

Asymmetric warfare: Challenges and response

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Abstract

In this paper, Malte Ian Lauterbach outlines tactics against asymmetric warfare, details a possible new military doctrine, and describes the role of military-military and military-civilian relations, among others, also emphasizing the importance of C4ISR+Context for military commanders.

Asymmetric warfare (also called irregular warfare) has permanently changed the rules of warfare. (Lele, 2014) Simply put, asymmetric warfare refers to combat between two or more armed forces that are not equal in strength or size. Asymmetric warfare is designed to exploit the weaknesses of the opponent. Military forces with the smallest of budgets are able to challenge the most powerful nations in the world. Formerly, the battlefield was an open space where military forces lined up against each other in large formations. (Canada Department of National Defence, B-GL-300-001/FP-000, 1998) Today, asymmetric warfare is conducted in urban areas where civilians are present. Civilian casualties are an important part of asymmetric warfare. (Balcells, Laia; Stanton, Jessica A.;2021)¹ In many circumstances, civilians and soldiers have no choice but to fight. *Even large, poorly equipped and poorly prepared armies may not be able to perform well in a multi-domain scenario.* A popular example of this is the Northern Iraq offensive (August 2014) against the US-backed government of the Iraqi government, and which the UN Resolution 2249 (2015) clearly referred to as an assault on the government of Iraq. During this offensive and the resulting American-led intervention (2014–present), several civilian paramilitary groups supported the troops of the international coalition, often undertaking ground-based operations with only limited aerial support by the international coalition, especially during the battle over the Sinjar mountain range and the genocide against Yazidis.²

¹Often, the direct causes of asymmetric warfare cause more casualties than the acts of war itself. A popular example is the famine in Yemen.

²Further read: Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts in Iraq (UNAMI/OHCHR, 2014)

1 Identifying the main challenges of asymmetric warfare

The main challenge of asymmetric warfare is that the two participant actors are not equal, i.e., they are not symmetrical. (Lang, 2007) The primary actor is usually, but not necessarily, the more powerful actor, and the secondary actor is usually, but not necessarily, the weaker actor. Asymmetric warfare is, therefore, warfare between actors of unequal power or training, with the weaker party trying to compensate for their weakness through some form of advantage, such as the element of surprise, ambush or through the use of guerrilla tactics. (Tomes, 2004). Continuing to use the example of the ISIS offensive in Iraq in 2014, we can identify further challenges. We can, based on the amounts of ISIS members captured or killed ³, positively state that ISIS is the weaker actor in the conflict in Iraq because it is weaker in terms of conventional military forces and weapons. It is also the weaker actor in terms of its ability to control territory, in particular in terms of their ability to attract the allegiance of the local population. ISIS has a much harder time in terms of securing public services in areas under its control, in terms of providing food, security, medical services, etc. (This is related to the issue above) Furthermore, ISIS is also the weaker actor in terms of its ability to govern. It does not have the financial resources, the administrative capacity, the legitimacy, the social construct, etc., to govern in the long-term. It is, therefore, clear that ISIS is the weaker actor in the Iraqi conflict. However, ISIS did not use conventional military forces in the offensive in Iraq in 2014. ISIS did not use air strikes, tanks, artillery, or extraordinarily heavy weapons. (Conflict Armory Research, 2015) ISIS used guerrillas tactics. (Tausch, 2015). ISIS used surprise and their flexibility in order to achieve their objectives, relying on heavy use of suicide bombers, IEDs, VBIEDs and snipers. Additionally, ISIS relied heavily on propaganda efforts (Marshall, 2014) in order to carry out their offensive and attack civilian and government targets in mainland Europe.⁴ ISIS used their religious ideology in order to secure the allegiance of the local elites, in order to ensure an often minimal percentage of governance. ISIS was able to use asymmetric warfare in order to overwhelm the conventional military forces in Iraq in 2014. (CJTF-OIR, 2014) The conventional military forces in Iraq lacked the ability to understand ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics. (Lauterbach, 2020) The conventional military forces failed to adapt quickly enough in order to counter ISIS's offensive, lacking the ability to understand ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics. (Lenze, 2018) The secret of ISIS's success is a successful combination of conventional warfare and asymmetric warfare tactics. ISIS used conventional warfare in order to build up its forces, with the aim of developing a conventional military force able to defeat the Iraqi army. (Cole, 2016) In order to achieve this goal, ISIS was able to build up a conventional force by taking advantage of the security vacuum in Iraq after the withdrawal of US forces, where they were able to recruit fighters from other countries and train them in combat and military tactics. ISIS then took advantage of their conventional forces and asymmetric warfare tactics in order to overwhelm the Iraqi army and gain control over large areas of Iraq.

