



British 'Contingency Operations' since 1945: Back to the Future

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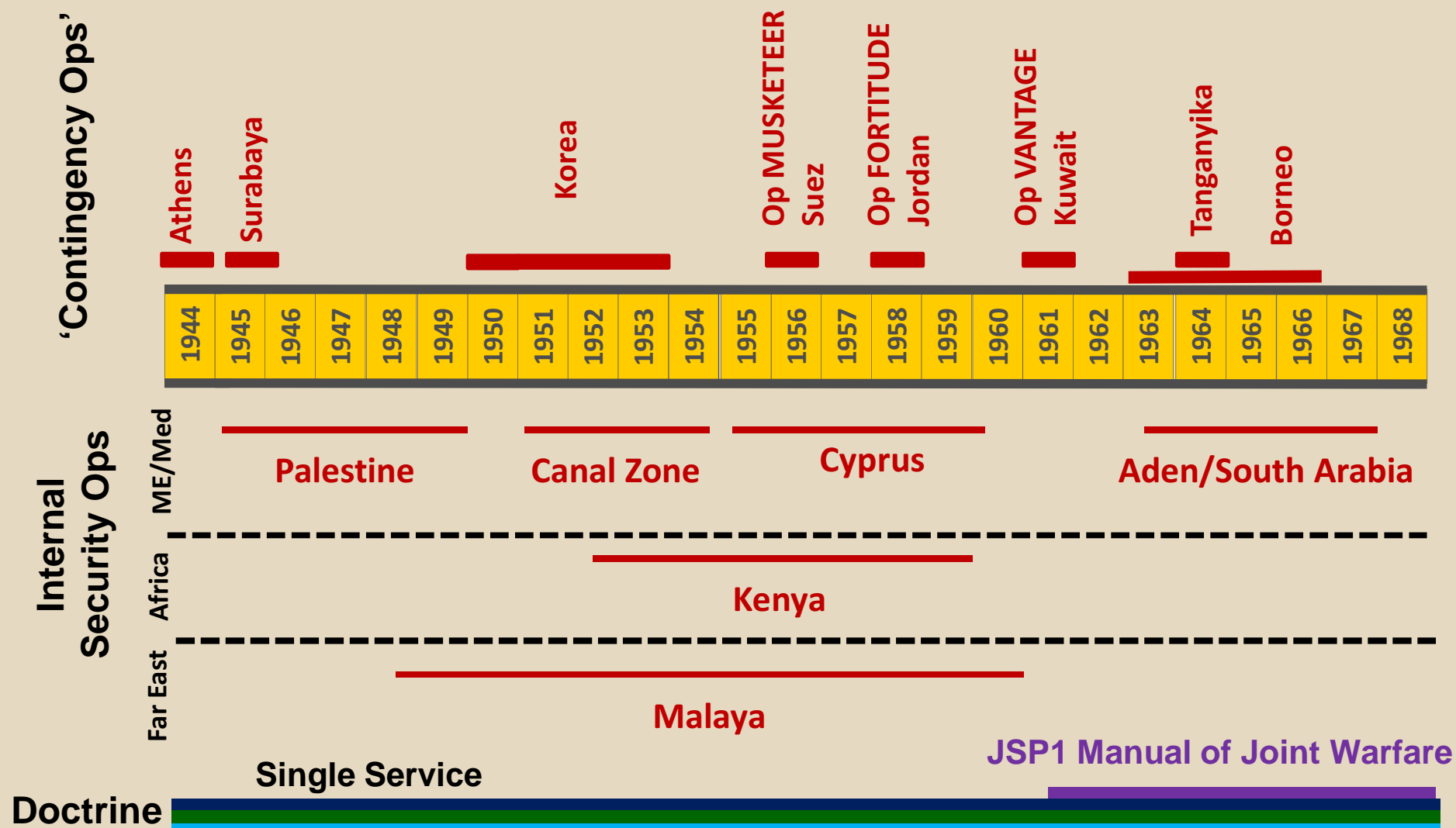


Outline of Presentation

- **British Military Operations since 1945**
 - **Cold War**
 - **Post Cold War**
 - **British Ops and Doctrine:**
What does this experience tell us?
- **What is a contingency operation?**
- **Related Concepts: What is their connection to contingency operations?**
- **Caveat Emptor: Avoiding Meaningless Jargon**



Cold War: British Operations 1





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British Ops and Doctrine: What does this experience tell us?

