

TACTICAL VIGNETTE 98-1

“Screen at Croley Lake”

WHAT'S
YOUR
NEXT
MOVE??

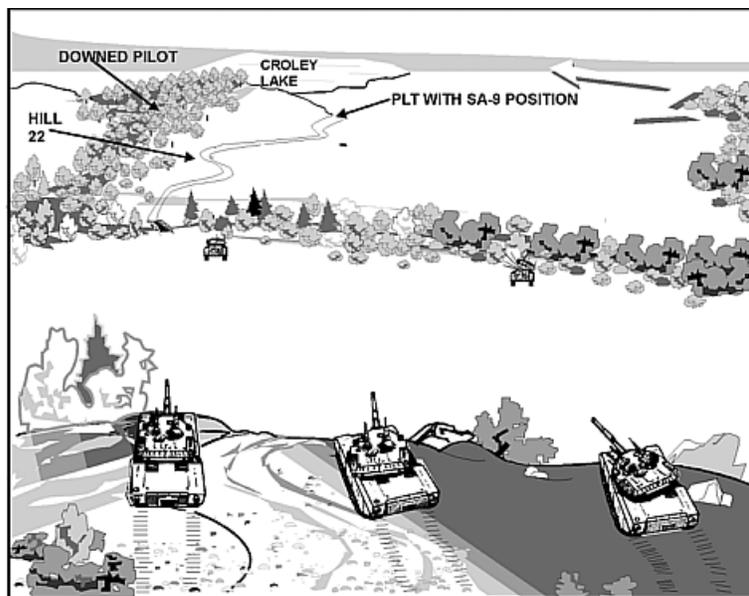


Situation.

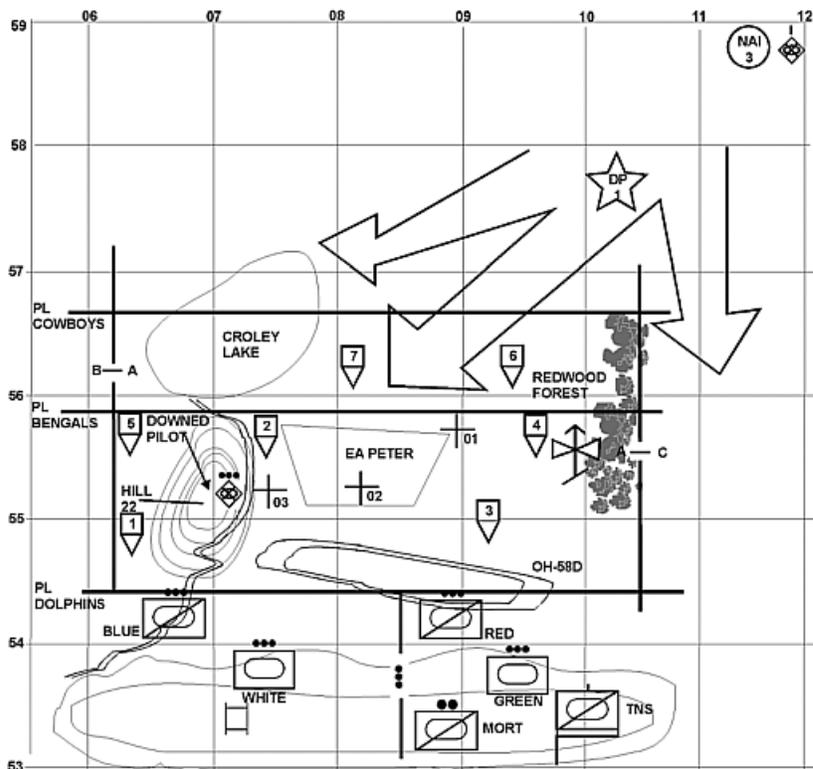
Terrain. The area around Croley Lake favors the defense. It is a mixture of wooded and open areas with undulating hills. The open areas contain farmland with several one-kilometer-square towns. There are numerous two-lane roads and intermittent streams in the area. Maximum visibility is no more than eight kilometers for ground vehicles, but can be limited to 500 meters due to the undulating terrain. The squadron's sector contains three north-to-south, regimental-sized avenues of approach (AA): AA 1, which runs west of Croley Lake in B Troop's sector; AA 2, which runs east of Croley Lake in A Troop's sector; and AA 3, which runs east of Redwood Forest in C Troop's sector. The weather is expected to be sunny and clear with a low temperature of 45 degrees and a high of 78. Winds will be out of the east at 5 mph. Sunrise is at 0530 and sunset is at 2030.

