

The Company Leader

Leadership Lessons from the Tactical Level of War

TACTICAL DECISION GAMES

Red Dragons on OBJ Sword

The Company Leader TDG 20-06

IBCT CO Attack





Red Dragons on OBJ Sword

TDG

The Atropian air helps to cool the sweat under your body armor. Your company has been moving all night to get to this point. You look at your watch...2200, March 5th. The three weeks you've been conducting operations are beginning to take a toll. It seems more like a two months since you arrived in Atropia, but it's only been two weeks. 1st Battalion is wrapping up its movement to contact covering nearly 24 kilometers since last night. You're starting to feel the effects from a lack of sleep. The platoons are set in their positions and you were just about to close your eyes when your RTO comes over. "Sir, new orders – intelligence suggest the enemy seized an airfield about 5 clicks from our position. BN wants us to seize the airfield NLT 12 hours from now."



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](#).



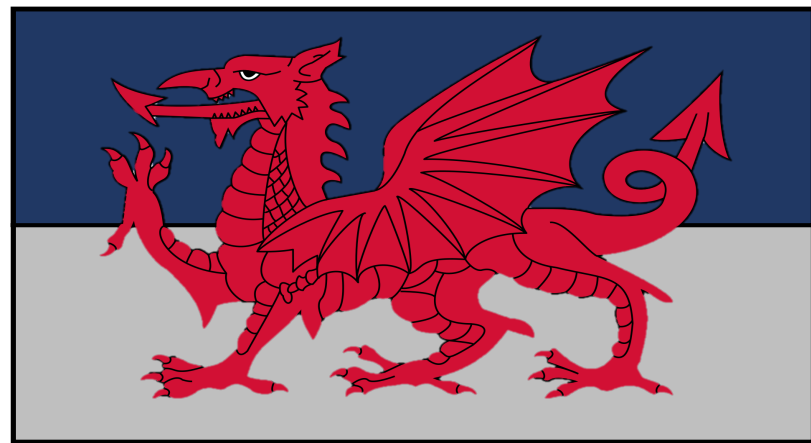


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Situation

The Republic of Atropia (ROA) and the Islamic Republic of Ariana (IRA) established a ceasefire and zone of separation as of 23 June 2020. The IRA repeatedly violated the terms of the ceasefire and demanded the annexation of Atropian territory with largely Arianan ethnic groups. The U.S. and the ROA declared all IRA military forces as hostile. U.S. and coalition forces deployed to the Caucasus region to conduct unified action in support of ROA to prevent imminent strike from IRA forces and reestablish recognized international borders.



This TDG was developed by the leaders of 1-116th IN, 29th Infantry Division, Virginia National Guard. Lt. Col. James Tierney and his team, challenged by COVID-19 and inspired by the TDGs they saw on The Company Leader, developed this TDG to exercise their team. In their version, Lt. Col. Tierney had each infantry company pretend they were A Co, and then provided tasks to their G Co (FSC) and HHC specialty platoons.





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Enemy

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF ARIANA, 171 BRIGADE TACTICAL GROUP (171 BTG) – presents a conventional and special operations (SPF) military threat. In AO RED DRAGONS, A/1171 Mechanized Infantry Battalion conducts defensive operations to disrupt US and Coalition forces. 1171 MIB has been attrited by Coalition Joint Forces but remains at 60% strength.