Phase I 1945-1968

- 1956-1968 period of 'Contingency Operations'
 - Capability
 - Joint Doctrine Development
- Doctrinal distinction between 'Internal Security Operation'/'Emergency' and 'Intervention Operation'
- Emergence in 1960s of binary focus in doctrine on
 - European (Soviet threat)
 - World-Wide commitments (Intervention and Internal Security)





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Contingency Strategy: Seaborne/Airborne Concept 1960s

**RAF: Air
Transport**



**Army: Strategic Reserve UK
3 Div + 16 Abn**

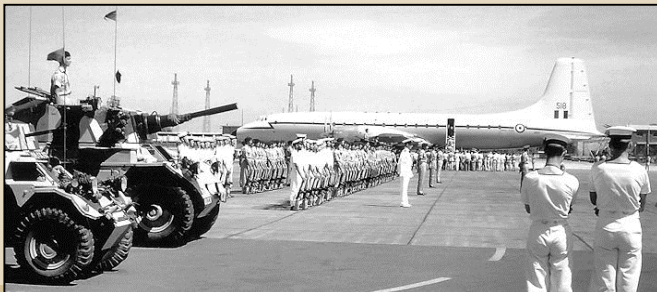


**RN: Strike Carrier,
Commando Carrier and
Royal Marines**



**Contingency
Strategy**

Overseas Bases





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Joint Commands and Theatre Bases 1960s

**Middle
East
Command
1959-1968**



**Far
East
Command
1963-1971**



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Intervention: Overseas Bases and Response Time

Study made of 63 Cases of Intervention between 1957 and 1967

Warning Time:

Ample 45 Cases

Adequate for Systematic Deployment 9 Cases

Little or No warning 9 Cases

'In the 50 cases of military deployment, only theatre or local forces were used for 37 of the incidents'.

Availability of Warning Time Prior to Military Operations 1957-1967, A Report by the Staffs of UNISON '67 and Defence Operational Analysis Establishment, August 1967, TNA,, DEFE 69/443.



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Conceptual Foundation: Intervention Operations

'... We consider an intervention operation in the present context to be the rapid introduction of land forces to an area where we do not maintain a garrison of significant size, either to forestall a hostile act or to restore an adverse situation. The spectrum of intervention operations ranges from full-scale assault by sea and air, with allies (in limited war), to the landing of a detachment of Royal Marines from a frigate at the request of local authorities'.

Defence Review 1965 The United Kingdom's Intervention Capability, 11 February 1965 in: TNA, DEFE 6/93.





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Doctrine for Contingency Operations: JSP The Manual of Joint Warfare

JSP 1 Concept, Planning and Control
of Limited War Operations

(1st Edition 1964) - -

JSP 1 Concept, Planning and Control
of Operations (3rd Edition 1970)

