
Unit 3: Overview of the Strike Team and Task Force Leader Positions

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader
- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor

Methodology

This unit uses lecture, exercise, and discussion.

Content from the Unit 3 will be tested during the Final Exam. Instructors will evaluate students' initial understanding of the Operations Section through the facilitation of Exercise 2.

The purpose of Exercise 2 is to illustrate that the Division/Group Supervisor must become a manager of multiple resources; the Supervisor must make a transition from a doer to a manager. By having groups of students compare and contrast the positions of Division/Group Supervisor, Strike Team/Task Force Leader, Incident Commander, and Operations Section Chief/Branch Director, the purpose of this exercise should be fulfilled.

Time Plan

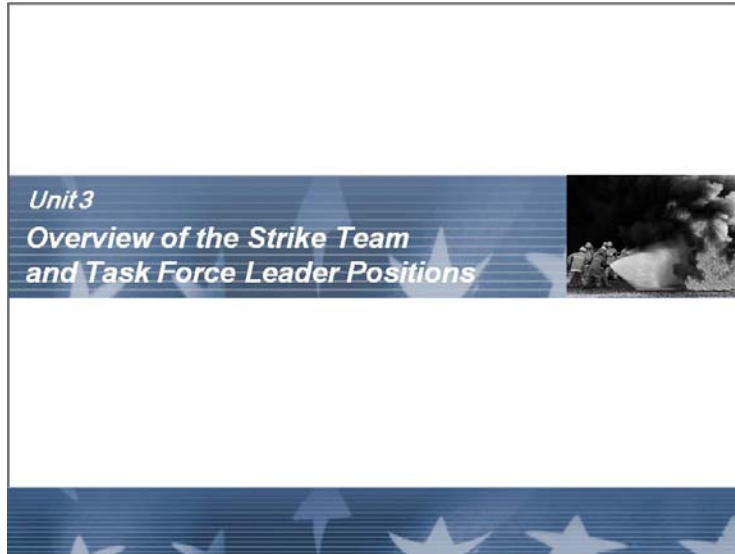
A suggested time plan for this unit is shown below. More or less time may be required, based on the experience level of the group.

Topic	Time
Lesson	30 minutes
Exercise 2	30 minutes
Total Time	1 hour

Reference Materials

- Projector and other equipment necessary for PowerPoint presentation
- Easel pad
- Marking pens
- Blank ICS Forms 211
- Blank ICS Forms 214 for the entire class
- Division/Group Supervisor Position Task Book (PTB)
- ICS Form 420-1 Field Operations Guide (FOG)

TopicUnit Title Slide

**Explain the Following Key Points**

Announce unit.

S c o p e S t a t e m e n t

Through this unit, students will gain a general understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Strike Team Leaders and Task Force Leaders.

Topic

Unit Objectives

Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

**Explain the Following Key Points**

The purpose of this slide is to introduce the unit objectives.

Explain the Unit Terminal Objective to the class. Remind students that the Final Exam questions are based on the enabling objectives, which are in the Student Guide.

You may start off this unit by asking the class “When will Strike Teams and Task Forces be used during an incident?” Then, explain that Strike Teams and Task Forces are resource configurations within the ICS organization to reduce span of control.

Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor

Topic

Strike Teams

Strike Teams

Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.



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Visual 3-3

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to define Strike Teams.

Suggested Question

What is the value of typing (for example, Type 1, Type 2, and so on)?

Potential Answer

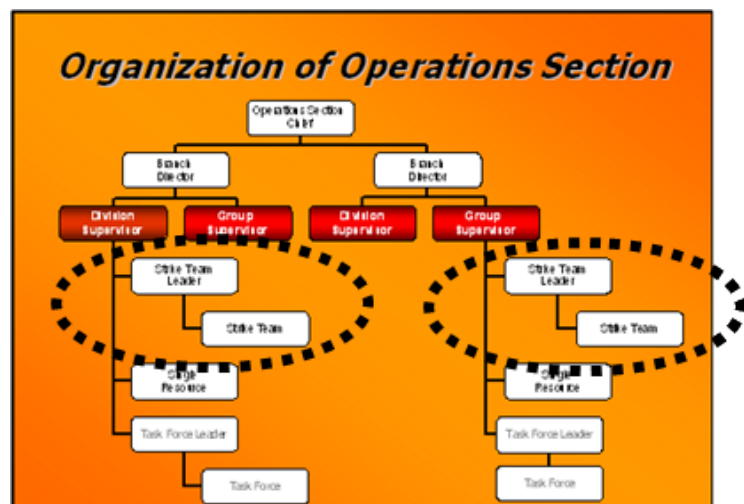
Through typing, you know what you are getting.

Suggested Question

What is the value of a Strike Team?

Potential Answer

Strike Teams will save you time and effort. They consist of specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader. Strike Teams are a set number of resources of the same kind and type with an established minimum number of personnel. Strike Teams will always have a leader, and they will have common communication among resource elements.



Topic

Task Force

Task Force

A group of mixed resources with common communications and a leader that may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident.



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Visual 3-4

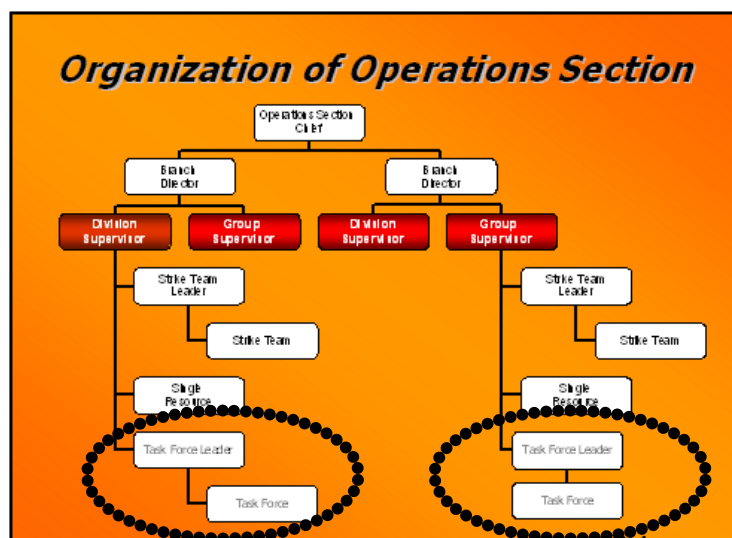
Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to define Task Forces.

A Task Force is a group of mixed resources with common communications and a leader that may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident.

A Task Force is a group of resources:

- With common communications
- With a leader
- That is usually assembled for a specific mission



Topic

Task Force (cont.)

Task Force (cont.)

A Task Force can include:

- Any combination of resources that does not meet the criteria for a Strike Team
- Any combination of one kind of resource with other kinds of resources



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Visual 3-5

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to continue to define Task Forces.

A Task Force can include any combination of resources that does not meet the criteria for a Strike Team or any combination of one kind of resource with other kinds of resources:

- Dozers—engines
- Hand crews—dozers
- Water tenders—engines
- Engines—ladder trucks
- Patrol vehicles—ambulances

Topic

Utilization Principles

Utilization Principles

- The Strike Teams and Task Forces concept is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident
- Same or similar for both
- The use of Strike Teams and Task Forces is encouraged whenever possible

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Visual 3-6

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to begin to discuss utilization principles of Strike Teams and Task Forces.

D i s c u s s i o n

You may ask the students if they have any examples or experiences where Strike Teams or Task Forces have been utilized on an incident to which they have responded. You may also choose to ask them if they have ever been on a Strike Team or Task Force and the purpose of it.

The Strike Team and Task Force concept when requesting and managing resources is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident.

The utilization principles, as well as many of the tactical concepts, are the same or similar for either Strike Teams or Task Forces. The use of Strike Teams and Task Forces is encouraged whenever possible.

Topic Utilization Principles (cont.)**Utilization Principles (cont.)**

The Strike Team and Task Force concept works by:

- Maximizing the use of resources
- Reducing the manager's span of control
- Simplifying communications



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Visual 3-7

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to continue to discuss utilization principles of Strike Teams and Task Forces.

Strike teams are usually ordered, but may be formed for an incident if you get enough of the same type of resources. In these cases though, you will need to assign a Strike Team Leader.

When requesting and managing resources, the Strike Team and Task Force concept is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident. The Strike Team and Task Force concept does this by:

- Maximizing the use of resources
- Reducing the manager's span of control
- Simplifying communications

Topic Strike Team and Task Force Leader

Strike Team and Task Force Leader

- Responsible for performing tactical assignments assigned to the Strike Team or Task Force
- The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is the Strike Team or Task Force point-of-contact for the Division/Group Supervisor



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Visual 3-8

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to begin discussing the specific roles and responsibilities of the Strike Team and Task Force Leader.

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is responsible for supervising tactical assignments assigned to the Strike Team or Task Force. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is the Strike Team or Task Force point-of-contact for the Division/Group Supervisor. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader provides the Division/Group Supervisor with one person to direct, rather than having to work individually with the leader of each element of the Strike Team or Task Force. Other duties include:

- Reviewing common ICS responsibilities with personnel
- Reviewing assignments with subordinates and assigning tasks
- Monitoring work progress and making changes when necessary
- Coordinating activities with adjacent Strike Teams, Task Forces, and single resources
- Traveling to and from the assignment area with assigned resources
- Retaining control of assigned resources while in available or out-of-service status
- Maintaining the ICS Form 214—Activity Log
- Submitting situation and resource status information to the Division/Group Supervisor

Topic Strike Team and Task Force Leader (cont.)**Strike Team and Task Force Leader (cont.)**

