

# The Company Leader

Leadership Lessons from the Tactical Level of War

## TACTICAL DECISION GAMES

### Defend the Pass

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The Company Leader TDG 19-07

SBCT BN Defense





# Defend the Pass

TDG

You are the Battalion AS-3 (Assistant Operations Officer) in 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (SBCT). Your battalion recently seized Ujen and established security in the city. But before you could transition authority to the Atropian Government, your Brigade S2 reports enemy massing north of Granite Pass. The 111<sup>th</sup> BTG is amassing forces and preparing for a counter-attack after your brigade's successful operations in the central corridor. Your battalion commander and S3 returned from the Brigade OPOD having conducted a brief reconnaissance of the objective and they are ready to give you your planning guidance. Prepare to copy.



Soldiers from 111th Infantry, 56th SBCT, conduct a night live-fire during Exercise Decisive Strike 2019 at the Training Support Centre, Krivolak, North Macedonia, June 11, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Frances Ariele Tejada)

This is part of our Tactical Decision Game Series. There is no ONE right answer, but there are varying degrees of right and wrong. Feel free to post your answers in the comments, on Social Media, or submit to The Company Leader. For an aggregated list of TDGs click [HERE](#). To subscribe to The Company Leader click [HERE](#).



# Defend the Pass



## Situation

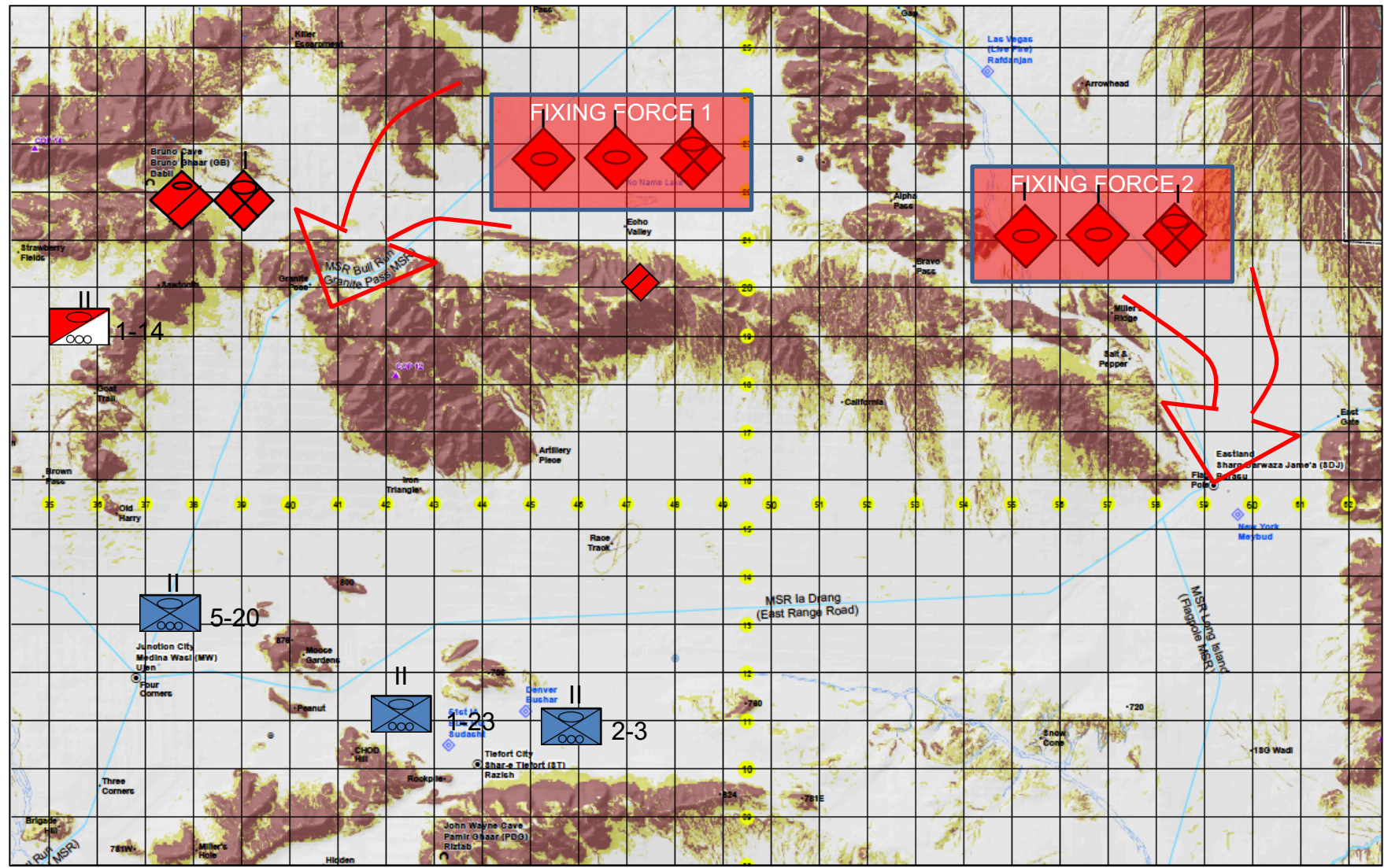
In the first phase of your brigade's operations in Donovan-controlled territory of Atropia, you have fought from east to west along AOA CHAMBERLAIN, through the central corridor. Your sister battalion, 2-3 IN, seized Razish and destroyed enemy forces of the BFB. They are currently preparing to conduct a defense forward vic of Barasu. The cavalry squadron, 1-14 CAV, are conducting a guard vic of Strawberry Fields. They also have OPs with eyes on Echo Valley and report that the 111th BTG are amassing forces for a counter-attack. 1-23 IN is currently the brigade reserve and prepared to reinforce.



