

Lesson 3.5
Developing and Sequencing Counter-MDMH Tasks into the Plan

Learning Outcomes

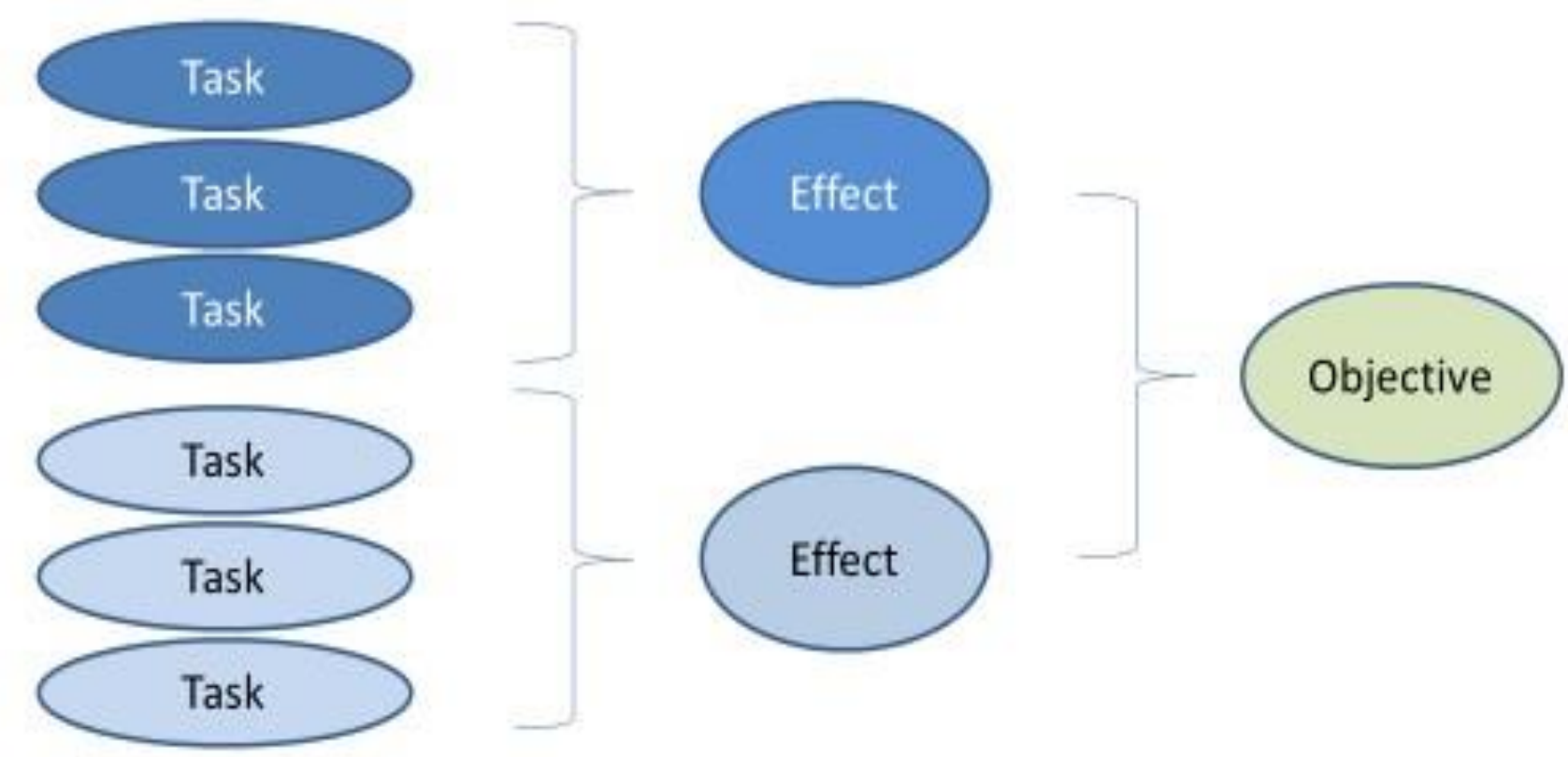
- Describe the role uniformed peacekeepers can play to mitigate the impact of MDMH threats.
- Understand how to incorporate counter-MDMH tasks into unit plans.

Lesson Contents

- Effects based planning.
- Counter-MDMH framework.
- Proactive versus reactive approach.
- Counter-MDMH capabilities.
- COA development.
- Synchronising counter-MDMH tasks.
- Practical exercise.

