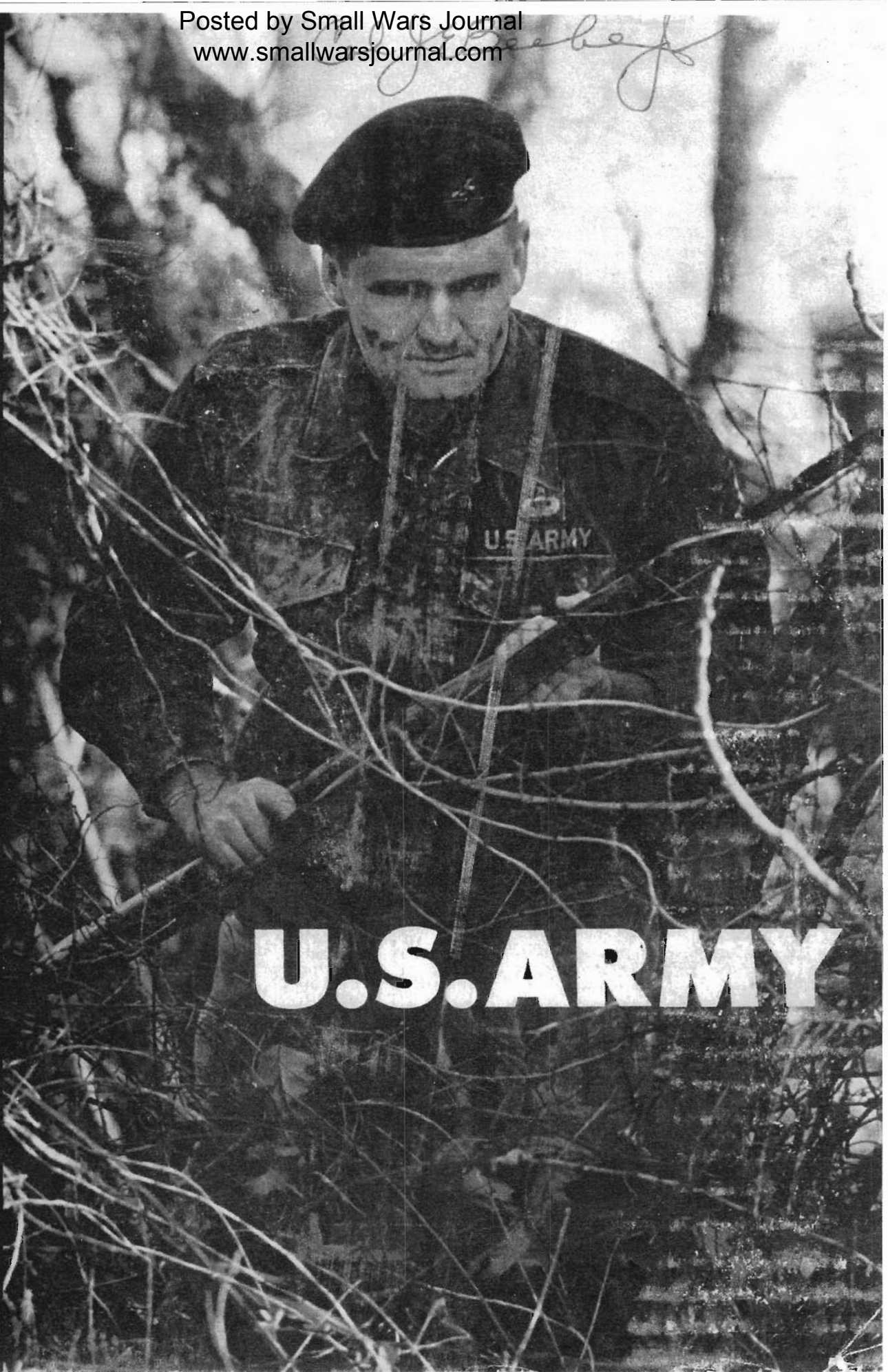