- Typically reports to a Division/Group Supervisor on extended response and major incidents
- Reports work progress, resources status, and other important information
- Maintains work records on assigned personnel
- Can be a great source of feedback

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Visual 3-9

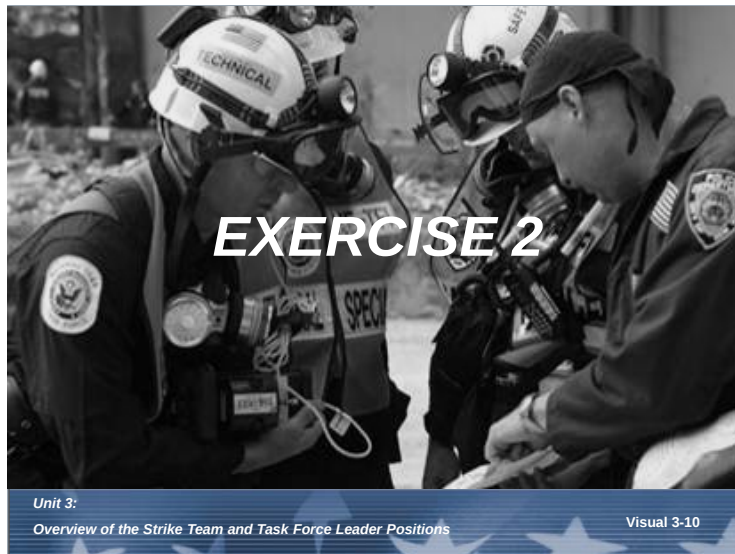
Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to continue discussing the specific roles and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader typically reports to a Division/Group Supervisor on extended responses and major incidents. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader reports progress of the Strike Team or Task Force in relation to the assigned tactical objectives to the Division/Group Supervisor.

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader manages, supervises, and monitors:

- Work progress
- Resource status of the team
- Other important information related to the logistical needs of the Strike Team while on the incident (such as maintaining work and time records on assigned personnel and apparatus)



Explain the Following Key Points

Formally introduce Exercise 2 and read students the specific exercise objectives and directions from the Exercise 2 handout. Allow 30 minutes for completion of the exercise.

The purpose of the exercise is to illustrate that the Division/Group Supervisor must become a manager of multiple resources; he or she must make a transition from a doer to a manager. By having groups of students compare and contrast the positions of Division/Group Supervisor, Strike Team/Task Force Leader, Incident Commander, and Operations Section Chief/Branch Director, the purpose of this exercise should be fulfilled.

Exercise 2 Debrief

Ensure that student answers covered the following:

- Division/Group Supervisors are managers of multiple resources, both kinds and types. They strategically supervise the management of multiple resources of varying kinds and types, such as fire engines, dozers, USAR team(s), swiftwater teams, heavy construction equipment, patrol vehicles, and boats.
- The Division Supervisor is responsible for the implementation of the assigned portion of the IAP in a specific geographical area, as well as frontline supervision and management of frontline resources. Differences between a Division Supervisor and Group Supervisor, Strike Team or Task Force Leader, Operations Section Chief or Branch Director, and Incident Commander include the following:

- A Group Supervisor is responsible for the implementation of the assigned portion of the IAP of a specific functional duty. Functional groups can best be used to describe areas of activity, such as rescue, water handling, and structure protection.
- A Strike Team Leader manages like resources, whereas a Task Force Leader may have a combination of resources and may have a short-term assignment to accomplish a specific job. The Division/Group Supervisor position is less hands-on than the Strike Team Leader or Task Force Leader position.
- Branch Directors and Operations Section Chiefs have greater scopes of operational responsibility and resource coordination. They are not directly frontline managers.
- The Incident Commander has an even greater scope of responsibility and coordination and is also not directly a frontline manager.

Topic

Objectives Review

Objectives Review

1. *What is the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force?*
2. *What is the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force?*
3. *What information does the Strike Team or Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor?*

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Visual 3-11

Explain the Following Key Points

The purpose of this slide is to review the enabling objectives for this unit to ensure that the class has obtained the knowledge necessary to successfully meet the Unit Terminal Objective.

Pose the Unit Enabling Objectives as questions. Ask the group to give a brief example or short explanation to answer each question. Try to call on a different student for each objective.

This is not intended to be an inclusive discussion of all material covered in Unit 3, but rather a quick and engaging way to wrap up the unit and reconnect the students to the material before moving on to Unit 4.

Ask the students to write down the top three to five things they learned in this unit on their ICS Forms 214.

Leave the objectives slide up so that students can think about what they learned in relation to the objectives.

At the end of the day, collect their ICS Forms 214. This will help identify what the students have learned and what areas may be especially important to highlight throughout the rest of the course.

This activity should be done at the end of each unit.

Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team or Task Force Leader provide to the Division/Group Supervisor