LDAC Study Guide

Evan Dawson of Penn State University put the following guide together while attending LDAC in the summer of ‘09. It consists of the key points he felt would make one successful at camp. (Just another resource)
SOP Special Teams

- Compass
- Pace
- Aid and Litter
- Demolition
- EPW
- Bunker Team
- QRF
- Civilian on the Battlefield
- Recon and Security
- Breach
- Near and Far Security - Danger Areas

Pre-designated Targets

1. Location (Grid)
2. Purpose (What’s it going to be used for?)
3. Type of Round (HE, Illumination, etc.)
4. Method of Engagement (On my call, etc.)

STX/Patrolling

1. WARNO goes out immediately after receiving OPORD. Include in your WARNO:
   a. Situation Paragraph
   b. Mission
   c. General Instructions (Special Teams, etc)
   d. Specific Instructions (Time of OPORD Brief, Passwords, etc.)
2. Have team leaders/squad leaders rehearse w/ their people while you are preparing your OPORD. Individually if necessary.
3. Ask for security from squad in reserve immediately following OPORD. If not available have one squad/team pull security while the other rehearses.
4. Don’t always do the same rehearsals. Use mission specific rehearsals. Engage your soldiers—don’t monologue.
5. If you give out information, allow your leaders to disseminate it down.
6. If fires are available USE THEM—set up TRP or Predesignated Targets. Demonstrate that you actually know how to use them.
7. If you know you’ll be using a GOTWA, include a tentative one in your OPORD (Your scheme/concept of operations)
8. Once you have eyes on the objective ALWAYS maintain it. Place an OP team at the minimum.
9. Succession of command: make it one you could use if you were actually in combat. (Birthdays, height, date of rank are not acceptable because they are too difficult to use under fire.)
10. Write down your reports BEFORE you send them up to higher. Helps w/ completeness and accuracy. Do it right the first time.
11. FLEXIBILITY. Adjust to the situation. Things always change.
12. Conduct PCCs/PCIs before you LD- use your leaders.
13. EPWs
   a. Blindfold
   b. Tie Feet
   c. Tie Hands
   d. Always maintain positive control.
14. Sand Table: Show visual of movement and then one detailed one for actions on the objective.
15. Is your mission part of a larger Platoon or Company mission or an individual squad mission? This has a large impact on the execution of your mission.
16. Rehearse contingencies.
17. Maintain SECURITY AT ALL TIMES.
18. Listen to your leaders. Communicate via your leaders. Support your leaders.
19. MSG ROST’S KEYS TO SUCCESS in STX/Patrolling
   a. Let the situation develop
   b. Tactical patience
   c. Always delegate down to enhance planning timeline.

Use these and you can’t go wrong.
20. Use team leaders to help control movement formations. That is their job.
21. Command Presence is everything.
22. Use a written OPORD skeleton. Make sure you get it approved by your TAC unless they clearly don’t care.
23. Stress cause anger and frustration—DO NOT let it affect cohesion. Deal with it.
25. While receiving the OPORD, have your team leaders write the names of people on their assigned special teams on a piece of paper. That may, when you get back, your “tasks to maneuver units” paragraph is almost completely done.
26. Make sure you have a plan for casualty collection. Create CCPs close to your objective along your route. What do you do with people when they get hurt? Do not overlook these details in your planning.
27. ACE Reports, don’t forget them.
28. Nothing happens until the objective is secure. That is always the first priority.
29. Only use an ORP when you know you’ll be coming back through that area.
   (After an ambush for example, but NOT an attack) Otherwise, use a security halt to conduct a recon.
30. Brief who will be on your leaders recon in your OPORD.
31. SALUTE REPORTS=VERY IMPORTANT
32. Patrolling OPORD Brief Sequence:
   a. Brief squad leaders
   b. One squad pulls security while the other briefs to their squad
   c. Both squads switch places
   d. Next squad briefs
   e. That last squad stays and conducts rehearsals
   f. Both squads switch again
   g. The other squad conducts rehearsals
   h. LD

   Enforce your timeline during the planning phase. Set time hacks. DO NOT MISS YOUR LD TIME EVER.

33. Use secondary compass and pace for patrolling. Always keep track of where you are.
   a. Draw a line from one point to another along your route.
   b. Make tick marks every two-hundred meters.
   c. This makes it easier to keep track of where you are.
   d. Assume that anyone can ask you where you are at any point during your mission, and you MUST be able to point to a spot on the map and say where you are.