Army National Guard Infantrymen from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team seize a town from the enemy, June 7, 2019, at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Seizing the key terrain enabled the 116th CBCT to maneuver pass the previously contested area. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mason Cutrer)



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## Enemy

The 111<sup>th</sup> BTG is currently broken down into two primary fixing forces, one secondary fixing force, and one exploitation force. The Brigade S2 expects the 111<sup>th</sup> to probe an axis of advance through the Strawberry Fields with their secondary fixing force consisting one one armored reconnaissance troop and one mechanized infantry company-sized element. They will commit their primary fixing forces vic the Granite Pass and Barasu, each with an armor battalion-sized element consisting of two companies of BRDMs and one company of BMPs. They will withhold their exploitation force until determining the which fixing force has the most success.





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## Task Org

Your battalion is at approximately 75% strength. A Co has 2x PLTs, B Co, 2x PLTs, and C Co has all 3x PLTs. Your BN mortars and scouts are at full-strength. You have 1x engineer company with the ability to establish 1km of fixing obstacles or 500m of fixing and 1km of disruption obstacles. You are currently securing Ujen, vic your BN HQs, but can defend forward of the city.





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## Mission & Intent

NLT H-hour conduct an area defense to defeat the 111th BTG's attack into Erdabil Province IOT prevent the success of the 11th DTG and protect the 52nd ID right flank.

Commander's Intent: The purpose of this operation is to support the Atropian Government's efforts to establish interim security in Erdabil Province, specifically in the cities of Razish and Ujen. Defeat any efforts by the Donovanian Military to cross south of the international border.





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## Output Required

You have 25 minutes; gather the tools and your BN Staff to devise a plan. Review your mission and commander's intent, determine your key tasks, and review available forces. Use the operations graphic below to array your forces and draw your concept of the operation. Prepare a brief FRAGORD for your company commanders.

