

This is a sample document to show how org-mode and LaTeX can generate formatted PDFs, using an Army OPORD as an example. **It does not claim to be well-structured, doctrinally correct, or even useful.** It's just an example.

As an additional caveat, don't expect anyone ever to collaborate with you using this workflow. Again, this is just an example of what can be done. However, Emacs org-mode provides an excellent tool for note-taking, task tracking, and many other tasks. The same technique used in this document, with the addition of appropriate bibliography and formatting packages, can generate Chicago, APA, and other formats for research papers.

UNIT...
LOCATION...
August 4, 2024
OPORD 24-01

OPERATION ORDER 24-01 OPERATION TYPESET (UNCLASSIFIED – FOR TRAINING ONLY)

(Example using org-mode -> \LaTeX -> PDF to format an OPORD. ORDER based on example from GTA 07-10-003 Infantry Reference Card for Small Unit Leaders (Nov 2021).

Task Organization:

Describe the allocation of forces to support the commander's concept.

Weather: Weather and Light Data and General Forecast:

High	Moonrise	Sunrise	Wind Speed	Moonphase	BMNT
89	0342	0652	5mpg	New	0552
Low	Moonset	Sunset	Wind Direction	% Illumination	EENT
73	1900	0834	NE	0.1	2134

(Discuss the effects on friendly and enemy – for example, how does it affect your mission.) Visibility: Does it favor attacker or defender (illumination % and so forth)? Wind: Speed and direction (effects on obscuration and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear [CBRN]). Precipitation: Effects on trafficability, visibility, CBRN, and obscurants. Cloud Cover: Effects on aviation, visibility, and laser-guided munitions. Also, certain conditions enhance obscurant and chemical use.

Temperature: Effects on personnel and equipment use; air density affects aviation payloads and smoke operations.

Terrain: Analyze using the military aspects of terrain; obstacles, avenues of approach, key terrain, observation and fields of fire, and cover and concealment (often expressed in the Army memory aid OAKOC). The leader determines the effects of each aspect of terrain on both friendly and enemy forces. These effects translate directly into conclusions that can apply to friendly or enemy COAs. This procedure is to first identify where forces have difficulty moving (obstacles) then identifying areas where forces can travel (avenues of approach) become more evident. Leaders may analyze “OAKOC” in any order they choose.

- **Obstacles:** Identify both existing and manmade obstacles, specifically highlighting those on/around the objective.
- **Avenues of approach:** Identify routes (air, ground, mounted, dismounted) of attacking forces leading to their objectives or key terrain.
- **Key terrain:** Identify terrain that provides a marked advantage to whomever controls it. If present, identify DECISIVE TERRAIN that must be controlled for success of the unit.
- **Observation/fields of fire:** Identify areas that provide observation and engagement possibilities for direct and indirect fire systems. Focus on identifying such positions in and around the objective, for both friendly and enemy forces. Locate intervisibility lines: terrain that prevents observation from one point to another.
- **Cover and concealment:** Identify positions that provide cover (protection from fire) and concealment (protection from observation). Positions of cover can often be found on the forward slope of intervisibility lines.

(Discuss the effects on friendly and enemy in your area of operations –for example, how does it affect your mission.)

1 SITUATION

a. **Enemy Forces:**

- 1) The enemy situation in higher headquarters' OPORD (paragraph 1.a.) is the basis for this, but the leader refines this to provide the detail required by hissubordinates. Include enemysupport from higher,which may affect your mission.
 - a) **Composition:** Identify the enemy we are facing using (if available) enemy order of battle diagrams. (What is the enemy's task organization?) Also, identify the enemy's equipment (weapons and ranges, night vision device and more). Describe the number of enemy (STRENGTH) and number of weapons available.
 - b) **Disposition:** Where is the enemy and his weapon systems located? What is the enemy's mission? (Point to map or how on sand table.) Include both known and suspected locations.
 - c) **Capabilities:** What CAN the enemy do?
 - d) **Recent Activities:** Describe the enemy's most likely COA. If possible, use a sketch or sand table to aid in this description

b. **Friendly Forces:** This information is in paragraph 1b, 2 and 3 of higher headquarters' OPORD.

- 1) Include the mission, the commander's intent, and concept of operations for headquarters one and two levels up.
- 2) Identify the locations of units to the left, right, front, and rear. State those units' task and purpose and how those units will influence your unit, particularly adjacent unit patrols.

c. **Attachments and detachments.** Do not repeat information already listed under task organization. Try to put all information in the task organization. However, when not in the task organization, list units that are attached or detached to the headquarters that issues the order. State when attachment or detachment is to be effective if different from when the OPORD is effective (such as on order, on commitment of the reserve). Use the term "remains attached" when units will be or have been attached for some time.

2 MISSION

The leader concludes mission analysis by restating the mission. A mission statement is a short sentence or paragraph that describes the organization's essential task(s), purpose, and action containing the elements of who, what, when, where, and why. The five elements of a mission statement answer these questions, commonly referred to as the five Ws: Who will execute the linkup operation (unit or organization)? What is the unit's essential task (linkup, tactical mission task)?

3 EXECUTION

a. **Commanders Intent** The commander's intent is a clear, concise statement of what the unit must do and conditions the unit must establish with respect to the enemy, terrain, and civil considerations that represent the desired end state.

- When will the operation begin (by time or event) or what is the duration of the operation?
- Where will the operation occur (linkup point[s], area of operations, objective, grid coordinates)?
- Why will the force conduct the linkup operation (for what purpose)?

b. **Concept of operations.** The concept of operations may be a single paragraph, may be divided into two or more subparagraphs or, if unusually lengthy, may be prepared as a separate annex. The concept of operation is based on the COA statement generated during the third step of the troop-leading procedures. The concept statement should be concise and understandable, and describe in general terms how the unit will accomplish its mission from start to finish. The concept—

- Describes the employment of maneuver elements in the form of a concept statement.
- Identifies by subunit the main effort and supporting efforts.
- Describes a general plan of fire support or "scheme of fires" supporting movement and maneuver with fires.
- Describes the integration of other elements or systems within the operation. These include, for example, reconnaissance forces, surveillance assets, security forces, intelligence operations, engineers, and air defense.

c. **Scheme of movement and maneuver.** This paragraph addresses, in detail, the mechanics of the operations. Specifically address all subordinate units and attachments by name, giving each its mission in the form of a task and purpose. The main effort must be designated and all other subordinates' missions must relate to the main effort. (At the squad level, actions on the objective will comprise the majority of this

paragraph and therefore could address the plan for actions on the objective, engagement/disengagement criteria, an alternate plan in the event of compromise or unplanned movement of enemy forces, and a withdrawal plan. In other words, all actions of this unit from start of mission until completion.)

- d. **Scheme of fires.** Clarify scheme of fires to support the overall concept. This paragraph should state which maneuver unit is the main effort and has priority of fires, to include stating any essential fire support tasks (task, purpose, method, effect) that this has responsibility for firing. A target list worksheet and fire support overlay are referenced here, if applicable. Specific targets are discussed and pointed out on the terrain model.
- e. **Tasks to subordinate units.** Clearly state any tasks for each maneuver unit that reports directly to the headquarters issuing the order. List units in the same sequence as in the task organization, including reserves. Use a separate subparagraph for each maneuver unit. Only state tasks that are necessary for comprehension, clarity, and emphasis. Place tactical tasks that affect two or more units in coordinating instructions. Platoon leaders task their subordinate squads. Those squads may be tasked to provide any of the following special teams: reconnaissance, security, assault, support, aid and litter, enemy prisoner of war (EPW), search, clearing, and demolitions. Detailed instructions may also be given to platoon sergeants, radio telephone operators, compassmen, and pacemen.
- f. **Coordinating instructions.** List only instructions applicable to two or more units and not routinely covered in unit standard operating procedures (SOPs). This is always the last subparagraph in paragraph 3. Complex instructions should be referred to in an annex. Subparagraph f (1) to f (6) below are mandatory.
 - 1) Time schedule (rehearsals, back briefs, inspections, and movement).
 - 2) Commander's critical information requirement (CCIR).
 - a) Priority intelligence requirement (PIR) – Intelligence required by the commander for planning and decision making.
 - b) Friendly force information requirement (FFIR) – Information the commander needs about friendly forces available for the operation. May include personnel status, ammunition status, and leadership capabilities.
 - 3) Essential element of friendly information (EEFI) – Critical aspects of friendly operations that, if known by the enemy, would compromise, lead to failure, or limit success of the operation.
 - 4) Risk reduction control measures. These are measures unique to this operation and not included in unit SOPs and can include mission-oriented protective posture, operational exposure guidance, vehicle recognition signals, and fratricide prevention measures.
 - 5) Rules of engagement (ROE).
 - 6) Environmental considerations.
 - 7) Protection.
 - 8) Movement plan. Use terrain model and or sketch. State azimuths, directions, and grid coordinates.
 - a) Order of movement, formation, and movement technique.
 - b) Actions at halts (long and short).
 - c) Routes.
 - d) Departure and reentry of friendly lines.
 - e) Rally points and actions at rally points (plan must include initial rally point, objective rally point, enroute rally points, near-and far-side rally points, and reentry rally points and all other planned rally points to include grid location and terrain reference).
 - f) Actions at danger areas (general plan for unknown linear, small open areas and large open areas; specific plan for all known danger areas that unit will encounter along the route)

4 SUSTAINMENT

Address sustainment in the areas shown below as needed to clarify the concept of support. Subparagraphs can include:

- a. **General.** Reference the SOPs that govern the sustainment operations of the unit. Provide current and proposed company trains locations, casualty and damaged equipment collection points, and routes.
- b. **Logistics.**
 - 1) Supply (may also consider how the unit is fueled, fixed, sustained, manned, moved, and armed).
 - a) Class I – Rations plan.
 - b) Class V – Ammunition.
 - c) Class VII – Major end items (weapons).
 - d) Class VIII – Medical.
 - e) Class IX – Repair parts.
 - f) Distribution methods.

