

Solution — Tactical Vignette 99-04

Trouble for the Redball Express - Rear Area Security
(From the September-October 1999 issue of ARMOR)

Author's Solution

EVENT #1

The sniper attack on TF 1-23 is clearly an example of a level I rear area threat. The local commander was able to deal with the threat with the forces available and the situation requires no immediate response from the brigade commander. He should however, direct the staff to:

- 1) Update the IPB with a special emphasis on likely ambush sites along the BDEs MSR. Include an assessment of the degree of support for partisan and SOF forces in each of the urban centers in the BDE AO.
- 2) Vary the use of MSRs, LRPs, and the timing of LOGPACs to avoid setting predictable patterns.
- 3) Direct MP platoon to proof MSR prior to major convoy movements.

EVENT #2

The enemy contact vicinity of the BSA is more than the FSB can effectively deal with. They can prevent penetration of their perimeter but are unable to mount an attack that will destroy the enemy mortar location. While the situation does not warrant the commitment of a combined arms formation, this level II threat does require action by the brigade.

“Guidons, this is Rubicon Six, Frago follows, acknowledge over.”

Situation: The BSA is in contact with a dismounted infantry squad and light mortars located in the hills to their south (grid 047193). Friendly forces continue to defend the BSA perimeter and have no forces south of the 195 east-west gridline.

Mission: No change.

Execution:

Tasks to subordinate units:

- 1) MP platoon OPCON to FSB. Neutralize enemy squad vic grid 047193.
- 2) FSB maintain contact with enemy squad. Provide sup-

pressive fires on enemy squad in support of MP platoon's maneuver.

- 3) FA switch priority of fires to FSB.

Coordinating instructions:

- 1) Report when link-up with MP and FSB is complete.

Service Support:

- 1) FSB provides medevac support to MPs.

Command and Signal

- 1) Signal to lift fires is green star cluster.

ACKNOWLEDGE over.

EVENT #3

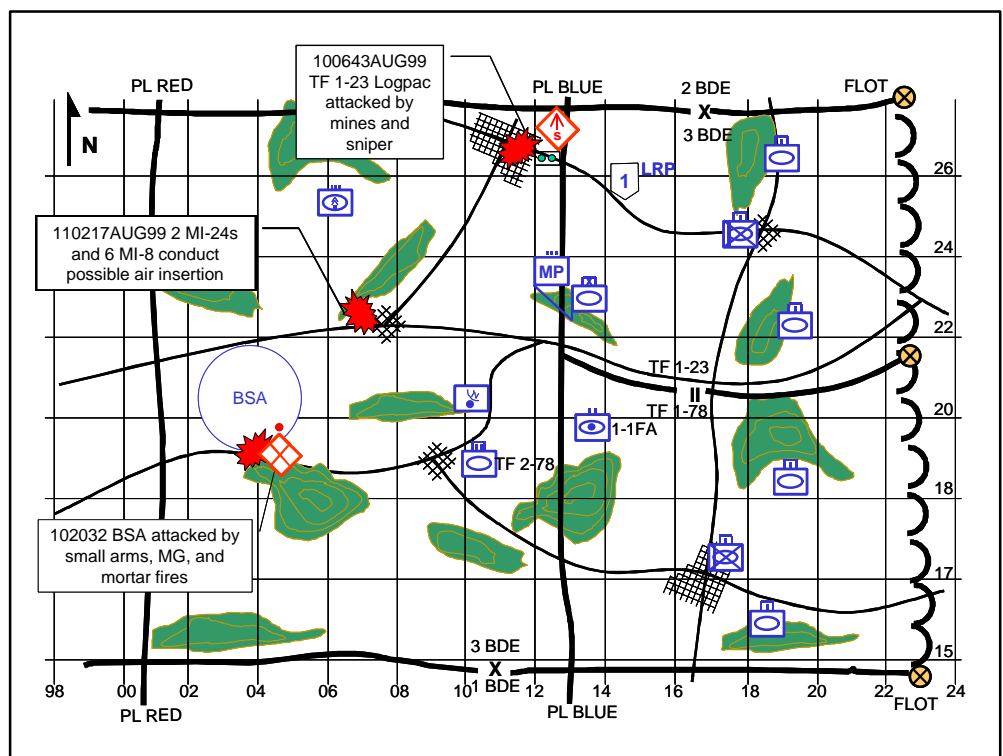
The insertion of an infantry force, which is potentially as large as 120 soldiers, in the BDE rear presents the commander with a Level III threat. The MP platoon certainly does not have the capability to defeat the threat and probably couldn't fix them with much success. So where does the BDE CDR get a combined arms

formation capable of dealing with the situation? Commitment of the BDE reserve is certainly an option, but could leave them out of place or without sufficient combat power to be decisive in the close fight. The enemy appears to have committed to a course of action that supports his maneuver in the center of the brigade sector. A more logical choice to deal with the threat is the mech team providing security to the high value FA assets.

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Situation: At 110217AUG99 conducted an air insertion of a company-sized unit with 2 MI-24s and 5 MI-8 Hips vic grid 070225. 1 MI-24 and 1 MI-8 were destroyed. I believe the enemy infantry company will defend vic 078223 to block our MSR and hold key terrain in support of the enemy MID attack. His most dangerous course of action is a dismounted attack on the BSA.

Mission: No change to the brigade mission.



Solution (continued)

Execution:

Tasks to subordinate units:

- 1) 1-1FA, detach Team Mech and place them under brigade control. TM Mech consolidates his platoons at attack position Dog (vic 100205) and attacks to fix enemy infantry company vicinity grid 078223 in order to protect the brigade support area.
- 2) MP Platoon screens from grid 035240 to 085245 to protect MLRS platoon.
- 3) TF 2-78 provides mortar fires to Team Mech.

Coordinating instructions:

- 1) All units between PL Red to PL blue go to REDCON 1.
- 2) PIR; composition, location, direction of movement of suspected infantry company.
- 3) Establish a CFZ on BSA until contact with enemy company is established.

Service Support:

- 1) All logistics traffic uses southern MSR.

ACKNOWLEDGE, over.

DEFINITIONS

Some readers unfamiliar with current Army abbreviations, such as those used in the accompanying tactical vignettes, have asked us to define them. —Ed

AO	Area of Operation	LRP	Logistics Release Point
BP	Battle Position	MLRS	Multiple Launch Rocket System
BSA	Brigade Support Area	MSR	Main Supply Route
CFZ	Critical Friendly Zone	OPCON	Operational Control
EA	Engagement Area	O/O	On order
EN	Engineer	PIR	Priority Information Requirements
FA	Field Artillery	PL	Phase Line
FIST	Fire Support Team	REDCON	Readiness Condition
FRAGO	Fragmentary Order	SBF	Support by Fire
FSB	Forward Support Battalion	SOF	Special Operations Forces
FSE	Forward Security Element	TGT	Target
IPB	Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield	TRP	Target Reference Point
LOGPAC	Logistics Package		