

Staff Sergeant-Technical Sergeant Professional Development Guide (PDG) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What is the term for the situation in which one force does not have air superiority over others?**
 - A. Air dominance**
 - B. Air supremacy**
 - C. Air parity**
 - D. Air denial**

- 2. What was a significant outcome of the communization of Vietnam in 1976?**
 - A. The end of the Vietnam War**
 - B. Establishment of a democratic government**
 - C. Increased US military involvement**
 - D. The rise of a humanitarian crisis**

- 3. Which body is in charge of approving the appointment of the SECAF?**
 - A. The House of Representatives**
 - B. The Senate**
 - C. The National Security Council**
 - D. The Department of Justice**

- 4. What is the main goal of maintaining space superiority?**
 - A. Complete control over all enemy movements**
 - B. Ensuring unhindered mission continuity**
 - C. Extermination of hostile forces**
 - D. Dominating ground forces**

- 5. On 2 August 1990, Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded which small, oil-rich nation?**
 - A. Bahrain**
 - B. Kuwait**
 - C. Qatar**
 - D. Oman**

- 6. How many combat controllers distinguished themselves in the battle against Iraqi insurgents in January 2007?**
- A. One**
 - B. Two**
 - C. Three**
 - D. Four**
- 7. What resulted in the addition of a deployment phase called the BEAST to BMT?**
- A. The need for physical fitness improvement**
 - B. To simulate a deployed environment**
 - C. To enhance teamwork among recruits**
 - D. To provide leadership training**
- 8. Which of the following events led to the United States' increased military presence in Asia post World War II?**
- A. The Soviet Union's expansion into Eastern Europe**
 - B. The onset of the Korean War**
 - C. The Berlin Airlift**
 - D. The Cuban Missile Crisis**
- 9. American combat responsibility in Vietnam increased after which significant incident in 1964?**
- A. The Gulf of Tonkin incident**
 - B. The Tet Offensive**
 - C. The Fall of Saigon**
 - D. The Cambodian Campaign**
- 10. Who was appointed as the Commanding General of the newly organized US Army Air Forces?**
- A. General Douglas MacArthur**
 - B. General Henry "Hap" Arnold**
 - C. General Dwight D. Eisenhower**
 - D. General Curtis LeMay**

Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the term for the situation in which one force does not have air superiority over others?

- A. Air dominance**
- B. Air supremacy**
- C. Air parity**
- D. Air denial**

The situation described is referred to as air parity. This term indicates a scenario where two opposing forces maintain roughly equal air capabilities, meaning that neither side can claim clear superiority over the other in the air domain. In this state, both forces can operate aircraft and engage in air operations, but neither has the overwhelming advantage that would allow for complete control of the skies. Air parity is significant in military operations because it influences tactical choices and operational strategies. When forces achieve air parity, they can expect contested operations and may need to employ more cautious strategies to mitigate risks from enemy air capabilities. On the other hand, air dominance and air supremacy denote levels of control where a force has greater air capabilities than its adversary, enabling it to conduct operations with minimal interference. Air denial refers to an operational goal aimed at limiting the enemy's use of airspace, without necessarily achieving outright control or superiority.

2. What was a significant outcome of the communization of Vietnam in 1976?

- A. The end of the Vietnam War**
- B. Establishment of a democratic government**
- C. Increased US military involvement**
- D. The rise of a humanitarian crisis**

The communization of Vietnam in 1976 marked a significant turning point in the history of the region, culminating in the end of the Vietnam War. After years of conflict, with North Vietnam successfully defeating South Vietnam in 1975, the country was officially reunified under communist control in 1976. This outcome effectively brought an end to the prolonged and devastating war that had involved not only Vietnamese forces but also significant US military presence and support for South Vietnam. The historical context surrounding this period emphasizes the transition from a divided nation—characterized by ideological differences between the communist north and the US-backed south—to a unified state under a single government. The conclusion of hostilities allowed for the establishment of a new political and social order within Vietnam. While the other options address significant themes related to Vietnam during or after this period, they do not accurately reflect the direct outcome of the communization event itself. For instance, the establishment of a democratic government did not occur under the communist regime, and while the end of US military involvement was a result, the focus of the correct answer is specifically on the war's conclusion. The rise of a humanitarian crisis became more pronounced afterward but is not as direct an outcome of the event in the context of the question.

