

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines  
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC), FMF  
UIC 39742  
FPO AP 96609-9472

26 Jan 2000

From: Operations Officer  
To: Distribution

Subj: 16 FEB 2000 COMMANDERS BATTLE TRAINING LOI

Ref: (a) North Africa Background Materials  
(b) Annex B Enemy Order of Battle  
(c) XXX Corps OpOrder  
(d) XXX Corps FragO 18 Nov 41

Encl: (1) Individual Assignments  
(2) Schedule

1. Purpose. **Commanders Battle Training (CBT) is designed for the unit commanders of the battalion to practice fighting as a team.** CBT will provide training opportunities for:
  - a. Communicating using verbal orders.
  - b. Understanding the Battalion commander's tactical priorities, thought processes, and techniques of communicating orders and intent.
  - c. Gaining insight on battalion tasks: "What capabilities does our battalion need?"
  - d. Discussing tactical and doctrinal issues.
2. Discussion. To achieve the above goal, a Corps-level historical battle will be simulated. This mechanism will allow the participants to examine Brigade and Division combat in order to gain insight into tasks given to infantry battalions and the role the infantry battalion plays in larger formations.
3. Execution
  - a. Concept of Operations
    - (1) The simulated battle is the British advance on German-held Sidi Rezegh, 19 November 1941, during the Crusader offensive in North Africa. The 2/5 conference room will be divided into a 'friendly' (British) side and an 'OpFor' (German) side. A neutral controller, the sole interface with the computer simulation, will receive orders and direction from both sides, and report back to both sides.
    - (2) The Bn CO is commander of British XXX Corps. All participants are assigned either to XXX Corps staff or as commanders of subordinate units. See Encl (1). The Corps staff has (3)

copies of Ref (a). The Corps S-2 has Ref (b). All commanders will be issued Ref (c), a map, and their specific Annex A. Ref (d), the Corps FragO, as well as an updated situation map, will be issued at the conclusion of the OpOrder brief.

- (3) During the exercise, Corps staff and subordinate commanders are co-located, which enables excellent communication. Six orders will be generated, a new one every ninety minutes, each representing four hours of actual combat.

b. Tasks

- (1) Commanders. Read XXX Corps order prior to OpOrder brief. Attend brief. Compose initial order immediately following brief. Maintain situation map during execution. Issue (5) written orders during exercise.
- (2) S-2. Brief enemy situation at OpOrder brief. Maintain OOB information.
- (3) Controller. Play the role of every subordinate commander. Execute orders received, update each HHQ.

c. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Schedule. See Enclosure (2).
- (2) All orders will simulate radio traffic. Commanders will produce a written transcript of the order that they would normally pass by radio. No graphics are permitted.

4. Admin and Logistics. Omitted.

5. Command and Signal. Omitted.



B.B. McBreen

## Individual Assignments

XXX Corps	LtCol WALTER
Corps S-2	Lt KELLEY
Corps S-3	Maj McBREEN
Corps FSC	Capt WALLACE
Corps Troops	Lt SHERIN
7th Arm Div	Capt REILLY
4th Arm Bde	Capt WOULFE
22nd Guards Bde	Capt CASTLE
1st South African Div	Capt DUNNICK

### Exercise Support:

OpFor	Maj RUSSELL
	Capt LANG
Operations	Capt MACKIE
	LCpl WADE

### Schedule

Tue 15 Feb	1600	XXX Corps OpOrder	Maj McBreen	Conf Room
		XXX Corps FragO	LtCol Walter	
	2000	Unit Orders Submitted	Commanders	
Wed 16 Feb	0800	Execute 1	All	Conf Room
		Reports		
		Verbal Corps Order	LtCol Walter	
		Unit Orders Submitted	Commanders	
	0930	Execute 2		
	1100	Execute 3 (Lunch)		
	1300	Execute 4		
	1430	Execute 5		
	1600	Execute 6		
	1630	Debrief	LtCol Walter	Conf Room

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Battalion Landing Team 2/5  
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC)  
UIC 39742  
FPO AP 96609-9472

30 Apr 2000

From: Operations Officer  
To: Distribution

Subj: 8 MAY 2000 COMMANDERS BATTLE TRAINING LOI

Encl: (1) Billet Assignments  
(2) CBT Schedule  
(3) 8th Army OpOrder 11-41  
(4) XII Corps OpOrder 17-41

1. Purpose. Commanders Battle Training (CBT) teaches the unit commanders of the battalion to fight as a team.
2. Discussion. To achieve this goal, a Corps-level historical battle is simulated. This allows the participants to fight brigade and division units, discuss warfighting concepts, and practice issuing orders.
3. Execution
  - a. Concept of Operations
    - (1) The simulated battle is the British XIII Corps advance on Bardia, 19 November 1941. The Bn CO is commander of the XIII Corps. Participants are assigned in Encl(1).
    - (2) Unit commanders are positioned around a large-scale map of the Corps sector. Written orders are passed the control cell. Unit commanders update their map. The Corps oporder is issued the night prior.
  - b. Tasks
    - (1) Commanders, Read 8th Army OpOrder 11-41, Encl (3), and XIII Corps OpOrder 17-41, Encl (4) prior to brief.
    - (2) S-2. Brief enemy situation during oporder brief.
  - c. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Schedule. See Enclosure (2).
- (2) Map Exercise mechanics will be briefed on after oporder.
  - (a) All orders will simulate radio traffic. All commanders will produce a written order that they would normally pass by radio. No graphics are permitted.
  - (b) Each EXECUTE phase represents four hours of real time.
4. Admin and Logistics. Omitted.
5. Command and Signal. Omitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.B. McBreen', with a stylized, cursive script.

B.B. McBreen

## Billet Assignments

### XIII Corps

S-2  
S-3 / Corps Units

LtCol Walter

Lt Kelley  
~~Lt Sherin~~ Capt ESPOSITO

2nd New Zealand Inf Div

Capt Reilly

4th Indian Inf Div

Capt Dunnick

1st Army Tank Bde (REIN)

Capt Larson

### Exercise Support

Controller

Maj McBreen

OpFor

### CBT Schedule

Sun	May 7	1800	Corps Order	LtCol Walter
		2000	Unit Orders Submitted	Unit Commanders
Mon	May 8	0800	EXECUTE 1 Reports Unit Orders Submitted	All
		0900	EXECUTE 2	
		0940	EXECUTE 3	
		1020	EXECUTE 4	
		1100	EXECUTE 5	
			Lunch	
		1300	EXECUTE 6	
		1340	EXECUTE 7	
		1420	EXECUTE 8	
		1500	EXECUTE 9	
		1540	EXECUTE 10	
		1620	EXECUTE 11	
		1630	Debrief	LtCol Walter