Effect Based Planning

EBP involves the integration of tasks to create effects in pursuit of the desired objectives



MDMH – Effects

- To affect the capabilities or behaviour of an actor/group. For example:
  - DETER militia group from attacking village ‘A’.
- Possible effects used to counter-MDMH threats:
  - CONVINCE
  - DETER
  - REASSURE
  - INFORM
  - PERSUADE
  - PROTECT

Example: Identifying Tactical Effects

- Your unit has been ordered to establish a temporary operating base to protect civilians in villages ‘A’ and ‘B’.
- The unit has been made aware of a disinformation campaign accusing UN military personnel of working alongside armed groups to gain access to local minerals.
- The population is being encouraged to show their anger by attacking UN military forces.

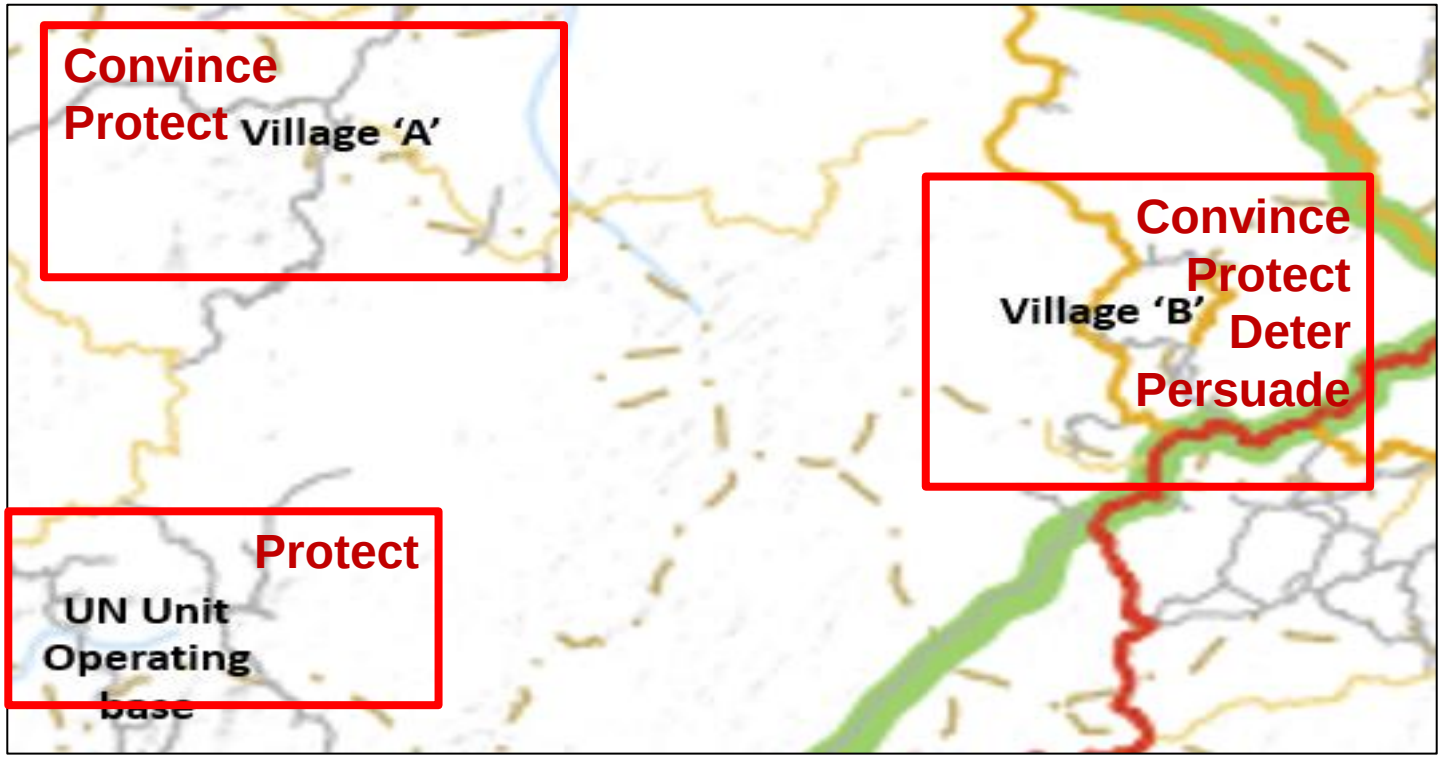
Example: Identifying Tactical Effects

- The unit's peacekeeping-intelligence team assess that:
  - Village 'B' is the most vulnerable to attack from armed groups.
  - Armed groups (5-10 fighters) tend to attack in hours of darkness.
  - The population in village 'A' does not believe the UN will protect them from armed groups.
  - Knowledge of the disinformation campaign is prevalent in your AOR.
  - A group from Village 'B' is planning to protest at the UN base, which has potential to turn violent.

EBP - Example

The unit commander decides on the following effects.

- **Protect** civilians in villages ‘A’ and ‘B’ from violence.
- **Convince** the villagers the UN can be trusted and that reports of collusion with armed groups is false.
- **Deter** people from village ‘B’ from attacking UN base.
- Persuade PEOPLE FROM Village B not to attack the UN base.
- **Deter** armed groups from attacking villages.
- **Protect** the UN base from attacks.



