

Introduction: Model Overview

This planning model is based on a theory known as “recognition-primed decision making,” which is an intuitive process through which leaders naturally make decisions. The recognition-primed decision model leverages the experience of seasoned commanders whose education and training enable them to assess situations rapidly through pattern recognition, mentally wargame courses of action (COAs) and make timely decisions

Source: http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/army/bushey_rpdm.pdf

Input / Output

Input	Output
• Situational Awareness	• Rehearsals
• Brigade Cdr's Guidance	• Execution of the COA
• Mission from Higher HQ	• Assessment of the Effects

1. Identify the mission & conceptualize COA

Bn Cdr and Staff Process:

- Staff sends alert WARNO #1 to the batteries.
- Cdr & Staff conduct full blown MA.**
- Cdr guides the entire process.

Staff Tools:

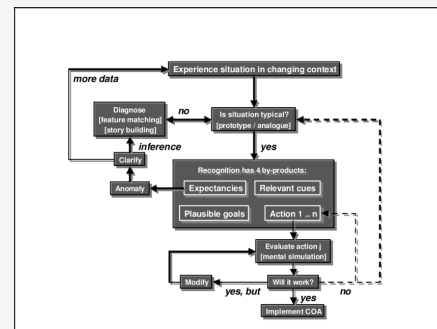
- Facts & Assumptions
- Limitations & Constraints
- IPB
- MCOO
- Etc.

Products:

- Restated Mission
- Directed Friendly COA
- WARNO #2 with MA Slides & Cdr's Guidance
- Enemy COA

Steps 1, 3 and 4 are similar to the respective steps of Mission Analysis, Wargaming and Orders Production in the MDMP

Recognition-Primed Decision Model



2. Test & Operationalize the COA.

Staff Process:

- Refine the details of the COA.
- Identify the flaws and correct them through analysis
- Test the COA using “feasible, acceptable and suitable” criteria.*
- Brief the commander on the refined COA.

Products:

- Graphics
- Support Matrices
- Task Organization
- Sub-Unit Tasks
- Skeleton OPORD
- WARNO #3 with the COA Sketch

3. Wargame the COA.*Planners and All Cdrs

Process:

- Determine if the COA satisfies the Cdr's vision.
- Analyze whether or not the plan will hold up to enemy action.

Products:

- Synchronization Matrices
- Execution Checklists
- WARNO #4 with the Refined COA

This is critical; the commander and staff must understand the problem to develop an effective solution.

4. Develop the orders.

Staff Process:

- Write the OPORD.
- Backbrief the Cdr.

Products:

- Five-Paragraph OPORD
- Execution Matrix
- Verbal Notification of Battery Cdrs via Radi

If the COA fails the “feasible, acceptable and suitable” test, then the process loops back to Step 1 to determine an alternative COA

Legend

Code	Description	Code	Description
Cdr	Commander	MA	Mission Analysis
COA	Course of Action	MCOO	Modified Combined Obstacle Overlay
HQ	Headquarters	OPORD	Operations Order
IPB	Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield	WARNO	Warning Order



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