



EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF POTENTIAL ISOLATED PERSONNEL

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Capabilities and limitations of isolated personnel (IP) significantly influence the recovery effort and can affect the amount of time recovery forces remain exposed in hostile environments. As risk increases, efforts to prepare IP should increase to match the situation. In locations where no dedicated personnel recovery (PR) forces exist, IP preparation measures may be the most proactive measure available. IP preparation includes formalized survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training and detailed mission planning through intelligence briefings and area of operations analysis.

Select personnel who are identified as high risk of isolation receive specialized training to aid their survival, evasion, resistance and escape. Irregular warfare operations place additional non-trained personnel at risk, resulting in a diverse pool of potential IP. Commanders should evaluate assigned missions to determine risk to their personnel and advocate accordingly for training.

Combatant commanders establish theater entry requirements to ensure all personnel receive preparation measures commensurate with the assessed risk. Entry requirements for Air Force personnel are typically reflected in the [foreign clearance guide](#)¹⁰ and Air Force Guardian Angel operational support activities ensure consistent PR management for each combatant command. Combat rescue officers (CRO) and SERE specialists actively coordinate with commanders, staff personnel, and coordination nodes to ensure an intact PR system during preparation, planning, execution, and adaptation. CRO and SERE personnel make sure education and training is performed, conduct risk assessments, and assess PR processes at each command level while monitoring plans and communicating with recovery forces. Essentially, Guardian Angel operational support activities provide commanders with PR assessments to mitigate risks of isolation.

Air Force special operations forces (AFSOF) special tactics teams maintain comparable capabilities. Combat air forces and AFSOF PR capabilities complement and support each other as required.

¹⁰ Common access card required.