

## **0431. Overview**

The purpose of the Concept Development stage is to determine how best to carry out operations that will accomplish the mission effectively and efficiently. Concept Development begins with a review of the Comprehensive Political Guidance (CPG) as basis for further staff analysis and the development of friendly Courses of Action (COAs). COAs are initially described in broad terms and tested for validity. They are refined through analysis, war gaming and comments by subordinate commanders in the spirit of parallel planning. The results of the staff analysis and comparison of the various COAs are presented with a recommendation to the commander in the form of a Decision Briefing. On the basis of the commander's decision and any further guidance, the staffs refines the selected COA and produces a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and a Statement of Requirement (SOR), which represent the final products of this planning stage.