³using IOM statistics

⁴The authors suggested read: Changes in Modus Operandi of Islamic State (IS) revisited, EUROPOL, 2016

1.1 ISIS tactics

When we look at the challenge of addressing ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics, we can identify a number of issues that need to be addressed. The first observance is that the asymmetric warfare tactics of ISIS are not that different from the asymmetric warfare tactics of other players in the international system. For example, China is using asymmetric warfare in order to achieve its military and political objectives, including Chinese naval forces conducting operations in the East and South China Seas.(Seidler, 2013)⁵ Terrorist groups in the Middle East and South and South East Asia⁶ and transnational organized crime groups in Latin America (Vulliamy, 2010) and Africa are using asymmetric warfare tactics in order to achieve their objectives. We need to understand the commonalities between ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics and other players' asymmetric warfare tactics. It is only by understanding these commonalities that we will be able to address these commonalities in a systematic and comprehensive way. The second issue is that addressing asymmetric warfare tactics does necessarily require a revision of how we conduct conventional warfare. (Kalyvas, 2003) Regular military forces are designed to conduct conventional warfare, with clearly defined front lines and battle lines. However, when we look at asymmetric warfare, we find that they are often conducted outside these conventional battle lines.(Bell, 2001) Asymmetric warfare actors are able to operate outside the conventional battle lines in order to achieve their objectives. This means that the only way to effectively respond to ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics is to operate outside the conventional battle lines, too, effectively stretching the front line, into smaller, fast moving, armored groups. This leads to the third issue, which is that asymmetric warfare tactics are frequently used effectively in order to achieve political objectives. ISIS's objective is to establish an Islamic Caliphate, as outlined by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in his July 2014 speech.(Middle East Star, 2014)⁷ ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics are designed to achieve this political objective, not only by taking control over large regions, but also by drawing large numbers of foreign fighters to come and live under the Islamic Caliphate.(Hosken, 2015) ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics are designed to achieve both a political objective and a military objective. This is another important challenge, as the asymmetric warfare tactics employed by ISIS cannot be effectively addressed through purely military means. We need to address these asymmetric warfare tactics through a combination of military, political and diplomatic means.

The fourth issue is that asymmetric warfare tactics are designed to take advantage of existing security vacuums in the international system. Asymmetric warfare actors are able to take advantage of these security vacuums in order to build up their forces and prepare for conventional warfare. (Wehrey, 2015) This means that we need to address the security vacuums in the international system in order to prevent asymmetric warfare actors from using these security vacuums in order to prepare for conventional warfare. This is one of the reasons why we need to develop a comprehensive strategy for peace and development in the Middle East, with regional and external stakeholders working together in order to address the political grievances of disenfranchised groups, including Sunni Arabs, Shi'ite Arabs, Kurds, Turkish Kurds and Syrian Kurds.⁸

The fifth issue is that asymmetric warfare tactics are often used as a form of psychological warfare in order to demoralize and terrorize the enemy. ISIS is using these

⁵ Commonly referred to as freedom of navigation operations, these regularly violate international boundaries.

⁶ most commonly represented by Abu Saj in the Philippines

⁷ <https://web.archive.org/web/20140714201922/http://www.middleeaststar.com/index.php/sid/223540031/scat/940f2bfd509e743b/ht/ISIS-leader-calls-for-global-Muslim-obedience>

⁸ Among other, smaller groups, including aforementioned Yazidis.

