008 tasks CTC-A with training and education requirements for Coalition and ANSF units in Afghanistan.
- **GEN Dempsey Roundtable (26 Jan):** Central theme: "Win the fight that we are in and maintain the all volunteer force"
 - Great fan of FM 7.0 because it allows commanders to focus on tasks they need to emphasize given their specific mission (CMTEL/DMETL); school houses should use same principals to focus their POIs.
 - Need to reduce "bubbles and redundancies" that exist in TRADOC
- **Monthly COIN Integration Mtg/DCO (29 Jan):** COIN Integration DCO (to coordinate key efforts in COIN COI and share lessons learned from Iraq and Afghanistan theaters) had 40 participants including: COIN CFE Iraq, CTC-A, CGSC CTAC, HQDA Strategies and Programs, AWG, JSOU, USSOCOM, WOCC, TRISA, JFCOM IW Center, CAC G3, JIEDDO JSOE, USASOC, BCTP Ops Group B, ONI IW Center & LNOs from Canada, Netherlands, France, Australia, Japan, & UK. Complete briefings [here \(CAC Access\)](#). Key topics of discussion:
 - Iraq Lessons Learned Highlights:
 - Successful BCTs employ comprehensive approach emphasizing multiple LOEs (Securing the Population, HN Force Development, Governance, Economics) at all echelons.
 - Tension between two LOEs: (1) Conduct security operations and (2) Develop host-nation forces: default COA for every operation should be for ISF to conduct the operation, with the US unit behind the scenes teaching and coaching on planning and preparation, and to a lesser extent, on the execution.
 - Identify Drivers of Instability and Focus Efforts to Eliminate Them: Successful units conduct holistic assessments of human terrain and infrastructure to identify grievances and fault lines that drive instability across all LOEs.
 - CTC-A outlined their training methodology, assessment concerns WRT implementing shape/clear/hold/build, and posed a list of simple yet important questions that each unit should answer.
 - Is your Mission population, terrain, or enemy focused?
 - What is the difference between partnering and mentoring? What are you going to be doing?

- CTC-A will host conference for COIN training stakeholders in Kabul in April.

ADVISORY, EDUCATIONAL, & ASSISTANCE VISITS

- **1st Army (West) COIN Leaders' Workshop (13-15 Jan):** Conducted COIN Workshop at Fort Carson, CO, for 90 First Army (West) trainers responsible for predeployment COIN instruction for Reserve and Guard units. Workshop modules included: COIN Principles, Imperatives, Paradoxes; Understanding Operational Environment; Understanding Insurgencies; Leadership and Ethics in COIN; and COIN Training Resources. Practical exercises focused on FM 3-24 analysis and application of workshop material to participants' training mission. Next step: conduct COIN workshop for First Army (East) at Fort Meade, MD, from 9-12 Feb to enable trainers for non-landowning, non-BCT reserve component units. For more information contact [MAJ Niel Smith](#).
- **Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC) RFI:** COIN Center Deputy Director responded to IEC Security Advisor's RFI on security focus for Afghanistan elections. IEC reports that some Taliban elements in East, when confronted by Afghans who were registering, put down their weapons and registered in record numbers indicating a desire of some insurgent groups to partake in Afghan political process. In contrast, Western Taliban elements have vowed to shut down Voter Registration and Elections in 2009.
- **JFC Brunssum CREVAL Working Group (27-28 Jan):** At NATO's request, COIN Center Deputy Director presented "Principles of COIN" to Combat Readiness Evaluation Working Group (CREVAL) at JFC HQ Brunssum. Purpose of working group was to establish combat readiness evaluation standards and criteria for Non-Article 5 operations for NATO/ISAF units. Criteria to be used for all NATO units, from Battalion to Corps level, deploying on operations with respect to COIN, include:
 - Conduct JIIM planning to address root causes of an insurgency.
 - Plan and conduct military operations to counter insurgent strategy, tactics, techniques and procedures.
 - Within assigned AOR, plan and execute intelligence-driven information and communications operations.
 - Perform intelligence preparation of the operational environment.
 - Establish control measures in order to isolate insurgents from population.This endeavor was first COIN education for many key staff officers at JFC HQ Brunssum and SHAPE HQ. Next step: CREVAL Working Group to formalize criteria in Oberammergau in April.

Doctrine Updates

- **FM 3-24.2, *Tactics in Counterinsurgency*:** will be published as FMI in Feb/Mar 09.
- **JP 3-24:** publication Sep/Oct 09.
- **FM 3-07, *Stability Operations*** University of Michigan Press Edition: commercial edition of Army Stability Operations manual will be published 25 Feb 09.

Other Publications of Interest:

- **USG COIN Guide (signed 13 Jan 09)**: Provides comprehensive framework for whole-of-government approach to counterinsurgency.
- **Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq (31 Dec 08)**: Quarterly Iraq Assessment to Congress: "Successes have allowed Coalition forces to transition primary security responsibility to the ISF and shift focus to governance and capacity building in the majority of the country."
- **Human Terrain System Handbooks**: [Human Terrain Team Handbook](#), [Commander's Handbook](#)
- **Afghanistan Special Study**: Operational level study conducted from Dec 2008-Jan 2009 by two ILE Staff Groups to develop course of action recommendation for Afghanistan Campaign Plan. Recommended COA centered on building Afghanistan National Security Force (ANSF) capability. Strengths of this COA identified as: Legitimacy (ANSF focus ties to original ISAF mandate); Perseverance (legitimacy strengthens resolve of member nations); Transitionability (ANSF is the long-term solution for Afghan security). Major challenges to success in Afghanistan identified as ethnic differences, lack of security throughout the country, incorporation of tribal system into concept of central government, and poppy/drug production and trafficking that dominates Afghanistan's economy. We will post link to study when releasable.
- **Marine Corps Gazette (Jan 09 Edition)**: Interesting articles on advising HN Forces and working with Social Scientists.
- Recent Foreign Policy Article "[Counterinsurgency Field Manual: Afghanistan Edition](#)" and interview with GEN Petraeus
- **MNC-I Leaders' Guide to the Security Agreement**
- **Tell Me Why We're There? Enduring Interests in Afghanistan (and Pakistan)**: CNAS Policy Brief published 22 January; Interesting excerpts:
 - Two key U.S. interests in Afghanistan: no sanctuary for terrorists with global reach, no broader regional meltdown.
 - Complex problem: collusion among Al Qaeda, the Taliban, narcotraffickers, and criminal gangs.
 - Internal balance between centralized and traditional power centers is key to reaching the desired end state: sustainable system of governance that can provide adequate security for the Afghan people.
- **Quadrennial Roles and Missions Review Report (29 Jan 09)**: Report, signed by SecDef concludes that "we must improve our soft power: our national ability to promote economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, internal reconciliation, good governance, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communications, and more." In addition, a whole-of-government approach is necessary to improving US soft power.
- **Past SITREPs**: If interested in recent COIN topic or event, reference last three COIN SITREPs: [October 08](#); [November 08](#); [January 09](#).

RESEARCH

- **Iraq vs. Afghanistan Discussions**: Discussion on lessons learned and strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan continues. Interesting perspectives include:

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- [Forget the Lessons of Iraq](#) warns "...Relying on the experience in just one kind of conflict to redefine America's military carries the dangerous potential to have the nation learn the harsh lessons of defeat on tomorrow's battlefields where the enemy chooses not to fight as Iraqi insurgents did."
- [Unintended Consequences of COIN](#) "My concern about the current COIN fixation is that by redesigning our military to better fight the last wars (insurgencies), at the expense of different future ones (interstate conflicts), we may invite the very thing the COIN strategists seem to be betting won't emerge: namely, the rise of a peer competitor that is not content just to play the peaceful role of a responsible stakeholder."
- [COIN and Detention Operations](#) thread on [Small Wars Council](#)
- Recent [Foreign Policy article](#) that argues why the U.S. Army's focus on nation-building at the expense of warfighting is misguided and dangerous.
- **COIN Research Topic of Interest: *Metrics and Assessment in COIN*.** We would like any information regarding this topic. If you are researching or have published on this topic, please forward a copy of your product to coin@conus.army.mil.
- **The Colloquium:** COIN Center will feature authors of original COIN-related papers in online publication [The Colloquium](#). If interested in being featured in a publication for JIIM COIN practitioners and theorists, email coin@conus.army.mil with name, proposed topic, and estimated timeline. We look forward to your submissions. See research [topics of interest](#).
- **COIN Vignettes Data Call:** COIN Center will soon start posting COIN-related vignettes on its website. Looking for vignettes of 500 words or less and touch on some or all of the following themes: understanding the operational environment, insurgent dynamics, clear-hold-build, information engagement, leadership in COIN, COIN principles and paradoxes, whole-of-government approach, or appropriate use of force.

