



Counterinsurgency in Modern Warfare

Dr. Carter Malkasian, Director, CNA Stability and Development Program

Dr. Daniel Marston, Research Fellow, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University

Dr. John A. Nagl, Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security

Moderator: Dr. David J. Kilcullen, Special Advisor for Counterinsurgency to the Secretary of State, U.S. State Department

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 | 12:00 – 1:30 pm

The National Press Club, The Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC

RSVP Required

Insurgencies around the world and efforts to contain and defeat them fill our newspapers and television screens. Counterinsurgency is now an integral aspect of modern warfare, but is often controversial, misunderstood or ignored. To discuss these issues and more, please join the editors of *Counterinsurgency in Modern Warfare*, **Daniel Marston**, research fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, and **Carter Malkasian**, director of the CNA Stability and Development Program. In the book, thirteen experts examine the development of counterinsurgency through the discussion of the strategies, doctrine and tactics used in wars throughout the twentieth century and in the present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The discussion will take place from 12:00 – 1:30 pm at the National Press Club at 529 14th Street NW on Tuesday, July 22nd. **Dr. John Nagl**, will discuss his chapter on U.S. Army counterinsurgency from Vietnam through the publication of the new *Counterinsurgency Manual* (FM 3-24). Then, **Dr. Malkasian** will discuss counterinsurgency in Iraq, which **Dr. Marston** will follow to discuss counterinsurgency in Afghanistan. **Dr. David Kilcullen** will moderate and offer critical commentary.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, compliments of CNA. Books will be available to purchase at a discounted rate. **To attend, please RSVP to Megan Katt (kattm@cna.org or 703.824.2436) with your name and affiliation.** Please contact us if you have any questions. We hope you can join us for this interesting and timely discussion!

For more information regarding CNA's work on issues related to stability and development, please refer to our website: www.cna.org/nationalsecurity/css/csd/. For classified work, please refer to our SIPRsite: www.cna.navy.smil.mil.

David J. Kilcullen

Dr. David Kilcullen is a leading contemporary practitioner and theorist of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism. A former Australian Army officer, he left the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2005 and is now a United States State Department official. He is currently serving as the special adviser for counterinsurgency to the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. During 2007 he served in Iraq as Senior Counterinsurgency Adviser, Multi-National Force - Iraq, a civilian position on the personal staff of American General David Petraeus, responsible for planning and executing the 2007-8 Joint Campaign Plan, implementing the surge of 2007. Dr. Kilcullen has a doctorate in politics from the University of New South Wales.

Carter Malkasian

Dr. Carter Malkasian directs the Stability and Development Program at CNA, the think tank for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Between 2003 and 2006, he deployed three times to Iraq to advise the Marines on counterinsurgency on the ground. He also led a team that advised provincial reconstruction teams in eastern Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008. His writings include several articles and two books, *A History of Modern Wars of Attrition* (Praeger) and *The Korean War* (Osprey). He lives in Arlington, VA.

Daniel Marston

Dr. Daniel Marston is a Research Fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University. He was previously a Senior Lecturer in War Studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He has lectured widely on the principles and practices of counterinsurgency to units of the American, Australian, British and Canadian armed forces in and out of theatre, as well as serving as a reviewer of and contributor to counterinsurgency doctrine for all of the above. He is a leading expert on military adaptation. His doctoral dissertation, now an award-winning book entitled *Phoenix from the Ashes*, broke the ground on tactical adaptation in the Indian Army during the Second World War. He divides his time between Australia, UK and Boston, MA.

John A. Nagl

Dr. John Nagl is a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security. He authored *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife*, a text on how armies learn to conduct counterinsurgency, and contributed to the new *Counterinsurgency Field Manual* (FM 3-24). A retired Army officer, from 2006 to 2008 he commanded the 1st Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment in Fort Riley, Kansas, which is dedicated to training U.S. advisors for Iraq and Afghanistan. Nagl also served as a military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and spent one year in Iraq conducting counterinsurgency, discovering that it is harder than it looks. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, was chosen as a Rhodes Scholar and studied international relations at Oxford, where he earned his M. Phil and D. Phil.

Some book reviews follow:

“*Counterinsurgency in Modern Warfare* is an essential primer for any student of this most difficult form of war. Leading authors provide exceptional case studies of 13 modern insurgencies. These authors highlight the critical common factors of successful counterinsurgencies. Just as important, they highlight the differences as a reminder that every insurgency grows from unique cultural, political, economic and social conditions – and each requires a counterinsurgent strategy. Its a must read for anyone who deals with national security.”

-- **T.X. Hammes**, senior military fellow in the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, and author of *The Sling and the Stone*, a much-discussed book on how to combat modern insurgency.

“This volume edited by Daniel Marston and Carter Malkasian provides an interesting and informative overview of the most important topic in modern warfare--counterinsurgency. The editors have recruited an impressive lineup of contributors comprising many of the leading experts from the U.S. and the U.K. Together they provide an introduction to some of the leading counterinsurgency campaigns of the 20th century. Soldiers and civilians alike will learn a great deal here to help them better understand the challenges that confront us in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond.”

-- **Max Boot**, senior fellow in national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and author of *The Savage Wars of Peace* and *War Made New*

“*Counterinsurgency in Modern Warfare* is a fine collection that should contribute significantly to contemporary debates about what leads to success or failure in counterinsurgency. The provocative essays reveal that such conflicts are always unique, requiring counterinsurgent forces to develop cultural awareness and learning organizations if they want to have any hope of victory. And even those mechanisms will fail if military activities are not linked closely to political objectives, and the unified effort is not geared for long term commitment.”

-- **Dr. Conrad Crane**, lead author of the new *Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Manual*

“A wide-ranging, sophisticated anthology that all serious students of counterinsurgency should read and savor. Challenging, candid and provocative.”

-- **Francis J. “Bing” West**, author of *No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah* and *The Village*

“The book’s editors, Daniel Marston and Carter Malkasian, present a series of lucid, expert essays on the experiences of conventional military forces adapting to an insurgency. The contributors discuss the British in Ireland, Palestine and Malaya; the French in Vietnam and Algeria; the Israelis in the West Bank; and the Americans in all sorts of places... [We] need to add the subject of counterinsurgency to the canon of Army learning, at long last, and never again forget its lesson. We can make a start with this excellent primer of a book.”

-- **Robert D. Kaplan**, review in *The Wall Street Journal* (April 10, 2008)