3. Which body is in charge of approving the appointment of the SECAF?

- A. The House of Representatives**
- B. The Senate**
- C. The National Security Council**
- D. The Department of Justice**

The Senate is responsible for confirming the appointment of the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF). This process involves the President nominating a candidate for the position, after which the Senate conducts hearings and votes to either approve or reject the nomination. This confirmation process is part of the checks and balances designed to ensure that appointed positions within the executive branch are subject to legislative oversight. The other options do not hold this responsibility. The House of Representatives does not have a role in the confirmation of executive positions; their focus is primarily on originating legislation and budgetary matters. The National Security Council advises the President on security and foreign policy matters but does not have a role in appointments. The Department of Justice is involved in legal matters but does not have a function in the confirmation of the SECAF or similar appointments. Thus, the Senate's involvement is key in ensuring that the appointee is qualified and suitable for the role.

4. What is the main goal of maintaining space superiority?

- A. Complete control over all enemy movements**
- B. Ensuring unhindered mission continuity**
- C. Extermination of hostile forces**
- D. Dominating ground forces**

The primary focus of maintaining space superiority is to ensure unhindered mission continuity. This involves having uncontested access to and use of space for military operations, which is crucial for effective communication, reconnaissance, navigation, and other essential functions that ground and air forces depend upon. By securing the space environment, military operations can proceed without interference from adversaries utilizing space assets, thus achieving strategic advantages. While other choices mention important aspects of military engagements, they do not encapsulate the overarching objective of space superiority. For instance, complete control over enemy movements or extermination of hostile forces implies a more aggressive, ground-centered strategy. Dominating ground forces, although relevant, does not address the unique operational environment of space and its influence on mission execution. In contrast, ensuring continuity directly aligns with the essence of maintaining control over space assets and operations, affirming its significance in overall military strategy.

5. On 2 August 1990, Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded which small, oil-rich nation?

- A. Bahrain**
- B. Kuwait**
- C. Qatar**
- D. Oman**

The correct answer is Kuwait. On August 2, 1990, Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, invaded Kuwait, marking the beginning of the Gulf War. This invasion was driven by Iraq's desire to control Kuwait's significant oil reserves and to address its own economic issues, which were exacerbated by the Iran-Iraq War. Understanding the geopolitical landscape of the time helps clarify why this event was impactful. Kuwait is known for its substantial oil wealth, which was a significant factor in Iraq's decision to invade. The invasion prompted international response, leading to the formation of a coalition that included various nations aiming to liberate Kuwait. The nations listed in the question—Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman—while also located in the Gulf region, did not become direct targets of Iraq's military aggression that day. Instead, they maintained their sovereignty and stability during this conflict, further solidifying Kuwait's unique historical significance in this context.

6. How many combat controllers distinguished themselves in the battle against Iraqi insurgents in January 2007?

- A. One**
- B. Two**
- C. Three**
- D. Four**

The correct choice reflects the significant contributions of three combat controllers who were recognized for their extraordinary actions during a critical engagement against Iraqi insurgents in January 2007. During that battle, these individuals demonstrated exceptional bravery and effectiveness under fire, which not only played a crucial role in the mission's success but also highlighted the vital capabilities and skills of combat controllers in high-stakes environments. This incident is noteworthy as it underscores the complex and dangerous nature of operations conducted by special forces, where individual actions can have a profound impact on the outcome of military engagements. The recognition of their achievements also serves to reinforce the values of courage, teamwork, and leadership within the Air Force.