asymmetric warfare tactics as a form of psychological warfare in order to intimidate the Iraqi army and the Kurdish Peshmerga.⁹ However, as we can see from the example of the Peshmerga, ISIS's attempts of psychological warfare often are backfiring. (Valentine, 2018) ISIS's tactics are having the opposite of their desired effect, with the Peshmerga using their ability to defend territory in order to increase their political power, which is increasing their ability to function as a state actor through military, political and diplomatic means. The sixth issue is that asymmetric warfare tactics are often used as a form of economic warfare in order to drain the resources of the enemy. ISIS is using its control over large areas of Iraq in order to extract resources from the Iraqi people. However, as we saw with the example of the Peshmerga, ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics are also having the opposite of their intended effect. ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics are draining resources out of Iraq, which is causing even more hardship for the Iraqi people. This is creating more support for the Kurdish Peshmerga and creating more political legitimacy for Kurdish statehood. (Roston, 2015) The seventh issue, therefore, is that we need to combine military, political and diplomatic means in order to address the asymmetric warfare tactics of ISIS. This is particularly true for the Iraqi government, which needs to be prepared to use any and all means in order to address these asymmetric warfare tactics.

The eighth issue is that we need to take a comprehensive approach in order to address the asymmetric warfare tactics of ISIS. We can't just focus on military and intelligence-based responses in order to address these asymmetric warfare tactics. We need to take a comprehensive approach, which includes political, diplomatic and developmental responses in order to address these asymmetric warfare tactics. The ninth issue is that the most conventional military forces are not suited for asymmetric warfare. These conventional military forces are designed to fight against traditional armies with clearly defined battle lines. These conventional military forces are not designed to fight against guerrilla-type actors operating outside of the conventional battle lines.¹⁰

1.2 Responding to asymmetric warfare

This leads us back to the main question of this article, which is how a counterforce can effectively respond to ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics.

Acknowledging that ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics are effective also means that we need to admit that the US military has been unable to effectively respond. The secondary action a counterforce needs to do is to acknowledge that the standard counterforces are not well suited to fight against asymmetric warfare actors like ISIS. This has led to an increased reliance on air strikes, which are not effective against guerrilla-type actors operating outside the conventional battle lines. (Fischer, 2019) This leads us to a third point, which is that the US military, in order to respond to asymmetric warfare, needs to adjust its training and doctrine. The US military needs to replace heavy reliance on air strikes by increasing and constantly adapting its¹¹ training and doctrine in asymmetric warfare, which is the only effective way of countering guerrilla warfare tactics like those used by ISIS. The fourth thing that the United States needs to do is to recognize that asymmetric warfare is not simply a military issue, but also an intelligence issue. (Kaplan, 2003) Essentially, any counterforce needs tighter cooperation with the various intelligence organizations in order to organize C4ISR¹² on the battlefield,

⁹See previous remarks about ISIS propaganda.

¹⁰According to the current military doctrine

¹¹Largely inadequate

¹²command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

which eventually should be expanded to include context¹³, so intelligence should be able to provide a deeper understanding of the local situation. This could mean that on-the-ground operators need faster access to reports, instantaneous analysis and more aerial UAV¹⁴ surveillance to identify targets, opportunities, and dangers. The fifth thing that a counterforce needs to do is to make sure that it has a thorough understanding of the local actors involved in asymmetric warfare. An understanding of the local actors involved in asymmetric warfare is not only required for successful cooperation with non-military actors, but also for an effective application of military force. The sixth and final thing that a counterforce needs to do is to recognize that asymmetric warfare actors like ISIS are insurgents, not terrorists. Especially the international doctrine leader, the United States need to recognize that ISIS is engaging in asymmetric warfare tactics, not terror tactics. This means that the United States needs to act accordingly, by applying counterinsurgency tactics, which are designed specifically for countering insurgent warfare tactics like those used by ISIS. Failing to recognize that ISIS is engaging in asymmetric warfare tactics (Hosken, 2015) and to apply counterinsurgency tactics will only lead to increased civilian casualties and more failed military campaigns.