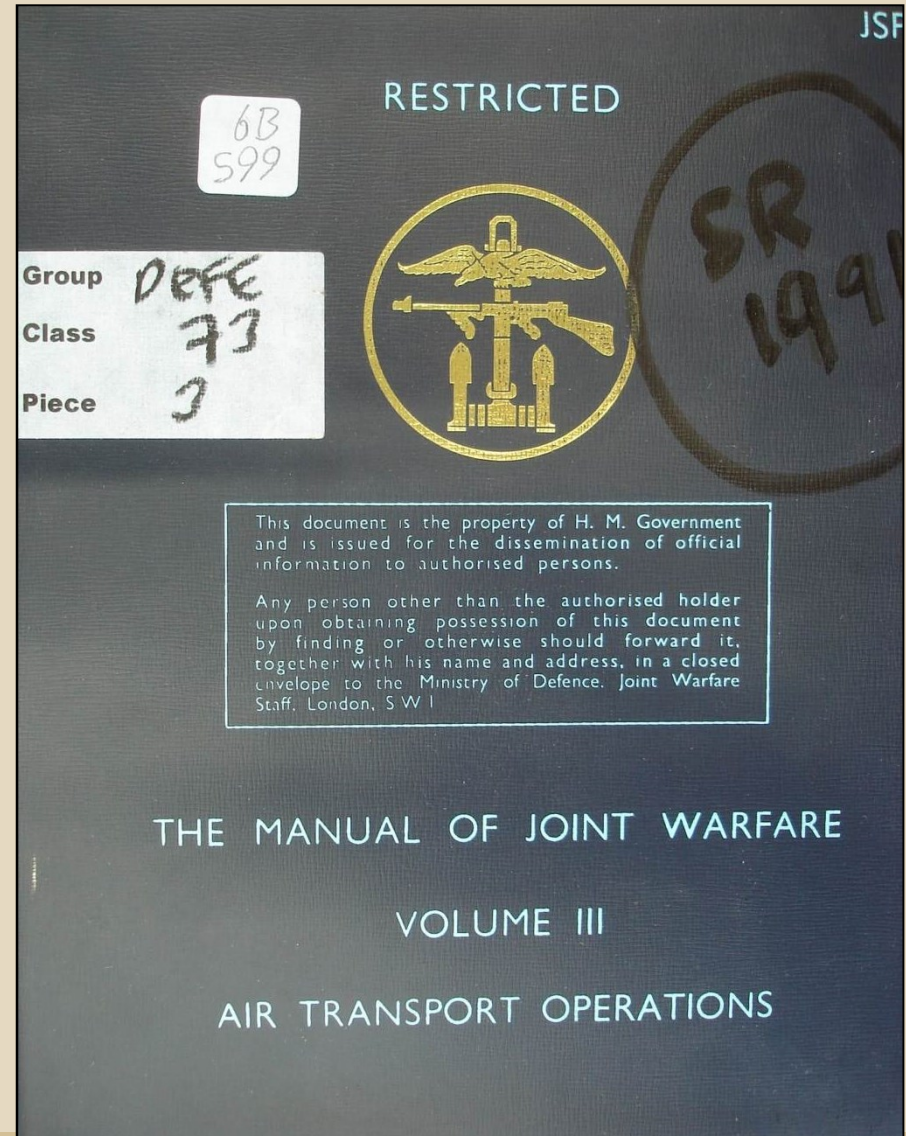
JSP 2 Joint Tactical Communications

JSP 3 Air Transport Operations

JSP 4 Amphibious Operations

JSP 5 Offensive Support Operations

JSP 5 Tactical Air Defence
Operations

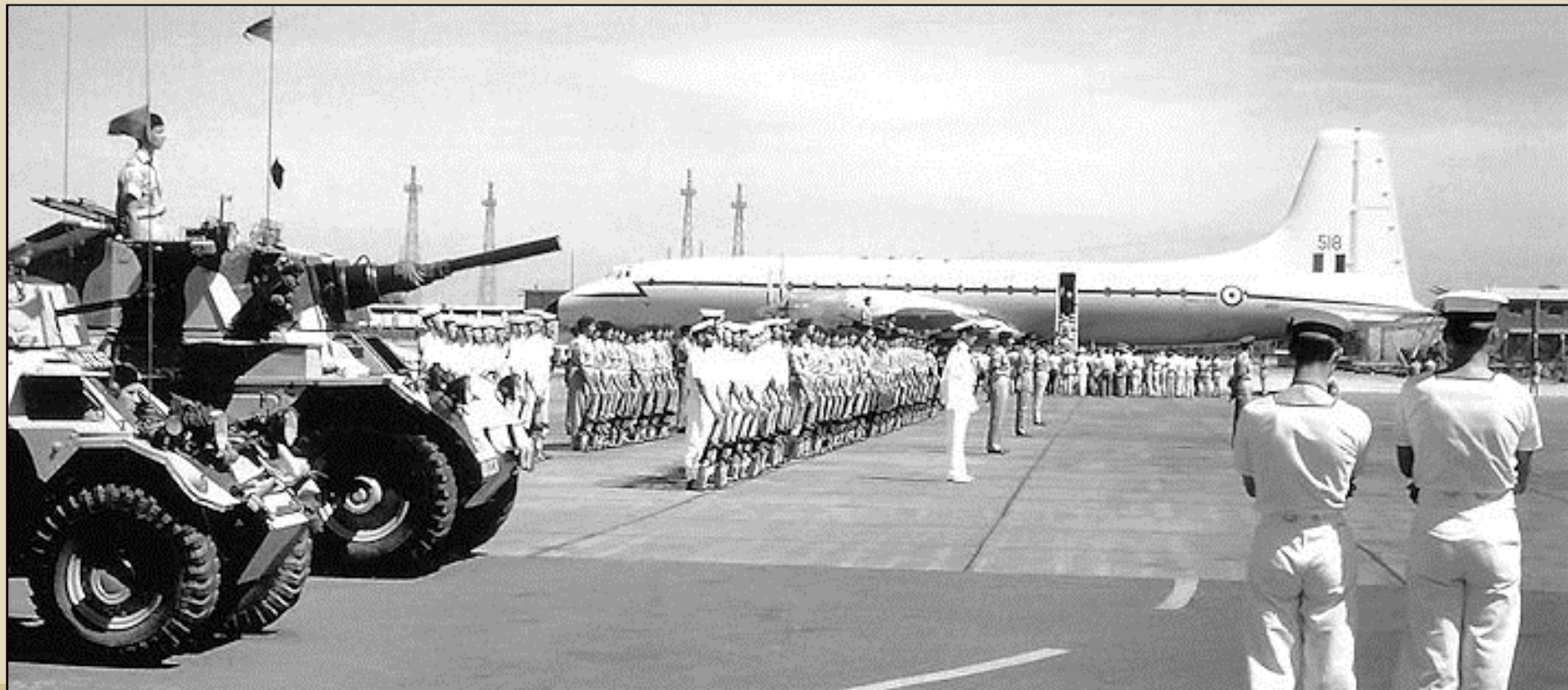




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Army Example: *The Land Battle Part 3 Tactics, Non-Nuclear Operations*

- Integration of Joint and Single Service Doctrine
- Chapter VII Operation of Strategic or Theatre Reserves





Army Example: Intervention Operations

Characteristics of these operations are as follows:-

- a) The nuclear threat can, for the present be discounted.
- b) The tactical capabilities of the force concerned may be restricted by the fact that operations will probably be carried out in areas remote from mounting bases, entailing logistic problems in deploying a balanced force.
- c) They are dependent on support from, one or both, the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Chapter VII Operation of Strategic or Theatre Reserves, *The Land Battle Part 3 Tactics, Non-Nuclear Operations*, 1964, p. 73.



Army Example: Intervention Operations

488. It will never be possible to rely on a long warning period and, one political authority is given, quick reaction by diverse and widely dispersed elements will be essential. The initiative must be quickly recovered from the enemy before the operation can widen politically or militarily. The situation calls for a high degree of flexibility and mobility and of joint-Service co-operation. Successful joint-Service co-operation depends on good intelligence, good communications and constant rehearsal and practice.

Chapter VII Operation of Strategic or Theatre Reserves, *The Land Battle Part 3 Tactics, Non-Nuclear Operations*, 1964, p. 73.



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Army Example: Expected Adaptability

'Soldiers must be physically adaptable to rapidly changing conditions of terrain and climate. They must be mentally adaptable to diverse operational techniques'.

Training for War Part 2 Leadership and Individual Training, 1968, p. 1.





Army Example: Expected Doctrinal Agility

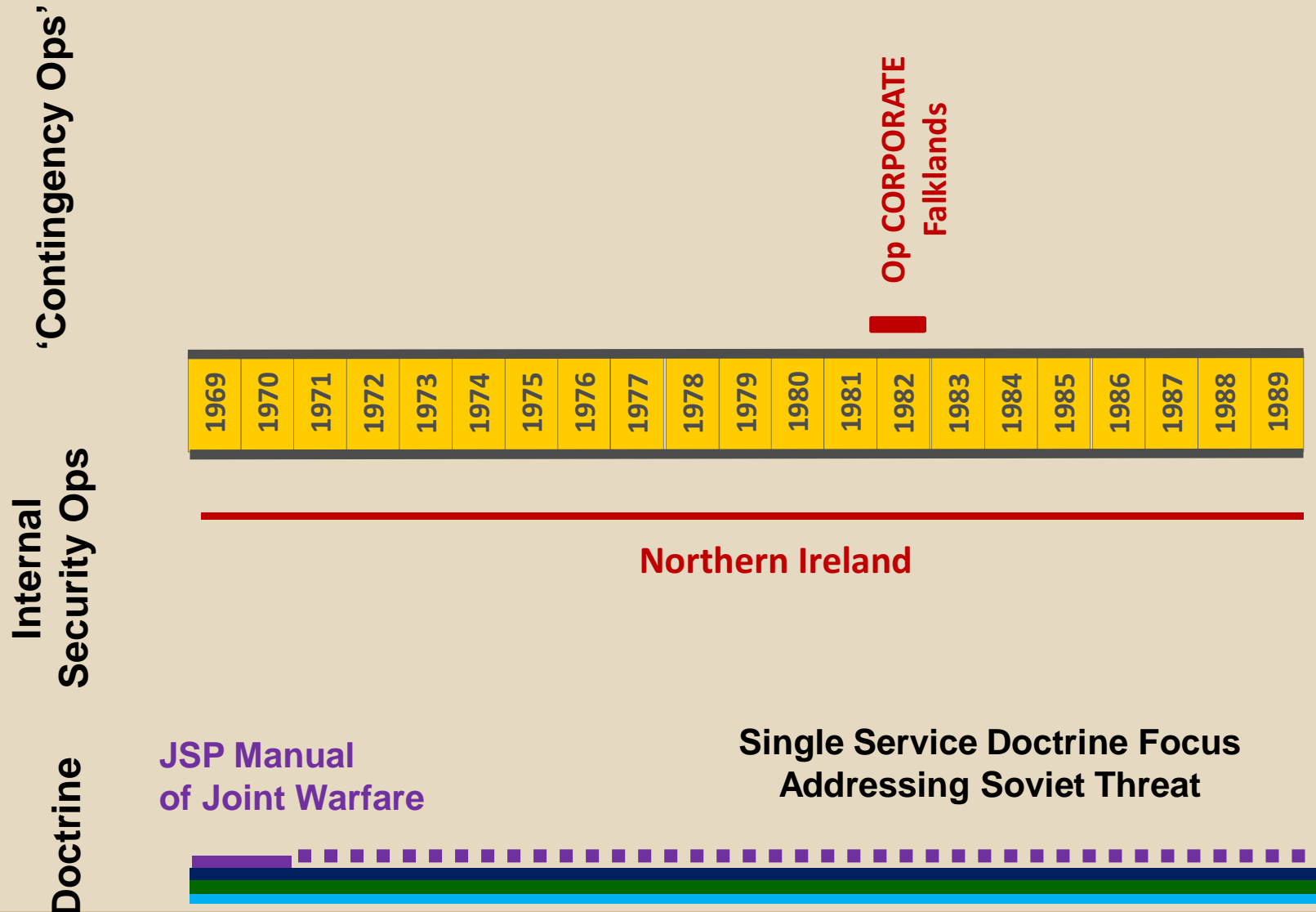
'In a comparatively small regular army two factors should be remembered when organizing training for units. The first is that it is possible for Internal Security operations to develop into Limited War and for Limited War to change very quickly into Global war. The Second is that **the Army is too small to allow specific units or formations to be trained for only one type of war**'.

