

## TACTICAL VIGNETTE 99-2

# The Passage at Wilcox

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NEXT  
MOVE??



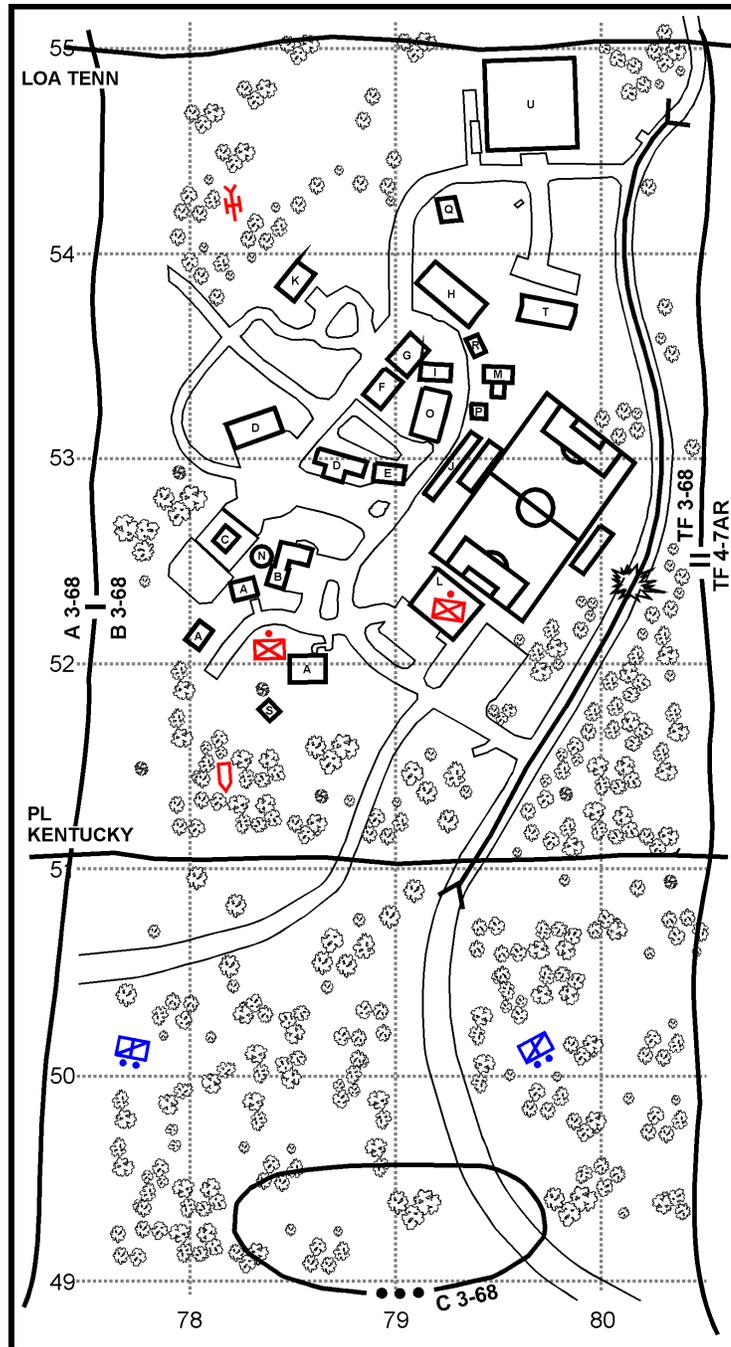
### SITUATION

You are the company team commander of Barbarians Team (mech-heavy), TF 3-68 AR. The task force, which is conducting a movement to contact, is composed of two armor company teams (Apache and Comanche) and one mechanized infantry company team (Barbarians). Your team consists of two mechanized infantry (BFV) platoons (1st and 3d Platoons), both at full strength, and one M1A1 tank platoon (2d Platoon), also at full strength. You also have an attached combat engineer platoon, consisting of four squads, two ACEs, and one AVLM. Your team has priority of TF mortars and FA.

The brigade commander's intent is for the task force to secure a passage lane to the east of the town of Wilcox, to vic 548886, for the follow-on unit (TF 2-72 AR). In turn, the TF commander's intent is for your team, the TF main effort, to clear a passage lane to PL TENNESSEE (the LOA) to allow the secure passage of TF 2-72 AR. Once battle handover has occurred at the passage point and TF 2-72 AR has assumed the brigade main effort, TF 3-68 AR will become the brigade reserve and prepare for future operations.

Prior to the mission, the brigade S2 provided the task force with a recent aerial photo of Wilcox (see attached aerial photo). Approximately three hours ago, the brigade's cavalry troop identified an enemy column moving into the town from the north; the column consisted of one T-72, two BMPs, and one ZSU-23-4.

As the operation begins, Apache Team is on your left flank and must seize OBJ 1 to prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching



- (A) RESIDENCE
- (B) GAS STATION
- (C) CHURCH
- (D) TOWNHOUSE
- (E) 7-11 STORE
- (F) OFFICE BUILDING
- (G) BUSINESS
- (H) 2-STORY HOTEL
- (I) BANK
- (J) OPEN AIR MARKET
- (K) EMBASSY
- (L) SCHOOL
- (M) FIRE STATION
- (N) WATER TOWER
- (O) BUSINESS
- (P) UNDER GROUND SEWER SYSTEM
- (Q) POWER PLANT
- (R) SUBWAY ENTRANCE
- (S) UNDERGROUND STORM SHELTER
- (T) WAREHOUSE
- (U) INDUSTRIAL PARK

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## Passage at Wilcox (Continued from Page 52)

Wilcox from the west and interfering with the forward passage of lines for TF 2-72 AR. Comanche Team has cleared the enemy forces up to the 49-grid line and is in hasty defensive positions. On your right flank is TF 4-7 AR, whose mission is to secure an alternate passage point in its sector. The TF scout platoon, with six HMMWVs, is established south of Wilcox in three section positions, two of which are located in your zone vic 508778 and 504797. The other section is located within Apache's zone.

Currently, the TF scouts report the situation in the town as two-dismounted infantry positions, each manned by approximately a squad-size element. One squad is located vic 518785, near an opening that is probably an underground storm shelter (S) and residences (A); the other is located vic 522792, in the school (L). The TF scouts have spotted two enemy vehicles: a ZSU-23-4 located vic 545784 and a BMP located vic 516799. The location of the other BMP is unknown. The TF scouts also report hearing a vehicle they believe to be the T-72; its current location is unknown. A road crater reinforced with wire and mines is reported vic 524803. The TF scouts report that most civilian residents have left the town, but that some seem to be hiding in their homes and in the town church.

### REQUIREMENT

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: FRAGO to the company team, the rationale behind your decision, and a sketch of your plan of action. E-mail your solution to this address: *armordctrine@fknnox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil*. Send your solution by regular mail to Platoon and Company Team Doctrine Branch, ATTN: ATZK-TDD-P, Ft. Knox, KY 40121-5210.

Solutions to this vignette will appear in the July-August issue of *ARMOR*.

