

TACTICAL VIGNETTE 98-2

“The Defense of Kozda”

WHAT'S
YOUR
NEXT
MOVE???



Situation

Enemy. The S2 reports that within the brigade's area of operations, the 13th MRD is conducting an attack to seize Kodza Airport a key logistical site, that will allow enemy forces easy access into the theater of operations. Within the battalion's area of operations, the 3rd MRR is conducting an attack to seize the city of Kodza. This will allow the regiment to seize additional logistical sites (hospital, stores, and water) that will support the division.

The most probable course of action is for the 3rd MRR to attack along Avenue of Approach 1, enveloping the TF from the west maximizing their combat power. The most dangerous course of action is for the 3rd MRR to attack with two MRBs abreast, forcing us to fight in two directions and deny us the ability to concentrate our combat power.

Friendly. TF 3-37 defends BP 22 at 260630SEP98 to destroy enemy forces in EA Crush in order to protect the western flank of the brigade's main defense vicinity of the Kodza Airport.

Company Situation. You are the commander of Charlie Team (tank heavy), TF 3-37. You are the main effort of TF 3-37 that is defending in sector. The brigade commander wants the task force to protect the west flank of the BDE main effort TF 2-10 AR, which is defending a key logistical site (Kodza Airport) east of the city of Kodza. Delta Company has been attached to TF 2-10. TF 3-37 is arrayed with two companies forward and one back. Bravo Team is occupying BP 1, oriented on TRPs 2 and 3. Alpha Team (mech) is occupying BP 3, oriented on TRPs 2 and 4. The TF commander's intent is to destroy the enemy in EA CRUSH by establishing a deliberate defense on BP 22, reinforced by extensive obstacles in the engagement area; this will deny the enemy from seizing the city of Kodza (See Figure 1).

Your team consists of two M1A1 tank platoons and one infantry (BFV) platoon and a MANPACK Team. You have priority of mortars and are responsible for triggering artillery targets AB001

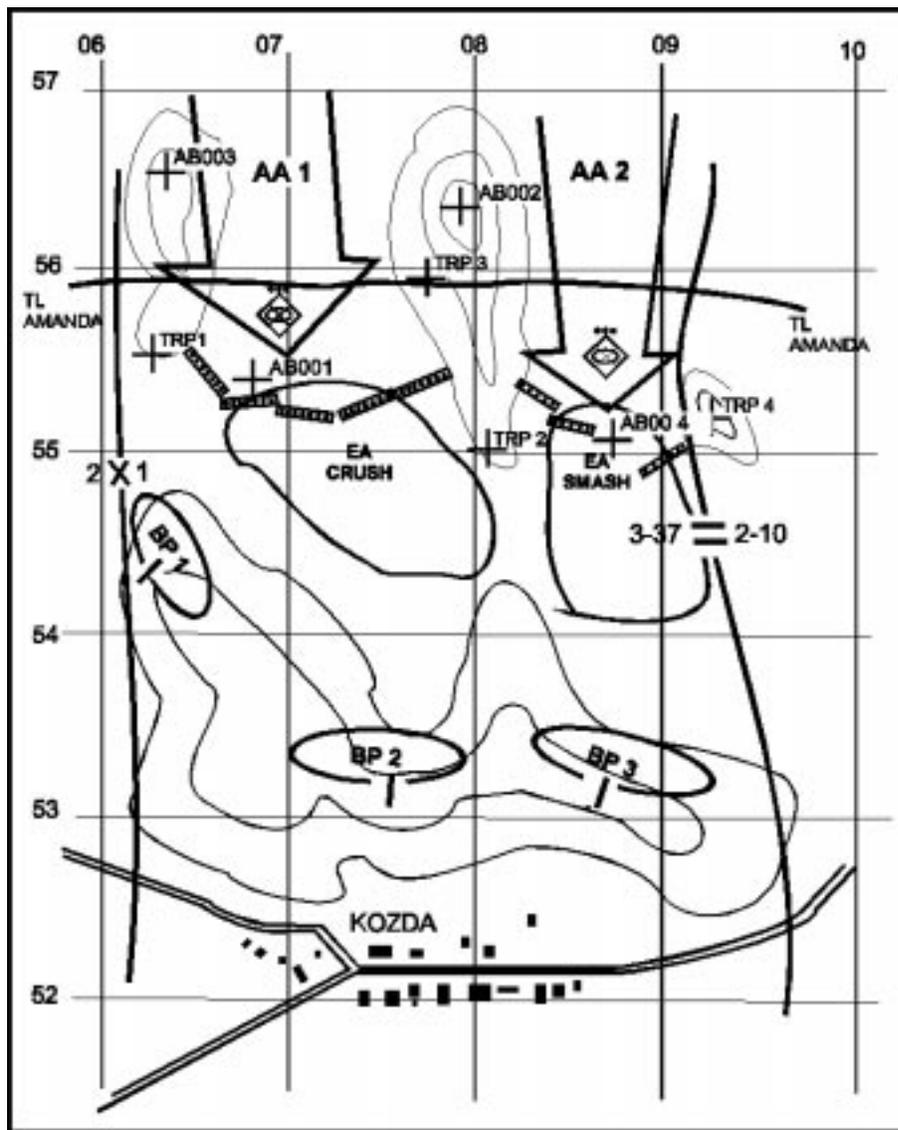


Figure 1. Mapboard for the defense of Kozda.

through AB003. Currently, the company is occupying BP 2, oriented on TRPs 1 and 2 and is backed down in turret down positions, having withstood an initial artillery bombardment. However, you have taken some losses.