Training for War Part 2 Leadership and Individual Training, 1968, p. 1.

Size of British Army in 1968: 190,000



Cold War: British Operations 2





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Focus of Single Services: 1969-1989

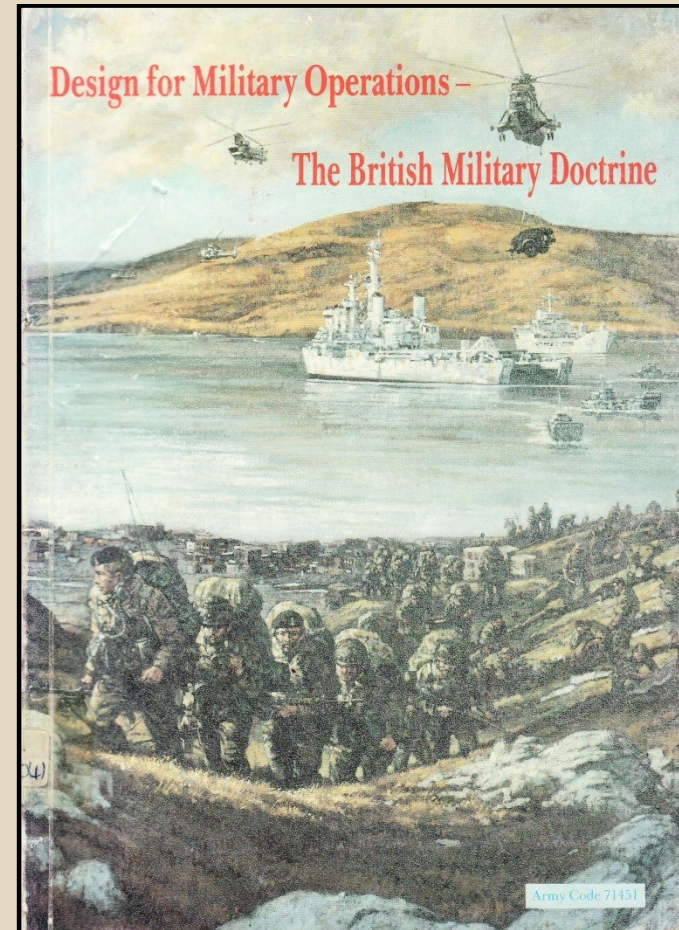




Army Example: Optimization for Soviet Threat

‘Armies must . . . plan and train for future conflict on the basis of some indication of the likely nature of war . . . in peacetime, therefore, Services must have a sound idea of what may occur and how it might be countered’.

Design for Military Operations, 1989, p. 21.





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British Ops and Doctrine: What does this experience tell us?

