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# Unit 3: Overview of the Strike Team and Task Force Leader Positions

STUDENT GUIDE

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## **Objectives**

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By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader
- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor

## **Methodology**

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This unit uses lecture, exercise, and discussion.

Content from the Unit 3 will be tested during the Final Exam. Instructors will evaluate students' initial understanding of the Operations Section through the facilitation of Exercise 2.

The purpose of Exercise 2 is to illustrate that the Division/Group Supervisor must become a manager of multiple resources; the Supervisor must make a transition from a doer to a manager. By having groups of students compare and contrast the positions of Division/Group Supervisor, Strike Team/Task Force Leader, Incident Commander, and Operations Section Chief/Branch Director, the purpose of this exercise should be fulfilled.

**Time Plan**

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A suggested time plan for this unit is shown below. More or less time may be required, based on the experience level of the group.

Topic	Time
Lesson	30 minutes
Exercise 2	30 minutes
<b>Total Time</b>	<b>1 hour</b>

**Topic**Unit Title Slide

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**Key Points**

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**Scope Statement**

Through this unit, students will gain a general understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Strike Team Leaders and Task Force Leaders.

Topic Unit Objectives

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### Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.



### Key Points

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#### Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

#### Unit Enabling Objectives

- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor

### Strike Teams

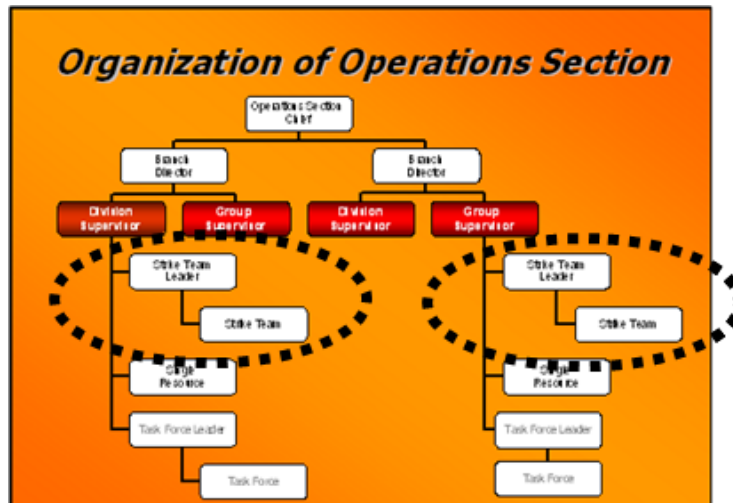
Specified combinations of the same kind and type of resources, with common communications and a leader.



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Visual 3-3

### Key Points



## Topic

Task Force

### Task Force

A group of mixed resources with common communications and a leader that may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident.



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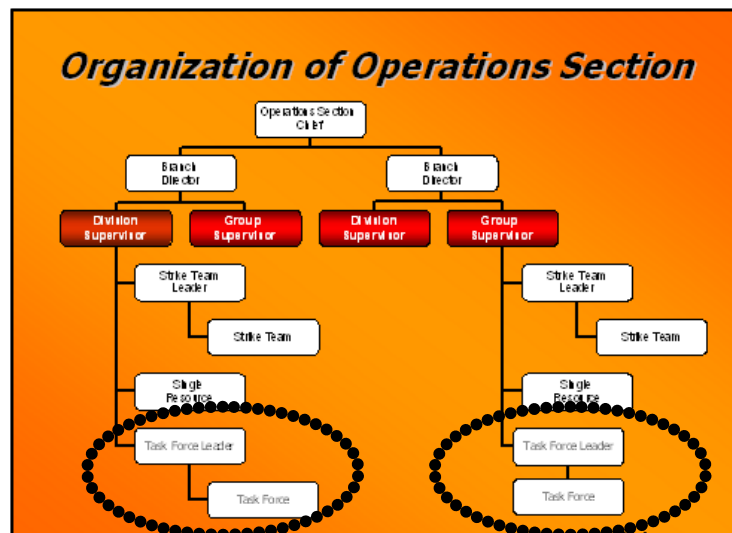
Visual 3-4

### Key Points

A Task Force is a group of mixed resources with common communications and a leader that may be pre-established and sent to an incident or formed at an incident.

A Task Force is a group of resources:

- With common communications
- With a leader
- That is usually assembled for a specific mission




**Topic** Task Force (cont.)

**Task Force (cont.)**

**A Task Force can include:**

- Any combination of resources that does not meet the criteria for a Strike Team
- Any combination of one kind of resource with other kinds of resources



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*Visual 3-5*

**Key Points**

A Task Force can include any combination of resources that does not meet the criteria for a Strike Team or any combination of one kind of resource with other kinds of resources:

- Dozers—engines
- Hand crews—dozers
- Water tenders—engines
- Engines—ladder trucks
- Patrol vehicles—ambulances



**Topic** Utilization Principles

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**Utilization Principles**

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- The Strike Teams and Task Forces concept is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident
- Same or similar for both
- The use of Strike Teams and Task Forces is encouraged whenever possible

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Visual 3-6

**Key Points**

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Follow instructions from the instructor for discussion.

**Topic** Utilization Principles (cont.)**Utilization Principles (cont.)**

The Strike Team and Task Force concept works by:

- Maximizing the use of resources
- Reducing the manager's span of control
- Simplifying communications



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Visual 3-7

**Key Points**

Strike teams are usually ordered, but may be formed for an incident if you get enough of the same type of resources. In these cases though, you will need to assign a Strike Team Leader.

When requesting and managing resources, the Strike Team and Task Force concept is designed to maximize the efficiency of multiple resources on an incident. The Strike Team and Task Force concept does this by:

- Maximizing the use of resources
- Reducing the manager's span of control
- Simplifying communications

**Topic** Strike Team and Task Force Leader**Strike Team and Task Force Leader**

- Responsible for performing tactical assignments assigned to the Strike Team or Task Force
- The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is the Strike Team or Task Force point-of-contact for the Division/Group Supervisor



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Visual 3-8

**Key Points**

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is responsible for supervising tactical assignments assigned to the Strike Team or Task Force. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader is the Strike Team or Task Force point-of-contact for the Division/Group Supervisor. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader provides the Division/Group Supervisor with one person to direct, rather than having to work individually with the leader of each element of the Strike Team or Task Force. Other duties include:

- Reviewing common ICS responsibilities with personnel
- Reviewing assignments with subordinates and assigning tasks
- Monitoring work progress and making changes when necessary
- Coordinating activities with adjacent Strike Teams, Task Forces, and single resources
- Traveling to and from the assignment area with assigned resources
- Retaining control of assigned resources while in available or out-of-service status
- Maintaining the ICS Form 214—Activity Log
- Submitting situation and resource status information to the Division/Group Supervisor

**Topic** Strike Team and Task Force Leader (cont.)**Strike Team and Task Force Leader (cont.)**

- Typically reports to a Division/Group Supervisor on extended response and major incidents
- Reports work progress, resources status, and other important information
- Maintains work records on assigned personnel
- Can be a great source of feedback

*Unit 3:**Overview of the Strike Team and Task Force Leader Positions*

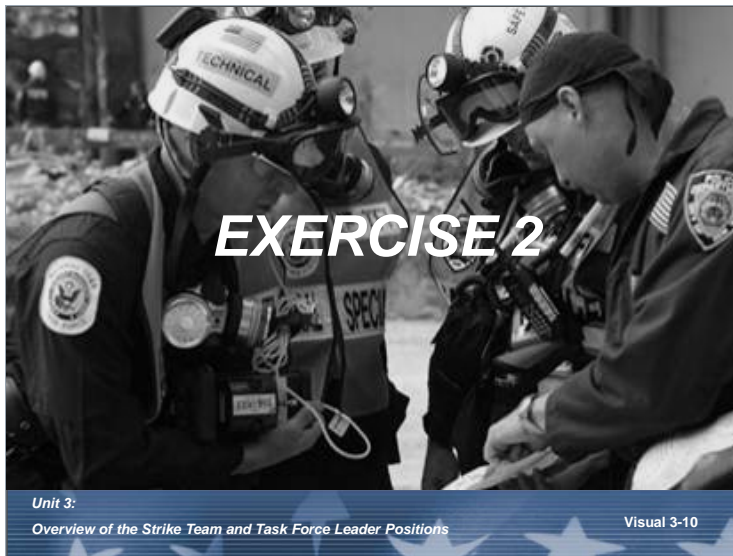
Visual 3-9

**Key Points**

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader typically reports to a Division/Group Supervisor on extended responses and major incidents. The Strike Team or Task Force Leader reports progress of the Strike Team or Task Force in relation to the assigned tactical objectives to the Division/Group Supervisor.

The Strike Team or Task Force Leader manages, supervises, and monitors:

- Work progress
- Resource status of the team
- Other important information related to the logistical needs of the Strike Team while on the incident (such as maintaining work and time records on assigned personnel and apparatus)



### Key Points

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Follow directions from the instructor on how to complete this exercise.

**Topic** Objectives Review

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**Objectives Review**

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1. *What is the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force?*
2. *What is the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force?*
3. *What information does the Strike Team or Task Force Leader provide the Division/Group Supervisor?*

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Visual 3-11

**Key Points**

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**Unit Terminal Objective**

Describe the role and responsibilities of the Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader.

**Unit Enabling Objectives**

- Describe the difference between a Strike Team and a Task Force
- Explain the purpose of using a Strike Team or Task Force as it relates to managing resources
- Explain what information the Strike Team or Task Force Leader provide to the Division/Group Supervisor