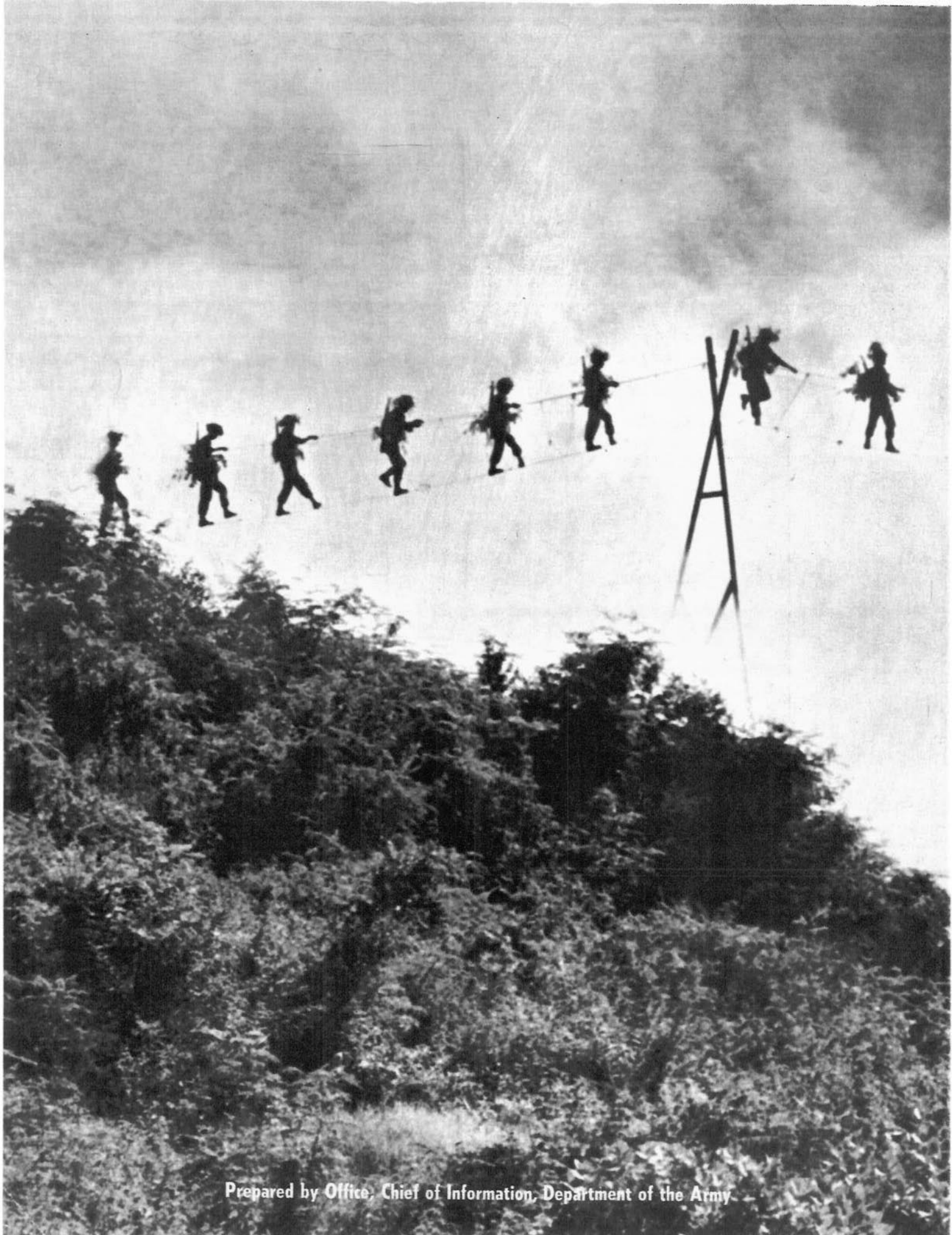




