

## OPERATION ORDER PLANNING

- A linkup can occur when:
  - An advancing force reaches an objective area previously seized by an airborne or air assault force.
  - An encircled element breaks out to rejoin friendly forces.
  - Converging friendly maneuver forces meet.
  - Friendly force completes encirclement of enemy forces.

### Questions to be Answered!

#### 1. SITUATION:

- Terrain and weather of the linkup site.
- Enemy locations and strength.
- Enemy capabilities.
- Enemy's most probable course of action.
- Location of friendly units and their direction of movement.

#### 2. MISSION:

- Task and purpose must be present in the mission statement.
- Unit must arrive intact and link up as rapidly as possible.
- Linkup forces should avoid decisive engagements.

#### 3. EXECUTION:

- MANEUVER:
  - Linkup forces must exchange their proposed schemes of maneuver.
  - Any changes must be coordinated with the other forces.
  - Primary and alternate routes must be established to and from linkup site.
  - Graphic control measures, such as checkpoints, phase lines, infiltration lanes, and directions of attack, must be coordinated.
  - Exchange of liaison officers.
- FIRES:
  - The controlling headquarters directing the linkup sets up fire control measures and priority of fires.
  - Targets should be planned to the front, rear, and flanks, and on the lineup site.

## PLANNING (continued)

- ENGINEERING:
  - Plan flank FASCAM obstacles to support the mission.
  - Location and types of obstacles must be coordinated to ensure force protection.
- COUNTER AIR:
  - During linkup operations involving aviation units, air defense rules of engagement (ROE) become extremely important.
  - Air defense assets must exchange priorities and coverage plans.
- COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:
  - Time for linkup must be established.
  - If more than two units are linking up, time windows for units to arrive at the linkup site must be established.
  - Rehearsals are necessary to avoid confusion and fratricide.
  - Each member of the unit must understand the plan.
  - Actions must be quick since the units are vulnerable to attack during the linkup.

#### 4. SERVICE AND SUPPORT:

- What is required? How much, when, where?
- What is the resupply procedure?
- Movement procedure (air/vehicular).
- Casualty evacuation plan.
- Equipment evacuation plan.
- MEDEVAC frequency.

#### 5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

- COMMAND:
  - Establish chain of command between linkup forces.
  - Establish responsibilities of each force.
- SIGNAL:
  - Coordination of communication procedures between linkup forces is essential.
  - SOI and recognition signals must be the same with all linkup forces (day/night alternatives).
  - If a linkup unit is not OPCON to another unit, it maintains its parent net.

## LINKUP CHECKLIST

- Identify yourself and your unit.
- State the size and mission of your unit.
- Provide enemy situation update.
- Provide friendly situation update.
- Confirm who will be the moving unit.
- Confirm who will be the stationary unit.
- State direction of approach to the linkup point.
- Confirm location of alternate linkup point.
- Confirm location of moving unit's linkup rally point.
- Confirm location of stationary unit's linkup rally point.
- Confirm call signs and frequencies.
- Confirm alternate commo plan.
- Confirm running passwords.
- Confirm code words for linkup.
- Confirm contingency plan:
  - If contact during linkup.
  - If contact after linkup.
  - How long to wait for other units, if any.
  - Rally points.

## COORDINATING CHECKLIST

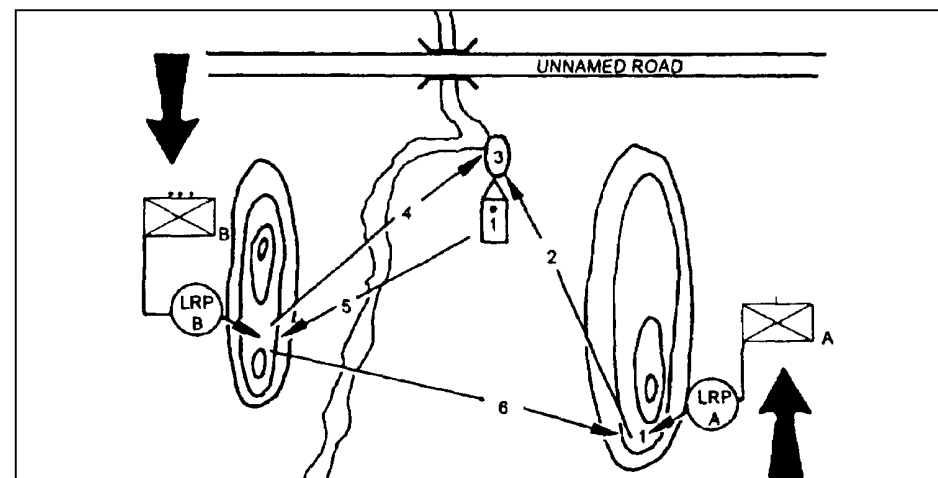
- Use checklist for coordination with other units.

- Identification of yourself and your unit.
- Size and mission of your unit.
- DTG of linkup.
- Enemy situation.
- Friendly situation.
- Who will be the moving unit.
- Who will be the stationary unit.
- Location of primary linkup point.
- Directions of approach to linkup point.
- Location of alternate linkup point.
- Location of the moving unit's linkup rally point.
- Location of the stationary unit's linkup rally point.
- Moving unit's call signs and frequencies.
- Stationary unit's call signs and frequencies.
- Frequency for conduct of linkup.
- Alternate commo plan.
- Far-recognition signal.
- Near-recognition signal.
- Running password.
- Code word for "linkup is imminent" and when it will be given.
- Actions on enemy contact.
- Restrictive fire line/area.
- Graphic control measures to prevent fratricide.
- Chain of command upon linkup.
- Actions on linkup.
- Contact team's contingency plans.

## DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES

- The mission determines that unit Alpha will be the stationary unit and Bravo the moving unit.

1. Unit Alpha, the first unit to arrive, established a linkup rally point based on METT-T. Unit Alpha contacts higher echelon immediately; then contacts other linkup units.
2. Alpha sends a contact team to the linkup point.
3. Alpha's contact team establishes the linkup point by:
  - (a) Clearing the area.
  - (b) Pinpointing the linkup point.
  - (c) Marking the linkup point by using the agreed-upon recognition signal.
  - (d) Moving to a covered and concealed position; observing the linkup site.
  - (e) Informing higher echelon.
4. Unit Bravo repeats Steps 1 and 2. When Bravo's contact team arrives at the linkup point and identifies the recognition signal, it initiates the far recognition signal. Alpha's contact team returns the far recognition signal. Bravo's contact team moves to the Alpha contact team position where it exchanges near-recognition signals and conducts coordination.
5. Bravo's contact team guides the Alpha's contact team to the Bravo unit's linkup rally point.
6. The Alpha contact team leads the Bravo unit to the Alpha unit's linkup point. The units are linked up.



Linkup sketch.

## INFANTRY LEADER'S REFERENCE CARD FOR LINKUP OPERATIONS

REFERENCES: FM 7-7J, FM 7-8, FM 7-10, FM 7-20, FM 17-15, FM 17-95, FM 17-98-1, FM 71-123

Headquarters  
Department of the Army

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