



Module 3, Lesson 4

FORCE HEADQUARTERS

CHILD PROTECTION

FOCAL POINT

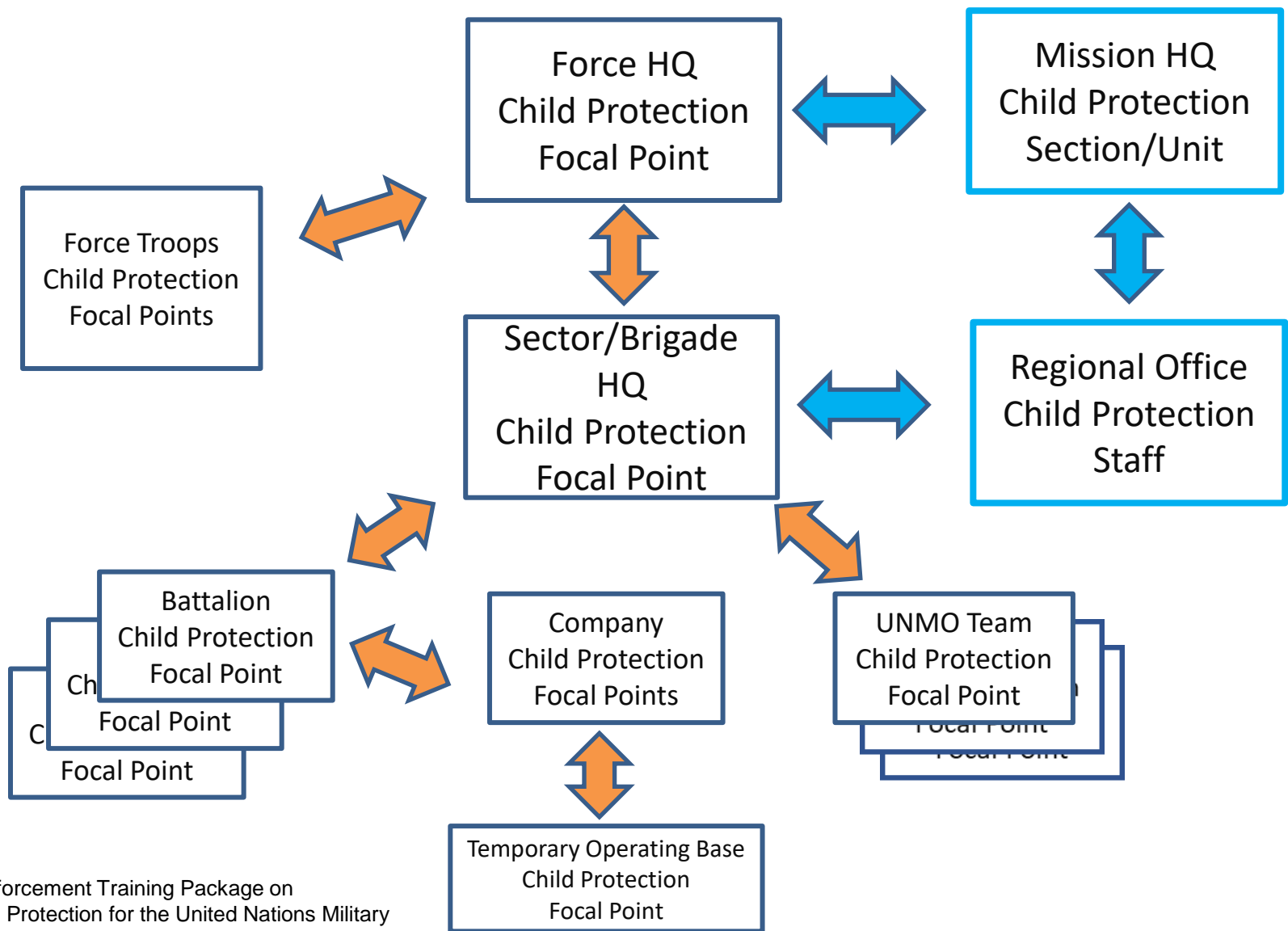


Learning Objectives

- **Explain** the functions of the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point within the military component and the mission
- **Identify** and **discuss** the key guidance required for the military component at the tactical level
- **Demonstrate** the application of the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection



Military Component Child Protection Focal Point System

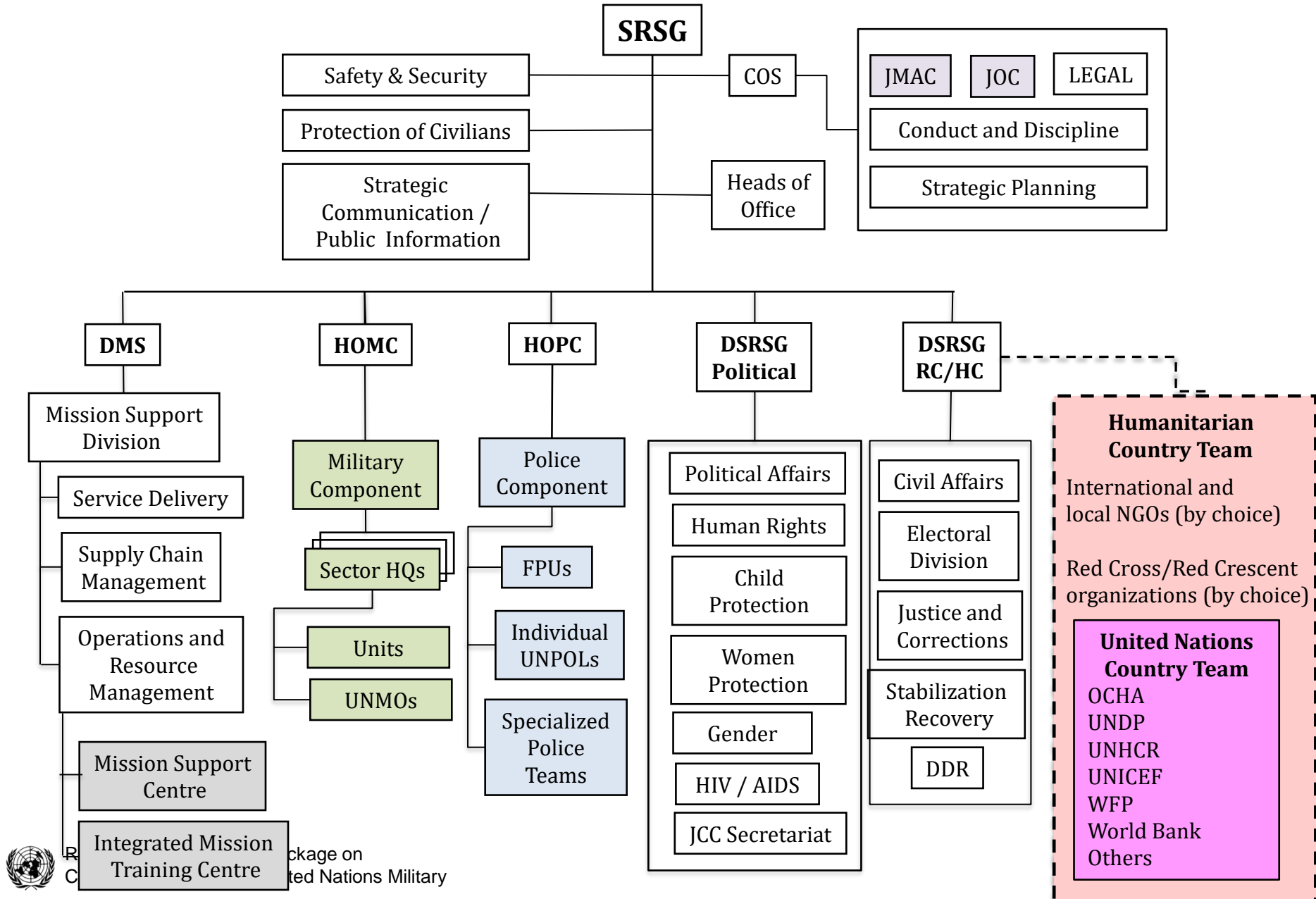


Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

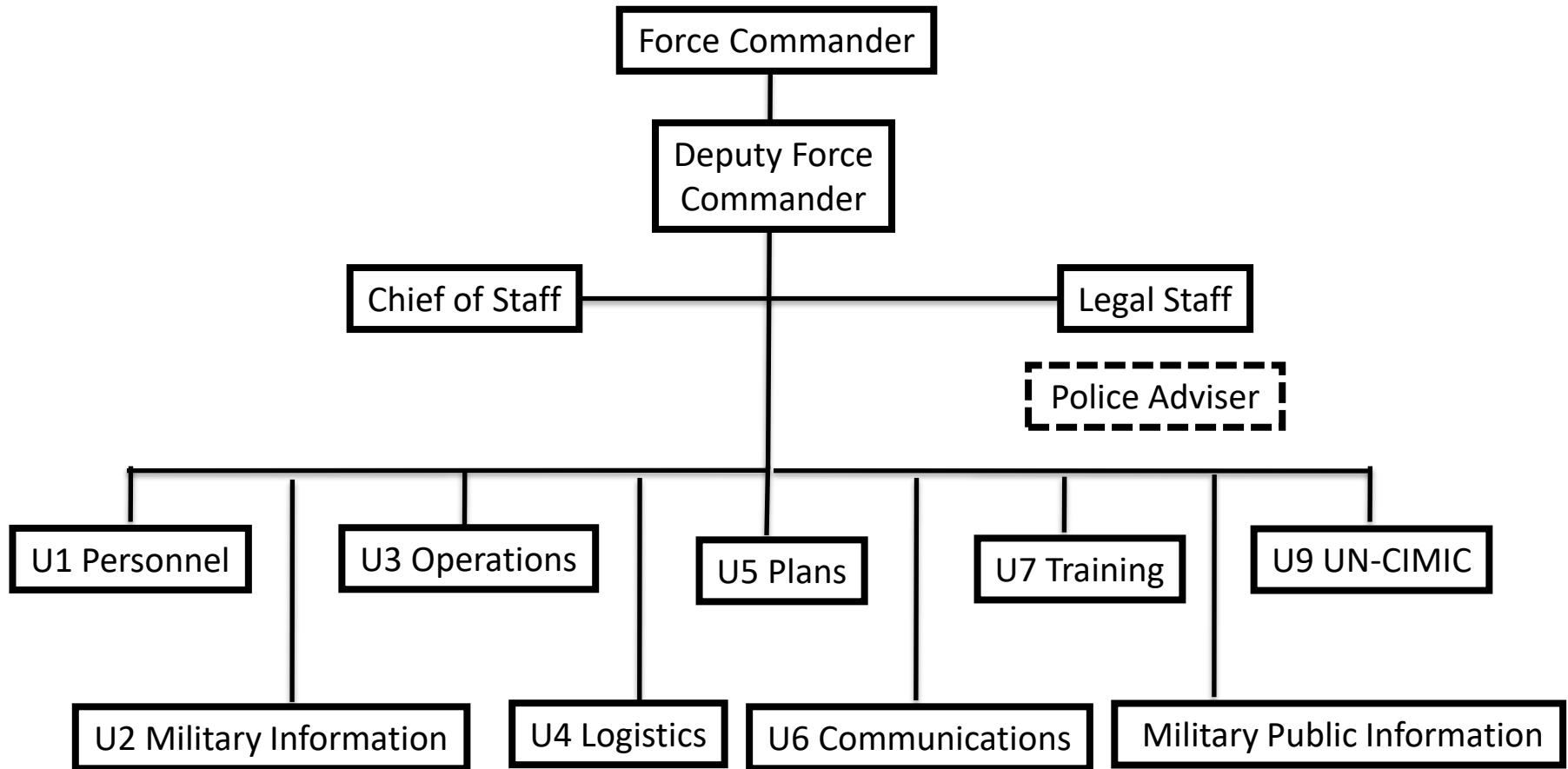
- Coordinate with the mission Child Protection Section/Unit
- Provide advise on and mainstreaming child protection:
 - Advise the Force Commander
 - Advise and support all staff functions
- Provide operational guidance to sector and unit focal points
- Establish/Strengthen alert system
- Ensure and support training on child protection of sector and unit focal points
- Develop directives and SOPs on:
 - Handover of children associated with armed groups
 - Interactions with children
 - Child exploitation/labour



