

Zone Recon To LOA Steelers



Situation:

You are "Wolfpack 6," the commander of Delta Team, TF 3-37, with two tank platoons and a mech platoon. Sunrise is at 0600, sunset at 1800.

Enemy:

The 52d MRB has seized Bensonville to our north. It is set up in a deliberate defense on the south side of the town in OBJ GREEN (encompassing OBJ YELLOW and OBJ BLUE, which is east of YELLOW) oriented south. In OBJ YELLOW, we expect an MRC(+). The TF S2 templates that the enemy is established in a well-prepared defense out of contact, with three MRPs in a horseshoe formation tied into the terrain and a dismantled infantry strongpoint on the west side of his defensive position. This strongpoint is templated to have an AT firing line composed of 2A45Ms and AT-5s. The enemy also has an extensive obstacle belt, three dismantled reconnaissance teams (DRT), and two CSOPs forward in the security zone (see map board with original enemy SITEMP and R&S graphics).

The most probable and most dangerous course of action is for the enemy to courageously hold his defensive positions and die in place. He will attempt to piecemeal friendly units with obstacles and indirect fire and destroy them in his kill sack as they move through the restrictive NTC-like terrain north toward Bensonville.

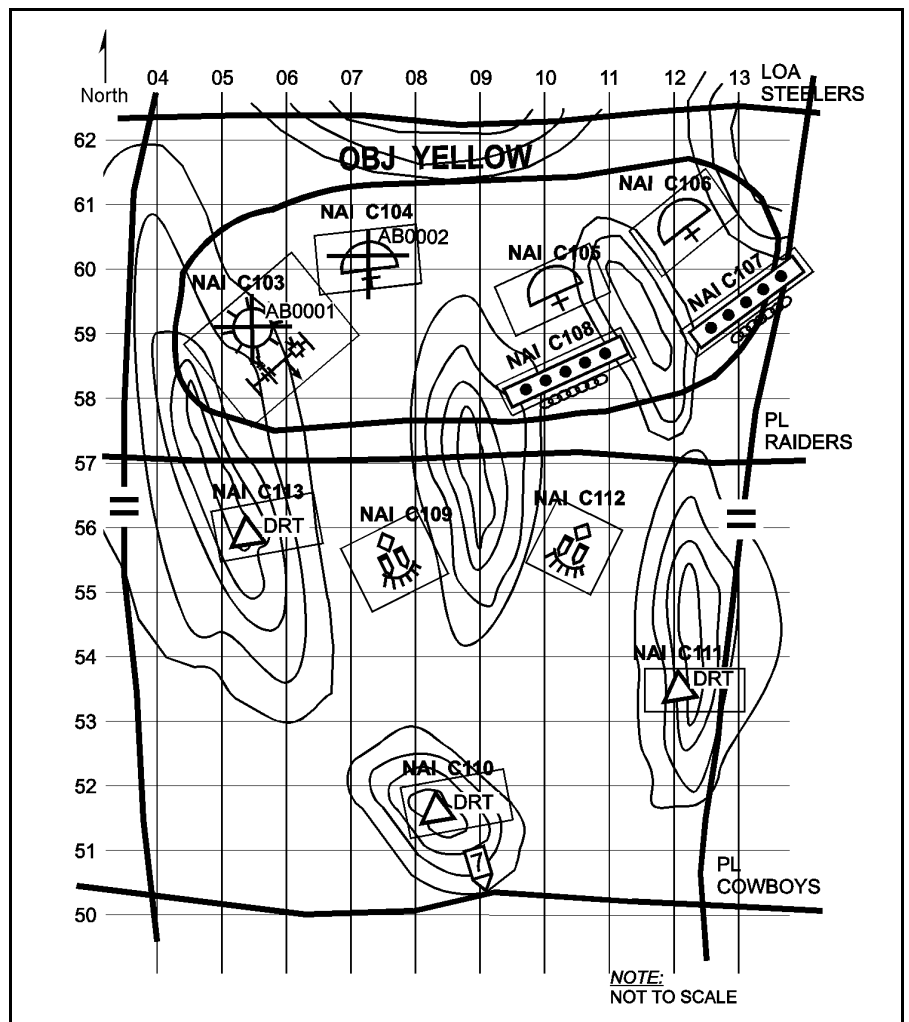
Friendly:

