

Solution — Tactical Vignette 99-3

“Screen in a Snowstorm,” from the May-June 1999 issue of *ARMOR*

Author's Solution

Guidons, this is WOLFPACK 6. FRAGO follows, acknowledge over.

SITUATION: There are three T-34s moving south vicinity NAI 3. WHITE has eyes on but will lose them quickly. Bulldog reports one T-55 moving east, last seen grid 1.5 kilometers NNW of NAI 16. BULLDOG has one downed aircraft at GV299123, currently being observed by five apparently unarmed personnel 500 meters to their north. Additionally, S2 reports that weather conditions are worsening, and the snowstorm moving in will probably last for two days. The air troops are currently grounded and are likely to remain that way for at least 48 hours.

MISSION: A Troop, 1-201 CAV screens along PL SILVER from PL GOLD to PL LEAD and along PL GOLD between PL BRONZE and PL SILVER NLT 051030JUN1999 to identify and track insurgents entering PRU.

EXECUTION.

Tasks to Subordinate Units:

RED: Move two vehicles from OP 1a to establish OP b1a VIC GV299123, to provide security for the downed aircraft and crew. Be prepared to accept a three-vehicle section from GREEN VIC GV352104. Move one HMMWV from GREEN to reinforce 1a, and the other two to establish b2a VIC GV 305102 oriented on NAIs 12-13.

WHITE: Continue to track the three T-34s moving in your sector. Reposition a two-vehicle section within your sector to pass the tanks off to 1st BDE south of PL BRONZE.

BLUE: Continue mission.

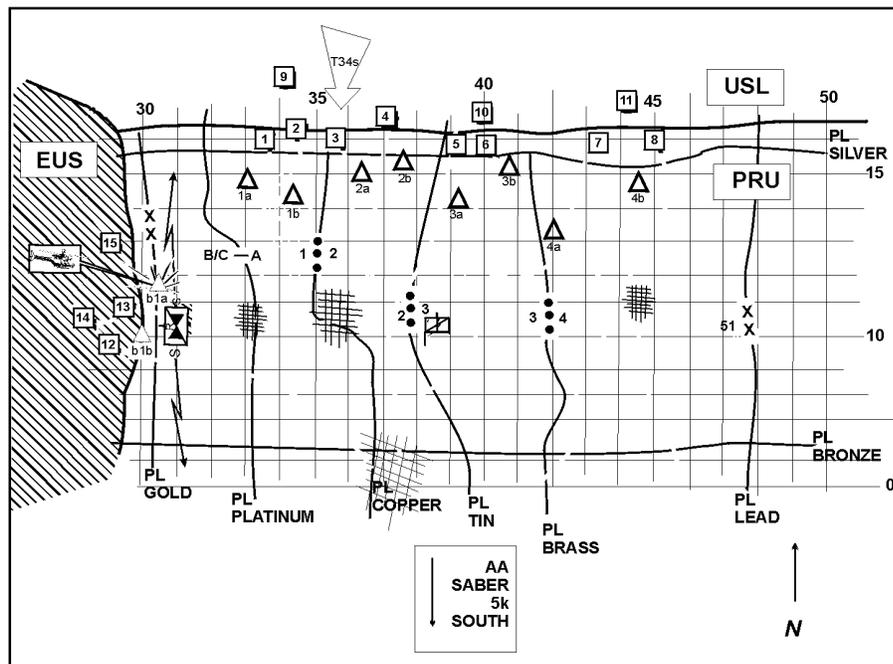
GREEN: Collapse OP 4a and move a three-vehicle section into first platoon's sector VIC GV352104. This section is attached to RED upon link-up.

Coordinating Instructions:

Report when moving and set.

RED report when you have secured the downed aviators. Your sector now extends east to and along PL GOLD.

GREEN move to WHITE's **FREQ** while moving through their sector. Avoid contact with the T-34s. Move to RED's **FREQ** at the link up point.



WOLFPACK 7 move to the squadron TOC to advise SABER 6 of our situation. Ensure the squadron TOC notifies F Troop to launch the Downed Aircraft Rescue Team (DART) and informs 1st BDE they have three T-34s moving to them. I will remain at my current position and continue to try and raise SABER TOC.

What are your questions?

RATIONALE

The squadron commander has ordered me to screen along PL SILVER from PL PLATINUM to PL LEAD. The situation has changed, however, with the weathering in of the two flight troops on my flank. Also, two contacts force me to make one quick move with RED, to secure the downed aviators, and one more deliberate move with GREEN, to establish a new OP in B/C sector. The shifting of force gives the number of OPs I want in sector with enough soldiers at those OPs to establish them for long duration operations. The decision to shut down OP 4a is based on the belief that GREEN can cover both NAIs 7 and 8 from OP 4b. I am not overly concerned with the T-55 moving around in EUS, with the establishment of the two new OPs in the old B/C sector, he should be identified if he crosses into PRU. Having contact with the three T-34s center sector only adds to the problem, but WHITE should be able

to track them with their displaced section. I decided to send WOLFPACK 7 to approve my plan because I did not want to be out of contact with my platoon leaders should problems arise during this reposition, with tank moving in sector. If GREEN can avoid bumping into the T-34s and the SCO approves of my plan, we are in business until the storm subsides.

Reader's Solution

(Submitted by 1LT Nathan A. Cox, ACCC 99-03, Section 1B, Ft. Knox, Ky.)

“White 1, this is 6. Roger. Continue to monitor until you lose visual. NAI 3 is still in your sector. Attempt to move to a position that better suits visual on the T-34s. Break. Red 1, this is 6. White 1 reports seeing three T-34s vic NAI 3. He may lose visual. I need you to see if you can get a visual on NAI 3, just in case White loses contact. Red 1, also be prepared to send a section with MK-19 and .50 cal. vic GV305120. Bulldog has a bird down with engine trouble. Leave your AT assets to monitor enemy tanks. I'm going to call Bulldog 6 and let him know I've got contact with his guy, then I'll let you know. Break. Guidons, this is 6. S2 reports a big snowstorm coming. It's supposed to last for two days. Continue to monitor your NAIs, and let me know when you lose visual contact. Red 1, stand by. Over.”