



Module 3, Lesson 4

FORCE HEADQUARTERS

CHILD PROTECTION

FOCAL POINT

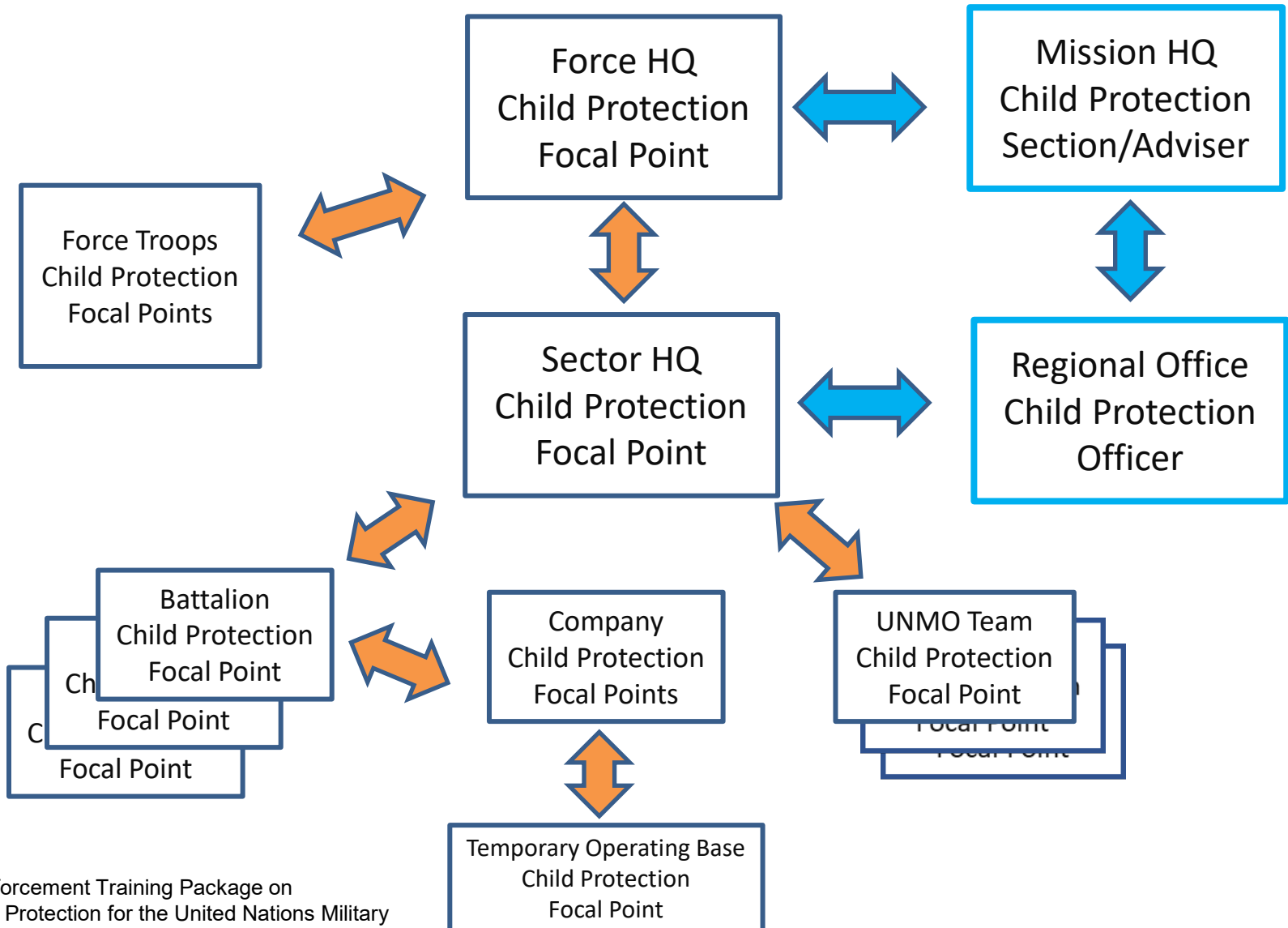


Learning Objectives

- **Explain** the functions of the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point within the military component and the mission;
- **Identify** and **discuss** the key guidance required for the military component at the tactical level
- **Demonstrate** the application of the Force Commander's Child Protection Directive



