

Command and staff service

No. 6

The role of the commander in the battle.

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Course objectives:

- explain and describe to students the role, tasks, responsibilities and duties of the task force commander and his deputy in struggle,
- clarify to students the principles command a combat unit and its management.

Summary:

Preface - General duties of the master and the other organs of command

1. Structure of units, command structure.
2. Principles command a combat unit and its management.
3. Responsibilities and obligations of command in combat units.

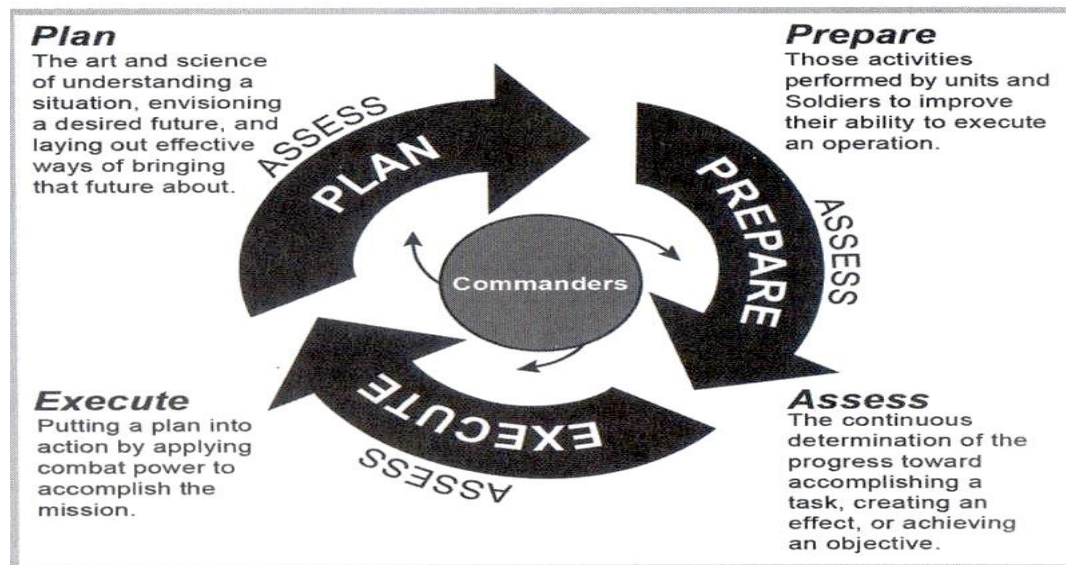
Conclusion

Tasks list for students:

References and further reading:

The Operations Process

The Army's framework for exercising mission command is the **operations process**—the major mission command activities performed during operations: planning, preparing, executing, and continuously assessing the operation.



Central idea...

Commanders, supported by their staffs, use the **operations process** to drive the conceptual and detailed planning necessary to understand, visualize, and describe their operational environment; make and articulate decisions; and direct, lead, and assess military operations.