34. Pay attention to details in the situation paragraph. The information almost always has some bearing on the execution of your mission.

35. Pick a recorder/RTO that you will listen to and who will enhance your performance.

36. Engage squad/patrol members during rehearsals. Ensure they know the whole plan.

37. PAINT THE PICTURE when briefing your OPORD. That’s what the evaluators want to see. Guaranteed.

GARRISON LEADERSHIP

PSG
   1. Accountability, accountability, accountability
   2. Always know your CURRENT number of personnel. Count on someone asking you at any moment.
   3. Accountability
   4. Brief the service support paragraph.
   5. Command presence.
   6. Know Drill and Ceremony.
   7. Motivate, but done be annoying. Be professional. It makes a huge difference.

(PSG has similar duties as the 1SG—same basic principles, just on a different scale)
Squad Leader
1. Keep track of your people. Accountability. Know where your people are at all times.
2. Brief a good OPORD. Include a timeline broken down for your individual squad.
3. Keep your people busy. Work on SOPs whenever possible. Try to build your squad. Try not to let them sit around or fall asleep. (Definitely not fall asleep.) Do not overwork them, however, as then they’ll just stop listening to you. Find a good balance.
4. Take care of them before yourself. Example: They always eat before you do.
5. Make list of serial numbers after weapons draw.
6. Never put anyone down. That will destroy your authority and respect.
7. Conduct PCCs the night before and the day of. Make sure everyone has the right equipment.

Team Leader
1. Help the squad leader always.
2. Keep track of your team members.
3. They play a much bigger role during STX and Patrolling.
4. Make list of serial numbers after weapons draw

FLRC
1. Use a recorder to get the OPORD.
2. Write your plan in OPORD format.
3. Get out a WARNO
4. Conduct your recon while team leaders disseminate the WARNO.
5. Request security.
6. Brief plan in OPORD Format not informally.
7. Time constraints.
8. Delegate tasks, but don’t be afraid to help out too.
9. Use your team leaders for delegation.
10. Don’t worry about completing the task. Create a plan, execute the plan, w/ intensity and confidence, and that’s it. Your evaluation isn’t always about whether you finished or not.
11. DO NOT let penalties or unssuccess frustrate you overtly. (EMOTIONAL)
12. Motivate and stay positive.
SALUTE Report

“T16, this is C31. SALUTE report to follow. Over.”

S- Size of element encountered.
A- Activity. What are they doing? Direction of Travel? (PIR)
L- Location. Grid. (Know your position)
U- Uniform. What are they wearing?
T- Time. What time is it?
E- Equipment. Everything they have with them. (PIR)

SALUTE report is read as such:

“Line Sierra: 2 Enemy CVG”
“Line Alpha: Walking north on ROUTE BLUE.”
ETC….

THE 3 M’s

1. My Mission
2. My Soldiers
3. Myself.

In that order. --- MSG Bower

Escalation of Force Steps

1) Shout
2) Shove
3) Show
4) Shoot

NO WARNING SHOTS ON MOST OCCASIONS.

Actions on the Objective Sequence

1) Assault element sweeps through objective
2) Call LOA
3) Support element sweeps through objective.
4) Call LOA
5) EPW immediately goes to center and secures EPWs.
6) Setup 360 security (at least 4 corners should be maintained at all times)
7) Aid and Litter switches w/ EPW if needed (9-Line/Eval. A Casualty)
8) Demolition comes in if appropriate.
   a. “Fire in the Hole One!” Assault leaves objective.
   b. “Fire in the Hole Two!” Support leaves the objective
   c. “Fire in the Hole Three!” HQ and Demo leave objective
9) ACE, Sitrep, and SALUTE reports can be done on or off the objective. For LDAC’s sake, I would do them ON THE OBJECTIVE as soon as possible. Take your time and do them right.

*Other Notes for Actions on the Objective*

1) This is a big part of your evaluation
2) Recorder/RTO should be writing everything down, not you.
3) Delegate tasks out and supervise. (You run the show)
4) Those in security MUST FACE OUT! Do not allow them to look in at what’s going on. Your APL is responsible for maintaining this security.
5) Team leaders are responsible for getting you ACE reports and helping to maintain security.
   - Ammo
   - Casualties
   - Equipment

   Example:
   “Line Alpha: Two Mags per person.”
   “Line Charlie: Green.”
   “Line Echo: Green, over.”

