
Introduction

This handbook is intended to institutionalize the mechanisms mandated by Presidential Decision Directive (PDD)-56, Managing Complex Contingency Operations. These procedures were derived from lessons learned from past U.S. participation in complex contingency operations and subsequent improvements made in the interagency planning process. The handbook provides a guide for those in the interagency that are or will be involved in planning such operations. Specifically, this book:

- articulates an integrated interagency process for planning U.S. participation complex contingency operation.
- discusses the tools used as part of this planning process.

While it describes the integrated planning processes, *this handbook is not meant to serve as a guide for deciding whether or not the United States should support or participate in a given complex contingency operation*. Other policy documents, such as PDD-25, provide such guidance. The intent is rather to ensure that improved coordinating mechanisms and planning tools become standard, routine, and useful within the interagency community when senior policy-makers decide to undertake an operation.

There are five chapters in this handbook, followed by a series of appendices. Chapter 1 briefly discusses PDD-56 and its historical background. Chapter 2 outlines the integrated interagency planning process that should take place in preparation for U.S. involvement in a complex contingency operation. Chapter 3 discusses the tools available to assist interagency planning for U.S. intervention, and Chapter 4 reviews strategic-level lessons derived from past operations. Chapter 5 concludes by highlighting the critical process of institutionalizing the processes required by PDD-56.