**Counter-insurgency**

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Police question a civilian during the [Malayan Emergency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_Emergency). Counter-insurgency involves action from both military and police authorities.





[U.S. Marines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Marines) and [Afghan soldiers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan_National_Army) on patrol during counter-insurgency operations in [Marjah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjah), [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), February 2010

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*See also:* [*Insurgency*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency)*,* [*Low intensity conflict*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low_intensity_conflict)*,* [*Divide and rule*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divide_and_rule)*, and* [*Fourth generation warfare*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_generation_warfare)

A **counter-insurgency** or **counterinsurgency**[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-0) (**COIN**) involves actions taken by the recognized government of a nation to contain or quell an [insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency) taken up against it.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-1) In the main, the insurgents seek to destroy or erase the political authority of the defending authorities in a population they seek to control, and the counter-insurgent forces seek to protect that authority and reduce or eliminate the supplanting authority of the insurgents.

Counter-insurgency operations are common during [war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War), [occupation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_occupation) and armed [rebellions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebellion). Counter-insurgency may be armed [suppression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suppression) of a rebellion, coupled with tactics such as [divide and rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divide_and_rule) designed to fracture the links between the insurgency and the population in which the insurgents move. Because it may be difficult or impossible to distinguish between an insurgent, a supporter of an insurgency who is a [non-combatant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-combatant), and entirely uninvolved members of the population, counter-insurgency operations have often rested on a confused, relativistic, or otherwise [situational](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Situational) distinction between insurgents and non-combatants.

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**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=1)**] Models**

**The guerrilla must swim in the people as the fish swims in the sea.**

**“**

**”**

–Aphorism based on the writing of [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) [[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-mao-2)

Counter-insurgency is normally conducted as a combination of conventional military operations and other means, such as [propaganda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda), [psy-ops](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psy-ops), and [assassinations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination). Counter-insurgency operations include many different facets: [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military), [paramilitary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paramilitary), [political](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political), [economic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic), [psychological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological), and civic actions taken to defeat [insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency).

To understand counter-insurgency, one must understand [insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency#Political_rhetoric.2C_myths_and_models) to comprehend the dynamics of revolutionary warfare. Insurgents capitalize on societal problems, often called gaps; counter-insurgency addresses closing the gaps. When the gaps are wide, they create a sea of discontent, creating the environment in which the insurgent can operate.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Eizenstat-2005-3)

In *The Insurgent Archipelago* John Mackinlay puts forward the concept of an evolution of insurgency from the Maoist paradigm of the golden age of insurgency to the global insurgency of the [start](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency) of the twenty-first century. He defines this distinction as 'Maoist' and 'post-Maoist' insurgency.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-4)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=2)**] Legal and ethical challenges**

[William B. Caldwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_B._Caldwell) wrote:

The [law of armed conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_armed_conflict) requires that, to use force, "[combatants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combatant)" must distinguish individuals presenting a threat from innocent [civilians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian). This basic principle is accepted by all disciplined militaries. In the counterinsurgency, disciplined [application](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency) of force is even more critical because our enemies camouflage themselves in the civilian population. Our success in Iraq depends on our ability to treat the civilian population with humanity and dignity, even as we remain ready to immediately defend ourselves or Iraqi civilians when a threat is detected.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Caldwell-5)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=3)**] Counter-insurgency theorists**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=4)**] Santa Cruz de Marcenado**

The third Marques of [Santa Cruz de Marcenado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Cruz_de_Marcenado) (1684–1732) is probably the earliest author who dealt systematically in his writings with counter-insurgency. In his *Reflexiones Militares*, published between 1726 and 1730, he discussed how to spot early signs of an incipient insurgency, prevent insurgencies, and counter them, if they could not be warded off. Strikingly, [Santa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency) Cruz recognized that insurgencies are usually due to real grievances: "A state rarely rises up without the fault of its governors." Consequently, he advocated clemency towards the population and good governance, to seek the people's "heart and love".[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-test-6)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=5)**] B. H. Liddell Hart**

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| Question book-new.svg | This unreferenced section requires [citations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources) to ensure [verifiability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AVerifiability). |

The majority of counter-insurgency efforts by major powers in the last century have been spectacularly unsuccessful. This may be attributed to a number of causes. First, as [B. H. Liddell Hart](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B._H._Liddell_Hart) pointed out in the Insurgency addendum to the second version of his book [*Strategy: The Indirect Approach*](http://strategy.wikimedia.org/wiki/The_Indirect_Approach), a popular insurgency has an inherent advantage over any occupying force. He showed as a prime example the [French occupation of Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peninsular_War) during the [Napoleonic wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_wars). Whenever Spanish forces managed to constitute themselves into a regular fighting force, the superior French forces beat them every time.

However, once dispersed and decentralized, the irregular nature of the rebel campaigns proved a decisive counter to French superiority on the battlefield. [Napoleon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon)'s army had no means of effectively combatting the rebels, and in the end their strength and morale were so sapped that when [Wellington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley%2C_1st_Duke_of_Wellington) was finally able to challenge French forces in the field, the French had almost no choice but to abandon the situation.

Counter-insurgency efforts may be successful, especially when the insurgents are unpopular. The [Philippine–American War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine%E2%80%93American_War), the [Shining Path](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shining_Path) in Peru, and the [Malayan Emergency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_Emergency) in [Malaya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation_of_Malaya) have been the sites of failed insurgencies.

Hart also points to the experiences of [T. E. Lawrence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._E._Lawrence) and the [Arab Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt) during [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) as another example of the power of the rebel/insurgent. Though the [Ottomans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottomans) often had advantages in manpower of more than 100 to 1, the [Arabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab)' ability to materialize out of the desert, strike, and disappear again often left the [Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) reeling and paralyzed, creating an opportunity for regular [British forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_forces) to sweep in and finish the Turkish forces off.

In both the preceding cases, the insurgents and rebel fighters were working in conjunction with or in a manner complementary to regular forces. Such was also the case with the [French Resistance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Resistance) during [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) and the [National Liberation Front](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viet_Cong) during the Vietnam War. The strategy in these cases is for the irregular combatant to weaken and destabilize the enemy to such a degree that victory is easy or assured for the regular forces. However, in many modern rebellions, one does not see rebel fighters working in conjunction with regular forces. Rather, they are home-grown [militias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia) or imported fighters who have no unified goals or objectives save to expel the occupier.

According to Liddell Hart, there are few effective counter-measures to this strategy. So long as the insurgency maintains popular support, it will retain all of its strategic advantages of mobility, invisibility, and legitimacy in its own eyes and the eyes of the people. So long as this is the situation, an insurgency essentially cannot be defeated by regular forces..

Another option in combating an insurgency would be to make the presence of troops so pervasive that there is simply no place left for insurgents to hide, as demonstrated in [Franco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Franco)'s conquest of [Republican Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Spain) during the [Spanish Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War) or the Union occupation of [Confederate States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States) with Federal troops following the [American Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). In each of these cases, enormous amounts of manpower were needed for an extended period of time to quell resistance over almost every square kilometre of territory. In an age of ever shrinking and increasingly computerized armed forces, this option too is precluded from a modern commanders options.

Essentially, then, only one viable option remains. The key to a successful counter-insurgency is the winning-over of the occupied territory's population. If that can be achieved, then the rebellion will be deprived of its supplies, shelter, and, more importantly, its moral legitimacy. Unless the [hearts and minds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hearts_and_minds) of the public can be separated from the insurgency, the occupation is doomed to fail. In a modern [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy), in the face of perceived incessant losses, no conflict will be tolerated by an electorate without significant show of tangible gains.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=6)**] Vietnam War**

The US in Vietnam attempted to neutralize the advantage of popular support for the insurgency by simply taking away the civilian population that shielded the insurgents; however, this had the effect of alienating the populace and further fueling support for the rebels.

Although the United States and its [ARVN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARVN) allies won every single major battle with [North Vietnamese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Vietnamese) forces and their opponents suffered staggering losses (2 million+ casualties), the cost of victory was so high in the opinion of the US public ([58,193](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War_casualties) U.S. casualties) that it came to see any further possible gains as not worth the troop losses. As long as popular support is on their side, an insurgency can hold out indefinitely, consolidating its control and replenishing its ranks, until the occupiers simply leave.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=7)**] Current situations**

In these cases, such as the [Israeli occupation of Lebanon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_occupation_of_Lebanon), which ended in 2000, and the current [Iraqi insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_insurgency), the goal of the insurgent is not to defeat the occupying military force; that is almost always an impossible task given the disparity in resources. Rather, they seek through a constant campaign of sneak attacks to inflict continuous casualties upon their superior enemy forces and thereby over time demoralize the occupying forces and erode political support for the occupation in the homeland of the occupying forces. It is a simple strategy of repeated pin-pricks and bleedings that, though small in proportion to the total force strength, sap the will of the occupier to continue the fight.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=8)**] David Galula**

[David Galula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Galula) gained his practical experience in counter-insurgency as a French officer in the [Algerian War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_War). His theory of counterinsurgency is not primarily military, but a combination of military, political and social actions under the strong control of a single authority.

Galula proposes four "laws" for counterinsurgency:[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-7)

1. The aim of the war is to gain the support of the population rather than control of territory.
2. Most of the population will be neutral in the conflict; support of the masses can be obtained with the help of an active friendly minority.
3. Support of the population may be lost. The population must be efficiently protected to allow it to cooperate without fear of retribution by the opposite party.
4. Order enforcement should be done progressively by removing or driving away armed opponents, then gaining support of the population, and eventually strengthening positions by building infrastructure and setting long-term relationships with the population. This must be done area by area, using a pacified territory as a basis of operation to conquer a neighbouring area.

