



Capture Avoidance/ Personnel Recovery Plan

Asymmetric Warfare Group
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UNCLASSIFIED

5-Point Contingency Plan

GOTWA

Leaders issue this plan to any team or element operating apart from the main body.

- 1** **G**oing where?
(Destination and route)
- 2** **O**thers going with you?
- 3** **T**ime you will be gone?
(Return no later than. . .)
- 4** **W**hat if you don't return on time?
- 5** **A**ctions on enemy contact?
(Your element's actions and mine)

Capture Avoidance: The Basics

- Maintain an offensive mindset and situational awareness (SA).
- Expect the enemy to be crafty and resourceful.
- Maintain internal communications.
 - Voice/radio
 - Line of sight
 - Signals/code words
- Use the 5-point contingency plan (**GOTWA**).
- Identify rally points.
- Use buddy teams.
- Conduct surveillance detection.
- Brief the Isolated Soldier Guidance (**ISG**).
- Use cross cover in static positions.
- Coordinate with quick-reaction force (QRF) and adjacent units, especially when operating along unit boundaries.

Evasion Aids

If possible, potential evaders need to carry evasion aids on their person. During evasion, evaders may be quickly separated from any equipment not secured to their person. Space and clothing considerations may limit the number of evasion aids carried. Recommended evasion aids based on METT-C:

- Compass
- Maps of the area
- Signal mirror
- Personal locator beacon
- "Pointee-talkee" or other means of communicating with the native populace
- Equipment that permits verbal and visual communications with recovery force both day and night
- Items to enhance protection from the elements and provide camouflage

Note: Evasion aids support recovery efforts; however, they do not replace the need for a rehearsed isolated soldier plan.

Unit Considerations for Threat Reduction

- Use ISOPREP cards (DD-1833).
- Conduct basic SERE (**S**urvival, **E**vasion, **R**esistance, and **E**scape) training.
- Read and assess intelligence reports.
- Include ISG and Personnel Recovery Plan into operation orders (OPORDs).
- Rehearse escalation-of-force scenarios.
- Understand capabilities and availability of enablers.
 - Tactical human intelligence (HUMINT) team/Human exploitation team (HET)
 - Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
 - Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS)
 - Civil Affairs/Psychological Operations (CA/PSYOPs)
 - Signals intelligence (SIGINT)
 - Joint personnel recovery cell
 - Special search dogs
 - Local national forces leaders

Rally Points

Rally points should

- Be easy to recognize
- Show no recent indications of enemy activity
- Be located away from population concentrations and traffic
- Be defensible
- Provide cover and concealment
- Provide multiple routes in/out
- Be located on dominant terrain
- Be called out during the patrol

Consider using friendly locations or easily identifiable local features as rally points. Plan and brief code words, radio frequencies, call signs, and running passwords in OPORD paragraph #5.

Counter-Surveillance Tips

Be alert for

- Same person or vehicle seen repeatedly
- Anyone filming your activities or seen taking notes or drawing
- Cell phone or radio use
- Trailing persons/vehicles
- Static surveillance (e.g., observer in a parked car for extended period)
- Checkpoints
- Vehicles on the BOLO (be on the lookout) list
- Change in population/traffic patterns
- Suspicious behavior/individuals appearing "out of place"

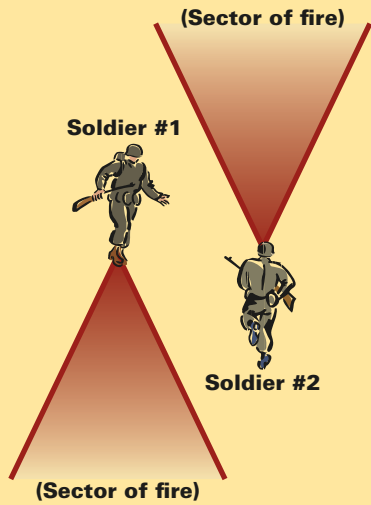
Communicate threats and indicators to your unit, e.g., "BOLO vehicle trailing the patrol at this time."

