

CHAPTER 3

organizations in that they are generally large and organized on a nationwide scale. They have committees at the national, subnational, and local level.

- Special interest groups are oriented to special issues. They have a smaller range of interests than popular organizations.

- The local militia is considered an element of the mass civil organizations. Its task is to isolate the population from government control. The local militia is not normally in the military chain of command. It has three distinct paramilitary elements: the self-defense force, the combat guerrilla unit, and the secret guerrilla unit.

The self-defense force normally is organized, trained, and employed for the defense of communities and other insurgent facilities, whereas the guerrilla force is the local instrument for inflicting damage on the government and for gaining and maintaining population control.

The combat guerrilla unit is used by the party to support insurgent military forces or is used independently to conduct small operations.

The secret guerrilla unit is used primarily to enforce the will of the party in a given area. It is composed primarily of party members.

THE MILITARY FORCES.

- The military forces are but one of several instruments through which the party seeks to achieve power. Mass Strategy insurgency allows for military reverses and the possible need to retrench, restructure, or even temporarily disband its military forces should government strength prove overwhelming. Party strategy is based on the assumption that as long as the party core and the mass civil organizations remain intact, the military forces can be reactivated or replenished. However, without the party nucleus and mass civil organizations base, the movement cannot succeed.

- Mass insurgent military forces fall into two classes - - main forces and regional forces. The main force is normally a body of well-trained soldiers and a highly motivated, elite fighting group. Deployable where needed, the main force usually is controlled at the national level. The regional force is made up predominantly of indigenous personnel recruited directly from the mass civil organizations or promoted from the ranks of the local militia. The regional forces normally confine their operations to a specific region or state (province).

INSURGENCY IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The preceding information concerning insurgent organization and strategies generally applies to both rural and urban areas. However, there are conditions in urban areas that require special consideration. This paragraph describes urban operations from an insurgent point-of-view.