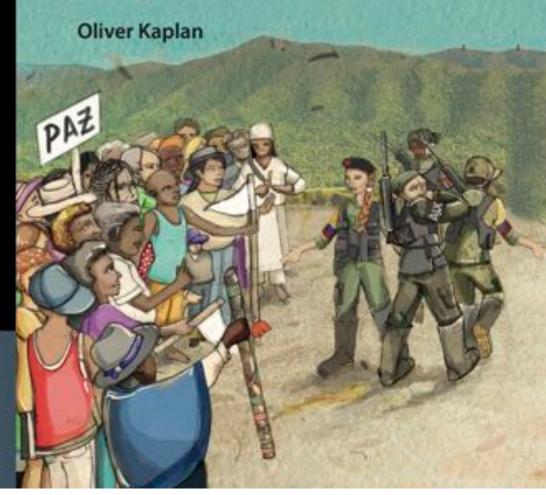
### **Resisting War**

How Communities Protect Themselves



Oliver Kaplan, Ph.D. Josef Korbel School of International Studies University of Denver Oliver.Kaplan@du.edu

August 8, 2019

CAMBRIDGE

# BLUF

- Communities nonviolently organize to protect themselves
- Implications for militaries:
  - Understand community organization and "culture"
  - Respect community autonomy and work with civilians to...
    - Limit violence
    - Monitor, vouch for demobilized combatants (JTF-435)
  - "Do nothing"/ avoid stigmatizing communities (?)
  - Partnered Ops: Push partners to respect communities

