

SAMPLE SCENARIO: DECISION AT THE BLUE RIVER

You are Officer Commanding (OC) I Company (Coy) Combat Team (Cbt Tm), 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group (2 RCR BG). You have two organic mechanized infantry platoons and headquarters as well as an attached, operational control (OPCON), Leopard 2 troop (4 x Leopard 2) from C Squadron of The Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD) and a forward observation officer (FOO) / forward air controller (FAC) party from The Second Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (2 RCHA). Your third mechanized infantry platoon has been detached, OPCON, to C Squadron, RCD.

2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG) has been operating in Atropia for three months. Following successful defensive operations, the brigade (bde) is back on the offensive. Donovanian forces are withdrawing to what is assessed to be a main defensive area in vicinity of the regional capital. Covering their retreat is a rear guard that is utilizing delaying tactics to buy time for the main body to establish the main defensive area. This rear guard is estimated to be a task organized battalion tactical group (BTG) made up of three motorized rifle companies equipped with BMP-2M and a tank company with T-72B. This BTG likely also has its own artillery, air defence, antiarmour, and electronic warfare units. It is assessed that the BTG will attempt to take maximum advantage of the Blue River to impose heavy delays on the bde by forcing and then disrupting a deliberate crossing operation. It is assessed the enemy will attempt to defend on both sides of the river, and reconnaissance assets have confirmed the presence of motorized platoon-sized elements at battle group objectives (BG Obj) 1 and 2.

Commander 2 CMBG is looking to rapidly seize crossings over the Blue River and establish a bridgehead on the far side to allow the Multinational Division Commander to commit a US Army Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) to continue the pursuit of the enemy and give them as little time as possible to make defensive preparations. To do this he has tasked 1 RCR and 2 RCR each to seize two crossings, establish a bridgehead, and conduct a forward passage of lines with the ABCT. The RCD BG will be in reserve to exploit success and to establish the bridgehead on the far side of the river. The coalition has achieved local air superiority for this offensive but is very cautious in the use of close air support due to the adversary's localized point air defence systems and man-portable air defence systems.

The Commanding Officer of 2 RCR (CO 2 RCR) intends to simultaneously seize BG Objs 1 and 2 with infantry heavy combat teams allowing him to dominate the crossings and the far bank with fire followed by the seizure of BG Obj 3 by the C Sqn Cbt Tm. He will pass C Sqn through whichever crossing is seized first. His end state sees both crossing points secure, C Sqn Cbt Tm occupying BG Obj 3, and the BG prepared to initially pass the RCD BG followed by the ABCT. His main effort is C Sqn Cbt Tm seizing BG Obj 3.

To accomplish your task, you decide to execute a very shallow left flanking with a fire base provided by your attached troop of four tanks (1 Tp). 1 Tp is tasked to support by fire, 7 and 8 Platoons (Pl) are tasked to destroy enemy in the vicinity of BG Obj 1. Upon the dismount,



your light armoured vehicle (LAV) Captain will assume control of your LAVs and get them oriented to the north of the Blue River while you complete the assault and reorganize for the passage of C Sqn Cbt Tm. You and OC H Coy coordinated your H-hours so they are staggered by ten minutes allowing you to receive support from 2 RCHA before they switch their support to Hotel Company (H Coy). The CO was concerned that he wanted his attacks to be simultaneous to overload the enemy's ability to respond but accepted that ten minutes was a sufficiently short window.

At 0700h your FOO establishes surveillance on BG Obj 1 from a turret down position, adjusts rounds of fire and then calls fire for effect with a suppression mission against what appears to be a motor rifle platoon, dug in, in hull down positions. With rounds effective on the enemy position, 1 Troop occupies their support by fire position. The troop leader delivers the fire orders for a troop shoot and four Leopard 2 tanks expose their gun barrels and let loose with a volley of 120 mm sabot rounds. Two of the rounds impact what appears to be a dummy position, another flies over the turret of a BMP and the fourth hits the middle BMP and shears its turret off, sending it spinning into the air. It is now 0705h and your LAVs depart their attack position and cross the line of departure. The remaining BMPs now pop multi spectral smoke for cover, playing havoc with the tank and LAV sights. What can be made out is that the BMPs appear to be backing out of their prepared positions and moving down into the low ground toward the crossing site. You continue your assault towards BG Obj 1 frustrated that the enemy appears to be getting away and notice that there is a continuous hiss coming from your headset in your ear, almost as if someone were sitting on their press-to-talk switch on the BG Command net.

You arrive on BG Obj 1 and confirm that the enemy has successfully escaped; however, they left many of their dismounted infantry who are in no mood for a fight and quickly surrender. Your LAV Capt rapidly orients your LAVs to the north and engages the fleeing motorized rifle platoon, destroying an additional vehicle. It is now 0720h, and H Coy should have commenced their attack ten minutes ago. The sounds coming from the east indicate that there is an intense fire fight going on and you can catch broken pieces of conversation on the radio (Call Sign 0 [C/S 0]) which makes it sound like H Coy is heavily engaged. While you can't understand what is being discussed, a few minutes later, you recognize the voices of the CO and OC C Sqn on the BG Command net. You try to raise the CO to report your situation but can't get through. It is now 0725h and your gunner elbows your leg. He indicates you ought to check your day site and when you do, you see what appears to be a large dust cloud billowing up from behind BG Obj 3.

What now Major?

In five minutes determine what your COA will be. Your response should be in the form of direction to your subordinates, a diagram, and any reports you would attempt to send to higher levels. ✦