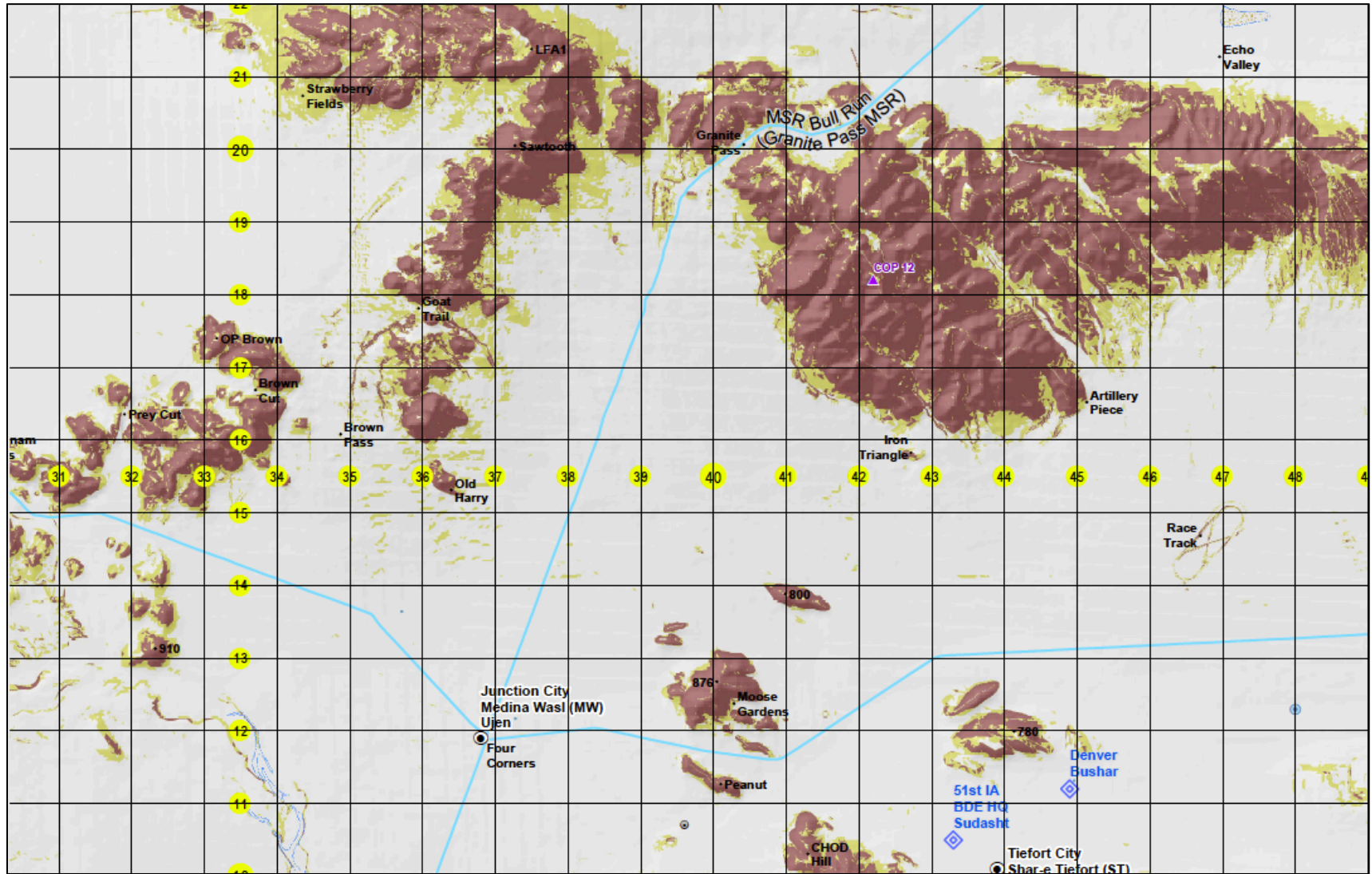
### **A Few Leader Questions to Consider:**

1. How will you array your forces?
2. What is your decisive point?
3. Review ADP 3-90.
4. Where will you place your engagement area?
5. Will you give your companies disengagement criteria?
6. Are there any decision points for the battalion commander?
7. What is your most casualty producing weapon? (Hint: Strykers don't kill Tanks).





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