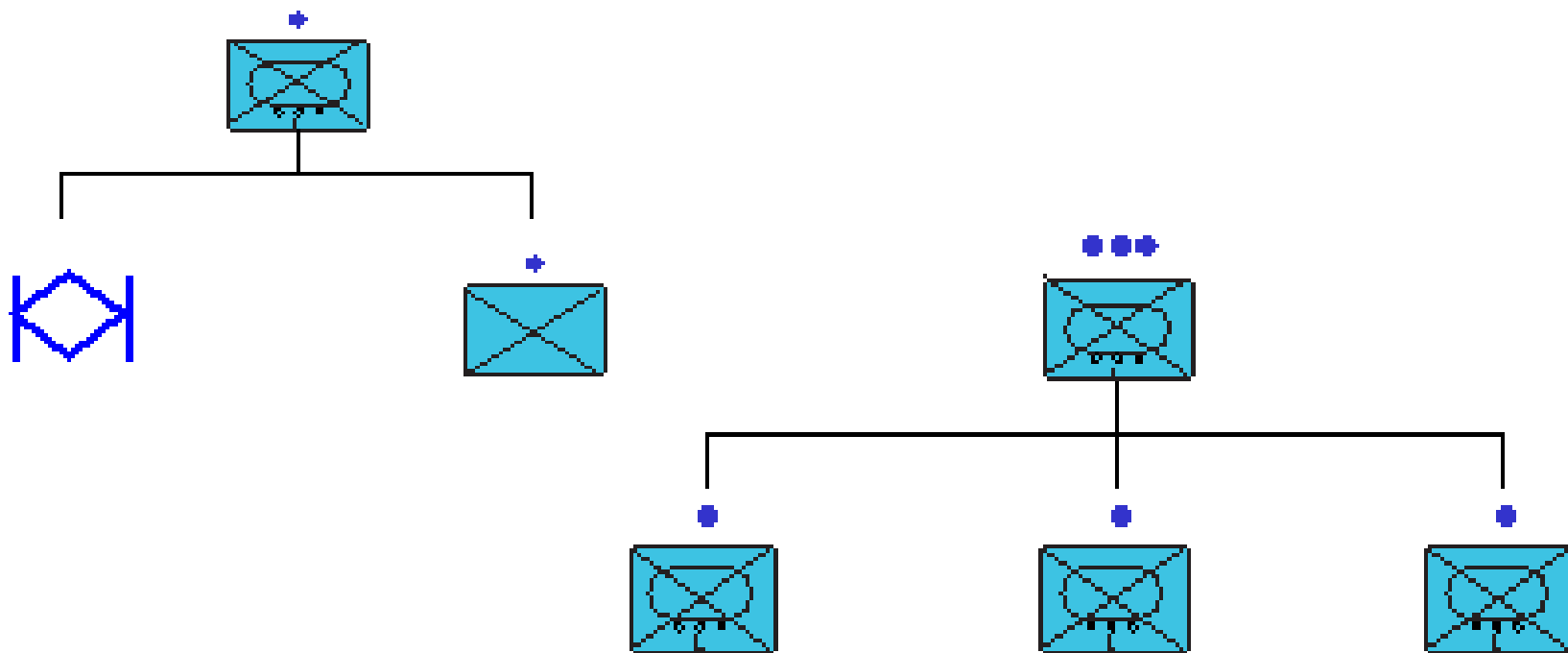
Principles

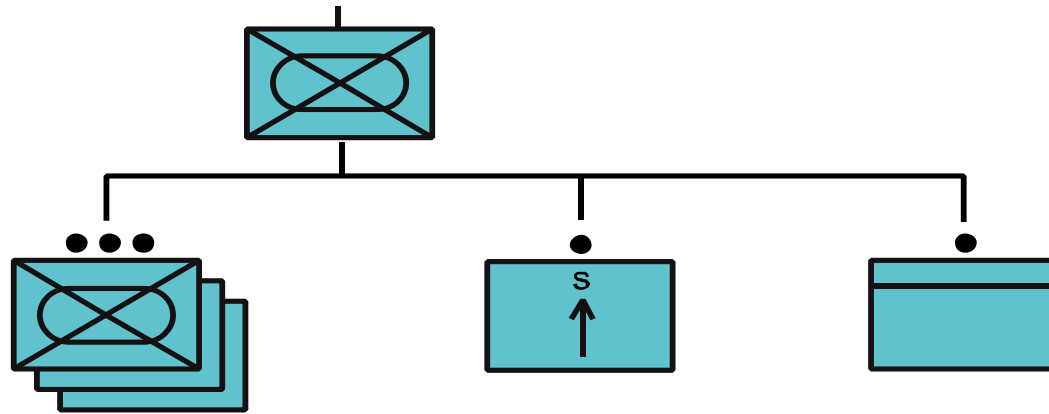
guided by...

- Commanders drive the operations process
- Apply critical and creative thinking
- Build and maintain situational understanding
- Encourage collaboration and dialogue

- ✓ At the lowest levels of command it is likely that the commander will be in direct contact with those that he commands.
- ✓ At platoon and company levels, for example, a commander will normally be able to see his soldiers and thus give direct orders.
- ✓ At each successive level, commanding at a distance will increase. In an experienced unit or formation, the commander may be able to command in this way for most of the time, entrusting his subordinates.
- ✓ However, personal contact or intervention at the Main Effort will often become imperative.
- ✓ Similarly, when a commander loses his 'feel' for the situation, he may well need to deploy forward to re-establish a clear perception of events and should therefore possess the means to do so.

1. Units structure





Platoon commander leads a platoon and in his absence the deputy commander of the platoon.