7. What resulted in the addition of a deployment phase called the BEAST to BMT?

- A. The need for physical fitness improvement**
- B. To simulate a deployed environment**
- C. To enhance teamwork among recruits**
- D. To provide leadership training**

The addition of a deployment phase called the BEAST (Beast Exercise And Skills Training) to Basic Military Training (BMT) was primarily driven by the objective to simulate a deployed environment. This integration helps recruits experience realistic scenarios they may face during actual deployments, allowing them to apply skills learned in training under conditions that mimic real-world situations. Simulating a deployed environment enhances the effectiveness of training by instilling individuals with a better understanding of what they will encounter in the field, thereby preparing them mentally and physically. This phase also emphasizes survival skills, adaptability, and resilience, all of which are crucial for service members in operational settings. The experience fosters a deeper appreciation of the military's requirements and the realities of service, significantly contributing to operational readiness.

8. Which of the following events led to the United States' increased military presence in Asia post World War II?

- A. The Soviet Union's expansion into Eastern Europe**
- B. The onset of the Korean War**
- C. The Berlin Airlift**
- D. The Cuban Missile Crisis**

The onset of the Korean War significantly contributed to the United States' increased military presence in Asia after World War II. In June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, prompting a rapid response from the United States, which viewed the invasion as a direct challenge to the post-war balance of power and a potential spread of communism in Asia. The U.S. sought to contain communism, as stated in the Truman Doctrine, and viewed military involvement in Korea as necessary to prevent the domino effect of countries falling to communism. This intervention marked a pivotal shift in U.S. military strategy, leading to the deployment of American troops to Korea and a substantial military buildup in the region. Additionally, the conflict prompted the establishment of strategic military alliances and bases throughout Asia, further solidifying the U.S. military presence as part of a broader containment strategy against communist influences not just in Korea but across the entire Asian continent. In contrast, the other events listed, while significant in their own right, relate more to European tensions or specific crises rather than directly leading to a military buildup in Asia during that period.

9. American combat responsibility in Vietnam increased after which significant incident in 1964?

A. The Gulf of Tonkin incident

B. The Tet Offensive

C. The Fall of Saigon

D. The Cambodian Campaign

The Gulf of Tonkin incident, which occurred in August 1964, marked a significant escalation in American military involvement in Vietnam. This incident involved two alleged confrontations between North Vietnamese forces and U.S. naval vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin. The U.S. government, interpreting these incidents as acts of aggression, sought broader military engagement. As a result, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed by Congress, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson the authority to take military action in Vietnam without a formal declaration of war. This resolution led to a dramatic increase in the number of U.S. troops sent to Vietnam and expanded the scope of American combat operations, paving the way for deeper U.S. involvement in the conflict. The repercussions of this incident set the stage for prolonged military engagement, fundamentally altering the American approach to the Vietnam War and its combat responsibilities.

10. Who was appointed as the Commanding General of the newly organized US Army Air Forces?

A. General Douglas MacArthur

B. General Henry "Hap" Arnold

C. General Dwight D. Eisenhower

D. General Curtis LeMay

The correct answer is General Henry "Hap" Arnold. He was appointed as the Commanding General of the newly organized US Army Air Forces in June 1941. Arnold played a crucial role in the development and expansion of the US Air Force during World War II. His leadership was instrumental in transitioning the Army Air Forces from a supporting role to an independent and strategic force within the military. General Arnold's vision included the push for a separate Air Force, emphasizing its importance in modern warfare. He is known for advocating for increased funding and resources for the air service, which allowed for significant advancements in airpower capabilities. His efforts not only enhanced the effectiveness of air operations during the war but also laid the groundwork for the eventual establishment of the United States Air Force as a separate branch of the armed forces in 1947. The other individuals listed played essential roles in military history but did not hold the position of Commanding General of the US Army Air Forces.