

OPERATION ORDER [Plans and orders normally contain a code name and are numbered consecutively within a calendar year.] References: The heading of the plan or order lists maps, charts, data, or other documents the unit will need to understand the plan or order. The user need not reference the SOP, but may refer to the SOP in the body of the plan or order. He refers to a map by map series number (and country or geographic area, if required), sheet number and name, edition, and scale, if required. "Datum" refers to the mathematical model of the earth that applies to the coordinates on a particular map. It is used to determine coordinates. Different nations use different datum for printing coordinates on their maps. The datum is usually referenced in the marginal information of each map.

Time zone used throughout the order: If the operation will take place in one time zone, use that time zone throughout the order (including annexes and appendixes). If the operation spans several time zones, use Zulu time.

Task organization: Describe the allocation of forces to support the commander's concept. You may show task organization in one of two places: just above paragraph 1, or in an annex, if the task organization is long or complex.

- Go to the map.
- Apply the Orient, Box, Trace, and Familiarize technique to (only) the areas the unit is moving through. (Get this info from the platoon OPORD.)
- Determine the effects of seasonal vegetation within the AO.

1. SITUATION.

a. Area of Interest. Describe the area of interest or areas outside of your area of operation that can influence your area of operation.

b. Area of Operations. Describe the area of operations. Refer to the appropriate map and use overlays as needed.

(1) Terrain: Using the OAKOC format, state how the terrain will affect both friendly and enemy forces in the AO. Use the OAKOC from higher's OPORD. Refine it based on your analysis of the terrain in the AO. Follow these steps to brief terrain.

(2) Weather. Describe the aspects of weather that impact operations. Consider the five military aspects of weather to drive your analysis (V,W,T,C,P- Visibility, Winds, Temperature/Humidity, Cloud Cover, Precipitation)

Temp High	Sunrise	Moonrise	Temp Low
Sunset	Moonsset	Wind Speed	BMNT
Moonphase	Wind Direction	EENT Percent	Illumination

* This is the information the squad leader received from the platoon OPORD.

c. Enemy Forces. The enemy situation in higher headquarters' OPORD (paragraph 1c) forms the basis for this. Refine it by adding the detail your subordinates require.

- Point out on the map the location of recent enemy activity known and suspected.

(1) State the enemy's composition, disposition, and strength.

- (2) Describe his recent activities.
- (3) Describe his known or suspected locations and capabilities.
- (4) Describe the enemy's most likely and most dangerous course of action.

d. Friendly Forces. Get this information from paragraphs 1d, 2, and 3 of the higher headquarters' OPORD.

(1) Higher Headquarters' Mission and Intent

(a) Higher Headquarters Two Levels Up

1 Mission- State the mission of the Higher Unit (2 levels up).

2 Intent- State intent 2 levels up.

(b) Higher Headquarters One Level Up

1 Mission- State the mission of the Higher Unit (1 level up).

2 Intent- State intent 1 levels up.

(2) Mission of Adjacent Units. State locations of units to the left, right, front, and rear. State those units' tasks and purposes; and say how those units will influence yours, particularly adjacent unit patrols.

a. Show other units' locations on map board.

b. Include statements about the influence each of the above patrols will have on your mission, if any.

c. Obtain this information from higher's OPORD. It gives each leader an idea of what other units are doing and where they are going. This information is in paragraph 3b(1) (Execution, Concept of the Operation, Scheme of Movement and Maneuver).

d. Also include any information obtained when the leader conducts adjacent unit coordination.

e. Attachments and Detachments. Avoid repeating information already listed in Task Organization. Try to put all information in the Task Organization. However, when not in the Task Organization, list units that are attached or detached to the headquarters that issues the order. State when attachment or detachment will be in effect, if that differs from when the OPORD is in effect such as on order or on commitment of the reserve. Use the term "remains attached" when units will be or have been attached for some time.

2. MISSION. State the mission derived during the planning process. A mission statement has no subparagraphs. Answer the 5 W's: Who? What (task)? Where? When? and Why (purpose)?

- State the mission clearly and concisely. Read it twice.
- Go to map and point out the exact location of the OBJ and the unit's present location

3. EXECUTION

a. Commander's Intent. State the commander's intent which is his clear, concise statement of what the force must do and the conditions the force must establish with respect to the enemy, terrain, and civil considerations that represent the desired end state.

b. Concept of Operations. Write a clear, concise concept statement. Describe how the unit will accomplish its mission from start to finish. Base the number of subparagraphs, if any, on what the leader considers appropriate, the level of leadership, and the complexity of the operation. The following subparagraphs from FM 5-0 show what might be required within the concept of the operation. Ensure

that you state the purpose of the war fighting functions within the concept of the operation.

WARFIGHTING FUNCTIONS:

- Fire support
- Movement and Maneuver
- Protection
- Mission Command
- Intelligence
- Sustainment (formerly called "CSS")

c. Scheme of Movement and Maneuver. Describe the employment of maneuver units in accordance with the concept of operations. Address subordinate units and attachments by name. State each one's mission as a task and purpose. Ensure that the subordinate units' missions support that of the main effort. Focus on actions on the objective. Include a detailed plan and criteria for engagement / disengagement, an alternate plan in case of compromise or unplanned enemy force movement, and a withdrawal plan. The brief is to be sequential, taking you from start to finish, covering all aspects of the operation.

