



# COMBAT ORDERS



UNCLASSIFIED / FOUO



**Discuss the Elements of Combat Orders.**

**Describe the Elements of Combat Orders IAW ADP 5-0, ATP 3-21.10 and ATP 3-21.8.**



# DEFINE ORDER



**Order:** *A communication, written, oral or by signal, which conveys instruction from a superior to a subordinate.*

In a broad sense, the terms “order” and “command” are synonymous. However, an order implies discretion as to the details of execution, whereas a command does not.



# TWO TYPES OF ORDERS



- **Administrative Orders:** Cover normal administrative operations in garrison or in the field. They include general, specific, and memorandum orders; courts-martial orders; bulletins, circulars and other memoranda.
- **Combat Orders:** Pertain to strategic, operational, or tactical operations and their service support.



# FIVE COMBAT ORDERS



1. OPERATION ORDERS (OPORDs)
2. SERVICE SUPPORT ORDERS
3. MOVEMENT ORDERS
4. WARNING ORDERS (WARNOs)
5. FRAGMENTARY ORDERS (FRAGOs)



# WARNING ORDER (WARNO)



- The Warning Order is a preliminary notice of an order or action, which is to follow.
- WARNOs maximize subordinates planning time, provide essential details of the impending operation, and detail events that accompany preparation and execution.
- Does not authorize execution other than planning unless specifically stated.
- Maps, enemy situation, higher mission, commanders intent (if available), recon & surveillance orders, planning considerations.



# MOVEMENT ORDER



- A Movement Order is an order issued by a commander covering the details for a move of the command.
- Usually concerns administrative moves that normally occur in the communications area or rear areas.



# OPERATION ORDER (OPORD)



**Operation Order:** A directive issued by a commander to subordinate commanders for the purpose of effecting the coordinated execution of an operation.

**Contains as a minimum, descriptions of the following:**

- Task organization
- Situation
- Mission
- Execution
- Sustainment
- Command and Control.

**OPORDs always specify an execution date and time.**





# FRAGMENTARY ORDER (FRAGO)



- **Fragmentary Order:** An abbreviated form of an operation order (verbal, written, or digital) usually issued on a day-to-day basis that eliminates the need for restating information contained in a basic operation order.
- Address only those parts of the original OPORD that have changed.
- Commanders may authorize members of their staff to issue FRAGOs in their name.



# SERVICE SUPPORT ORDERS



- **Service Support Order:** An order that directs the service and support of operations, including administrative movements.
- Provides information to support elements and serves as a basis for the orders of supporting missions. Service and Support orders may be issued with an OPORD.



# OPERATION ORDER Essential Elements



- **Task Organization**
  - **Terrain Analysis**
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- 1. Situation**
  - 2. Mission**
  - 3. Execution**
  - 4. Sustainment**
  - 5. Command and Control**



# OPERATION ORDER



## Task organization

1. Always given before the situation paragraph. This lets subordinates know what assets they have for the mission.
2. Two formats...outlined and matrix. Sequence is the same for both methods.



# TERRAIN ANALYSIS



Neither ADP 5-0, ATP 3-21.10 specifically requires a terrain analysis paragraph in a written operation order; but both manuals emphasize the need to conduct a terrain analysis and then communicate the results of that analysis to subordinates by writing a brief synopsis of the terrain, using OCOKA or OAKOC depending on which reference you are using as guide.



# SITUATION



## Enemy Forces

1. Disposition, Composition, and Strength.
2. Capabilities.
3. Most probable course of action (COA).
4. Most dangerous course of action (COA).

## Friendly Forces

1. Higher units. A verbatim statement of the higher unit Commander's Mission Statement from paragraph 2 and the concept of the operation statement from paragraph 3a.
2. State the missions of flank units and other units whose actions effect your unit.



# SITUATION



## Environment

- Terrain. Critical terrain that impacts mission.
- Weather. Critical weather that impacts mission.
- Civil Considerations. Critical civil impacts.

