

# Behind Enemy Lines: A Primer on Special Operations



This article is part of the [Antistasi Commander's Handbook](#).

## Battle Quotes

“Who Dares Wins.”

— Motto of the Special Air Service (SAS)

## 1. PURPOSE

To define the doctrine for the employment of Special Operations Forces (SOF) in the prosecution of the irregular warfare campaign. SOF are a strategic asset, tasked with executing high-risk, high-reward missions that have a disproportionate impact on the enemy's ability and will to fight. They are the scalpel, not the hammer, of our revolution.

## 2. SITUATION

The bulk of our effort is attritional—the “war of a thousand cuts” waged through ambushes, raids, and control of the populace. While essential, this process is slow. Certain enemy centers of gravity—key leaders, critical infrastructure, vital intelligence—are too well-defended or too deep within enemy territory to be targeted by conventional guerilla tactics. The engagement of these targets is the exclusive domain of SOF. These operations are characterized by their precision, their reliance on superior intelligence, and their inherent risk. Failure carries a high price, but success can change the course of the war.

## Battle Quotes

“It is important to emphasize that guerrilla warfare is a war of the masses, a war of the people. The guerrilla band is an armed nucleus, the fighting vanguard of the people. It draws its great force from the mass of the people themselves.”

— Che Guevara

## 3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The philosophy of special operations is one of **Surgical Violence and Strategic Impact**. Where a line squad might destroy a patrol, a SOF team destroys the enemy's ability to command patrols. They achieve this by adhering to three core tenets.

### a. The Core Tenets of SOF

#### (1) Stealth is the Primary Weapon

Firepower is secondary to the ability to remain undetected. SOF operators are masters of concealment, infiltration, and exfiltration. The perfect operation is one where the enemy only discovers the objective has been destroyed long after the team has vanished.

#### (2) Intelligence-Driven Operations

SOF missions are not initiated on a whim. They are the result of meticulous intelligence gathering, surveillance, and planning. Every detail of the objective area, enemy disposition, and patrol patterns is studied. The team knows what it will do, how it will do it, and what it will do if things go wrong, long before crossing the line of departure.

#### (3) Disciplined Initiative

The plan is paramount, but no plan survives contact with the enemy. SOF operators are selected and trained for their ability to think critically and adapt under extreme pressure. They understand the commander's *intent* and are trusted to deviate from the plan as necessary to achieve that intent without direct supervision.

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## 4. TACTICAL APPLICATION: THE SOF MISSION CYCLE

Every special operation follows a deliberate, phased cycle. Skipping or rushing any phase dramatically increases the risk of catastrophic failure.

### graph TD A(1. Planning & Intel

Target analysis, route planning, contingency development) --> B(2. Infiltration

Covert movement to the objective area); B --> C(3. Action on Objective

Speed, Surprise, Violence of Action

Execute the primary task); C --> D(**4. Exfiltration**

Disengagement and covert

movement to a safe area); D --> E(**5. Debrief & Analysis**

Gather intelligence, analyze

performance for future ops);

## a. Mission Types

SOF are not to be wasted on conventional fights. Their tasks are unique and strategic:

1. **Strategic Sabotage:** The destruction of high-value infrastructure. Examples: destroying a power station to black out the regional command net, blowing a key bridge to isolate an enemy garrison, or contaminating a fuel depot.
1. **High-Value Target (HVT) Elimination/Capture:** "Decapitation" strikes against enemy leadership. Eliminating a high-ranking officer can paralyze an entire enemy sector. Capturing one provides an invaluable intelligence source.
1. **Hostage Rescue:** A complex and dangerous operation requiring extreme speed and precision to neutralize guards and secure the principal(s) before they can be harmed.
1. **Special Reconnaissance:** Penetrating deep into enemy territory to place surveillance on a target (e.g., an airfield, a port) and report on enemy activity. This is an intelligence-gathering mission, not a combat operation.

### Insurgent Commander's Note



The most valuable assets for any SOF operation are suppressors, subsonic ammunition, and detailed intelligence. A SOF team that must engage in a prolonged firefight has likely already failed. The goal is to be a ghost. In and out before the enemy even knows they are under attack.

## 5. THE SOF OPERATOR: A BREED APART

A fighter is not made SOF by equipment, but by mindset. The operator is defined by:

1. **Unwavering Discipline:** The ability to remain calm, concealed, and patient for hours or days.
1. **Extreme Adaptability:** The creativity to solve complex problems with limited resources in a lethal environment.
1. **Mastery of Skills:** An expert in fieldcraft, navigation, demolitions, communications, and marksmanship.
1. **Absolute Reliability:** A person who can be trusted to execute the commander's intent without deviation or question, far from any friendly support.

## 6. SUMMARY

Special Operations Forces are the sharpened tip of our spear. They are a strategic asset to be deployed with deliberation against targets of the highest importance. Through stealth, discipline, and audacious planning, they achieve results far beyond their small numbers. They provide the revolution with the ability to reach deep into the enemy's heartland and tear out its vital organs, sowing chaos and fear in the very nerve centers of the occupation.

### Battle Quotes

“Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back.”

— Heraclitus

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