



The New MDMP (1 of 2)

(Change Summary)

The accompanying tables provide a step-by-step, task-by-task comparison between the previous FM 5-0 and the new FM 5-0 dated 26 March 2010. These comparisons are only intended to provide a awareness of the changes that have occurred. Detailed changes are contained in the body of this edition of *The Azimuth*.

RECEIPT OF MISSION		
OLD	NEW	IMPACT
KEY INPUT		
Mission from Higher HQ (HHQ) or deduced by the commander and staff / HHQ plan, OPORD, or WARNOs	HHQ plan or order or a new mission anticipated by the commander	Wordsmithing changes only.
PROCESS		
Alert the staff	Alert the staff and other key participants	Verbalized what good staffs already do. This list of key performers should be in the PSOP with contact information for ease of notification
Update estimates	Update running estimates	Change facilitated by FM 3-0 which states "A running estimate is a staff section's continuous assessment of current and future operations to determine if the current operation is proceeding according to the commander's intent and if future operations are supportable."
Commander's Initial Guidance	Issue the Commander's Initial Guidance	The new FM 5-0 puts the commander's guidance as a process step rather than an output. It still keeps the Commander's Initial Guidance as an output to this step.
KEY OUTPUTS		
	Issue the initial Warning Order	The new FM 5-0 places the issuance of WARNO 1 as a process step as well as an output.
Initial operational time line	Initial allocation of time	Wordsmithing changes only. Building the initial operational time line assumes someone has done the math and determined it based on the 1/3-2/3 rule. The allocation of time in the new FM 5-0 must also assume that it is portrayed as a planning or operational time line.

MISSION ANALYSIS		
OLD	NEW	IMPACT
KEY INPUTS		
Higher HQ (HHQ) IPB	HHQ intelligence and knowledge products; knowledge products from other organizations	Only difference here is the manual is guiding the staff to utilize reach to gather all available information as well as using open source intelligence to augment HHQ intelligence products attempting to close some of the information gaps that might develop.
	Inclusion of "COA Evaluation Criteria" as an input to Mission Analysis	While there is little guidance in FM 5-0 regarding COA Evaluation Criteria as an input to Mission Analysis, it may be deduced that this refers to any initial evaluation criteria guidance gleaned from the Commander's Initial Guidance. There may be no guidance from the commander regarding this and the staff will have to generate evaluation criteria from what they believe is important to the commander based on the remainder of his guidance.
	Design Concept (if Design precedes Mission Analysis)	Generally, during continued operations, there is little need to apply the Design Concept. Changes in mission, location, and other operational environment changes may require the application of design to fully understand the tactical problem.

PROCESS		
Review available assets	Review available assets and identify resource shortfalls	There is little difference as to how we determine if we have enough resources for mission accomplishment. In order to ask HHQ for additional assets, we must first conduct our COA Analysis. The change in doctrine here refers to determining if we lack a basic necessity that is not ordinarily in our task organization that does not allow us to complete our mission. For instance, there is a river between us and the objective we have been tasked to attack and we identify that we have no organic bridging assets. These are the things that should be addressed here rather than "We need an infantry battalion to defend the BSA!"
Identify critical facts and assumptions	Identify critical facts and develop assumptions	There are no assumptions that you will be able to identify in the HHQ OPORD or WARNO. You must take the information, in the absence of facts, and make assumptions based on their necessity and probability of truth.
Perform risk assessment	Begin composite risk management	Change based on FM 5-19 (Composite Risk Management).
Determine initial CCIR and EEFI	Develop initial CCIRs and EEFI	Determine vice develop means sorting a set of information to determine the CCIR and EEFI vice the process used in taking information and developing this information based on commander's guidance rather than attempting to glean them from the OPORD.
	Develop initial ISR Synchronization Plan	New concept; should have been an initial step in the old "Determine the initial ISR Plan." Consists of identifying current collection capabilities at user and higher levels, as well as current gaps in their use while also defining any current intelligence gaps identified through Mission Analysis, as well as any collection tasks. Identifies any IR that require HHQ collection assets for submission of RFIs to HHQ.
Determine the initial ISR Plan	Develop initial ISR Plan	ISR Plan development is the next logical step following developing the ISR Synchronization Plan.
Update operational time lines	Update plan for the use of available time	Based on the availability of new information, the staff refines the operational time line. This ensures it is synchronized with the HHQ time line and updates the planning time line, giving subordinate units adequate time for planning, and allowing them to be postured for operations.
	Develop initial information themes and messages	The staff must decide not only how they want to act and what message they want to deliver, but also who the key actors are, to include friendly, neutral and adversarial. The initial cut may be rough during Mission Analysis, but will be continually refined throughout the MDMP.

Write the Restated Mission	Develop a proposed Mission Statement	No difference here, but stresses that this is prepared by the staff or XO and presented to the commander for refinement or approval.
Deliver a Mission Analysis Briefing	Present the Mission Analysis Briefing	No difference.
Develop the Initial Commander's Intent	Develop and issue Initial Commander's Intent	No difference; always an implied task to issue the guidance to the staff after written.
	Develop Course of Action Evaluation Criteria	A key change in doctrine. Requires a knowledge of what is important to the commander, his initial guidance from receipt of mission, a thorough understanding of the HHQ order and their concept of operation, and a little precognition as to how you will accomplish your assigned tasks. Developing the criteria early in the process allows the staff to tailor the COAs to the criteria, rather than to later tailor the evaluation criteria to the COAs.
	Issue a Warning Order	Now regarded as a task step (probably to ensure staffs produce it), as well as an output (much like IPB products).

KEY OUTPUTS		
Restated Mission	Approved Mission Statement	Here, an attempt is made to change a mindset. Many units continue to call this the restated mission. Once the commander agrees and adopts the proposed mission statement, it becomes the unit's mission statement.
	Initial CCIR and EEFI	These two separate items must be kept at the forefront of the staff's minds as they develop friendly COAs. They must address the CCIR and develop the ISR Plan, as necessary, as well as developing the OPSEC Plan to handle identified EEFI. If these are not visible to the staff, they might be overlooked.
Initial IPB	Updated IPB products	Serves to remind us that, like running estimates, IPB is started during Receipt of Mission and refined and updated during Mission Analysis.
Updated staff estimates and products	Updated running estimates	Again, key change from FM 3-0.
Commander's Planning Guidance	Initial Commander's Planning Guidance	Wordsmithing changes only.
	Assumptions	Like CCIR and EEFI, a list of assumptions MUST be kept visible in the TOC. Until all assumptions have been turned into fact or had to be removed because proven false, they must be addressed as branches or sequels to your COAs.
	Resource shortfalls	Like assumptions, this list must be kept visible. As we recognize a potential shortfall, an assumption must be made that it will be rectified. Until this assumption is turned into fact, a plan must be developed without the resource. More resource shortfalls may be developed through COA Development and will be finalized through war-gaming.
	COA Evaluation Criteria	As stated earlier, this is not only a task step, but also an output. Keep them handy and visible for if we know what we have determined makes a good COA, we can tailor ours to fit the criteria.