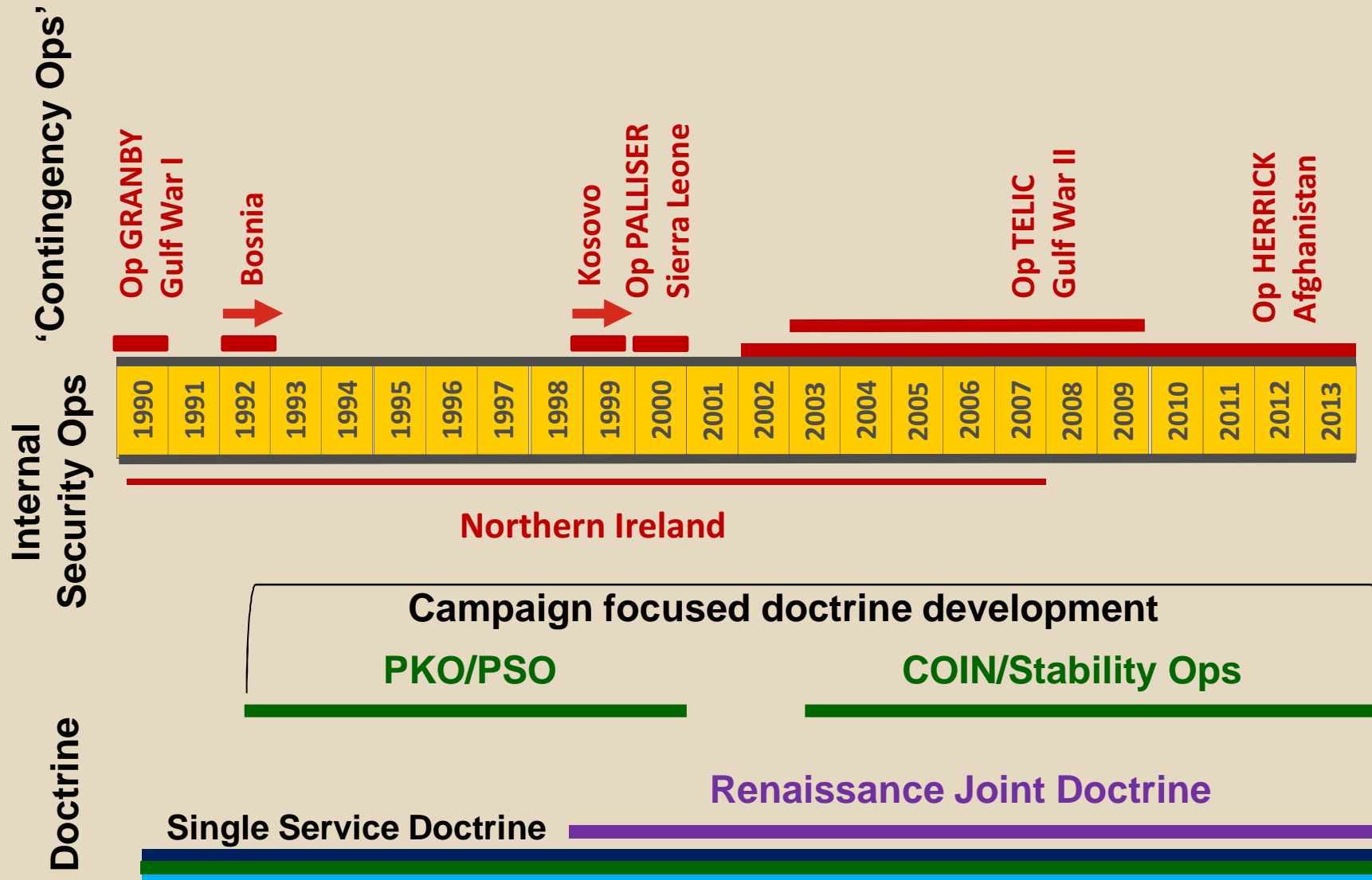
Phase II 1969-1989

1. End of East of Suez Role – abandonment of remaining bases
2. Intervention Capability not 'Recapitalized'
3. Withering of Joint Doctrine for Intervention
4. Doctrinal focus on Soviet threat Europe
5. Residual 'Contingency' Capability
6. Single significant 'contingency operation' - - Falklands





Post Cold War: British Operations





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British Ops and Doctrine: What does this experience tell us?

Phase III 1990-present

1. Renaissance Joint Doctrine
2. Doctrinal focus on current campaign
3. Rebuilding of 'contingency operations' capability
4. 'Contingency operations' mounted from UK; limited OS basing
5. Tension between 'contingency' diversity and enduring ops





Summary: R2C?