STRATCOMS & OUTREACH

- **Canadian Forces Land Force Command and Staff College Commandant Visit (22 Jan):** Canadian Forces Land Force Command and Staff College Commandant Col Lewis met with COIN Center Deputy Director in order to find ways to integrate COIN training into Canadian Army's officer education process.
- **STRATCOM Fusion Team Meeting (23 Jan):** U.S. Department of State's Strategic Communications Fusion Team presented Drs. Sebastian Gorka and David Kilcullen. Discussion centered on narrative conflict with al-Qaeda, including relative cohesiveness of al-Qaeda narrative, challenges and implications of the new media environment, and potential lessons from Cold War information engagement practices.
- **LTG (FR) Raffenne (2 Feb):** COIN Center hosted French Army Lieutenant General (ret) J.P. Raffenne for his presentation "Can We Learn Lessons from History? Battle of Algiers 1957/Battle of Baghdad 2007, Irak War 2003/Algerian War 1954–1962." Lt. Gen. Raffenne presented a comparison of the Iraq War

(2003–present) and the Algerian War (1954–62), asking if we are able to retain the counterinsurgency lessons that history teaches.

- **CAC Media Panel (3 Feb):** COIN Center moderated CAC panel on media effects in COIN. Discussion focused on US ability to reach Arab populations through the media, recent Taliban efforts to leverage media in their favor, how warfighters can manage information environment, and where U.S. COIN discussion is going as focus shifts from Iraq to Afghanistan. Panel members were: Ms. Shameem Rassam and Mr. Farhad Pazhwak, senior analysts at International Research Center; Ms. Nancy Youssef, chief Pentagon correspondent for McClatchy newspapers; and Professor Dennis Murphy, Director of Information in Warfare Group, Center for Strategic Leadership, U.S. Army War College.
- **JFCOM JIWC Update:** Joint Irregular Warfare Center (JIWC) established by [14 Jan DoD Memorandum](#). POC: COIN Center JIWC embed [John Moulton](#).
- **COIN/FID/IW/Stab Ops Exercise and Conference Highlights:**
 - **IW Support Group Project Starfish Meeting (26-27 Jan):** JFCOM-led Project STARFISH Irregular Warfare training meeting in Crystal City, VA from 26-27 Jan included participants from across DoD to develop a proposed virtual and physical action plan to share IW related educational curricula across services, government agencies, and academia. Joint Irregular Warfare Center (JIWC) will lead in developing further resources for IW curriculum and knowledge exchange.
 - **Upcoming DC-based Planner Training Course (9-13 Mar):** CMIC, CGSC, and DOS/ Political Military Affairs coordinating for DC-based Planner Training Course for DOS employees. Syllabus Planner's Course will include Humanitarian Assistance and Peace Enforcement scenarios.

COIN Community Upcoming Events

Feb 09	Release of FMI 3-24.2
2-6 Feb	Expeditionary Warrior Wargame 09
26 Feb 09	Monthly COIN Integration Meeting (DCO)
4-6 Feb 09	MORS US Irregular Warfare Analysis Workshop (SOCOM)
17-20 Feb 09	UQ Cyberspace Seminar Wargame
18-20 Feb 09	COIN Leader Workshop, First Army (East) (Fort Meade)
19-20 Feb 09	GPF Study FID/COIN Workshop (JHU APL)
24-26 Feb 09	UK Army Stability and Counter Insurgency Centre (ASCIC) Visit
23-27 Feb 09	Iraqi Counterinsurgency School MiTT COIN Leader Workshop
2 Mar 09	RAND Insurgency Board: Role of Development in COIN
9-13 Mar 09	DC-based Planner Training Course
24-25 Mar 09	JHU/APL Unrestricted Warfare Symposium
31 Mar- 2 Apr 09	JCISFA Advisor Training Center Working Group (Ft Dix, NJ)
2-3 Apr 09	CTC Conference (Ft Polk, LA)
mid Apr 09	CTC-A Conference (Kabul, Afghanistan)
27 Apr- 1 May 09	COIN Leader Workshop (Fort Leavenworth)
May 09	RAND Insurgency Board: Psychology of Participation in Insurgency
Jun 09	FM 3-24 Next Conference

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Jul 09 RAND Insurgency Board: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency as a Competition in Governance
Sep 09 RAND Insurgency Board: Understanding Insurgent Intelligence Operations

Next Monthly COIN Integration MTG/VTC 26 Feb 09 (1000 Central Standard Time)

- Request all COIN Integration Meeting organizations share next 60 days of upcoming events of interest to the community to terrell.w.bruner@conus.army.mil .

Questions or Comments - contact us at:

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