UN Mission - Generic Multidimensional Structure



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (1/2)



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (2/2)

U2

- Threat analysis
- Identify and track armed groups targeting children

U3 / U5

- Kinetic ops: minimize risks to children
- Child protection-focused ops: protect children

U4

- Support for children held in United Nations bases/facilities

U9 CIMIC

- Identify and mitigate risks to children in all activities, including Quick-impact projects

Medical

- Contingencies to treat children in emergencies
- Medical outreach for children

Information Ops

- Key leader engagement
- Sensitize local population

U1 Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases

U7 Induction and Continuous training

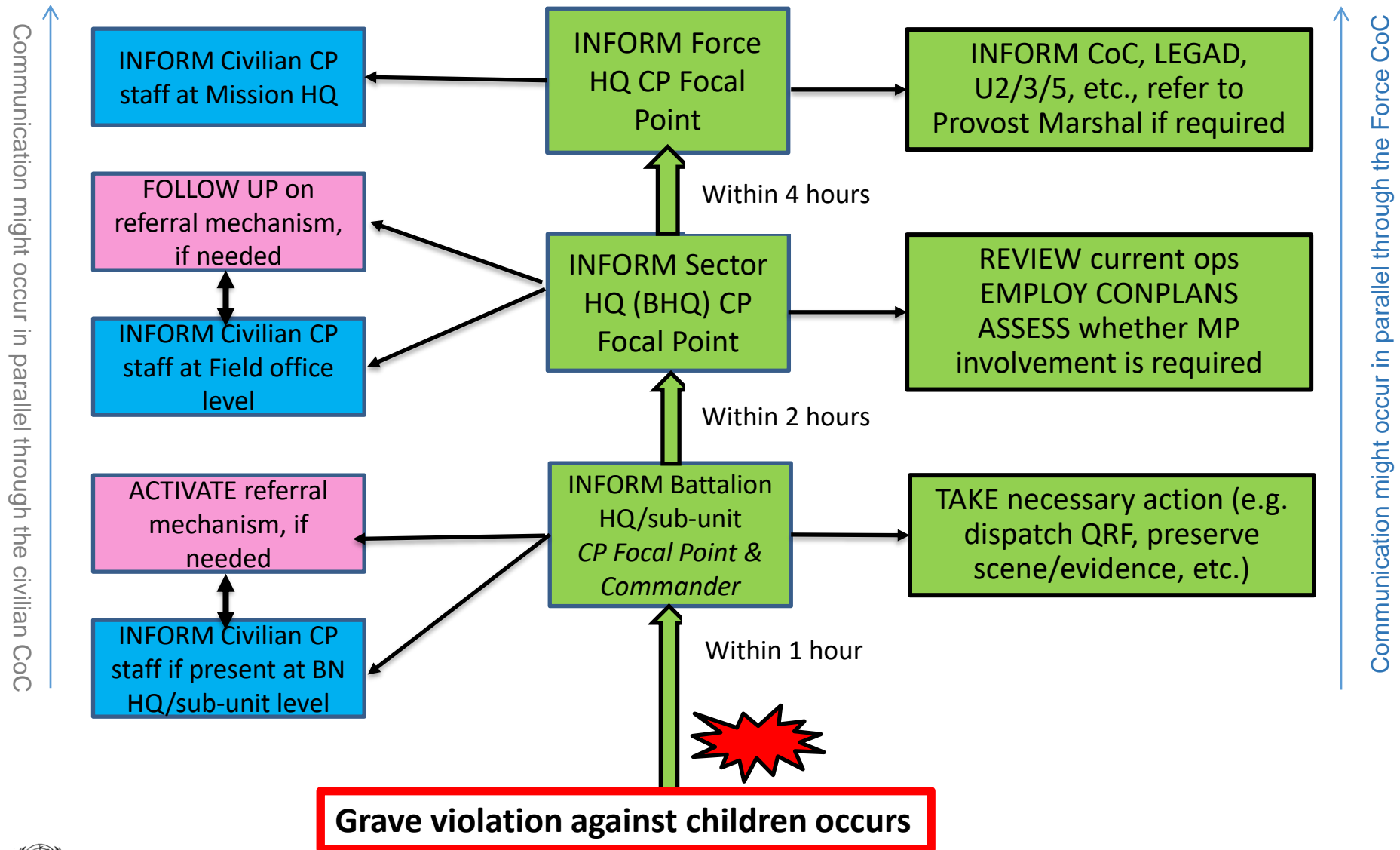


Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Sector/Brigade HQ, Units, UNMO Team Sites

