UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS SCHOOL
WEAPONS TRAINING BATTALION
TRAINING COMMAND
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QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5043

STUDENT OUTLINE

CA ASSESSMENTS

0531-114

CIVIL AFFAIRS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER COURSE

M02AAPD

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

a. **TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

(1) Given a mission, Commander's intent, and an area study, conduct civil reconnaissance, to provide the commander specific information on the civil component, the elements of which are best represented at the tactical level by using ASCOPE in accordance with MCRP 3-33.1A, Chapter 5. (0531-EXE-2002)

(2) Given a mission, Commander's intent, and a designated AO, conduct CA assessments, to provide the commander with timely, accurate, and relevant civil information to support mission objectives in accordance with MCRP 3-514 33.1A Chapter 2. (CACT-EXE-2007)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

(1) Without the aid of references, define the purpose of an area study, in accordance with the FM 3-05.40, Annex D. (0530-EXE-2002a)

(2) Without the aid of references, identify types of assessments, in accordance with MCWP 3-17.4, Ch 2. (CACT-EXE-2007a)

(3) Without the aid of references, define the basic services necessary to sustain a local population, in accordance with MCWP 3-17.4 Appendix C. (CACT-EXE-2007b)

(4) Without the aid of a reference, identify tactical conflict survey (TCS) questions, in accordance with MCWP 3-33.1 Appendix C. and Appendix G. (CACT-EXE-2007c)

(5) Given a scenario, simulated infrastructure and role players, supervise an infrastructure assessment, in accordance with the PE checklist. (0530-EXE-2002b)

(6) Given assessment venues, and with the aid of references, complete an ASCOPE-PMESII matrix in accordance with the PE checklist. (CACT-EXE-2007d)

(7) Given a civil engagement scenario, and using the MARCIMS portal, aggregate tactical conflict survey (TCS) data, in accordance with the PE checklist. (CACT-EXE-2007e)

1. **CA AREA STUDY**. The CA Area Study is a prescribed collection of specific information pertaining to a given area developed from sources available. It is developed before the receipt of mission in an area or country where missions are possible. The CA area study enables CA Marines to make assumptions of possible needs in the designated area. The area study is a snapshot in time. Conditions are constantly changing and the information may become dated quickly. The area study is a process common to all CA Marines. CA Marines obtain, analyze, and record information. Area studies may be prepared for a specific country, a region within the world, or a region within a country such as province or state.

a. **Usage/Purpose**. The CA area study is the initial planning tool based on the commander's intent. The purpose of the area study is to assist the commander in preparing initial CMO estimates. The information acquired through the CA area study should serve as the foundation for all other assessments, i.e. preliminary assessments, deliberate assessments, etc.

b. **Mission Preparation**. The Area Study can help the CA unit and the MAGTF as a whole to:

(1) Understand the operational environment.

(2) Recognize the economic, social, cultural, and political implications.

(3) Facilitate interagency and other organizations' activities.

(4) Consider secondary and tertiary effects.

(5) Develop potential courses of action.

(6) Identify Host Nation (HN) capacity (infrastructure).

c. The area study provides a base of information which will allow CMO planners to predict the effects and consequences to the civilian populace due to military decisions and actions. These consequences may have an impact on the following aspects of the civil dimension:

(1) Political. A multitude of interrelated issues, positions, and interests associated with the agendas of various groups or individuals.

(2) Economic. This pertains to economic activity at all levels (local, provincial, national and international).

(3) Psychological. This refers to the mental impact on the civilian populace as well as their attitudes and beliefs.

(4) Environmental. Military operations impact the physical environment and how civilians interact with their physical environment.

(5) Legal. This refers to the HN judicial systems (courts, policing, jails/prisons) as well as international law (the Geneva-Hague Conventions) to safeguard noncombatant life and property.

d. **Civil Considerations**. Civil considerations also affect larger long-term diplomatic, economic, and informational issues. Discounting these issues can tax military or government resources and can hinder the transition of operations to follow-on elements. If the military mission is to support civil authorities, civil considerations define the mission. Civil considerations can be identified through assessments and with the aid of tools such as an ASCOPE/PMESII and METT-T+C analysis.

e. **CA Area Study Format**. There is no single format for an area study. Individual commands will set their policy or guidance. You may use the format in the FM 3-05.40 (Civil Affairs Operations) appendix D as a guide. The CA Area Study is usually divided into two major sections:

(1) Section 1. The 'General' section discusses:

(a) Geography

(b) History

(c) People

(d) U.S. interest

(e) Foreign Nation FN support

The general section, when done separately may be used as a basic, stand-alone document.

