

The Company Leader

Leadership Lessons from the Tactical Level of War

TACTICAL DECISION GAMES

Set the Trap

The Company Leader TDG 20-02

IBCT PLT Ambush





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You have never quite been this tired, wet, and this cold in your entire life. You could have sworn that Atropia was primarily a desert. But no, your unit - Task Force 1-28 Infantry – had to deploy to the other side of Atropia. No sweeping landscape and warm winters for you. And here you sit – a different day, a different puddle. You are in the middle of your platoon’s patrol base, next to your RTO, while your squad leaders ensure security is set. “Ma’am – Crusher Main says they there is intelligence that enemy forces are moving in our AO. They will be moving to a resupply point along RTE ORION in the morning. CRUSHER 6 says we need to set an ambush.”



Image retrieved from Task Force 1-28, Black Lions Facebook Page.

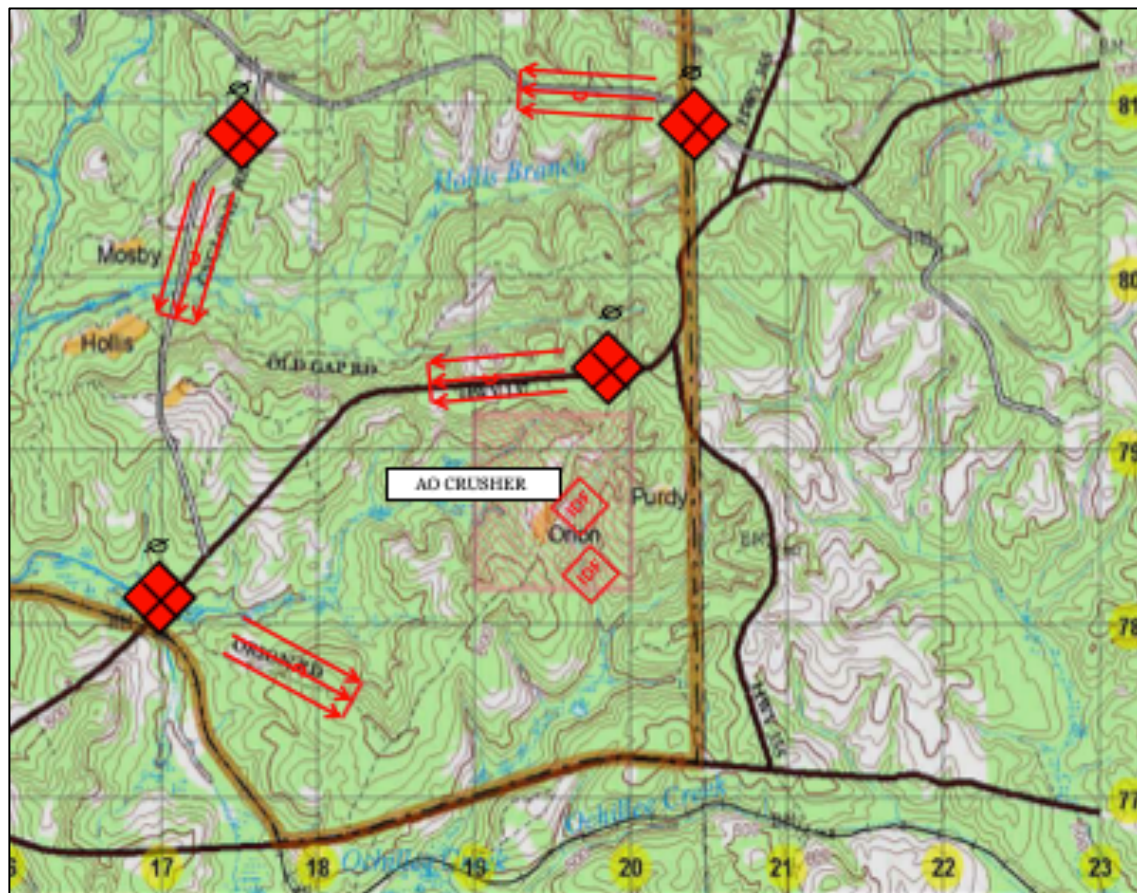
This is part of our Tactical Decision Game Series. There is no ONE right answer, but there are varying degrees of right and wrong. Feel free to post your answers in the comments, on Social Media, or submit to The Company Leader. For an aggregated list of TDGs click [HERE](#). To subscribe to The Company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



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Situation

AO Crusher is a former Atropian military reservation, that has since become the base of operations for BFB forces since the Donovanian invasion. It is densely vegetated with many creek beds, flooded low ground, and unmarked erosion ditches. There are several avenues of approach and a network of roads and trails. These AoAs support mounted vehicles but canalize armored vehicles – making them targets and severely limiting their effectiveness.





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Enemy

Intelligence reports the location of suspected Bilasuvar Freedom Brigade (BFB), mortar sites, ADA sites, communication nodes, and numerous logistical re-supply points in Zones A, B and C. The BFB have a strong presence north of Highway 137. They are task organized into two main cells. The first is a drug manufacturing cell that provides the day-to-day. Second, is their direct-action cell conducts the majority of the BFB activities in your AO.

The BFB are armed with a mixture of Soviet and U.S. weapons. They use M-4s, M-16s, M-203s, AK-47 Assault Rifles, SVD Sniper Rifles, the M-60 Machine Gun, and RPG-7s. BFB forces are currently at 80% strength. Their platoons have approximately 22-25 personnel.

There was mortar attack yesterday vicinity GA 1940 7840 at 1450 on a friendly dismounted patrol. There was also an ambush on U.S. Coalition Forces resupply convoy vicinity GA 1910 7820. The BFB have limited truck assets to conduct logistical operations and to move troops throughout the area of operations.

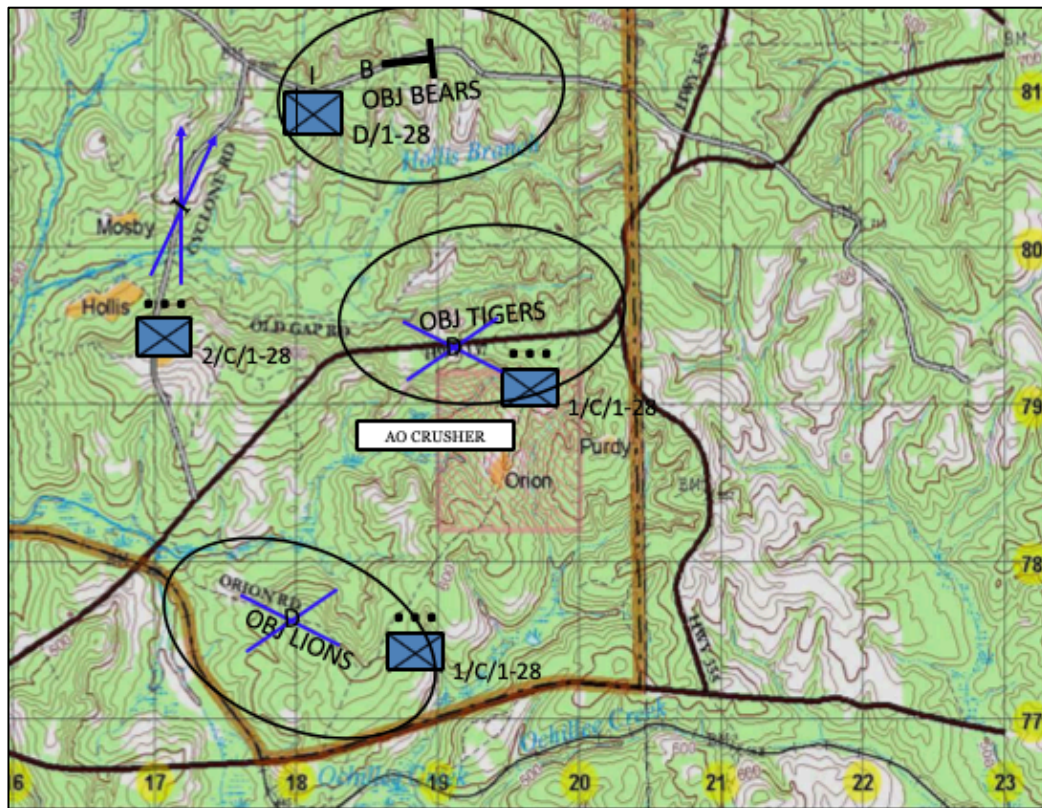


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Friendly

TF 1-28 continues to conduct combat operations throughout the AO to destroy enemy forces and prevent their control of key terrain. The intent is to find, fix, and finish forces in zone and deny the resupply of the BFB. Your company was tasked to conduct ambushes on objectives in the AO to achieve this intent. 2nd Platoon is conducting an interdiction of suspected enemy resupply to your east. 3rd Platoon is conducting an ambush to the north. Destroyer Co is conducting a blocking operation to your north to deny enemy movement along a suspected route for reinforcements and counterattack.





