



MQA-8 DIV: MILITARY PLANNING PROCESS



PREREQUISITES: MQA-7

REQUIRED READING: ALO Smart Book; Squadron TACP Handbook, FM 101-5 (Chapter 5), FM 34-130

PURPOSE: Familiarize new ALO with Army division planning process and how to make inputs into an OPORD.



OVERVIEW



- ◆ Receipt of Mission (Corps OPORD)
- ◆ Mission Analysis (MA)
- ◆ Course of Action (COA) Development
- ◆ Course of Action Analysis (Wargaming)
- ◆ Course of Action Comparison
- ◆ Course of Action Approval
- ◆ Orders Production
- ◆ ROCK Drills



RECEIPT OF MISSION (CORPS OPORD)



- ◆ Corps Issues Warning Order - Facilitate Parallel Planning by Subordinate Planning Staffs.
- ◆ Order Contains Top Level Details Allowing the Division Planning Staff to Gather Material on the Area of Operation (AO).
- ◆ The Corps Opord Will Contain Greater Detail
- ◆ ALO Must Read the Corps OPORD and the Fire Support and ADA Annexes



MISSION ANALYSIS (MA)



- ◆ Determine The Initial Reconnaissance Annex
- ◆ Plan Use Of Available Time
- ◆ Write The Restated Mission
- ◆ Conduct A Mission Analysis Briefing
- ◆ Approve The Restated Mission
- ◆ Develop The Initial Commander's Intent
- ◆ Issue The Commander's Guidance
- ◆ Issue A Warning Order
- ◆ Review Facts And Assumptions
- ◆ Course Of Action Approval
- ◆ Orders Production



MISSION ANALYSIS (MA)



- ◆ Analyze Higher Headquarters' Order (Corps OPORD)
- ◆ Conduct Initial Intelligence Preparation Of The Battlefield (IPB)
- ◆ Determine Specified, Implied, And Essential Tasks
- ◆ Review Available Assets
- ◆ Determine Constraints
- ◆ Identify Critical Facts And Assumptions
- ◆ Conduct Risk Assessment
- ◆ Determine Initial Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIR)



COURSE OF ACTION (COA) DEVELOPMENT



- ◆ **Suitability** - Accomplish Mission/comply With CG Guidance
- ◆ **Feasibility** - Capability to Accomplish Mission in Terms of Available Time, Space, and Resources
- ◆ **Acceptability** - Tactical or Operational Advantage Gained by Executing COA Must Justify Cost in Resources/casualties
- ◆ **Distinguishability** - Each COA Must Differ
- ◆ **Completeness** - It Must Be a Complete Mission Statement (Who, What, When, Where, How, Why)



COURSE OF ACTION (COA) DEVELOPMENT



Six Steps to COA Development

- ◆ Analyze Relative Combat Power
- ◆ Generate Options
- ◆ Array Initial Forces
- ◆ Develop the Scheme of Maneuver
- ◆ Assign Headquarters
- ◆ Prepare COA Statements and Sketches



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ **CoS** - Responsible for Coordinating Actions of Staff During the War Game. He Normally Delegates This to G3-plans.
- ◆ **G1** - Analyzes COAs to Project Potential Personnel Battle Losses / Determine How Css Provide Personnel Support During Operations
- ◆ **G2** - Role-plays the Enemy Commander / Identifies Nais, Dps, Tais, Hvts
- ◆ **G3-plans** - Ensures the Wargame COA Covers Every Operational Aspect of the Mission, Records Each Event's Strengths and Weaknesses, and Annotates the Rationale
- ◆ **G4** - Analyzes Each COA to Assess Its Sustainment Feasibility – Works With TALO



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



◆ ALO -

- ◆ Must Remain Objective
- ◆ Ensure the Use of CAS and AI Is Realistic/Complies With Air Force Doctrine
- ◆ SEAD and FSCL Changes Are Usually Hot Issues
- ◆ Develop a Close Working Relationship With the FSE.