Counter-MDMH Framework



- **Prevention**: where risks to military operations are suspected or latent, but no clear threat has materialized.
- **Pre-emption**: When likely threats to military operations are identified.
- **Response**: When physical violence against military operations is apparent.

Prevention: Tasks and Effects

Prevention | Preemption | Response

Tasks

- Communications
- Active patrolling
- Posture and presence
- Engagement
- Training

To achieve

Effects

- Prevent
- Convince
- Reassure
- Influence
- Educate
- Inform

Pre-emption: Tasks and Effects

Prevention | Preemption | Response

Tasks

- Increased communications
- Counter-message
- Key actor engagement
- Increased unit presence

Effects

- Prevent
- Inform
- Reassure
- Influence
- Deter

Response: Tasks and Effects

Prevention | Preemption | Response

Tasks

- Respond to violent act.
- Adjust in-place plans to avoid confrontation.
- Increase counter messaging.

Effects

- Protect
- Deter
- Communicate

Counter-MDMH Activities



Presence, Posture and Profile

- Influence how the UN is perceived by the local population.
- Continued and visible presence.
- Protect and build the confidence by the local population.
- Build trust.
- Credible deterrence.



Communications

- Sharing information and participating in mission-directed communication campaigns.
- Instigating key messaging that can be easily tailored in times of crisis.
- Drafting media lines of communication about the unit's activities and operations for higher HQ.



Community Engagement

- Enhance situational awareness by understanding local perspectives.
- Let communities know about the Mission's role and upcoming unit operations.
- Share accurate information.
- Working with other components as an integrated effort.
- Build trust.



Task Comparison

	Prevention	Pre-emption	Response
Routine POC and FP tasks	• Active patrolling • Robust presence • Mediation • Key leader engagement	• Increased patrolling and information gathering. • Enhanced presence: show of force, QRF. • Intensified communication.	• Actions on contact to neutralise the threat. • Swift action. • Repositioning forces.
C-MDMH tasks	• Active patrolling • Posture and presence • Communications • Community engagement • Training programmes	• Increased communications. • Counter-message. • Key actor engagement. • Increased unit presence.	• Self defence. • Adjust in-place plans in recognition of risk. • Community engagement and communications once security conditions permit.

Counter-MDMH: COA Elements

- **Who** - Units/elements who will execute the tasks.
- **What** - Tasks to be executed.
- **Where** - Locations where effects will be achieved.
- **When** - The time at which each task will begin or by which it must be completed.
- **How** - The method of conducting the tasks.
- **Why** - The purpose of the mission.

Counter-MDMH tasks: COA Criteria

- Suitability - Will it help to address MDMH threats?
- Feasibility - Achievable within allocated resources?
- Acceptability – Is it within legal boundary, comply with policy, accepted risk level, etc.?
- Exclusivity - Different from other COAs?
- Completeness - Answers the 5W questions?

Interaction: EBP

- Identify some unit tasks to achieve each of these planning effects:
  - **Prevent** the impact of MDMH in the unit's AOR.
  - **Reassure** the population in Village C that the UN is there to assist national authorities in protecting them.
  - **Inform** Village D of the Mission's role and responsibilities.
  - **Deter** Village B youth from attacking your base.
- What resources might you use to achieve these effects?

10 minute break

Sequencing Counter MDMH Tasks

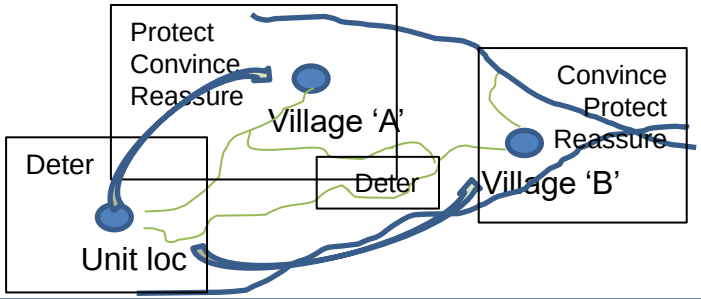
- Organising tasks in a logical manner to achieve effects.
- Achieving the desired effect at the right time, right place and with the right resources.
- Incorporating counter-MDMH tasks into unit planning.
- Collate information using a synchronisation matrix.

Synchronisation Matrix

MISSION: Establish a temporary operating base (TOB) and maintain a presence in vicinity of village's A and B to protect civilians against armed attack.

Concept of Operations: Unit will deploy into location by X. Unit will maintain a strong presence in vicinity of villages 'A' and 'B' to deter attacks against the civilian population. Active measures to counter recent disinformation will be conducted to mitigate any impact of these messages.
Main effort: Repelling any armed attack on village A and B.

