



**FM 3-05.30**  
MCRP 3-40.6

# **Psychological Operations**

(Auszug)

## MISSION OF PSYOP

1-5. The mission of PSYOP is to influence the behavior of foreign target audiences (TAs) to support U.S. national objectives. PSYOP accomplish this by conveying selected information and/or advising on actions that influence the emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behavior of foreign audiences. Behavioral change is at the root of the PSYOP mission. Although concerned with the mental processes of the TA, it is the observable modification of TA behavior that determines the mission success of PSYOP. It is this link between influence and behavior that distinguishes PSYOP from other capabilities and activities of information operations (IO) and sets it apart as a unique core capability.

1-6. As a core capability of IO, PSYOP are considered primarily to be shaping operations that create and preserve opportunities for decisive operations. PSYOP help shape both the physical and informational dimensions of the battlespace. PSYOP provide a commander the means to employ a nonlethal capability across the range of military operations from peace through conflict to war and during postconflict operations. As information delivered for effect during peacetime and conflict, PSYOP inform and influence. When properly employed, PSYOP saves lives of friendly and adversary forces, whether military or civilian. PSYOP may reduce the

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adversaries' will to fight, morale, and efficiency. PSYOP discourages aggressive actions, and creates dissidence and disaffection within their ranks, ultimately inducing surrender.

## ROLES OF PSYOP

1-7. To execute their mission, PSYOP Soldiers perform the following five traditional roles to meet the intent of the supported commander:

- *Influence foreign populations* by expressing information subjectively to influence attitudes and behavior, and to obtain compliance, noninterference, or other desired behavioral changes. These actions facilitate military operations, minimize needless loss of life and collateral damage, and further the objectives of the supported commander, the United States, and its allies.
- *Advise the commander* on PSYACTs, PSYOP enabling actions, and targeting restrictions that the military force may execute. These actions and restrictions minimize adverse impacts and unintended consequences, attack the enemy's will to resist, and enhance successful mission accomplishment. PSYOP Soldiers also advise the commander on the psychological effects and consequences of other planned military actions and operations.
- *Provide public information* to foreign populations to support humanitarian activities, restore or reinforce legitimacy, ease suffering, and maintain or restore civil order. Providing public information supports and amplifies the effects of other capabilities and activities such as civil-military operations (CMO).
- *Serve as the supported commander's voice* to foreign populations to convey intent and establish credibility. This ability allows the commander to reach more audiences with less expenditure in resources and time.
- *Counter enemy propaganda, misinformation, disinformation, and opposing information* to portray friendly intent and actions correctly and positively for foreign TAs, thus denying others the ability to polarize public opinion and political will against the United States and its allies.