- Establish focal point network and ensure information flow so as to maintain situational awareness, including an alert system on the six grave violations
- Ensure that Force HQ child protection directions are understood and implemented
- Support Sector HQ, unit, UNMO team site focal points in operations and training



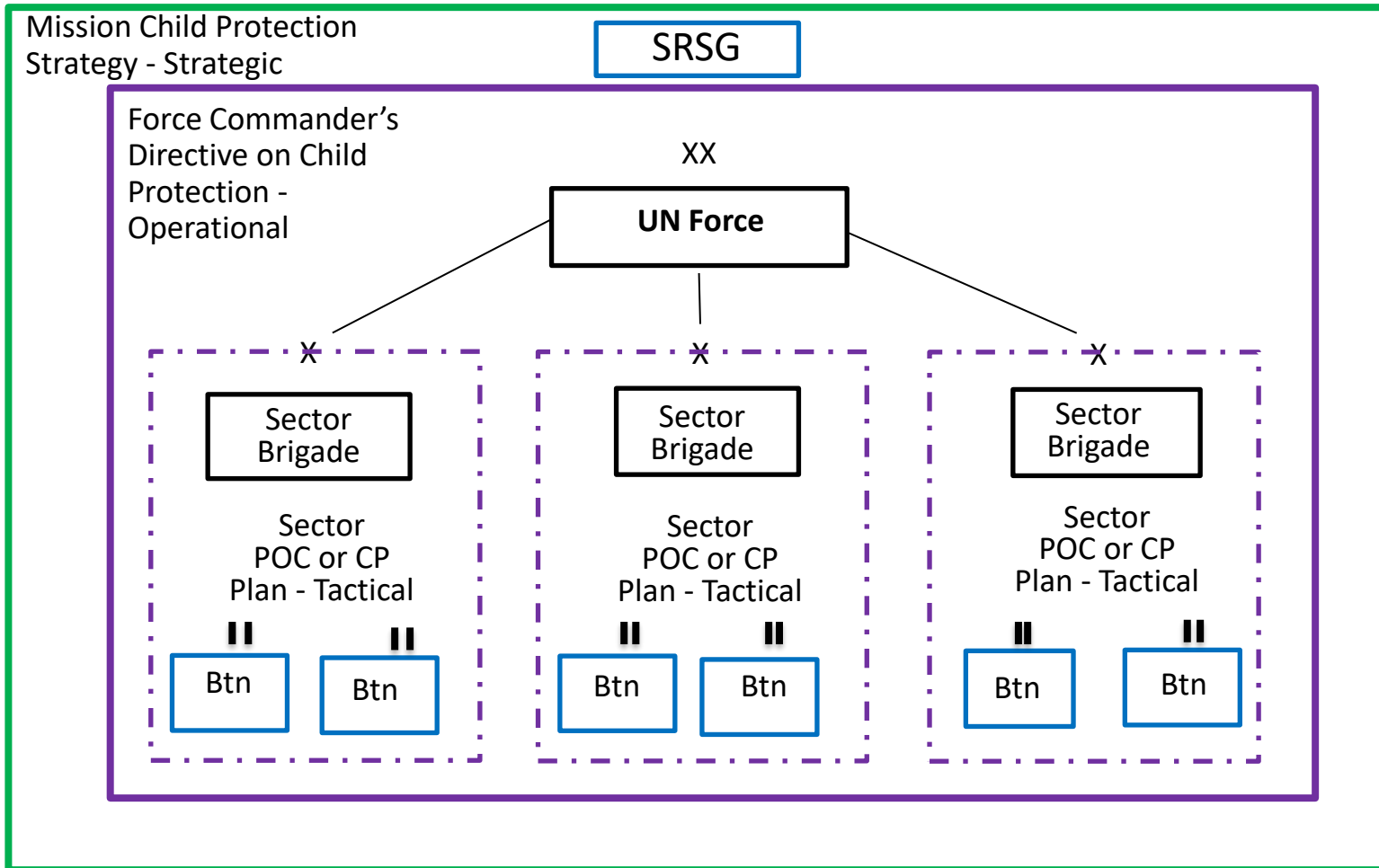
Child Protection Alert System



Operational to Tactical Level

Mission Stabilization Plan

MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Must Dos

- Maintain a good relationship with civilian Child Protection staff
- Engage all Force HQ staff functions so as to influence assessment and planning of operations
- Support subordinate child protection focal points in military components
- Share information with civilian child protection partners



