

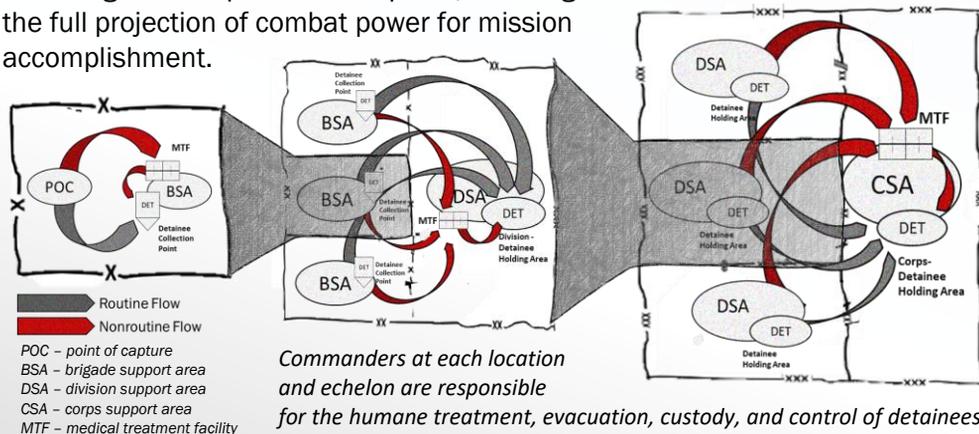
DETAINEE OPERATIONS

A PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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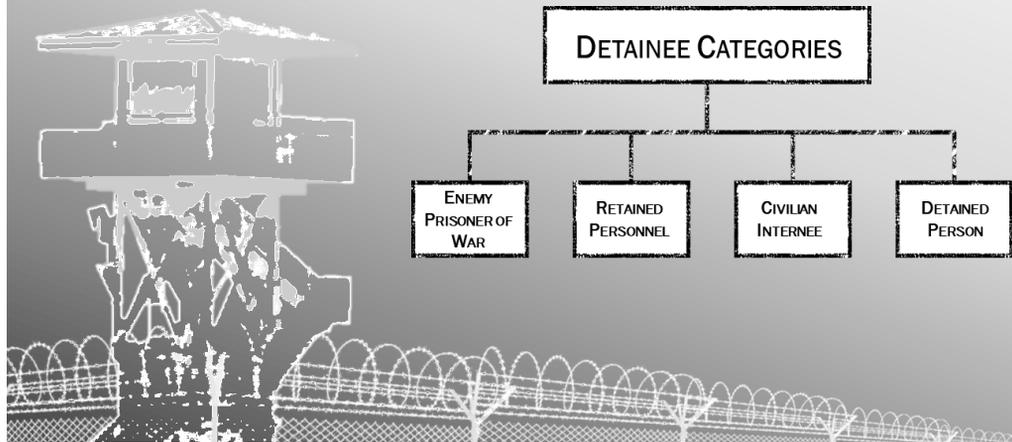


Detainee operations are a high consequence mission with international strategic implications, capable of directly impacting the United States' national policy and subsequently, national defense enterprises. Historically, the United States has struggled with detainee operations, generally due to planning shortfalls, despite detainee operations being an inevitable part of any conflict. Understanding the operational environment and how it pertains to the enemy population will help planners conduct mission analysis. A detainee operations planning framework will enable staffs to consider population variables that have mission impacts by combining what actions need to be executed and what information about the enemy population should be known to plan for those actions. With organization and preparation, detainee operations planning can anticipate population risks and mitigate the operational impacts, enabling the full projection of combat power for mission accomplishment.



Commanders at each location and echelon are responsible for the humane treatment, evacuation, custody, and control of detainees. Military Police transport detainees rearward through support areas. Detainees requiring medical attention are evacuated to the nearest MTF.

