



Module 3, Lesson 5

MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINTS IN SECTORS, UNITS AND TEAM SITES

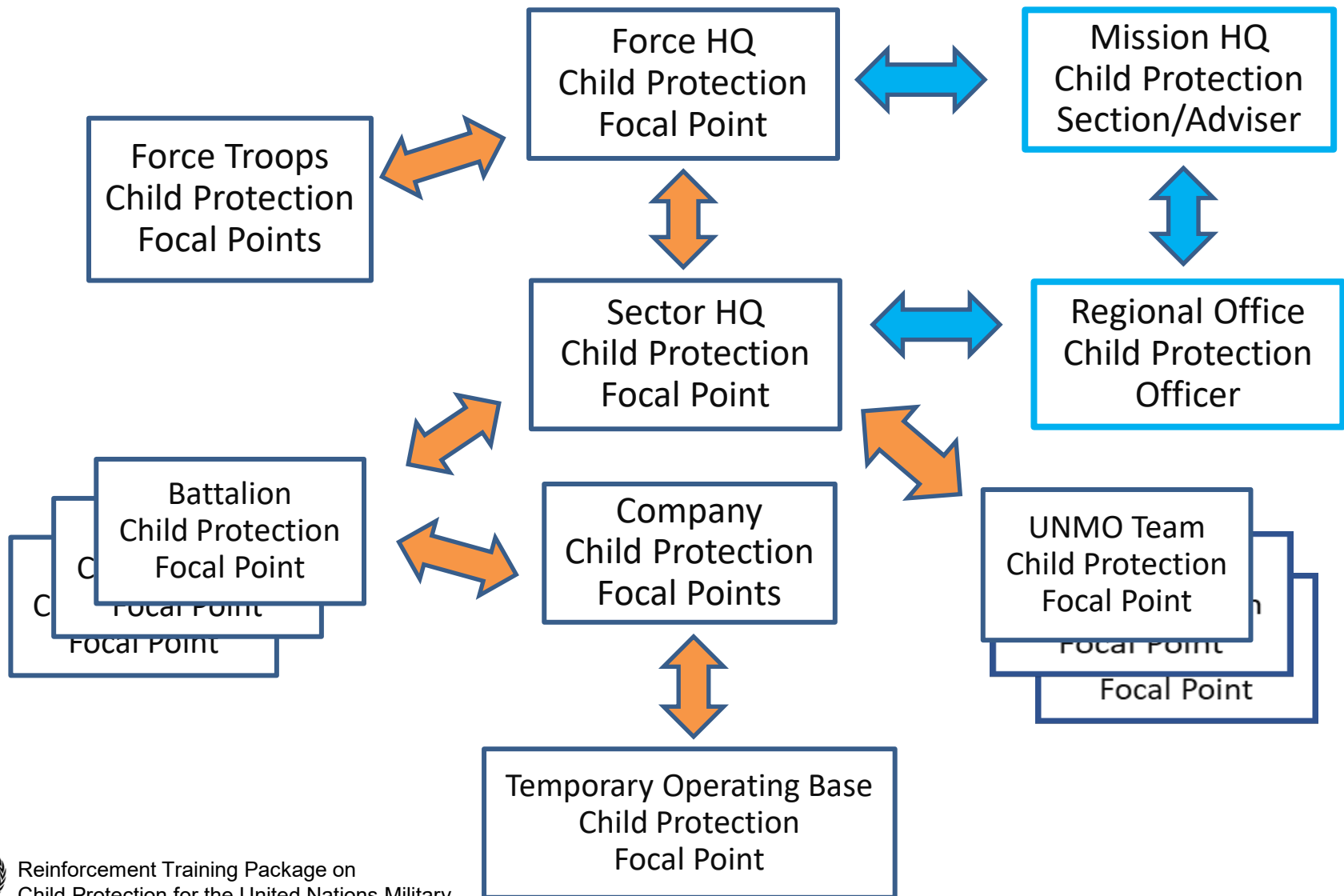


Learning Objectives

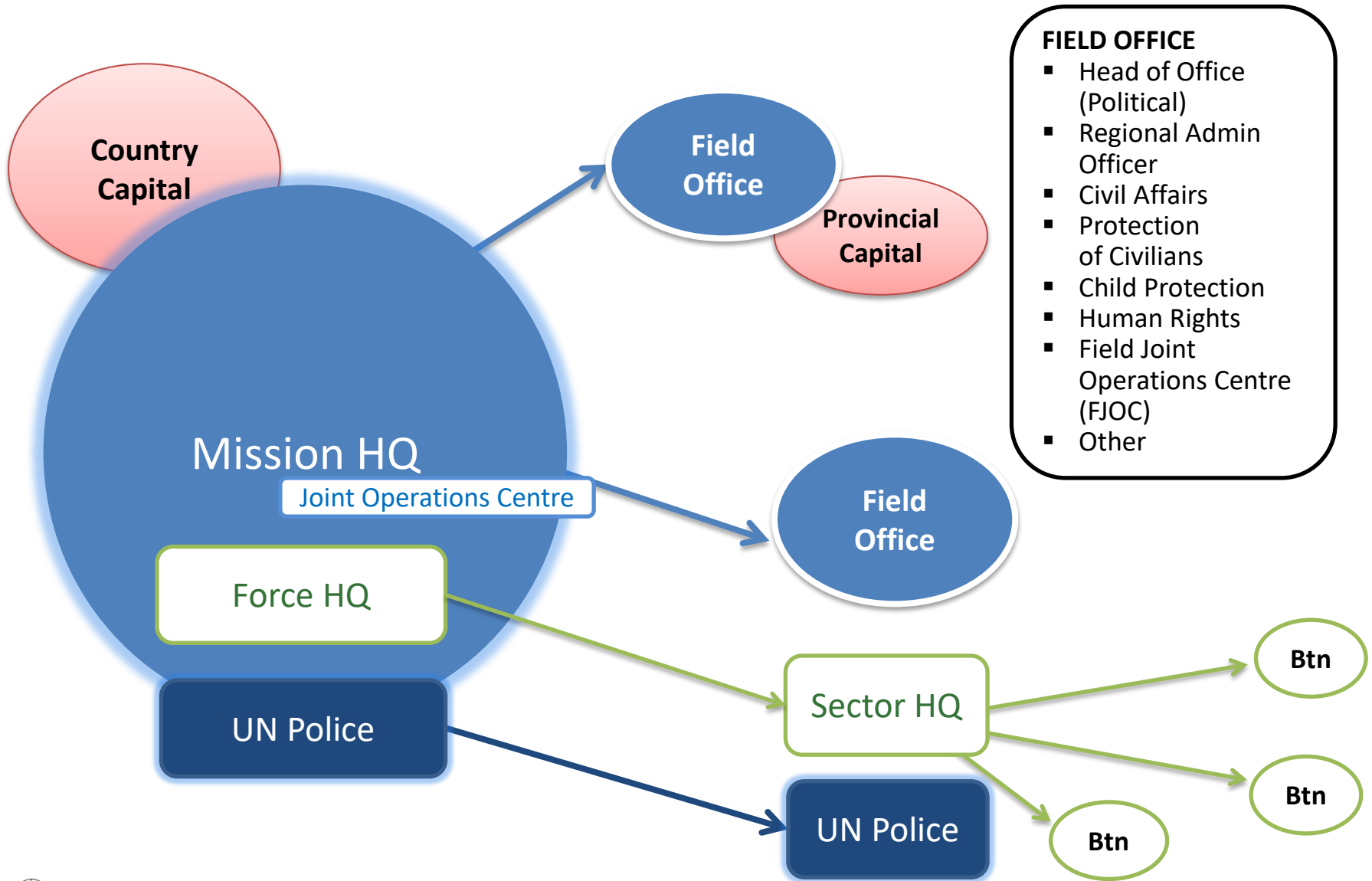
- **Explain** the functions of Child Protection Focal Points at sector, unit and team site levels;
- **Identify** and **discuss** how best to implement Force HQ child protection directions at the tactical level;
- **Demonstrate** the application of standard operating procedure (SOPs) for child protection at the battalion level.



