



The Warning Order



A warning order is "a preliminary notice of an order or action which is to follow." It is issued by the commander at the outset of receipt of an order from higher. The warning order is issued prior to beginning the planning process in order to allow subordinate leaders and units to maximize their preparation time. If you are receiving this message you are currently in your preparation time for TBS. This monthly warning order will provide you with information to help focus your efforts prior to checking in.

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Physical Preparation

Over the course of your six months at The Basic School, you will hike over 50 miles, spend more than 16 nights in the field, successfully complete several individual skill events, and continually ask you body to perform at a high level to be successful at the task at hand.

Pro Tip: It is never too early to begin a training regiment for the rigors of The Basic School. The regiment should not only include a workout routine, it must be complimented by a good diet and stretching program that is balanced. Be careful to not over train and injure yourself as a result. For helpful tips on nutrition, exercise, and mental fitness see the Human Performance Resources: hprc-online.org

CONTACT US

The Basic School
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Mentor & Questions

If you would like a TBS Officer to help prepare you for the program of instruction, please contact us:

[TBS Student Liaison Officers@usmc.mil](mailto:TBS_Student_Liaison_Officers@usmc.mil)

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FAMILY READINESS

Military OneSource is the confidential Department of Defense funded one stop shop program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to service members and their families. Areas of assistance include financial, legal, education, health, employment, recreation, travel, moving, counseling services, and many more. We've even heard of people calling them to ask how to cook a turkey. Call 800-342-9647 or visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

This month takes a look at preparing for The Basic School and beyond through financial planning, pre-combat checks, and professional military education. Finally, The Basic School uses an online learning resource called Moodle to distribute all student handouts, quizzes, and references. Ensure that you have set up you MarineNet account prior to checking in to TBS so that you can access the information. If you have not done so already please visit the following website and create your account: www.marinenet.usmc.mil

As mentioned in our "Contact Us" section, if you have any questions or would like a TBS mentor, please send your question or request to [Student Liaison Officers@USMC.mil](mailto:Student_Liaison_Officers@USMC.mil).



Echo Co 5-19, running the Endurance Course



Charlie Co 3-19, conducting a live fire range

PRE-COMBAT CHECKS

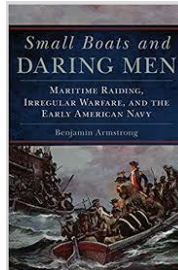
The USMC OCS Candidate Knowledge Booklet states the following: "Pre-combat Checks (PCCs) and Pre-combat Inspections (PCIs) ensure that you and your unit are adequately prepared to execute operations and training according to standard. They are the detailed final checks that all units conduct before and during training and combat operations. You must perform checks and inspections before each event or exercise to check personnel, equipment, vehicles, and mission knowledge."

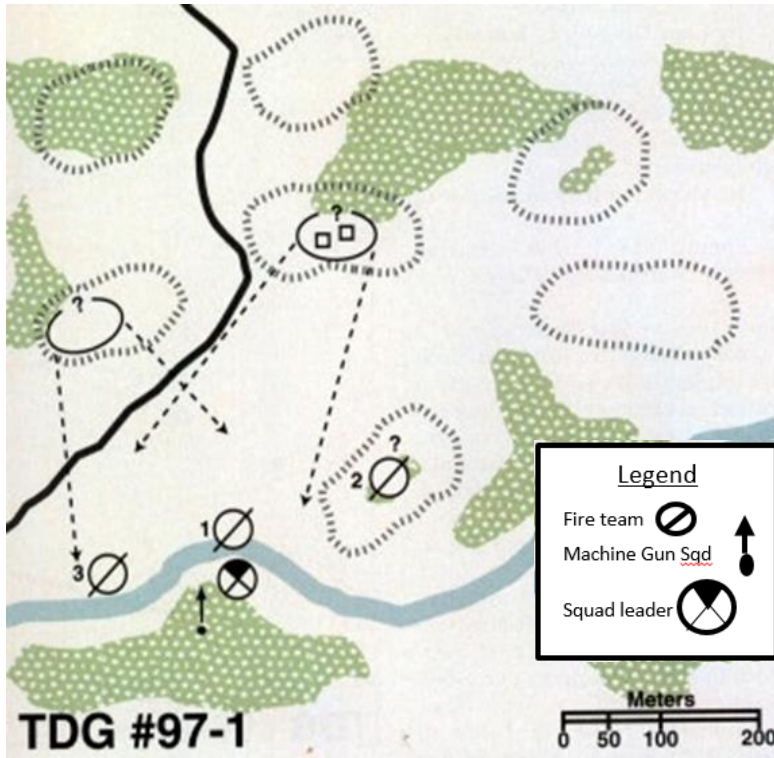
Why does all of this matter? To answer this, let us refer back to our fundamental doctrine: Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP)- 1 Warfighting. MCDP-1 describes the nature of war as a "combination of battlefield dynamics". One of these dynamics is friction which can be broken down in to four distinct types; however, let's focus on just two: physical and mental friction. Physical friction can be mitigated by ensuring that the unit has the gear necessary for mission success prior to stepping off. Similarly, mental friction can be alleviated if it is confirmed that the unit possesses the knowledge necessary to deal with contingencies during the mission.

In closing, I would like to provide an anecdote in order to describe why PPC's/PCI's, or lack thereof, matter to me personally. As a BOC student at TBS I was instructed to bring a map and map pens to the Phase III Written Exam. The morning of the exam I grabbed my map and Rite in the Rain. I usually kept a map pen or two in my Rite in the Rain, so that morning I did not bother to check. An hour and a half into the exam when I reached the mapping section of the exam I pulled out my Rite in the Rain only to discover that there were no map pens inside. I realized two things that day: 1.) #2 pencils do not write very well on a laminated map. 2.) It is imperative to check your gear before execution. -2ndLt Heyduk

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Book of the month: Benjamin Armstrong's *Small Boats and Daring Men*, spotlights the common irregular warfare tactics of the early American navy and takes them out of the shadow of the more commonly told stories of large fleet on fleet open water engagements. These tactics relied on trust between commanders, broad commanders' intent, and initiative by junior Navy and Marine Corps leaders. The book offers lessons in officership, leadership, and mission accomplishment that have survived the test of time and were influential to early US naval success.





You are a squad leader in 3d Battalion, 4th Marines. The battalion is making a movement to contact, moving north. You are fighting lightly-equipped infantry that rely on ambush and hit-and-run tactics. They will stand and fight when they have the advantage but will flee when the odds are against them. Your squad is approaching the Mounds. As 1st Fire Team exits the woods to the south, you see the Marines quickly drop and begin firing at the enemy who simultaneously opens fire from the north. The 1st Fire Team leader points out enemy positions on the two mounds to your direct front. You estimate the enemy to be about platoon size. You lost contact with 2nd Fire Team once the engagement started. The machineguns are behind you in the woods. On your left, 3rd Fire Team has taken up prone positions just north of the streambed. You hear automatic weapons fire from the mound to your right, and assume it must be 2d Fire Team. The 3d Fire Team leader contacts you and asks "Do you want us to assault that position on the left?" What'll it be, Sergeant?

Requirements:
In a time limit of 2 minutes, issue any orders and/or describe any additional actions you will take. Then provide a sketch of your plan and an explanation of your decision, to include your estimate of the situation.

TBS GUNNER

Unexploded ordnance and you.
Throughout your time in the Marine Corps, the bases and training areas in which you will be operating may have been utilized for various purposes in the past. A beautiful lakeside camping area may have been a mortar impact area; a non-live fire training area may have been an old grenade range. This means that there is potential for you or your Marines to encounter an unexploded ordnance IN ANY AREA. If you happen upon an unidentified object, what you do next could save your life! **FIRST AND FOREMOST, LEAVE IT ALONE.** Any UXO could be unstable and needs to be treated as such. When in doubt get your leadership involved to help make the determination. Your life, and the Marines' lives to the left and right of you, depend on this.

-Gunner Eggers



MIKE CO PRO-TIPS

Financial Responsibility
TBS is a unique time in your Marine Corps career; it's a time to learn as much as you can about being an officer before checking in to your first unit. Along with learning to be a platoon commander, you are expected to learn about the everyday life of a Marine. What you may not expect is, not everything is taught in the classroom. Some aspects will need to be learned through experience, especially when it comes to being finically responsible. TBS can be expensive, with most students spending between 500-800 dollars on additional items. Just a few of these include: mandatory chow (not including MRE's), MOS mixers, classroom supplies, and extra gear for the field. There are some tips that can help alleviate the financial stress: Don't rush into buying every item you think you'll need. You will have some time before the Period of Instruction (POI) takes off to figure out what you need. Talk to your platoon and figure out who can buy some supplies and spread the financial burden amongst yourselves. Learn what gear will be helpful and what will rarely be used, most times the more expensive option isn't the best. Don't be afraid to ask for advice on savings from other Marines. Learn as much as you can about managing your finances in the BOC so you can help your Marines when you reach the fleet.

-2nd Lt Bazanos

LEADERSHIP

The last chapter of MCDP 1-3, *Tactics* is entitled, "Making it Happen". This chapter teaches that our education in tactical fundamentals must seek to develop three qualities in our leaders: creative ability, military judgement, and moral courage. Regardless of MOS or job, the complicated problems leaders face on the battlefield require the intersection of these three qualities. Creative ability should be fostered and developed; "No rules govern ingenuity". Independent and creative thought can overcome difficult situations for which there might not be a doctrinal answer. Military judgment is developed through both training and education which allows leaders to cut to the heart of a situation, identify the important elements and make a timely decision. Lastly, moral courage is the quality that enables leaders to make difficult decisions and see them through to completion regardless of personal cost.

TBS CHAPLAIN

The Basic School Chaplain provides for his own faith group (currently Protestant Christian); facilitates the practice of other faith groups; advises the command; and cares for all students, permanent personnel, and their dependents, regardless of faith group or religious belief. Capodanno Chapel holds weekly Protestant services on Sundays at 0900, Bible studies and other religious studies throughout the week, and remains open 24/7 for prayer, meditation, or reflection any time it is not otherwise in use. All counseling with a Navy chaplain is 100% confidential regardless of content, there are no exceptions. For more info contact the TBS Chaplain, LCDR Andrew Brod, andrew.brod@usmc.mil or 931.279.1750