THE CHALLENGE, IN ESSENCE, IS TO SUSTAIN AN UNKNOWN ENEMY POPULATION WITH A SIGNIFICANT SECURITY REQUIREMENT, BUT WITHOUT KNOWING THE EXACT, SIZE, TIMING OR LOCATION OF THAT POPULATION.



WWI

- Only wartime planning, no advance preparation
- Prisoners could be source of intel and labor

WWII

- Unexpected speed of capture
- Did not understand prevalence of Nazi ideology
- Prisoners reeducation can shape post-war reconstruction

Korea

- Detainees refusing repatriation after hostilities ended
- Overcrowding leads to prison violence and security concerns
- Lack of translators creates a vulnerability

Vietnam

- Detainees given to South Vietnamese to preserve combat power
- Partners may not follow Geneva Conventions, but U.S. will be accountable

Gulf War

- Unanticipated mass capitulation
- Surrender leaflets were effective tools
- Short duration of detention contributed to success

GWOT

- Insurgency produced detainees that were not predominantly EPWs
- Complex detainee population produces logistical and legal complications

DETAINEE OPERATIONS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This framework proposes that four population variables, each with sub-variables, have significant mission impacts to the detainee operations mission. This framework reflects elements of PMESII-PT, the variables describing the OE and also incorporates the mission variables of METT-TC. The example questions are not all-encompassing, but instead may serve as a guideline for staffs to identify considerations relevant to their specific OE and enemy populations, planning considerations, and mission impacts.

VARIABLES	SUB-VARIABLES	MISSION IMPACTS
SOCIAL Identifies nationality and cultural (or religious) composition of the enemy population.	NATIONALITY What country is the enemy from?	SPACE / SECURITY REQUIREMENT
	DEMOGRAPHICS What is the anticipated enemy population in gender and age?	SPACE / SECURITY REQUIREMENT
	IDEOLOGY What extreme ideologies may be represented within the population that should be segregated from others?	SPACE / SECURITY REQUIREMENT
	ETHNICITY / RELIGION What cultural or religious groups does the population represent?	SPACE / SECURITY REQUIREMENT DIETARY REQUIREMENT RELIGIOUS SUPPORT
HEALTH Identifies health considerations, concerning the possibility and probability of both disease and injuries to the population.	DISEASE What diseases are expected within the population? Are there considerations for communicable diseases?	MEDICAL ASSETS TRANSPORTATION ASSETS MORTUARY AFFAIRS
	INJURY What injuries can be anticipated? (e.g. cold weather or overexposure, malnutrition, CBRN contamination, specific combat injuries)	MEDICAL ASSETS TRANSPORTATION ASSETS MORTUARY AFFAIRS
COMMUNICATION Anticipates ability of U.S. forces to communicate with or convey messages to the enemy population.	ORAL What language does the population speak?	INTERPRETER SUPPORT
	WRITTEN What is the anticipated literacy rate of the population?	DETENTION COMMUNICATION
CAPTURE Considers the circumstances of capture, identifying an information requirement for the equipment on the detainee's person and their legal category of detention.	EQUIPMENT ON PERSON What equipment is issued to the enemy population? What personal effects does the detainee have?	INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR SUPPLY ASSETS
	LEGAL CATEGORY How many detainees are anticipated by type? Are they classified as uniformed combatants?	SPACE / SECURITY REQUIREMENT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
	CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE Are there any notable conditions regarding capture? (e.g. mass capitulation)	SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

EXAMPLES

- Indications that an enemy population carries communicable diseases can give front line troops information and resources to protect themselves. Diseases will detract from combat power, even after the enemy has capitulated.
- Knowing that the enemy population suffers from malnutrition with a higher likelihood of carrying parasites should trigger different preparatory planning – alerting a potential requirement for medical treatment and supplies, as well as guard considerations for custody.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- FM 3-39, Military Police Operations
- FM 3-63, Detainee Operations
- AR 190-8, Enemy Prisoners of War, Retained Personnel, and Other Detainees