TF Mission: As the main effort of the brigade's attack on OBJ GREEN, TF 3-37 attacks 310600AUG98 to seize OBJ YELLOW, vic 085595, to facilitate passage of follow-on forces that will gain control of Bensonville vic 130700.

Last night the TF scout platoon, which had only six operational HMMWVs, infiltrated through the zone to attempt to reconnoiter enemy positions and obstacles. As of first light this morning, the TF TOC has lost communications with the scouts. Before the TOC lost communications with the scouts (VIPERS), it had received the following information:

- **A section** (VIPER 2 and 3).
 - One vehicle requires recovery vic 044580; the other vehicle is FMC and a patrol is conducting dismounted reconnaissance vic 045594.
 - Reported complex obstacle (triple-strand concertina with AT and AP mines) running NE-SW with difficult bypass at SW end vic 059568; dismantled enemy activity vic 055591.
 - Last SITREP at 0445.
- **B section** (VIPER 4 and 6).
 - Reported point obstacle (wire and mines) with difficult bypass on north side grid 119580.
 - Last reported grid 112606. Last transmission at 0300: "CONTACT NORTH, OUT!" No further contact.
- **C section** (VIPER 1 and 5).
 - Reported two BMPs stationary vic 076556 oriented S-SE at 0030; wire/mine obstacle oriented NE-SW vic 074587 at 0200.
 - VIPER 1 destroyed vic 078588 at 0230; all KIAs.

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Steelers (Continued from Page 40)

- VIPER 5 conducted dismounted reconnaissance and reported tracked vehicle activity vic 100600 at 0300; three T-80s (stationary in a hide position) vic 079609 at 0400.
- Last reported grid 062608, relayed through VIPER 2 at 0445.

Without a clearer picture of the enemy, the TF commander believes that tomorrow's attack will be unsuccessful. He wants you to assume the mission of the scout platoon. At 1630, just as your 1SG arrives at your assembly area with the LOGPAC, the TF commander issues a FRAGO directing you to conduct a force-oriented zone reconnaissance to LOA STEELERS to confirm or deny the S2's template. He wants you to reconnoiter all NAIs; to identify the composition, disposition, and array of enemy forces in OBJ YELLOW and the obstacles in the security zone; and to destroy CSOPs and any other reconnaissance assets in zone. He

attaches an engineer squad and an extra FIST to your company team to assist you in your mission, and he orders you to position both FIST-Vs in OPs where they will be able to observe preparatory fires on the objective. He reminds you that all friendly elements, including scouts, must be at least 2 kilometers from any pre-planned targets because the brigade commander has given him MLRS support for the attack. You have priority of artillery fires until 0600, and you are primary shooter for AB0001 and AB0002 prior to the attack. After completing your reconnaissance mission and positioning your FIST-Vs in OPs, you will consolidate your remaining forces at CP 7 and fall in as the trail company team of the TF diamond during the attack. You may leave FIST-Vs and dismounted OPs north of PL COWBOYS, but you must have the rest of your company team positioned at CP 7 prepared to attack when the TF comes through.

The time is now 1700, and the sun will set in an hour. Your assembly area is 3km south of the LD, and the LD is 10km south of PL COWBOYS. The attack is planned to begin with preparatory fires at 0600. You must act now! What do you do?

Requirement:

In 15 minutes or less, develop your COA, and issue your FRAGO and any other reports you would submit. Readers who 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. E-mail your solution to: HastyD@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil, or mail your solution to Platoon and Company Team Doctrine Branch, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-P, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210.