Enemy. The sovereign nation of Greenpieceland had its international border with Kevorkia violated by first echelon divisions of the Kevorkian Combined Arms Army. The 5th Kevorkian Division is expected to continue the attack to the south into the 52nd Armored Division's (AD) sector. The Kevorkians will attack in standard Soviet-style regimental organization/formations to secure a long-sought-after seaport in southern Greenpieceland. The most likely course of action is that the 5th Kevorkian Division will conduct a deliberate attack in the 52nd AD's sector down AA 1 and 2 with two motorized rifle regiments (MRR) forward and one MRR and the tank regiment in the division's second echelon. The lead regiments will utilize an advance guard main body (AGMB) formation for security. The second echelon will reinforce the most successful lead regiment.

Friendly. The 52nd AD was deployed to Greenpieceland to defeat the Kevorkian advance and to provide time for the deployment of more Coalition forces. 1-23 Cavalry conducts a guard along Phase Line (PL) DOLPHINS to destroy enemy reconnaissance forces and to fix



Commander's view from his turret



or repel the enemy main body before it can engage the division with direct fire weapons. The division commander's intent is to destroy the 5th Kevorkian Division's reconnaissance

assets and force its main body to deploy at PL DOLPHINS. He expects to accomplish this with direct fires from 1-23 Cavalry, combined with close air support (CAS) and indirect fires. The 1-23 Squadron commander intends to deploy three cavalry troops abreast in sector, screening along PL DOLPHINS with the two air cavalry troops (ACT) conducting a screen along PL BENGALS. He expects to use Hellfire missiles from the ACTs and TOW missiles from the ground scout platoons to destroy enemy reconnaissance forces out of enemy direct-fire range in Engagement Areas (EA) PETER, PAUL, and MARY. He also expects to use the ACTs to trigger a CAS strike on the AGMB in EAs PETER and PAUL. The squadron commander's end state is all enemy reconnaissance assets destroyed north of PL DOLPHINS and all AGMBs fixed in specified engagement areas north of PL DOLPHINS.

Troop Situation. You are the commander of A Troop, 1-23 Cavalry. Your troop is conducting a screen along PL DOLPHINS. It is 0545, and your troop had successfully destroyed division and regimental reconnaissance elements that entered your sector at 1800 yesterday. A Troop's task is to destroy the enemy's reconnaissance assets, and the forward security element (FSE) in EA PETER, then conduct a rearward passage of lines through elements of the 52nd AD (FSE destruction is trigger for RPOL). D

Troop, screening along PL BENGALS, will identify the follow-on AGMB and trigger a CAS mission to strike them in EA PETER. Your purpose is to provide the 52nd AD with three hours of advanced early warning of an MRR attack through your sector. At 0600, D Troop reports a platoon-sized element consisting of three BMPs and an SA-9 moving south vic CP 2. D Troop reports that the platoon went to ground from CP 2, South 0.5, West 0.3. Your Blue Platoon reports they are taking direct fire from an enemy element in the vic of D Troop's last spot report. D Troop continues to report that one of their OH-58Ds was shot down from CP 2, South 0.4, West 0.7. The pilots are wounded and immobile and the squadron commander orders your troop to conduct downed aircrew recovery and extraction (DARE) operations, and destroy the SA-9 vic CP 2. At 0635, the remaining D Troop OH-58s operating in the western part of your sector reports that a company-sized element is entering your sector vic of NAI 3 (Grid 119589), heading southwest in march formation at 15 kilometers per hour. Your Blue Platoon reports that one of his Bradleys has been destroyed by the enemy platoon in the vic of CP 2. You have the normal complement of support assets for a heavy division cavalry troop. D Troop has priority of indirect fires.

Requirement: In 5 minutes or less, choose a course of action (COA) and is-

sue a FRAGO. The end state of the COA must have the SA-9 near CP 2 destroyed, DARE operations successfully completed, and your platoons arrayed to destroy the company-sized element that is entering your sector. When you submit your solution to the scenario, provide the following: Fragmentary order to the troop, the rationale behind the decision, and a sketch of your course of action. Mail your solution to ARMOR, ATTN: ATZK-TDM, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210, or e-mail your solution to:

Harrisv@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil

In the May-June issue of ARMOR, we'll include some of the solutions sent in by readers, along with the author's proposed solution.

On page 47, we recap the September-October issue vignette, "The Battle of Durango Valley," and follow this recap with the author's solution and several others suggested by readers.

-Ed.

