

IV. Military Deception Planning Steps

Ref: FM 6-0 (C1), *Commander and Staff Organization and Operations* (May '15), pp. 11-6 to 11-7.

The basic steps of military deception planning come together during COA analysis, comparison, and approval and are overseen by the military deception officer. (These are MDMP steps 2, 3, and 4. See chapter 9 for a detailed discussion of the MDMP.) The G-5 (S-5)-developed COAs provide the basis for military deception COAs. The military deception officer develops military deception COAs in conjunction with the G-5 (S-5). Basing the military deception COAs on the operational COAs ensures deception COAs are feasible, practical, and nested and effectively support the operational COAs.

The military deception officer and G-5(S-5) planners consider the military deception COAs as the staff war-games the COAs. They analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each military deception COA and compare it against the criteria established by the military deception officer for evaluating the military deception COAs.

The military deception officer, working with the G-5 (S-5) planners, prepares the military deception plan after the commander approves the military deception COA. Once the G-5 (S-5) planner completes, coordinates, and reviews the military deception for consistency, it is presented to the commander for tentative approval. To ensure synchronization of military deception at all levels, approval authority for military deception resides two echelons above the originating command. After the approving authority has approved the military deception plan, it becomes a part of the operation plan (OPLAN) or operation order (OPORD). It is important that military deception plans are not widely distributed. In order to ensure every opportunity to succeed and to protect the military deception from compromise, access to the military deception operation is strictly limited to those with a need to know.

The military deception officer ensures that each military deception plan is properly constructed. There are ten steps in military deception planning:

- Step 1—Determine the military deception goal
- Step 2—Determine the deception objective
- Step 3—Identify the military deception target
- Step 4—Identify required perceptions of the military deception target
- Step 5—Develop the military deception story
- Step 6—Identify the military deception means
- Step 7—Develop military deception events
- Step 8—Develop OPSEC and other protection measures
- Step 9—Develop assessment criteria
- Step 10—Develop a termination plan



Refer to BSS5: *The Battle Staff SMARTbook, 5th Ed.* for further discussion. BSS5 covers the operations process (ADRP 5-0); commander's activities (*Understand, Visualize, Describe, Direct, Lead, Assess*); the military decisionmaking process and troop leading procedures (FM 6-0: MDMP/TLP); integrating processes and continuing activities (IPB, targeting, risk management); plans and orders (WARNOs/FRAGOs/OPORDs); mission command, command posts, liaison; rehearsals & after action reviews; and operational terms & symbols.