1st Platoon (mech) is down to 3 BFVs, while 2nd Platoon reports that one tank has received heavy track damage and another suffered severe gun tube damage.

3rd Platoon reports no damage to any of their tanks.

Bravo Team has just made contact and destroyed three BMPs, and the TF scouts in the west report that the MRB will be in their sector within the next 15-20 minutes. As you are monitoring these reports, you hear Terminator 6 (TF commander) trying to raise the Alpha Team commander or his XO. He has lost all

radio communications with Alpha Team, and the last transmission the A Team commander sent was that he was engaging three armored vehicles and was down to 9 vehicles. The TF commander now believes that the MRR is attacking with two MRBs abreast along Avenues of Approach 1 and 2. The TF scouts in the east confirm this by reporting that an MRB is moving fast along Avenue of Approach 2 and will be in Alpha Team's sector within the next five minutes. The TF commander believes that the enemy will successfully penetrate Alpha Team's position, leaving his flank exposed. He orders you to block penetration of Alpha Team's sector (See Figure 2). You must act now! What do you do?

Requirement. In 5 minutes or less make your decision 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: ThompsonM@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil, or mail your solution to ARMOR, ATTN: ATZK-TDM, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210.

In the July-August issue of ARMOR, we'll include some of the solutions sent in by readers, along with the author's proposed solution.

On page 45, we recap the November-December issue vignette, "Ambush at Dogwood Crossing," and follow this recap with the author's solution.

-Ed.

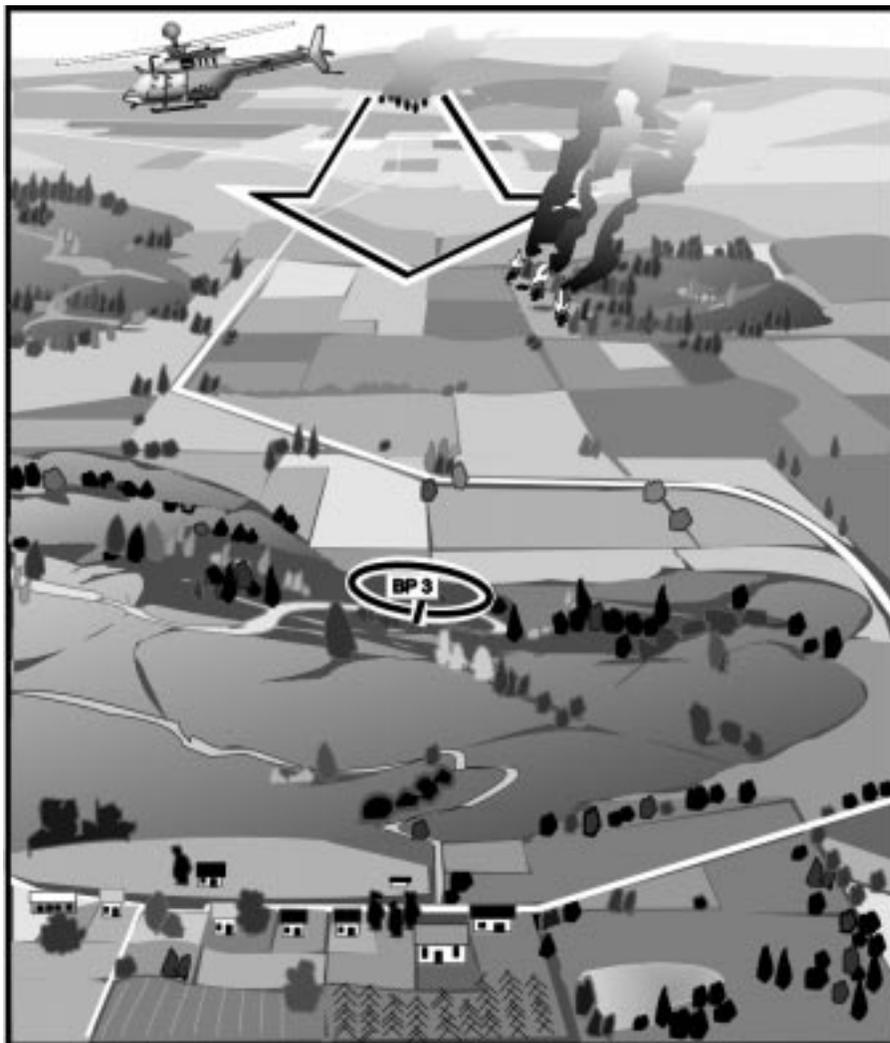


Figure 2. Aerial view from behind Battle Position 3.