- 2) Transportation.
- 3) Services (laundry and showers).
- 4) Maintenance (weapons and equipment).
 - a) Medical evacuation and hospitalization. Method of evacuating dead and wounded, friendly and enemy personnel. Include priorities and location of casualty collection point (CCP)/alternate collection points.
 - b) Personnel support. Method of handling EPWs and designation of the EPW collection point.

5 COMMAND AND SIGNAL

- a. Command.
 - 1) Location of the higher unit commander and command posts (CPs).
 - 2) Location of unit key personnel and CP during each phase of the operation.
 - 3) Succession of command.
 - 4) Adjustments to the SOP.
- b. Signal.
 - 1) Automated net control device day is in effect.
 - 2) Methods of communication in priority.

LaTeX lets you add tables easily also ... eg. PACE for each Eschelon to Higher:

	Bn	CO	PL
P	FM	FM	FM
A	CPN	BFT	BFT
C	TACSAT	TACSAT	HF
E	HF	HF	FLARE/SMOKE
 - 3) Pyrotechnics and signals to include arm-and-hand signals.
 - 4) Code words.
 - 5) Challenge and password (used when behind friendly lines).
 - 6) Number combination (used when forward of friendly lines).
 - 7) Running password.
 - 8) Recognition signals (near/far and day/night).

ET_EX also lets us include images. Org-mode can do this with screenshots using `org-screenshot-take` or similar functions, depending on platform. See <https://orgmode.org/manual/Images-in-LaTeX-export.html> for sizing and rotation controls.

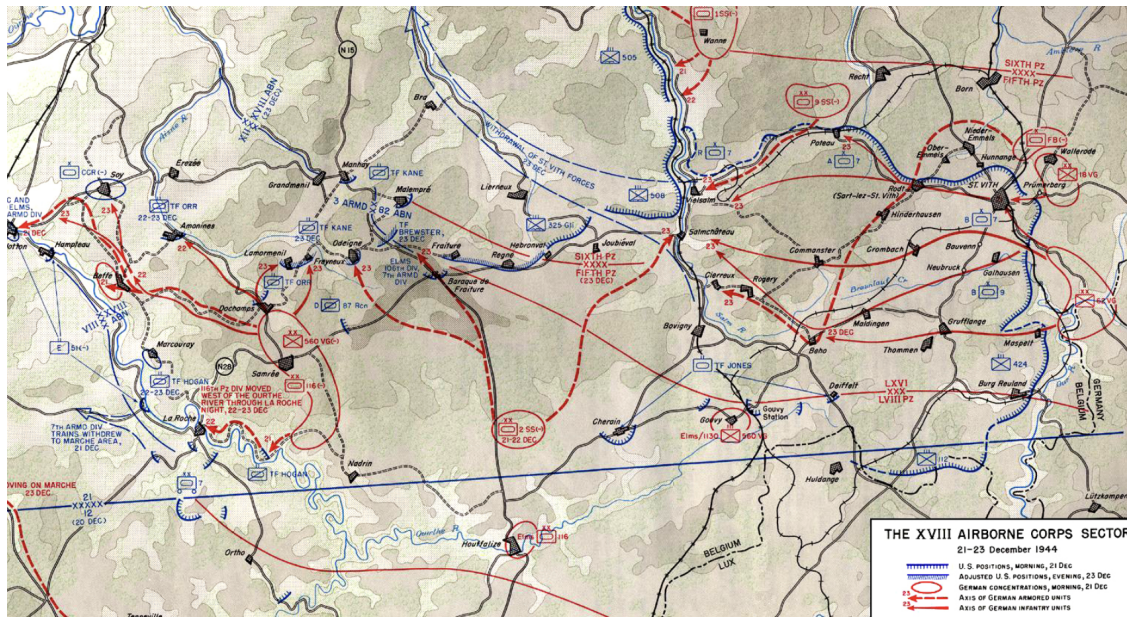


Figure 1: Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge, from <https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/7-8/notes/MapVII.jpg>.

6 Enclosures

- more stuff
- additional extra stuff