

TACTICAL VIGNETTE 00-01

Ragin' Cajun Time — Platoon Leader's Decision

WHAT'S
YOUR
NEXT
MOVE??



Overall Situation

Enemy Situation:

A battalion (-) size element of the Chafenburg Army is moving south along the border of the nation of Dansu. Heavy fighting has attrited them to 70% strength. They are looking for a favorable location near the capital or a surrounding town from which to conduct an insurgency. They are equipped with 6 - 9 x T-72s, 22 - 25 x BMP-2s with infantry, and 2 x 2S3s. They have the ability to employ non-persistent agents, although none have been used as yet. Their most probable course of action is to invade the southern portion of the border somewhere between grid 2310 and grid 2301. Their doctrine dictates that they first send their reconnaissance across to find a suitable avenue of advance (this element may be split into two sections). Expect to see at least two tanks and five BMPs along with a minimum of one EN vehicle in their reconnaissance element.

Friendly Situation:

As part of Operation Steel Fist, the 1 BDE has deployed to the desert nation of Dansu and successfully repelled a border insurgency by the Chafenburg Army. TF 6-46 is currently consolidating and reorganizing west of the capital. As the most southerly deployed unit of the 1 BDE, they have been alerted. The TF commander orders a company-size force to conduct security operations in the vicinity of the border.

Company Situation:

You are the platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, Alpha Team (task organization: Company HQ, 1st Platoon, 2nd Platoon, 3rd Platoon, and FIST). Your company has priority of fires. Alpha Team is at 100% strength and has just finished

conducting a relief in place of Charlie Team. After Bravo Company finishes refueling, the TF will continue to march to the border for further operations. One section of scouts (2 x HMMWV) is forward of your position screening at vicinity MR250060 and MR256060. Charlie team is held in reserve to be the spearhead of the TF counterattack.

Company Mission:

Team A/6-46 AR defends vicinity BP 1 NLT 230900MAR00 in order to prevent enemy forces from penetrating the task force rear boundary (PL Apache). O/O, establish an SBF vicinity SBF 2A to secure the flank of the task force while it conducts a counterattack.

Platoon Situation:

Your platoon is moving toward BP 1 when you receive the following transmission: "Guidons, this is Black Six, frago

follows." All elements acknowledge. Six then sends "Scouts report three BMPs followed by one T-72 vicinity AA 2 moving east vicinity MR235047."

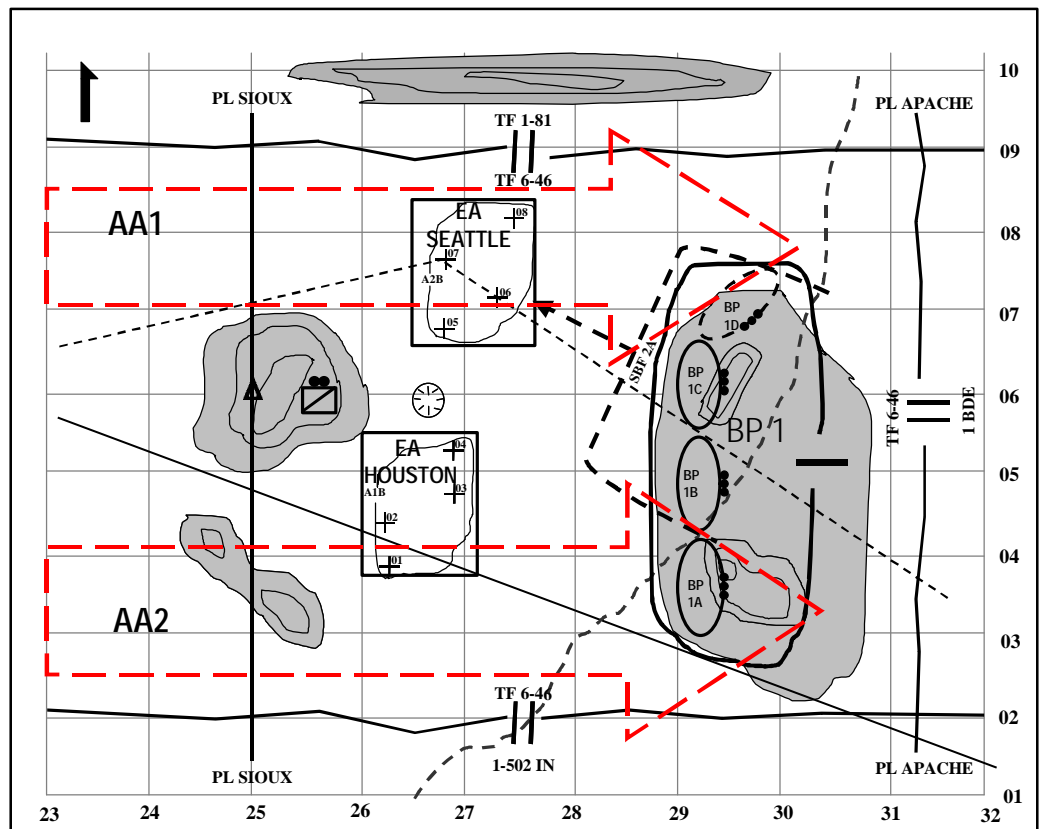
Red: Occupy BP 1B and orient on EA HOUSTON from TRP 1 to TRP 4. On order, shift fire to EA SEATTLE orienting from TRP 5 to TRP 6.

White: Occupy BP 1A and orient on EA HOUSTON from TRP 1 to TRP 3. On order, displace and reposition to BP 1D and orient from TRP 7 to TRP 8.

Blue: Occupy BP 1C and orient on EA HOUSTON from TRP 2 to TRP 4 and EA SEATTLE from TRP 5 to TRP 8.

Trigger is three tanks or four BMPs (the FSE) in either EA.

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The trigger for any platoon to reorient its fires into an alternate EA is:

- Negative contact in primary EA.
- Confirmed enemy company (+) identified in the alternate EA.

Engagement priority is tanks, EN vehicles, BMPs, all other vehicles.

Displacement criteria for White: Three tanks vicinity EA SEATTLE.

I will move with Red. XO, you stay with Blue.

All other OPORD information has remained unchanged.”

Task 1:

Send the pertinent FRAGO to your platoon and occupy your position in BP 1.

Situation 2:

Your platoon sergeant sends you the following SPOT report: “White One, this is White Four. Observing one tank and one BMP moving northeast vicinity TRP 1, over.” As you attempt to send the information higher, you hear “Black Six, this is Blue One. Observing one tank and one BMP slowly moving northeast vicinity

TRP 1, over.” After thirty minutes, you hear, “Black Six, this is Red One. Contact, three tanks and two BMPs vicinity EA Seattle, out.” Red sends “Black One, this is Red. Fire TGT Group A2B, tanks and BMPs in the open.” Main gun fire to the north is audible from your position. Your attempts to contact Black Six and Black Five yield no results as they are sending information higher.

Task 2:

What actions, if any, do you take?

Requirements:

Readers wishing to submit solutions to the scenario should provide the following: 1) a sound FRAGO for your platoon and 2) the appropriate procedures and supporting rationale for the second situation. Send your solution by e-mail to BerkowitzA@ftknox5-emh3.army.mil or by mail to: Platoon Gunnery Doctrine Branch, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-PG, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210.

Solutions to this vignette will appear in the May-June 2000 issue of ARMOR.