Military Component Child Protection Focal Point System



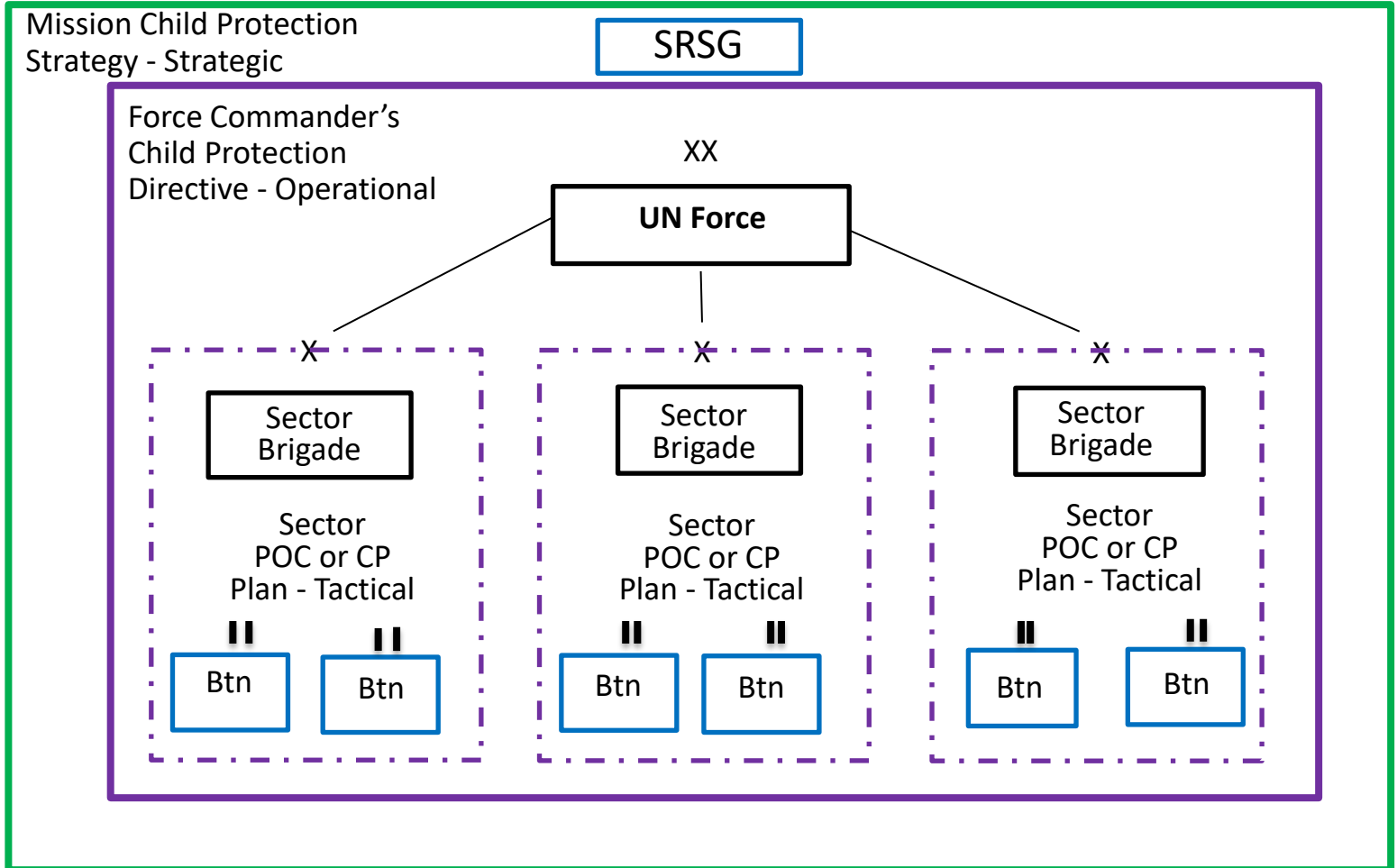
UN Field Office



Operational to Tactical Level

Mission Stabilization Plan

MONUSCO Illegal Armed Group Plan



Sector Child Protection Focal Points – Key Tasks

- Coordinate with the Field Office child protection staff to advise Sector Commander and staff
- Implement Force HQ directions
- Mainstream child protection in all operations
- Establish and strengthen an alert system and a referral system at sector level
- Provide support for child protection to subordinate units and team sites, including threat-related CP training
- Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour



Battalion/Unit Child Protection Focal Point – Key Tasks

- Advise Commander on child protection-related issues
- Maintain links with local child protection actors
- Implement sector directions on child protection
- Mainstream child protection in all operations
- Establish and strengthen an alert system and a referral system at battalion/unit level
- Provide support to Child Protection Focal Points at Company locations and TOBs, including threat-related CP training
- Sensitize all staff on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour



Military Observer Team Site Child Protection Focal Point

- Presence of Child Protection Focal Points at each team site
- Establish/maintain links with local child protection actors
- Mainstream child protection in all patrols and tasks
- Advocate child protection
- Use the Alert System and the Referral System
- Ensure threat-related child protection training
- Enforce zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour



Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (1)

Group Discussion

- Does Sector HQ need to produce its own Child Protection Directive?
- Is issuing a Directive sufficient?
- Should the Sector Directive be a cut-and-paste from the Force HQ Directive?
- What are the key contents of a Child Protection Directive?



Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (2)

- A Directive alone is not sufficient at the tactical level
- There should also be standard operating procedures (SOPs) and orders
- Guidance at the tactical level should be relevant to the specific context
- Policies should reflect the child protection threats in the particular mission area

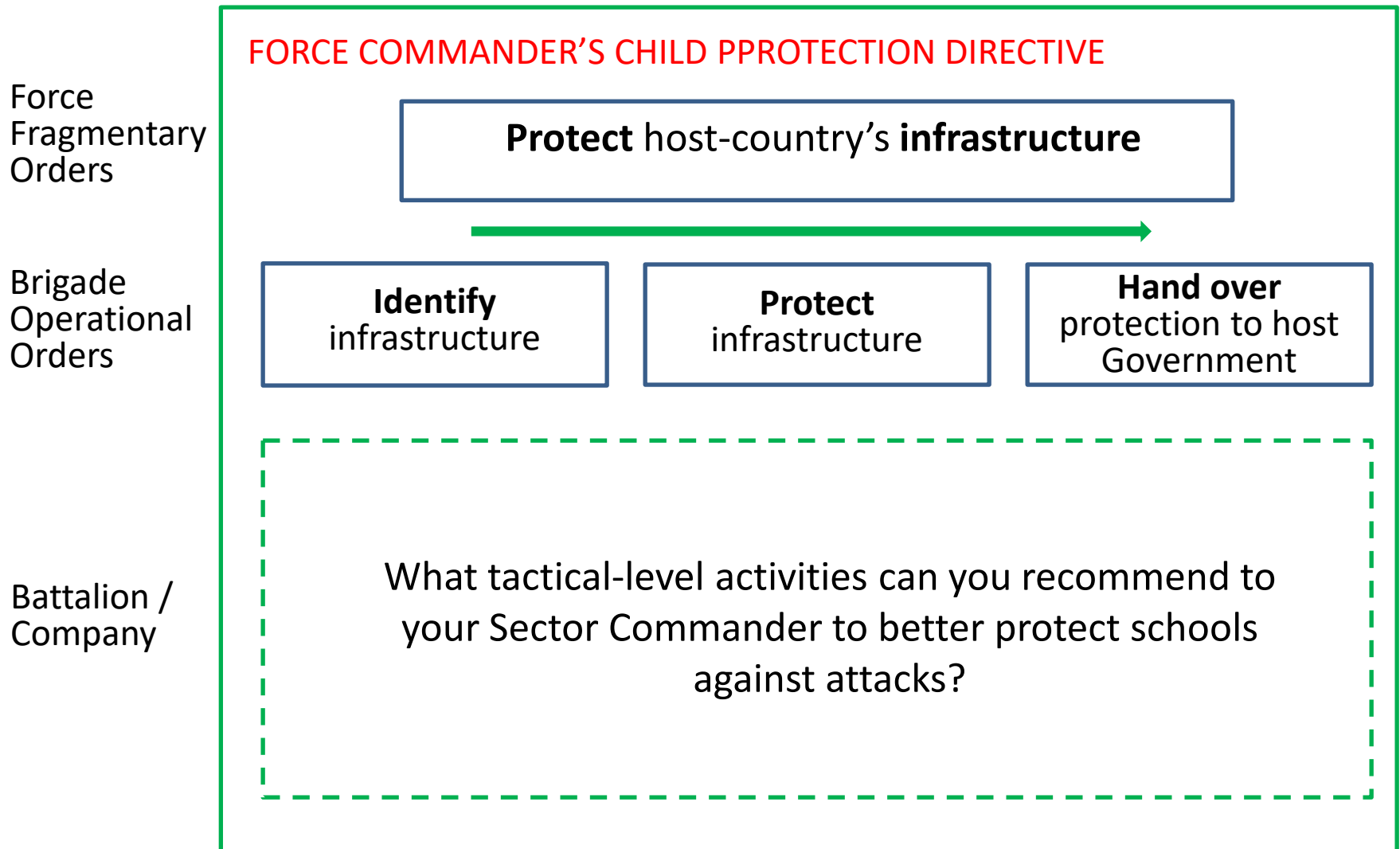


Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Directions – Sector Orders

- Drafted by the sector Child Protection Focal Point and the civilian Child Protection Officer
- Jointly approved by the sector Commander and Chief of Staff
- Collated by the Force HQ Child Protection Focal Point
- Ensure that Child Protection Adviser is briefed on all sector plans



Developing Military Activities



Implementing Force HQ Child Protection Policies (3)

- Refer to the Force Commander's Child Protection Directive to ensure child protection is mainstreamed into all military functions and activities
- As a Child Protection Focal Point, you are responsible for linking child protection to military activities = a mandated task
