

SE8750FG

MCPP OVERVIEW FACULTY GUIDE (Reduced for evaluation criteria)

Planning is the art and science of envisioning a desired future and laying out effective ways of bringing it about.

- Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP) 5, *Planning*

1. Purpose and Overview

Welcome to 8750, MCPP Overview. In the next eight lessons, you will be leading your seminar through the MCPP. These lessons will go over the steps of MCPP to include a practical exercise, which addresses a problem set in the country of Tunisia. In these eight lessons, you will be assessing your students on seminar contributions, planning participations, planning products, and reflective journaling. Grading will be consolidated for the entire MCPP lessons. The cumulative collaboration participation max point value for all practical application (PA) lessons is 60 points and consolidated products for the PA are worth 27 points. There will be no quizzes for lessons that have a PA. Learner input for the issues for consideration seminars/discussion board lessons (8750, 8755, 8760, 8770, and 8785) will be consolidated to a maximum of 100 points. There will be two times where students will journal during the MCPP block. Once after the SE8765 lesson and the other after the SE878. Journal grades will not be consolidated and are worth 16 points each.

Remind students that even though the Marine Corps Planning Process (MCPP) has evolved over the past decade, it still tracks with the other Services and joint planning processes, and it is also compatible with Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES).

8750 introduces the MCPP through the planning concepts of **operational design** (understanding the problem and environment that informs the commander's concept and COA development), **top-down planning** (commander's personal involvement), **the single battle** (deep, close, rear, distributed indivisible entity), **integrated planning** (warfighting functions and lines of operation/lines of effort), **future operation planning (FOP)** (resulting in the publishing and transition of an Operation Order), **MCPP steps** (an overview of each step of the MCPP and how the steps relate to each other), **Operational Planning Team (OPT) and Joint Planning Group (JPG), and OPT Planning Preparations, and Operation BARBARY SWORD** (introduction).

The commander is responsible for driving the planning process. The first step of the MCPP is called "problem framing". (Problem framing is called "mission analysis" in the Joint Planning Process and every other service planning process.) The MCPP first step name difference stresses the importance of design—achieving a greater understanding of the environment (current state and desired state) and the nature of the problem (problem set) to identify an appropriate conceptual solution (framing the environment, problem, mission and solution). Design is conceptual and involves critical thinking—high-order cognitive skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Design is a continuous activity not an isolated event, occurring only during problem framing. Chapter 1, "Planning Overview", of the 5-10 also states, "planning is a complex process of interacting activities with feedback loops." Planning is not a simple sequence of steps; any one step of the process may involve multiple activities or feedback into a previous step. Also, although the doctrinal operational phasing model for major operations and campaigns—

Shape>Deter>Seize Initiative>Dominate>Stabilize> Enable Civil Authority—seems linear, combat and stabilization are neither sequential nor binary alternatives; the Joint Force Commander (JFC) must integrate and synchronize stability operations with other operations—offense and defense—within each phase of any joint operation, beginning at planning initiation.

2. Method

This is a Socratic seminar that introduces MCPP. You will be discussing 3 IFCs, and the seminar should last about one hour. To begin, it is recommended that you briefly highlight the next 7 MCPP lessons and requirements. Next, you will need to walk your learners through the planning resources that are available to them

3. Recommended Sequence

The following is a recommended sequence of events with estimated times. The sequence and allotted time are only a general guideline.

EVENT/ITEM	TOPIC	TIME
Introduction	MCCP and practical exercise overview	10 min
IFC a	How do the ideas on the nature of planning in Chapter 1 of MCDP 5 relate to maneuver warfare philosophy and John Boyd’s OODA Loop?	50 min
IFC b	Discuss the tenets of planning (single battle concept, integrated planning, and top-down planning). How are these tenets applied to tactical and operational problem sets as well as irregular and conventional operations?	
IFC c	Compare the steps of the MCPP and explain the relationship between each step.	

4. End State

Learners should be familiar with the MCPP in the context of maneuver warfare and understand the expectations of the planning exercise that supports this block of instruction.

5. Requirements

All instructors: Make sure your students view the lesson IMIs, for they include the road to war and commander's guidance, and it talks them through planning product examples. The IMIs will help students become more immersed in the practical exercise scenario and more comfortable with the MCPP, giving them a warm start on planning product development.

- a. Read the lesson card and required readings for the lesson.
 - 1) Read: SE8750REQA, MCDP 5, *Planning* (16 pages)
 - 2) Read: SE8750REQB, MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations* (4 pages)
 - 3) Read: SE8750REQC, *Terminology Overview* (4 pages)
 - 4) Review: SE8750REQD, BARBARY SWORD Exercise Guide, Key Events Timeline, "Crisis in Tunisia (Part 1), USAFRICOM BARBARY SWORD WARNING ORDER, CJTF FRAGORD 1, CJTF INTSUM 1, and II MEF FRAGO 01 (39 pages)
 - 5) Review: SE8750REQE, OPT Staff Billet Orientation (read only your specific billet assignment)

Reading Highlights

MCDP 5, *Planning* (1996): These excerpts illustrate the nature of planning.

MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations* (2017): Maneuver Warfare Philosophy and Mission Command "mission tactics is the assignment of a task to a subordinate without specifying how it must be accomplished, while the accompanying commander's intent provides the overall purpose behind the task." Joint doctrine describes this as "**Mission Command.**" (p. 1-3)

JP 5-0, *Joint Planning* (2020): This excerpt provides a basic understanding on lines of operation and lines of effort.

