



The New MDMP (2 of 2)

(Change Summary)

Job Aid

COURSE OF ACTION DEVELOPMENT		
OLD	NEW	IMPACT
KEY INPUTS		
Old inputs	New inputs	The new outputs from Mission Analysis become the inputs for COA Development.
PROCESS		
Analyze relative combat power	Assess relative combat power	The difference here is that after analyzing the combat power, the planning staff makes assessments as to how to exploit vulnerabilities or mitigate strength risks identified.
Develop the concept of operations	Develop a broad concept	The authors here wanted to ensure that staffs understand that this is not the final concept of operations, but the initial step that, when refined through COA Analysis, will become paragraph 3b (Concept of Operations) of the base OPORD.
	Select or modify COAs for continues analysis	Listed as part of the process, the commander, after receiving the COA Developing Briefing, selects the COAs he wants to continue analyzing. He may choose to accept the COAs as they are, may choose to modify one or more COAs, or may opt to dismiss all of the staff-derived COAs. If this happens, the staff will conduct COA Development again and present them to the commander for approval. During this step, the commander issues any further planning guidance to the staff for COA Analysis. Once the commander decides on a set of COAs for further analysis, they become one of the "Key Outputs" for COA Development.
KEY OUTPUTS		
Refined Commander's Guidance	Commander's refined guidance to include war-gaming guidance and Evaluation Criteria	FM 5-0 adds a little more specificity and ensures the staff knows that the commander understands what the evaluation criteria are and if he has any further guidance as to how to conduct the war-game (e.g., only war-game against enemy's MLCOA or MDCOA, or is there a difference between conducting the operation at night vice the day?).
Updated staff estimates and products	Updates running estimates and IPB products	Again, change based on FM 3-0 and specificity as to what products were to be updated as an output.
	Updated assumptions	Same as for Mission Analysis.

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 an awareness of the changes that have occurred. Detailed changes are contained in the body of this edition of *The Azimuth*.

COURSE OF ACTION ANALYSIS		
OLD	NEW	IMPACT
KEY INPUTS		
Inputs for COA Analysis	Inputs for COA Analysis	The new inputs for COA Analysis mirror the outputs from COA Development.
PROCESS		
Determine evaluation criteria		Based on changes to task step in Mission Analysis, this has been omitted in this step. The criteria should be reviewed, however, prior to the war game.
Select a method to record and display results	Select a technique to record and display results	Wordsmithing changes only.
War-game the battle and assess the results	War-game the operation and assess the results	This difference ensures that the staff understands that all elements of Full Spectrum Operations may be analyzed through the war-game. FM 5-0 makes special note of how to use the different methods of battlefield visualization in stability scenarios.
	Conduct a war-game briefing (optional)	While also listed in the previous version of FM 5-0, the new FM 5-0 places it into the process. While a formal briefing is optional, an informal huddle assessing the war-game and its results is mandatory to continue to COA Comparison.
KEY OUTPUTS		
	Refined courses of action	Based on the results of the war-game, subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) changes in the COA might occur. These must be clearly annotated and the initial concept from COA Development refined in order to make necessary changes to the Concept of Operation in the OPORD.
Decision Support Template	Decision Support Template and Matrixes	This emphasizes the DSM as a tool for subordinate elements.
	Potential branches and sequels	If there are still outstanding assumptions or you have determined decision points on the battlefield, there will be branch and sequels necessary to deal with these contingencies. These should be included with the DSM and DST.
	Updated running estimates	The new FM 5-0 places special emphasis on continually updating the running estimates for each staff section, as well as maintaining an updated list of assumptions.
	Updated assumptions	The staff needs to ensure it is keeping up with the assumptions they feel necessary for planning. Once the war-game is concluded (with branches covering the possibility that their assumptions may prove false), there is little more to do other than report and prepare for that decision point. What is not stated is that a list of outstanding RFI's should be maintained and visible in the TOC.

COURSE OF ACTION COMPARISON		
OLD	NEW	IMPACT
KEY INPUTS		
Old inputs	New key inputs	The inputs for COA Comparison mirror the outputs from COA Analysis.
PROCESS		
	Conduct a COA Decision Briefing	This was listed as an output in the previous FM 5-0 and is now a task step. The difference here is that it is considered a process step rather than an output that is required for further steps in the MDMP.
KEY OUTPUTS		
Decision Matrix		This no longer regarded as an output based on the change which makes the COA Decision Brief a task step.
COA Decision Briefing		As stated above, the COA Decision Brief is now a task step rather than an output.
	Evaluated courses of action	Required for COA decision. This is an output that is part of the COA Decision Brief.
	Recommended courses of action	Required for COA decision. This is an output that is part of the COA Decision Brief.
	Course of action selection rationale	Required for COA decision. This is an output that is part of the COA Decision Brief.
	Updated running estimates	Continued from all steps of the MDMP.
	Updated assumptions	Continued from all steps of the MDMP.

COURSE OF ACTION APPROVAL
No substantial changes to COA Approval.

ORDERS PRODUCTION
Appendix B of FM 5-0 provides a new format for OPORD production, as well as a new list of OPORD annexes and appendices. While the list is all encompassing, not all annexes and appendices may be required for your OPORD. If you can reduce what you have to say that is of importance to your subordinate commanders to a few clear sentences, consider including it in the base OPORD and leaving out the annex or appendix.