

What the long title really means

Operation *Moshtarak*
Shaping Eventual Withdrawal

Learning from Afghanistan

- For reasons unclear, the Bush administration had little interest in getting bogged down.
- The Obama administration wants to show how it is done.
- Gen. McChrystal believes that the keys to success are to be found in COIN doctrine.
- Initial success in Marjah is encouraging, but the enemy is unlikely to make the same errors.

Clear - Hold - Build

- Simple and versatile.
- It appears that Kandahar is the next objective, but additional flanking movements may happen first.
- But what did the General mean when he said that ISAF arrived with “Government in a box?”
- Abdul Zahir Aryan probably did not require a very large box.

What was wrong with that picture?

- The introduction of a new character on the Marjah scene was a notable event.
- By providing him a lift, we are forever linked to someone who is likely to be forever a marginal and risky performer.
- Let the Afghan government carry that load.
- If he had been connected with a UN training or orientation program, it could have done it.

The US military and the UN

US military attitudes

- Ineffective wimps
- “Shock and awe”
- Decisive
- Optional
- Firm command and control
- Destroy the enemy
- Abundant resources
- Enormous US popularity

UN nightmares

- Irresponsible gun-slingers
- “Do no harm”
- Over-burdened bureaucracy
- Geneva accords
- UNSC ambiguity
- Negotiate
- Waiting for contributions
- Easy target for tea-baggers

UN Realities

- The US is the largest single contributor to the UN, but we not to know how to use it.
- Despite our efforts, and others, the UN has managed to maintain its image as a neutral and positive force for peace.
- No other agency can manage an international conference like the UN.
- It would be an excellent choice for Afghanistan

How the UN can help in Afghanistan

- To manage a permanent team to arbitrate between Afghan warlords and ethnic groups.
- To organize a regional body to regulate relations between Afghanistan and neighbors.
- It must restore UNAMA to same vitality levels as in 2002.
- Aggressive and imaginative UN leadership would provide both cover and continuity to cover eventual ISAF withdrawal.

A Modest Proposal

That Cornwallis XV mark its meeting at NDU with an agreed document outlining its suggestions for new directions to take in Afghanistan. Gene Dewey and I are looking for an additional 3 or 4 people to join us in drafting such a document.