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## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our survey!

You are about to participate in a 15 minute survey conducted by researchers at Stanford University. The purpose of this research is to gather opinions of US Army personnel on the effectiveness of counterinsurgency practices in various operational environments. This survey is open to active duty service members of the US Army and anyone who has been an active duty service member of the US Army within the past 15 years. You do not need to have had deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations to participate in the survey.

Taking the survey is voluntary, you have the right to refuse to answer any questions, and you may stop at any time. The results of this study may be published in scientific journals or presented at professional meetings. Your responses and personal information will be kept confidential. By participating in this survey, you are contributing to scientific knowledge. We therefore kindly request you answer candidly and take your time in answering the questions.

If you have questions about this study, please contact the researchers at [vbauer@stanford.edu](mailto:vbauer@stanford.edu). You may also contact the Stanford Institutional Review Board (IRB) to speak to someone independent of the research team by phone at 650-723-2480 or toll free at 866-680-2906, or by email at [IRB2-Manager@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:IRB2-Manager@lists.stanford.edu).

If you understand the information provided and consent to participate in this study, please click next.

To determine your eligibility for the survey, please answer the following question:

Are you currently, or have you been any time since 2003, an active duty service member of the US Army?

- Yes
- No

Are you familiar with counterinsurgency theory and/or practice?

- Yes
- No

Do you have deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations?

- Yes
- No

What is the highest rank you have earned?

- Enlisted Soldier
- Noncommissioned Officer
- Warrant Officer
- Commissioned Officer
- Field Officer
- General Officer

### **General Perceptions of Counterinsurgency**

You have qualified for our survey.

In the following section, we will ask you for your general impressions about the best methods to defeat insurgencies in various environments. For these questions, we ask you to reflect on your entire experience with counterinsurgency.

By population-focused operations, we mean operations that prioritize securing local populations, including patrols in populated areas and supporting large scale development projects.

By enemy-focused operations, we mean operations that prioritize offense against insurgents, such as offensives against insurgent strongholds or raids that target insurgent leaders.

By comprehensive counterinsurgency, we mean counterinsurgency strategies which blend population-focused and enemy-focused operations to simultaneously contain insurgency and address its root causes.

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In your opinion, can units conducting counterinsurgency operations gain the support of the local population without first clearing the area of insurgents?

- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Usually not
- Almost never

In your opinion, what is the ideal distribution of effort between enemy-focused operations and population-focused operations in areas with high insurgent activity?

- Mostly enemy-focused
- More enemy-focused
- Balanced
- More population-focused
- Mostly population-focused

In your opinion, what is the ideal distribution of effort between enemy-focused operations and population-focused operations in areas with moderate insurgent activity?

- Mostly enemy-focused
- More enemy-focused
- Balanced
- More population-focused
- Mostly population-focused

In your opinion, what is the ideal distribution of effort between enemy-focused operations and population-focused operations in areas with low insurgent activity?

- Mostly enemy-focused
- More enemy-focused
- Balanced
- More population-focused
- Mostly population-focused

In your opinion, how often should units spend the majority of their effort on population-focused operations?

- Always
- In most circumstances
- In a few circumstances
- Never

In your opinion, how often should units spend the majority of their effort on enemy-focused operations?

- Always
- In most circumstances
- In a few circumstances
- Never

### Subcomponents

The following section provides a number of statements about the impact of military force and development spending during counterinsurgencies. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the statements.

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Unintended civilian casualties usually reduce local support for counter-insurgency forces.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Unintended civilian casualties usually increase local support for the insurgents.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Development spending usually goes to projects that matter for the local population.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Development spending usually increases collaboration by the local population with counter-insurgency forces.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Development spending usually increases the legitimacy of the host nation government.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the impact of military force and development spending during counterinsurgencies.

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Population-focused approaches increase the risk of casualties and injuries among counter-insurgency forces in comparison to enemy-focused approaches.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Restrictions on the use of air-to-ground or indirect fire against structures usually reduce the ability of counterinsurgency forces to combat insurgents effectively.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Restrictions on the use of air-to-ground or indirect fire against structures usually reduce force protection and increase casualties among counter-insurgency forces.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Non-kinetic activities are what win counterinsurgencies, not attrition.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Sporadically moving into an area to search for the enemy and then leaving does little good

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

The insurgents inform how you gain access to the population, you cannot ignore them

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

This question is designed to determine attentiveness to the survey questions, please select "strongly disagree" below.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Focusing on counterinsurgency has reduced military readiness to fight conventional wars.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

### **Most Significant Deployed Experience**

In the following section, we would like to learn more about your most significant deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations.