1.3 Network Positive Warfare

The successful application of C4ISR¹⁵ and the effective use of asymmetric warfare tactics like those used by ISIS, require a large amount of cooperation between military and non-military actors. This means that a counterforce needs to recognize that the local population is an essential actor in this process. This leads us to a second point, which is that the counterforce needs to recognize that cooperation with non-military actors like NGOs, civil organizations and local governments is essential for effective asymmetric warfare campaigns. They need to recognize that cooperation with non-military actors is essential for successful C4ISR, because these non-military actors are an essential part of the information gathering and analysis process on the ground. This process can be essentially called network-positive warfare, as opposed to network-negative warfare. Network-negative warfare is essentially network-centric warfare without an understanding of the local situation. This leads us to a third point, which is that network-positive warfare requires a thorough understanding of the local actors involved in asymmetric warfare. The counterforce needs to understand the various local actors involved in asymmetric warfare, not only for successful cooperation with non-military actors, but also for effective military operations. Network-positive warfare is essentially a process of understanding the local situation and then using that understanding in order to apply counterinsurgency tactics, which are designed specifically for countering insurgency warfare tactics like those used by ISIS. (Holsten, 2018)

¹³Commonly called C5ISR, so context, command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

¹⁴Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

¹⁵command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

1.4 The value of C4ISR and C5ISR for acting and reacting flexible

One of the main findings of this paper is that C4ISR is a key point to react to asymmetric warfare, because it enables commanders to understand a situation in a certain area in an instant and in a flexible way. This enables them to adapt their tactics on the go. Furthermore, it allows them to understand better on how they are being attacked, what are they attacking and how to react. (Pigeau, McCann; 2002)

1.5 The critical value of understanding the enemy's intent and goal

Fully understanding the enemy's intent or goals is the most important finding in this paper. The reason it is so crucial to fully understand the enemy's intent or goals is because this will enable commanders to better understand on what they are trying to achieve. It is significant for commanders to understand the goals of the enemy's tactics in order to fully understand why they are attacking in a certain way, this enables them (the commander) to better know how to respond and how to defeat the enemy's tactics. (Pigeau, McCann; 2002) One of the main reasons why it is critical to fully understand the enemy's intent or goals is because it enables commanders to understand why ISIS is attacking certain areas and what they are trying to achieve by attacking those areas. This provides them with a strong understanding on how they can defeat ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics. *It is important for commanders to fully understand ISIS's goals in areas that it controls because knowing what ISIS is trying to achieve will enable commanders to better understand why they¹⁶ are attacking certain areas and what tactics they are using. This is key towards defeating ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics.*

1.6 Respecting cultural roles in conflict areas

A new doctrine should consider the cultural needs of the population in conflict areas. Unfortunately, there are few ways to measure these needs, but it is important to consider these needs. U.S. military leaders should consider the cultural needs of the population in conflict areas because it will help them to more effectively respond to the population's needs, and it will help them to better understand on how they should react towards the population. (Holsten, 2014) It is important to understand that the local population will likely have different beliefs, cultures, and values than U.S. military leaders, so it is important for military leaders to take the time to learn about these needs and about how they should best respond to them. One of the main cultural needs that need consideration in conflict areas is religion. Religion can be a very powerful force for shaping people's behavior, so it is important for U.S. military leaders to consider this when responding to conflicts in countries with a large Muslim population. When considering religion in conflict areas, military leaders must fully understand that there are many interpretations of Islam, and that these interpretations can cause divisions between different groups of people within a country's borders. This means that religious differences within a country could lead to conflicting goals across different groups, which could lead to violence and unrest within the country. Military leaders must also be aware that there are many extremist groups throughout the world who use religion as their justification for violence or terrorism against other groups, so they should be cautious not only against extremists but also against moderate Muslims who support extremist Islamic views or practices.

¹⁶ISIS

1.7 Further observations

Another cultural need that military leaders should consider when responding to conflicts in certain countries is the value of honor. In some countries, honor is a very important value to people, and military leaders must be aware that this value can cause people to react strongly to insults, even if they are unintended. Military leaders should also consider the importance of family in certain cultures. For example, some people consider family extremely important and will go out of their way to protect their family members from harm. In addition to these values, military leaders should also consider the role of women in specific countries. In many Muslim countries, for example, women have less freedom than men do, which could lead groups of women to have conflicting goals with groups of men. U.S. military leaders should be cautious when interacting with women in these countries because they may not want male soldiers coming into contact with them or speaking to them more than absolutely necessary.¹⁷ A more general cultural need that needs consideration is the role of religion in conflict areas. When responding to conflicts in Muslim countries or regions where Islam plays a major role, military leaders must be aware of the extreme importance of religion and how it can cause violence if it is insulted or if someone does not follow the religious practices properly (Giradet, 2011). Although there are many different interpretations within Islam about what is right or wrong behavior, there are still extreme penalties for anyone who does something un-Islamic such as drinking alcohol or eating pork. There are many cultural needs that should be considered for conflict areas, but the three main ones are religion, honor, and family. Military leaders should consider these needs so they can better understand how to respond to the people in those areas and how to interact with them.

