



# *Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet*

## **ISSUE: Definition of Personnel Recovery**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Personnel recovery is the umbrella term for operations focused on the task of recovering captured, missing, or isolated personnel from danger. It is the sum of military, civil, and political efforts to obtain the release or recovery of personnel from uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas whether they are captured, missing, or isolated. That includes U.S., allied, coalition, friendly military, or paramilitary, and others designated by the National Command Authorities (NCA). Personnel recovery includes, but is not limited to, theater search and rescue (SAR); Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR); Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE); Evasion and Recovery (E&R); and the coordination of negotiated as well as forcible recovery options. Personnel recovery may occur through military action, action by non-governmental organizations, other U.S. Government-approved action, and diplomatic initiatives, or through any combination of those options (DOD Directive 2310.2).

Though it could be construed as a form of personnel recovery hostage rescue or other “rescues” associated with terrorism or counter-terrorism do not come under the personnel recovery umbrella overseen by DPMO. Additionally, personnel recovery is not the same as non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO) though a personnel recovery incident could certainly occur during a NEO. ASD(SO/LIC) is responsible for counter-terrorism activities and NEO. DPMO is responsible for personnel recovery as defined above.