

JOINT STABILIZATION STUDIES COURSE

LESSON 3

27 April 2020 (1330-1430)

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) FOR PRACTITIONERS

Mode: Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Raymond Millen

1. Introduction. This lesson examines the role that the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants plays in stabilization. DDR applies to both non-state actors (insurgents, local militias, and support personnel) and state security actors (military, police, and paramilitary forces) as part of a comprehensive peace process. The seminar discusses DDR planning, organization, implementation considerations based on the DDR Primer.

2. Protracted insurgencies often produce a variety of sizeable armed combatants: government security forces, insurgents, local community militias, and various factions. Most frequently, rebel groups coalesce around charismatic leaders. Perpetual insurgencies result in a deterioration of governance, society, the economy, essential services, and well-being. Invariably, the populace is the victim of collateral damage and predatory behavior from all combatants. Closely aligned with the peace process, DDR is a confidence-building process to foster a sense of security among the participants. Both state and non-state security forces must participate in the program, organized into three distinct stages: disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR). DDR is an essential precondition for security sector reform programs to progress.

a. Preliminary measures set the conditions for effective DDR. Separating and consolidating warring factions into temporary camps is necessary for accountability and security. Zones of separation with external security forces is an added measure of security. DDR liaison officers at the consolidation camps serve two functions: to provide information on numbers and classification of combatants (males, females, children, families, and the disabled), and estimates on weapons and munitions for turn in; to inform camp residents of the progress of DDR program implementation, dispel rumors, establish rapport, and identify combatants with professional backgrounds (doctors, teachers, farmers, and business) to support the Reintegration program. Liaison officer information provides the basis for determining the number of DDR sites. DDR site survey teams reconnoiter DDR sites for suitability and proximity to consolidation camps. A DDR public information campaign, using all media available, propagates awareness of the peace agreement, the locations and dates of DDR sites, unexploded ordinance warnings, and requests for DDR support from communities near DDR sites (teachers, vocational trainers, and business leaders).

b. Disarmament is a voluntary process, so combatants must feel confident that their safety is assured. Because of the vast numbers and variety of weapons and munitions turned in, DDR practitioners must have prepared and organized disarmament sites for reception, cataloguing, crating, and transportation of arms to centralized collection sites. DDR practitioners must have a solid estimate of the weapons/munitions earmarked for turn-in. Weapons turn in must occur with minimum delay so demobilization can occur on the same day.

c. Demobilization serves to recognize the service of combatants without prejudice. Former combatants earmarked for military and police service are identified for transportation to

the training centers. A demobilization ceremony and issuance of service certificates is the capstone event. Combatant leaders are segregated after the ceremony for separate reintegration. The remaining insurgents move to the Reintegration cantonment. DDR implementers should consider any means to enhance the celebratory atmosphere of demobilization (viewing stands for civilians, music, guest speakers, and media).

d. Reintegration encompasses efforts to return former combatants into society. In-processing involves collecting biometrics, issuing identification cards, ration cards and stipends, medical screening, identification of individuals suffering from trauma, and separation of participants into separate billets (leaders, males, females, children, families, and the disabled), and issuing clothing and shoes. Reintegration planners establish a schedule for life skills training, basic education, and vocational skills training. Cantonment officials should include sports (soccer and volley ball), recreation (arts and crafts) and religious activities during down-times. Scheduled town hall meetings between the cantonment officials and the participants is necessary to provide information and to address participant issues. DDR legal advisors should establish a schedule for informal judicial proceedings for atrocities (identified combatants, victims, and judges). DDR planners should consider establishing cantonments with modular shelters for program efficiency and financial purposes rather than vying for local community resources (facilities, electricity, and water).

2. Learning Objectives.

a. Identify the critical stakeholders in the DDR process, and analyze the necessary interactions that promote successful DDR.

b. Understand the different phases of DDR and how they lend support to SSR.

c. Identify the obstacles to effective DDR in transitioning and post-conflict states, and consider alternative approaches to address those obstacles.

d. Analyze best practices of DDR and assess their utility.

e. Consider different strategies to foster greater effectiveness of DDR programs.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks.

(1) Read the required reading indicated below.

(2) Be prepared to discuss issues raised in the required readings.

b. Required Reading. Raymond A. Millen, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: A Primer for Military Practitioners*, http://pksoi.armywarcollege.edu/default/assets/File/Homepage/DDR%20paper_web.pdf.

4. Points to consider.

a. What role should external military forces play in DDR programs? Does it matter whether the force in question is a Chapter VI peacekeeping mission or a peace enforcement

mission under Chapter VII of the UN Charter?

b. What challenges are posed by reintegration of ex-combatants into communities that witnessed violence or suffered atrocities during the conflict? Are there reintegration strategies that can address these challenges?

c. What are the special requirements for processing child soldiers, females, families, and disabled combatants through DDR programs?

d. How should the DDR process interface with post-conflict justice and reconciliation processes? How might the threat of prosecution for war crimes and atrocities affect participation in DDR?

e. What is an important objective of DDR in terms of reestablishing security for the state?

f. Why is it essential to have follow-through with DDR?