

DEVELOP THE OPERATIONS ESTIMATE — PERSONNEL RECOVERY (PR)

Relates to UJTL task:

OP 5.3.4 Develop Courses of Action/Prepare Staff Estimates

OP 6.2.9 Coordinate Personnel Recovery

TASK SITUATION: Commander, joint task force (CJTF) has received a planning directive such as a combatant commander's warning order or planning order. A joint planning group has been assembled and the planning of an operation is ongoing.

TASK PURPOSE: Identify, coordinate, and integrate personnel recovery (PR) operations and efforts into the joint task force (JTF) operation. Assist component PR liaison officers (LNOs) in providing input into the JTF planning effort.

REFERENCES: JP 3-33, JP 3-50, JP 5-0

TASK STEPS

1. Contribute to the JTF's overall Mission Analysis

- a. Determine known facts, current status, or availability of PR forces provided by the combatant commander.
- b. Develop assumptions to replace missing or unknown facts.
 - (1) The operational status of PR forces (if known) at probable execution.
 - (2) The availability of and support requirements for host nation (HN) or multinational PR forces.
 - (3) Available time.
- c. Analyze the combatant commander's mission and intent from a PR point of view.
- d. Determine force limitations.
 - (1) Any requirement on the JTF's PR forces that dictates an action is a constraint.
 - (2) Any requirement on the JTF's PR forces that prohibits an action is a restraint.
 - (3) Others (e.g., consider rules of engagement, weather).
- e. Identify PR tasks that may be required by joint forces.
 - (1) Determine specified tasks.
 - (2) Determine implied tasks.
 - (3) From (1) and (2) above, determine essential tasks.
- f. Conduct an initial force structure analysis. Determine shortfalls in PR forces or capabilities that will affect the conduct of joint PR operations.
- g. Conduct an initial PR risk assessment based on the adversary order of battle, friendly force structure, and proposed courses of action (COAs).
 - (1) Consider force vulnerabilities, which may result in isolated personnel.
 - (2) Consider impact of operating environment conditions (terrain, vegetation, populace, etc.).
 - (3) Consider adversary threats to isolated personnel and recovery forces.
- h. Recommend ways joint PR operations can help achieve the desired end state.
- i. Assist in developing the JTF mission statement.
- j. Provide any PR input necessary for the mission analysis briefing to CJTF.

2. Receive CJTF Planning Guidance

- a. Planners and LNOs should request any PR guidance necessary to allow component PR planning. Request clarification if required.
- b. Pass the CJTF guidance to the joint personnel recovery center (JPRC), if established, and to the component personnel recovery coordination cells.

3. Develop Options for Employment of PR Forces. The JTF staff should develop multiple friendly COAs. Component PR LNOs or members of the JPRC should advise the JTF planners on how available PR forces can best contribute to each developing JTF COA.

- a. Review the mission analysis and CJTF's guidance.
- b. Analyze the proposed JTF COAs for PR potential. For each COA consider:
 - (1) Enemy policy, practices, and intentions.

