

The Company Leader

Leadership Lessons from the Tactical Level of War

TACTICAL DECISION GAMES

Come In Fighting

The Company Leader TDG 20-04

IBCT Airborne Assault





Come In Fighting

TDG

Looking around your C-17 and the paratroopers heavy laden with gear and a parachute, you would never know they all had just been laying in their own beds only a week ago. When the missiles fell and our airbases in Atropia were overrun, they mobilized the 82nd Airborne Division to seize key airfields. That much you knew was possible when volunteering for an airborne assignment; the 80lbs ruck and Carl Gustav gunner to your right crushing you was not as well advertised.

As the aircraft pitches into its evasive maneuvers you know you must be getting close to the drop zone. Heart pounding, they give the jump commands and you give yourself to the darkness with a vigorous up 6 and out 36.



U.S. Army paratroopers, assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct an airborne operation on Sicily Drop Zone at Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 20, 2015.

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 platoon leader in Charlie Company, 1-325 AIR, of 2BCT 82nd ABN DIV currently conducting a night airborne assault on an airfield the division plans on using to project coalition forces behind the enemy FLOT and disrupt the enemy offensive operation. C Co's mission is to isolate to the south and west while A Co isolates to the north and B Co clears the Field Landing Strip (FLS). D Co (mounted company) and 2-325 AIR are securing the east side.

Once you get to the platoon assembly area you realize things are quickly not going as planned. For one communications are being jammed and far fewer paratroopers made it to the Assembly Area you had hoped. As you begin to task organize a runner comes over from the company Assembly Area (AA) with a change of mission. "B Co received heavy casualties coming out of the bird, A Co had to take their mission clearing the FLS so your platoon is going to take A Co's blocking position"



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Enemy Task Organization

1. OBJ VIKINGS (DO):

Assessed Threat Disposition: 30-40 PAX
T: SECURE AF
P: Deny USFOR JFE and introduction of follow on forces.

2. OBJ BILLS:

Assessed Threat Disposition: 100 PAX
T: FOLLOW AND ASSUME (BN Reserve)
P: Deny USFOR JFE and introduction of follow on forces.

3. OBJ COLTS:

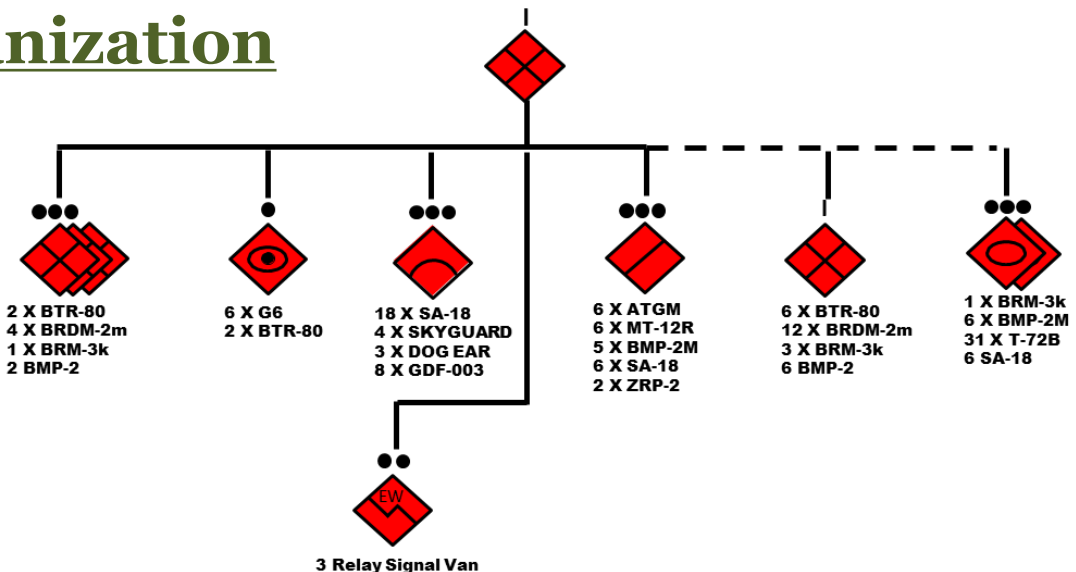
Assessed Threat Disposition: 30-40 PAX
T: SCREEN to the north-east against host-nation forces in FAYETTEVILLE
P: Protect 181 BTG eastern flank

4. OBJ RAIDERS:

Assessed Threat Disposition: 30-40 PAX
T: SCREEN to the south-east against host-nation forces in FAYETTEVILLE
P: Protect 181 BTG eastern flank.

5. OBJ REDSKINS:

Assessed Threat Disposition: 30-40 PAX
T: SCREEN to the south-west against host-nation forces in FAYETTEVILLE
P: Protect 181 BTG western flank.



(U) SA-18
Reaction Time (sec): 6-7
Time Between Launches (sec): 16
Reload Time (sec): 10
Fire on the Move: Yes, in short halt



(U) BMP-2M IFV
Weapon: 30mm / 7.62mm MG / ATGM / 40mm
Dismounts: 7 personnel
Max Range: 1,200m (HE) / 4,000m (HE FRAG)
Vehicle Max Range: 600km
Max Speed: 65km/h



(U) 155mm Self-Propelled Howitzer G6
Weapon: 155-mm howitzer / .50 Cal M2 HB MG
Max Range: 30,000 m (Frag-HE), 39,000m (Frag-HE BB) / 1,000m
Vehicle Max Range: 700km
Max Speed: 85/30 km/h



(U) BTR-80
Weapon: 14.5mm turret MG / 7.62mm PKT MG
Max Range: 2,000m / 1,500m
Vehicle Max Range: 600km
Max Speed: 85/60 km/h



(U) T-72B
Weapon: 125mm / 12.7mm / 7.62mm PKT MG
Max Range: 3,000m / 2,000m
Vehicle Max Range: 500km
Max Speed: 60/45 km/h



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Enemy Situation

Reporting indicates that the 181st Motorized Infantry Brigade (181 BTG) has infiltrated and is occupying several objectives and airfield (AF) within AO FALCON. 181st BTG is currently conducting a tactical pause within the AO to refit and resupply before resuming its attack to seize Fayetteville. 181st BTG has positioned combat power on likely Afs within the AO to defend against a coalition forces joint force entry (JFE). Upon US JFE, the 181st BTG defenses on Hanara AF will delay to prepare for a battalion-size counterattack within 24 hours. Intelligence reports defenses are supplied with non-persistent chemically tipped mortars. 181st BTG's forward battalion will establish battle positions on OBJs STELERS, RAIDES< PATRIOTS, and CHARGERS, each tied into building and key terrain to prevent the opening of a ground line of communication from Fayetteville.



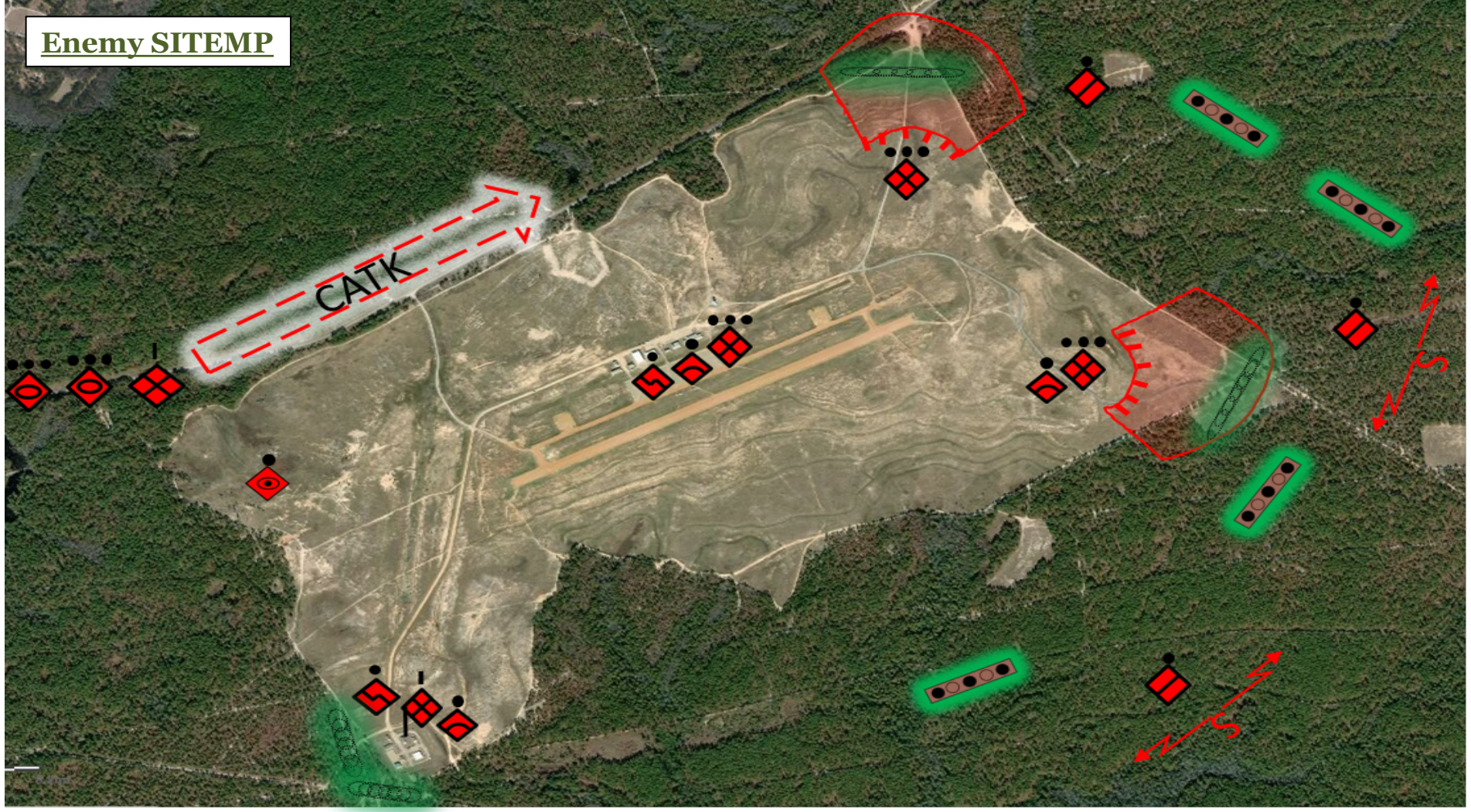
An Army combat medic assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., readies his equipment before embarking on his final evaluation lane while competing for the expert field medical badge at Fort Bragg, N.C., Nov. 6, 2018. Sgt. Dustin Biven 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



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Enemy SITEMP





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Task Org

40 of your paratroopers boarded the C-17; You have 25 paratroopers including yourself make it to the AA so far. You have two squad leaders, no Platoon Sergeant, and a handful of team leaders mixed in. One Carl Gustaf M3E1, one M240L, and three AT4s as well as five SAWs, and four M320s. Additionally you two ASIPs, one MBITR, and each E-5 and higher has a PRC-154 for PLT internal communications. Your company was able to recover their 60mm mortar and the stinger missile door bundle.



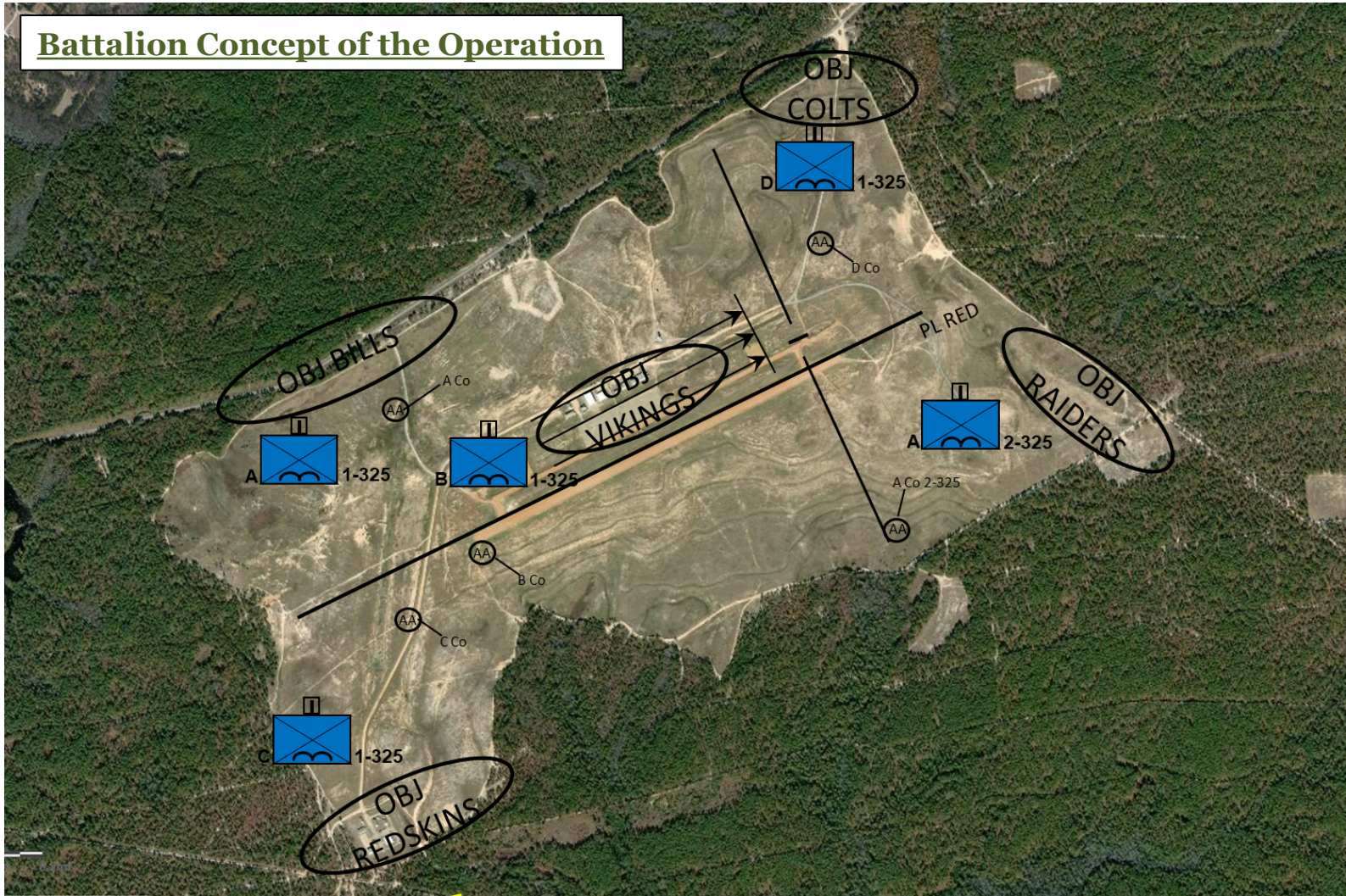
U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division move to an assembly area Feb. 1, 2019 at Normandy Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The paratroopers conducted a combat equipment static line airborne operation onto the drop zone to maintain their proficiency and rehearse their roles during follow-on missions. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Taylor Hoganson)



Come In Fighting



Battalion Concept of the Operation





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Mission

2/C/1-325 AIR seizes OBJ BILLS
NLT XX 0100 D-Day IOT deny
enemy freedom of maneuver on
OBJ VIKINGS



U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division move to an assembly area Feb. 1, 2019 at Normandy Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The paratroopers conducted a combat equipment static line airborne operation onto the drop zone to maintain their proficiency and rehearse their roles during follow-on missions. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Taylor Hoganson)



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Output Required

You have 25 minutes. Develop a FRAGORD that provides a template of enemy forces, a concept statement and sketch (using the graphic above), and tasks to subordinate units. Be prepared to brief your plan to the Battalion Commander with a general fires plan and triggers that drive the scheme of maneuver.

A Few Leader Questions to Consider:

1. Will you wait for all your paratroopers to assemble or leave before? What is your decision point?
2. How will you incorporate fires with diminished communications?
3. During a counter-attack, what are your engagement/disengagement criteria?
4. What assets can you request to improve your defense?
5. How will you account for un-assembled paratroopers and send them to your battle position?

This is a guest post TDG put together by 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne, 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division. 1st Lt. Chris Clarkin, a platoon leader in C Co, led the effort. A native of Rhode Island, Chris attended University of Rhode Island before going to USMA where he earned his commission. A special thanks to 2nd Lt. John Stoddart and Capt. Tyler Morgan for their assistance.



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