

(UNCLASSIFIED)

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**THIS IS A TRAINING OPERATION ORDER. FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.**

**References:** ATP 3-21.8, FM 3-90-1, TC 3-21.76, ADRP 1-02

**OPERATIONAL PLAN / ORDER #008 / CODE NAME: "PATROL BASE OPERATIONS"**

**CADRE / OPFOR NOTES**

**Complexity:** Moderate | **Recommended Phase:** RUN (Night Iterations - Coaching Focus)

**Mission Summary:** 1st Platoon is tasked to establish and occupy a patrol base in AO COTTO to conduct continuous operations, provide security, and enable sustainment for follow-on missions.

**Destination:** Patrol Base (PB) THUNDER, vicinity MP 0625 1555, AO COTTO.

**Actions on Objective:** Platoon will conduct a leader's reconnaissance, occupy the patrol base using the triangle or cigar-shaped technique, establish security, and conduct patrol base activities including security patrols, maintenance, and planning for follow-on operations.

**Training Focus:** This OPORD emphasizes security priorities, patrol base setup, and sustainment operations. Links directly to the Patrol Base Operations Training Package. Ideal for night training iterations where static operations allow focus on security fundamentals without the complexity of offensive maneuver.

**Evaluation Timeline:** For evaluated iterations, candidates will receive this OPORD and have 75 minutes to complete TLP Steps 1-8 before SP. Execution window is 60 minutes. AAR is 15 minutes.

**OPFOR/Training Wrinkles:**

- Simulate enemy reconnaissance probes during occupation or stand-to.
- Test candidate's ability to establish and maintain security priorities.
- Introduce resupply, casualty evacuation, or personnel issues during occupation.
- Cadre can inject intelligence updates requiring adjustment to the patrol base plan.
- Test ability to conduct patrol base activities while maintaining security.
- Introduce a compromise scenario requiring displacement or defense.

**NOTE:** UAS/Counter-UAS injects are OPTIONAL and should only be used if authorized by the Commandant and incorporated into the approved POI.

**Time Zone Used Throughout the Plan/Order:** EASTERN STANDARD TIME

**Task Organization:**

1st Platoon, A Co. 4th BN-211th INF  
Platoon Leader  
Platoon Sergeant  
1st Squad  
2nd Squad  
3rd Squad

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**1. SITUATION**

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**a. Area of Interest**

Clay County, Florida, in the vicinity of Starke and Highway 16. AO COTTO encompasses the area bounded to the north by Highway 16, to the east by the Starke city limits, to the south by the railroad tracks, and to the west by the pine forest edge. The planned patrol base site is in a wooded area with good concealment and defensible terrain.

## **b. Area of Operations**

**1. Terrain.** Camp Blanding features flat to gently rolling terrain with sandy soils, low-lying areas, and extensive pine and hardwood forests. The area includes open fields, dense underbrush, ponds, marshes, and wetlands. Vegetation provides concealment and limits long-range observation. Roads and trails serve as likely avenues of approach for both friendly and enemy forces. Terrain and soil conditions may restrict vehicle movement, especially in wet areas.

- **Key Terrain:** The planned patrol base site at MP 0625 1555 offers good concealment, defensible terrain, and access to covered withdrawal routes. The surrounding woodlines provide observation points for early warning. A small creek to the south provides a water source but may also canalize enemy approach. Elevated ground to the north offers observation of likely enemy avenues of approach.

**2. Weather.** Warm and humid, partly cloudy skies, temperature around 85°F, with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Limited visibility expected during nighttime operations; plan for EENT/BMNT stand-to procedures.

## **c. Enemy Forces**

The enemy consists of irregular forces operating in the area who actively patrol and conduct reconnaissance to locate friendly positions. They are equipped with small arms and may have support weapons. They are experienced in local terrain and may attempt to probe or attack friendly positions if discovered.

**1. Composition.** Estimated 6-8 personnel, small arms, possible support weapons, operating in 2-3 person reconnaissance teams and larger assault elements.

**2. Disposition.** Enemy forces are dispersed throughout the area, conducting patrols and reconnaissance. They maintain observation posts on likely routes and are prepared to report and engage friendly forces. Main body elements are positioned to reinforce reconnaissance teams if contact is made.

**3. Most Probable Course of Action (MPCOA).** Enemy reconnaissance elements detect friendly patrol base and conduct observation to assess strength and disposition. They report findings to higher and may conduct limited probing attacks to test friendly defenses before withdrawing to plan a larger operation.