Assumption that R2C refers to a return to period Post Cold War and pre-2003

Historically the British Armed Forces only possessed a developed doctrine and capability for 'contingency operations' in the 1960s

Post Cold War era has yet to herald a R2C





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Task: Write a Definition

**What is a
contingency
operation?**



Dictionary Definition

Contingency: 'A future event which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty'.

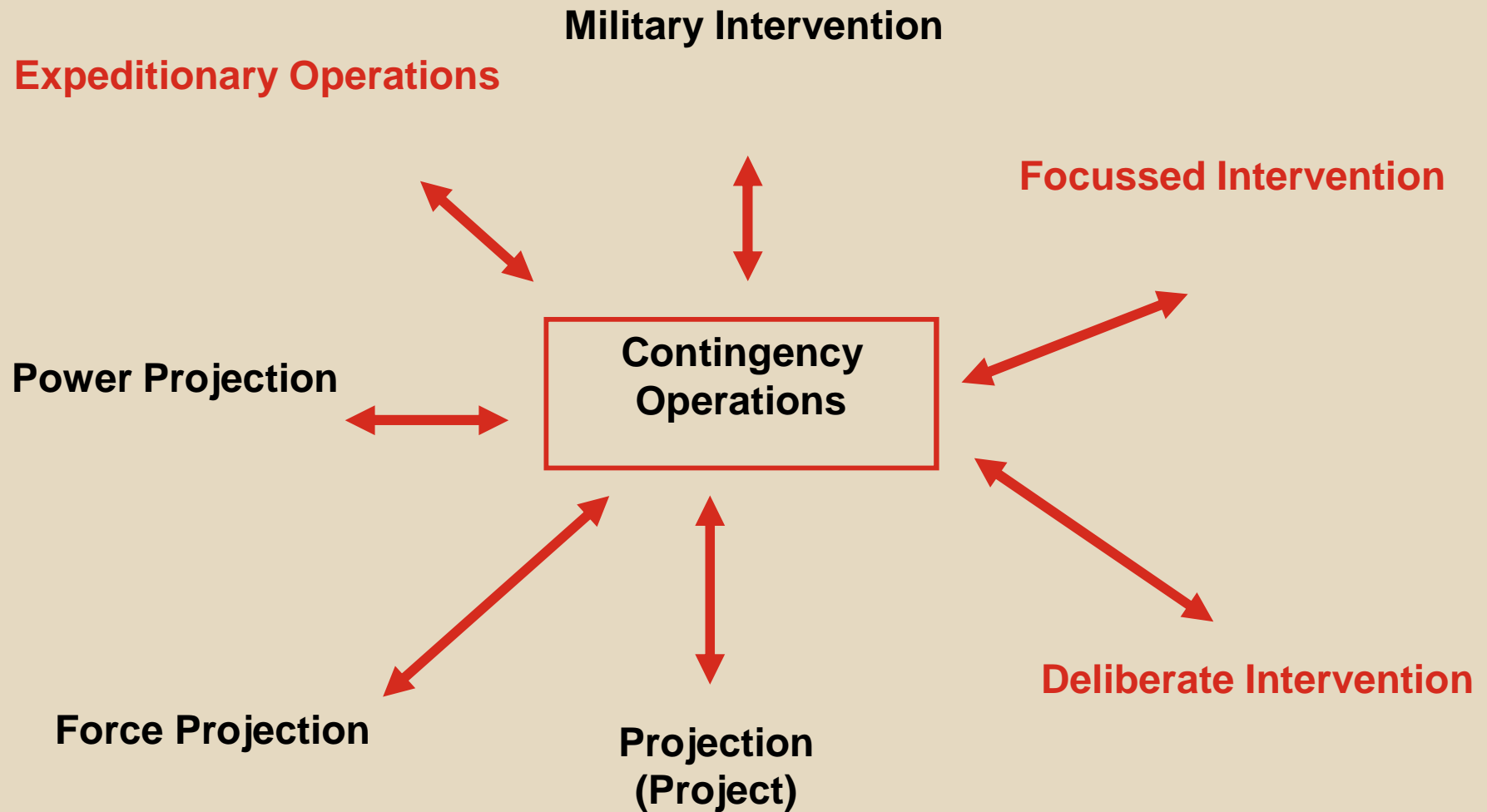
Contingent: 'Dependent on'.

Pocket Oxford English Dictionary, (10th edition), p. 188.



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Related Concepts: What is their connection to contingency operations?