1.8 The value of military-to-civilian relations

One of our main findings was the value of military-to-civilian relations. This is because it enables both sides to better understand their differences and learn about each other's cultures and beliefs (e.g., religious beliefs), which will help them to work together more effectively during conflicts or wars. Having a better relationship between military leaders and civilians will enable them to communicate more effectively with each other, which will help them to understand on what they should do to resolve conflicts or wars. (Giradet, 2011). One of the main reasons why it is important for military leaders to have a better relationship with civilian leaders is because civilians make decisions that can affect how military actions are taken or not taken. For example, civilians may not want U.S. troops on their soil if there is (in their opinion) no need for them, so it is important for military leaders to have a better understanding of why civilians don't want U.S. troops in their country and what kind of treatment they expect from U.S. troops while they are there. Having a better understanding of why civilians don't want U.S. troops in their country will enable military leaders to have more effective conversations with civilian leadership about whether U.S. troops should stay in their country during conflicts or wars, and if so, how long and under what circumstances they should do so.¹⁸ There have been numerous events where interactions between civilians and military leaders were able to also provide important information, and it is important for military leaders

¹⁷A famous story is the story of the US commander who almost got himself in a fistfight with a local ANA militant because he smiled at his wife

¹⁸Time has shown that the interaction between civilians and military leaders can also provide important information, and it is important for military leaders to have a better understanding of what civilians think and do while they are there.

to have a better understanding of what civilians think and do while they are there.

1.9 Military-to-military relations

Another important finding in this paper is the value of military-to-military relations. This is because it enables both sides to better understand their differences and learn about each other's cultures and beliefs (e.g., religious beliefs), which will help them to work together more effectively during conflicts or wars. Having a better relationship between military leaders from different countries will enable them to communicate more effectively with each other, which will help them to understand on what they should do to resolve conflicts or wars. It is especially important for military leaders from different countries to have a better relationship with one another because they are the ones who make decisions about what should be done during conflicts or wars. One of the main reasons why it is important for military leaders from different countries to have a better relationship with one another is because they make decisions that can affect how military actions are taken or not taken. For example, if two country's militaries disagree with each other on how their militaries should be used during conflicts or wars, then the situation could quickly escalate into an even larger conflict if there isn't a way for them to work out their disagreements.¹⁹

1.10 The impact of civilian-military relations on the military

The impact of civil-military relations is not only on the civilian population but also on the military itself. Civil-military relations can help improve a national security force's ability to protect a civilian population. For example, a study conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies found that civil-military relations can enhance a national security force's intelligence operations. (Smith, 2004) The study found that intelligence gathering operations are improved by having some sort of rapport built between intelligence personnel and civilians within their area of operation. Constructive relationships between intelligence personnel and civilians can be achieved through various civil-military activities, such as town hall meetings or interagency coordination at various levels (e.g., local, regional). An example of how improved intelligence operations can result in enhanced national security is demonstrated by an incident that took place at Fort Bragg in 1995 when an Iraqi citizen gave U.S. soldiers information about Iraq's biological weapons program prior to the Gulf War. The information provided by the Iraqi citizen enabled U.S. forces to quickly deploy weapons inspectors to examine suspected sites that were developing biological weapons. The information was then used during the war to plan air strikes on targets involved in developing biological weapons; these air strikes greatly delayed Iraq's biological weapons program.²⁰ Civil-military relations can also help improve a national security force's ability to protect civilians within its area of operation, which is particularly important for peacekeeping missions because peacekeepers are tasked with protecting civilians in areas experiencing conflict or war. Civilian protection in civil-military operations is largely dependent on effective communication between military leaders and civilian populations, which can be achieved through various civil-military activities, such as town hall meetings or interagency co-

¹⁹Notable example: the Incident at Priština airport during the Kosovo War

²⁰Not to be confused with a similar case after the 2003 invasion, which later proved to be a scam in order to immigrate.