Galula contends that:

A victory [in a counterinsurgency] is not the destruction in a given area of the insurgent's forces and his political organization. ... A victory is that plus the permanent isolation of the insurgent from the population, isolation not enforced upon the population, but maintained by and with the population. ... In conventional warfare, strength is assessed according to military or other tangible criteria, such as the number of divisions, the position they hold, the industrial resources, etc. In revolutionary warfare, strength must be assessed by the extent of support from the population as measured in terms of political organization at the grass roots. The counterinsurgent reaches a position of strength when his power is embedded in a political organization issuing from, and firmly supported by, the population.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-galula-8)

With his four principles in mind, Galula goes on to describe a general military and political strategy to put them into operation in an area that is under full insurgent control:

In a Selected Area

1. Concentrate enough armed forces to destroy or to expel the main body of armed insurgents.
2. Detach for the area sufficient troops to oppose an insurgent's comeback in strength, install these troops in the hamlets, villages, and towns where the population lives.
3. Establish contact with the population, control its movements in order to cut off its links with the guerillas.
4. Destroy the local insurgent political organization.
5. Set up, by means of elections, new provisional local authorities.
6. Test those authorities by assigning them various concrete tasks. Replace the softs and the incompetents, give full support to the active leaders. Organize self-defense units.
7. Group and educate the leaders in a national political movement.

8. Win over or suppress the last insurgent remnants.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-galula-8)

According to Galula, some of these steps can be skipped in areas that are only partially under insurgent control, and most of them are unnecessary in areas already controlled by the government.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-galula-8) Thus the essence of counterinsurgency warfare is summed up by Galula as "Build (or rebuild) a political machine from the population upward."[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-9)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=9)**] Robert Thompson**

[Robert Grainger Ker Thompson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Grainger_Ker_Thompson) wrote *Defeating Communist Insurgency*[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-10) in 1966, arguing that a successful counter-insurgency effort must be proactive in seizing the initiative from insurgents. Thompson outlines five basic principles for a successful counter-insurgency:

1. The government must have a clear political aim: to establish and maintain a free, independent and united country which is politically and economically stable and viable;
2. The government must function in accordance with the law;
3. The government must have an overall plan;
4. The government must give priority to defeating political subversion, not the guerrillas;
5. In the guerrilla phase of an insurgency, a government must secure its base areas first.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Hamilton1998-11)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=10)**] David Kilcullen**





Three Pillars of Counterinsurgency

In "The Three Pillars of Counterinsurgency", Dr. [David Kilcullen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Kilcullen), the Chief Strategist of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism of the [U.S. State Department](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._State_Department) in 2006, described a framework for interagency cooperation in counterinsurgency operations. His pillars – Security, Political and Economic – support the overarching goal of Control, but are based on Information:

This is because perception is crucial in developing control and influence over population groups. Substantive security, political and economic measures are critical but to be effective they must rest upon, and integrate with a broader information strategy. Every action in counterinsurgency sends a message; the purpose of the information campaign is to consolidate and unify this message. ... Importantly, the information campaign has to be conducted at a global, regional and local level — because modern insurgents draw upon global networks of sympathy, support, funding and recruitment.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-kilcullen-12)

Kilcullen considers the three pillars to be of equal importance, because

unless they are developed in parallel, the campaign becomes unbalanced: too much economic assistance with inadequate security, for example, simply creates an array of soft targets for the insurgents. Similarly, too much security assistance without political consensus or governance simply creates more capable armed groups. In developing each pillar, we measure progress by gauging effectiveness (capability and capacity) and legitimacy (the degree to which the population accepts that government actions are in its interest).[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-kilcullen-12)

The overall goal, according to this model, "is not to reduce violence to zero or to kill every insurgent, but rather to return the overall system to normality — noting that 'normality' in one society may look different from normality in another. In each case, we seek not only to establish control, but also to consolidate that control and then transfer it to permanent, effective and legitimate institutions."[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-kilcullen-12)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=11)**] Martin van Creveld**

Military historian [Martin van Creveld](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_van_Creveld), noting that almost all attempts to deal with insurgency have ended in failure, advises:

The first, and absolutely indispensable, thing to do is throw overboard 99 percent of the literature on counterinsurgency, counterguerrilla, counterterrorism, and the like. Since most of it was written by the losing side, it is of little value.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-13)

In examining why so many counterinsurgencies by powerful militaries fail against weaker enemies, Van Creveld identifies a key dynamic that he illustrates by the metaphor of killing a child. Regardless of whether the child started the fight or how well armed the child is, an adult in a fight with a child will feel that they are acting unjustly if they harm the child, foolish if the child harms them and wonder if the fight is necessary.

Van Creveld argues that "by definition, a strong counterinsurgent who uses his strength to kill the members of a small, weak organization of insurgents - let alone the civilian population by which it is surrounded, and which may lend it support - will commit crimes in an unjust cause," while "a child who is in a serious fight with an adult is justified in using every and any means available - not because he or she is right, but because he or she has no choice."[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-14) Every act of insurgency becomes, from the perspective of the counterinsurgent, a reason to end the conflict, while also being a reason for the insurgents to continue until victory. [Dang Xuan Khu](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dang_Xuan_Khu&action=edit&redlink=1), second in command to [Ho Chi Minh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh) of [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam), wrote in his *Primer for Revolt*:

The guiding principle of the strategy for our whole resistance must be to prolong the war. To protract the war is the key to victory. Why must the war be protracted? ... If we throw the whole of our forces into a few battles to try to decide the outcome, we shall certainly be defeated and the enemy will win. On the other hand, if while fighting we maintain our forces, expand them, train our army and people, learn military tactics ... and at the same time wear down the enemy forces, we shall weary and discourage them in such a way that, strong as they are, they will become weak and will meet defeat instead of victory.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-15) Van Creveld thus identifies "time" as the key factor in counterinsurgency. In an attempt to find lessons from the few cases of successful counterinsurgency, of which he lists two clear cases: the British efforts during [The Troubles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Troubles) of [Northern Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland) and the 1982 [Hama massacre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hama_massacre) carried out by the [Syrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria) government to suppress the [Muslim Brotherhood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Brotherhood), he asserts that the "core of the difficulty is neither military nor political, but moral" and outlines two distinct methods.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-16)

The first method relies on superb intelligence, provided by those who know the natural and artificial environment of the conflict as well as the insurgents. Once such superior intelligence is gained, the counterinsurgents must be trained to a point of high professionalism and discipline such that they will exercise discrimination and restraint. Through such discrimination and restraint, the counterinsurgents do not alienate members of the populace besides those already fighting them, while delaying the time when the counterinsurgents become disgusted by their own actions and demoralized.

General [Patrick Walters](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Patrick_Walters&action=edit&redlink=1), British commander of troops in northern Ireland, explicitly stated that his objective was not to kill as many terrorists as possible, but to ensure that as few people on both sides were killed. In the vast majority of counterinsurgencies, the "forces of order" kill far more people than they lose. In contrast and using very rough figures, of the approximately 3000 British killed during The Troubles, 1700 were civilians and 1000 were British soldiers and members of security forces, translating into a three-to-one kill ratio *in favor of the terrorists*.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-van_Creveld.2C_235-17)

If the prerequisites for the first method - excellent intelligence, superbly trained and disciplined soldiers and police, and an iron will to avoid being provoked into lashing out - are lacking, van Creveld posits that counterinsurgents who still want to win must use the second method exemplified by the [Hama massacre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hama_massacre). In 1982 the regime of Syrian president [Hafez al-Assad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hafez_al-Assad) was on the point of being overwhelmed by the countrywide insurgency of the [Muslim Brotherhood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Brotherhood). al-Assad sent a division under his brother [Rifaat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rifaat_al-Assad) to the city of [Hama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hama), known to be the center of the resistance.

Following a counterattack by the Brotherhood, Rifaat used his heavy artillery to demolish the city, killing between ten and 25 thousand people, including many women and children. Asked by reporters what had happened, Hafez al-Assad exaggerated the damage and deaths, promoted the commanders who carried out the attacks, and razed Hama's well-known great mosque, replacing it with a parking lot. With the Muslim Brotherhood scattered, the population was so cowed that it would years before opposition groups would dare disobey the regime again and, van Creveld argues, the massacre most likely saved the regime and prevented a bloody [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war).

Van Creveld condenses al-Assad's strategy into five rules, while noting that they could easily have been written by [Niccolò Machiavelli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niccol%C3%B2_Machiavelli):[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-van_Creveld.2C_235-17)

1. There are situations in which cruelty is necessary, and refusing to apply necessary cruelty is a betrayal of the people who put you into power. When pressed to cruelty, never threaten your opponent but disguise your intention and feign weakness until you strike.
2. Once you decide to strike, it is better to kill too many than not enough. If another strike is needed, it reduces the impact of the first strike. Repeated strikes will also endanger the morale of the counterinsurgent troops; soldiers forced to commit repeated atrocities will likely begin to resort to alcohol or drugs to force themselves to carry out orders and will inevitably lose their military edge, eventually turning into a danger to their commanders.
3. Act as soon as possible. More lives will be saved by decisive action early, than by prolonging the insurgency. The longer you wait, the more inured the population will be to bloodshed, and the more barbaric your action will have to be to make an impression.
4. Strike openly. Do not apologize, make excuses about "[collateral damage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collateral_damage)", express regret, or promise investigations. Afterwards, make sure that as many people as possible know of your strike; media is useful for this purpose, but be careful not to let them interview survivors and arouse sympathy.
5. Do not command the strike yourself, in case it doesn't work for some reason and you need to disown your commander and try another strategy. If it does work, present your commander to the world, explain what you have done and make certain that everyone understands that you are ready to strike again.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-18)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=12)**] Lorenzo Zambernardi**

In "Counterinsurgency’s Impossible Trilemma", Dr. Lorenzo Zambernardi, an Italian academic now working in the United States, clarifies the tradeoffs involved in counterinsurgency operations.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-19) He argues that counterinsurgency involves three main goals, but in real practice a counterinsurgent needs to choose two goals out of three. Relying on economic theory, this is what Zambernardi labels the "impossible trilemma" of counterinsurgency. Specifically, the impossible trilemma suggests that it is impossible to simultaneously achieve: 1) force protection, 2) distinction between enemy combatants and noncombatants, and 3) the physical elimination of insurgents.

According to Zambernardi, in pursuing any two of these three goals, a state must forgo some portion of the third objective. In particular, a state can protect its armed forces while destroying insurgents, but only by indiscriminately killing civilians as the Ottomans, Italians, and Nazis did in the Balkans, Libya, and Eastern Europe. It can choose to protect civilians along with its own armed forces instead, avoiding so-called collateral damage, but only by abandoning the objective of destroying the insurgents. Finally, a state can discriminate between combatants and noncombatants while killing insurgents, but only by increasing the risks for its own troops, as the United States and ISAF did in Afghanistan under the leadership of Gen. Stanley McChrystal. So a country must choose two out of three goals and develop a strategy that can successfully accomplish them, while sacrificing the third objective.