By "your most significant deployed experience," we mean the experience that most influenced your perceptions of counterinsurgency operations.

In which country was your most significant deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations?

In which year was your most significant counterinsurgency experience with counterinsurgency operations in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}?

In your opinion, which of the following factors was the most important cause of the insurgency in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}?

- Lack of economic opportunities
- Corruption in host-nation political institutions
- The presence of foreign military forces

- Longstanding conflict between ethnic or religious groups
- The spread of radical ideologies promoting violence
- Other

What was your role during your most significant deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}?

- Soldier, conducting operations off FOB/Base/Camp
- Tactical Leader, leading missions off FOB/Base/Camp
- Staff or Support role, primarily on FOB/Base/Camp
- Other

What best describes the military speciality of your unit during your most significant deployed experience with counterinsurgency operations in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}?

- Airborne, Air Assault, or Light Infantry Organizations or Similar
- Armored, Heavy, or Mechanized Organizations or Similar
- Stryker or Motorized Organizations or Similar
- Operational Support Organizations or Similar
- Force Sustainment Organizations or Similar
- Special Operations Forces or Similar
- Other

In the following section, we would like to learn more about your experience with counterinsurgency operations in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}.

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How would you characterize the focus of the mission commander's statement of intent during this deployment in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}?

- Mostly enemy-focused
- More enemy-focused
- Balanced
- More population-focused
- Mostly population-focused
- Not applicable

Don't know

In your opinion, how clear were the rules of engagement and tactical directives issued by your superiors?

- Extremely clear
- Somewhat clear
- Neither clear nor unclear
- Somewhat unclear
- Extremely unclear

In your opinion, were the development resources provided to your unit sufficient to accomplish the mission objective?

- More than sufficient
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Extremely insufficient
- N/A The mission objectives did not require development resources

In your opinion, were the combat resources (including troops and equipment) provided to your unit sufficient to accomplish the mission objective?

- More than sufficient
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Extremely insufficient
- N/A The mission objectives did not require combat resources

In your opinion, was the counterinsurgency training provided to your unit sufficient to accomplish the mission objective?

- More than sufficient
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Extremely insufficient
- N/A The mission objectives did not require counterinsurgency training

If your unit had access to funding through the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP), was the impact of these funds on your mission?

- Our unit did not have access to CERP funding
- CERP funding helped our mission
- CERP funding had no impact on our mission
- CERP funding hurt our mission
- I do not have an opinion about the impact of CERP on our mission

In the following section, we would like to learn more about your experience with counterinsurgency operations in \${q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue}.

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Had you previously deployed to that same local area of operations?

- Yes
- No

Had your unit previously deployed to that same local area of operations?

- Yes
- No

How would you generally characterize the local population's attitude towards your unit?

- Extremely positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Somewhat negative
- Extremely negative

How would you generally characterize the degree of insurgent activity in the area?

- Extremely high insurgent activity
- High insurgent activity
- Moderate insurgent activity
- Low insurgent activity
- No insurgent activity

Did your unit experience casualties during the deployment?

- Yes
- No

In the following section, we would like to learn more about your experience with counterinsurgency operations in  $\{q://QID430/ChoiceTextEntryValue\}$ .

How did your unit distribute its effort between enemy-focused operations and population-focused operations?

- Mostly enemy-focused
- More enemy-focused
- Balanced
- More population-focused
- Mostly population-focused

Please indicate how frequently your unit conducted the following operations:

	Almost every day	About every other day	About once a week	About once a month	Almost never or never
Engaged key local leaders	<input type="radio"/>				
Used fires to deny insurgents access to an area	<input type="radio"/>				
Conducted mounted patrols in populated areas	<input type="radio"/>				
Used air-to-ground fires to target insurgents	<input type="radio"/>				
Conducted raids to detain insurgents	<input type="radio"/>				
Conducted route clearance and security	<input type="radio"/>				
Targeted insurgent leaders	<input type="radio"/>				
Supported local development projects	<input type="radio"/>				
Conducted dismounted patrols in populated areas	<input type="radio"/>				

This question is designed to determine attentiveness to the survey questions. Please select "somewhat opposed" below.

- Strongly in favor

- Somewhat in favor
- Neither opposed nor in favor
- Somewhat opposed
- Strongly opposed

### **Discretion**

In your opinion, how much discretion do battalion commanders have to vary their efforts between enemy-centric and population-centric operations during counterinsurgency missions?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at all

In your opinion, how often do battalion commanders face repercussions for deviating from the rules of engagement or applicable tactical directives for self defense.

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

In your opinion, how often do battalion commanders face repercussions for deviating from the rules of engagement or applicable tactical directives for military advantage.

- Always
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

In your opinion, how much discretion do battalion commanders have to deviate from the rules of engagement during counterinsurgency missions in comparison to conventional missions (such as war)?

- Much more discretion in counterinsurgency missions

- Somewhat more discretion in counterinsurgency missions
- Equal discretion in counterinsurgency missions and conventional missions
- Somewhat more discretion in conventional missions
- Much more discretion in conventional missions

## Demography

There are just a few questions remaining. In this section, we ask for some basic information about your experience with the U.S. military.

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What is the highest pay grade you have earned?

- W-1 to W-5
- O-1 to O-3
- O-4 to O-6
- O-7 to O-10
- E-1 to E-4
- E-4 to E-9

Have you served in any of the following deployed areas? Click all that apply (including your most significant experience with counterinsurgency).

- Iraq (2003 to 2006)
- Iraq (2007 to 2011)
- Afghanistan (2002 to 2006)
- Afghanistan (2007 to 2011)
- Afghanistan (2011 to present)
- Philippines
- Somalia
- Africa (other than Somalia)
- Other

How many times were you deployed on counterinsurgency missions?

Of these counterinsurgency missions, in how many did you primarily engage in population-focused activities?

Of these counterinsurgency missions, in how many did you primarily engage in enemy-focused activities?

What best describes the military speciality of the units in which you typically serve?

- Airborne, Air Assault, or Light Infantry Organizations or Similar
- Armored, Heavy, or Mechanized Organizations or Similar
- Stryker or Motorized Organizations or Similar
- Operational Support Organizations or Similar
- Force Sustainment Organizations or Similar
- Special Operations Forces or Similar
- Other

Have you received training in counterinsurgency through any of the following sources? Click all that apply.

- Formal training on counterinsurgency combat (such as COIN Academy at a CTC or Home Station Training)
- Formal training on counterinsurgency theory (such as COIN Seminar or Graduate/Undergraduate Courses)
- Self-directed development through reading (such as books or academic articles on COIN)
- Self-directed development through informational interviews (such as with peers)
- Formal training on advising foreign security forces (such as Advisor Academy at a CTC)
- Other

There are just a few questions remaining.

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To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The initiative in courtship should usually come from the man	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The husband's decisions for the family should be final	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women with children should not work outside the home if they don't have to financially	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is disrespectful to swear in the presence of a lady	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Men have a duty to protect women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Women's capacity for pregnancy and motherhood makes them unfit for combat roles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leaders who wanted to open up more combat roles for women let ideology interfere with military effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bonding will not occur if male soldiers are required to share their duties with women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women should be allowed to serve in equal combat roles in the military	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women are less physically and psychologically fit for combat than men	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Exit and Contact Reminder

To help us evaluate the survey design, in your opinion, how sensitive were the preceding questions?

Extremely sensitive

- Moderately sensitive
- Slightly sensitive
- Not at all sensitive

Did you have any problems filling out the survey? Please add any additional comments, questions, or concerns that you would like to share with the survey team here.

If you have questions about this study, please contact the researchers at [vbauer@stanford.edu](mailto:vbauer@stanford.edu). You may also contact the Stanford Institutional Review Board (IRB) to speak to someone independent of the research team by phone at 650-723-2480 or toll free at 866-680-2906, or by email at [IRB2-Manager@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:IRB2-Manager@lists.stanford.edu).

Please click next in order to finish the survey

