

## ***"Kill 'em all..." or "Teach a man to fish..."***

In my opinion, history shows that the "kill 'em all, let God sort 'em out" approach to counterinsurgency works. After all, it was how men like Saddam Hussein and Stalin, among others, quelled rebellion effectively within their borders. I also believe that, to varying degrees, this approach is a tempting alternative for many Americans, including some within the military. However, it is also my opinion that this approach is inconsistent with the values and culture of the United States. Obviously, it is inconsistent with the kind of leaders that West Point is trying to produce.

Fortunately, history also shows that there is a second more ethical approach that has also been effective. I'll call it a "developmental" approach. We already see a great deal (but far from all) of that method in some of our current doctrine, termed IDAD (typically pronounced "EYE-dad"), or Internal Defense and Development. Not only can this developmental approach work, but it also embraces and cultivates the very values that (at least I think) are most representative of U.S. and USMA cultures. In addition to Army values like duty, respect, selfless-service, and integrity, it also promotes a self-sufficient nation, creates representative (democratic) and responsive governments, and solves social, political, and economic problems.

You can defeat the ABC insurgency, but if you don't defeat the reasons why the ABC insurgency began, then you will soon have the DEF insurgency...and so on.... As a result, I believe that the second approach is not just more ethical, but also more effective...over the long term. So, what's the rub? It's harder. A lot harder. Very very very much harder. Time, money, lives, etc. Dropping nukes and turning Baghdad into a parking lot is faster, cheaper, and easier than investing 7 to 15 years of blood, lives, and marriages (at \$80 billion per year) to create a bustling, developing, democratic economy. But, choosing the harder right over the easier wrong is what leadership is all about.

"The IDAD strategy is the full range of measures taken by a nation to promote its growth and to protect itself from subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency. The strategy focuses on building viable political, economic, military, and social institutions that respond to the needs of society. Its fundamental goal is to prevent an insurgency or other forms of lawlessness or subversion by forestalling and defeating the threat and by working to correct conditions that prompt violence. The government mobilizes the population to participate in IDAD efforts. Thus, IDAD is ideally a preemptive strategy; however, if an insurgency, illicit drug, terrorist, or other threat develops, IDAD becomes an active strategy to combat that threat." Page B-1. Joint Publication 3-07.1.