COMPANION GUIDE TO ONLINE TRAINING

Use alongside the online lessons at fortunefavorsthepreparated.com/pln-02-landing/

PLN-02 — METT-TC
Mission Variable Analysis
STUDENT COMPANION GUIDE

The Six-Factor Estimate of the Situation for MAG Planning

A structured six-factor decision framework for bug-out planning, wilderness survival, and MAG operations.

7 Lessons · Quick Reference Card · Fillable Worksheets

Edition v1.0 | 2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby

fortunefavorsthepreparated.com
Nick Meacher

PLN-02 — METT-TC: Mission Variable Analysis

Companion Guide to Online Training

© 2026 Fortune Favors the Prepared. All rights reserved.

No part of this guide may be reproduced or distributed without written permission, except brief excerpts for personal study use by the subscriber to whom it was issued.

Published by Fortune Favors the Prepared.

Thomasville, Pennsylvania

fortunefavorstheprepared.com

Edition v1.0 | 2026

This guide is a companion to the PLN-02 online lessons. Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon. It is not a standalone course — the reference tables and worksheets below assume each lesson has already been completed online.

ONLINE TRAINING ACCESS

Access the full lesson sequence at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/pln-02-landing/.

INSTRUCTOR-LED GROUP TRAINING

This guide also supports MAG-level instructor-led sessions: work each factor as a group using the blank worksheets in Part II, then compare against the quick-reference tables in Part I.

How to Use This Companion Guide

Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon. This guide is a reference companion to the PLN-02 online lessons — not a substitute for them.

What this guide contains

Part I condenses each online lesson into a quick-reference chapter — tables and summaries only, meant to be reviewed after you've completed the lesson online. Part II gives you blank, fillable worksheets for running your own METT-TC estimate. Part III is the appendix: glossary, quick reference card, and doctrinal sources.

Required workflow

1. Complete the online lesson at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/pln-02-landing/
2. Turn to the matching chapter in Part I to review the condensed reference tables
3. Use the Part II worksheets to run your own estimate, alone or with your MAG
4. Use Part III as a standing reference during real operations

This guide is not a standalone course. The reference tables assume the online lesson has already been completed — order matters.

Guide Map — What to Reference When

When you need…	Turn to…
A condensed recap of a specific lesson	Part I — the matching chapter
A blank card to run a live estimate	Part II — Worksheets
A definition mid-conversation with your MAG	Part III — Glossary
A printable one-page cheat sheet	Part III — Quick Reference Card
The doctrinal source behind a claim	Part III — Doctrinal Sources
To confirm course numbering or scope	Part III — Open Items

PART I — QUICK REFERENCE

Chapter 0: Course Introduction: From Reactive Improvisation to Systematic Assessment

Reference for Lesson 0

METT-TC is the Army's mission-analysis framework (FM 2-0) adapted for civilian preparedness: six factors, worked in the same order, every time a decision has to be made under pressure.

It sits alongside two other FFTP frameworks in the same estimate chain: OAKOC (INT-07) goes deep on the Terrain & Weather factor, and MDCOA (INT-06) goes deep on the Enemy/Threats factor.

Framework	Relationship to METT-TC
OAKOC (INT-07)	Expands the Terrain & Weather factor into five sub-elements: Observation/Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, Cover/Concealment.
MDCOA (INT-06)	Expands the Enemy/Threats factor by modeling the worst case an adversary could execute, not just the likely one.

Chapter 1: Mission: Task, Purpose, and End State

Reference for Lesson 1

A mission statement has three parts: the task (what), the purpose (why), and the end state (what "done" looks like).

Specified tasks are stated outright. Implied tasks are necessary but unstated — e.g., "cross the river" implies "find or build a crossing point."

Element	Key Question
Task	What exactly needs to be accomplished?
Purpose	Why does it matter — what is the intent behind it?
End State	What does success look like when this is over?
Specified/Implied Tasks	What is stated outright, and what is required but unstated?

Chapter 2: Enemy and Threats: Reading Human and Environmental Risk

Reference for Lesson 2

In a non-combat context, “enemy” expands to any threat — hostile people, wildlife, disease, or infrastructure failure.

Most Likely Course of Action (MLCOA) and Most Dangerous Course of Action (MDCOA, INT-06) are evaluated separately — plan for the likely case, but know the worst case.

Threat Type	Examples
Human	Looters, desperate refugees, territorial locals, opportunistic crime
Environmental	Hypothermia, dehydration, flash floods, wildlife, disease vectors
Infrastructure	Grid-down conditions, water contamination, road/bridge failure

Chapter 3: Terrain and Weather: The Physical Environment

Reference for Lesson 3

Terrain is analyzed using OAKOC (full treatment in INT-07): Observation/Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, Cover/Concealment.

Weather effects are evaluated for their operational impact, not just comfort — rain raises rivers and softens trails, cold drives hypothermia risk, heat drives dehydration, wind spreads fire and complicates navigation.

Weather Factor	Operational Effect
Rain	Muddy trails, rising rivers, reduced visibility
Cold	Hypothermia risk, increased caloric/fuel demand
Heat	Dehydration risk, reduced movement pace
Wind	Fire spread, navigation and communication difficulty

Chapter 4: Troops and Support Available: The Honest Inventory

Reference for Lesson 4

Cover personnel (numbers, fitness, skills, morale, medical status), equipment (quality and quantity), and outside support (allies, caches, vehicles, resupply).