**4. Most Dangerous Course of Action (MDCOA).** Enemy reconnaissance detects patrol base occupation and rapidly coordinates a multi-element attack. The enemy conducts a coordinated assault using indirect fire, support weapons, and assault elements to overwhelm friendly positions before reinforcements can arrive.

## **d. Friendly Forces**

**1. Higher Headquarters:** A Co. 4th BN – 211th INF.

**2. Mission.** A Company conducts area security operations in AO COTTO to deny enemy freedom of movement and enable follow-on offensive operations.

**3. Commander's Intent.** Establish a secure patrol base to enable continuous operations, maintain security of the platoon, and prepare for follow-on missions. The patrol base must be positioned and organized to allow rapid response to enemy contact while providing for sustainment and rest of the force.

## **e. Civil Considerations**

Local civilians may be present in the area. Patrol base operations must minimize detection and avoid contact with non-combatants to maintain operational security.

## **f. Attachments and Detachments**

None.

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## 2. MISSION

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1st Platoon establishes and occupies Patrol Base THUNDER (vicinity MP 0625 1555) NLT \_\_\_\_ to provide security, enable sustainment, and prepare for follow-on operations in AO COTTO.

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## 3. EXECUTION

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### a. Concept of Operations

1st Platoon conducts a leader's reconnaissance of the patrol base site, then occupies the patrol base using the appropriate technique (triangle or cigar-shaped based on terrain). Squads are assigned sectors of the perimeter with interlocking fields of fire. The platoon establishes security including observation posts, listening posts, and a security patrol schedule. The platoon conducts patrol base activities including weapons maintenance, personal hygiene, rest plan, and planning for follow-on operations. Stand-to is conducted at BMNT and EENT. The platoon maintains the capability to defend the patrol base or displace on order.

### b. Scheme of Movement and Maneuver

- Platoon halts short of patrol base site; PL conducts leader's reconnaissance with security element.
- Upon confirmation of site suitability, platoon moves to patrol base using designated technique.
- Squads occupy assigned sectors; each squad establishes fighting positions with interlocking fires.
- LP/OPs established on likely enemy avenues of approach.
- Patrol schedule established for local security patrols.
- Withdrawal routes identified and briefed to all personnel.

### c. Scheme of Fires

Defensive fires planned for likely enemy avenues of approach. Each squad responsible for fires within assigned sector. Priority of fires to the most likely avenue of approach (determined during leader's reconnaissance). Final protective fires (FPF) designated and briefed.

### d. Tasks to Subordinate Units

#### 1. 1st Squad:

- **TASK:** Occupy and defend the northern sector of PB THUNDER, establish fighting positions with interlocking fires, and conduct local security patrols as assigned.
- **PURPOSE:** Provide security of the northern perimeter and early warning of enemy approach from the most likely avenue of approach.

#### 2. 2nd Squad:

- **TASK:** Occupy and defend the southeastern sector of PB THUNDER, establish fighting positions with interlocking fires, and provide personnel for LP/OP duty as assigned.
- **PURPOSE:** Provide security of the southeastern perimeter and observation of the creek line approach.

#### 3. 3rd Squad:

- **TASK:** Occupy and defend the southwestern sector of PB THUNDER, establish fighting positions with interlocking fires, and serve as the quick reaction force if contact is made.
- **PURPOSE:** Provide security of the southwestern perimeter and immediate response capability to reinforce any sector under attack.

### e. Coordinating Instructions

#### 1. Patrol Base Priorities of Work (in order):

1. Security – Establish fighting positions, assign sectors, emplace LP/OPs
2. Withdrawal Plan – Identify routes, rally points, contingency plans
3. Communication – Establish internal comms, report occupation to higher
4. Weapons Maintenance – Clean and inspect all weapons
5. Water Resupply – Identify water source, establish water point security
6. Personal Hygiene – Establish latrine, personal hygiene area
7. Mess Plan – Establish eating schedule, cold meals to maintain noise discipline
8. Rest Plan – Establish sleep plan ensuring 50% security at all times

## **2. Rules of Engagement (ROE):**

1. Engage only confirmed enemy combatants posing a threat.
2. Use graduated response appropriate to the threat.
3. Challenge unknown personnel using challenge and password.
4. Report all contacts immediately.