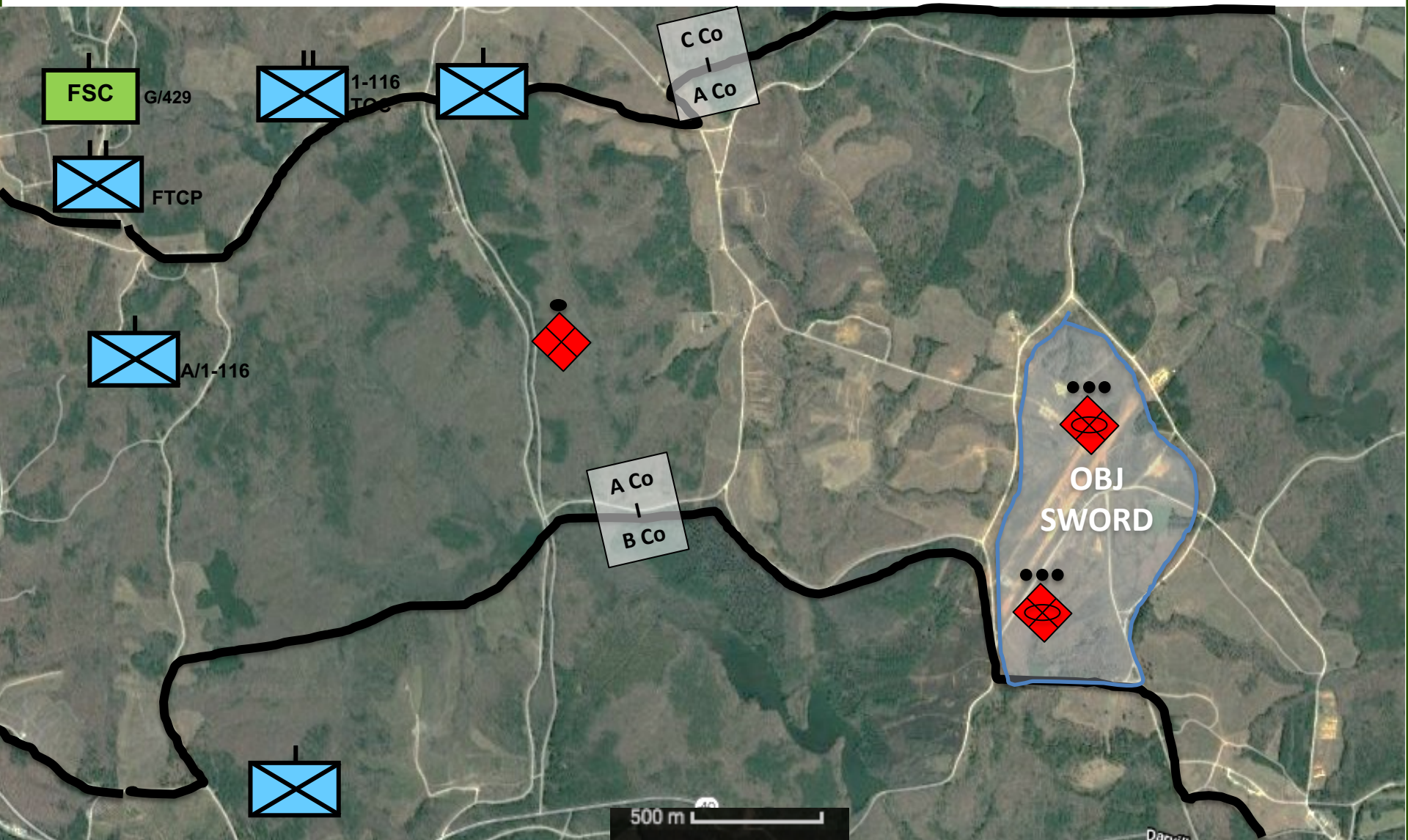
The BN S2 has assessed the two platoons of A/1171 MIB have seized the airfield to your company's East to deny Coalition freedom of movement and to extend their operational reach. They are defending with 2-3 T80s and 3 BMP-2s. Additionally they have a dismounted squad screening to the east of the airfield.

The remainder of A/1171 is 2km North of the airfield conducting a defense around the village of Mazur where the BN main effort, C Co will be attacking. Around Mazur, A/1711 has two platoons of T-80s and 2 S29 (120mm SP mortars) in DS which can be expected to reinforce the defense of the airfield.





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Task Organization

You are the Company Commander of A CO, 1-116th Infantry, 1st BCT, 29th Infantry Division.

Your Infantry CO TM 2x rifle platoons, one D Co weapons platoon and one SAPPER squad.

You have 4 x 1097s (2 x TOWS and ITAS, 1x M2 and 1 x MK19).

Your line platoons have organic AT systems to employ: MAAWS (Carl Gustaf 84mm) with 5 rounds per rifle platoon, 1x AT4, and 3x Javelin rounds with 1x CLU per rifle platoon.

The Sapper squad can conduct mobility / counter-mobility support. They have 4 M-21 anti-tank mines and 15lbs of C-4 demolitions.

The Mortar section is at full strength.

The company Raven is fully operational and can provide day and night observation





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Mission

You call in on the Ops Net to the BN. Red Dragon 3 indicates he can get you enough rotary wing support to conduct a platoon sized air assault. The rest of your company will have to conduct ground movements.

“I don’t have a lot to give you to support your fight, but I can give you one priority target. The BC also wants you to answer one of his PIRs to support the DSM: “When will A/1711 commit its force at MAZUR to the defense of OBJ SWORD?”

“Once you seize SWORD, be prepared to rapidly transition to the defense to ensure we retain the airfield so that the BDE can continue the attack against 1711”

“Good luck Bedford 6. Red Dragon 6 will expect a detailed back brief on this one

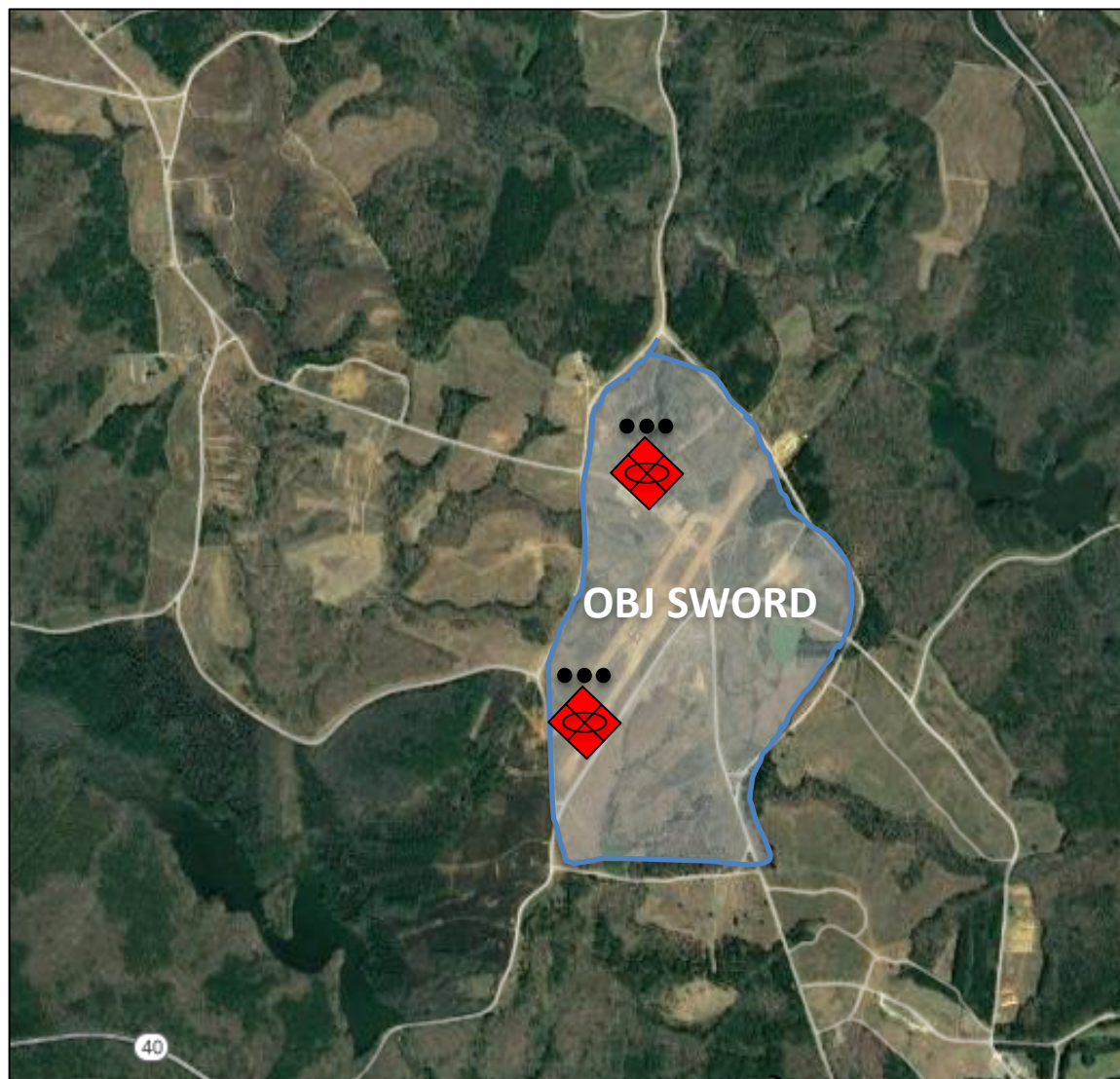
Mission: A Co, 1-116th IN destroys elements of A-1171 Mechanized Infantry Battalion (MIB) in AO RED DRAGONS to protect key infrastructure. Seize OBJ SWORD to enable BDE freedom of maneuver NLT 061200MAR.





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Output Required

You have three hours. Get with your CO HQs and platoon leadership to devise a plan. First, determine your key tasks from higher. Then use the operations graphic on the next slide to draw your concept of the operation. Prepare a brief FRAGORD for your company. Include your analysis of enemy disposition, mission statement, a concept statement, and the rationale for your plan. Ensure you use doctrinally correct graphics and control measures to depict your movement and maneuver. Help answer the PIR: What are the conditions that will cause A/1711 to commit its forces to the defense of OBJ SWORD?

A Few Leader Questions to Consider:

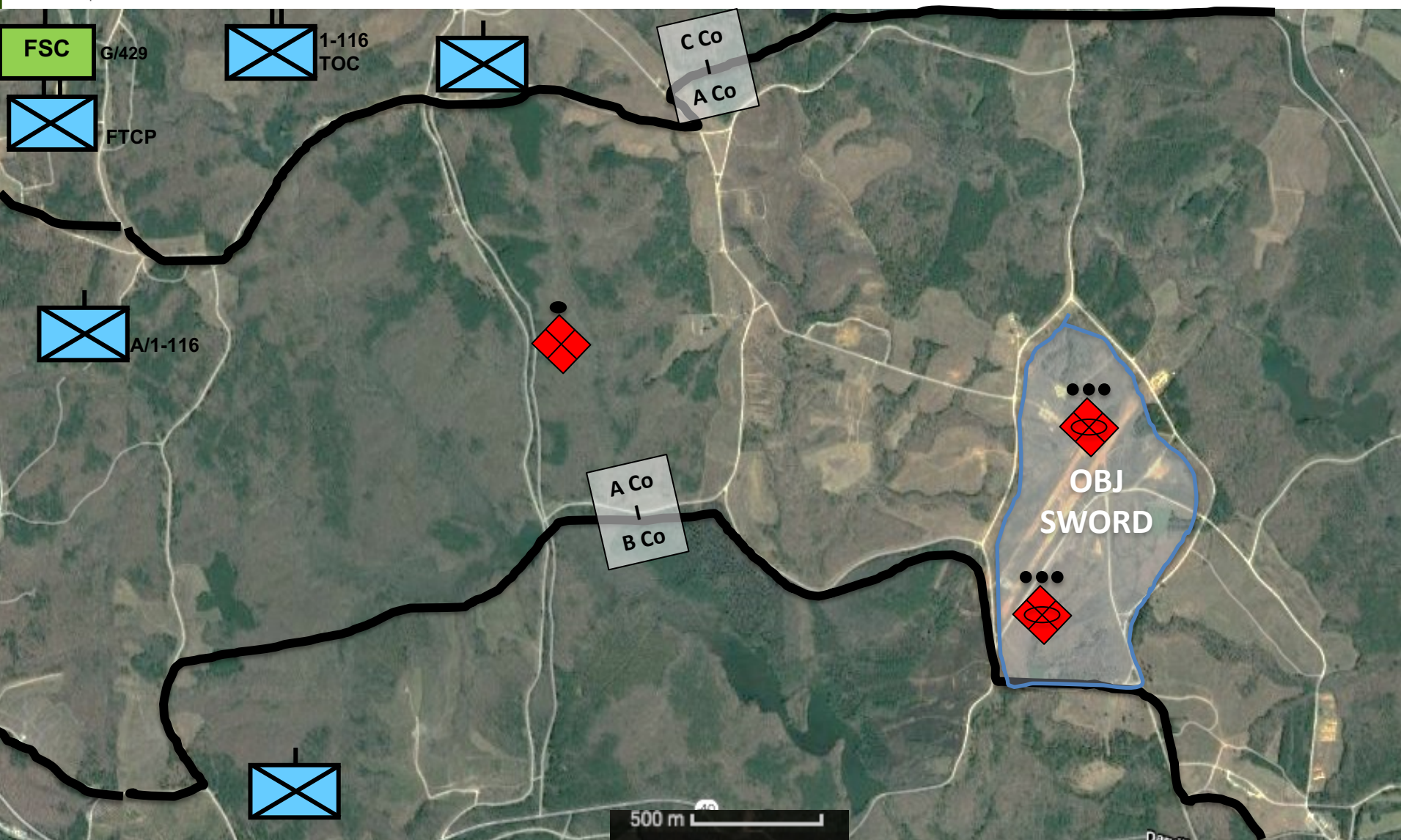
1. How will you array your company to best destroy A/1711 on OBJ SWORD in the time available
2. How will you employ your AT Platoon? Other key weapons systems?
3. What is your Decisive Point?
4. Where is your Line of Departure? Key Terrain?
5. What coordination with adjacent units will be required?
6. How you will integrate the air assault into your attack? LZs / PZs / Triggers to initiate?
7. What other organic assets, not specified, can you employ to help achieve your mission?
8. How will you handle casualty evacuation and logistical resupply?





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