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Research Guide Series

Military and the Drug War

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Military and the War on Drugs (WoD)

Long before President Nixon coined the phrase, 'The War on Drugs,' military forces were participating in counter-narcotics operations. In the past the military assisted counter-narcotics enforcement organisations by providing intelligence, logistical support, air surveillance and aviation resources; the most recent example includes military assistance in the eradication of poppy crops in Afghanistan. Regardless of predictions that the war on drugs will become irrelevant in the future, there is a strong contemporary link between terrorism, insurgency and illicit drugs. The drug trade largely contributes to funding low intensity conflicts and full international and civil-military cooperation is required to combat the problem.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on anti-drug measures by the military. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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