Zambernardi’s theory posits that to protect populations, which is necessary to defeat insurgencies, and to physically destroy an insurgency, the counterinsurgent’s military forces must be sacrificed, risking the loss of domestic political support.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=13)**] Tactics**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=14)**] Population control**





A [strategic hamlet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_hamlet) in [South Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Vietnam) c.1964

With regard to tactics, the terms "drain the water" or "drain the swamp" involves the forced [relocation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_transfer) of the population ("water") to expose the rebels or [insurgents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgent) ("fish"). In other words, relocation deprives the aforementioned of the support, cover, and resources of the local population.

A somewhat similar strategy was used extensively by [US forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_forces) in [South Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Vietnam) until 1969, initially by forcing the rural population into fenced camps, referred to as [Strategic Hamlets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Hamlet), and later by declaring the previous areas as [free-fire zones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-fire_zone) to remove the rest from their villages and farms. Widespread use was made of [Agent Orange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agent_Orange), sprayed from airplanes, to destroy crops that might have provided resources for [Viet Cong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viet_Cong) and [North Vietnamese troops](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Vietnamese_troops) and their human support base. These measures proved ineffective, as the Viet Cong often relocated activists and sympathizers inside the new communities. In any event, the [Vietnam War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War) was only partly a counter-insurgency campaign, as it also involved conventional combat between US/[ARVN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARVN) forces, [Vietcong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietcong) Main Force Battalions, and the North Vietnamese Army ([NVA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NVA)).

According to a report of the [Australian military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_military):

Among the most effective means are such population-control measures as vehicle and personnel checkpoints and national identity cards. In Malaya, the requirement to carry an [ID card](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ID_card) with a photo and thumbprint forced the [communists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist) to abandon their original three-phase political-military strategy and caused divisive infighting among their leaders over how to respond to this effective population-control measure.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Sepp-20)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=15)**] Oil spot**

The oil spot approach is a descriptive term for the concentration of counter-insurgent forces into an expanding, secured zone. The origins of the expression is to be found in its initial use by Marshal [Hubert Lyautey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubert_Lyautey), the main theoretician of French colonial warfare and counter-insurgency strategy.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-21)[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-porch-22) The oil spot approach was later one of the justifications given in the [Pentagon Papers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagon_Papers)[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-23) for the [Strategic Hamlet Program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Hamlet_Program).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=16)**] Cordon and search**

[Cordon and search](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cordon_and_search) is a military tactic to cordon off an area and search the premises for weapons or insurgents.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-24)[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-25) It is one of the basic counter-insurgency operations.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-26) Other related operations are *Cordon and Knock*[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-27)[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-28)[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-29) and *Cordon and Kick*.

It has taken over the old term of a simple house search. It is part of new doctrine called Stability and Support Operations or SASO. It is a technique used where there is no hard intelligence of weapons in the house and therefore is less intense than a normal house search. It is used in urban neighborhoods. The purpose of the mission is to search a house with as little inconvenience to the resident family as possible.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=17)**] Air operations**

*See also:* [*Counter-insurgency aircraft*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency_aircraft)

Air power can play an important role in counter-insurgency, capable of carrying out a wide range of operations:

* Transportation in support of combattants and civilians alike, including [casualty evacuations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_evacuation);
* Intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance;
* [Psychological operations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_operation), through leaflet drops, loudspeakers, and radio broadcasts;
* Air-to-ground attack against 'soft' targets.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Sagraves-30)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=18)**] Public diplomacy**

In General [David Petraeus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Petraeus)’ *Counterinsurgency* [*Field Manual*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Army_Field_Manuals), one of the many tactics described to help win in counterinsurgency warfare involves the use of [public diplomacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_diplomacy) through military means.[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-31) Counterinsurgency is effective when it is integrated "into a comprehensive strategy employing all instruments of national power," including public diplomacy. The goal of COIN operations is to render the insurgents as ineffective and non-influential, by having strong and secure relations with the population of the host nation.

An understanding of the host nation and the environment that the COIN operations will take place in is essential. Public diplomacy in COIN warfare is only effective when there is a clear understanding of the culture and population at hand. One of the largest factors needed for defeating an insurgency involves understanding the populace, how they interact with the insurgents, how they interact with non-government organizations in the area, and how they view the counterinsurgency operations themselves.

[Ethics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics) is a common public diplomacy aspect that is emphasized in COIN warfare. Insurgents win their war by attacking internal will and the international opposition. In order to combat these tactics the counterinsurgency operations need to treat their prisoners and detainees humanely and according to American values and principles. By doing this, COIN operations show the host nation’s population that they can be trusted and that they are concerned about the well being of the population in order to be successful in warfare.

"Political, social, and economic programs are usually more valuable than conventional military operations in address the root causes of the conflict and undermining the insurgency."[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-32) These programs are essential in order to gain the support of the population. These programs are designed to make the local population feel secure, safe, and more aligned with the counterinsurgency efforts; this enables the citizens of the host nation to trust the goals and purposes of the counterinsurgency efforts, as opposed to the insurgents’. A counterinsurgency is a battle of ideas and the implementation and integration of these programs is important for success. Social, political and economic programs should be coordinated and administered by the host nation’s leaders, as well. Successful COIN warfare allows the population to see that the counterinsurgency efforts are including the host nation in their re-building programs. The war is fought among the people and for the people between the insurgents and the counterinsurgents.

A counterinsurgency is won by utilizing strategic communications and [information operations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_warfare) successfully. A counterinsurgency is a competition of ideas, ideologies, and socio-political movements. In order to combat insurgent ideologies one must understand the values and characteristics of the [ideology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology) or religion. Additionally, counterinsurgency efforts need to understand the culture of which the insurgency resides, in order to strategically launch information and communication operations against the insurgent ideology or religion. Counterinsurgency information operatives need to also identify key audiences, communicators, and public leaders to know who to influence and reach out too with their information.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-33)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=19)**] Information operations**

Public diplomacy in information operations can only be achieved by a complete understanding of the [culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture) it is operating in. Counterinsurgency operations must be able to perceive the world from the locals’ perspective. To develop a comprehensive cultural picture counterinsurgency efforts should invest in employing “media consultants, finance and business experts, psychologists, organizational network analysts, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines.”[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-34) Most importantly, counterinsurgency efforts need to be able to understand why the local population is drawn into the insurgent ideology; like what aspects are appealing and how insurgents use information to draw their followers into the ideology. Counterinsurgency communication efforts need a baseline understanding of values, attitudes, and perceptions of the people in the area of operations to conduct successful public diplomacy to defeat the enemy.

Developing information and communication strategies involve providing a legitimate alternate ideology, improving security and economic opportunity, and strengthening family ties outside of the [insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency). In order to conduct public diplomacy through these means, counterinsurgency communication needs to match its deeds with its words. Information provided through public diplomacy during a counterinsurgency cannot lie, the information and communication to the people always has to be truthful and trustworthy in order to be effective at countering the insurgents. Public diplomacy in counterinsurgency to influence the public thoughts and ideas is a long time engagement and should not be done through negative campaigning about the enemy.

Conducting public diplomacy through relaying information and communicating with the public in a counterinsurgency is most successful when a conversation can happen between the counterinsurgency team and the local population of the area of operation. Building rapport with the public involves “listening, paying attention, and being responsive and proactive” which is sufficient for the local population to understand and trust the counterinsurgency efforts and vice versa.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-35) This relationship is stringent upon the counterinsurgents keeping their promises, providing security to the locals, and communicating their message directly and quickly in times of need.

Understanding and influencing the cognitive dimension of the local population is essential to winning counterinsurgency warfare. The people’s perception of legitimacy about the host nation and the foreign country’s counterinsurgency efforts is where success is determined. “The free flow of information present in all theaters via television, telephone, and Internet, can present conflicting messages and quickly defeat the intended effects.”[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-36) Coordination between the counterinsurgency operations, the host nation, and the local media in information presented to the public is essential to showing and influencing how the local population perceives the counterinsurgency efforts and the host nation.

[Public opinion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_opinion), the media, and rumors influence how the people view counterinsurgency, the government hosting their efforts, and the host nation [legitimacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legitimacy_%28political%29). The use of public diplomacy to strategically relay the correct messages and information to the public is essential to success in a counterinsurgency operation. For example, close relationships with media members in the area is essential to ensure that the locals understand the counterinsurgency objectives and feel secure with the host nation government and the counterinsurgency efforts. If the local media is not in sync with the counterinsurgency operatives then they could spread incomplete or false information about the counterinsurgency campaign to the public.

“Given Al Qaeda’s global reach, the United States must develop a more integrated strategic communication strategy for counter-insurgency with its allies to diminish violent rhetoric, improve its image abroad, and detect, deter, and defeat this social movement at its many levels.”[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-37) Information operations and communicative abilities are one of the largest and most influence aspects of public diplomacy within a counterinsurgency.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=20)**] Specific doctrines**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=21)**] British Empire**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=22)**] Malaya**

British forces were able to employ the relocation method with considerable success during the "[Malayan Emergency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_Emergency)". The [Briggs Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Briggs%27_Plan), implemented fully in 1950, relocated [Chinese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_people) [Malayans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation_of_Malaya) into protected "New Villages", designated by British forces. By the end of 1951, some 400,000 ethnic Chinese had moved into the fortifications. Of this population, the British forces were able to form a "Home Guard", armed for resistance against the [Malayan Communist Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_Communist_Party), an implementation mirrored by the [Strategic Hamlet Program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Hamlet_Program) later used by US forces in South Vietnam.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Nagl-38)[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Thompson-39) Despite British claims of a victory in the Malayan Emergency, military historian [Martin van Creveld](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_van_Creveld) has pointedly noted that the end result of the counterinsurgency, namely the withdrawal of British forces and establishment of an independent state, are identical to that of [Aden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aden), [Kenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) and [Cyprus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprus), which are not considered victories.[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-40)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=23)**] France**

France had major counterinsurgency wars in its [colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonies) in [Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indochina) and [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria). McClintock cited the basic points of French doctrine as:[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-McClintock-2005-41)

* Quadrillage (an administrative grid of population and territory)
* Ratissage (cordoning and “raking”)
* Regroupement (relocating and closely controlling a suspect population)
* ‘Tache d'huile' – The 'oil spot' strategy
* Recruitment of local leaders and forces
* Paramilitary organization and militias

Much of the thinking was informed by the work of earlier leading French theoreticians of colonial warfare and counter-insurgency, Marshals Bugeaud, Gallieni and Lyautey.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-porch-22)

While McClintock cites the 1894 Algerian governor, [Jules Cambon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Cambon), as saying "By destroying the administration and local government we were also suppressing our means of action. ...The result is that we are today confronted by a sort of human dust on which we have no influence and in which movements take place which are unknown to us.“ Cambon's philosophy, however, did not seem to survive into the [Algerian War of Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_War), (1954–1962).