Directions to Sector/Brigade HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (1/2)

Group Activity

- What essential directions should Force HQ issue, and in what format?
- What child protection guidance would sector/brigade HQ, units and UNMO team sites expect from Force HQ?



Directions to Sector/Brigade HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (2/2)

Group Activity (contd.)

- Roles and responsibilities
- Coordination and reporting mechanisms
- Procedures

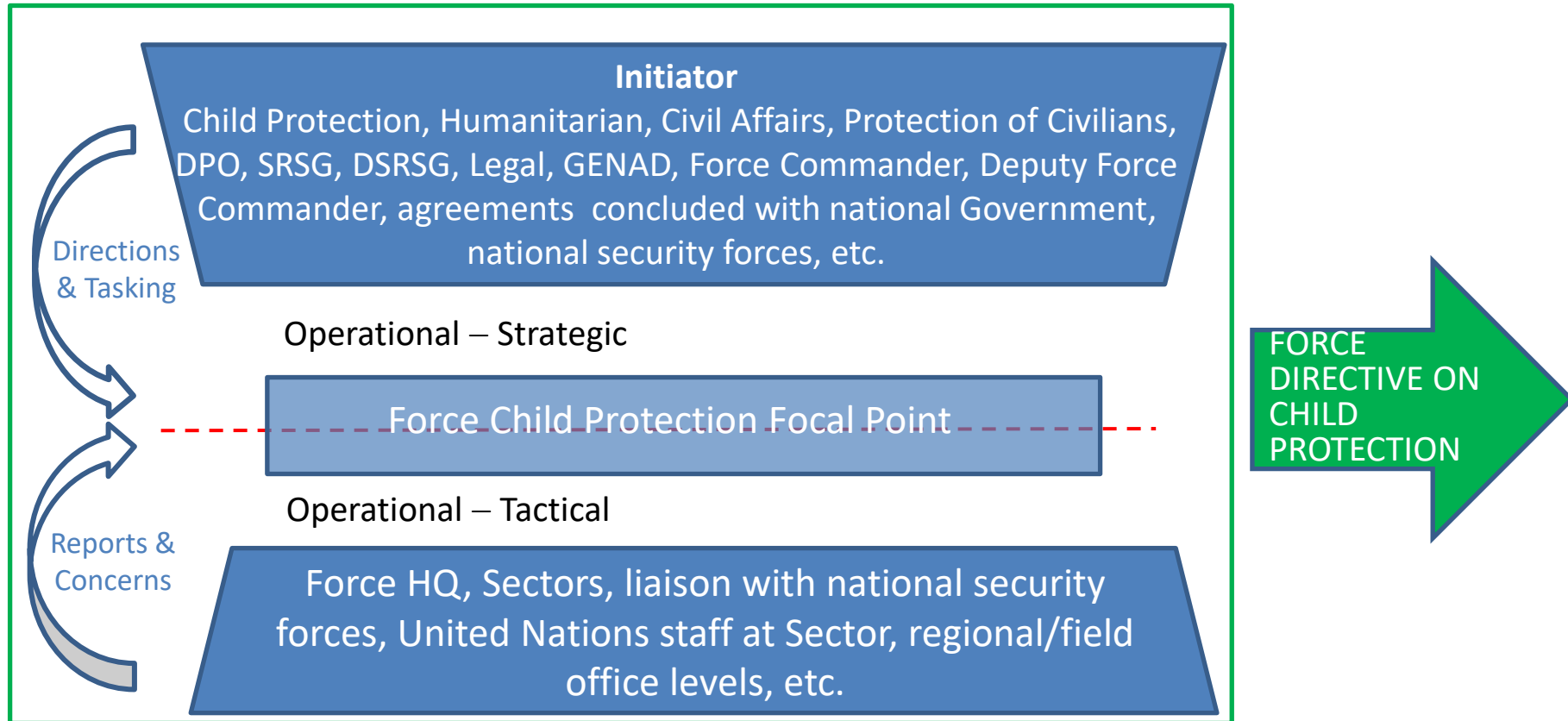


Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection

- Directions to subordinates on key issues
- Drafted by staff, in conjunction with civilian Child Protection staff
- Signed by Force Commander (authority may be delegated, but not responsibility)
- Forwarded to SRSG and other mission components/sections
- Office of Military Affairs, DPO
- DPO Child Protection Team



Military Component Child Protection Directions – Information Flow



Mainstreaming Child Protection into Military Operations

- Integrate a child protection focus into military ops:
For example:
 - Assign task to a specific Brigade to:
 - Enable, strike, withdraw in order to neutralize ZZZ Armed Group
 - Support child protection actions by:
 - Designating NO FIRE areas/zones
 - Isolating locations for children associated with armed forces/groups

**Support activities cannot be carried out in isolation;
they must be part of integrated mission planning**



Mainstreaming Child Protection

Learning Activity / Group Discussion

Discuss a recent/past mission experience and identify child protection mainstreaming activities undertaken:

- What type of operations?
- What type of activities?
- Were they successful?
- Why/Why not?



MONUSCO Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection

UNCLASSIFIED-GENERAL

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Organization
Stabilization Mission in the
Democratic Republic of the
Congo



MONUSCO
GOMA

NATIONS UNIES

Mission de l'Organisation des
Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation
en République Démocratique du
Congo

DATE: 16 January 2021

NO: 50 /MONUSCO/FC

FORCE COMMANDER'S DIRECTIVE – PROTECTION OF CHILDREN BY MONUSCO FORCE

Reference: UNDPKO/DFS Policy on Mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict within UN Peacekeeping Operations dated 1 Jun 2009.

GENERAL

