

# NATO FORMAL OPERATIONS ORDER (OPORD)

## OPERATION SILENT HERMES

### References:

- A. NATO AJP-3 – Allied Joint Doctrine for the Conduct of Operations
- B. NATO AJP-2 – Allied Joint Intelligence Doctrine
- C. UK JSP 900 Series – Special Forces Operations (Restricted)

**Time Zone Used Throughout the Order:** ZULU

**Task Organization:** UKSF Task Force Alpha

**Classification:** TOP SECRET // COSMIC // UK EYES ONLY

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## 1. SITUATION

### a. General

The security environment on the Korean Peninsula has deteriorated due to intelligence indicating undeclared DPRK strategic weapons activity and the detention of a Western technical advisor under unknown circumstances. The DPRK operates a closed, highly militarised internal security model with layered counter-intelligence, dense air defence, and rapid reaction forces.

NATO will not overtly engage. The United Kingdom has been authorised to conduct deniable unilateral special operations in support of broader NATO deterrence objectives.

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### b. Enemy Forces

**(1) Disposition** - Korean People's Army (KPA) maintains nationwide territorial control - Strategic Rocket Force operates concealed underground facilities - Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB) conducts counter-intelligence - Dense integrated air defence systems (IADS)

**(2) Capabilities** - Rapid internal troop redeployment - Extensive hardened and subterranean infrastructure - Civilian surveillance and informant networks

**(3) Limitations** - Rigid command hierarchy - Limited decentralised ISR fusion - Reliance on fixed infrastructure

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### c. Friendly Forces

#### **(1) Higher HQ Mission**

UK Strategic Command conducts covert operations in support of NATO deterrence and strategic intelligence objectives without escalation.

## **(2) Adjacent Units**

- NATO and allied forces will not cross DPRK borders - No conventional forces available for reinforcement

## **(3) Supporting Units**

**UKSF Task Force Alpha** - SAS (Sabre): Direct Action, Sensitive Site Exploitation - SBS (Trident): Maritime insertion/exfiltration, coastal ISR - SRR (Raven): Long-term ISR, human terrain mapping - UKSF Aviation Detachment: Low-observable insertion/extraction (off-map)

**United States Support (Contingency / Deniable)** - Emergency aviation and limited strike support available if mission-critical - Support deployed from US-controlled airbases outside the AO - Rotary-wing support provided by US SOF aviation units - Aircraft may include MH-47G, MH-60M, and AH-6 variants

US forces remain under national command and will operate in support of UKSF objectives only if authorised.

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## **d. Civil Considerations**

- Civilian population under strict state control
  - High likelihood of civilian presence near military facilities
  - Civilian casualties risk strategic escalation
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# **2. MISSION**

UKSF Task Force Alpha conducts covert operations within DPRK territory to locate, verify, and exploit undeclared strategic missile infrastructure; determine the status of a detained Western technical advisor; and conduct limited disruption to degrade DPRK strategic capability without attribution in order to support NATO deterrence objectives.

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# **3. EXECUTION**

## **a. Commander's Intent**

**Purpose:** Generate strategic intelligence and leverage without escalation.

**Method:** Covert infiltration, intelligence-led targeting, minimal force, deniable actions.

**End State:** - Strategic DPRK capabilities mapped - Western asset status resolved - UK and allied involvement remains deniable

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## **b. Concept of Operations**

Operations will be conducted in four phases:

**PHASE 1 – INFILTRATION** - Maritime insertion via contested littoral zones OR - HALO/HAHO airborne insertion from international airspace - Establish hide sites, comms relays, and emergency caches

**PHASE 2 – INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION** - Confirm location and function of underground facilities - Conduct pattern-of-life analysis - Technical exploitation of power, comms, and logistics nodes

**PHASE 3 – LIMITED DIRECT ACTION** - Sensitive Site Exploitation (SSE) - Disruption of critical nodes to appear accidental - Detention or confirmation of Western asset if mission-critical

**PHASE 4 – EXFILTRATION** - Maritime or airborne extraction at designated windows - Activation of evasion routes if compromised - Zero recoverable equipment left in AO

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### **c. Tasks to Subordinate Units**

**SAS (Sabre)** - Conduct Direct Action and SSE - Execute time-sensitive targeting if authorised

**SBS (Trident)** - Conduct maritime insertion/exfiltration - Coastal ISR and extraction corridor security

**SRR (Raven)** - Long-term ISR and surveillance - Human terrain and pattern-of-life analysis

**US SOF Aviation (If Authorised)** - Emergency extraction and personnel recovery - Limited armed overwatch for exfiltration only - No routine CAS or persistent air presence

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### **d. Coordinating Instructions**

- Mission abort criteria strictly enforced
  - No identifiable UK or coalition markings
  - Capture risk assessed as EXTREME
  - Air support requires Task Group Commander approval
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## **4. SERVICE SUPPORT**

### **a. Logistics**

- No routine resupply inside AO
- All equipment non-attributable
- Emergency extraction by allied aviation may be authorised

### **b. Medical**

- Organic medical support only
  - CASEVAC by allied aviation authorised only if extraction criteria met
  - No fixed-wing MEDEVAC inside AO
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## **5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL**

### **a. Command**

- OPCON: UK Strategic Command
- TACON: UKSF Task Force Alpha
- US SOF aviation remains under US national command

### **b. Signal**

- Primary: Burst satellite communications
  - Alternate: One-way data transfer methods
  - Emergency: Pre-arranged environmental or brevity signals
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## **6. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Operational Risk: VERY HIGH
  - Political Risk: EXTREME
  - Escalation Risk: Managed through deniability
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## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This operation will not be publicly acknowledged. Loss or capture will be denied. Success will remain classified.

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**END OF ORDER**