Employ

- Random security patrols and observation posts
- Radio checks with outposts
- Irregular guard force transition
- Emplacement of barriers, roadblocks, and checkpoints
- Active searches and identity checks
- Special search dogs

An aggressive enemy will test your security posture by conducting hoaxes or smuggling non-lethal contraband.

Cross Cover



Use buddy team positions. In a static position, soldiers maintain line of sight with each other and provide security for each other.

Maintain a Reactionary Gap! (21-ft Rule)

- A dismounted attacker can move 22 ft in 2 seconds (22 & 2).
- How close will you let a possible threat approach?
- What is your unit's escalation-of-force response, mounted and dismounted, day and night?
- Multiple threats will take more space and time to effectively engage.
- Avoid "tunnel vision"; watch your flanks and rear. Establish 360° security and sectors of fire for your unit's position.
- Capture is more likely to occur in close quarters during urban fighting.
- Continue to fight until immobilized or incapacitated.

Considerations If Captured

- Humanize yourself:
 - Use names.
 - Maintain self-respect/honor.
 - Be honest (loss of honor if caught lying).
 - Talk with your captors about family and personal life.
- Try to identify the captors' patterns and vulnerabilities.
- Don't threaten your captors.
- Show respect to your captors.
- Answer questions but don't divulge specific information that can jeopardize Coalition Forces, missions, or capabilities.
- Be prepared for possible physical abuse and enemy exploitation for information operations (IO) purposes.

NEVER GIVE UP!

Squad and Platoon ISG Planning and Response

- Plan and disseminate the ISG.
- Brief and follow the Personnel Recovery Plan.
- Immediately report to higher headquarters and inform adjacent units.
- Search the immediate area.
- Establish the initial cordon.
- Upon the arrival of QRF and enablers, assist them by describing the situation (5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, and Why) and orient them to quickly support the search.

Isolated Soldier Guidance (ISG)

Individual

- An isolated soldier is one who is separated from his unit.
- If you become an isolated soldier, immediately attempt to establish communication with your unit:
 - Move to higher ground to establish line of sight if the situation allows.
 - Attempt to move to the last location where you had positive contact with your unit.
 - Listen or look for the pre-planned isolated soldier signals.
 - If you are unable to re-establish contact with your unit at the last known location, move to your last rally point.
 - Seek cover and concealment.

Squad/Platoon

- A unit has an isolated soldier if the unit leader cannot locate an individual soldier by any means available.
- REPORT TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY!
 - As time elapses, the size of the search area increases.
 - Use a pre-planned isolated soldier signal.
 - Move to the last known location of the soldier.
 - Establish the initial cordon.
 - Search the immediate area.
 - Request QRF and adjacent unit assistance as well as other enablers (UAVs, HUMINT teams, etc.).

REHEARSE ISG AT ALL LEVELS!

Example

"If you are separated, move to the last location where you were with the patrol. Take a covered and concealed position and wait at that location for 2 hours. If we do not appear, wait until darkness and move 300 meters to the south of Route Smith and move east through rally points [RPs] 1–5 until you return to the patrol base. Remain at each RP for 15 minutes. We will immediately establish a cordon of the area where we identified you were missing and send a patrol to your last known location and conduct a search. The battalion will push OPs to rally points 1–5 in an effort to have a safe haven for you to maneuver to."

Resources

- **FM 3-50.1: Army Personnel Recovery**
- **SH 21-76: Ranger Handbook**
- **Joint Personnel Recovery Center:**
 - **NIPR** <http://www.jptra.jfcom.mil/>
 - **SIPR** <http://www.jptra.jfcom.smil.mil>
- **JP 3-50: Joint Doctrine for Personnel Recovery**
- **Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL):**
 - <https://call2.army.mil>
 - <https://call2.army.mil/new/toc.asp?document=2398#1.f>