Military Component Child Protection Focal Point System

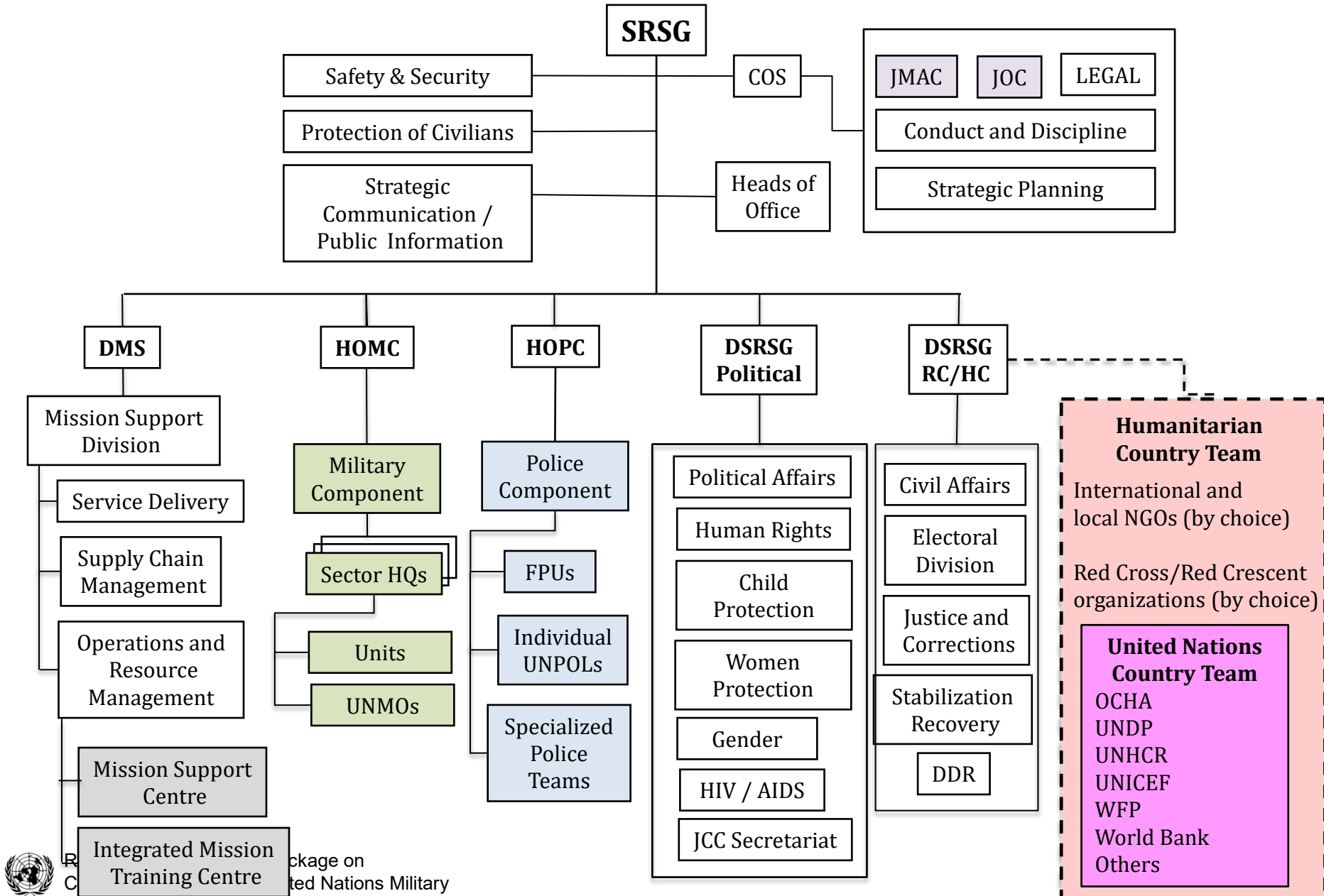


Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

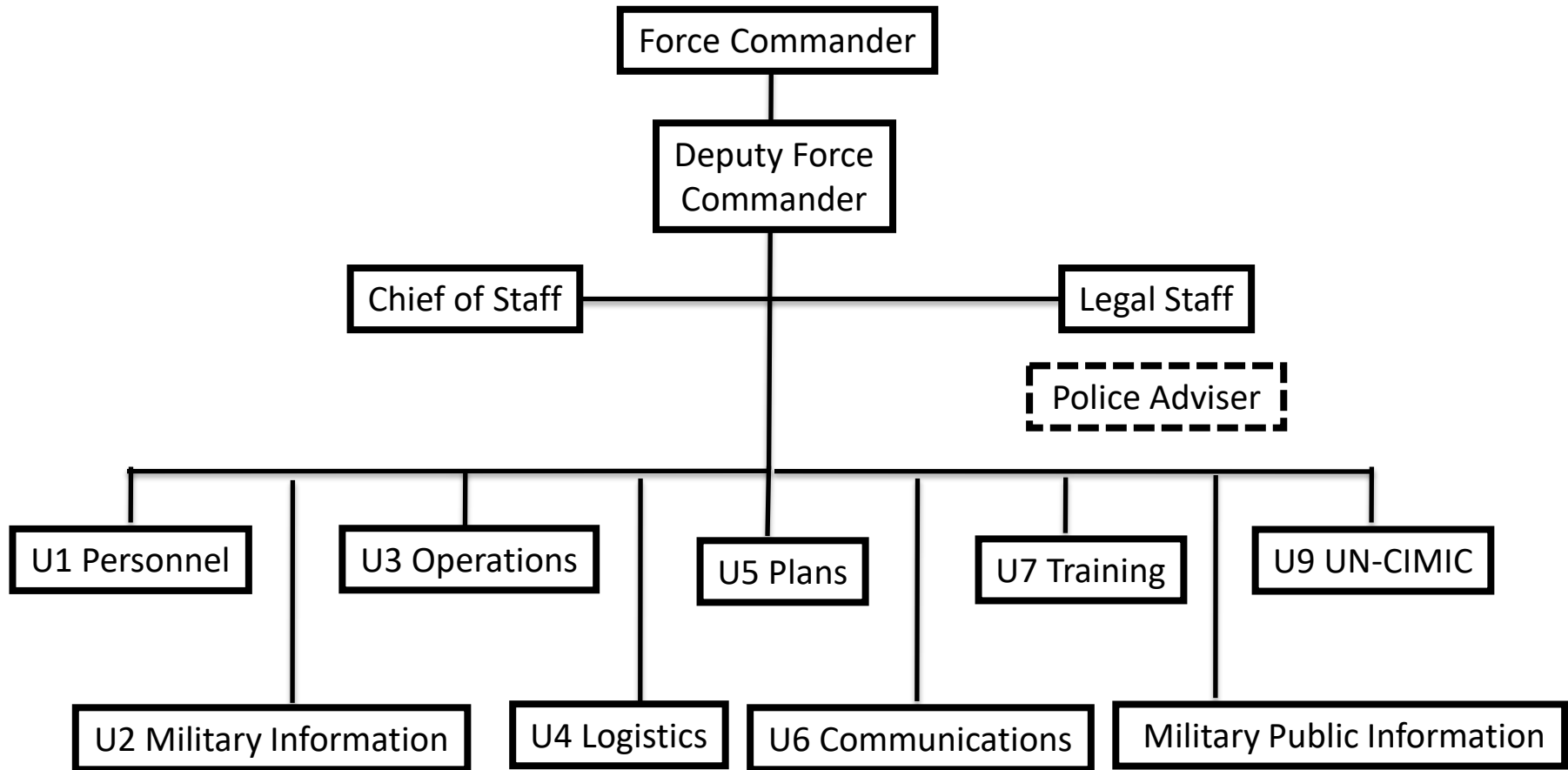
- Coordinate with the mission Child Protection Section
- Child protection advice and mainstreaming
 - Commander
 - All staff functions
- Operational guidance to sector and units
- Establish/Strengthen alert system
- Train sector and unit focal points on Child Protection Directives/SOPs
 - Handover of children associated with armed groups
 - Interactions with children
 - Child exploitation/labour