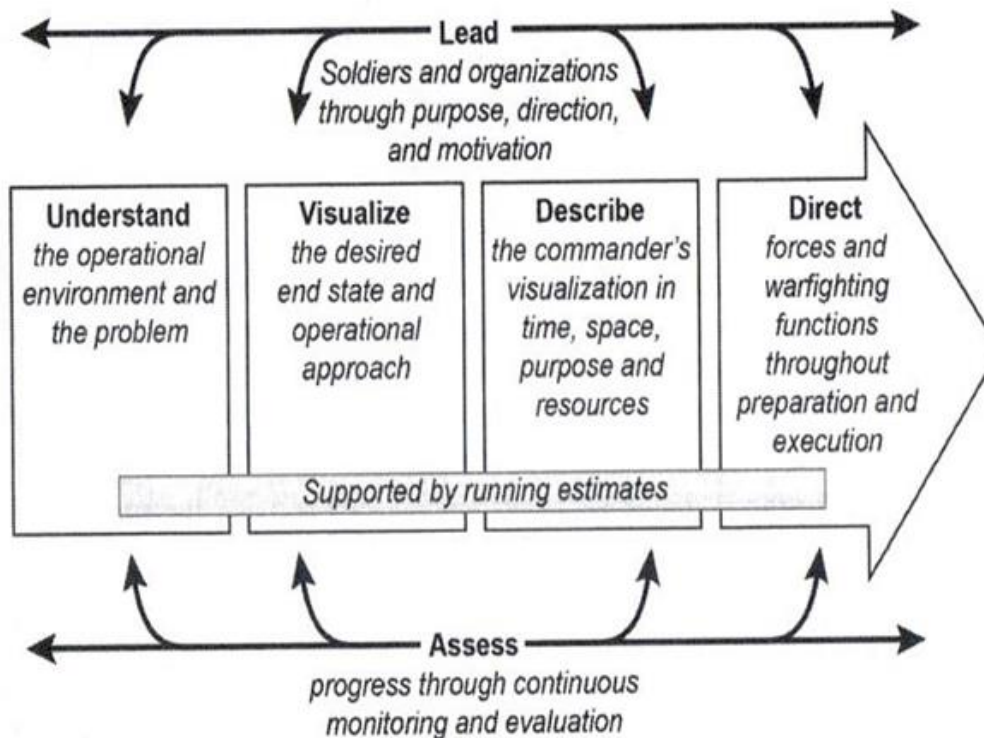
Company is organized into platoons and represents the main fighting force of mechanized battalion. Strengthening may be based on the company created a **company task force**.

Commander's Activities

Commanders are the most important participants in the operations process. While staffs perform essential functions that amplify the effectiveness of operations, **commanders drive the operations process** through understanding, visualizing, describing, directing, leading, and assessing operations.

See p. 1-24 for an overview and discussion of the operations process.

The Commander's Role in Ops Process



Five Point Warrant (GOTWA):

It is used by the unit commander in the tactical situation whenever leaving the unit.

GOTWA is issued by designated representatives.

- **Going** – where I'm going and for what purpose;
- **Others** – who is taken with me;
- **Time** – when I'm back;
- **What to do** – what to do if I'm not back in pre-arranged time;
- **Actions** – what to do if the unit encounters an enemy, and what will I do.

Tactical command post units:

- The unit commander usually commanding troops (cooperative platoon platoon) in the battle of combat vehicles equipped martial automotive information system (BVIS), which forms part of a tactical command and control unit.
- Tactical command post can be formed working hoe, hoe cash and foxholes for combat vehicles assigned to commanders of units .

When troops of combat vehicle are dismounted and lead combat operations, the commander remains in the vehicle and continues to lead troops from combat vehicle.

2. Liability and obligations of command in combat units

Commander of combat unit:

Commander of the task force is subordinate to his superior commander and he is responsible for the operation and how to use the units in combat (operations). He must know the methods of warfare and know how to comply with them to use the unit in battle, know the equipment and know how to wield weapons and armour units, know all the members of the unit, to be able to command them and drive them to action.

Squad commander:

Squad leader, who reports to his company commander, is responsible for the operation of cooperatives in combat.

He is **responsible** for the combat readiness of the team, for a thorough and thoughtful preparation of weapons and combat techniques to battle (to perform the upcoming task), for strict compliance task for any situation within a specified time and with minimum losses, for education, military discipline, physical and mental readiness members of the cooperative; for knowledge and compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law and its enforcement in all circumstances.

He is obligated to:

- know armament and combat equipment cooperative, principles of operation and maintenance, to keep them in perfect working order and in constant readiness to fight;
- maintain high readiness and alignment team to lead the fight, to know the moral and professional quality of their subordinates;
- skill fully use monitoring devices, personally observe the enemy, signals platoon and activity of neighbours;
- know how to use a radio station and the inner voice equipment, to know the rules and modes of operation in the radio network;
- be able to lead combat vehicle from the enemy fire to the nearest secret, to keep firing of weapons team, to navigate the terrain, using observation instruments and topographic maps, determine the placement objectives and to draw them into the map (diagram) and the data transfer platoon leader;
- skilfully command team, to manage the fire and ensure the fulfilments of the tasks assigned for any situation within a specified time and with minimum losses;
- timely organize basic maintenance of equipment and techniques, while damage to report to the company commander to organize rescue (repair) and return to the unit;
- monitor the consumption of ammunition and fuel status report to the company commander to take measures to complement and set emergency supplies used only with the consent of the platoon commander;
- know the tasks squad and, if necessary, be prepared to be deputy commander of a platoon;
- know how to build explosive barricades and set up in them manually passages, staked out and set up fortification construction, to know the principles of camouflage;
- know the warning signs, signals to guide vehicles, battle management and other conventional signals and know how to use them.

