*Template last updated on 16 January 2020*

**How to Use this Template**

Fill in the brackets with the appropriate information. Instructions and tips are provided in gray boxes to help guide you. Be sure to remove any bracket symbols and gray boxes when finished.

*Analyze each PMESII-PT variable of the operational environment (OE).*

***Guide to the Political Variable:*** The political variable is aimed at the total political power within a given operational environment (OE). Describe the distribution of responsibility and power at all levels of governance — formally constituted authorities, as well as informal or covert political powers. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What is the attitude of the population, and political and military leadership toward the U.S.?
* What type of government and centers of political power are present in the OE?
* What is the effectiveness and legitimacy of the current government?
* What are the current domestic political issues?
* What are the most vulnerable sub-cultures in the OE?
* Are there any influential political groups such as: terrorists, criminal organizations, cartels, tribes, individuals, or influential families?
* Are there any international relationships?

**Political**

[ Describe the political variable].

***Guide to the Military Variable:*** The military variable focuses on the military environment of an OE. Describe the military and/or paramilitary capabilities of all relevant actors (enemy, friendly, and neutral) in the OE. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What is the composition of the military force(s) operating across the OE?
* What is the composition of the: government paramilitary forces, non-state paramilitary forces, unarmed combatants, or nonmilitary armed combatants?
* What threat actors are operating in the OE?
* How will threat actors use a local populace in their operations?
* What military capability does each threat actor and coalition and friendly force possess?
* What are the limitations of the military capabilities possessed by each threat/actor and the potential to exploit those limitations?
* What other military functions exist: command and control (mission command), maneuvers, information warfare, reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition, fire support, protection, or logistics?

**Military**

[ Describe the military variable ].

**Guide to the Economic Variable:** The economic variable encompasses the individual and group behavior. It affects industrial organizations, international trade, foreign aid, the rule of law, and financial management. An important aspect in this field is the fact that the economic development of governments varies significantly per region or country. Describe the individual and group behaviors related to producing, distributing, and consuming resources. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What is the economic diversity and employment status in the OE?
* What illegal economic activities occur in the OE?
* What is the basis of the economy? (agriculture, manufacturing, technology, etc.)
* What is nature of the banking and finance system?

**Economic**

[ Describe the economic variable ].

**Guide to the Social Variable:** The social variable describes the religious, cultural, and ethnic composition within an OE. It investigates social groups and systems, societies, and cultures. A social system at the very least contains people, groups, and institutions that convey shared values, norms, and convictions. Describe the cultural, religious, and ethnic makeup within the OE. Include the beliefs, values, customs, and behaviors of society members. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What is the cultural makeup, basic cultural of the OE?
* How is the population distributed and what is its movement?
* What is the demographic mix?
* How many internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are in the OE?
* What is the religious and ethnic diversity in the OE?
* What are the social networks, statuses, functions, and social volatility of the OE?
* What are the education levels and common languages of the OE?
* What kind of criminal activity, human rights, or centers of social power exist within the OE?

**Social**

[ Describe the social variable ].

**Guide to the Information Variable:** The information variable is regarding the nature, extent, effects, and characteristics of individuals, organizations, and other systems that gather, distribute, process, or adhere to information. Describe the nature, scope, characteristics, and effects of individuals, organizations, and systems that collect, process, disseminate, or act on information. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What are the nature and contact demographics of the public communications media?
* How controlled or open is the information environment?
* What threat information warfare (INFOWAR) capabilities are used in the specified OE? Such as electronic warfare, computer warfare, information attack, deception, physical destruction, and protection and security measures.
* What is the scope of intelligence?
* What is the nature of information management within the OE?

**Information**

[ Describe the information variable ].

**Guide to the Infrastructure Variable:** The infrastructure variable is concerned with the facilities, services, and installations that are required for a society to function. Describe the basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What are the common construction patterns, urban zones, and urbanized building density?
* What utilities, irrigation, and land reclamation are present and operational?
* What transportation networks exist?
* What communication systems, hospitals, and school infrastructures exist?

**Infrastructure**

[ Describe the infrastructure variable ].

**Guide to the Physical Environment Variable:** The physical environment encompasses geographic and artificial structures in the OE. Describe the geography and man-made structures as well as the climate and weather in the area of operations. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* What types of terrain, complexity, and mobility classification exist within the OE? Such as: observation and fields of fire, avenues of approach, key terrain, obstacles, cover and concealment, landforms, and vegetation.
* What kind of climate is the OE within?
* What types of weather conditions are likely to occur during a mission context? Consider: precipitation, high temperature - heat index, low temperature - wind chill, wind, visibility, cloud cover, and relative humidity.
* What natural disasters or hazards are most likely to occur in this OE?

**Physical Environment Variable**

[ Describe the physical environment variable ].

**Guide to the Time Variable:** The time variable influences the military operations in terms of decisions, moments, operational speed, planning, etc. An operation’s endurance is also included in this as the support for long-term operations can drastically reduce over time. Describe the timing and duration of activities, events, or conditions, information onset, tactical exploitation of time within an OE. Also address the following example questions to initiate OE analysis:

* How will the timing and duration be perceived by various actors in the OE?
* What are the key dates, time periods, or events?
* What is the cultural perception of time?

**Time Variable**

[ Describe the time variable ].