UN Mission - Generic Multidimensional Structure



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (1/2)



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Within Force HQ (2/2)

U2

- Threat analysis
- Identify and track armed groups targeting children

U3 / U5

- Kinetic ops: minimize risks to children
- Child protection-focused ops: protect children

U4

- Support for children held in United Nations bases/facilities

U9 CIMIC

- Identify and mitigate risks to children in all activities, including Quick-impact projects

Medical

- Contingencies to treat children in emergencies
- Medical outreach for children

Information Ops

- Key leader engagement
- Sensitize local population

U1 Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases

U7 Induction and Continuous training

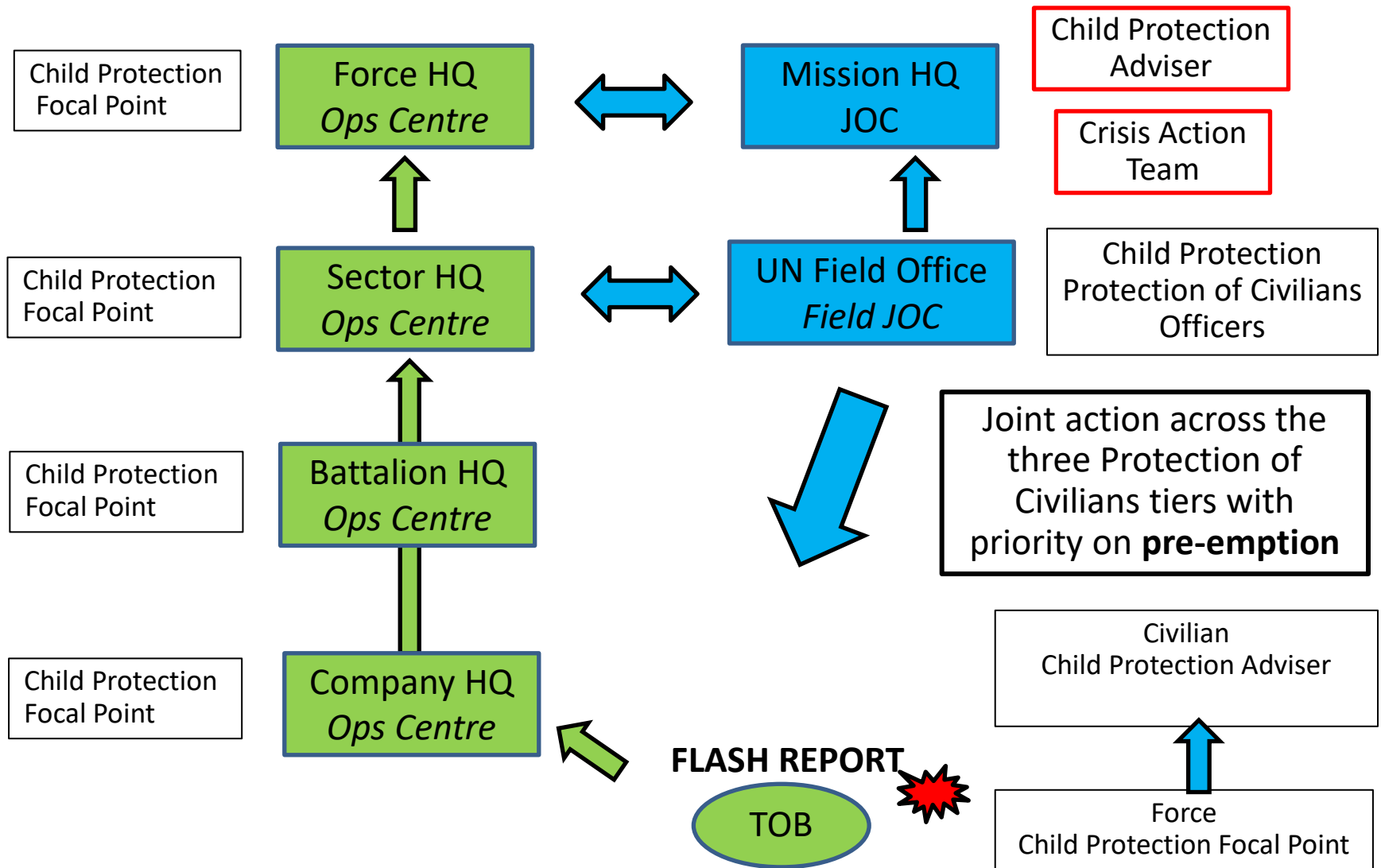


Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Sector HQ, Units, UNMO Team Sites

- Establish focal point network and ensure information flow so as to maintain situational awareness, including an alert system on the six grave violations
- Ensure that Force HQ child protection directions are understood and implemented
- Support Sector HQ, unit, UNMO team site focal points in operations and training



