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FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-22 FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE

INTERNAL DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Last Updated: 10 July 2014

Internal defense and development (IDAD) is defined as “the full range of measures taken by a nation to promote its growth and to protect itself from subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency. It focuses on building viable institutions (political, economic, social, and military) that respond to the needs of society.” As the government brings all four functions of the IDAD strategy into play, airpower resources should help the host nation (HN) government administer and create synergies among various defense and development initiatives. These roles are principally combat support capabilities such as aircraft maintenance, parts supply, fuels, and communications efforts to establish government influence and control in contested areas of the country. Mobile, space-based command and control (C2), for example, allows HN forces to operate with a non-intrusive footprint in contested areas. Using airpower in these roles enhances the host government’s ability to focus on political and economic solutions to a crisis. At the same time, airpower’s flexibility can help government forces achieve rapid concentration of effort from great distances and overcome terrain features.

IDAD Strategy: Basic Functions

- ✦ **Develop balanced social, economic, and political institutions**
- ✦ **Mobilize manpower and materiel**
- ✦ **Secure the population and natural resources**
- ✦ **Neutralize hostile elements**

IDAD Strategy

US and foreign commanders, as well as Air Force advisors, planners, and analysts, should carefully weigh the likely consequences of applying airpower in an environment where the critical center of gravity is not the defeat and destruction of opposing forces but rather political mobilization and credibility. Where a negative impact on the civilian population provides further legitimacy to the insurgent movement, assigning correct airpower priorities may mean the difference between success and failure. Where friendly lives and property are at risk from insurgent attack, for instance, air combat power should function as a component of coordinated

joint security and neutralization actions aimed at creating a safe environment for developmental programs that in turn promote and sustain political mobilization and credibility.

Development and Mobilization

The US role in development and mobilization should focus on helping the government administer and govern. Where ground lines of communication (LOC) cannot be maintained because of terrain or enemy presence, aerial logistics and communications networks carrying information, supplies, and services to civilian elements establish critical links between the government and the population. Initiatives such as health care infrastructure development contribute to regional stability and government legitimacy while improving rapport with and understanding of host nation populations.

Security and Neutralization

A government defending itself and the population against insurgent attack must be able to exercise two additional critical functions—security and neutralization. Security entails specific government actions to protect vital human and institutional resources and, at the same time, create a safe, permissive environment for balanced development and mobilization. Neutralization employs civil law enforcement and military forces in lawful actions to physically and psychologically separate insurgents from the population. Appropriate tools for neutralization range all the way from information operations to combat engagement.

Airpower can contribute most effectively to security and neutralization when it functions as an integrated, joint component of the overall internal defense effort. It is least effective when employed unilaterally merely as a substitute for ground maneuver or long-range artillery. In many instances, airpower can be exploited to greatest advantage by emphasizing [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR), C2, and logistics mobility.

Insurgents generally do not possess airpower capabilities, although that may change with small, easy-to-acquire remotely piloted aircraft. They have no heartland and no fixed industrial facilities in the HN. Insurgents' lack of extensive strength and weaponry is offset by tactical mobility, surprise, and deception. Their irregular forces are deployed in small units that find easy concealment in rural terrain and civilian society. Typically, insurgents are unwilling to concentrate their forces and are integrated within the civilian population, presenting difficult and contentious targets for air attack. The application of ground firepower, an errant bomb, loss of civilian life, or damage to civilian property can be used against the government and provide increased support for the insurgents. In some cases, it may be more appropriate to use airpower primarily to deploy, sustain, and reinforce military surface forces and civil law enforcement agencies. Employed in correct roles, airpower capabilities can demonstrate to the population that a legitimate government is in control.