Sketch



Decision Points

Info Requests

	16-May	14-May	15-May	19-May				20-May				21-May				20-May	21-May
				0001-0600	0600-1200	1200-1800	1800-2359	0001-0600	0600-1200	1200-1800	1800-2359	0001-0600	0600-1200	1200-1800	1800-2359		
Sub-unit A		1000: Meeting village A leader **reassure**		Foot patrol Village A **reassure**				Mobile patrol village A **protect**					Foot patrol village A **protect**				
			1200: Meeting village B leader **convince**			Foot patrol Village B **Deter**				Foot patrol village A **protect**					Foot patrol village B **reassure**		
Sud-unit B					Mobile patrol TOB **deter**		Mobile patrol - Village B **protect**					Foot patrol village B **protect**					
									Mobile Patrol village B **convince**		Mobile patrol TOB **deter**						1200: Foot patrol village B **reassure**
Engagement Platoon				Engagement village A **reassure**									Engagement village A **reassure**				1200: engagement village B **reassure**
CIMIC						Engagement village B **convince**		Engagement village A **convince**		Engagement village A **reassure**					Engagement village B **reassure**		1200: engagement village B **reassure**
PIO	Radio broadcast (0500 and 1600 daily) **convince**								0700: radio broadcast					1300: radio broadcast **reassure**			

Note that routine POC or FP tasks can incorporate counter-MDMH activities, such as engaging with civilians to enhance unit situational awareness (e.g. gather information on protection threats) and share information.

Practical Exercise

Seizure of Senegalese equipment, MINUSCA (18-22 March 2022)

The incident:

- Routine movement of Senegalese QRF equipment across Cameroon/CAR border on 14 March 2022.
- Mission formally notified CAR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 February of the arrival of 50 trucks equipment with load lists.
- Four containers with ammunition seized by CAR customs authorities on 18 March.

Disinformation narrative:

- MINUSCA trafficking anti-personnel mines to supply CAR rebels.

Stage 1: Shaping the Story

Seeding alternative truth through photos, video and articles

Narrative: This is “strategic plan” of MINUSCA. MINUSCA creates tension, crisis and division in CAR







‘Seizure of two private trucks with four UN containers of antipersonnel mines and other munitions of war: conclusive evidence of arms smuggling by MINUSCA.’

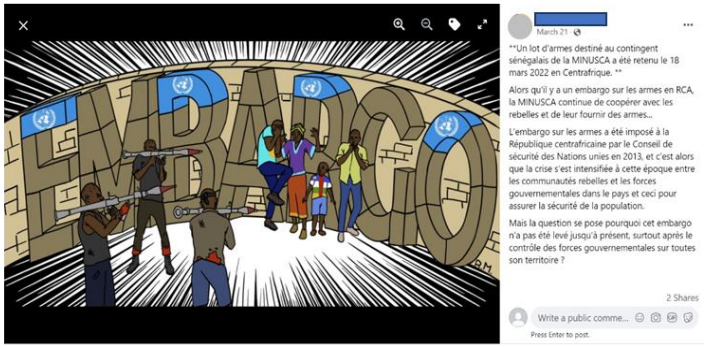
Stage 2: Denouncing MINUSCA's Actions

Reinforcing alternative narrative by broadening message, demanding explanations.

Three narrative threads: to exert pressure, point the finger at exploitation and rally African solidarity.







"MINUSCA is still expected to explain to the whole world what anti-personnel mines are doing to its trucks in Central Africa"

Phase 3: Enacting Outrage

Shift from social media to physical world

Mobilisation against the UN on the streets and by influencers



La radicalisation, la confrontation, c'est une bonne chose pour le peuple Africain

"Radicalisation and confrontation, is a good thing for the African people"



Il faut se lever!

"We must stand up!"



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Exercise: Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of online MDMH

- Distributed amplification – within six hours, it has reached 13 African countries with thousands of reposts and shares.
- Trolling and participatory storytelling continues.
- Astroturfing continues.
- Front organisation - two associations involved in demonstration and protestation.
- Political and other influencers in action.
- Activists and paid engagement continues.

Practical Exercise

Task: Develop a counter-MDMH COA based on the narrative

Time: 25 minutes

Practical exercise: requirement

- Highlight the effects the unit commander might want to achieve to mitigate the impact of the story in the unit area of operations.
- What types of tasks should be including in the unit's course of action in response to the story?
- How can the unit counter this disinformation and promote accurate information to the public?
- How will coordination and communications be managed within the mission?

Take Away

- Consider counter-MDMH threats when planning unit operations.
- Counter-MDMH tasks should be designed to achieve desired effects.
- Preventive counter-MDMH activities will help to mitigate threats.

Questions