



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

ISSUE: Personnel Recovery and Theater Engagement Planning (TEP)

BACKGROUND: Theater Engagement Planning (TEP) resulted from a tasking contained in the 1997 Defense Planning Guidance (DPG). TEP as designed as a system to implement the “shape” imperative of the Defense Strategy developed during the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). Civil Search and Rescue and International SAR Agreements can be a major component of “shaping” the environment and should be included in TEPs.

DISCUSSION: TEPs enable combatant commanders and the NCA to understand better the requirements imposed on the armed forces and associated agencies to shape the international security environment. They give decision-makers a clearer understanding of the linkage between National direction and theater-specific execution. Secondly, they clearly portray the cost of that engagement.

TEP uses the deliberate wartime planning model to evaluate the “return on engagement investment” for each of numerous engagement activities theaters execute. The TEP process will eventually provide a complete picture of the expenditures of resources necessary to execute the “shape” imperative of the Defense Strategy.

Each CINC will publish a TEP for his theater annually providing detailed information on type and scope of engagement activities. The responsible CINC determines which activities to include in the TEP. Examples of engagement activity categories, include operational activities, combined exercises, and other foreign military interaction which includes combined training, combined education, military contacts, security assistance, humanitarian assistance, and any other activity the CINC designates. DPMO believes that the international cooperation on civil search and rescue programs that all of the CINCs have undertaken to one extent or another are excellent examples of peacetime operations undertaken to “shape” the future environment.

The CINCs will forward their TEPs to the CJCS for review and subsequent integration into a “global family of plans.” Following the Chairman’s approval, TEPs are forwarded to the USD(P) for review to ensure they conform to established U.S. Government priorities. The most important part of the TEP process is that it explicitly links National Command Authority strategic direction to the specific theater-level engagement activities.

A Regional Working Group (RWG) and an Integrated Working Group (IWG) will review all TEPs. **DPMO, as a participant in the Regional Working Groups**, will be well positioned to represent personnel recovery issues during the review of the TEPs.