

(UNCLASSIFIED)

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

References: ATP 3-21.8, ATP 3-20.98, FM 3-90-2, ADRP 1-02

OPERATIONAL PLAN / ORDER #005 / CODE NAME: "AREA RECONNAISSANCE"

CADRE / OPFOR NOTES

Complexity: Lower | **Recommended Phase:** WALK (Blocks 1-2), RUN (Day Iterations)

Mission Summary: 1st Platoon is tasked to conduct an area reconnaissance in AO COTTO to locate REAPER positions, assess REAPER strength and disposition, and identify key terrain features.

Destination: AO COTTO, bounded by Highway 16 (north), old railroad bed (south), Starke city limits (east), and pine forest edge (west). Focus area around suspected REAPER position at MP 0613 1532.

Actions on Objective: Platoon will establish an ORP, conduct reconnaissance of the area using zone or area reconnaissance techniques, collect intelligence on enemy positions and activities, and report findings to higher headquarters.

Training Focus: This OPORD is ideal for early TLP training due to its simpler mission focus. Candidates can concentrate on planning products, reconnaissance fundamentals, and reporting without the added complexity of direct engagement.

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:

- Enemy may be static in defensive positions or mobile in small patrols.
- Introduce false indicators or decoy positions to test candidate's analytical skills.
- OPFOR may detect friendly reconnaissance and attempt to counter-recon or withdraw.
- Cadre can inject time constraints, weather changes, or equipment failures.
- Test ability to avoid detection while gathering intelligence.

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

See Also: LTA Grid Reference

Iteration Guidance: This is the mission command version — squad tasks state outcomes without prescribing specific positioning or movement. For the first iteration with a new class or candidates who need additional scaffolding, use 005-area-zone-reconnaissance-detailed.md instead.

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

1. SITUATION

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 old railroad bed, and to the west by the pine forest edge. Suspected enemy activity centered around MP 0613 1532.

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 suspected REAPER position at MP 0613 1532 is the focus of reconnaissance. The area north and south of the objective is relatively open, limiting observation positions. Woodlines to the east and west provide concealment for reconnaissance elements approaching the objective.

2. Weather. Warm and humid, partly cloudy skies, temperature around 85°F, with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Limited visibility may occur during thunderstorms.

c. Enemy Forces. REAPER: Resistance Elements of Atropia's People's Revolutionary Front

REAPER forces consist of a small irregular force, likely operating from concealed positions within AO COTTO. They are equipped with small arms and may have support weapons. They are experienced in local terrain and employ security measures to avoid detection.

1. Composition. Estimated 4-6 REAPER personnel, small arms, possible support weapons, in concealed or defensive positions.

2. Disposition. REAPER forces are likely dispersed in small groups throughout the area, using terrain and vegetation for concealment. They maintain security patrols and observation posts to detect friendly reconnaissance. Exact locations unknown – this is the purpose of the reconnaissance mission.

3. Most Probable Course of Action (MPCOA). REAPER forces maintain static defensive positions or conduct limited patrols within the area. If detected, they attempt to break contact and withdraw rather than engage decisively. They may use decoy positions or false indicators to mislead friendly reconnaissance.

4. Most Dangerous Course of Action (MDCOA). REAPER forces detect friendly reconnaissance and initiate an ambush or counter-reconnaissance operation. They coordinate with additional elements to encircle or fix the reconnaissance platoon, seeking to prevent intelligence collection or inflict casualties.

d. Friendly Forces

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

2. Mission. A Company conducts reconnaissance operations to locate and assess REAPER forces in AO COTTO.

3. Commander's Intent. Gather intelligence on REAPER positions, strength, and disposition to enable follow-on operations and prevent REAPER freedom of action.

e. Civil Considerations

Local civilians may be present in the area. Reconnaissance must minimize detection and avoid contact with non-combatants to maintain operational security and good relations.

f. Attachments and Detachments

None.

2. MISSION

1st Platoon conducts an area reconnaissance of AO COTTO NLT ____ to locate REAPER positions, assess REAPER strength and disposition, and identify key terrain features to enable follow-on operations.

3. EXECUTION

a. Commander's Intent

Purpose: Provide the company commander intelligence on REAPER forces in AO COTTO to enable planning and execution of follow-on operations.