An inventory has to be realistic, not aspirational — the plan is built around what the group actually has, not what it wishes it had.

Category	What to Inventory
Personnel	Numbers, fitness level, trained skills, morale, medical conditions
Equipment	Gear quality and quantity — weapons, first aid, water purification, communications
Support	Allies, pre-positioned caches, vehicles, resupply points

Chapter 5: Time Available: The Honest Clock

Reference for Lesson 5

Time available covers planning time, execution time, and hard deadlines — dark, weather arrival, fuel or food limits.

Time-distance factors (pace, rest halts, contingencies) turn a deadline into an actual movement plan, worked backward from the deadline.

Question	Why It Matters
How much time to plan and execute?	Sets how detailed the plan can realistically be
What are the critical deadlines?	Darkness, storm arrival, fuel/food limits all cap your options
What are the time-distance factors?	Pace, rest halts, and contingencies convert a deadline into a route plan

Chapter 6: Civil Considerations and Running the Full Estimate

Reference for Lesson 6

Civil considerations cover who else is in the area (friendly, neutral, hostile), infrastructure status, cultural factors, and refugee flows.

This factor is also where the OPSEC-versus-aid tradeoff lives: helping visible neighbors builds goodwill but can compromise operational security.

Once all six factors are worked, the estimate is scored: does each factor favor you, the threat, or is it neutral — and what does that mean you have to change?

Factor	Score: Advantage?
Mission	Me / Threat / Neutral
Enemy / Threats	Me / Threat / Neutral
Terrain & Weather	Me / Threat / Neutral
Troops & Support Available	Me / Threat / Neutral
Time Available	Me / Threat / Neutral
Civil Considerations	Me / Threat / Neutral

PART II — WORKSHEETS

Worksheet 1: Full METT-TC Estimate

Use this worksheet to run a complete six-factor estimate before a bug-out decision, a wilderness movement, or a MAG operation.

Factor	Key Questions / Analysis Points	Advantage? (Me / Threat / Neutral)	Deductions / Actions Needed

Worksheet 2: Quick-Card (Field Version)

A condensed version for a laminated card or waterproof notebook — fill in the field during time-constrained decisions.

Factor	Key Analysis Points	Advantage? (You / Threat / Neutral)	Notes / Actions

Worksheet 3: MAG Group Discussion — Time and Support Gaps

For instructor-led or MAG group sessions: work Troops/Support Available and Time Available together and record gaps to close before the next exercise.

Gap Identified	Factor (Troops/Support or Time)	Action to Close Gap	Owner / Target Date

PART III — APPENDIX

Glossary

Term	Definition
METT-TC	Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and Support Available, Time Available, Civil Considerations — the Army's mission variables (FM 2-0), adapted here for civilian preparedness.
End State	The condition that defines success — what things look like once the mission is complete.
Specified Task	A task stated outright in the mission.
Implied Task	A task not stated outright but necessary to accomplish a specified task.
MLCOA	Most Likely Course of Action — what a threat will probably do.
MDCOA	Most Dangerous Course of Action — the worst case a threat could execute (full treatment in INT-06).
OAKOC	Observation/Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, Cover/Concealment — the terrain-analysis sub-framework (full treatment in INT-07).
Civil Considerations	The people, infrastructure, and cultural factors present in an area that affect a plan.

Quick Reference Card

The six-factor estimate at a glance.

Factor	Core Question
M — Mission	What is the task, the purpose, and the end state?
E — Enemy / Threats	Who or what threatens this, and what's their worst case (MDCOA)?
T — Terrain & Weather	What does the ground and the sky do to help or hurt (OAKOC)?
T — Troops & Support Available	What do we honestly have — people, gear, outside help?
T — Time Available	How much time, and what's the hard deadline?
C — Civil Considerations	Who else is here, and what's the OPSEC-vs-aid tradeoff?

Doctrinal Sources

Source	Relevance
FM 2-0, Intelligence (2014)	Defines METT-TC as the Army's mission variables; glossary source for the framework's official structure and terminology.
MCRP 3-11.3, Scouting and Patrolling	Documents the historical METT-T patrol leader's estimate — the tactical-level ancestor of the full framework.
FM 34-2-1, Reconnaissance and Surveillance	Collection-planning detail behind the Terrain & Weather and Civil Considerations factors.
FM 2-22.3, HUMINT Collection Operations	Area-assessment doctrine referenced for the Civil Considerations factor.
INT-07, OAKOC	Terrain analysis sub-framework referenced under Terrain & Weather.
INT-06, MDCOA	Most Dangerous Course of Action modeling referenced under Enemy/Threats.

Open Items

Flagged for Nick's confirmation before this course goes live:

1. Course code — this guide uses "PLN-02" (next open slot in the Planning series after PLN-01) as a provisional designation. Confirm the correct code, or whether METT-TC belongs in a different series (e.g., MAG) given the source images label it "Assessment Framework for MAG Operations."
2. Lesson count and sequence — the 7-lesson breakdown (0=intro, 1-6=one lesson per mission variable) is proposed to mirror PLN-01's structure. Confirm before the online lessons are built.
3. This guide and the matching one-pager are reference/planning deliverables only — no HTML lessons, landing page, or KCs have been built yet for this course.