

Troop Leading Steps: 1

BEGIN PLANNING

Situation: (Current Information)

Mission: (from HHQ order)

General Instructions:

- Roster/Task Organization/Teams
- Uniform/Individual Equipment
- Weapons, ammunition, special equipment
- Tentative Schedule: Times for
 - Initial Inspections
 - Weapons test fire
 - Communications checks
 - Issuing the Order
 - Rehearsals
 - Final Pre-Combat Checks & Inspections
 - Earliest Time of Movement

Special Instructions

O Observation & Fields of Fire

C Cover & Concealment

O Obstacles

K Key Terrain

A Avenues of Approach

W Weather

Plan Use of Available Time

Issue a Warning Order

Initial Estimate of the Situation:

M **Mission: "5 Ws"**
Who, What, When, Where, Why
Understand Commander's Intent: 2 levels above you

E **Enemy** →

S Size
A Activity
L Location
U Unit
T Time
E Equipment

D Defend
R Reinforce
A Attack
W Withdraw
D Delay

T **Terrain and Weather** →

T **Troops and Fire Support Available**

T **Time, Space & Logistics**

C **Civil Considerations** →

BEGIN PLANNING

The Tactical Thought Process

Initial Estimate of the Situation

M
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EMLCOA →

Enemy Most Likely Course of Action

What do you think the enemy will do?

What is the enemy's strength (Center of Gravity)?

What is the enemy's weakness (Critical Vulnerability)?

EXP →

Exploitation Plan

A critical vulnerability is a pathway to attacking the center of gravity.

How can you exploit the gaps or weaknesses in the EMLCOA?

SOM ↓

Scheme of Maneuver

Achieve unity of effort

Integrate all Marines or subordinate elements within their capabilities to achieve the EXP.

FSP ↓

Fire Support Plan

Integrate all assets available to directly support the SOM.

Check the logic in your analysis

Does your plan make sense going backward through the Tactical Planning Process?

TASKS → FSP → SOM →

EXP → EMLCOA

TASKS

The task and purpose of each subordinate unit during the operation. Each tasking statement covers at least the five W's.

ARRANGE FOR RECONNAISSANCE

IDENTIFY

What questions you need answered

What priority they need to be answered

CONSIDER ALL TYPES OF RECONNAISSANCE

Time/Resources Required and Potential Risks

Map/Imagery and current intelligence reports

Aerial Reconnaissance/Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)

Physical Reconnaissance/Leader's Reconnaissance: For the most effective reconnaissance, you must get eyes on the enemy

TOP PRIORITY

Validate the Enemy Most Likely Course of Action

Enemy Position

Orientation

Activity

MAKE RECONNAISSANCE & COORDINATION

USE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF RECONNAISSANCE AVAILABLE

**COORDINATE/REQUEST SUPPORT FROM HIGHER HQ FOR
Map/Imagery and current intelligence reports
Aerial Reconnaissance/Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)
WHEN CONDUCTING A PHYSICAL RECONNAISSANCE PATROL
OR LEADER'S RECONNAISSANCE:**

Identify the leaders you will bring with you, plan and coordinate the patrol with your higher HQ including time of departure and return, and what actions your Marines must take while you are gone and if you do not return.

**VALIDATE ASSUMPTIONS AND ANSWER REMAINING QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE ENEMY AND THE GROUND**

**EMLCOA
Enemy Position
Orientation
Activity**

COMPLETE THE PLAN

Revisit the tactical thought process incorporating information collected during the reconnaissance.

Organize information into THE FIVE PARAGRAPH "OSMEAC" format



Use Correct Tactical Tasks and Terminology (MCDP 1-0 Change 2 Appendix C)

A Administration and Logistics The amount of ammunition, water, food, and batteries to carry or embark. Plans for casualty evacuation and detainee handling and resupply.

C Command and Signal **Command**- locations of key leaders and succession of command.
Signal- primary and alternate frequencies and call signs; challenge and passwords; and primary, alternate, and tertiary signals for mission-specific actions. Both day and night signals.

ISSUE THE ORDER

Techniques for Issuing an Order

Use visual aids such as a map, sand table, white board or, the best practice, a terrain model

Orientation

Orient subordinates to the medium by which the order is issued. Define and describe the battle space being operated in (METT-TC).

One Third/Two Third Rule

Divide your available time in thirds. Use one-third yourself, and give the remaining two-thirds to subordinate leaders to prepare and issue their own orders.

Succinct

Keep orders short and to the point.

Know Your Order

Rehearse issuing your order. Referring to notes while issuing an order is acceptable, but do not read your order. You will have difficulty inspiring confidence in your plan if you are reading it.

Terrain Model

A scaled down model of the battle space will allow your Marines to visualize the battle space they will be operating in, the enemy they are engaging, and the Scheme of Maneuver (SOM) being executed.

Establish Command Presence

Never permit distractions during your order. Conduct a roll call of subordinate leaders and key personnel. Require note taking. The leader must inspire confidence and motivation through their order; failure to do so puts their Marines at an immediate mental disadvantage.

Questions

You will want the recipients to be clear on the orientation, so allow questions before you begin your actual order. However, before beginning the Situation, instruct the group to hold all questions until the end of the order. This will eliminate interruptions or questions that may be answered later in the order.

All Hands

When the tactical situation permits, issue your order to all your Marines. Otherwise identify the key leaders in your unit required for all orders.

Oral Communication

When possible, issue your order in person. Written orders are best reserved for larger units whose size preclude oral presentation of orders.

Interaction

Focus on the Marines. Once you finish delivering your order, answer questions and then ask questions of subordinates. Demand back-briefs from key subordinate leaders to ensure there is full comprehension.

SUPERVISE

Inspections & Rehearsals

Pre-Combat Checks & Pre-Combat Inspections

Example: Minimum Areas for Inspection

- Marines' understanding of the **mission**, commander's **intent**, and their specific **responsibilities**
- All **weapons, optics, and ammunition** (clean/functional, weapons/optics zeroed, test-fire)
- Uniforms** and individual **equipment**
- Inventory **first aid kits** and combat **life-saving equipment**
- Mission essential**/special equipment
- Maps, compasses, and navigation equipment**
- Communications** (operation check equipment, batteries, primary alternate communication plans)
- Rations and water**
- For **vehicles**: fuel, recovery and repair kits

SUPERVISE



DO NOT assume that your subordinates are executing in a fashion that meets your standards. Failure to supervise frequently results in mission failure.