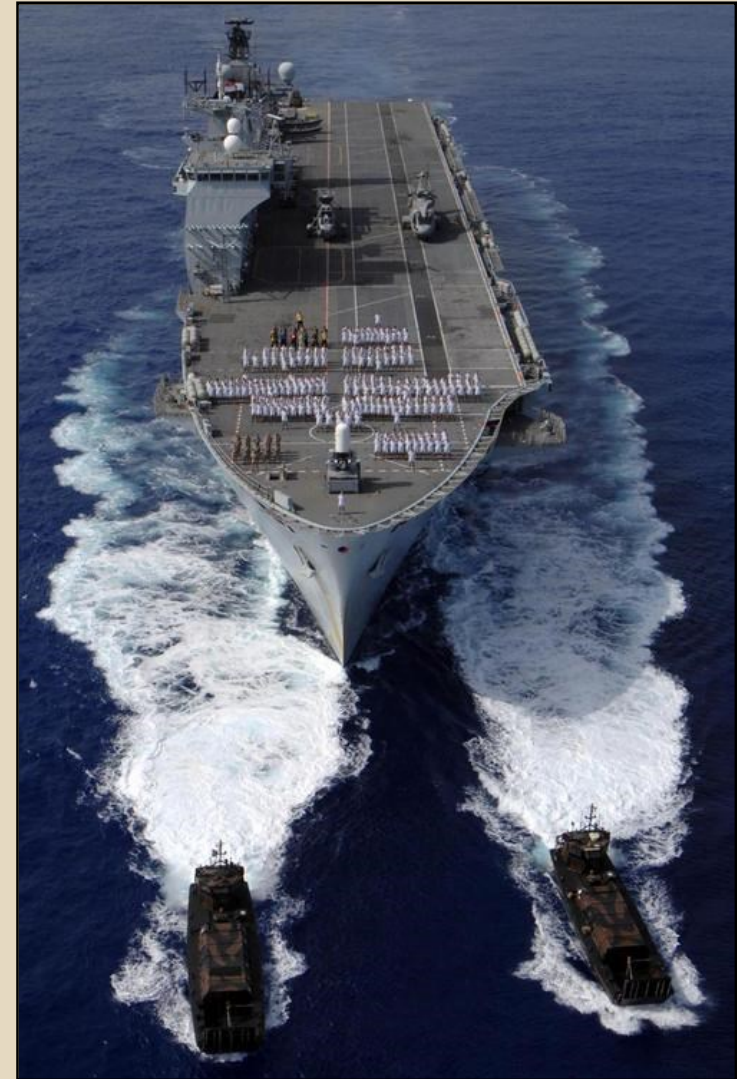




Definition: Expeditionary Operations

'Expeditionary. An expeditionary mindset (go anywhere, at any time, for any task) should underpin individual and collective ethos. This purposeful attitude should be reinforced by: a preparedness to fight; personal resilience; a philosophy of clear, centralised intent and properly-resourced decentralised execution; professional mobility supported by suitable terms and conditions of service; and the ability to project force strategically and quickly, and then to sustain it. Expeditionary is not necessarily the same as rapid response. An expeditionary approach should have an element of continuous engagement in order to anticipate, understand or prevent conflict, as well as to respond to it'.

ADP-Operations, p. 3-15.





Definition: Deliberate Intervention

'Deliberate Intervention. Deliberate Intervention (DI) should be authorised by the UN Security Council or be otherwise legitimate under international law. The widest possible support from the international community will be sought. In such an intervention UK forces, almost certainly acting within a coalition, probably at the request of a regional party, will conduct operations to remove an aggressor from territory and protect it from further aggression. DI is likely to require a broad range of capabilities, in relatively large quantities, but should not lead to an enduring operation . . .'

ADP-Operations, p. 8-3.





Definition: Focussed Intervention

'Focussed Intervention. Focussed (or limited) Intervention (FI) has limited objectives. These operations can be offensive, such as a strategic raid, perhaps to secure an objective briefly or to neutralise a specific threat. They are normally intended to be of short duration and specific in their objectives and scope, although this focus may be a precursor to a larger and more deliberate intervention'.

ADP-Operations, p. 8-4.





Caveat Emptor: Avoiding Meaningless Jargon

'Understand Asymmetry. Operations in the land environment are by definition asymmetric because adversaries always differ, even if sometimes only marginally. These differences may be reflected in their physical attributes – their organisation, equipment, tactics, numbers – or in more abstract ways, for example in their intent, culture and values. This natural asymmetry can be accentuated deliberately as adversaries seek an advantage, enhancing their own strengths and targeting their opponents' weaknesses. To understand asymmetry requires a subtlety that is obscured by a simplistic compartmentalisation of conflict. ***The key question is not: is the conflict asymmetric, but how and in what way is it asymmetric?***

Army Doctrine Publication, *Operations*, November 2010, p. 3-13.





QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION