Global Prepositioning Network (GPN) Supportability Analysis in the Philippines

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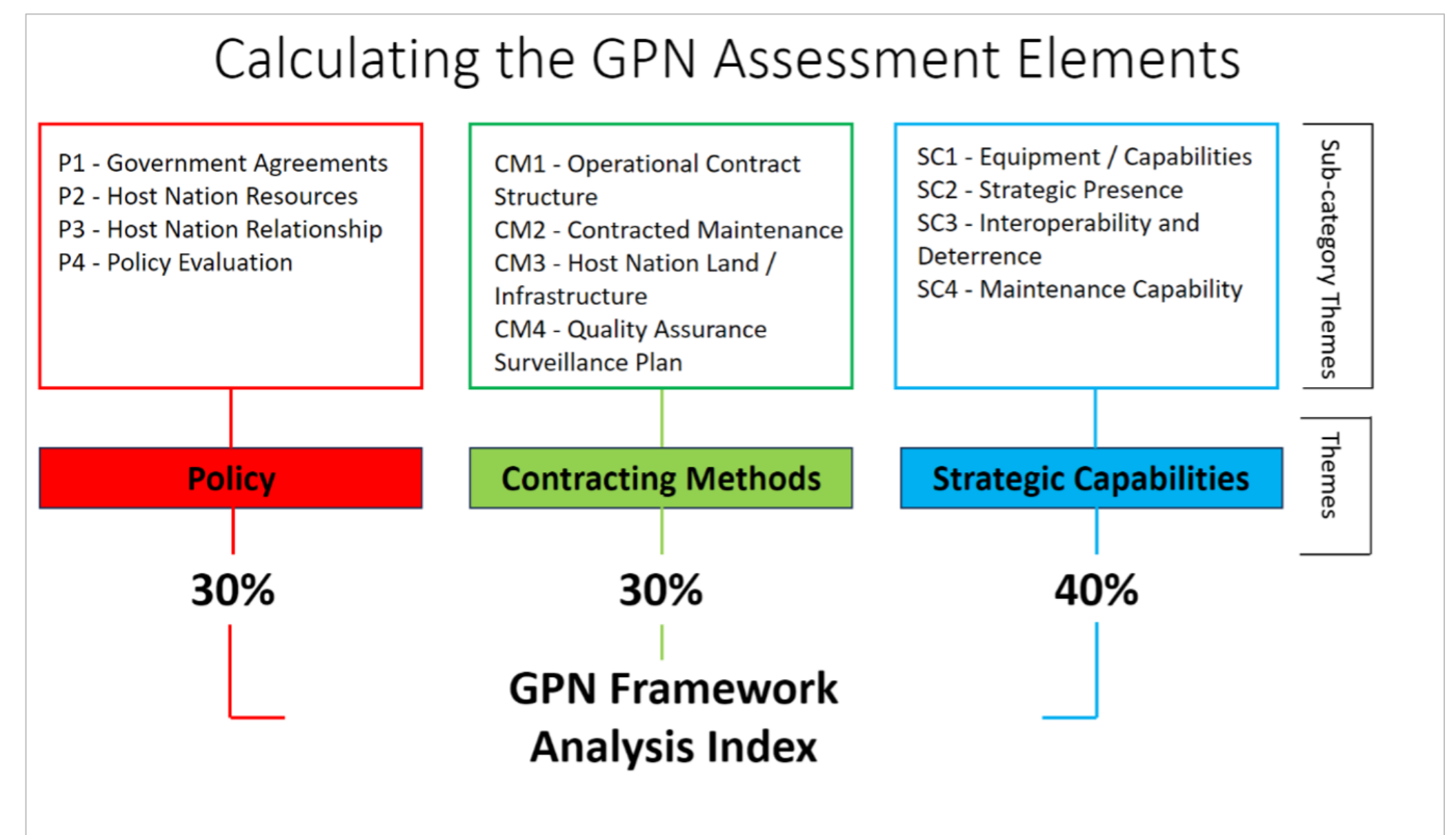PRAESTANTIA PER SCIENTIAM

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

Abstract

This study assesses the key elements in Marine Corps prepositioning programs including aspects of equipment storage and support programs. It then compares them to the current requirements for the development of a Global Prepositioning Network (GPN) site. Through qualitative analysis, we identified strengths and limitations of policies, contracting methods, and strategic capabilities of five different programs. Our culminating effort led to the development of a framework designed to assess the supportability of GPN sites within a given region or country of interest and provide courses of action for its implementation. A proof of concept for the framework was validated by conducting a suitability analysis of a prospective GPN site in the Philippines. We conclude our study with findings and recommendations for future development of GPN.

GPN Framework Analysis Index Summary

Methods

- Collected data from programs related to prepositioning, exercise support, and equipment staging.

- Collected data for the concept and requirements of GPN.

- Developed a presumed definition of GPN for the comparison of different programs based on future conceptual requirements.