Key Tasks: (1) Locate REAPER positions within AO COTTO. (2) Assess REAPER strength, disposition, and defensive preparations. (3) Identify key terrain that affects friendly or enemy operations.

End State: REAPER positions located, strength and disposition assessed, intelligence reported to higher, friendly forces consolidated at ORP without compromise.

b. Concept of Operations

1st Platoon conducts an area reconnaissance of AO COTTO from a secure ORP. Two reconnaissance elements move to assigned sectors using covered and concealed routes, collecting intelligence on REAPER positions, activities, and terrain. A security element remains at the ORP to provide a rally point and QRF capability. The platoon avoids decisive engagement — the mission is intelligence collection, not destruction. Upon completion or compromise, elements return to the ORP for consolidation and reporting.

c. Scheme of Fires

Fires are limited to self-defense only. Avoid engagement unless necessary to break contact. Indirect fire support available through company on request to support disengagement.

d. Tasks to Subordinate Units

1. 1st Squad (Reconnaissance — Northern Sector):

- **TASK:** Conduct reconnaissance of the northern sector of AO COTTO. Locate REAPER positions, assess activity, and identify defensive preparations, obstacles, and key terrain. Use covered and concealed routes, maintain noise and light discipline, and avoid detection. Report findings via SALUTE format. Return to ORP upon completion or if compromised.
- **PURPOSE:** Confirm or deny REAPER presence in the northern sector so the company can plan follow-on operations against a known enemy picture.

2. 2nd Squad (Reconnaissance — Southern Sector):

- **TASK:** Conduct reconnaissance of the southern sector of AO COTTO, including the suspected REAPER position. Locate REAPER positions, assess activity, and identify defensive preparations, obstacles, and key terrain. Use covered and concealed routes, maintain noise and light discipline, and avoid detection. Report findings via SALUTE format. Return to ORP upon completion or if compromised.
- **PURPOSE:** Develop the intelligence picture in the sector most likely to contain REAPER's main position, enabling the company to identify objectives for follow-on operations.

3. 3rd Squad (ORP Security / QRF):

- **TASK:** Establish and secure the ORP. Maintain 360-degree security during reconnaissance operations. Monitor radio traffic from reconnaissance elements. Be prepared to move to support a compromised squad or provide suppressive fire to enable extraction. Account for all personnel upon return.
- **PURPOSE:** Ensure the reconnaissance elements have a secure base to return to and a responsive QRF if compromised, preventing a tactical emergency from becoming a decisive engagement.

f. Coordinating Instructions

1. Rules of Engagement (ROE):

1. Avoid engagement unless necessary for self-defense or to break contact.
2. Do not compromise the reconnaissance mission unless absolutely necessary.
3. Avoid civilian contact and minimize detection.
4. Report enemy contact immediately but maintain mission focus on intelligence collection.

2. Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR):

1. Confirm exact location of REAPER positions.
2. Assess REAPER strength, composition, and equipment.
3. Identify REAPER defensive positions, obstacles, and security measures.
4. Assess terrain features that affect friendly or REAPER operations.
5. Monitor for REAPER patrols or movement.

3. Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIR):

1. Compromise of any reconnaissance element
2. Enemy force size or disposition significantly different from the intelligence estimate
3. Discovery of prepared defensive positions, obstacles, or IEDs on likely avenues of approach
4. Loss of communication with any reconnaissance element

4. Reporting:

- **Report to higher when SP'ing or crossing the line of departure.**
 - **In Position Report:** Upon occupying the ORP.
 - **SALUTE Report:** Upon sighting enemy forces or indicators.
 - **Intelligence Report:** Upon completion of reconnaissance or at designated times.
 - **LACE Report:** At end of reconnaissance phase or upon return to ORP.
5. 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.
3. Water resupply is available at the PLT CP.
4. Ensure adequate hydration prior to SP.

b. Health System Support

1. PLT CCP at PLT Assembly Area.
 2. MEDEVAC available via Nine Line request at AXP 1.
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5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Command

1. Platoon Leader at PLT CP.
2. Succession of Command: PL, PSG, 1st SL, 2nd SL, 3rd SL.

b. Control

1. Command Posts: Platoon Assembly Area IVO _____.

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: Scout
- Password: Eagle
- Running Password: Secure
- Combination: 11

ACKNOWLEDGE:

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