The sophisticated NLF/PAVN insurgent structure was embedded in the population and difficult to root out and combat. French and US Special Forces (Green Berets) saw some success in organizing tribal peoples to fight.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-42)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=24)**] Indochina**

Post-WWII doctrine, as in Indochina, took a more drastic view of "Guerre Révolutionnaire", which presented an ideological and global war, with a commitment to total war. Countermeasures, in principle, needed to be both political and military; "No measure was too drastic to meet the new threat of revolution." French forces taking control from the [Japanese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) did not seem to negotiate seriously with nationalist elements in what was to become Vietnam,[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-43) and reaped the consequences of overconfidence at [Dien Bien Phu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dien_Bien_Phu).[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Fall-2002-44)

It occurred to various commanders that soldiers trained to operate as guerrillas would have a strong sense of how to fight guerrillas. Before the partition of [French Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Indochina), French [Groupement de Commandos Mixtes Aéroportés](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupement_de_Commandos_Mixtes_A%C3%A9roport%C3%A9s) (GCMA), led by [Roger Trinquier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Trinquier),[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Trinquier-45) took on this role, drawing on French experience with the Jedburgh teams.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-46) GCMA, operating in [Tonkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonkin) and [Laos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos) under [French intelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_intelligence), was complemented by Commandos Nord Viêt-Nam in the North. In these missions, the SOF teams lived and fought with the locals. One Laotian, who became an officer, was [Vang Pao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vang_Pao), who was to become a general in Hmong and Laotian operations in [Southeast Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia) while the US forces increased their role.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=25)**] Algeria**

*Further information:* [*Algerian War*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_War)

The French counterinsurgency in colonial Algeria was a savage one. The 1957 [Battle of Algiers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Algiers_%281957%29) resulted in 24,000 detentions, with most [tortured](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torture) and an estimated 3,000 killed. It may have broken the [FLN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FLN) infrastructure in Algiers, but it also killed off French legitimacy as far as "hearts and minds" went.[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-McClintock-2005-41)[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Tomes2004-47)

Counter-insurgency requires an extremely capable intelligence infrastructure endowed with human sources and deep cultural knowledge. This contributes to the difficulty that foreign, as opposed to indigenous, powers have in counter-insurgent operations. One of France's most influential theorists was [Roger Trinquier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Trinquier). The *Modern Warfare* counterinsurgency strategy described by Trinquier, who had led [anti-communist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-communist) guerillas in [Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indochina), was a strong influence on French efforts in Algeria.

Trinquier suggested three principles:

1. separate the guerrilla from the population that supports him;
2. occupy the zones that the guerrillas previously operated from, making the area dangerous for the insurgents and turning the people against the guerrilla movement; and
3. coordinate actions over a wide area and for a long enough time that the guerrilla is denied access to the population centres that could support him.

Trinquier's view was that torture had to be extremely focused and limited, but many French officers considered its use corrosive to its own side. There were strong protests among French leaders: the Army’s most decorated officer, General [Jacques Pâris de Bollardière](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_P%C3%A2ris_de_Bollardi%C3%A8re), confronted General [Jacques Massu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Massu), the commander of French forces in the Battle of Algiers, over orders institutionalizing torture, as "an unleashing of deplorable instincts which no longer knew any limits." He issued an open letter condemning the danger to the army of the loss of its moral values "under the fallacious pretext of immediate expediency", and was imprisoned for sixty days.[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-McClintock-2005-41)

As some of the French Army protested, other parts increased the intensity of their approach, which led to an attempted [military coup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_coup) against the [French Fourth Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Fourth_Republic) itself. Massu and General [Raoul Salan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raoul_Salan) led a 1958 coup in [Algiers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers), demanding a new Republic under [Charles de Gaulle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_de_Gaulle). When de Gaulle's policies toward Algeria, such as a 1961 referendum on Algerian self-determination, did not meet the expectations of the colonial officers, Salan formed the underground [Organisation de l'armée secrète](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_de_l%27arm%C3%A9e_secr%C3%A8te) (OAS), a [right-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-wing) terrorist group, whose actions included a 1962 assassination attempt against de Gaulle himself.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=26)**] Subsaharan Africa**

France has had taken [Barnett's Leviathan role](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency#Barnett_and_connecting_to_the_core)[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Barnett-48) in [Chad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) and [Ivory Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory_Coast), the latter on two occasions, most significantly in 2002-2003.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Ivory2003-49) The situation with France and Ivory Coast is not a classic FID situation, as [France attacked](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivorian-French_War) Ivorian forces that had attacked [UN peacekeepers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_peacekeepers).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=27)**] India**

There have been many insurgencies in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) from its creation in 1947. The Kashmir insurgency, which started by 1989, was brought under control by Indian government and violence has been reduced. The Army's elite [Rashtriya Rifles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtriya_Rifles) (RR) played a major role in putting down the insurgency. The RR was well supported by [Central Reserve Police Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Reserve_Police_Force) (CRPF), [Border Security Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border_Security_Force) (BSF), [Indo-Tibetan Border Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Tibetan_Border_Police) (ITBP) and state government police.

The [Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter_Insurgency_and_Jungle_Warfare_School) (CIJWS) is located in the northeastern town of [Vairengte](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vairengte) in the Indian [state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States_of_India) of [Mizoram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mizoram). Personnel from countries such as the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia), [Kazakhstan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan), [Tajikistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) and [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam) have attended this school.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-Dawn-50) High quality graduate level training by a joint staff of highly trained special operators at Camp Taji Phoenix Academy and the Counterinsurgency Center For Excellence is provided in Iraq.[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-GS-51) as well as many Iraqi Officers.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=28)**] United States**

*Main article:* [*Foreign internal defense*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_internal_defense)

The United States has conducted counterinsurgency campaigns during the [Philippine–American War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine%E2%80%93American_War), the [Vietnam War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War), the post-2001 [War in Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_%282001%E2%80%93present%29), and the [Iraq War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War). The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in increased interest in counterinsurgency within the American military, exemplified by the 2006 publication of a new counterinsurgency [field manual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_manual), FM 3-24.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_note-52)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=29)**] See also**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| General* [Civilian casualty ratio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_casualty_ratio)
* [Collective punishment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_punishment)
* [Death squad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_squad)
* [Eizenstat and closing gaps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency#Eizenstat_and_closing_gaps)
* [False flag](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_flag)
* [Gladio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gladio)
* [Guerrilla warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare)
* [Human rights violations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights#Human_rights_violations)
* [Internally displaced people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internally_displaced_people)
* [Irregular Warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_Warfare)
* [Kilcullen's Pillars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency#Kilcullen.27s_pillars)
* [Logical line of operation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logical_line_of_operation)
* [Low intensity conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low_intensity_conflict)
 | Specific* [Anti-partisan operations in World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-partisan_operations_in_World_War_II)
* [Strategic Hamlet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Hamlet)
* [Fireforce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireforce)

U.S. specific* [SEAL Team Six](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SEAL_Team_Six)
* [Special Activities Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Activities_Division)
* [Delta Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_Force)

Police adaptations of model* [C3 Policing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C3_Policing)
 |

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-insurgency&action=edit&section=30)**] References**

Notes

* 1. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_ref-0) See [American and British English spelling differences#Compounds and hyphens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_and_British_English_spelling_differences#Compounds_and_hyphens)
	2. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency#cite_ref-1) An *insurgency* is a [rebellion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebellion) against a constituted authority (for example an authority recognized as such by the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations)) when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as [belligerents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belligerent) ([Oxford English Dictionary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary) second edition 1989 "insurgent B. n. One who rises in revolt against constituted authority; a rebel who is not recognized as a belligerent.")
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Many people think it impossible for guerrillas to exist for long in the enemy's rear. Such a belief reveals lack of comprehension of the relationship that should exist between the people and the troops. The former may be likened to water the latter to the fish who inhabit it. How may it be said that these two cannot exist together? It is only undisciplined troops who make the people their enemies and who, like the fish out of its native element cannot live.

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* ["Insurgency: The Transformation of Peasant Rebellion"](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2010510.pdf?acceptTC=true) by Raj Desai and Harry Eckstein
* [Small Wars Journal: Insurgency/Counterinsurgency Research page](http://www.smallwarsjournal.com/ref/counterinsurgency.htm)
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* ["Military Briefing Book"](http://www.militarybriefingbook.com/topic.cfm?topic=Counter-Insurgency%20Operations) news regarding counter-insurgency

**Counter-terrorism**

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 |

**Counter-terrorism** (also spelled **counterterrorism**) is the practices, [tactics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_tactics), techniques, and strategies that [governments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government), [militaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military), [police departments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_department) and [corporations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporation) adopt to attack terrorist threats and/or acts, both real and imputed.

The tactic of [terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) (used by [terrorists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorists)) is available to [insurgents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency) and governments. Not all insurgents use [terror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fear) as a tactic, and some choose not to use it because other tactics work better for them in a particular context. Individuals, such as [Timothy McVeigh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_McVeigh), may also engage in terrorist acts such as the [Oklahoma City bombing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_bombing).

If the terrorism is part of a broader insurgency, counter-terrorism may also form a part of a [counter-insurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-insurgency) doctrine, but political, economic, and other measures may focus more on the insurgency than the specific acts of terror. [Foreign internal defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_internal_defense) (FID) is a term used for programs either to suppress insurgency, or reduce the conditions under which insurgency could develop. Counter-terrorism includes both the detection of potential acts and the response to related events.