Platoon commander and deputy commander of a platoon

Platoon leader reports to the company commander and he is responsible for the operation and knows how to use a platoon in combat (operations).

He **must know** the methods of warfare and know how to comply with them to use a platoon in battle, know the equipment and know how to wield weapons and armour platoon, know all the members of the crew, they know how to command and control their activities.

He is obligated to:

- command a platoon and manage its operations in all its activities in combat (operations);
- know the combat mission his platoon, company (battalion) and neighbors;
- know the situation and combat options platoon;
- know the specific situation of the enemy, its foreseeable and probable intention activities;
- organize the survey and observation of air and ground enemy;
- make quick decisions about the optimal way to achieve the (martial) task assigned platoon and the situations involved in their assessment of the situation and deciding deputy platoon commander;
- timely issue clear and unambiguous assignments consistently require subordinates and their performance, if necessary, refine their decisions in a timely manner;
- know how to manage the fight, skilfully use all means of fire and destruction of the enemy firing results;
- organize in platoons passive and active air defence measures;
- know ways to protect against the effects of weapons of mass destruction, high-precision weapons and radio electronic means the enemy;
- organize and implement measures that are necessary for the support, security and protection of crew members;
- within specified deadlines to submit company commander (superior) report and explain their decisions to submit his requirements and require IT support and security they need to accomplish the task;
- know subordinated obligations (deputy platoon leader and squad leaders);
- operate equipment and other equipment platoon;
- know and use every situation skilfully warning signals, to control the fight, manoeuvre and guidance for vehicles;
- know how to use fasteners squad, know the rules of traffic in the radio network and manage radio traffic in the platoon;
- monitor the consumption of ammunition, fuel and other materials, ensure that the established limits (standards) of their consumption, timely reporting company commander achieve and require replenishment;
- behave in a way that was an example and role model for subordinated in an activity, behavior, morality and professional skills;
- not to allow members of the crew violated the norms of international humanitarian law violations and report their supervisor.

Company Commander:

He is subordinate to the battalion commander and is responsible for the activities of the company use in combat (operations).

He **must know** the methods of warfare and know how to comply with them to use the platoon in battle, know the equipment and weapons and know how to operate Equipment Company, know all the members of the company and they know how to command and control their activities.

He is **responsible** for the level of training, discipline, moral status, combat and mobilization readiness of subordinate units for the successful completion of assigned tasks within specified time limits and in compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law.

The Company Commander is required in carrying out the (martial) company of the tasks in particular:

- know the moral and professional qualities directly subordinate commanders, commanding them personally and to create space for the implementation of initiatives and activities;
- constantly be up to date on the situation of his subordinate units, their level of readiness and combat capabilities, as well as the situation and probable intention of the enemy;
- continuously organize survey the enemy;
- know the occasion to (intention) to combat the superior (especially combat mission battalion, his company and neighbours) and within it separately receive fair and reasoned decisions in a timely manner and issue tasks assigned platoons and units;
- manage the preparation of the fight, organize cooperation, security and protection activities of subordinate units;
- personally manage the company and fight, as the situation specify the tasks and assigned subordinate units and organize their cooperation;
- maintain a reliable connection with superiors, subordinates and co-operating units;
- always operate on the most important activities of the company and the direction in time to influence the course of the fighting all organic and assigned units and resources company, effective use of the effects of firing the destruction of the enemy and strive to fulfil the tasks assigned to the destruction of the enemy;
- show boldness, initiative, resourcefulness and determination to fulfill combat missions regardless of the hardship and danger of loss of life, instill these qualities to all subordinate and personal example;
- inform the senior commander on the situation the company and his decisions, he immediately reports to the fulfilments of the tasks assigned, new data on the opponent, sudden changes in the situation, loss of status and security of ammunition and fuel and make him sure about security company in the task.

Tasks list for students:

To prepare for the practice:

- learn the organizational structure of the combat units with the emphasis on the command structure of command authorities

Develop work (in the form of presentations) **on the following topics:**

- ✓ Task Force and the structure of command and control (command and control authorities to the company level - including),
- ✓ general tasks commanders and their application in combat (clarification forms of reasoning),
- ✓ obligations of individual commanders and deputy commander of troops in combat.

To begin training to meet the challenges of the course in Moodle,

References and further reading

1. ČERNÝ, J., HRŮZA, P., JAROŠ, V. *Systém velení a řízení v operacích*. Brno:, 2011, 139 s. ISBN 978-80-7231-836-0
2. SMARTbook. The battle Staff. Plan, design, prepare, execute, assess. The Lighting Press. 2014.
3. HANDBOOK. *The battle Staff NCO*. Tactics, techniques and Procedures. 2008.
4. *FM 7-8 Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad*. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Washington, DC, 22 April 2014
5. *FM 3-21.8 the infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad*. HQ DEPARTMENT OF THE US ARMY. MARCH 2007.