Lessons in Capacity Building

23 June 2010

Brigadier-General Denis Thompson
Commander Task Force Kandahar
(14 May 2008 – 19 February 2009)
Sarposa Prison Before the attack
Sarposa Prison today
Discussion
IRAQ

Security Incidents

Chart includes potential attacks (IEDs/mines found and cleared) and executed attacks.
Source: SIGACTS (CF reports) as of 02-May-09.
The Hold –
The Confidence to Report

“One must admit that the inhabitants were in a difficult position; in the absence of Government protection, being themselves unarmed, they were in no position to resist demands of the tribesmen [insurgents] for food and shelter. The tribesmen when hard pressed could drop his weapon and pose as a simple countryman.”

“… there is a crisis of confidence among Afghans – both in their government and the international community – that undermines our credibility and emboldens the insurgents… Creating a perception of security is imperative if the local population is to “buy-in” and invest in the institutions of governance and step forward with local solutions.”

Extract from Imperial Policing by Maj. Gen. Sir Charles Gwynn, 1939

Extract from Commander’s Initial Report by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, 30 August 2009
2010

54,022 km²

Ratio Security Forces to Population = 20.6 to 1,000

A more than doubling of the available force in one year – Will the HOLD stick?

ISAF
- Cdn-led TFK
- 1 U.S. BCT

Afghan Brigade HQ
- 4 Light Inf Battalions
- 1 Support Battalion

Afghan Police
- 3,200 to 5,200
- 2,500 to 3,700
- 3,800 to 11,700

Maritimes Basin
Halifax Harbour
Scotian Margin

55,283 km²

320 km
240 km
550 Km
120 km
**Threat Assessment**

- Attack trends are expected to continue with levels of security incidents projected to be higher in 2010.
- Spike in attacks during Provincial elections not expected to be as high as National elections.

**Sources:**

- Afghanistan JOIIS NATO SIGACTS data as of 15 December 2009 reporting.
Do SIGACT patterns tell us anything?

Iraq 2004 – mid 2009

Afghan 2004 – end 2009

Plausible Extrapolation?
Leadership at the Tactical Level

- My Mission
- My Men
- Myself
Leadership – the 4 ‘Bs’

• Be Honest
• Be Direct
• Be Funny
• Be There