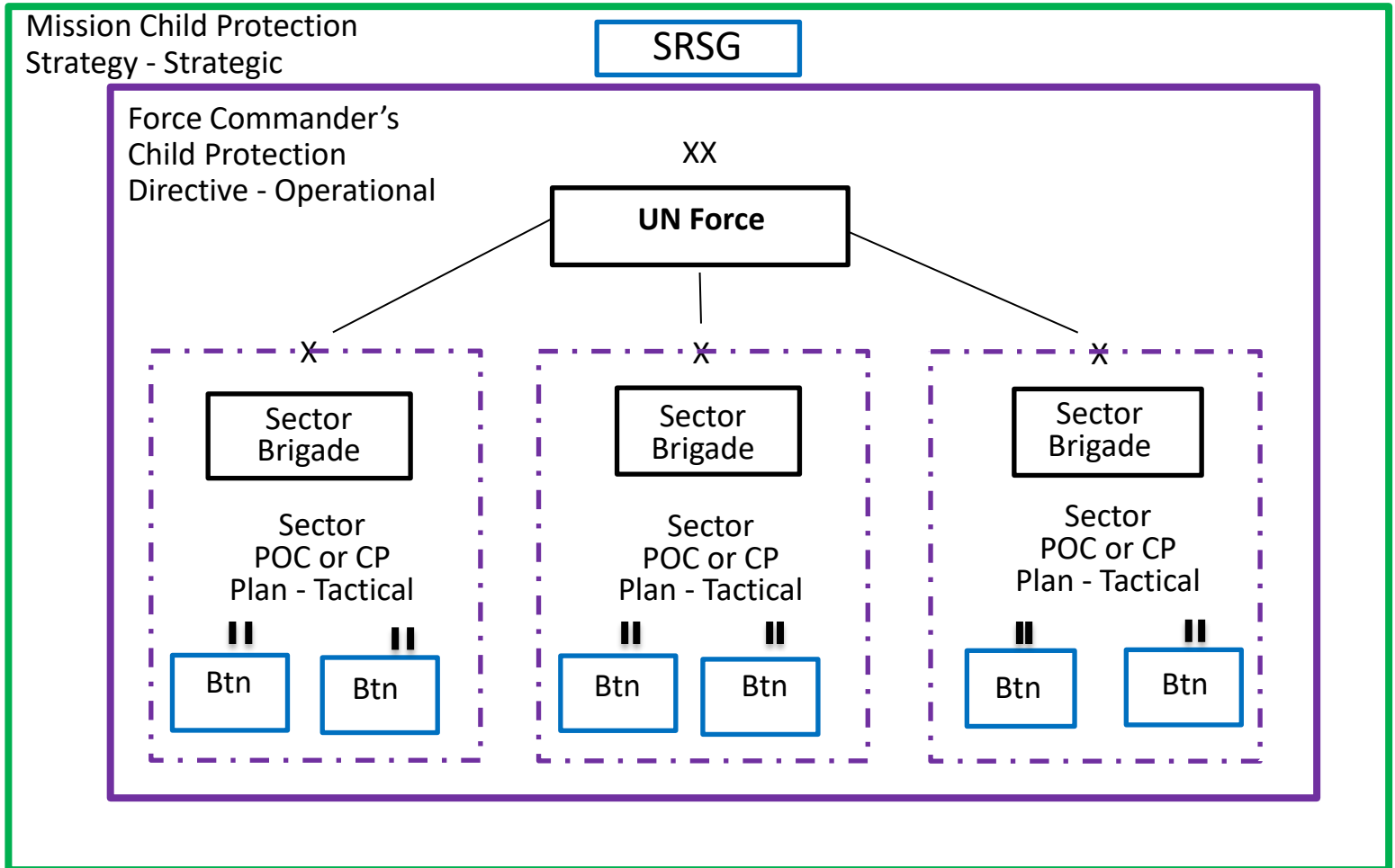
Child Protection Alert System



Operational to Tactical Level

Mission Stabilization Plan

MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan



Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point – Must Dos

- Maintain a good relationship with civilian Child Protection Advisers
- Engage all Force HQ staff functions so as to influence assessment and planning of operations
- Support subordinate child protection focal points in military components
- Share information with civilian child protection partners



Directions to Sector HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (1/2)

Group Activity

- What essential directions should Force HQ issue, and in what format?
- What child protection guidance would sector HQ, units and UNMO team sites expect from Force HQ?



Directions to Sector HQ, Units and UNMO Team Sites (2/2)

Group Activity (contd.)

- Roles and responsibilities
- Coordination and reporting mechanisms
- Procedures