(2) Section 2. Closely mirrors the six Functional Specialty Areas that Army CA units practice: Governance, Rule of

Law, Economic Stability, Infrastructure, Public Health and Welfare, Public Education and Information. Although CA Marines are generalists, the Army's area study format (based on the six Functional Specialty Areas) is a useful tool to serve as a general guideline.

2. **RESEARCH**. Area Study information can be obtained from various sources. The most difficult part of collecting information from outside of the area is finding current, relevant, and reliable information.

a. **Open Source Information**. Open source information is obtained from resources that can be accessed by the general public. The internet has become the main tool for open source research.

b. **Restricted Source Information**. Restricted source information is obtained from resources that are not accessible to the general public. Utilizing restricted information is acceptable however it's inclusion into the final document will make sharing with NGOs and IGOs difficult.

c. **Internet**. Use caution when using websites that are not considered scholarly. Wikipedia is not scholarly.

d. **Other Sources of Information**. Human sources (personal contact) can provide information that can be used (telephone conversations or emails). If you are relieving another unit, use transition materials/workbooks/AARs to obtain information.

(1) **Civil Information Management (CIM)**. Civil Information Management (CIM) is the core task that has an impact on all other core tasks. CIM has the capability to geo-reference and interface pertinent civil and threat data to assist in developing the civil inputs to the common operation picture (COP). CIM may reveal trends in the civil dimension. Through the proper use of CIM, CA Marines can share and disseminate information to other staff sections, inter-organizational partners, the host nation, IGOs and NGOs (as appropriate).

3. **AREA ASSESSMENTS**. CA teams conduct assessments upon receipt of a mission, upon arrival in a designated operational area, continuously during operations, and as directed for special or emergency cases. The purpose of each assessment is to determine current conditions, compare them to a defined norm and established standards, and identify needs or requirements that

the CMO and/or CAO can address. This includes the needs and requirements of the supported commander or organization associated with the mission, and the local populace.

a. **Preliminary Assessment**. Preliminary assessment is conducted upon receipt of mission but before an actual deployment. It is the first step of mission analysis (METT-T+C) and feeds into the Civil Preparation of the Battlefield (CPB). A preliminary assessment is the commander's prescribed collection of specific information that commences upon receipt of the mission and is a continuous operation. It confirms, corrects, refutes, or adds to previous information acquired from area studies and other sources prior to deployment.

This requires planners to make assumptions until information shortfalls can be answered through a more detailed and deliberate assessment made upon entry into the AO. Objectives of the Preliminary Assessment are:

(1) Analyze known information about the situation or conditions in the AO.

(2) Relate U.S. policy, goals, and objectives to the current situation.

(3) Determine the best use of assigned assets to meet mission challenges.

b. **Deliberate Assessment**. Deliberate assessments are conducted upon entry into the AO, continuously throughout an operation, or as directed for special or emergency cases. The deliberate assessment is characterized by firsthand observation.

(1) Objectives of the Deliberate Assessment are:

(a) To validate the preliminary assessment.

(b) To finalize or modify operations planned prior to deployment into the AO.

(2) There are three types of deliberate assessments, initial assessments, rapid assessments, and surveys.

(a) Initial Assessment. An initial assessment is conducted upon entry into the designated AO. It is the first physical assessment that the CA Marine will conduct. Keep in mind that it is very likely that the location/group/individual

has been visited or interviewed previously. The objectives or focus of the initial assessment should be broad yet manageable; for example, assess general conditions of the AO in the areas of public health, public safety, public works and utilities, civil information, and emergency services. During the initial assessment, the CA team takes a cursory look at the conditions of the area as directed by the mission statement. Using the principles of METT-T+C for analyzing a situation, the CA team visits locations that will most likely provide the information it has been directed to find. Sources of pertinent information include municipal government and public safety offices, hospitals, medical clinics, feed centers, and HN, UN, and NGO relief sites.

(b) Rapid Assessment. A rapid assessment should determine current conditions, capabilities, or attitudes of a specific village, facility, or population group. The objectives or focus for the rapid assessment should be well defined. Rapid assessments can also be used for emergencies, single issues, or special situations. Items that may be addressed during a rapid assessment include:

1. Status of dislocated civilians and their movement routes.

2. Capacity of local emergency services following a natural disaster.

3. Status of key infrastructure such as hospitals, dams, railroads, bridges, and cell phone towers.

(c) Surveys. Surveys are detailed assessments (on-going or directed) in which the object of the assessment is examined carefully; these objects are identified during the conduct of the deliberate assessment. Surveys can be conducted on individuals, facilities, groups, locations, and capabilities within a specific system. Fortunately, the conduct of surveys is greatly enhanced through the use of pre-existing forms and templates. Although these forms and templates can be utilized across the spectrum of deliberate assessments, they prove particularly useful during surveys. In addition to JCIM forms found in the MARCIMS portal, and templates found in MCWP 3-17.4, *Engineer Reconnaissance,* Appendix "C", Marines can utilize survey tools such as the Tactical Conflict Survey (TCS) which is designed to survey individuals within a local area. The objectives of surveys are to:

