

The Company Leader

Leadership Lessons from the Tactical Level of War

TACTICAL DECISION GAMES

Reconnaissance Guidance

The Company Leader TDG 19-11

SBCT Recon





Reconnaissance Guidance

TDG

No rest for the wicked...nor for the recon squadron. After a 24-hour fight for Ujen and Razish, the infantry squadrons are consolidating and reorganizing. They are preparing defensive positions and preparing for the 111th BTG's integrated attack. The regimental staff is conducting MDMP and developing their operations order. Regiment published WARNORD 1 last night. As the sun rises over the central corridor of Donovanian occupied Atropia, the Brigade Headquarters is preparing to publish WARNORD 2 – plenty of time for the infantry squadrons before their BPT defend mission. But, to the recon squadron WARNORD 2 means it is time to cross LD.



(U.S. Army Photo retrieved from 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division Facebook Page.)

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](#).



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Situation

You are a member of the squadron staff for Longknife Squadron, [4/3 CAV](#). For the past two weeks your regiment, Brave Rifles, has been engaged in sustained combat with elements of the Donovanian 111th BTG and the Donovanian-aligned Bilasuvar Freedom Brigade (BFB). The regiment took significant casualties during its seizure of the two largest population centers in your area of operations—Razish and Ujen. During these operations, your reconnaissance squadron was arrayed along the Tiefert Mountain complex, observing north into the population centers. Now, as your regiment shifts its focus west toward the primary enemy avenues of approach, you must expand the Regiment's security area.

The Regimental Commander is arraying two of his infantry squadrons against the two primary directions of attack along PL BLUE, west and northwest of Ujen. One squadron is tasked to defend east of the Goat Trail and Brown Pass while the other is aligned against the Wash Board and Debnam Pass. The third infantry squadron will remain in Razish as the regimental reserve. The Regimental Commander needs to know the direction of attack the enemy intends to use so he can properly employ his reserve against the enemy's assault and exploitation forces.



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Enemy

The Regimental S2 developed an enemy order of battle that you believe greatly over estimates the enemy force that you will see in the recon fight. We believe the enemy will attack from west to east, using one or more of the passages along PL RED (the Wash Board, Debnam Pass, Brown Pass). The Goat Trail and, farther north, Drink Water Valley are not templated corridors for enemy use. We believe elements of the BFB, that have dispersed into the population, will continue to harass the infantry squadrons as they conduct EA development.

Per enemy doctrine and previous operations, we template 111th BTG order of battle (OOB) as follows. The enemy will start with BTG Reconnaissance at H -12 to -24 hours. This will be their first echelon force, consisting of mech recon with ATGM and A2AD assets (MLCOA) or reinforced with a platoon of T-90s (MDCOA). The enemy will then send two fixing forces at H-hour, one to the north along Enemy AoA Chamberlain (Fixing Force 1) and one to the south along AoA Grant (Fixing Force 2). Pending the results of echelons 1 and 2, we expect the 111th BTG commander to commit his Assault Force, at approximately H+1 to +2 hours, along one of those two AoAs in echelon 3. He will likely commit his Exploitation Force immediately following the Assault Force.





