



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



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LEGITIMACY

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“Legitimacy” is one of the “additional principles of operations.”

In order to reduce the threat to US forces and to enable them to work toward their objective, the United States should be viewed as a legitimate actor in the mission, working towards multi-lateral interests including our own. While legitimacy is principally generated by US political leadership, legitimacy in the eyes of the host nation or target population could be affected more by the actions of the military. One key means of promoting legitimacy for certain types of contingency operations is through robust and effective military public affairs operations. Commanders should work closely with the host-nation government (if, in fact, there is one) at all levels to help preserve and foster the sense of legitimacy of mission.