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**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=1)**] Anti-terrorism versus counter-terrorism**

[Detentions following the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detentions_following_the_September_11%2C_2001_Terrorist_Attack)

The concept of **anti-terrorism** emerges from a thorough examining of the concept of [terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) an includes those measures taken to protect society from terrorist acts. Terrorism is distinctly different from acts that are intended to terrorize. In military contexts, almost all acts are intended to create fear. But terrorism is the organized, premeditated use of violence by non-state groups against non-combatants on order to advance an ideological goal.

Counter-terrorism refers to offensive strategies intended to to prevent, deter, preempt, and respond to terrorism."[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-JP1-02-0) In other words, counter-terrorism is a set of techniques for denying an opponent the use of terrorism-based tactics, just as counter-air is a set of techniques for denying the opponent the use of attack aircraft.

Anti-terrorism is defensive, intended to reduce the chance of an attack using terrorist tactics at specific points, or to reduce the vulnerability of possible targets to such tactics. *"Defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts, to include limited response and containment by local military and civilian forces."*[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-JP1-02-0)

To continue the analogy between air and terrorist capability, offensive anti-air missions attack the airfields of the opponent, while defensive anti-air uses anti-aircraft missiles to protect a point on one's own territory. The ongoing [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-Palestinian_conflict),[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-CS-Israel-1) [Sri Lankan Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Civil_War),[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-WikiPedia-2) and [Colombian Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombian_Civil_War)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-CS-Colombia-3) are examples of conflicts where terrorism is present, along with other tactics, so that participants use counter- and anti-terrorism to limit the opponent's use of terror tactics. Units engaged in counter-terrorism include the US Navy Seals and Delta Force.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=2)**] Planning for, detecting and neutralizing potential terrorist acts**





[United States Customs and Border Protection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Customs_and_Border_Protection) officers, fully armed and armored for a counter-terrorism operation

Building a counter-terrorism plan involves all segments of a society or many government agencies. In dealing with foreign terrorists, the lead responsibility is usually at the national level. Because [propaganda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda) and [indoctrination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indoctrination) lie at the core of terrorism, understanding their profile and functions increases the ability to counter terrorism more effectively.

See the series of articles beginning with [intelligence cycle management](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_cycle_management), and, in particular, [intelligence analysis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_analysis). [HUMINT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HUMINT) presents techniques of describing the social networks that make up terrorist groups. Also relevant are the [motivations of the individual terrorist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterintelligence#Counter-HUMINT) and the [structure of cell systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine_HUMINT_operational_techniques#Cellular_organization) used by recent non-national terrorist groups.

Most counter-terrorism strategies involve an increase in standard police and domestic intelligence. The central activities are traditional: [interception of communications](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_tapping), and the tracing of persons. New technology has, however, expanded the range of [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhunt_%28military%29) and [law enforcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhunt_%28law_enforcement%29) operations.

Domestic intelligence is often directed at specific groups, defined on the basis of origin or religion, which is a source of political controversy. [Mass surveillance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_surveillance) of an entire population raises objections on [civil liberties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_liberties) grounds. [homegrown terrorists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homegrown_terrorism), especially [lone wolves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lone-wolf_fighter) are often harder to detect because of their citizenship or legal alien status and better ability to stay under the radar.

To select the effective action when terrorism appears to be more of an isolated event, the appropriate government organizations need to understand the source, motivation, methods of preparation, and tactics of terrorist groups. Good intelligence is at the heart of such preparation, as well as political and social understanding of any grievances that might be solved. Ideally, one gets information from inside the group, a very difficult challenge for [HUMINT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HUMINT) because [operational terrorist cells](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine_cell_system) are often small, with all members known to one another, perhaps even related.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Feiler2007-4)

[Counterintelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterintelligence) is a great challenge with the security of cell-based systems, since the ideal, but nearly impossible, goal is to obtain a [clandestine source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine_HUMINT) within the cell. Financial tracking can play a role, as can [communications intercept](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SIGINT), but both of these approaches need to be balanced against legitimate expectations of privacy.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=3)**] Legal contexts**

*Main article:* [*Anti-terrorism legislation*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-terrorism_legislation)

In response to the growing legislation.

* [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom)
	+ The [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) has had anti-terrorism legislation in place for more than thirty years. The [Prevention of Violence Act 1939](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Prevention_of_Violence_Act_1939&action=edit&redlink=1) was brought in response to an Irish Republican Army (IRA) campaign of violence under the [S-Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-Plan). This act had been allowed to expire in 1953 and was repealed in 1973 to be replaced by the [Prevention of Terrorism Acts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention_of_Terrorism_Acts) a response to [the Troubles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Troubles) in [Northern Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland). From 1974 to 1989 the temporary provisions of the act were renewed annually.
	+ In 2000 the Acts were replaced with the more permanent [Terrorism Act 2000](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_Act_2000), which contained many of their powers, and then the [Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention_of_Terrorism_Act_2005).
	+ The [Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-terrorism%2C_Crime_and_Security_Act_2001) was formally introduced into the Parliament November 19, 2001 two months after the [September 11, 2001 attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11%2C_2001_attacks) in America. It received royal assent and went into force on December 13, 2001. On December 16, 2004 the Law Lords ruled that Part 4 was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, but under the terms of the [Human Rights Act 1998](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Act_1998) it remained in force. The [Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention_of_Terrorism_Act_2005) was drafted to answer the Law Lords ruling and the [Terrorism Act 2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_Act_2006) creates new offences related to terrorism, and amends existing ones. The Act was drafted in the aftermath of the [7 July 2005 London bombings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_July_2005_London_bombings), and like its predecessors some of its terms have proven to be highly controversial.
* [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)
	+ U.S. legal issues surrounding this issue include rulings on the domestic employment of [Deadly force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deadly_force) by law enforcement organizations.
	+ Search and seizure is governed by the [Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution).
	+ The US passed the [USA PATRIOT Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_PATRIOT_Act) after the 9/11 attacks, as well as a range of other legislation and [executive orders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_orders).
	+ The [Department of Homeland Security](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Homeland_Security) was established to consolidate domestic security agencies to coordinate anti-terrorism, as well as national response to major natural disasters and accidents.
	+ The [Posse Comitatus Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Posse_Comitatus_Act) limits domestic employment of the [United States Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army), requiring Presidential approval prior to deploying the Army. [Pentagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon) policy also applies this limitation to the [United States Marine Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps), [United States Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy), and [United States Air Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force). The [Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense) can be employed domestically on Presidential order, as was done during the [Los Angeles riots of 1992](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_riots_of_1992), [Hurricane Katrina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina) and the [Beltway Sniper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beltway_Sniper) incidents.
	+ External or international use of lethal force would require a [Presidential finding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_finding).
* [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia)
	+ Australia has passed several anti-terrorism acts. In 2004, a bill comprising three acts [Anti-terrorism Act, 2004, (No 2) and (No 3)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_anti-terrorism_legislation%2C_2004) was passed. Then Attorney-General, [Philip Ruddock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Ruddock), introduced the *Anti-terrorism bill, 2004* on March 31. He described it as *"a bill to strengthen Australia's counter-*[*terrorism*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) *laws in a number of respects — a task made more urgent following the recent tragic* [*terrorist bombings in Spain*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11_March_2004_Madrid_attacks)*."* He said that Australia's counter-terrorism laws "require review and, where necessary, updating if we are to have a legal framework capable of safeguarding all Australians from the scourge of terrorism." The [Australian Anti-Terrorism Act 2005](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Anti-Terrorism_Act_2005) supplemented the powers of the earlier acts. The Australian legislation allows police to detain suspects for up to two weeks without charge and to electronically track suspects for up to a year. The [Australian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Anti-Terrorism_Act_2005#The_.22Shoot_to_Kill.22_Clause) included a "shoot-to-kill" clause. In a country with entrenched [liberal democratic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_democracy) traditions, the measures are controversial and have been criticized by [civil libertarians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_libertarian) and [Islamic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) groups.
* [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel)
	+ Israel monitors a list of designated [terrorist organizations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorist_organization) and has laws forbidding membership in such organizations, funding or helping them in any way.
	+ On December 14, 2006 the [Israeli Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Supreme_Court) ruled [targeted killings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_targeted_killings) were a permitted form of self defense.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-5)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=4)**] Terrorism and human rights**

One of the primary difficulties of implementing effective counter-terrorist measures is the waning of civil liberties and individual privacy that such measures often entail, both for citizens of, and for those detained by states attempting to combat terror. At times, measures designed to tighten security have been seen as [abuses of power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuses_of_power) or even violations of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights).

Examples of these problems can include prolonged, incommunicado detention without judicial review; risk of subjecting to torture during the transfer, return and extradition of people between or within countries; and the adoption of security measures that restrain the rights or freedoms of citizens and breach principles of non-discrimination.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6) Examples include:

* In November 2003 [Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia) passed new counter-terrorism laws that were widely criticized by local [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) groups for being vague and overbroad. Critics claim that the laws put the basic rights of free expression, association, and assembly at risk. Malaysia persisted in holding around 100 alleged militants without trial, including five Malaysian students detained for alleged terrorist activity while studying in Karachi, Pakistan.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6)
* In November 2003 a Canadian-Syrian national, Maher Arar, alleged publicly that he had been tortured in a Syrian prison after being handed over to the Syrian authorities by U.S.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6)
* In December 2003 Colombia's congress approved legislation that would give the military the power to arrest, tap telephones and carry out searches without warrants or any previous judicial order.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6)
* Images of unpopular treatment of detainees in US custody in Iraq and other locations have encouraged international scrutiny of US operations in the war on terror.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)
* Hundreds of foreign nationals remain in prolonged indefinite detention without charge or trial in Guantánamo Bay, despite international and US constitutional standards some groups believe outlaw such practices.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)
* Hundreds of people suspected of connections with the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) or al Qa'eda remain in long-term detention in Pakistan or in US-controlled centers in Afghanistan.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)
* China has used the "war on terror" to justify its policies in the predominantly Muslim Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region to stifle Uighur identity.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)
* In Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen and other countries, scores of people have been arrested and arbitrarily detained in connection with suspected terrorist acts or links to opposition armed groups.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)
* Until 2005 eleven men remained in high security detention in the UK under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)

Many would argue that such violations exacerbate rather than counter the terrorist threat.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6) Human rights advocates argue for the crucial role of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) protection as an intrinsic part to fight against terrorism.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7) This suggests, as proponents of [human security](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_security) have long argued, that respecting [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) may indeed help us to incur security. [Amnesty International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) included a section on confronting terrorism in the recommendations in the Madrid Agenda arising from the Madrid Summit on Democracy and Terrorism (Madrid 8–11 March 2005):

"Democratic principles and values are essential tools in the fight against terrorism. Any successful strategy for dealing with terrorism requires terrorists to be isolated. Consequently, the preference must be to treat terrorism as criminal acts to be handled through existing systems of law enforcement and with full respect for [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) and the rule of law. We recommend: (1) taking effective measures to make impunity impossible either for acts of terrorism or for the abuse of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) in counter-terrorism measures. (2) the incorporation of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) laws in all anti-terrorism programmes and policies of national governments as well as international bodies."[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Amnesty_International_2005-7)

While international efforts to combat terrorism have focused on the need to enhance cooperation between states, proponents of human rights (as well as [human security](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_security)) have suggested that more effort needs to be given to the effective inclusion of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) protection as a crucial element in that cooperation. They argue that international [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) obligations do not stop at borders and a failure to respect [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) in one state may undermine its effectiveness in the international effort to cooperate to combat terrorism.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Human_Rights_News_2004-6)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=5)**] Preemptive neutralization**

Some countries see preemptive attacks as a legitimate strategy. This includes capturing, killing, or disabling suspected terrorists before they can mount an attack. [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel), the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), and [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) have taken this approach, while Western European states generally do not.

