



Better Missions using P.O.S.T. Priorities, Objectives, Strategies & Tactics



The 4 critical building blocks needed before initiating a successful mission:



P.O.S.T.

Priorities

Objectives

Strategies

Tactics



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PRIORITIES

Priorities address the **WHY** question of your mission.

The term "Goals" are often used here also.

Priorities are high level and high impact.

Example:

In an emergency response environment, one priority is "to maximize Life Safety: yours, your team's and your victims ... in that order".

OBJECTIVES

Objectives address the **WHAT** questions.

Specifically, what future condition indicates the end of the mission?

These are the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. You know, **S.M.A.R.T.**

Example:

"Conduct primary searches of all structures in the 100 block of Main street before the end of the current operational period".

STRATEGIES

Strategies address the *Conceptual* **HOW** questions.

How will the objectives be met?

Example:



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“Assemble search teams consisting of search dogs and handlers, rescue personnel and limited tech search capability, provide an all-terrain vehicle and equip them with the equipment and supplies for 12 hours of deployment”.

□ TACTICS

Tactics address the *Specific HOW* questions.

How specifically will the objectives be accomplished?

Typically, the tactics should be left to the people in the field that will be responsible for the outcome.

Example:

“Start at the downwind end of the block with half of the team on the left and half on the right. The search manager, medic and scribe will move down the middle of the street while the crew vehicle follows behind.”





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Name of Mission [should align with Priority] _____

My **Priority** - *Why?* [Describe the high impact goal that addresses a currently unmet need]

My **Objective** - *What?* [Describe the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely condition that you desire]

My **Strategies** - *Conceptual How?* [Provide a conceptual overview of the resources needed to achieve the objective]

My **Tactics** - *Specific How?* [List the specific steps required to achieve the objective]

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