# SPECIAL WARFARE



# U.S. ARMY



Prepared by Office, Chief of Information, Department of the Army



A black and white photograph showing a line of soldiers crossing a rope bridge over a wide, turbulent river. The soldiers are silhouetted against the bright, white water. The bridge is made of ropes and appears to be a simple, makeshift structure. The background shows a steep, rocky bank. The overall scene conveys a sense of military operation in a challenging environment.

**SPECIAL  
WARFARE  
U. S. ARMY**

**AN ARMY SPECIALTY**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1962

TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY:

Another military dimension -- "guerrilla warfare" -- has necessarily been added to the American profession of arms. The literal translation of guerrilla warfare -- "a little war" -- is hardly applicable to this ancient, but at the same time, modern threat. I note that the Army has several terms which describe the various facets of the current struggle: wars of subversion, covert aggression, and, in broad professional terms, special warfare or unconventional warfare.

By whatever name, this militant challenge to freedom calls for an improvement and enlargement of our own development of techniques and tactics, communications and logistics to meet this threat. The mission of our Armed Forces -- and especially the Army today -- is to master these skills and techniques and to be able to help those who have the will to help themselves.

Pure military skill is not enough. A full spectrum of military, para-military, and civil action must be blended to produce success. The enemy uses economic and political warfare, propaganda and naked military aggression in an endless combination to oppose a free choice of government, and suppress the rights of the individual by terror, by subversion and by force of arms. To win in this struggle, our officers and men must understand and combine the political, economic and civil actions with skilled military efforts in the execution of this mission.

"The green beret" is again becoming a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom. I know the United States Army will live up to its reputation for imagination, resourcefulness, and spirit as we meet this challenge.







*Elvis J. Stahr, jr.*  
*Secretary of the Army*

## FOREWORD

Special Warfare is a term used by the Army to embrace all military and paramilitary measures and activities related to unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency, and psychological warfare. It includes fighting *as* guerrillas as well as *against* guerrillas and also involves the employment of psychological devices to undermine the enemy's will to resist.

Special Warfare is of particular importance to the Army today for two reasons. It is the kind of warfare which the Communists are waging right at this moment to undermine or overthrow many of the struggling new nations of the world. Furthermore it is a type of warfare with which our Army is particularly well qualified to cope because of its long experience and by virtue of its unique, wide-ranging capabilities.

This booklet presents a selection of current literature in the field of Special Warfare with emphasis on articles by Army authors and those developed through Army cooperation. It also presents several hitherto unpublished articles. All articles have been selected for their excellence and their relevance to Army interests and responsibilities.

I expect commanders to draw upon this material in their training and Troop Information programs, for proficiency in Special Warfare is an indispensable requirement for the effective soldier and combat leader in today's Army. I urge all personnel to read it closely. It will assist you in preparing for the performance of a most important mission.

Elvis J. Stahr, jr.  
Secretary of the Army

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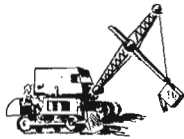