## **Community Organization**



## Nonviolent "Autonomy" Strategies





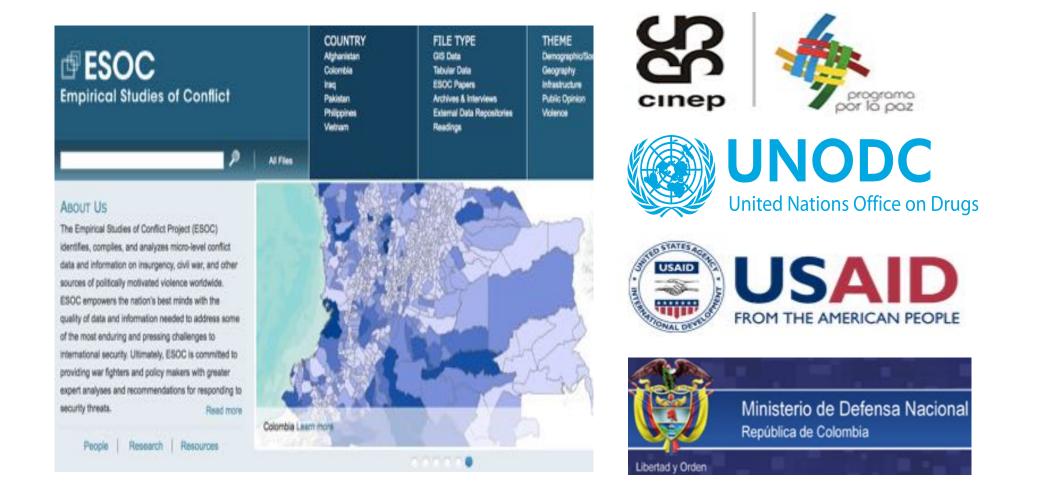




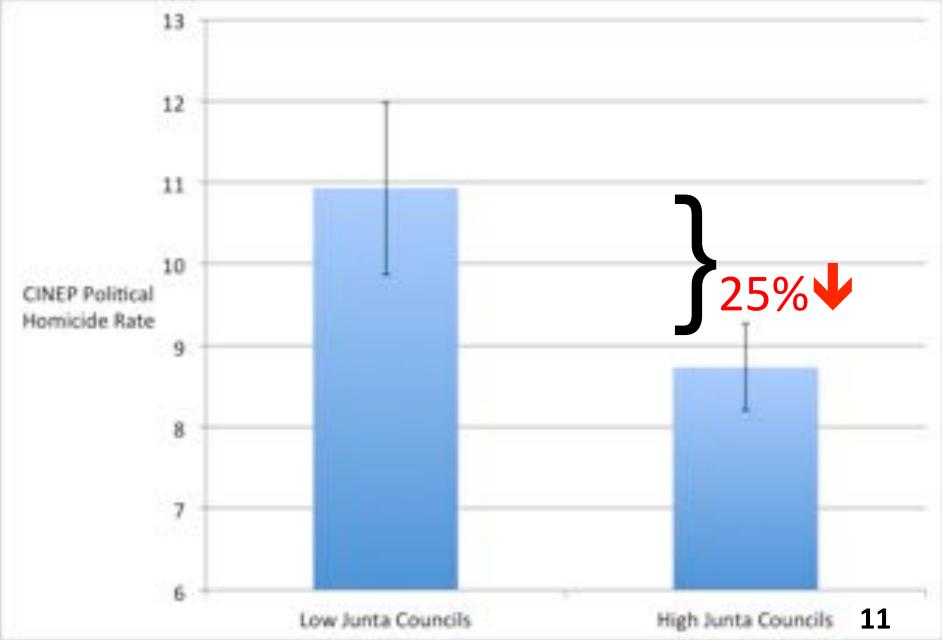




### Formal Institutional Relationships & Data Sharing

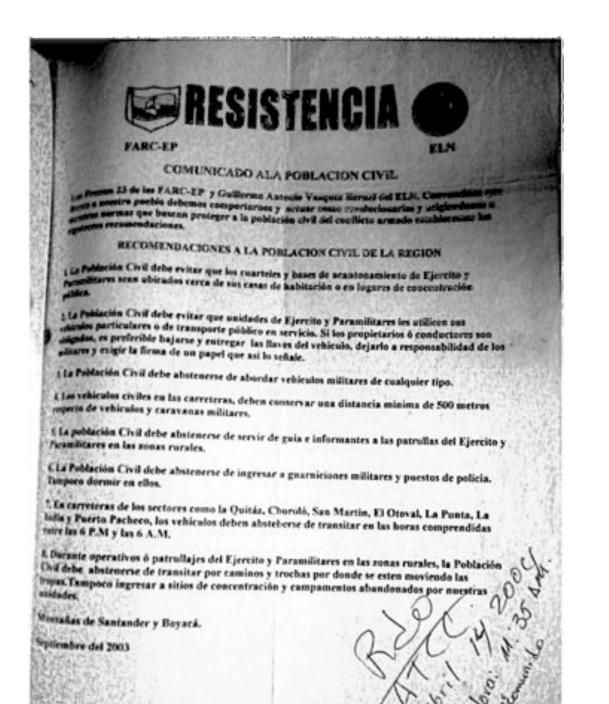


## **Limiting Violence**





## LA REINTEGRACIÓN EN COLOMBIA "Construimos paz desde el territorio" 12



## From the Archives

#### Paramilitary Commander, 2002:

"We believe we are complying with the accords. The *campesino* has problems when he 'compromises' himself with the guerrillas. He who dedicates himself just to his family doesn't have to worry. That's not a threat, it's a suggestion...."







### The Paramilitaries' Organization Calculus

- From September 22, 2002
- *Woman*: Will you Paras remain here whether or not the community wants you?
- *Commander*: Yes, we're going to be here regardless.
- *Woman*: And if the community organizes itself and says no?
- *Commander*: If it's the *entire* community, we would respect the decision. But if only 2 or 3 people don't want us, we will stay.



## Banning weapons in the Philippines

## Peace Zone Nonviolent Strategies

- Ban gambling
- Ban alcohol
- Ban drugs
- Ban firearms
- Policy on migration to PZ
- Ceasefire
- No harassment of civilians
- No use of public facilities
- Declare space/size of PZ
- Resolve local disputes

- Not pass information to armed groups
- Bar armed groups from territory
- Anti-recruitment strategies (esp. youth)
- Procedures to protect community leaders or threatened individuals
- Incentives or penalties to promote cooperation
- Deal with fear/ trust
- Safety for wounded soldiers



# Military Perspectives

- Colombia
- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Philippines

Different AFP institutions can "produce a force multiplier effect to the whole process of establishing a Peace Zone" and is "preferable [to] continued military confrontation"

--General Ariel Bernardo, AFP

# Implications for Operators

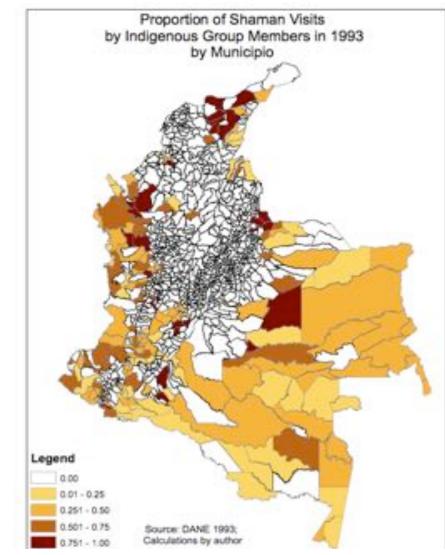
- Community-driven development
- Understanding the *human terrain*/ social landscape
- Re-deploy to other problem areas
- Dangers of politicizing communities
- Safely reintegrating fighters
- Civil affairs



## END

• Thank you

## Shaman Visits Across Municipios



Releasing Suspects and Former Insurgents in Afghanistan

- Force Reintegration Cell (F-RIC)
- Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435
  - CENTCOM detainee operations
- Conducted 50+ release ceremonies to date



#### Release of Detainees to a Reintegration Shura Detention Facility in Parwan Province, Afghanistan



Source: American Forces Network Afghanistan, August 1, 2010

# Example: Indigenous Reintegration

- Arhuaco, Nasa, and Embera Indians
- Individuals and family members want combatant youths to return to the community
- Traditional leaders ("Mamos") hold ceremonies
- Public penance, renunciation, or punishments
- Vigilance

#### Source:

"La reintegración: logros en medio de rearmes y dificultades no resueltas" La Comisión Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación Bogotá, DC, August, 2010

