

Introduction to Definitions of Strategy.

This research means to define the military point of view towards strategy. The aim of this paper is to give meaning to the word strategy for APC members, and cause reflection of APC strategy in the past and present. Military strategy is not all that different from political point of view. In strategy you have to have a global vision for political and military strategy, there no separations between both concepts. We aim to simply breakdown and identify the differences between strategy and tactical, and apply them to APC campaigns and strategies in the past and for the future.

STRATEGY, simple definitions: Long term action plan for achieving a goal.

Military definition; strategy is the art of devising and employing a careful plan or process towards a goal.

Tactic: A plan of action has been set, strategy then becomes action oriented, employing the plan in the effort to achieve the goal.

Tactical Simple Definition: Action plan to achieve a strategic goal.

The word strategy comes from the Greek 'strategos' which literally means generalship. So, while it is used in many contexts, it is important to understand its root in a basic military sense.

The military way of looking at strategy is to view it as the space between policy and tactics. Policy is derived from a purpose or cause while tactics are the particular movement and action while engaged in battle. In this sense, a strategy is concerned with how to achieve the policy or goal with the means available and within the imposed constraints. The actual employment of those means moves into the realm of tactics, as illustrated here.

purpose/cause > policy > strategy > tactic > training/doctrine

(with the arrows being read as "gives rise to" or "dictates")

Purpose: Defeat the Government.

Policy: Campaign: "End Welfare Cuts, Minimum Wage Campaign etc.

Strategy: Fight the Cuts.

Tactics: Mobilization, Direct Action " Picnic at the Premiers"

Training/Doctrine: reevaluation of campaigns, leaflets, strategy meetings etc..

TYPES OF STRATEGY, annihilation and attrition

A strategy of annihilation is where one attempts to win the war by destroying the enemy's field army. This has been the strategy favoured by Roman Legions, German Armies of the 19th and 20th Century, and by the allies by defeating the Third Reich.

A strategy of attrition is where one attempts to win the war by destroying the enemies will to continue fighting. It often involves sieges and static warfare, but also combines maneuvers that exhaust the

enemy without necessarily involving battles. This is the strategy practiced by the Palestinians Liberation Front.

ATTRIBUTES OF STRATEGY

Strategy is an art. More specifically it is an art concerned with achieving a goal. Furthermore, it is an art based upon devising and employing a plan. That means that actions and efforts are predetermined rather than haphazard.

Therefore prior to engaging in any action a planning exercise is held, based upon knowledge and hopefully sound intelligence and information.

- A good example of this is the General Membership commissioning an ad-hoc committee to put together a series of evaluation and strategy meetings.
- When strategizing certain actions one would look at the area, police surveillance, the target, entry, exit, people who work there etc.. The more we know and prepare for the better the action.
- Once a plan of action has been set, strategy then becomes action oriented, employing the plan in the effort to achieve the strategic goal.

Strategy is also a science. Science comes from the Latin root scientia, meaning having knowledge. Science strives to understand how things operate by identifying laws and theorems through the experimental process. Its object is to obtain knowledge that can be predictably relied upon and is properly identified with objectiveness.

PLANNING

The ability to plan effectively is critical to success. Effective planning is a continuous process and is not solely concerned with the preparation of effective plans. It also entails learning from the outcomes of previous plans in order to understand the reason behind their failure or success. This knowledge is applied in an ongoing planning, executing, learning cycle.

> Planning and evaluating is a tool to improve everything from the simple or general meeting to any action and mobilization. We need to think about bringing planning, evaluating, self-criticism and critical analysis into our political and personal lives.

The ability to change decisively is crucial to success. For no matter how fine a plan may be, it can not be perfect. There will always be some unexpected variables or some event that cannot be anticipated.

This means that adaptability must be a characteristic built into the plan. It must be dynamic as well as detailed so that when it is being executed it can be readily adjusted according to the developing situation.

> In any action there needs to be a Plan A and an alternative Plan B, two different ways of achieving the same goal and strategy.

SOUND INTELLIGENCE

Critical to the success is knowing as much about your plan or process as possible. That involves having detailed knowledge of your input, actions, and what your output should be. The more you know about this, the better you are able to control your environment to achieve your goal.

STRATEGY FOR VICTORY

Achieving a victory is synonymous with achieving a goal -the motive force that propels strategy - the art of devising and employing a plan or process towards a goal.

More specifically, if you do not care about the result or the outcome of an action, then a strategy is not necessary. However, if the outcome does matter then you really only have two courses of action: Take action to influence the outcome into the one you desire; or take no specific action and only discuss, plan or pray for the desired outcome.

In a military campaign, for instance, the five possible outcomes are:

- a) A complete tactical and strategic victory
- b) A tactical victory but strategic defeat
- c) A tactical defeat but a strategic victory.
- d) A complete tactical and strategic defeat,
- e) A stalemate/no winner

* Think about how we can apply the above five outcomes as organizers and members of APC.*

UNITY OF COMMAND

Unity of command refers to purpose and effort working together, in harmony, towards the same goal. Unity of command is an essential attribute of strategy because it motivates force through which the plans and processes are enabled and the objectives achieved.

In military strategy, unity of command can range from simple to complex expressions. How we can apply this is in its simplest form organizing an action could involve just one person. In its next form there are two or more people involved, however this form is much more complex because now there is a matter of leadership, trust, and discipline, and naturally, the more peoples added, the more complex the action becomes.

In conclusion, we never finish learning, when we are faced with problems we have to collectively research, study, reflect and look for an alternative and collectively implement the solution.

In Solidarity. Waldo, Megan