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ How Many CAS Sorties Are Available for PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
- ◆ GCC Distributes Sorties After the JFC Apportions and the JFACC Allocates the Air Assets
- ◆ Corps Divides Them up Among Its Divisions
- ◆ Requests for CAS Sorties Are Approved or Denied by the GCC, Not the Air Force
- ◆ CAS Not on ATO/ITO Must Be Requested As Immediate CAS Through Air Force Channels
- ◆ Preplanned CAS Can Be Diverted by the GCC to Other Immediate CAS Requests



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ No Distribution of AI Sorties for Planning Purposes in the Corps Order
- ◆ ALO Should Advise That AI Nominations Can Be a Very Effective Way to Shape the Battle Field



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ Plan to Use Four Sorties (JAAT or CAS) for Each “Deep Attack” the Division Plans During Wargaming
- ◆ ALO Needs to Coordinate Closely With the Engineers About Scatterable Mines and the Battlefield Shaping Operations
- ◆ Engineers to Determine What Fuse Settings They Desire for the Mine Self-destruct Time Line
- ◆ TALO Is Available to Help Advise and Request Air Force Logistical Support
- ◆ Army Will Attempt to Use CAS As Airborne Artillery, DON'T LET THEM
- ◆ Airpower Is a Maneuver Force - Mini Air Campaign in Division's AO



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ No SEAD Implies No CAS
 - ◆ Usually Run Into This Situation When the FSCL Has Been Extended Too Far in an Attempt to Expand the Battlefield
 - ◆ Determine If CAS Is Survivable or If the Target Will Need to Be Attacked With AI and Its Appropriate SEAD Support
- ◆ Ensure the Use of CAS and AI Is Realistic/complies With Air Force Doctrine
- ◆ SEAD and FSCL Changes Are Usually Hot Issues
- ◆ Develop a Close Working Relationship With the FSE



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ Consider Is Electronic Warfare (EW) Support
 - ◆ EA-6B and EC-130 Are Theater Assets and in All Probability Will Not Be Available Directly for Their Use
 - ◆ Division Will Want EA-6B Coverage During Their Deep Attacks.
 - ◆ Unless Dedicated Ew Support Is Approved on the ATO/ITO, the Most Division Can Expect Is Overlapping Support When Ai Packages Are Being Supported in the Same General Vicinity



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ PSYOPS Is Becoming a Major Factor in the Planning Process
- ◆ Should Ask for Leaflets Drops in Conjunction With AI Missions Whenever Possible
- ◆ What Does the Army Expect CAS or AI to Accomplish?
 - ◆ Destroy
 - ◆ Delay
 - ◆ Neutralize the Targets



COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS (WARGAMING)



- ◆ JTB Will Determine the Number of Sorties Required in Order to Attain the Desired Results
- ◆ Additional Planning Factors Include Terrain, Weather, Type of Aircraft, Type/number of Munitions That Can Be Carried, Day/night, and Threats



COURSE OF ACTION COMPARISON



- ◆ Pose a Minimum Risk to Soldiers, Equipment, and Mission Accomplishment
- ◆ Best Position the Force for Future Operations
- ◆ Provide the Best Flexibility to Meet “Unknowns” During Execution
- ◆ Provide Maximum Latitude for Initiative by Subordinates



COURSE OF ACTION APPROVAL



- ◆ The Intent of Higher Headquarters (Corps)
- ◆ The Restated Mission
- ◆ The Status of Own Forces
- ◆ An Updated IPB
- ◆ Own COAs Including Assumptions, Results of Staff Estimates, Advantages and Disadvantages
- ◆ The Recommended COA.



ORDERS PRODUCTION



- ◆ Based on the CG's Decision and the Final Guidance
- ◆ Concept of Operations Is the Commander's Clear, Concise Statement of Where, When, and How He Intends to Concentrate Combat Power to Accomplish the Mission in Accordance With Corps' Intent
- ◆ ALO Must Write CAS Annex / Review Fire Annex



ROCK DRILLS

- ◆ MSCs Will Conduct a Combined Arms Rehearsal (Rock Drill) and a Fire Support Rehearsal to the CG
- ◆ Detailed Smart Books Are Prepared for Each MSC
- ◆ A Fire Support Rehearsal Normally Follows the Combined Arms Rehearsal
- ◆ Detailed Operations Such As River Crossings May Necessitate Their Own Rock Drills



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QUESTIONS