- Qualitative comparative analysis using the Framework Analysis Method five step process:
  1. Data Familiarization
  2. Thematic Framework Development
  3. Indexing
  4. Charting
  5. Mapping and Interpretation

- Integrated a grading criteria approach and Mercer Index method into the Framework Analysis to grade each program based on requirements for GPN and the themes developed with Step 2 (above).
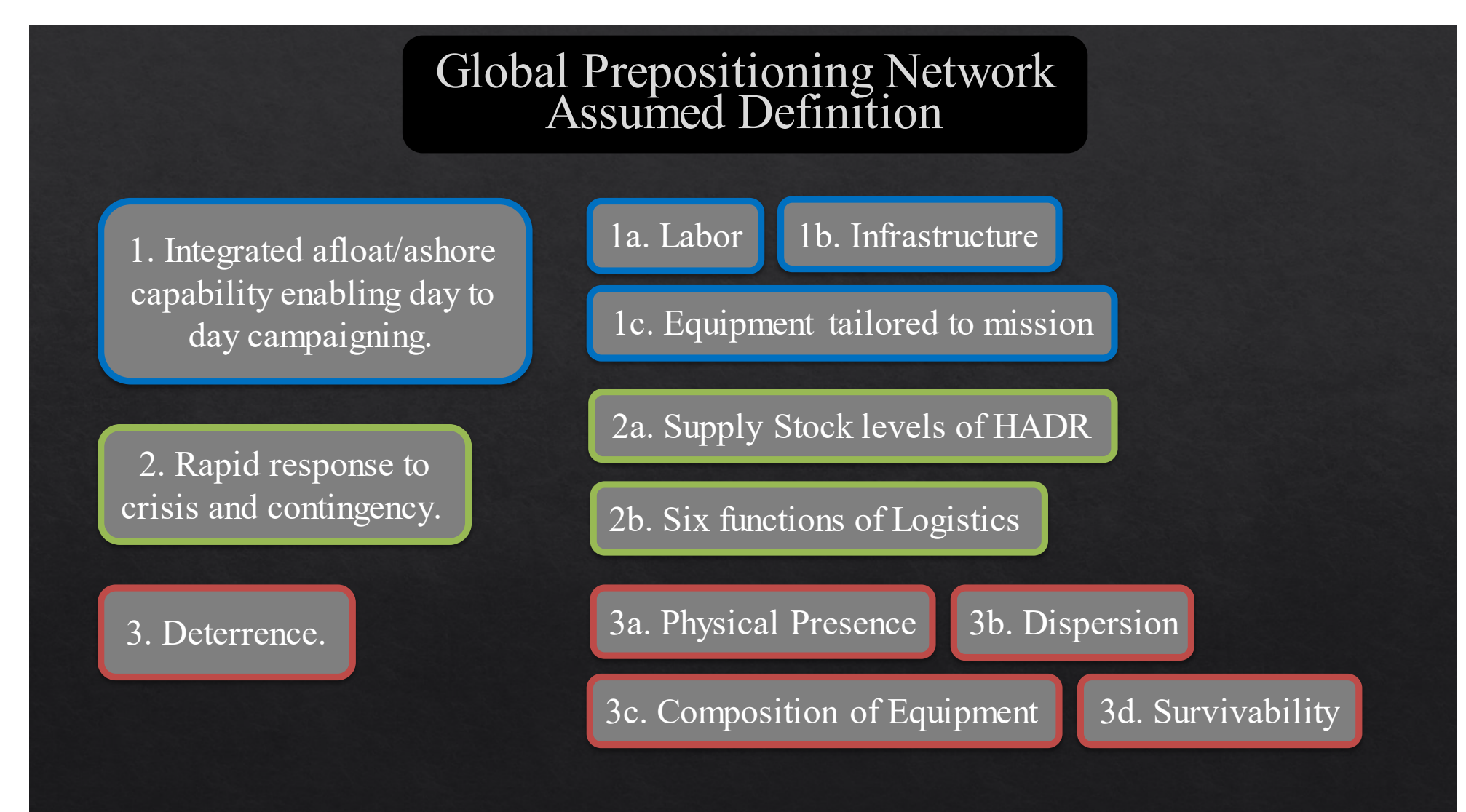
Results & Their Impact

- The analysis validated the efficacy of our framework and highlighted the best practices from all five programs.
- Utilized the same framework approach to evaluate the suitability of a GPN site in the Philippines.

GPN Index Chart					
Ranking	Preposition Programs	Overall Index	**Policy**	Contracting Method	Strategic Capability
			30%	30%	40%
1	MCPP-N	2.64	2	3.6	2.4
4	MAP-K	1.64	1.1	2.9	1.1
3	MRF-D	1.76	1.3	1.9	2
2	MPF	2.185	0.85	3.5	2.2
5	ESD	1.61	0.6	2.9	1.4

Framework Analysis Results

Recommendations

- Philippines meets the favorable requirements identified through the sub categorical themes to be established as a prepositioning program.
- GPN concept must be further defined to better align requirements and resources. We provide a proposed definition of GPN and its characteristics.
- Utilize and expand upon the framework developed within this thesis for the future development of GPN.
- Advocate for U.S. and/or coalitions alliances within the region or host nation of interest.
- Local contracting must be authorized by the host nation.
- Advocate for joint prepositioning involvement and integration.

Proposed Definition and Characteristics of GPN

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