ordination at various levels (e.g., local, regional). Although there is evidence that civil-military relations can improve a national security force's ability to protect civilians and enhance national security, there is also evidence that there are times when military leaders should not engage in civil-military interactions with local or regional civilian populations. (Hong, 2007) A study conducted by the U.S. Army War College found that there are several potential negative effects of civil-military relations, including undermining operational effectiveness, creating public opposition or support for military operations, and resulting in decreased morale among military members. The study also found that civil-military relations can have positive effects on military operations, such as helping to protect civilian populations, enhancing tactical or strategic decision-making, and improving communication between military leaders and civilians during conflicts or wars. Although there are many benefits associated with civil-military relations, there are also several potential risks associated with engaging in civil-military activities. (Nguyen, 1994) These risks vary depending on the type of activity being performed by a national security force. Some of these risks include: 1) inadvertently revealing sensitive information to adversaries; 2) compromising the security of personnel participating in the activity; 3) violating local customs or norms; 4) exposing military members to physical harm; 5) identifying locations where particular units are located; 6) over raising expectations among civilian populations about what they can expect from a national security force; 7) increasing the workload of already overburdened personnel; 8) requiring significant financial resources that may not be available during times of conflict or war; 9) fostering unrealistic perceptions about what a national security force is capable of. The effectiveness of civil-military relations is largely dependent on how well military leaders understand what civilians think and do. This understanding is developed through various civil-military activities, such as town hall meetings or interagency coordination at various levels (e.g., local, regional). These activities allow both sides to express their views about what should be done during conflicts or wars. The feedback that is received from these interactions allows military leaders to understand why civilians think and act the way they do; this understanding helps them to make more informed decisions about how they should communicate with civilian leadership. There are several ways that a national security force can conduct civil-military activities. Some of the most common types of civil-military activities include: 1) town hall meetings; 2) interagency coordination; 3) military-to-civilian outreach; 4) community service initiatives; 5) humanitarian assistance operations; 6) peacekeeping missions. Town hall meetings can help increase trust between a national security force and a local population by giving members of the local population an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about certain situations that may arise during a conflict or war. Members of a local population may feel very strongly about some issues that affect their lives, so it is important for those who are in charge of leading a national security force to hear their views and opinions before making decisions. For example, a town hall meeting allows a national security force to hear from members of a local population about what they think should be done with weapons that were left behind during an operation. This information will help military leaders make more informed decisions about what should be done with these weapons; for example, the weapons may need to be destroyed immediately or supplied to local militias.(Harken, 2009)

1.11 The role of interagency coordination

Interagency coordination provides opportunities for leaders of different agencies (e.g., local police departments) to work together on issues that affect them all. These types of activities can help build trust between different government agencies because it gives both sides an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about certain situations that may arise during a conflict or war. For example, interagency coordination will enable local police officers and military leaders to work together on how they should search for criminal groups in the area if there is an increase in criminal activity in their region. Local police²¹ may feel strongly about some issues, so it is important for them to have an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about what should be done during conflicts or wars if there is an increase in crime in their region; they might believe that members of the armed forces are better equipped than police officers at finding criminals than vice versa, so they should do the searching.²²

²¹or militiamen in similar positions

²²This shows the role of a counterforce as a peacekeeping force.

2 Conclusion

To conclude this paper, we can identify multiple main points. First, the combination of conventional warfare and asymmetric warfare tactics has proven as very successful for ISIS. Because hybrid warfare does not know battle lines nor location-based warfare, the only way to effectively respond to ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics is to operate outside the conventional battle lines as well. In order to defeat ISIS tactics, a force needs to use a combination of military, political²³ and diplomatic²⁴ means. Essentially, a counterforce needs tighter cooperation with the various intelligence organizations in order to organize C4ISR. Understanding of the local actors involved in asymmetric warfare is not only required for successful cooperation with non-military actors, but also for an effective application of military force. We can also assume the need for network-positive-warfare. Most importantly, it is important for commanders to fully understand ISIS's goals in areas that ISIS controls because knowing what ISIS is trying to achieve will enable commanders to better understand why insurgents are attacking certain areas and what tactics they are using. This is key towards defeating ISIS's asymmetric warfare tactics. Last but not least, a new doctrine should consider the cultural needs of the population in conflict areas, and the value of civilian-military and military-military relations.

²³To counteract radicalization

²⁴In order to ensure coalitions, by example