

Capture Avoidance/Personnel Recovery Plan

A Guide For Coalition Forces
January 2007



This document is classified
For Official Use Only (FOUO).

Asymmetric Warfare Group
2282 Morrison St.

Ft. Meade, MD 20755-5355
SIPR site:

www.portal.inscom.army.smil.mil/awg

NIPR comments/requests:
awg.cis@us.army.mil

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 a lost soldier plan
- Use cross cover in static positions
- Coordinate with QRF and adjacent units, especially when operating along unit boundaries

Signal Kit Checklist

(mission-dependent)

Day

- Signal mirror
- Whistle
- Smoke
- VS-17 panel / US flag

Night

- Strobe
- Chem-lights
- Pyrotechnics
- Glint tape
- Laser (visible / IR)

Other

- Personal Locator Beacon (activate if capture is imminent)
- GPS
- Survival kit
- GSM phone

Unit Considerations for Threat Reduction

- Use ISOPREP cards (DD-1833)
- Conduct basic SERE training
- Read and assess intelligence reports
- Include lost soldier plan and personnel recovery into OPORDs
- Rehearse escalation of force scenarios
- Understand capabilities and availability of enablers:
 - THT / HET
 - UAVs
 - JSTARS
 - CA / PSYOPs
 - SIGINT
 - Joint Personnel Recovery Cell
 - Special search dogs
 - LN forces leaders

5-point Contingency Plan

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

- Going Where? (destination and route)
- Others going with you?
- Time you will be gone? (No Later Than...)
- What if you don't return on time?
- Actions on enemy contact (your element's actions and mine)

Rally Points

- Easy to recognize
- No recent indications of enemy activity
- Located away from population concentrations and traffic
- Defendable
- Cover and concealment
- Multiple routes in / out
- Dominant terrain
- 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:

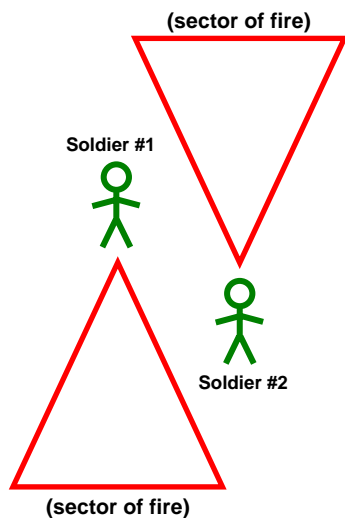
- Same person or vehicle seen repeatedly
- Anyone filming your activities or seen taking notes or drawing
- Cell phone or radio use
- Trailing persons / vehicles
- Static surveillance (i.e. observer in a parked car for extended period)
- Check points
- Vehicles on the BOLO (be on the lookout) list
- Change in population / traffic patterns
- Suspicious behavior / individuals appear "out of place"
- Communicate threats and indicators to your unit, i.e. "BOLO vehicle trailing the patrol at this time."

Counter-Surveillance Tips

Employ:

- Random security patrols and observation posts
- Radio checks with outposts
- Irregular guard force transition
- Emplacement of barriers, roadblocks, checkpoints
- Active searches and ID 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 feet 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 degree security and sectors of fire for your unit's position.
- Capture is more likely to occur during close quarters, urban fighting.
- Continue to fight until immobilized or incapacitated.

Considerations if Captured

Personify yourself:

- Use names
- Maintain self-respect / honor
- Be honest (loss of honor if caught lying)
- Talk with captors about family / personal life
- Try to identify the captor's 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!

Lost Soldier Plan

(Individual)

- A lost soldier is one who is isolated from his unit.
- If you are a lost soldier, immediately attempt to establish communication with your unit: move to higher ground to establish line of sight (LOS) 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 lost 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.

Lost Soldier Plan

(Squad / Platoon)

- A unit has a lost soldier if the unit leader cannot locate an individual soldier by any means available.
- **REPORT TO HIGHER HQ IMMEDIATELY!** As time elapses, the size of the search area increases. Use a pre-planned lost 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.)

Lost Soldier Plan (Example)

"If you are separated, move to the last location where you were last 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 to the south of Route Smith 300 meters and move east through rally points 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 BN will push OPs to rally points 1-5 in an effort to have a safe haven for you to maneuver to."

Squad and Platoon Lost Soldier Planning and Response

- Plan and disseminate the lost soldier plan
- Brief and follow the personnel recovery plan
- Immediately report to higher HQ 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) and orient them to quickly support the search

Resources

- FM 3-50.1 "Army Personnel Recovery"
- SH 21-76 "Ranger Handbook"
- Joint Personnel Recovery Center:
<http://www.jptra.jfcom.mil/>
(NIPR)
<http://www.jptra.jfcom.smil.mil>
(SIPR)
- JP 3-50 "Joint Doctrine for Personnel Recovery"
- Level B SERE:
<http://www.jptra.jfcom.mil/service.s.cfm#null>