

Operational Planning Process - Stage 1 - Initiation



DPKO & DFS/ITS - *UN Peacekeeping PDT Standards, Specialized Training Material for Staff Officers 1st Edition 2011*



National
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CANADIAN ARMY
COMMAND AND STAFF
COLLEGE



COLLÈGE DE COMMANDEMENT ET
D'ÉTAT-MAJOR DE L'ARMÉE
CANADIENNE



Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation –
Canada
Direction de l'instruction et de la coopération militaire

Supporting Staff Work

Staff Analysis
Staff Checks & Estimates

Outline
Support Plans

Detailed
Analysis,
Staff Checks
& Estimates

Refined
Support Plans

Detailed
Analysis,
Staff Checks
& Estimates

Detailed
Support Plans

The Operational Planning Process

OPP Stage 1 – Initiation

Planning Data → Wng O

OPP Stage 2 – Orientation

Review of
Situation

Mission
Analysis

Mission
Analysis Brief

Supp Wng O

Mission
Statement

OPP Stage 3 – COA Development

COA
Development

Information
Brief

COA
Comparison
Wargame

CONOPS

Decision
Brief

Supp Wng O

Synch Matrix
Draft

DST Draft

HPTL Draft

EGM

OPP Stage 4 – Plan Development

DST

Plan
Wargame

ISTAR Plan

Synch Matrix

Op O

HPTL

EGM

Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace

IPB Step 1 – Define the Battlespace

AI

Initial PIRs

IPB Step 2 – Describe Battlespace Effects

Air Avenue of
Approach

Terra

Wx Matrix

Light Table

IPB Step 3 – Evaluate the Threat

Enemy COA
Draft

ID Enemy CoG

IPB Step 4 – Determine Threat COAs

Event Matrix

Draft
ISTAR Plan

Enemy COA
Detailed

Updated HVTL

OPP Stage 5 – Plan Review

Frag O

CONPLAN

IPB Informs All Stages of the OPP

Legend

Staff
Process

Staff
Product

Data

Comd
Process

Comd
Product

Process
Flow

Next Task



Agenda

- Initiating directive
- Activation of the planning staff
- Gather planning tools
- Guidelines to staff
- Initial time assessment
- Identify the threat (Intelligence Preparation of the Operating Environment IPOE)
- Commander's Initial Guidance (verbal or written)
- Develop products



The Initiating Directive

- The Operational Planning Process (OPP) may be initiated at varying levels in response to either political or military events. Ideally, this direction will come in the form of an Initiating Directive from the next superior level commander
- The Initiating Directive gives you your TASK or MISSION
- Mission/Tasks are given in the form of Orders or Instructions



Activation of Planning Staff (1/3)

- Who is on the staff (rep from each branch)
- Who coordinates it
- Contact with higher and subordinate HQ
- Initiate liaison with any new units you may be given or attached to (marry up drills)



Activation of Planning Staff (2/3)

- Commanders alone may not have all the information, knowledge or time
- Process includes commander and planning staff
- OPP optimizes time and staff effort
- Commander's initial assessment of the problem
- Commander's guidance to staff
- COS Planning guidance



Activation of Planning Staff (3/3)

- When the COS/G5 issues an initial Planning Directive (PD) to the HQ staff (internal Warning Order)
- Staff can now begin their initial planning
 - G1/G4 can start initial personnel and administrative staff checks
 - G2 works on IPOE and threat doctrinal templates and assessment
 - G3/G5 can begin to check status of own troops (Essential Elements of Friendly Information [EEFI] and Friendly Force Information Requirement [FFIR])
 - Advisors/specialist can begin to consult counterparts at higher and lower HQ



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Gather Planning Tools/Data

- Orders or plans
- Maps, charts
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Publications and documentation
- Threat details or belligerent doctrine and threat model if relevant
- Rules of Engagement (ROE)
- National caveats/limitations
- United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)
- Etc.



Guidelines to Staff

- Internal coordination
- Establishment of external contacts and non-governmental organizations, etc.
- Emphasis on rapid passage of information
- Push information rather than pull



Initial Time Assessment

- 1/3, 2/3 RULE
- Timeline for completion of the OPP
- Time available versus detail required



Commander's Initial Planning Guidance

- Initial time allocation
- Liaison officers to be dispatched
- Initial reconnaissance
- Authorized movement
- Groupings
- Commander's Initial Information Requirement (Commander's Critical Information Requirement [CCIR])



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Mission Analysis Brief → Supp Wng O → Mission Statement

OPP Stage 3 – COA Development

COA Development → Information Brief → COA Comparison Wargame
CONOPS → Decision Brief
Supp Wng O → Decision Brief
COA Comparison Wargame → Synch Matrix Draft → DST Draft → HPTL Draft → EGM

OPP Stage 4 – Plan Development

DST → Plan Wargame → ISTAR Plan
Plan Wargame → Synch Matrix → Op O → HPTL → EGM

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Event Matrix Draft ISTAR Plan
Enemy COA Detailed Updated HVTL

IPB Informs All Stages of the OPP

OPP Stage 5 – Plan Review

Frag O CONPLAN

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Staff Product

Data

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Process Flow

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Questions?



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