- Aim.** The aim of this Directive is to set out how FHQ, Sectors and MILOBs implement plans and procedures on how to protect children during military activities within the legal framework. Protection of children is vital to the Mission's Protection of Civilians (POC) mandate. Operational effectiveness can only be achieved if due consideration of child protection is included in planning and the Force must be proactive and responsive when and where the lives of children are at risk.
- Situation.** MONUSCO Force HQ has been mandated by the Security Council to ensure that Child Protection concerns are integrated into all Ops from the strategic to the tactical. Grave violations against children continue to be committed in the MONUSCO AOR. Deliberate targeting of children, including the recruitment of thousands of boys and girls into armed groups is frequent with trends showing an increase. This activity directly contributes to the destabilisation of the population and constitutes a POC threat.



Sample Force Commander's Child Protection Directive (1/2)

- Use the generic directive/template as a guide
- Details will differ from mission to mission
- Preparation: identify all existing directions relating to child protection in the mission
- Coordinate closely with the civilian Child Protection staff when drafting the Directive
- Follow-up the Directive to ensure that it has been received and implemented
- Update/re-issue Directive, as necessary



Sample Force Commander's Child Protection Directive (2/2)

Monitoring and evaluation

- The Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection should be reviewed every two years, and at minimum, should include:
 - Qualitative survey distributed to all Force members
 - Quantitative interviews with key mission stakeholders
 - Focus group discussion/Scenario-based exercises



Takeaways

- The Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point has a key role to play in mainstreaming child protection in the military component
- Interaction with the mission Child Protection staff is essential
- Timely information flow is vital to be pre-emptive in protecting children
- The Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection is a tool to provide comprehensive direction to the Force – **it must be re-issued, monitored, and evaluated** on a regular basis



References

- United Nations, DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- MONUSCO Force Commander's Directive – Protection of Children by MONUSCO Force (50/MONUSCO/FC), 16 January 2021
- United Nations, Sample Terms of Reference for Child Protection Focal Points, Annex 3a, DPO/DPPA Handbook for Child Protection Staff in United Nations Peace Operations, 2023
- United Nations, DPO/DPPA Handbook for Child Protection Staff in United Nations Peace Operations, 2023



Questions