JP 3-0, *Joint Operations* (2017): This introduces the balance of offensive, defensive, and stability activities throughout a joint operation.

MCWP 5-10, *Marine Corps Planning Process* (2020): These excerpts provide a planning organization for planning and incorporation of the Red Team.

MSTP Pamphlet 5-0.2, *Operational Planning Team Guide* (2017): This excerpt on OPT preparation includes some insightful considerations the OPT should keep in mind while planning, to include time management (establishing milestones) and briefing

techniques.

b. Other Requirements

- 1) View: IMI SE8750, Marine Corps Planning Process Overview, Interactive Multimedia Instruction (36:00)
MCPP Overview IMI: While it continues to teach the steps of the MCPP through repetition, it also immerses the students into the practical exercise scenario and commander's guidance, and it provides course of action examples to facilitate a warm start on planning product development.

c. This lesson includes the following supplemental material:

- 1) Read: SE8750SUPA, MCWP 5-10, Marine Corps Planning Process (7 pages)
- 2) Read: SE8750SUPB, MCWP 5-10, Marine Corps Planning Process (11 pages)
- 3) Read: SE8750SUPC, MSTP Pamphlet 5-0.2, Operational Planning Team Leader's Guide (7 pages)
- 4) Read: SE8750SUPD, JP 3-0, *Joint Operations* (3 pages)
- 5) Review: SE8750SUPE MSTP MCPP overview (53 slides)

6. Issues for Consideration

Instructors should listen for connections to each of the IFCs from student discussion comments to be able to lead the discussion in the right direction.

a. How do the ideas on the nature of planning in Chapter 1 of MCDP 5 relate to maneuver warfare philosophy and John Boyd's OODA Loop?

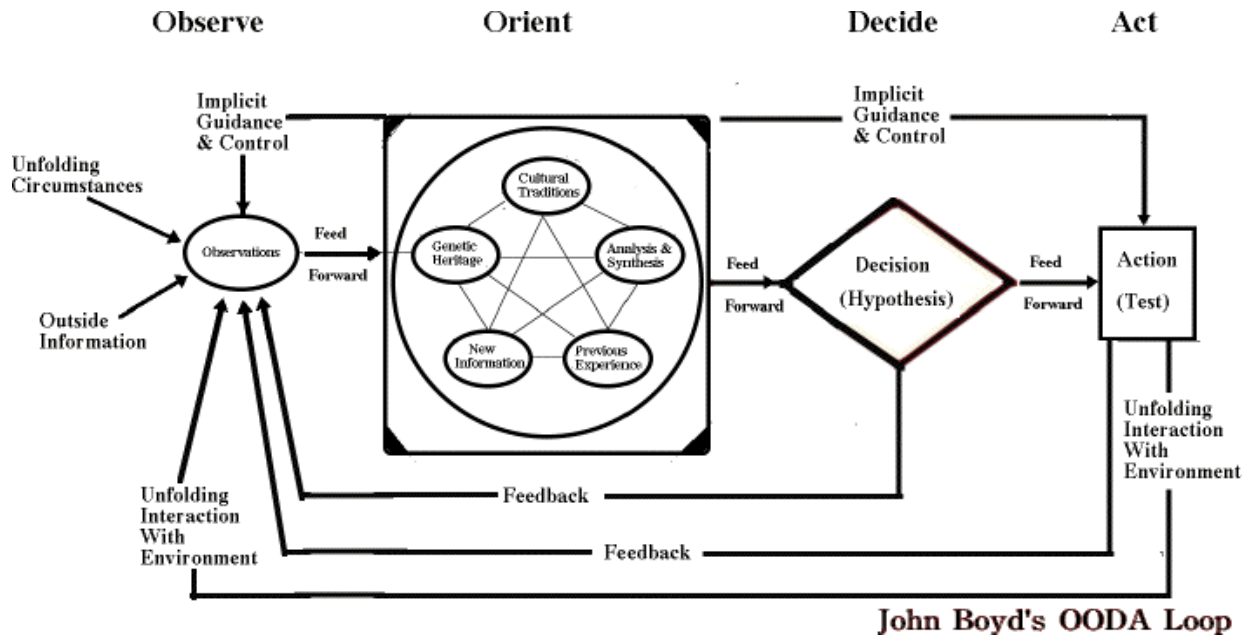
The purpose of this IFC is to identify the similarities of the ideas behind the nature of planning, maneuver warfare philosophy and the OODA Loop. If necessary refer to the reading SE8710REQB *Nurturing a Warfighting Mindset* to familiarize yourself with maneuver warfare philosophy and OODA Loop.

Listed below are the main points from those ideas.

- **NATURE OF PLANNING**
 - **Planning as Command and Control**
 - **The Functions of Planning and Plans**
 - **Uncertainty and Time: Planning for an Unknowable Future**

- **WARFIGHTING PHILOSOPHY**

- **BOYD'S OODA LOOP**



In the context of Variety, Harmony, Rapidity and Initiative another one Boyd's ideas on successful military organizations, a good plan that has options built into it on potential situational changes has a characteristic of variety. The plan itself will provide the harmony to focus unity of effort on the desired goal and will allow subordinates to use their initiative to act more rapidly than their opponent thus changing the enemy's reality in a time where they cannot adapt or cope thus causing the enemy system to collapse.

- b. **Discuss the tenets of planning (single battle concept, integrated planning, and top-down planning). How are these tenets applied to tactical and operational problem sets as well as irregular and conventional operations?**
- c. **Compare the steps of the MCPP and explain the relationship between each step.**