- (2) Location, strength, capabilities, and activities of enemy units that could affect operations in the objective area, adjacent areas, along lines of communications, and infiltration and exfiltration routes.
 - (3) Capabilities of the enemy early warning system.
 - (4) Current enemy air, ground, and naval order of battle.
 - (5) Enemy electronic order of battle and its threat to PR forces.
 - (6) The threat to primary recovery vehicles to include air defense artillery, small arms fire, armed adversary helicopters, and fixed-wing aircraft.
 - (7) Meteorological and oceanographic.
 - (8) Astronomical conditions.
 - (9) Terrain information and analysis of the attitude of the populace toward isolated personnel.
 - (10) The evasion environment.
 - (11) Location of friendly force operational areas and unconventional assisted recovery mechanisms information.
- c. For each proposed JTF COA, identify required PR assets by Service or functional component or command.
- (1) Assess the capabilities and limitations of each. Ensure the JTF planners are aware of these.
 - (a) Look for deficiencies in own force structure and available systems types.
 - (b) Prioritize required PR capabilities and unit types for deployment.
 - (c) Consider the availability of non-Department of Defense PR forces.
 - (d) Consider the availability of multinational or HN PR forces.
 - (2) Review the extent to which proposed operations would require diverting PR operations from one portion of the JOA to another.
 - (3) Provide the JTF with options for the deployment of its PR forces to the JOA and subsequent preparation of those forces.
 - (a) Formulate options for strategic deployment of JTF PR forces to the theater of operations.
 - 1 Develop and integrate the deployment concept with the CJTF's overall deployment plan and sequence of subsequent operations.
 - 2 Develop options for logistics support for the movement of PR forces from ports of debarkation to initial positions. Consider:
 - a Transportation modes.
 - b Transportation infrastructure and required improvements.
 - c Available airfields to support movement.
 - 3 Balance requirements for initial combat and noncombat operations, force reception and buildup, and timing of required follow-on operations.
 - (b) Consider options for the initial preparation of PR forces within the operational area.
 - 1 Identify bases and locations from which land and sea-based PR forces could initiate operations.
 - 2 Identify potential intermediate staging bases in the theater of operations.
 - 3 Identify potential forward operating bases in the JOA.
 - (4) Provide JTF planners with options for employment of PR forces.
 - (a) Develop options for posturing PR forces to react to changing tactical situations. Consider options during the following:
 - 1 Deterrence and show of force options.
 - 2 Preemptive attack options.
 - 3 Transition to offensive operations and the enemy choice of timing.
 - (b) Coordinate for on-call supporting arms.

- 1 Close air support (conventional and special operations).
 - 2 Naval surface fire support.
 - 3 Indirect fire support.
 - (c) Plan for precautionary PR.
 - 1 Prepositioning of assets.
 - 2 As a corollary to the operational mission.
 - 3 Consider:
 - a Lifeguards.
 - b Duckbutts.
 - c Airborne alert.
 - d Quick Response Posture (i.e., Strip alert).
 - (5) Establish command and control procedures for joint PR. Joint PR is a tactical operation controlled by the JPRC. The JPRC is normally established at the component level and conducts PR planning and directs execution of PR missions for the JTF. It may be preferable to locate the JPRC at the JTF headquarters (in J-3) if the operation is limited in scope.
 - d. Test each COA for validity.
 - e. Provide input to the JTF COA statement and sketches.
4. **Participate in the COA Analysis (Wargaming).** Be prepared to contribute to the process of wargaming by mentally "fighting the battle" in time and space. The process may use the structure of action, reaction, and counteraction sequences for critical events (e.g., D-day actions). The staff considers details relating to these key elements:
 - a. Specific tasks for components.
 - b. The task organization of the JTF throughout the operation.
 - c. Command relationships.
 - d. Coincidence of movement and maneuver with operational fires.
 - e. Decision points and intelligence requirements related to major events.
 - f. Operational support needed.
 - g. Identification of branches (what if) and sequels (what then).
5. **Participate in COA Comparisons**
 - a. Participate in determining the criteria to be used for comparing COAs.
 - (1) Review the commander's intent.
 - (2) Use differentiating comparison criteria to identify the COA that best achieves objectives against the most likely and the most dangerous adversary COA.
 - The selected COA should also:
 - (a) Pose the minimum risk to the force and mission accomplishment.
 - (b) Place the force in the best posture for future operations.
 - (c) Provide the maximum latitude for initiative by subordinates.
 - (d) Provide the most flexibility to meet unexpected threats and opportunities.
 - (3) Include identification of feasible alternatives, using the best information available and determining the advantages and disadvantages of each.
 - b. Ensure recommendations for PR operations have been coordinated with each JTF component.
6. **Receive the CJTF's Decision on COAs.** The CJTF may select or modify the recommended COA. Based on that decision, the CJTF's estimate (document or slides) will normally be sent or briefed to the supported combatant commander for approval.
7. **Provide Input and Develop the PR Annex to the JTF Operation Plan.** After the COA is selected, the operation plan is developed. Most of the information needed for this task should have been developed through the estimate process (mission analysis through COA selection). The detailed joint force PR portion is Appendix 5, "Personnel Recovery (PR)," to Annex C, "Operations." The PR appendix should support the basic plan, promulgate the PR concept of operations, and direct PR guidance and responsibilities to subordinate organizations.