



# Measuring the Effectiveness of Special Operations

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How can the success (or failure) of Army special operations missions be assessed? The authors develop a methodology for doing so that relies on operational, intelligence, and ambient (publicly available) data. The method assesses the plan's lines of effort and their objectives, develops measures of effectiveness and indicators, and then gathers and analyzes appropriate qualitative and quantitative data.



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can the success (or failure) of Army special operations missions be assessed?



## KEY FINDINGS

Conducting assessments can be challenging for smaller deployed headquarters

- Conducting rigorous and timely assessments is a particular challenge for smaller deployed headquarters with smaller staffs and budgets.
- Collecting data and staffing the assessment process consume scarce resources and manpower.
- The methodology developed leverages existing operational and intelligence reporting and publicly available data for assessments.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implementing the special operations forces operational assessment approach recommended in this report will require adaptations in organization, training, materiel, leadership development and education, and personnel.



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