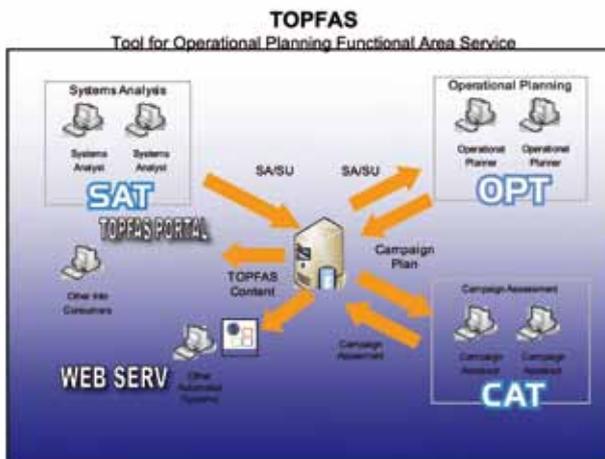


The MEL/MIL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

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Introduction

The purpose of the serial of these two articles on Mel/Mil Development is to inform & educate Staff on aspects that are not always standardising at HQ level but, at the same time, are mirroring each one concern during executive phase exercise. This piece of writing will mainly focus on explaining the general items related to the basic definitions and concepts tools and then to delineate the structure is in charge to manage the entire process. Later, in the next article we will face the entire process and meetings required to achieve the final production of the MEL/MIL for an exercise.



Background

In fact the main event list/master incident development is the foundation of each HQs delivered exercises. In essence, MEL/MIL scripting is the content of the exercise along all phases (mainly execution) and it is intended to create training effects/outcomes. The scripting organised hierarchy starts with Storyline, Event, Incident and ends with the final product the Inject. Its development is dynamic and continuous controlled processes where some external expertises are required at certain stages.

IOT shape the final products. Generally speaking we consider two different functional types of MEL/MIL; the **pre-scripted ones**, developed during canonical MEL/MIL writing weeks, essential to play certain functional areas and vital in achieving the ex aim and training objectives and the **dynamic ones** which are mainly based on PTA response and created by EXCON in the course of the Exercise, to sustain, increase or change the direction of the play.

Definitions

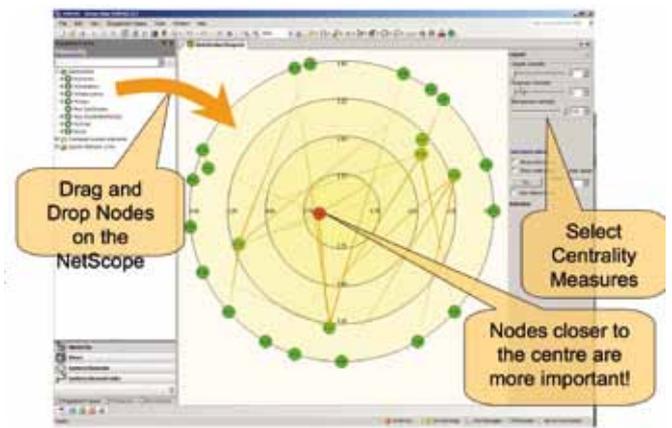
Therefore a more clear definitions about the elements which composed the word MEL/MIL is strictly required, so we will speak in terms of:

- 1) Event:** A major occurrence or sequence of related incidents. Events should be targeted at achieving the **Exercise Aims and Objectives**.
- 2) Incident:** Actions or situations that provide greater clarity to an Event. Incidents should be targeted at achieving the prioritised **Training Objectives**.
- 3) Inject:** The way of bringing an Incident to the attention of the players within the Primary Training Audience (PTA) for whom it was created – to be “injected” using doctrinal communication means, formats and media.
- 4) Storylines/Storyboard:** The Storylines/Storyboard is an overall depiction of Events and Incidents (may even be so detailed as to include key Injects) as they relate in time through the duration of the exercise Execution.
An effective MEL/MIL is developed using the **Operational Planning Process (OPP)** model. Planning begins with a detailed Mission Analysis of the exercise, considering factors such as

Exercise Aims and Exercise and Training Objectives and planning guidance – including the Military Training and Exercise Programme (MTEP), the Exercise Specification (EXSPEC), Officer Scheduling the Exercise (OSE) guidance, and Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE) level of ambition. Training Objectives are critical to laying the framework for the MEL/MIL development and they have to be projected in the way to cover all the phased of the **Core Planning process** (Planning, Refining, Execute and Assess). Besides the training Objectives should be general and engineered as portraying a Primary Task, the conditions to support that task and the supporting and enabling task to guarantee that T.O. is achievable. They have to be **prioritized** by Divisions IAW their Divisions aims. Generally speaking the Training Division will provide the PTA with a generic list of objectives, developed by the Core Planning Team (CPT), allowing the PTA to determine areas it wishes to focus on – these objectives must be agreed to no later than the Initial Planning Conference (IPC). In conjunction with the Scenario, the MEL/MIL must also incorporate main societal security dimensions (e.g. geographical, political, information, military, and economic factors) to fulfill the aims of the Exercise. Finally, in line with the OPP model, It have to be developed the **“Events”** as Lines of Operation, with Decisive Points represented as Milestone Incidents successful accomplishment of which ultimately contribute to the overall accomplishment of the Exercise and Training Objectives.

Structure

To engineer & design all the Mel/Mil storyboard a consolidated structure at corps level is required. Generally speaking we will have the Chief MEL/MIL who is the supervisor and final responsible of the team, he develops, manages and coordinates the MEL/MIL process from development through Execution. Then, his right arm, the Event Manager who takes ownership of their



respective Events and is responsible for the development, coherence, synchronisation and quality control of all of the Incidents and Injects that fall therein. Besides we have COMSITFOR the represents all opposing, neutral or other forces, whether military, paramilitary, rebel factions or otherwise. He develops mind-sets/strategies for the various entities that he/she represents and must continually keep in mind that the goal of the SITFOR is not to defeat the PTA, but to provide situations and an environment that facilitate the achievement of the Exercise and Training Objectives. Then there is the **MEL/MIL Manager** who is the principal project manager with respect to MEL/MIL issues he focuses on the *tools, mechanisms and support processes* surrounding MEL/MIL development and delivery, while Chief MEL/MIL focuses on the *content* of the MEL/MIL. Later **MEL/MIL Analyst** assists in the MEL/MIL development with a particular focus on *effects* and finally we have the **CAX Manager** who ensures optimum integration of CAX simulation into the exercise. Then to refine & deliver this process there is a requirement to allocate a cross-Divisional HQ team to conduct the process. So that every Branch could at the same time contribute to the Mel/Mil Writing Weeks and be informed about the process development. This aspect will imply that those members will not be appointed in the PTA during the exercise play.

As mentioned above next article will cover the core process where the “injections” are developed. ■