Another major method of preemptive neutralization is [interrogation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interrogation) of known or suspected terrorists to obtain information about specific plots, targets, the identity of other terrorists, whether or not the interrogation subjects himself is guilty of terrorist involvement. Sometimes more extreme methods are used to increase [suggestibility](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suggestibility), such as [sleep deprivation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleep_deprivation) or drugs. Such methods may lead captives to offer false information in an attempt to stop the treatment, or due to the confusion brought on by it. These methods are not tolerated by European powers. In 1978 the [European Court of Human Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Court_of_Human_Rights) ruled in the [Ireland v. United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland_v._United_Kingdom_%281978%29) case that [such methods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_techniques) amounted to a practice of inhuman and degrading treatment, and that such practices were in breach of the [European Convention on Human Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Convention_on_Human_Rights) Article 3 (art. 3).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=6)**] Non-military preventive actions**

The [human security](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_security) paradigm outlines a non-military approach which aims to address the enduring underlying inequalities which fuel terrorist activity. Causal factors need to be delineated and measures implemented which allow equal access to resources and [sustainability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability) for all people. Such activities empower citizens providing 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want'.

This can take many forms including the provision of clean drinking water, education, vaccination programs, provision of food and shelter and protection from violence, military or otherwise. Successful human security campaigns have been characterized by the participation of a diverse group of actors including governments, [NGOs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NGOs), and citizens.

[Foreign internal defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_internal_defense) programs provide outside expert assistance to a threatened government. FID can involve both non-military and military aspects of counter-terrorism.

Another preventative action that has been used is the threat of and use of pork and pork products against radical religious groups that feel that contact with pork will render them unclean. The bodies of killed terrorists are daubed with lard and buried wrapped in pigskin.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-8)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=7)**] Military intervention**

Terrorism has often been used to justify military intervention in countries like Pakistan and Iran where terrorists are said to be based. That was the main stated justification for the [U.S. invasion of Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_%282001%E2%80%93present%29). It was also a stated justification for the [second Russian invasion of Chechnya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Russian_invasion_of_Chechnya).

History has shown that military intervention has rarely been successful in stopping or preventing terrorism.[[*dubious*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ADisputed_statement) *–* [*discuss*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk%3ACounter-terrorism#Dubious)] Although military action can disrupt a terrorist group's operations temporarily, it rarely ends the threat.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-9)

Thus repression by the military in itself (particularly if it is not accompanied by other measures) usually leads to short term victories, but tend to be unsuccessful in the long run (e.g. the [French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France)'s doctrine described in [Roger Trinquier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Trinquier)'s book *Modern War*[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-Trinquier-10) used in [Indochina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indochina) and [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria)). However, new methods (see the new *Counterinsurgency* Field Manual[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-FM3-24-11)) such as those taken in [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) have yet to be seen as beneficial or ineffectual.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=8)**] Planning for response to terrorism**

Police, fire, and emergency medical response organizations have obvious roles. Local [firefighters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firefighter) and emergency medical personnel (often called "first responders") have plans for mitigating the effects of terrorist attacks, although police may deal with threats of such attacks.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=9)**] Target-hardening**

Whatever the target of terrorists, there are multiple ways of hardening the targets to prevent the terrorists from hitting their mark, or reducing the damage of attacks. One method is to place [Jersey barrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jersey_barrier) or other sturdy obstacles outside tall or politically sensitive buildings to prevent car and [truck bombing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truck_bomb).

Aircraft cockpits are kept locked during flights, and have reinforced doors, which only the pilots in the cabin are capable of opening. [English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) [train stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Train_stations) removed their [garbage cans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_can) in response to the [Provisional IRA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provisional_Irish_Republican_Army) threat, as convenient locations for depositing bombs.

[Scottish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) stations removed theirs after the [7th of July bombing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_July_2005_London_Bombings) of London as a precautionary measure. The [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Transportation_Authority) purchased bomb-resistant barriers after the [September 11 terrorist attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_terrorist_attacks).

A more sophisticated target-hardening approach must consider industrial and other critical industrial infrastructure that could be attacked. Terrorists need not import chemical weapons if they can cause a major industrial accident such as the [Bhopal disaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhopal_disaster) or the [Halifax explosion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halifax_explosion). Industrial chemicals in manufacturing, shipping, and storage need greater protection, and some efforts are in progress.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-12) To put this risk into perspective, the first [major lethal chemical attack in WWI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poison_gas_in_World_War_I#1915:_large_scale_use_and_lethal_gases) used 160 tons of chlorine. Industrial shipments of chlorine, widely used in water purification and the chemical industry, travel in 90 or 55 ton tank cars.

To give one more example, the North American electrical grid has already demonstrated, in the [Northeast Blackout of 2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_Blackout_of_2003), its vulnerability to natural disasters coupled with inadequate, possibly insecure, [SCADA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCADA) (supervisory control and data acquisition) networks. Part of the vulnerability is due to deregulation leading to much more interconnection in a grid designed for only occasional power-selling between utilities. A very few terrorists, attacking key power facilities when one or more engineers have infiltrated the power control centers, could wreak havoc.

Equipping likely targets with containers (i.e., bags) of pig lard has been utilized to discourage attacks by Islamist suicide bombers. The technique was apparently used on a limited scale by British authorities in the 1940s.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-13) The approach stems from the idea that Muslims perpetrating the attack would not want to be "soiled" by the lard in the moment prior to dying. The idea has been suggested more recently as a deterrent to suicide bombings in Israel.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-14) However, the actual effectiveness of this tactic is probably limited as it is possible that a sympathetic Islamic scholar could issue a [fatwa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatwa) proclaiming that a suicide bomber would not be polluted by the swine products.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=10)**] Command and control**

In North America and other continents, for a threatened or completed terrorist attack, the [Incident Command System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incident_Command_System) (ICS) is apt to be invoked to control the various services that may need to be involved in the response. ICS has varied levels of escalation, such as might be needed for multiple incidents in a given area (e.g., [the 2005 bombings in London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attacks_on_the_London_Underground#2005_terrorist_bomb_attacks) or the [2004 Madrid train bombings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Madrid_train_bombings), or all the way to a [National Response Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Response_Plan) invocation if national-level resources are needed. National response, for example, might be needed for a nuclear, biological, radiological, or large chemical attack.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=11)**] Damage mitigation**

[Fire departments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_department), perhaps supplemented by public works agencies, utility providers (e.g., gas, water, electricity), and heavy construction contractors, are most apt to deal with the physical consequences of an attack.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=12)**] Local security**

Again under an incident command model, local [police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police) can isolate the incident area, reducing confusion, and specialized police units can conduct tactical operations against terrorists, often using [specialized counter-terrorist tactical units](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#Counter-terrorism_tactical_units). Bringing in such units will normally involve civil or military authority beyond the local level.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=13)**] Medical services**

Emergency medical services will bring the more seriously affected victims to hospitals, which will need to have mass casualty and [triage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triage) plans in place.

Public health agencies, from local to national level, may be designated to deal with identification, and sometimes mitigation, of possible biological attacks, and sometimes chemical or radiologic contamination.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=14)**] Counter-terrorism tactical units**





[Royal Malaysian Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Malaysian_Police) Pasukan Gerakan Khas officers

Today, many countries have special units designated to handle terrorist threats. Besides various security agencies, there are elite tactical units, also known as special mission units, whose role is to directly engage terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks.

Such units perform both in preventive actions, hostage rescue and responding to on-going attacks. Countries of all sizes can have highly trained counter-terrorist teams. Tactics, techniques and procedures for [manhunting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhunt_%28military%29) are under constant development.

Most of these measures deal with terrorist attacks that affect an area, or threaten to do so. It is far harder to deal with assassination, or even reprisals on individuals, due to the short (if any) warning time and the quick exfiltration of the assassins.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-15)

These units are specially trained in [tactics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_tactics) and are very well equipped for [CQB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_quarters_battle) with emphasis on stealth and performing the mission with minimal casualties. The units include take-over force (assault teams), [snipers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sniper), [EOD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explosive_Ordnance_Disposal) experts, dog handlers and intelligence officers. See [Counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism organizations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-intelligence_and_counter-terrorism_organizations) for national command, intelligence, and incident mitigation.

The majority of counter-terrorism operations at the tactical level, are conducted by state, federal and national [law enforcement agencies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police) or [intelligence agencies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_agency). In some countries, the military may be called in as a last resort. Obviously, for countries whose military are legally permitted to conduct [police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police) operations, this is a non-issue, and such counter-terrorism operations are conducted by their military.

