

Tactical Vignette 97-1

“The Battle of Durango Valley”

The tactical vignette is a training tool for tactical decision-making during mission execution. The Marines have long used similar vignettes, which they call Tactical Decision Games (TDG), in the *Marine Corps Gazette* as an efficient and inexpensive exercise for leaders at all levels. An article detailing the uses of the TDG can be found in the May-June 1997 issue of *ARMOR*.

The following tactical vignette serves as the first in a series of scenarios developed by the Doctrine Division of the U.S. Army Armor Center. Readers are encouraged to send their solutions for the tactical vignette to *ARMOR* as a means of discussion and instruction. The author's solution, along with several of the best solutions from the field, will be published in a subsequent issue of the magazine.

Situation:

You are the commander of A Team (tank heavy), TF 2-8. You are the advance guard company (AGC) of the TF as it conducts a movement to contact. The brigade commander wants the task force to find, fix, and destroy the advance guard of an MRR that is moving east. This will allow the rest of the brigade to maneuver and destroy the regimental main body, with enough combat power left to block the second-echelon MRR. The task force commander directs the AGC to find, fix, and destroy the FSE allowing the task force main body to maneuver into the flank of the AGMB.

Your team consists of two M1A1 tank platoons and one mechanized infantry, (BFV) platoon. An engineer platoon and the mortar platoon follow in support; you have priority of mortars. Your team is moving on an axis south of the task force based on an erroneous report that the FSE was at CP 8. The terrain is mostly open desert flanked by mountains, with some high terrain in the center of the zone. As you approach the intersection at CP 6, your 1st Platoon reports seeing approximately 20 vehicles moving east and starting to deploy vicinity CP 2. A moment later, task force



scouts report they have identified the AGMB north of Hill 560 moving east toward CP 4.

You suddenly realize that the element identified by 1st Platoon must be the FSE and that it is probably deploying to engage the task force from Hill 110. You attempt to contact the task force commander but receive no response. The last transmission with the task force had them approximately 15 minutes out from CP 2. Based on the scout's last report, the AGMB is 20 minutes from CP 4. It will take you 9-10 minutes to move northeast to engage the FSE or 11-12 minutes to move northwest to intercept the AGMB. You must act now! What do you do?

Requirement:

In 2 minutes or less, make your decision and issue your FRAGO and any other reports you would submit. Readers wanting to submit their solutions to the scenario should provide the following: Fragmentary order to the company team, the rationale behind your decision, and a sketch of your plan of action. Mail your solution to ARMOR, ATTN: ATZK-TDM, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210 or send your solution by e-mail to: washburj@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil