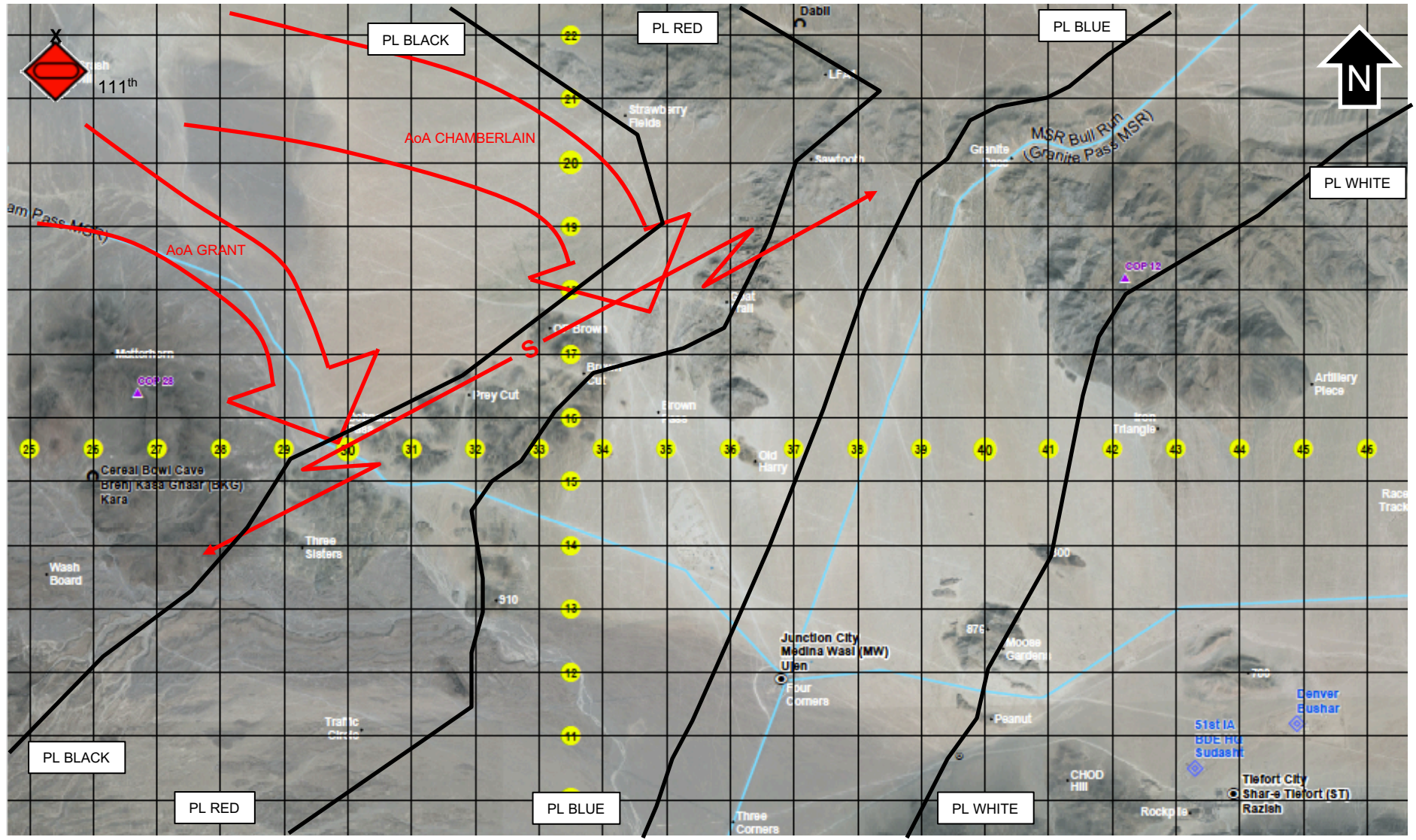
Reconnaissance Guidance



Task & Purpose	Designation & Echelon	Task Organization
Conduct recon and counter-recon operations IOT inform BTG CDR's DPs	BDE Recon – Echelon 1	
Fix enemy vic of Brown Pass IOT prevent displacement	Fixing Force 1 – Echelon 2	
Fix enemy vic of Debnam Pass IOT prevent displacement	Fixing Force 2 – Echelon 2	
Destroy enemy vic the passes and principal defenses – pass exploitation force	Assault Force – Echelon 3	
Destroy enemy in rear area and exploit seam	Exploitation Force – Echelon 4	



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Mission & Intent

It is H -20 hours. The Regimental Commander has tasked your squadron to:

1. clear the BTG recon off of PL RED in order to deny enemy observation of our EA development.
2. Determine trafficability of MSRs between PL BLACK and BLUE IOT facilitate a DIV counterattack through our zone.
3. Answer PIR #1: On which AoA will the BTG commit its assault force?



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kevin Parker, Operations Group, National Training Center.)



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Output Required

You have 25 minutes. Gather the staff and array your troops along the screen line. Develop the enemy situation as you see fit using the graphics provided. Develop a draft of the Commander's Reconnaissance Guidance (CRG) for your Squadron Commander's approval. Be prepared to brief your draft CRG to the SCO with the accompanying concept of reconnaissance.

Looking for a Commander's Recon Guidance Template? We have you covered. Click [HERE](#) for the template and [HERE](#) for an article explaining CRG.

A Few Leader Questions to Consider:

1. What does your Regimental Commander need to know?
2. Where will you get the answer to that PIR?
3. How will you know when you have the answer to the PIR?
4. How will you array your forces and against what task(s)?
5. Are there any other PIRs for which they should be looking?



COMMANDER'S RECONNAISSANCE GUIDANCE



1. **FOCUS:** THREAT TERRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE SOCIETY
Recon Objective:
2. **TEMPO:** RAPID DELIBERATE & STEALTHY FORCEFUL
3. **ENGAGEMENT CRITERIA:**
 - a. Troops may engage up to:
 - i. _____ many wheeled scouts/dismounts
 - ii. _____ many tracked vehicles/APCs
 - iii. _____ many enemy Tanks
 - b. Platoons may engage up to:
 - i. _____ many wheeled scouts/dismounts
 - ii. _____ many tracked vehicles/APCs
 - iii. _____ many enemy Tanks
 - c. Bypass Criteria:
4. **DISPLACEMENT CRITERIA:**
 - a. Event:
 - b. Threat:
 - c. Time:



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