See [Counter-intelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-intelligence) for command, intelligence and warning, and incident mitigation aspects of counter-terror.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=15)**] Examples of actions**

Some counterterrorist actions of the 20th century are listed below. See [List of hostage crises](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hostage_crises) for a more extended list, including hostage-taking that did not end violently.

|  |
| --- |
| Representative Hostage Rescue Operations |
| **Incident** | **Main locale** | **Hostage nationality** | **Kidnappers/hijackers** | **Counter-terrorist force** | **Results** |
| 1972 | [Munich Massacre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_Massacre) | Munich Olympics, Germany | Israeli | [Black September](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_%28group%29) | [Israeli Mossad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mossad), [German police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_police) | All hostages murdered, 5 kidnappers killed. 3 kidnappers captured and released. |
| 1975 | [AIA Hostage Incident](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975_AIA_building_hostage_crisis) | AIA building, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | US, Swedish Embassies. Mixed | [Japanese Red Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Red_Army) | Malaysian police | All hostages rescued, all kidnappers flew up to Libya. |
| 1976 | [Entebbe raid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Entebbe) | Entebbe, Uganda | Mixed. Israelis and Jews separated into a different room, non-Jewish hostages were released shortly after capture. | [PFLP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFLP) | [Sayeret Matkal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayeret_Matkal), Sayeret Tzanhanim, Sayeret Golani | All 6 hijackers, 45 Ugandan troops, 3 hostages and 1 Israeli soldier dead. 100 hostages rescued |
| 1972 | Hijacking of [Lufthansa Flight 181](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lufthansa_Flight_181) | Spanish airspace and Mogadishu, Somalia | Mixed | [PFLP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PFLP) | [GSG 9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9), [Special Air Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service) consultants | 1 hostage, 3 hijackers dead, 1 captured. 90 hostages rescued. |
| 1980 | [Iranian Embassy Siege](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_Embassy_Siege) | London, UK | Mostly Iranian but some British | Democratic Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Arabistan | [Special Air Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service) | 1 hostage, 5 kidnappers dead, 1 captured. 24 hostages rescued. 1 SAS operative received minor burns. |
| 1981 | Hijacking of "Woyla" [Garuda Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garuda_Indonesia) | [Don Muang International Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Muang_International_Airport), [Thailand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand) | Indonesian | Jihad Commandos | [Kopassus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kopassus), [RTAF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Thai_Air_Force) mixed forces | 1 hijacker killed himself, 4 hijackers and 1 Kopassus operative dead, 1 pilot wounded, all hostages rescued. |
| 1983 | [Turkish embassy attack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983_Turkish_embassy_attack_in_Lisbon) | [Lisbon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon), [Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) | Turkish | [Armenian Revolutionary Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Revolutionary_Army) | [GOE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grupo_de_Opera%C3%A7%C3%B5es_Especiais_%28Portugal%29) | 5 hijackers, 1 hostage and 1 policeman dead, 1 hostage and 1 policeman wounded. |
| 1985 | Capture of [Achille Lauro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MS_Achille_Lauro) hijackers | International airspace and Italy | Mixed | [PLO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLO) | US military, turned over to Italy | 1 dead in hijacking, 4 hijackers convicted in Italy |
| 1993 | [Operation Ashwamedh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Ashwamedh) | Amritsar,India | 141 passengers | Islamic terrorist(Mohammed Yousuf Shah) | [NSG commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Guards) | 1 hijacker killed,all hostages rescued |
| 1996 | [Japanese embassy hostage crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_embassy_hostage_crisis) | Lima, Peru | Japanese and guests (800+) | [Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%BApac_Amaru_Revolutionary_Movement) | Peruvian military & police mixed forces | 1 hostage, 2 rescuers, all 14 kidnappers dead. |
| 2000 | [Sauk Arms Heist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sauk_Arms_Heist) | Perak, Malaysia | 2 policemens, 1 army and 1 civilian | [Al-Ma'unah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ma%27unah) | [Grup Gerak Khas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grup_Gerak_Khas) and 20 police [Pasukan Gerakan Khas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasukan_Gerakan_Khas) mixed forces | 2 hostages dead, 2 rescuers, 1 kidnapper dead and all 28 kidnappers captured. |
| 2002 | [Moscow theater hostage crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_theater_hostage_crisis) | Moscow | Mixed, mostly Russian (900+) | Chechen | Russian [spetsnaz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spetsnaz) | 129-204 hostages dead, all 39 kidnappers dead. 600-700 hostages freed. |
| 2004 | [Beslan school hostage crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beslan_school_hostage_crisis) | Beslan, North Ossetia-Alania, (an autonomous republic in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation). | Russian | Chechen | Mixed Russian | 334 hostages dead and hundreds wounded. 10-21 rescuers dead. 31 kidnappers killed, 1 captured. |
| 2007 | [Lal Masjid siege](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lal_Masjid_siege) | Islamabad, Pakistan | Pakistani students | Lal Masjid students and militants | Pakistani Army and Rangers SSG commandos | 61 militants killed, 50 militants captured, 23 students killed, 11 SSG killed,1 Ranger killed,33 SSG wounded,8 soldiers wounded,3 Rangers wounded, 14 civilians killed |
| 2007 | [Kirkuk Hostage Rescue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20_June_2009_Taza_bombing) | Kirkuk, Iraq | Turkman Child Rescued by PUK's Kurdistan Regional Government's CTG [Counter Terrorism Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter_Terrorism_Group&action=edit&redlink=1) in Kirkuk from Arab kidnappers | Islamic State of Iraq [Al Qaeda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Qaeda) | 5 kidnappers arrested, 1 hostage rescued |  |
| 2008 | [Operation Jaque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Jaque) | Colombia | Mixed | Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia |  | 15 hostages released. 2 kidnappers captured |
| 2008 | Operations Dawn | Gulf of Aden, [Somalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somalia) | Mixed | Somalian piracy and militants | [PASKAL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PASKAL) and international mixed forces | Negotiation finished. 80 hostages released. RMN including PASKAL navy commandos with international mixed forces patrolling the Gulf of Aden during this festive period.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-16)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-17)[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-18) |
| 2008 | [2008 Mumbai attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Mumbai_attacks) | Multiple locations in [Mumbai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mumbai) city | Indian Nationals, Foreign tourists | [Ajmal Qasab and other Pakistani nationals affiliated to Laskar-e-taiba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Mumbai_attacks#Attribution) | 300 [NSG commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Guards), 36-100 [Marine commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MARCOS_%28India%29) and 400 army [Para Commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Para_Commandos_%28India%29) | 141 Indian civilians, 30 foreigners, 15 policemen and two NSG commandos were killed.9 attackers killed,1 attacker captured and 293 injured |
| 2009 | [2009 Lahore Attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_attack_on_the_Sri_Lanka_national_cricket_team) | Multiple locations in [Lahore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore) city | Pakistan | [Laskar-e-taiba or LeT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lashkar-e-Taiba) | [Police Commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Police_Commandos&action=edit&redlink=1), [Army Rangers Battalion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Army_Rangers) | fired upon by 12 gunmen, near the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan. The cricketers were on their way to play the third day of the second Test against the Pakistani cricket team. Six members of the Sri Lankan cricket team were injured. Six Pakistani policemen and two civilians killed.30 March 2009, the Manawan Police Academy in Lahore, Pakistan attacked by an estimated 12 gunmen. The perpetrators were armed with automatic weapons and grenades or rockets and some were dressed as policemen. During the course of the attack and siege eight police personnel, two civilians and eight gunmen killed and 95 people injured.[1] At least four of the gunmen captured alive by the security forces. The terrorist attacks took place at the offices of Rescue-15 and the (ISI) as well as the official residences of police officers at the Plaza Cinema Chowk at around 10:10am. At least three terrorists, Toyota Hiace van laden with high quality explosives. The toll of the explosion was heavy. No less than 70 vehicles and motorcycles and dozens of adjacent and nearby buildings, mostly used for shops and offices, were damaged. Among the dead were 16 policemen, an army officer and many civilians including a 12-year-old boy. More than 251 others were injured. |

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=16)**] Designing Anti-terrorism systems**

The scope for Anti-terrorism systems is very large in physical terms (long borders, vast areas, high traffic volumes in busy cities, etc.) as well as in other dimensions, such as type and degree of terrorism threat, political and diplomatic ramifications, and legal issues. In this environment, the development of a persistent Anti-terrorism protection system is a daunting task. Such a system should bring together diverse state-of-the-art technologies to enable persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, and enable potential actions. Designing such a system-of-systems comprises a major technological project.

A particular design problem for this system is that it will face many [uncertainties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncertainty) in the future. The threat of terrorism may increase, decrease or remain the same, the type of terrorism and location are difficult to predict, and there are technological uncertainties. Yet we want to design a terrorism system conceived and designed today in order to prevent acts of terrorism for a decade or more. A potential solution is to incorporate [flexibility](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flexibility_%28engineering%29) into system design for the reason that the flexibility embedded can be exercised in future as [uncertainty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncertainty) unfolds and updated information arrives. And the design and valuation of a protection system should not be based on a single scenario, but an array of scenarios. Flexibility can be incorporated in the design of the terrorism system in the form of options that can be exercised in the future when new information is available. Using these ‘[real options](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_options)’ will create a flexible Anti-terrorism system that is able to cope with new requirements that may arise.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_note-19)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=17)**] Law enforcement counter-terrorist organizations by country**





Assault car of the French [GIGN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIGN).

+ indicates military organization allowed to operate domestically.

Examples include:

* Argentina: GEOF (Special Group of Federal Operations, Federal Arg Police) Falcon Commando (Comando Halcon, State Buenos Aires Police)
* Australia: State and [Australian Federal Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Federal_Police), [Police Tactical Groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_Tactical_Group), Australian Protective Service (APS), [Tactical Assault Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service_Regiment) (TAG East & TAG West), and [Australian Security and Intelligence Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Security_and_Intelligence_Organization) (ASIO)
* Austria: [EKO Cobra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EKO_Cobra); [Austrian Military Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_Military_Police)+ (Kommando Militärstreife & Militärpolizei — Kdo MilStrf&MP)
* Bangladesh: [Rapid Action Battalion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapid_Action_Battalion)+; [Police Swat](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Police_Swat&action=edit&redlink=1); [Bangladesh Paracommandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bangladesh_Paracommandos&action=edit&redlink=1); Bangladesh Navy [Special Warfare Diving and Salvage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Warfare_Diving_and_Salvage) (BN SWADS)
* Brazil: State/local Police SWAT teams: [BOPE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batalh%C3%A3o_de_Opera%C3%A7%C3%B5es_Policiais_Especiais), [COE](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=COE_(Brazil)&action=edit&redlink=1), GATE, [COT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COT_Comando_de_a%C3%A7%C3%B5es_t%C3%A1ticas)
* Bosnia and Herzegovina: [SIPA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr%C5%BEavna_Agencija_za_Istrage_i_Za%C5%A1titu)
* Bulgaria:[SOBT](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Specializiran_Otriad_za_Borba_s_Terorizma&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Canada: [JTF2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Task_Force_2)
* Chile: GOPE (Police Special Operations Group, Chilean Carabineros) ERTA (Tactic Reaction Team, PDI Chilean Civil Police)
* China: [Snow Leopard Commando Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_Leopard_Commando_Unit)+, [Beijing SWAT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing_SWAT), [Special Police Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Police_Unit) and [Immediate Action Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immediate_Action_Unit)+
* Croatia [Lučko Anti-Terrorist Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lu%C4%8Dko_Anti-Terrorist_Unit), [RH Alfa](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RH_Alfa&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Czech: [URNA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/URNA) National Police Rapid Response Unit or [Útvar rychlého nasazení](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%9Atvar_rychl%C3%A9ho_nasazen%C3%AD)
* Denmark: [Politiets Aktionsstyrke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politiets_Aktionsstyrke)
* Dominican Republic: Anti-terrorism Special Command — Comando Especial Contra Terrorismo
* Egypt: [Unit 777](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unit_777)
* Estonia: [K-Commando](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-Commando)
* Finland [Karhu-ryhmä](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karhu-ryhm%C3%A4), [Utti Jaeger Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utti_Jaeger_Regiment), [Guard Jaeger Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guard_Jaeger_Regiment)
* France: Police units [GIPN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIPN), [RAID](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recherche_Assistance_Intervention_Dissuasion) and Gendarmerie [GIGN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIGN)+
* Germany: Police [SEK](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spezialeinsatzkommando) / [MEK](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mobiles_Einsatzkommando&action=edit&redlink=1), USK ([Bavarian State Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bavarian_State_Police)), [ZUZ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zentrale_Unterst%C3%BCtzungsgruppe_Zoll) and [Bundespolizei](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Police_%28Germany%29) [GSG 9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9)+
* Greece: Anti-Terror Division, [Greek Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Police) and [Special Anti-Terrorist Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Anti-Terrorist_Unit).
* Hong Kong: [Police Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong_Police_Force) [Special Duties Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Duties_Unit), [Airport Security Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airport_Security_Unit_%28Hong_Kong%29) and [Counter Terrorism Response Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter_Terrorism_Response_Unit&action=edit&redlink=1).
* Hungary: Commando Neutron I-II.
* Iceland: [Víkingasveitin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C3%ADkingasveitin)
* India: [NSG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Guards), [Force One](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Force_One), State and Metropolitan Police Commandos and SWAT Teams.
* Indonesia: [Detachment 88](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Detachment_88)
* Iran: [NAJA](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=NAJA&action=edit&redlink=1) [Iranian Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Iran), [NOPO Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=NOPO_Team&action=edit&redlink=1) Anti-terror special force
* Iraq: [Iraqi Hillah Swat](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Iraqi_Hillah_Swat&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Ireland: [Emergency Response Unit (Garda)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_Response_Unit_%28Garda%29), [Irish Army Ranger Wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Army_Ranger_Wing)
* Israel: [YAMAM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YAMAM) – elite [Israeli Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Police) anti-terror unit (counter-terror, foiling terrorism, hostages rescue etc.), "[Mistaaravim](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mistaaravim&action=edit&redlink=1)" – [IDF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces) and [Border Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border_Guard) undercover units for foiling terrorism, [Shin Bet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shin_Bet) - counter-terrorism [intelligence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_intelligence) and security agency
* Italy: [NOCS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nucleo_Operativo_Centrale_di_Sicurezza), [GIS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gruppo_di_Intervento_Speciale)
* Japan: [Special Assault Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Assault_Team), [Special Security Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Security_Team)
* Korea, South: [707th Special Mission Unit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/707th_Special_Mission_Unit)+
* Latvia: [OMEGA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OMEGA) police unit
* Lithuania: [ARAS (Force)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARAS_%28Force%29) Lithuanian Police force of antiterrorism operations
* Malaysia: [Pasukan Gerakan Khas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasukan_Gerakan_Khas), [UNGERIN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGERIN), [Rapid Actions Troops](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trup_Tindakan_Cepat), [STAR APMM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Task_And_Rescue)
* Netherlands:[DSI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dienst_Speciale_Interventies)+ (Dutch: Dienst Speciale Interventies, Special Interventions Service) and police special arrest teams [Royal Marechaussee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Marechaussee)(Dutch: Brigade Speciale Beveiligingsopdrachten, Special Security Task Brigade)Dutch marines BBE
* New Zealand: [Special Tactics Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Tactics_Group), [NZSAS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NZSAS) Tactical Assault Group (TAG)
* Norway: [Beredskapstroppen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beredskapstroppen), [FSK](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forsvarets_Spesialkommando_%28FSK%29)+
* Poland: [GROM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GROM), [SPAP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Policja#Anti-terrorist_forces_.28BOA.2FSPAP.29)
* Portugal: [GOE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grupo_de_Opera%C3%A7%C3%B5es_Especiais_%28Portugal%29) and [COE](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Companhia_de_Opera%C3%A7%C3%B5es_Especiais&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Pakistan: [Special Service Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Service_Group), [Pakistan Army Rangers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Army_Rangers), and [Elite Police Commandos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elite_Police)
* Philippines: [PNP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_National_Police)-[Special Action Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Action_Force), [Philippine Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_Navy)-[Naval Special Warfare Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Special_Warfare_Group), Coast Guard-Special Operations Group and police [SWAT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWAT) teams
* Romania: [Brigada Antiteroristă](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigada_Antiterorist%C4%83), (counter-terrorist brigade)
* Russia: [Spetsgruppa A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spetsgruppa_A), [Vympel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vympel)
* Serbia: [SAJ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Anti-Terrorist_Unit_%28Serbia%29), [PTJ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PTJ_%28Counter-Terrorist_Unit%29), [Cobras MP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Police_Battalion_Cobra), [MP-CT Battalion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorist_Battalion_of_MP_Serbian_Special_Brigade)
* Sri Lanka: [Special Task Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Task_Force)
* Spain: [GEO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grupo_Especial_de_Operaciones) and [UEI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unidad_Especial_de_Intervenci%C3%B3n)
* Sweden: [National Task Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Task_Force) ([Nationella Insatsstyrkan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationella_Insatsstyrkan)) and [Särskilda Skyddsgruppen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A4rskilda_Skyddsgruppen) (Special Protection Group)
* Taiwan: [Thunder Squad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunder_Squad)
* Turkey: [Özel tim-Özel Harekat Timi (Special Team)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96zel_tim-%C3%96zel_Harekat_Timi_%28Special_Team%29) and [Maroon Berets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maroon_Berets)
* Tunisia: [BAT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigade_Anti-terrorisme) and [USGN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USGN)
* UK: [Counter Terrorism Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter_Terrorism_Command)
* Uruguay: GEO (Uruguayan Police) and Escorpión Commando Group (Uruguayan Army)
* U.S.: [FBI Hostage Rescue Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostage_Rescue_Team), [Federal Air Marshal Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Air_Marshal_Service), [U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Air_Force_Office_of_Special_Investigations) Anti-Terrorism Specialty Teams, [Immigration and Customs Enforcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_and_Customs_Enforcement), [BORTAC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BORTAC), state/local Police [SWAT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWAT) teams

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=18)**] Military counter-terrorist organizations by country**

*For more details on this topic, see* [*List of special forces units*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_special_forces_units)*.*

Given the nature of operational counter-terrorism tasks national military organizations do not generally have dedicated units whose sole responsibility is the prosecution of these tasks. Instead the counter-terrorism function is an element of the role, allowing flexibility in their employment, with operations being undertaken in the domestic or international context.

In some cases the legal framework within which they operate prohibits military units conducting operations in the domestic arena; [United States Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense) policy, based on the [Posse Comitatus Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Posse_Comitatus_Act), forbids domestic counter-terrorism operations by the U.S. military. Units allocated some operational counter-terrorism task are frequently [Special Forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Forces) or similar assets.

In cases where military organisations do operate in the domestic context some form of formal handover from the law enforcement community is regularly required, to ensure adherence to the legislative framework and limitations. such as the [Iranian Embassy Siege](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_Embassy_Siege), the British police formally turned responsibility over to the [Special Air Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service) when the situation went beyond police capabilities.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=19)**] See also**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Book icon | [***Book: Counterterrorism Handbook***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book%3ACounterterrorism_Handbook) |
| [Wikipedia books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ABooks) are collections of articles that can be downloaded or ordered in print. |

* [Civilian casualty ratio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_casualty_ratio)
* [Counterinsurgency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterinsurgency)
* [Explosive detection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explosive_detection)
* [Extrajudicial execution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extrajudicial_execution)
* [Extraordinary rendition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraordinary_rendition)
* [Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Initiative_to_Combat_Nuclear_Terrorism)
* [Informant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informant)
* [Irregular warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irregular_warfare)
* [Manhunt (law enforcement)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhunt_%28law_enforcement%29)
* [Manhunt (military)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhunt_%28military%29)
* [Preventive State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preventive_State)
* [Security increase](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_increase)
* [Special Activities Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Activities_Division), Central Intelligence Agency
* [Targeted killing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Targeted_killing)
* [Terrorism Research Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_Research_Center)

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| --- | --- |
| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/4/4a/Commons-logo.svg/30px-Commons-logo.svg.png | Wikimedia Commons has media related to: [***Counter-terrorism***](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special%3ASearch/Counter-terrorism) |

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Counter-terrorism&action=edit&section=20)**] Notes**

* 1. ^ [***a***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_ref-JP1-02_0-0) [***b***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_ref-JP1-02_0-1) [US Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Department_of_Defense) (12 July 2007). ["Joint Publication 1-02 Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms"](http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/new_pubs/jp1_02.pdf) (PDF). <http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/new_pubs/jp1_02.pdf>
	2. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism#cite_ref-CS-Israel_1-0) Metz, Helen Chapin (1988). ["The Occupied Territories"](http://countrystudies.us/israel/32.htm). *Israel: A Country Study*. Library of Congress. <http://countrystudies.us/israel/32.htm>
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