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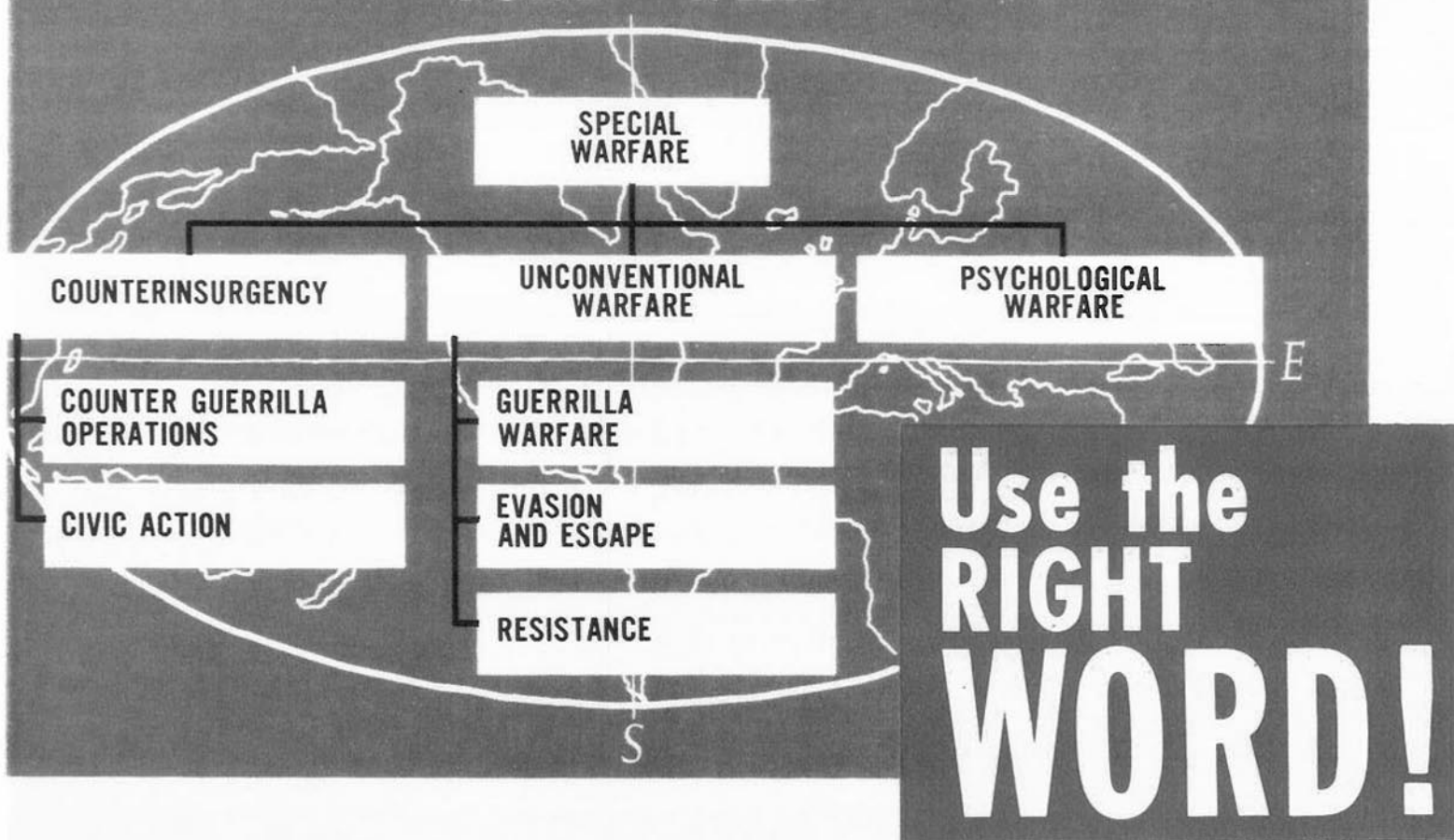


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**ADDITIONAL READING**

A short list of selected books pertaining to counterinsurgency, unconventional warfare, and psychological operations.

# COLD WAR



To provide a common understanding of the terminology of various Special Warfare activities, the following clarification and simplification of official definitions are furnished. Associated terms are grouped together for ease of understanding.

**SPECIAL WARFARE** is a term used by the U.S. Army to embrace all the military and paramilitary measures and activities related to unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency, and psychological warfare.

**UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE** includes the inter-related fields of guerrilla warfare, evasion and escape, and resistance. Such operations are conducted in enemy-held or controlled territory and are planned and executed to take advantage of or stimulate resistance movements or insurgency against hostile governments or forces. In peacetime the United States conducts training to develop its capability for such wartime operations.

A *Resistance Movement* is an organized effort by some portion of the civil population of a country to resist the legally established government or an occupying power. Initially such resistance may consist of subversive political activities and other actions designed to agitate and propagandize the populace to distrust and lose confidence in the legally established government or occupying power. If not suppressed, such resistance can result in insurgency by irregular forces.

• *Insurgency* is a condition of subversive political activity, civil rebellion, revolt, or insurrection against a duly constituted government or occupying power wherein irregular forces are formed and engage in actions, which may include guerrilla warfare, that are designed to weaken and overthrow that government or occupying power.

• *Guerrilla Warfare* is the conduct of combat operations inside a country in enemy or enemy-held territory on a military or paramilitary basis by units organized from predominantly indigenous personnel. The aim is to weaken the established government of the target country by reducing the combat effectiveness of the military forces, the economic means, and the overall morale and will to resist.

• *Irregular Forces* refer in a broad sense to all types of insurgents to include partisans, subversionists, terrorists, revolutionaries and guerrillas.

• *Paramilitary Forces* are those existing alongside the armed forces and are professedly nonmilitary, but formed on an underlying military pattern as a potential auxiliary or diversionary military organization.

• *Evasion and Escape* are those operations whereby friendly military personnel and other selected individuals are enabled to emerge from enemy-held or unfriendly areas to areas under friendly control.

**COUNTERINSURGENCY** includes all military, political, economic, psychological, and sociological activities directed toward preventing and suppressing resistance groups whose actions range in degree of violence and scope from subversive political activity to violent actions by large guerrilla elements to overthrow a duly established government. The basic military problem is to maintain or restore internal security so that other elements of the counterinsurgency program can operate. Comprehensive national counterinsurgency plans are required to integrate and coordinate the use of all military and nonmilitary means including available outside assistance to suppress and eliminate all forms of insurgency.

- *Counterguerrilla Operations* are those active and passive measures taken by the armed forces and non-military agencies of an established government and its allies against guerrilla forces.

- *U.S. Army Counterinsurgency Forces* comprise special forces, civil affairs, psychological warfare, engineer, medical, light aviation, signal and other elements as required. They are capable of operating in disturbed areas, if invited by a host government, to provide training and operational advice and assistance to indigenous military forces engaged in maintaining or restoring internal security.

- *U.S. Army Special Forces Groups* are specially trained and organized to train and assist indigenous leaders and forces in measures, tactics, and techniques required to prevent or eliminate hostile resistance and guerrilla groups. Other Army elements extend and complement the activities of Special Forces Groups. Assistance and training provided to indigenous forces may include operational advice. The wartime mission of Special Forces Groups is to organize, supply, train, and direct predominantly indigenous forces in the conduct of guerrilla warfare in enemy-held or controlled territory to support the overall military effort.

- *Civic Action* is any action performed by military forces of a country, utilizing military manpower and skills in cooperation with civil agencies, authorities, or groups, that is designed to improve the economic or social conditions of that country. Civic action programs can enhance the stature of indigenous military forces and improve their relationship with the population. Thus such programs can be a major contributing factor to the elimination of insurgency.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE** includes those activities and operations planned and conducted to influence the opinions, emotions, attitudes, and behavior of the enemy, the indigenous population, and neutral or friendly foreign groups in such a way as to support the accomplishment of national aims and objectives.

**COLD WAR** is the use of political, economic technological, sociological, and military measures short of overt armed conflict involving regular military forces to achieve national objectives.

- *Wars of Subversion or Covert Aggression* are terms used to define the Communist-inspired actions designed to subvert free governments through development of indigenous resistance movements, including the eventual organization of guerrilla forces, and the support of these movements from external sources. The aggression is characterized by a rising scale of violence passing from persuasion to coercion, reprisals, terrorism, and guerrilla warfare aimed at gaining control of a country.

- *Wars of Liberation* is the propaganda term used by the Communists to dignify their efforts toward covert aggression.



