

Title: Small wars, big data: The things we thought would help often did not, and sometimes seemed to make things worse.

Abstract: This brief workshop will illustrate the principles of asymmetric conflict empirical analysis and the ways in which it informs the development and implementation of more effective stabilization policies and programs. Through several study cases, it will present the fundamentals of the information-centric model applied to counterinsurgency and stability policing. The notion that information flowing from noncombatants is a key resource in any theater of operations afflicted by asymmetric conflicts is a staple of both counterinsurgency (COIN) theory and stability policing doctrine. But what sets the information-centric approach apart is the precise means by which it leverages that information, and the insights into the various aspects that such an approach yield. Focusing on the complex relationship between civilians, insurgents and the local government, the model presents ways to understand the complex relationships and interactions between these actors, which are paramount to the success of counterinsurgency and stabilization operations. How to achieve this? The answer is that the accumulation of small facts can lead to bigger answers.

Duration: 90 minutes

Data: July 2, 2024

Format: online

Language: English

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Learning objectives:

- Understanding the importance of having more accurate and more granular data, as well as strategies to collect them.
- Appreciate the role of game-theory in the study of counterinsurgency and stability policing.
- Understanding the importance of policing in enabling effective local governance (including community policing) in gaining operational intelligence, as an alternative to using tactics of repression or mass incarceration.