

Tactical Decision Game 94-6*

The Defense

by Staff, Infantry Officer Course

Situation

You are the commanding officer of Company L, 3d Battalion, 8th Marines. It is now 1400. Your division, located in El Trombone (5 miles southwest along Route 3) is conducting preparations for an attack. Your battalion is providing security for the division. You are the battalion's main effort. You have one engineer squad and a Dragon section attached. The engineer squad has the capability to lay 10 antitank mines. You company has been tasked with establishing a blocking position in order to prevent the enemy from attacking southwest into El Trombone. A battalion from 2d Marines is on your right and Company I is to your left approximately 1300 meters north of Hill 202. Your company has priority of fires for 81mm mortars.

An enemy force, most probably a motorized infantry battalion has been spotted by aerial observers about 20 miles to the northeast in the Route 3 corridor. Route 3 is an improved surface road, which will provide the enemy with a high-speed avenue of approach. The area south of Route 3 is not trafficable by wheeled vehicles due to the presence of numerous sebkhas (loose, wet sand areas). The vegetation is predominately sparse scrub brush. Visibility is good to approximately 10 kilometers. The climate is semiarid.

Requirements

Within a time limit of 10 minutes develop your defensive plan. Provide an overlay and a brief explanation of rationale behind your plan. Send your solution by email to gazette@mca-marines.org or to the *Marine Corps Gazette*, TDG 94-6, Box 1775, Quantico, VA, 22134.

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