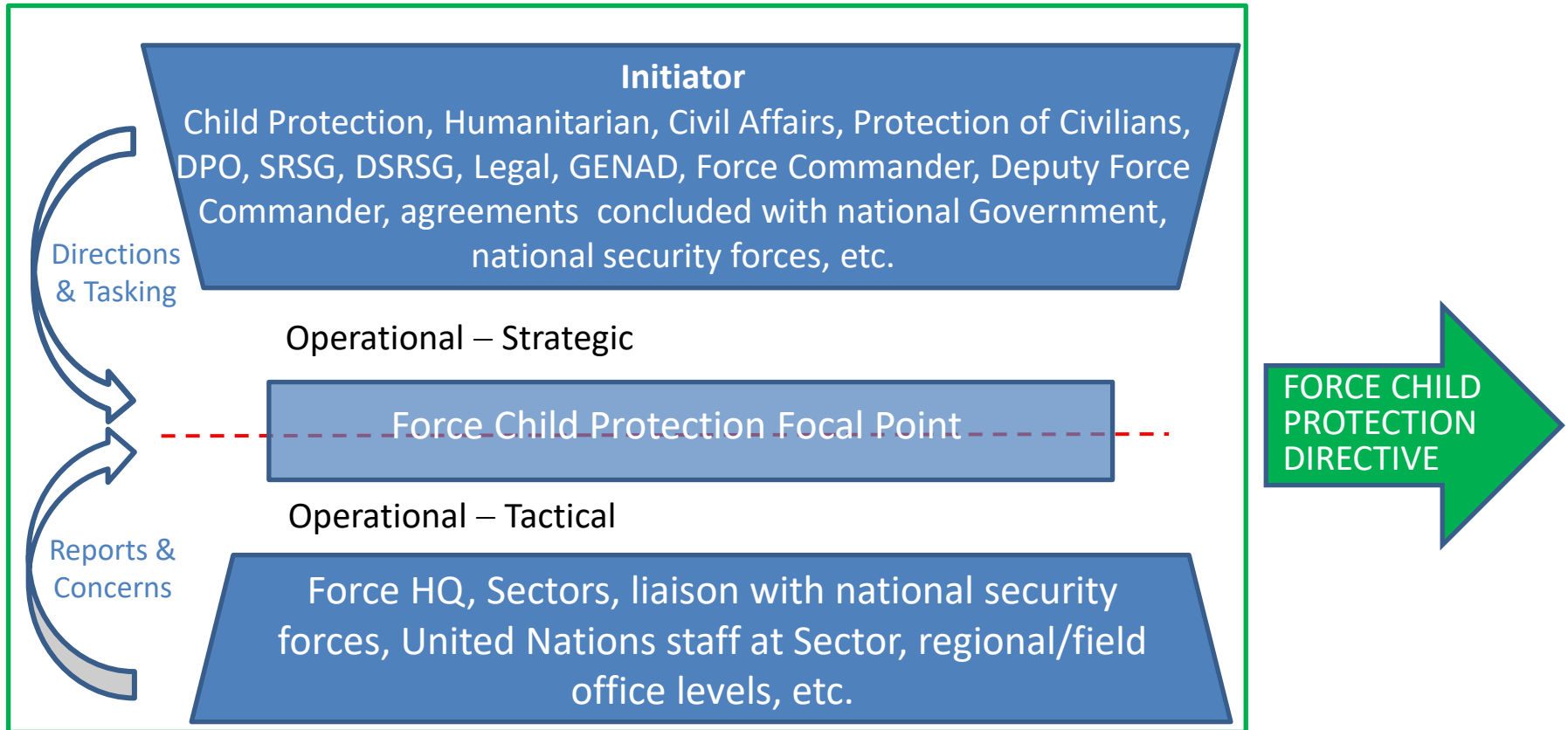


Force Commander's Child Protection Directive

- Directions to subordinates on key issues
- Drafted by staff, in conjunction with Child Protection Adviser
- Signed by Force Commander (authority may be delegated, but not responsibility)
- Forwarded to SRSG and other mission components/sections
- Office of Military Affairs, DPO
- DPO Child Protection Team



Military Component Child Protection Directions – Information Flow



Mainstreaming Child Protection into Military Operations

- Integrate a child protection focus into military ops:
For example:
 - Assign task to a specific Brigade to:
 - Enable, strike, withdraw in order to neutralize ZZZ Armed Group
 - Support child protection actions by:
 - Designating NO FIRE areas/zones
 - Isolating locations for child soldiers

**Support activities cannot be carried out in isolation;
they must be part of integrated mission planning**



Mainstreaming Child Protection

Learning Activity / Group Discussion

Discuss a recent/past mission experience and identify child protection mainstreaming activities undertaken:

- What type of operations?
- What type of activities?
- Were they successful?
- Why/Why not?



MONUSCO Force Commander's Child Protection Directive (1/2)



MONUSCO Force Commander's Child Protection Directive (2/2)

Monitoring and evaluation

- Initial survey for one month (quantifiable)
- Quarterly surveys (qualifiable)
- Review of Sector implementation orders every six months
- Target SMART goals:
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Attainable
 - Relevant
 - Time-bound



Generic Force Commander's Child Protection Directive

- Use the generic directive/template as a guide
- Details will differ from mission to mission
- Preparation: identify all existing directions relating to child protection in the mission
- Coordinate closely with the civilian Child Protection Adviser when drafting the Directive
- Follow-up the Directive to ensure that it has been received and implemented
- Update/re-issue Directive, as necessary



Takeaways

- The Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point has a key role to play in mainstreaming child protection in the military component.
- Interaction with the mission Child Protection Adviser is essential.
- Timely information flow is vital to be pre-emptive in protecting children.
- The Force Commander's Child Protection Directive is one way to provide comprehensive direction to the Force – **but it must be adjusted/followed up/evaluated** on a regular basis.



References

- United Nations, DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- MONUSCO Force Commander's Directive – Protection of Children by MONUSCO Force (551 MONUSCO/FHQ/G5/ SO2POC&GENDER), 12 July 2017
- United Nations, Terms of Reference – Military Child Protection Focal Points, 2020
- United Nations, DPO/DPPA Manual for Child Protection Staff in United Nations Peace Operations, 2019



Questions

