



THE RANGE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

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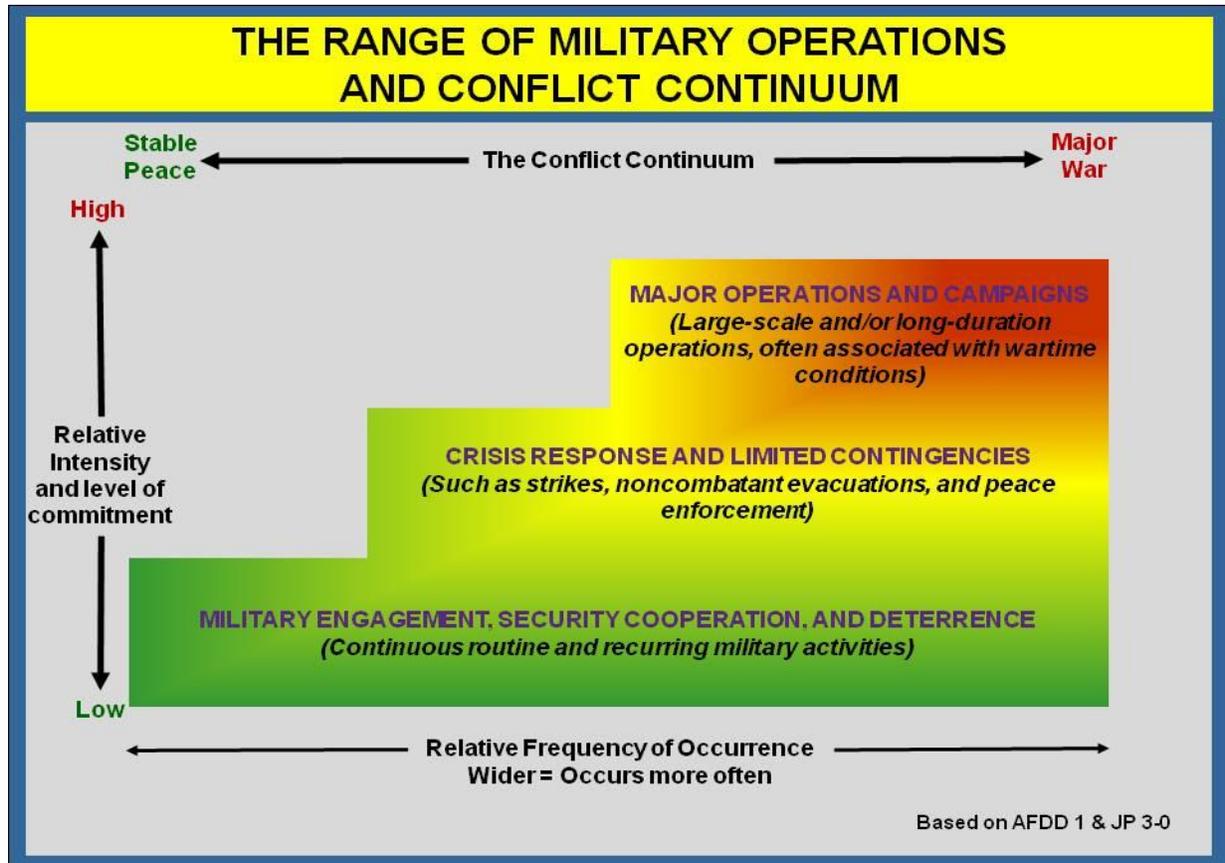
- Military operations slide along an imprecise scale of violence and scale of military involvement from engagement, [security cooperation](#), and [deterrence](#) operations; to smaller scale [contingencies](#) and crisis response operations; to theater-wide [major operations](#) and [campaigns](#) (see following graphic, The Range of Military Operations and Conflict Continuum).
- No two conflicts are alike; scope, duration, tempo, and political context vary widely. Some conflicts may even change from one form to another, either escalating or de-escalating; several may exist simultaneously.
- Some operations involve open combat between regular forces; in others, combat may be tangential to the main effort. In some operations, the US military's contribution may not involve combat at all; simply providing an organizational framework for an interagency force and key elements of infrastructure may be all that's required.
- The various discrete military tasks associated with the ROMO are not mutually exclusive; depending on the scenario, there may be some overlap among the tasks. They may also occur within the context of a larger major operation.

Engagement, Security Cooperation, and Deterrence Operations

- Engagement, security cooperation, and deterrence operations establish, shape, maintain, and refine relations with other nations and domestic civil authorities. The general objective is to protect US interests at home and abroad. Examples of such operations include:
 - ★ Arms control operations.
 - ★ [Counterdrug operations](#).
 - ★ [Foreign humanitarian assistance](#).
 - ★ Military-to-military contacts.
 - ★ [Recovery operations](#).

✦ Unilateral and multilateral exercises.

- Note: These operations are normally planned and conducted through theater campaign plans. See later discussion, “Campaigns in Peacetime.”



Contingencies and Crisis Response Operations

- Contingencies and crisis response operations may be single small-scale, limited-duration operations or a significant part of a major operation of extended duration involving combat. The general objectives are to protect US interests and prevent surprise attack or further conflict. These operations may occur during periods of slightly increased US military readiness, and the use or threat of force may be more probable. Many of these operations involve a combination of military forces in close cooperation with other organizations. Examples of such operations include:

✦ Combating terrorism.

✦ Some types of counterproliferation operations, in the event that arms control operations are not successful.

- ★ Consequence management (especially of weapons of mass destruction [WMD]-related events).
- ★ Enforcement of sanctions and [maritime intercept operations](#).
- ★ Enforcing [exclusion zones](#).
- ★ Ensuring freedom of navigation and passage, in both maritime and aerial operations, including protection of shipping and overflight.
- ★ Ensuring freedom of action in air, space, and relevant portions of cyberspace.
- ★ [Noncombatant evacuation operations](#).
- ★ [Peacekeeping](#) operations.
- ★ [Peace enforcement](#) operations.
- ★ [Show of force](#) operations.
- ★ [Strikes](#) and [raids](#).
- ★ Support to [counterinsurgency](#).
- ★ Support to insurgency operations that support US and Allied security objectives.

Major Operations and Campaigns

- Major operations and campaigns are large-scale and include sustained combat operations to achieve national objectives and/or protect national interests. Such operations may place the United States in a wartime state.
- These operations are normally conducted against nation states that possesses significant military capability with the will to employ that capability in opposition to or in a manner threatening to US national security.
- Such operations typically involve a joint [campaign](#) comprised of multiple phases. Operations DESERT STORM, ALLIED FORCE (OAF), ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), and IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) are examples of such campaigns.
- The goal is to achieve national objectives and conclude hostilities on conditions favorable to the United States and its multinational partners, generally as quickly, with as few casualties as possible, and in a manner that conveys continuing strategic advantage for the US and its partners.

- Major operations may entail traditional war combined with [irregular warfare](#) (IW), [stability operations](#), and [security cooperation](#) (SC) activities, sometimes even within the same [operational area](#).
 - Establishing conditions that convey continuing friendly advantage often requires follow-on stability operations to restore security, provide services and humanitarian relief, enable civil authority, and perform reconstruction.
 - *For the complete discussion of the ROMO, [click here](#).*
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