## Attachments Detachments

1. Do not repeat information already listed under Task Organization or in the annex A (Task Organization).
2. Otherwise list units attached or detached to the headquarters that issues the order.
3. State when attachment or detachment is effective.



# MISSION



- **Mission Statement:** A short sentence or paragraph describing the unit's essential task (or tasks).
- The purpose clearly indicates the action to be taken and the reason for doing so.
- It contains the elements of who, what, when, where, and why, and the reasons thereof, but seldom specifies how.





# EXECUTION



## A. Concept of Operations

**COMMANDERS INTENT:** The stated VISION that defines the purpose of the operation and the relationship among the force, the enemy and the terrain.

- The Commander's expected end state of the mission.
- The result the Commander expects the unit to accomplish in a specific operation.
- At a minimum, must include scheme of maneuver and concept of fires.



# EXECUTION

## Concept of Operations Cont.



1. **Maneuver:** State the scheme of maneuver. Must address decisive and shaping operations.
  - Do not duplicate info in unit subparagraphs and coordinating instructions.
  
2. **Fires:** Describe the scheme of fires.
  - Address priority of fires, changes, priority targets, who controls them and any restrictions.
    - Air Support: CAS allocation.
    - Field Artillery: CMD relationship and priorities.
    - Naval gunfire support.
    - Fire support coordinating measures.



# EXECUTION

## Concept of Operations Cont.



**3. Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance:**  
Outline ISR concept and how it ties in with the scheme of maneuver.

**4. Intelligence**

**5. Engineer**

**6. Air and Missile Defense**

**7. Information Operations**

**8. NBC Operations**

**9. Military Police Operations**

**10. Civil-Military Operations**



# EXECUTION

## Scheme of maneuver



**B. Task to Maneuver Units:** State the missions or tasks assigned to each maneuver unit that reports directly to the headquarters issuing the order. Every task must include a purpose that links it to the concept of operations. Use a separate subparagraph for each unit.

**C. Tasks to Combat and Combat Support Units:** State the missions or tasks assigned to non maneuver combat units and CS units. Cross-reference attachments that assign them tasks. Use a separate subparagraph for each unit.



# EXECUTION



- D. Coordinating Instructions:** List only instructions applicable to two or more units and not covered in unit SOPs.
1. Time or condition when a plan or an order becomes effective.
  2. Commander's critical information requirements. May include PIR, EEFI and or FFIR.
  3. Risk reduction control measures.
  4. Rules of engagement (ROE).
  5. Environmental considerations.
  6. Force protection.
  7. Any additional coordinating instructions.



# SUSTAINMENT



**Address sustainment as needed to clarify the service support concept.**

- Refer to annexes, if required.

**Subparagraphs include:**

- Support concept
- Materiel and Services
- Health Service support
- Personnel Service support.
- Support Concept. State the concept of logistics support to provide non-CSS commanders and their staffs a visualization of how the operation will be logistically supported.



# SUSTAINMENT Continued



- 1. Supply –**
  - Info on all classes of supply (Class I-IX)
  - Constraints and limitations
- 2. Transportation – INFILL / EXFILL**
- 3. Services – SUPPORT GROUP**
- 4. Maintenance – PLAN**
- 5. Medical Evacuation – PLAN, medical details specific to the organization.**
- 6. Personnel:** Identify the EPW collection points and handling of EPW's.
- 7. Miscellaneous:** Destruction of supplies and anything not covered elsewhere.



# COMMAND AND CONTROL



## **A. Command:**

1. Location of higher CMD, and CP
2. Location of platoon leader or CP
3. Location of PSG or alternate CP
4. Succession of command

## **B. SIGNAL:**

1. ANCD/SOI INDEX in effect
2. Listening / silence
3. Method of communication internal
  - A. Visual / Radio
  - B. Primary / Alternate
  - C. Day / Night

Code words: challenge and pass, call-signs, number combinations





# FINAL CONSIDERATIONS



- At completion of the order or if the order is complex ask for any questions at the end of each stage
- Ask questions of subordinates and designate time for back brief
- Synchronize watches and timings