

Mobility Requirements Study — 2005 A Unique Approach

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ABSTRACT

The Joint Staff in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Services are working on the Mobility Requirements Study — 2005 (MRS-05). MRS-05 is a follow-on study to Mobility Requirements Study — Bottom Up Review Update (MRS-BURU) and findings will be used to influence programmatic decisions surrounding the next Quadrennial Defense Review.

Anticipating the task of conducting a mobility requirements study, the Director, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (DJ-8) sponsored a series of workshops. From May to July 1998 a series of four workshops were held to develop the study methodology. Participants included the Joint Staff, OSD, Services, various Unified Commands, and other government agencies.

These workshops laid the foundation for the study scope, assumptions, objectives, and essential elements of analysis. The workshops also established the various sub-working groups, identified which organizations would bring resources to bear, and set up the hierarchy for the study. We propose to present a paper detailing the purpose, background, study development, methodology, and expected products.

PURPOSE

In March 1998 efforts began for the third in a series of United States Department of Defense mobility studies. This paper highlights the development of the Mobility Requirements Study 2005 (MRS-05). The study deals with mobility requirements to support a major theater war. It is relevant to Cornwallis group as the study methodology could be applied to analysis of operations other than war. Additionally, the study deals with military forces globally engaged in various operations other the war as a starting condition.

BACKGROUND

In January 1992 the original congressionally mandated Mobility Requirements Study was completed. A number of recommendations were make regarding the purchasing of sealift, airlift, and prepositioned equipment. As result of changes in defense strategy originating from the Department of Defense (DoD) Bottom Up Review completed in 1993, the senior DoD leadership directed a update of the previous mobility study.

The study, aptly named the Mobility Requirements Study Bottom Up Review Update, was completed in March 1995. This study reconfirmed the recommendations from the original study and provided some additional recommendations. Of note – for the most part all those recommendations from both studies have been implemented. In October of 1998 in preparation for the next defense review the Deputy Secretary Defense directed the another study – Mobility Requirements Study 2005. This study will be completed by December 1999.

Significant changes have occurred in the strategic and mobility environments. Some examples include response to asymmetric threats, impact of reduced infrastructure abroad, force structure changes, and defense policy changes. These important factors drove the need for a new study.

WORKSHOPS AND STUDY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In anticipation of the Deputy Secretary of Defense tasking, a series of four workshops were conducted from May to July 1998 sponsored by the Joint Staff. Participants included staff from the Commander in Chiefs, four military services, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and various government and non-government agencies.

WORKSHOP I

The first workshop was conducted 13-14 May 1998. Participants were field grade officers in operational and analytical assignments. The first objective of the workshop was to develop a common understanding of the scope and limitations of previous mobility studies. The second objective was to develop a prioritized list of questions to be answered and various issues to be explored during the study. The third objective was to formulate the objectives, assumptions, constraints and sensitivity analyses for the study.

WORKSHOP II

The second workshop was conducted 4 June 1998. Participants were general officers from the same organizations as in workshop I. The first objective was to provide an overview of the results from workshop I. The second objective was to allow the participants to validate and shape workshop I output. The third objective was to layout the process by which the general officer steering committee would oversee the study.

WORKSHOP III

The third workshop was conducted 16-18 June 1998. Participants were the field grade officers in analytical assignments who attended workshop I. The purpose of the workshop was to develop an analytical campaign that incorporated:

- Essential elements of analysis.
- Methodology to address the questions / issues.
- Division of responsibility.
- Timelines / milestones.

WORKSHOP IV

The fourth and final workshop was conducted 13-14 July 1998. Participants were the same as in workshop III. The purpose of the workshop was to draft the study plan and to synchronize schedules between the working groups.

POSTURES OF ENGAGEMENT

Another unique aspect of the study was the consideration of U.S. forces engaged in various operations other than war (OOTW). The development of the applicable data for use in the models required a working group comprised of personnel from various organizations including the uniformed services. The working group also determined where the U.S. forces would re-deploy, if necessary, and how the OOTW would be supported.

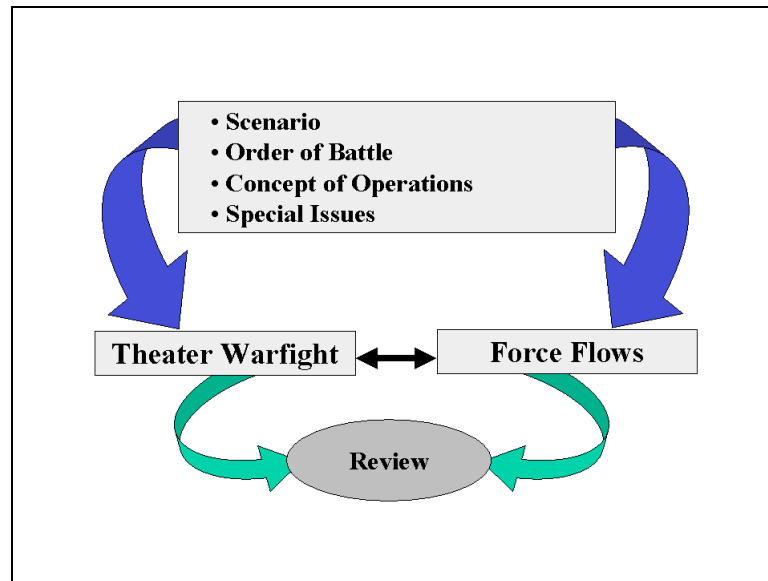


Figure 1: MRS-05 Study Approach Diagram.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

The study approach is divided into two major sections, theater warfight and the force flows or arrivals. Figure 1 shows how these two sections interrelate with the scenario, order of battle, concept of operations, and special issues. Initially a force flow is provided to the theater warfight to assess the risk. Based on the warfight results, the force flow is modified and the process repeats itself in an iterative manner until the best solution is achieved. If the risk is deemed too high, then other solutions are considered.

Panels of colonel-level officers review the interim results and adjudicate any significant issues. Upon approval of the colonel-level panel, the results are briefed to a general officer panel who approve the approach and findings.

EXPECTED PRODUCTS

When this study is complete there will be recommendations for programmatic/budgetary actions. There may also be policy recommendations to better employ U.S. forces. Additionally, a significant outcome of the study will be the various databases, to include the U.S. force structure to support operations other than war. These databases will support follow-on studies including operations other than war.