

Roles of Special Operations Forces and Conventional Forces in Recovery Operations



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Personnel Recovery (PR)

- **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.**
- Includes, but not limited to:
 - Theater Search and Rescue (SAR)
 - Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)
 - Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE)
 - Evasion and Recovery (E&R)
 - Negotiated or forcible recovery options

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PR In Perspective

Incident	Spectrum Of Conflict	Method Of Recovery
Captured (Lt Goodman) Lebanon/Syria 1983	Contingency Operation (Retaliation for bombing Marine Barracks)	Civil/Diplomatic
Illegally Detained Civilian Panama 1989	Contingency Operation (JUST CAUSE)	Military (SOF)
Evaders (US Aircrews) Kuwait/Iraq 1991	Major Theater War (DESERT STORM)	Military CSAR (CAF/SOF)
Captured (CWO Durant) Somalia 1993	Operations Other Than War (Humanitarian Assist./Peace Making)	Diplomatic

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PR in Perspective

Continued

Incident	Spectrum Of Conflict	Method Of Recovery
Captured (CWO Hall) North Korea 1994	Operations Other Than War	Diplomatic
Evader (Capt O'Grady) Bosnia/Herzegovina 1995	Operations Other Than War (Enforcement of No- Fly Zone)	Military TRAP (Marines)
Captured (Army POWs) Serbia 1999	Operations Other Than War (UNPREDEF)	Civil/Diplomatic
Evaders (USAF Pilots) Serbia 1999	Operations Other Than War (Operation Allied Force)	Military CSAR (CAF/SOF)

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The Strategic Problem

Deep Battle/Denied Territory Personnel Recovery

USAF

- Approach
 - CSARTF -- Composition Dictated by Threat
- Limitations
 - Force Structure > 50% in Reserves
 - Penetrating Tankers

SOF

- Approach
 - SOF Tactics
 - Component of CSARTF
- Limitations
 - CSAR Training
 - Availability
 - Integration with CAF
 - Unfunded Requirement

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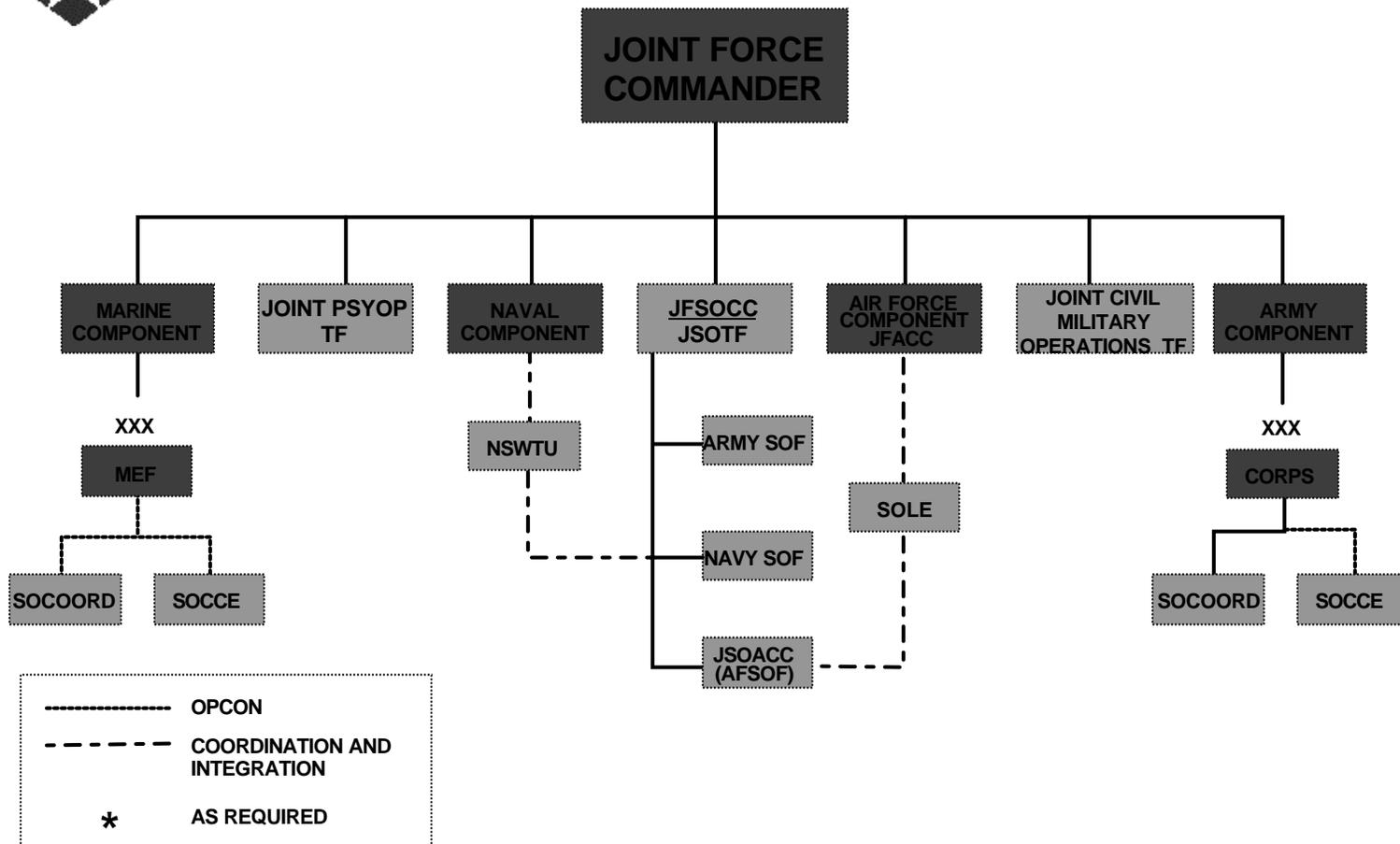
Concepts of Operations

- **Ground/Strip Alert**
 - Quick Response
- **Airborne Alert**
 - Quicker Response
- **Pre-positioned**
 - Laager Sites
 - Recovery Teams

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Operational SOF C²



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Why SOF?

- **Capability**
 - Threat Penetration
 - Range Requirements
 - Conduct PR Across Full Spectrum
 - Operate in Demanding Environments (WMD, Urban)
- **Presence** (First There, Already There, Only One There)
- **Availability**
- **Flexibility**

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State of CSAR in DoD

- **Lacks Operational Level Focus**
 - Ancillary Capability -- Does Not Help CINC's Win Wars
 - Limited CINC Staffing or Deliberate Planning
- **Lacks Joint Focus**
 - Each Service and USSOCOM Responsible for CSAR in Support of Their Own Operations
 - No Joint Staff CSAR Advocate
- **Lacks Sufficient Force Structure**
 - Existing Dedicated Forces Limited in Ability to Meet Numerous Small Scale Contingencies
- **Lacks Forward Presence**

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Issues

- **Is There a Requirement for Dedicated Conventional Recovery Forces in Every Combatant Command?**
- **Is the Active/Reserve Recovery Force Mix Adequate to Support Operations Other Than War?**
- **If the Combatant Commander Employs SOF to Execute Recovery Operations, What Should Be the Command Relationship, If Any, With the Air Component ?**

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