

Trouble for the Redball Express - Rear Area Security



Situation:

Friendly Situation:

You are "Rubicon 6," the brigade commander of 3 Bde, 4th AD. Your brigade is preparing a defense in sector. A mechanized infantry division is expected to attack NLT 110530AUG99. TF 1-23 and TF 1-78 are defending forward in sector while TF 2-78 is the brigade reserve. C/1-23(-) is attached to 1-1 FA protecting an MLRS platoon and Q37 radar located in the brigade sector. The brigade is currently at 90% strength. Your task organization is in Figure 1 and the current graphics are in Figure 2.

Enemy Situation:

The brigade cavalry troop has had sporadic contact with enemy reconnaissance elements for the last 12 hours. The forward task forces have reported no contact in the main battle area. The division S2's assessment indicates that the enemy 66th MID will LD its main body early in the morning on 11AUG99. Based on experience over the last few weeks, division believes that the enemy will increase its activity in our rear area using partisans,

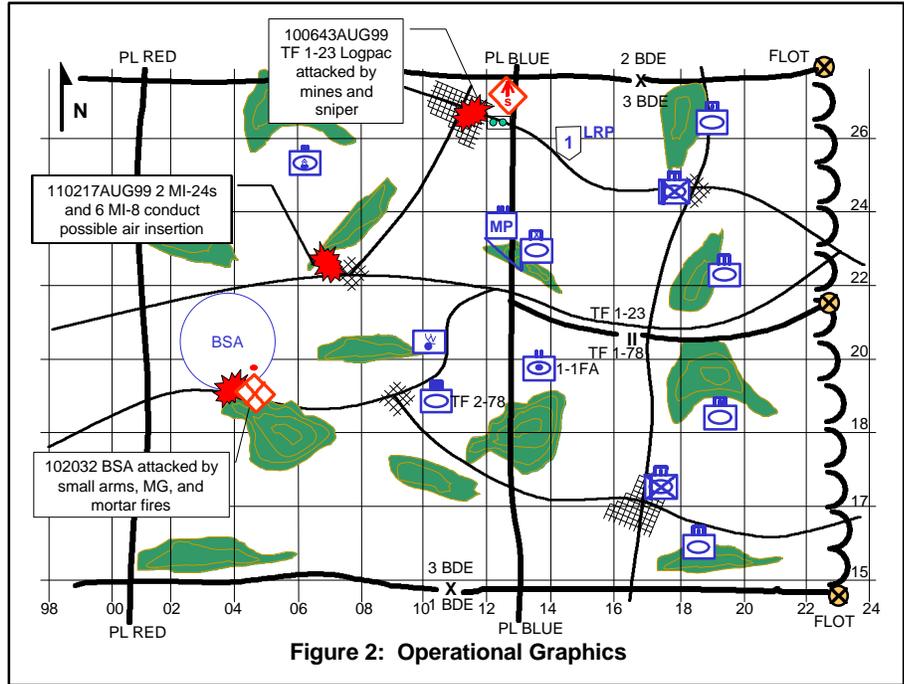


Figure 2: Operational Graphics

SOF, and air-inserted forces. These attacks will likely target logistics, command and control, and artillery assets to desynchronize our operations while the enemy division attacks into the main battle area.

Event #1: At 100643AUG99, TF 1-23 reports that its LOGPAC, en route to LRP1, ran into a point minefield roadblock over-watched by a sniper. The convoy reacted to the ambush, forcing the sniper to withdraw. The LOGPAC lost of one HEMTT fueler and three soldiers were wounded. The convoy is continuing to the LRP1.

Event #2: At 102032AUG99, the FSB commander reports that the BSA is under attack by a squad-size element equipped with small arms, machine guns, and mortars. The enemy position is vicinity grid 047193. The FSB security forces have prevented any penetration of the BSA perimeter, but are unable to destroy the enemy position. The FSB

security forces are continuing to man their perimeter. Most logistics functions are on hold.

Event #3: At 110217AUG99, 2 MI-24s (HIND-D) and 5 MI-8s (HIPs) penetrate the brigade's air space and land vicinity grid 070225. Each Hip has the potential to carry 28 troops. Reports indicate that 1 MI-24 and 1 MI-8 were destroyed by ADA fires, but the rest of the element successfully exited the brigade sector.

Requirements:

Assess the situation presented by each event and formulate a course of action. Issue instructions to your staff or a FRAGO to your commanders to deal with the threats to your rear area. Issue your FRAGO as if talking on the radio to your commanders. Submit your solutions to the BN/BDE Branch by email at: armordctrine@ftknox5-emh3.army.mil, or mail your solution to ARMOR, ATTN: ATZK-TDM, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210.

Solutions to this vignette will appear in the January-February 2000 issue.

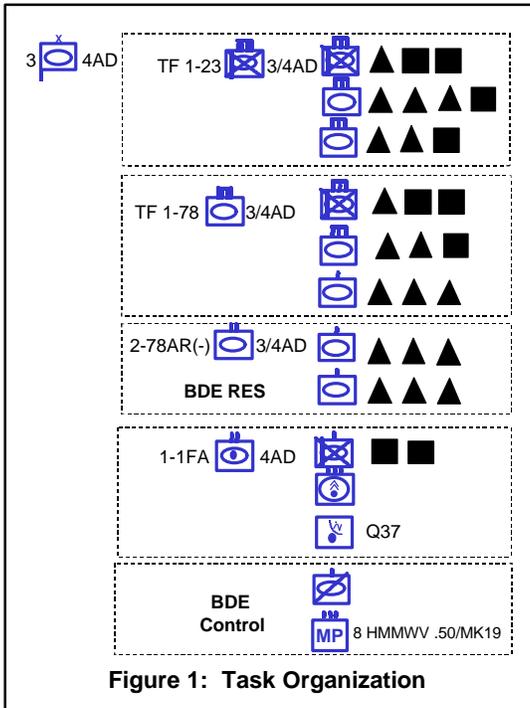


Figure 1: Task Organization