America’s “War on Poverty”

How does the work of connecting a youth in poverty with a volunteer tutor/mentor relate to landing combat troops on an enemy beach during a traditional war?
Terms of “warfare” are used in many forms of leadership and advocacy such as “war on poverty”, “war on drugs”, “war on crime”.

How many leaders actually have a “battle plan” to fight their wars in all the places where poverty, drugs, crime, drop out rates, are an issue?

Maps are a tool military planners use to distribute soldiers and supplies to meet the enemy in many places.
The Tutor/Mentor Connection began using maps in 1993, to show where volunteer-based tutor/mentor programs are needed, based on where poverty and poorly performing schools are concentrated.

Darker colors indicate higher poverty levels.

Beginning in 1994 the T/MC began to build a Directory of non-school tutor/mentor programs, using maps to show where the programs were located in different parts of the city. Layers of information showed different types of tutoring and/or mentoring, as well as age groups served. This was intended to be a tool leaders would use to support existing programs while building new programs where none existed.
In order to have tutor/mentor programs in more parts of the city, a logistics and resource development plan needs to be developed, including elements shown below.

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<td>Our army better than enemy</td>
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<td>How do we educate and inform public so we can maintain support for revenue needed to support war effort?</td>
<td>We need to feed, cloth, arm and re-supply our troops and logistics providers for as long as war is in progress.</td>
<td>Understand needs &amp; plan resource allocation, e.g. strategic planning</td>
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<td>How to replace forces that are lost with new soldiers trained and ready to pick up from where previous left off</td>
<td>What resources do we need to implement the plan? How to prepare them?</td>
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<td>To support these efforts</td>
<td>How do we distribute needed resources and troops to multiple locations where they are needed?</td>
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<td>How do we raise money needed to pay for this entire effort?</td>
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This is a supply chain issue.

How do we create infrastructure to support this force?
In the following pages each step on this chart is reviewed. Skipping any step in the plan, results in less overall success in the war.
Planning teams need to use all available information to better understand the problem, and to learn how others are already trying to solve it. From this information teams can innovate their own strategies.

Read this article on **Action Research**. Teams focused on this problem can be in many organizations. [http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/2012/05/mentoring-workforce-development-ceo.html](http://tutormentor.blogspot.com/2012/05/mentoring-workforce-development-ceo.html)

Planning teams can be in business, schools, foundations, faith groups, etc.
Organize & Train

Combat troops
(tutors, mentors)

What resources do we need to implement the plan? How to prepare them?

With more than 125,000 k-12 youth in living in Chicago poverty neighborhoods, several hundred tutor/mentor programs are needed. Each needs a paid and volunteer staff.

Strategies need to mobilize resources needed by every tutor/mentor program and distribute those consistently to every part of the city.

All programs have same needs:

* volunteers
* public visibility
* operating dollars
* technology
* training/learning
* leadership

See maps like this at
http://www.tutormentorprogramlocator.net/mapgallery.html
Logistics
To get troops & supplies in places where needed.

How do we distribute needed resources and troops to multiple locations where they are needed?

Transit routes show paths volunteers and donors take as they pass by poverty neighborhoods every day. Planners need to organize distribution hubs in the LOOP and each suburb.

Using these types of visual aids strategies can develop that bring volunteers, dollars, technology, ideas, etc. to youth programs in every poverty neighborhood of the city and suburbs.
Feed & Equip
..our army better than their army.

We need to feed, cloth, arm and re-supply our troops and logistics providers for as long as war is in progress.

If planners identify common needs, innovators and entrepreneurs can help make sure every program is well supported.

Big companies have corporate office teams that make sure every branch store has the personnel, equipment, training, products and services needed to support customers.
Recruit & Retain

How to replace forces that are lost with new solders trained and ready to pick up from where previous left off.

It takes 12 years for a first grader to finish high school. Strategies need to constantly recruit new volunteers and donors to replace those who drop out over the many decades this strategy needs to be sustained.

Every calendar year should have events that mobilize attention and resources for tutor/mentor programs in all parts of the city.
No Army can fight effectively and no building is constructed unless the troops and workers are paid and unless they have the right supplies and tools to do the job.

Advertising, PR, social media and other forms of communications must be developed to create and sustain the public will needed to fund this effort.
Leaders are needed from every sector of business, religion, education, civic, sports, entertainment, media, politics, etc. to support this collective effort.

Strategies in each volunteer-based program should aim to transform volunteers and youth into future leaders who help sustain and expand this effort.

See ideas for leadership involvement
http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/leadership-strategies
Students, volunteers, writers, designers, movie-makers, etc. are invited to help us collect, organize and communicate these ideas. Join work forum at http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com
Help us develop and communicate these ideas. The graphic below is one of many done by interns working with us in Chicago. See more like this at:

http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/definition-of-issues/ideasanimation

Join the planning forum at http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com and you can take part in this project, using your own talent to communicate these ideas and to support the growth of youth support systems in more places where kids need extra help.

Talent Needed: This map shows range of talents needed by T/MC and other intermediaries to support this strategy. - http://tinyurl.com/TMC-Talent-needed
Help us generate a flow of operating and innovation dollars to tutor/mentor programs and to intermediary organizations.

The Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC was formed in July 2011 to continue the work of the Tutor/Mentor Connection. Companies, individuals, and/or philanthropist can help us develop the concepts and technologies shown in this presentation and on our web sites.

Many ways to give and get involved.
http://www.tutormentorconference.org/platform_tmi.htm
Set up a Learning Community or Research & Development team in your business or organization. Begin to share this information in formal and informal settings. Browse the web sites below and use the information available from each web site.

7. http://www.youtube.com/user/TutorMentorInstitute?ob=0&feature=results_main

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