- Conduct joint planning with civilian child protection colleagues
- If in doubt, ask the Child Protection Adviser
- Ensure back-briefs; share information



Battalion Child Protection – Standard Operating Procedures

- Role of the battalion Child Protection Focal Point
- Monitoring and reporting on the six grave violations
- Using the Alert System and appropriate report format
- Guidelines on interactions with children
 - Civilian-Military Cooperation Unit
 - Child Protection Unit
- Procedure relating to surrender of child soldiers
- Procedure relating to detention of children
- Procedure relating to handover of child soldiers
- Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child labour



Rules on Detention

- Last resort measure and for as short a time as possible
- Immediately disarm child/children
- Inform the Child Protection Section
- Separate children from adults (unless same family), and boys from girls
- Respect the child (and his/her rights)
- Provide food, first aid, civilian clothing
- Do not question the child/children (other than basic facts)
- Bear in mind the best interest of the child
- Bear in mind the “Do No Harm” principle



Child Protection Pocket Card

Group Discussion

There is a lot of child protection information for a peacekeeper to remember on the ground.

- Do peacekeepers need a Child Protection Pocket Card as a quick reference?
(a ROE Card already exists)
- What information should the Pocket Card contain?



Takeaways

- Each level (sector, battalion, company, temporary ops base, UNMO team site) should have its own specific tactical child protection documents.
- Child protection documents must be relevant to specific area of responsibility and the role of the unit.
- Documents are only the basis for effective child protection; peacekeepers must be trained, rehearse and implement procedures.
- Report all child protection concerns/observations and establish mechanisms to generate situational awareness.



References

- United Nations, DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- United Nations, Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM), Second Edition, January 2020
- United Nations, DPPA/DPO/DSS, Standard Operating Procedure –The Handling of Detention in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, June 2020



Questions