   (Line A is the average number of full magazines each person currently has)
6) 9-Line MEDEVAC- Have a skeleton written up before every lane to make actions-on-the-objective go faster.
7) STAY CALM

**OPORD Skeleton- STX**

Task Organization:
   - A Team
   - B Team

Situation

   - Enemy
     - Composition
     - Disposition
Strengths
Weaknesses

Friendly
Higher Unit Mission
Adjacent Units: Right, Left, Rear
Attachments/Detachments

Mission
Who
What
When
Where
Why

(Actually write these out. It makes it easier to copy and brief. Ensures you have everything.)

Execution
Concept of Ops/Scheme: (By squad) (Task/Purpose)
AA: (Grid)
OBJ: (Grid)
LD Time
Mission complete time

(Leave a large space for this part)

Some Things to Mention:

GOTWAs
Special Teams
Leader’s Recon
TRPs, CCPs
Actions on the Objective Sequence
Movement technique, Formations
Distances, Directions, and much more.

Fires: Priority or not. TRPs.

Tasks to Maneuver Units:
A Team/1st Squad
B Team/1st Squad

(Use your team leaders to figure this section out for you, while you’re receiving your orders)
Coordinating Instructions:

PIRs
Reports
Timeline: (Use backward planning)
Misc: Any other instructions you have that apply to your mission.
Ex. “Break contact if 4 enemy or more.”

Service Support

General
Materials and Services
Supply
Class 1
Transportation
Services
Medical: (This is where you can put the grids for your CCPs and your MEDEVAC/CASEVAC plan. Traveling/en-route CCPs.
Personnel
EPW
Smoke or no smoke

Command and Signal

Location of Higher Unit: “CO is w/ 2nd PLT (Patrolling)”
“PL is with 2nd squad (STX)”

Succ. Of Command: Start with your position!
Ex. “1 SL (Me), A TL, BTL, Recorder…” or “1 PL (Me), 1 SL, 2 SL, RTO, 1 SQD A TL…”

Signals
Lift
Shift
Initiate ambush
MEDEVAC
Challenge/Password
Running Password
# Combination

Questions?
Backbrief- Mission specific
Start rehearsing!!!
OPORD Skeleton (Patrolling)

Task Organization:
1st Patrol
   1st SQD
   2nd SQD

Situation
   Enemy
      Composition
      Disposition
      En. Most Probable Course of Action
      En. Most Dangerous Course of Action

(Leave extra room for this paragraph)

Friendly
   Higher Unit Mission: (Company’s Mission)

Adjacent Units:
   Left Patrol (Plot the grid briefed in the company tasks to maneuver units)

   Right Patrol

Attachments/Detachments

Mission:
   Who
   What
   When: H + __ (Remember what H-Hour is!!)
   Where
   Why

Execution

Purpose/Intent:

Key Tasks
   1)
   2)
   3)

Endstate

Scheme--- Same as STX except with squads this time.
LEAVE A LOT OF ROOM FOR THIS SECTION

Tasks to Maneuver Units:

1st Squad

2nd Squad

Coordinating Instructions

PIRs
Reports
Misc.: (Time hacks, backbrief the commander in 10 min, etc)
(Anything else you need the WHOLE element to know)

Service Support:
Similar to STX OPORD
Include a CASEVAC/MEDEVAC Plan
CCPs (Grids)

Command and Signal

No change from STX- just a bigger element

Questions?
Confirmation Brief: Helps to figure out what questions you want to ask ahead of time.

Rehearsals!!! (It helps if you preplan what rehearsals you want to conduct before you brief the OPORD, if time permits)

FINAL HINTS

1) Do your pushups right. Don’t go too fast.
2) Help your people and they’ll help you.
3) Teamwork is the only way. Don’t be “that guy” that wants to be an individual.
4) Respect each other—even if you don’t like someone. It’s part of being a professional.
5) Don’t do something just to get it done and check it off the list. FOCUS.
6) Do it the right way.
7) Exercise individual discipline.
9) Military bearing= stand at parade rest when speaking to NCOs and at the position of attention w/ officers. Each sentence ends with “sir/ma’am” or
“sergeant.” Remember that you are not at your school, but in a training environment.

10) Know how to write a yellow card. Stick to the STARTAR… method.

11) Always be on time with all your equipment. Don’t take shortcuts with packing lists.

12) DO NOT TAKE THAT FIRST PCI FOR GRANTED!! They will check everything, and you will get a N Spot Report for missing even the smallest thing.

13) You may not get a haircut while you’re there. Live with it.

14) Control your frustration and anger in the field and on the FOB/TTB.

15) Work hard.