- Brief from the start of your operation, to mission complete.
- Cover all routes, primary and alternate, from insertion, through AOO, to link-up, until mission complete.
- Brief your plan for crossing known danger areas.
- Brief your plan for reacting to enemy contact.
- Brief any approved targets/CCPs as you brief your routes.

d. Scheme of Fires. State scheme of fires to support the overall concept and state who (which maneuver unit) has priority of fire. You can use the PLOT-CR format (purpose, location, observer, trigger, communication method, resources) to plan fires. Refer to the target list worksheet and overlay here, if applicable. Discuss specific targets and point them out on the terrain model (Chapter 3, Fire Support).

e. Casualty Evacuation. Provide a detailed CASEVAC plan during each phase of the operation. Include CCP locations, tentative extraction points, and methods of extraction.

f. Tasks to Subordinate Units. Clearly state the missions or tasks for each subordinate unit that reports directly to the headquarters issuing the order. List the units in the task organization, including reserves. Use a separate subparagraph for each subordinate unit. State only the tasks needed for comprehension, clarity, and emphasis. Place tactical tasks that affect two or more units in Coordinating Instructions (subparagraph 3h). Platoon leaders may task their subordinate squads to provide any of the following special teams: reconnaissance and security, assault, support, aid and litter, EPW and search, clearing, and demolitions. You may also include detailed instructions for the platoon sergeant, RTO, compass-man, and pace-man.

h. Coordinating Instructions. This is always the last subparagraph under paragraph 3. List only the instructions that apply to two or more units, and which are seldom covered in unit SOPs. Refer the user to an annex for more complex instructions. The information listed below is required.

- (1) Time Schedule. State time, place, uniform, and priority of rehearsals, backbriefs, inspections, and movement.
- (2) Commander's Critical Information Requirements. Include PIR and FFIR
 - (a) Priority intelligence requirements. PIR includes all intelligence that the commander must have for planning and decision making.

- (b) Friendly force information requirements. FFIR include what the commander needs to know about friendly forces available for the operation. It can include personnel status, ammunition status, and leadership capabilities.
- (3) Essential elements of friendly information. EEFI are critical aspects of friendly operations that, if known by the enemy, would compromise, lead to failure, or limit success of the operation.
- (4) Risk-Reduction Control Measures. These are measures unique to the operation. They supplement the unit SOP and can include mission-oriented protective posture, operational exposure guidance, vehicle recognition signals, and fratricide prevention measures.
- (5) Rules of Engagement (ROE).
- (6) Environmental Considerations.
- (7) Force Protection.

4. SUSTAINMENT. Describe the concept of sustainment to include logistics, personnel, and medical.

a. Logistics.

- (1) Sustainment Overlay. Include current and proposed company trains locations, CCPs (include marking method), equipment collection points, HLZs, AXPs, and any friendly sustainment locations (FOBs, COPs etc).
- (2) Maintenance. Include weapons and equipment DX time and location.
- (3) Transportation. State method and mode of transportation for infil/exfil, load plan, number of lifts/serials, bump plan, recovery assets, recovery plan.
- (4) Supply.
 - Class I--Rations plan.
 - Class III--Petroleum.
 - Class V--Ammunition.
 - Class VII--Major end items.
 - Class VIII--Medical.
 - Class IX--Repair parts.
 - Distribution Methods.
- (5) Field Services. Include any services provided or required (laundry, showers etc).

b. Personnel Services Support.

- (1) Method of marking and handling EPWs.
- (2) Religious Services.

c. Army Health System Support.

- (1) Medical Command and Control. Include location of medics, identify medical leadership, personnel controlling medics, and method of marking patients.
- (2) Medical Treatment. State how wounded or injured Soldiers will be treated (self aid, buddy aid, CLS, EMT etc).
- (3) Medical Evacuation. Describe how dead or wounded, friendly and enemy personnel will be evacuated and identify aid and litter teams. Include special equipment needed for evacuation.
- (4) Preventive Medicine. Identify any preventive medicine Soldiers may need for the mission (sun block, chap stick, insect repellent, in-country specific medicine).

5. COMMAND AND CONTROL. State where command and control facilities and key leaders are located during the operation.

a. Command.

- (1) Location of Commander/Patrol Leader. State where the commander intends to be during the operation, by phase if the operation is phased.
- (2) Succession of Command. State the succession of command if not covered in the unit's SOP.

b. Control.

- (1) Command Posts. Describe the employment of command posts (CPs), including the location of each CP and its time of opening and closing, as appropriate. Typically at platoon level the only reference to command posts will be the company CP.
- (2) Reports. List reports not covered in SOPs.

c. Signal. Describe the concept of signal support, including current SOI edition or refer to higher OPORD.

- (1) Identify the SOI index that is in effect
- (2) Identify methods of communication by priority
- (3) Describe pyrotechnics and signals, to include arm and hand signals (demonstrate)
- (4) Give code words such as OPSKEDs
- (5) Give challenge and password (use behind friendly lines)
- (6) Give number combination (use forward of friendly lines)
- (7) Give running password
- (8) Give recognition signals (near/ far and day/ night)

***Actions after Issuance of OPORD:**

- Issue annexes
- Highlight next hard time
- Give time hack
- ASK for questions