## **3. Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR):**

1. Identify enemy reconnaissance or patrol activity in the area.
2. Monitor for enemy indirect fire positions or support weapons.
3. Assess civilian movement near the patrol base area.
4. Identify enemy assault positions or staging areas.

## **4. Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIR):**

1. Immediate reporting of any enemy contact or probing activity.
2. Status of security posture and any degradation.
3. Status of friendly forces, including any casualties and equipment failures.
4. Compromise of patrol base location.

## **5. Reporting:**

- **Report to higher when departing current location.**
- **In Position Report:** Upon completing patrol base occupation.
- **SALUTE Report:** Upon sighting enemy forces or indicators.
- **SITREP:** At designated times (every 4 hours minimum).
- **LACE Report:** Upon occupation and prior to displacement.

## **6. Stand-To Procedures:**

- Stand-to conducted 30 minutes before BMNT and 30 minutes before EENT.
- 100% alert during stand-to; all personnel in fighting positions.
- Stand-down only after PL or PSG conducts assessment and issues order.

7. This OPORD is effective immediately upon distribution.

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## **4. SUSTAINMENT**

### **a. Logistics**

1. Resupply not available for 24 hours.

2. Meal Cycle: M-M-M (cold meals; no open fires).
3. Water resupply point to be established within patrol base.
4. Class V (ammunition): Redistribute as needed; report any shortages.
5. Equipment maintenance: Conducted during priorities of work.

#### **b. Health System Support**

1. PLT CCP established within patrol base perimeter.
  2. Aid bag located at PL CP.
  3. MEDEVAC available via Nine Line request at AXP 1.
  4. Casualty evacuation routes: Same as withdrawal routes.
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### **5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL**

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#### **a. Command**

1. Platoon Leader at PLT CP (center of patrol base).
2. Platoon Sergeant supervises priorities of work and rest plan.
3. Succession of Command: PL, PSG, 1st SL, 2nd SL, 3rd SL.

#### **b. Control**

1. Command Posts: PL CP at center of PB THUNDER.
2. Alternate CP: 1st Squad sector.

#### **c. Signal**

##### **1. PACE Plan:**

- Primary: Radio FH NET ID 601
- Alternate: FH NET ID 600
- Contingency: Frequency 47000 single channel plain text
- Emergency: Runner

##### **2. Call Signs:**

- PL - Thunder 1-6
- PSG - Thunder 1-7
- 1st Squad Leader - Thunder 1-1
- 2nd Squad Leader - Thunder 1-2
- 3rd Squad Leader - Thunder 1-3

##### **3. Challenge, Password, Running Password, Combination:**

- Challenge: Base
- Password: Secure
- Running Password: Thunder
- Combination: 8

##### **4. Signals:**

- Stand-to: Three short whistle blasts (or radio call "Stand-to, stand-to, stand-to")
- All clear: One long whistle blast (or radio call "Stand down")

- Compromise/Displacement: Red star cluster (or radio call "Displace, displace, displace")
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## **ANNEX A: PATROL BASE SITE SELECTION CRITERIA**

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The following criteria should be evaluated during leader's reconnaissance:

1. **Defensibility:** Terrain supports defense; good fields of fire; covered withdrawal routes.
  2. **Concealment:** Site not visible from likely enemy observation points; overhead concealment from aerial observation.
  3. **Covered Routes:** Multiple covered and concealed routes into and out of the patrol base.
  4. **Away from Key Terrain:** Not on obvious terrain features that enemy would likely reconnoiter.
  5. **Away from LOCs:** Not adjacent to roads, trails, or waterways that facilitate enemy movement.
  6. **Water Availability:** Near but not on a water source.
  7. **Supports Mission:** Positioned to facilitate follow-on operations without significant movement.
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## **ANNEX B: PATROL BASE OCCUPATION TECHNIQUES**

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### **Triangle Formation:**

- Used when terrain permits equal distribution of squads.
- Each squad occupies one point of the triangle.
- PL/PSG CP at center.
- Best for short-duration patrol bases (less than 24 hours).

### **Cigar-Shaped Formation:**

- Used in restrictive terrain (draws, ridgelines).
  - Squads arranged in elongated perimeter.
  - Provides better all-around security in confined terrain.
  - Best when terrain canalizes the patrol base site.
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### **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

MATTHEW WAGNER  
CPT, FA  
FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

### **OFFICIAL:**

CPT COTTO  
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