

RESTRICTED

STAFF COLLEGECOUNTER INSURGENCY HANDBOOKINTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this Handbook is to provide the principles on which Term 4 Counter Insurgency (COIN) studies are based. The rewrite of Land Operations Volume III in the form of Army Field Manuals is not yet complete¹. In the meantime this Handbook provides an update in procedures and doctrine, covering the areas in which there are no written doctrinal references. In the main, the chapters stand on their own and give students at the Staff College the baseline of knowledge required for the discussion periods. It is not an authoritative reference and in many cases reflects the considered opinion of its several authors.
2. The Handbook is arranged so that the essential reading for the discussions is to be found in the chapters. The annexes contain mainly supplementary reading.
3. In addition to Land Operations Volume III, the following books have been particularly important source documents for the Handbook; they are available for study in the Term 4 syndicate book pack:
 - a. Defeating Communist Insurgency: Robert Thompson.
 - b. Low Intensity Operations: Frank Kitson.
 - c. Bunch of Five: Frank Kitson.
4. In the quarter century after World War II Britain was involved in a number of low intensity campaigns as we discarded our empire. Our opponents were generally from nationalist movements using classic guerilla tactics, often communist led although not always so, but certainly inspired by Leninist and Maoist doctrines of mobilizing the support of the people. This is what makes the political dimension of such wars a fundamental and overriding important factor in determining the outcome. Theories, strategies and tactics come and go depending on circumstances or merely intellectual fashion: the protagonists of revolutionary and counter revolutionary warfare must in the end battle to win the support of the people. The potential of this support is evident in such popular revolutions as those in the Shah's Iran, through Marcos' Philippines to the events in Eastern Europe in 1989-90 and the continuing tension in the former Yugoslav and Soviet states today. The lessons learned during the conduct of our 'small wars' and from observing the campaigns of others during the same period, paid off handsomely in our approach to operations in Dhofar in the early 1970s, and helped to defeat a communist insurgency. Whether we shall again be involved in similar adventures outside Europe remains to be seen.
5. It must not be forgotten, however, that at home in Northern Ireland we continue to deploy the equivalent of a large infantry

¹ Two publications are planned: AFM, Volume 1, Part 4 - Counter Revolutionary Operations; AFM, Volume 5, Part 2 - Counter Revolutionary Tactics, Procedures and Techniques.