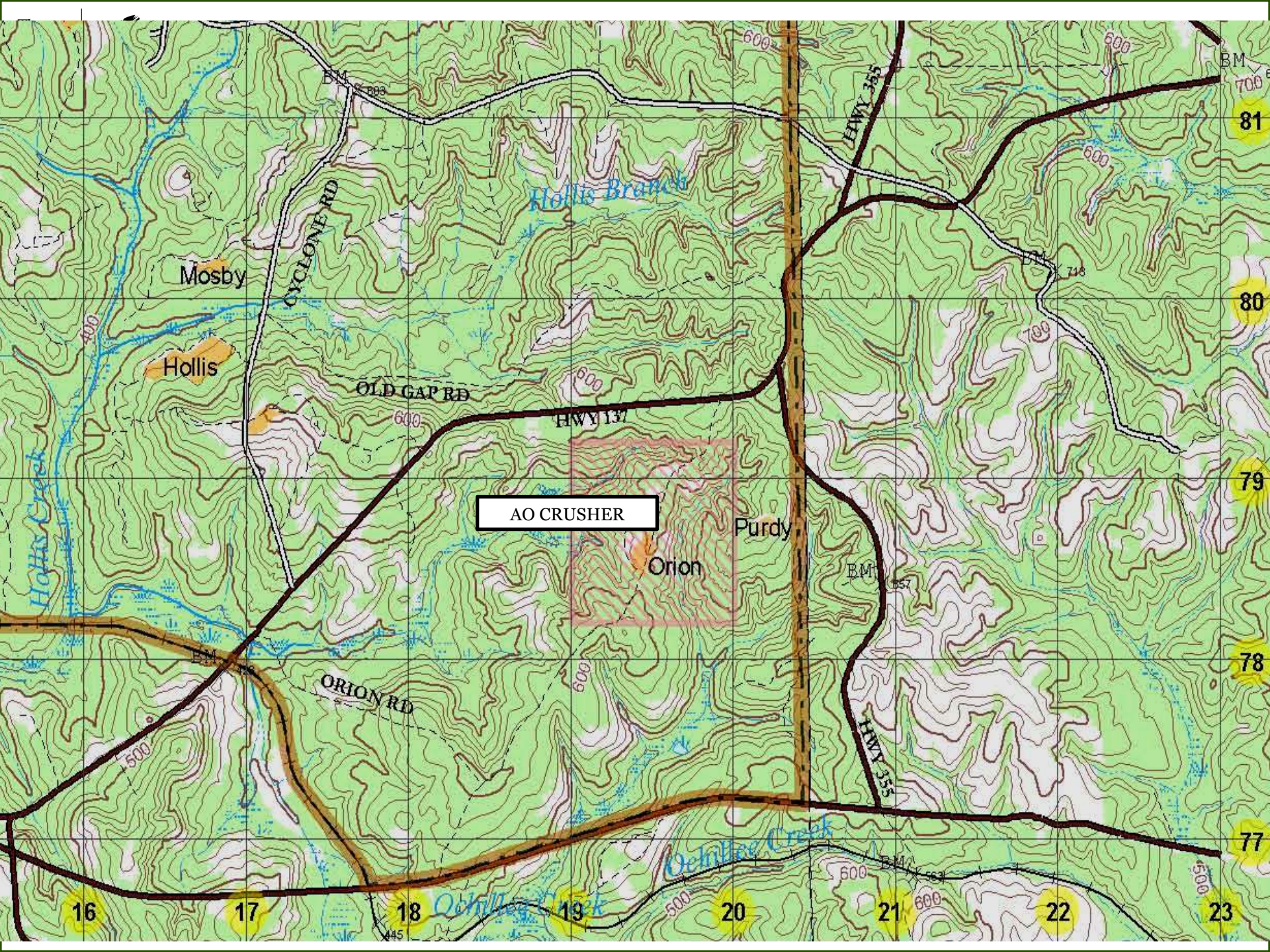
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Mission

1st Platoon, Crusher Company, 1-23 IN will conduct an area ambush within OBJ LIONS to destroy BFB elements NLT H-hour IOT deny the enemy freedom of maneuver within AO Crusher.



Photo retrieved from Task Force 1-28 Infantry, Black Lions Facebook Page.



AO CRUSHER

Mosby

Hollis

OLD GAP RD

HWY 137

Purdy

Orion

ORION RD

HWY 355

16

17

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23

81

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77



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Output Required

You have 25 minutes. Develop a FRAGORD with a concept statement and sketch (using the graphic above). Include tasks to subordinate units. Be prepared to brief your plan to the Company Commander with a general fires plan and triggers.

A Few Leader Questions to Consider:

1. Where will you place your key leaders? Communications plan?
2. How will you trigger your ambush?
3. What are the considerations for your egress and extraction plan?
4. What assets at the company-level should you request?
5. What if you are compromised?
6. What is your plan for casualties?



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