1. Identify patterns, trends, and indicators.

2. Update requirements for follow on CA forces.

3. Validate or assess measures of effectiveness.

4. Identify capabilities and capacities to include shortfalls and resiliencies of surveyed items.

(d) Tactical Conflict Surveys (TCS). CMO and stability planners task CA personnel with interviewing certain segments of the local society in order to answer specific questions. However, in the absence of any formulated survey information, the tactical conflict survey (TCS) method may be used to gather local perceptions and to validate the execution of proposed stability activities. The TCS is designed to facilitate discussions with locals and to identify local causes of (In)Stability during initial civil engagement. The four questions are:

1. Has the number of people in the village changed in the last year? Why?

2. What are the most important problems facing the village? Why?

3. Who do you believe can solve your problems? Why?

4. What should be done first to help the village? Why?

5. All questions are followed by asking: "why" for as many iterations until a clear sight picture of local (In)Stability dynamics can be determined. This data is compiled and processed for making subsequent targeting decisions, but is also maintained in a civil information management (CIM) data base as baseline information needed for subsequent analysis on performance and effectiveness. Application of the TCS method should be practiced so that questions are asked in a similar fashion during each engagement, but are woven in normal conversation that is transparent to the audience. Simply stated, the employment of TCS requires significant prior planning and training.

4. **CIVIL RECONNAISSANCE (CR)**. Civil Reconnaissance is the targeted, planned, and coordinated observation and evaluations

that focus on the civil aspects of the environment. CR focuses specifically on the civil component through the ASCOPE/PMESII analysis. CR assists CMO planners and CA Marines in completing detailed planning for CMO to be conducted. CR can be conducted by any unit (not just CA units). CA units may lack the equipment and personnel needed for CR. Utilizing other units to conduct CR is an efficient use of MAGTF resources. Working with engineers, Military Police, and aviation assets (manned or UAV) demonstrates how the entire MAGTF can play a role in CR.

a. **Civil Reconnaissance Checklist**. The following are examples of how an ASCOPE/PMESII crosswalk can be used to develop questions that may assist CA Marines (and others) in planning and conducting civil reconnaissance:

(1) Who are the civilians we might encounter in our area of operations? How are they organized? What are the tribal lines? What are the ethnic lines?

(2) Where, why, and when might we encounter them?

(3) What activities are civilians engaged in that might affect MAGTF operations?

(4) Are they supporting the police and other indigenous Security forces?

(5) How might MAGTF operations affect civilian activities (economic, social, political, etc.)?

(6) While assessing the impact of MAGTF operations, the CA Marine should consider the following:

(a) Health and Nutrition

(b) Sewage, Water, Electricity, Academics, Trash, Medical, Safety, assessments via SWEAT-MSO

(c) Availability of Food

(d) Shelter/Living Areas

(e) Logistics/Movement of Goods and Services

(7) Critical Infrastructure (basic services) consists of the facilities (municipal or private) that allow for the provision of basic services which sustain a populace or society.

By utilizing the acronym SWEAT-MSO, the CA Marine can determine which elements of the local infrastructure require restoration. Recommendations for the prioritization of restoration efforts (if needed) are one vital way the CA Marine can assist the commander and the overall mission. Identification of critical infrastructure capacity will vary from mission to mission.

5. **PLANNING**. Assessments are an important aspect to future planning endeavors.

a. **The CMO Staff Estimate**. This estimate provides a timely examination of factors that support decision making and can affect mission accomplishment. Depending on the level of command and the time available, the estimate could be a formal, detailed written document or an informal verbal briefing. It is both a process and a product. The process calls for a disciplined approach to collecting and processing information (i.e., CIM), and recording the results. Automated tools such as databases give the CMO planner the flexibility and responsiveness needed to tailor the estimate to meet a variety of requirements (e.g., MARCIMS). The CMO staff estimate is a living document that is continuously refined, as additional information becomes available. A current estimate allows the CMO planner to quickly provide accurate information to meet planning requirements as they change. The coordinating staff and each staff principle develop facts, assessments, and information that relate to their functional field.

REFERENCES:

MCRP 3-33.1A Civil Affairs Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures
MCWP 3-17.4 Engineer Reconnaissance (Appendix C)

Notes: