

# Evacuation From Enniottu City

by Maj John F. Schmitt, USMCR

## Situation

You are the commander of a MEU(SOC) deployed aboard amphibious shipping near the west coast of Africa. Your ground combat element includes three infantry companies (A, B, and C), a light armored reconnaissance (LAR) platoon with four LAVs, a mortar platoon, an antiarmor platoon (usually attached to the companies), a heavy machinegun platoon, an assault amphibian platoon (enough to lift one rifle company), and an artillery battery. Your aviation element is a composite helicopter squadron with 4 AV-8Bs, 4 AH-1s, 3 working CH-53Es, and 10 CH-46s. Other options for ship-to-objective maneuver include light boats, landing craft, and an LCAC.\*

Enniottu is a former European colony that has suffered from cultural, political, and

economic chaos since independence in 1963. Enniottu City is the former colonial capital. It is densely populated, especially in the slum areas along the coast. It consists of varied urban terrain ranging from European architecture of brick and concrete remaining from the colonial period to one- and two-story wood frame structures in Middleclassville to plywood and tarpaper shanties in the slums. There are no buildings taller than three stories. Some roads are paved but have not been maintained since colonial rule. The named streets (Equality, Freedom, etc.) are two-lane avenues. The numbered streets are one-lane, wide enough for vehicles single file. All other streets/alleys, especially in the densely populated parts of town, are questionable as to capacity. The terrain slopes gently uphill from sea level at the

beaches to an elevation of about 100 meters at University Hill, where the American University is located. A “navigable” underground sewer system—meaning a man can move with relative ease—also remains from the colonial period. You are able to download a blueprint from your database, current as of 1952, but you have no idea of the system’s current condition. The areas immediately surrounding the city center are haphazard shanty warrens. Imagery shows four barricades emplaced within the last 24 hours: on Independence near West Beach, on Freedom and Industry near North Beach, and on Caserne near 3d St. These consist of heaps of old autos, tires, cinder blocks, felled trees, and other urban impediments.

The two main elements to be reckoned with are the Enniottu Liberation Front (ELF) and the Enniottuese Army (EA). While it is true to say that the EA and ELF are generally opposed to each other, tribal loyalties and hatreds run deeper than political divisions. At least three different competing tribes are represented in both the ELF and EA. The military situation would be unpredictable in the event of hostilities.

*See Tactical Decision Game #00-4, p.81.*

\*Lift capacity for aircraft varies directly with range, weather conditions, fuel, location, etc. For planning purposes here, assume CH-53Es can be configured with maximum centerline seats to carry 55 passengers. With partial or no centerline seats, the numbers drop to 40 and 30 passengers respectively. CH-46s average 12 passengers per sortie. LCACs have seats for 24 enclosed passengers.



In the last week the situation has deteriorated, with EA/ELF clashes, tribal violence, and anti-U.S. sentiment all on the rise. Small groups of angry youths have begun demonstrating on and off outside the U.S. Embassy. American businesses and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) have been vandalized. The 8-foot Embassy walls have been hit with automatic weapons fire on several occasions. When rocket propelled grenades were fired into the compound, the U.S. ambassador decided it was time to request an evacuation. The mission has been assigned to you and reads:

At the earliest possible opportunity you will commence evacuation of about 300 U.S. citizens and designated FNs from the U.S. Embassy and AFSCO plant in Enniottu City. Evacuation and withdrawal to be completed as expeditiously as possible, and no later than 24 hours from the time of commencement.

You learn that at last count the evacuees total:

- 210 U.S. citizens and foreign nationals (FNs), including the U.S. Ambassador and chargé d'affaires and 4 European consuls, at the U.S. Embassy.
- 74 U.S. citizens and FNs unable to get to the Embassy and barricaded in the cannery at the American Fruit & Sugar Co (AFSCO) on the north side of town.

You are told that the situation is extremely volatile, and could “light off at any minute.” You are reminded that the United States has not taken sides in the political dispute within Enniottu. Your mission is simply to evacuate designated noncombatants. The time is now 2300 hours local. Within 8 hours, you will be within range to launch your CH-46s.

### Requirement

In a time limit of 45 minutes, come up with a plan of action, to include taskings for any units you plan to employ and a plan for evacuating at least the 284 noncombatants already identified. Provide an overlay and a brief explanation of your decision. Submit your solution to *Marine Corps Gazette*, TDG #00-4, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134 or fax 703-630-9147.

