
Certificate in Military Strategy

Military Planning

Military planning is a critical process that involves the development of a series of actions aimed at achieving specific military objectives. It is a complex and dynamic activity that requires a thorough understanding of various key terms and vocabulary. In this Certificate in Military Strategy, we will explore some of the most important terms and concepts in military planning.

1. **Objective:** An objective is a specific goal that military forces aim to achieve in a given operation or campaign. Objectives can be tactical, operational, or strategic in nature, and they must be clearly defined, feasible, and consistent with the overall mission.

Example: An example of an objective in military planning could be the capture of a key enemy airfield to establish air superiority in a given area of operations.

2. **Mission:** A mission is a statement of the purpose of a military operation or campaign. It defines the overall goal and establishes the context for the development of specific objectives and plans.

Example: A mission statement for a military operation might be: "To defeat enemy forces in the northern sector of the battlefield and establish a secure border."

3. **Appreciation:** An appreciation is a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the military situation, including the enemy, terrain, weather, and friendly forces. It forms the basis for the development of a plan and is typically conducted at the operational level of warfare.

Example: An appreciation for a military operation might include an analysis of the enemy's strengths and weaknesses, the terrain and weather conditions in the area of operations, and the capabilities and limitations of friendly forces.

4. **Center of Gravity:** A center of gravity is the source of power that provides a military force with the ability to achieve its objectives. It is typically a key capability, resource, or location that is critical to the enemy's ability to fight.

Example: A center of gravity for an enemy force might be its air defense system, which provides it with the ability to deny air superiority to friendly forces.

5. **Decisive Point:** A decisive point is a critical juncture in a military operation or campaign where the outcome of the operation is determined. It is the point at which friendly forces must achieve their objectives in order to achieve success.

Example: A decisive point in a military operation might be the capture of a key enemy stronghold that controls access to a vital supply route.

6. **Course of Action:** A course of action is a specific plan or strategy for achieving objectives in a military

operation or campaign. It includes a description of the tasks to be performed, the resources required, and the sequence and timing of operations.

Example: A course of action for a military operation might include a plan to encircle and isolate the enemy force, followed by a series of coordinated air and ground attacks to destroy its combat power.

7. End State: The end state is the desired outcome or condition that military forces aim to achieve in a given operation or campaign. It is the state of affairs that exists when the objectives of the operation have been achieved.

Example: An end state for a military operation might be the establishment of a secure and stable government in a given region.

8. Operational Art: Operational art is the theory and practice of designing and conducting military operations at the operational level of warfare. It involves the integration of tactics and strategy to achieve operational objectives.

Example: An example of operational art might be the development of a plan to conduct a series of coordinated air and ground operations to seize and hold key terrain in a given area of operations.

9. Military Strategy: Military strategy is the art and science of planning and conducting military operations to achieve national objectives. It involves the integration of political, economic, and military factors to achieve strategic objectives.

Example: An example of military strategy might be the development of a plan to defeat an enemy nation through a combination of economic sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and military force.

10. Campaign: A campaign is a series of connected military operations aimed at achieving a specific objective or set of objectives. It is typically conducted over a prolonged period of time and involves the integration of multiple forces and resources.

Example: An example of a military campaign might be a series of operations aimed at defeating an enemy army in a given theater of operations.

11. Joint Operations: Joint operations are military operations conducted by two or more military services or components in a coordinated and synchronized manner. They require the integration of air, land, sea, and space capabilities to achieve operational objectives.

Example: An example of joint operations might be a combined air and ground assault on a heavily defended enemy position.

12. Combined Operations: Combined operations are military operations conducted by forces from two or more nations in a coordinated and synchronized manner. They require the integration of different cultures, languages, and military capabilities to achieve operational objectives.

Example: An example of combined operations might be a multinational coalition force conducting a

peacekeeping mission in a volatile region.

13. Logistics: Logistics is the art and science of planning, executing, and controlling the flow of resources and personnel required to support military operations. It includes transportation, supply chain management, maintenance, and sustainment.

Example: An example of logistics might be the planning and execution of a supply convoy to deliver fuel, ammunition, and other essential supplies to a forward-deployed unit.

14. Force Structure: Force structure refers to the organization and composition of military forces, including the number and type of units, weapons systems, and personnel. It is typically determined by strategic objectives, resource constraints, and operational requirements.

Example: An example of force structure might be the composition of a brigade combat team, which includes infantry, armor, artillery, and support units.

15. Doctrine: Doctrine is a set of principles and guidelines that govern the conduct of military operations. It provides a common framework for the planning and execution of military operations and is typically developed through a combination of experience, experimentation, and analysis.

Example: An example of doctrine might be the use of combined arms tactics to achieve operational objectives.

16. Military Decision Making Process (MDMP): The Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) is a structured approach to planning and executing military operations. It involves a series of steps, including mission analysis, course of action development, course of action analysis, and course of action selection.

Example: An example of the MDMP might be the planning and execution of a company-level patrol to reconnoiter a suspected enemy position.

17. Operations Order (OPORD): An Operations Order (OPORD) is a formal document that provides instructions for the conduct of a military operation. It includes a description of the mission, enemy situation, friendly situation, and courses of action.

Example: An example of an OPORD might be the orders issued to a battalion task force for a deliberate attack on a fortified enemy position.

18. Commander's Intent: Commander's Intent is a statement of the desired end state and key tasks required to achieve that end state. It provides guidance to subordinate commanders and troops on how to plan and execute operations in a manner consistent with the overall intent of the commander.

Example: An example of Commander's Intent might be: "To seize and hold key terrain in order to disrupt the enemy's ability to maneuver and communicate, while minimizing civilian casualties and collateral damage."

19. Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB): Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB) is a systematic and continuous process of analyzing the threat and environment in a given area of operations. It

includes an assessment of the enemy, terrain, weather, and friendly forces.

Example: An example of IPB might be the analysis of an enemy division's order of battle, weapons systems, and tactics in preparation for a major offensive.

20. Close Air Support (CAS): Close Air Support (CAS) is the use of air power to support ground forces in the conduct of ground operations. It involves the coordination of air and ground forces to achieve tactical objectives.

Example: An example of CAS might be the use of attack helicopters to suppress enemy anti-aircraft defenses in support of a ground assault.

21. Fire Support Coordination (FSC): Fire Support Coordination (FSC) is the process of integrating and synchronizing the use of indirect fires, such as artillery and mortars, in support of ground operations. It involves the coordination of fire support assets, targeting, and communication.

Example: An example of FSC might be the coordination of artillery fire support for a brigade combat team conducting a deliberate attack on a fortified enemy position.

22. Electronic Warfare (EW): Electronic Warfare (EW) is the use of electromagnetic energy to deny, degrade, or disrupt the enemy's use of the electromagnetic spectrum. It includes the use of electronic attack, electronic protection, and electronic warfare support.

Example: An example of EW might be the jamming of enemy communications systems to disrupt command and control.

23. Psychological Operations (PSYOP): Psychological Operations (PSYOP) are operations