

EXERCISE 3 – TRAINING USE ONLY

IED TM Course CONVOY MOVEMENT EXERCISE Student Handout

BACKGROUND

1. **Introduction.** You are the IED Threat Mitigation Advisor working in a Battalion HQ. A new Forward Operating Base (FOB) is planning to be built in a remote area of Sector 2 approximately 25km North West of your current location. The date is 20 April 2024.
2. **Preliminaries.**
 - a. **Ground in General.** A secondary supply route runs between the regional capital of KARO and the border to the NORTH with SUMORA. Although in a remote and underdeveloped part of the country the route is significant for trade and one of the only roads for movement of local security forces. The towns of PIKSEK and TRITH are very small towns linked by this road. The road is a well constructed dirt road which, until recently was well maintained by the local government. This part of the country is a dominated by semi-arid bushland in the lowland areas, some local thick acacia forest and rocky dry hills.
 - b. **Ground in Detail.** PIKSEK in is a small town situated approx. 50km to the NORTH WEST of KARO. It is a market town with a population of approximately 3,500 relying on transitional trade and local farming as one of the few places in the area with sufficient rain and fertile soil. A UN Bn is located just to the NORTH of PIKSEK which was established last year to provide local security. The terrain to the NORTH of PIKSEK is thick acacia forest which restricts vehicular travel to the main road. Further NORTH the terrain opens into semi-arid bushland which is unrestricted to large high mobility vehicles but restrictive to large logistics vehicles and small 2-wheel drive cars. In the wet season movement off road is restrictive to all vehicles after prolonged heavy rains. Both to the NORTH WEST and NORTH EAST of the open terrain, the ground rises steeply into rocky exposed hills. There are some very small tracks which can be transited by high mobility vehicles but impassable by small and logistic vehicles. The small village of TRITH lies about 25km NORTH of PIKSEK and comprises of about 500 people. To the south of TRITH is a small police post which is the only government security in the area.
 - c. **Climate and Weather.** Daytime temperatures are peaking at 34°C, morning and afternoon temperatures typically range from 24°C to 34°C. Night time temperatures drop to 15°C. Rain is limited to two short wet seasons in May and October. Outside of these months rain is very rare, but during these month it can be very heavy. The moon state is currently full, and skies are clear throughout the month, there are good ambient light levels for operating with Night Vision Goggles (NVGs).

Table 1 – 10 day forecast

DATE	21 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
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Temp	High – 32 Low - 14	High – 32 Low - 15	High – 33 Low - 16	High – 33 Low - 15	High – 33 Low - 15	High – 34 Low - 14	High – 34 Low - 15	High – 35 Low - 16	High – 29 Low - 20	High – 28 Low - 20
Precipitation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Light rain	Heavy rain	Heavy Rain
Visibility	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	50% cloud cover	100% cloud cover	100% cloud cover
Moon	90% Rise – 1400 Set -	95% Set – 0200 Rise – 1500	Full Set – 0300 Rise - 1600	Full Set – 0400 Rise – 1700	95% Set – 0500 Rise – 1800	90% Set – 0600 Rise – 1900	80% Set – 0700 Rise – 2000	70% Set – 0800 Rise - 2100	60% Set – 0900 Rise – 2200	50% Set – 1000 Rise - 2300

3. Task Organisation.

- UNAC Battalion Group. HQ Company (static), Force Protection Platoon (static), Mobility Company - 2 Infantry Platoons in APCs (3 APC per Platoon). Each Platoon has 1 x Search Team trained and equipped with detectors.
- 2 x IEDD team. Each Team consists of 2 pax and their equipment incl ROV. They do not have a vehicle and rely on transport being provided for them.
- 1 x Engr Sqn. This includes a construction troop, logisitcs vehicles to move the construction materiel for the new FOB and a plant detachment (1 x grader, 1 x front-end loader and a back-hoe). In total this squadron is made up of 15 vehciles.
- 1 x UAV Detachment which will remain in the Bn HQ location in PIKSEK.

4. **Situation.** Following the UNSCR 1544 (2023) a Bn FOB was established near PIKSEK to provide security from a rising insurgent activity targeting security forces in the NORTH WEST of CARANA. The UNAC Bn in the area was initially highly effective but in recent months the insurgent groups have increased their activity targeting remote local security force outposts and resorting more and more to the use of IEDs as a weapon. Increasingly, UN troops are the target of insurgent attacks. A decision has been made to establish a new Company level FOB to the south of TRITH to support local security forces and deny freedom of movement to the insurgents.

a. **Enemy Forces.** Insurgent forces remain active to the NORTH of PIKSEK. They are well trained and resourced and retain the capability to launch well-planned, coordinated operations. The insurgents have shown the capacity to make a variety of IEDs and they are known to be well equipped with small arms (mainly AK style weapons). The insurgents are politically motivated not ideologically/religiously motivated and so suicide attacks are extremely rare. They tend to operate in small cells of about 30 fighters but they will rarely be found in groups larger than eight to avoid being identified. They do not wear a uniform, opting to dress in local attire. They use normal civilian vehicles and motorcycles. The insurgents also make use of the restrictive high terrain which can only be accessed by foot. There is assessed to be one cell operating in the area of operations. The insurgents do not target civilians as they are do not want antagonize the local population who, although do

not support the insurgents, also tolerate their presence out of fear of retribution. Occasionally IEDs are used to initiate complex attack type ambushes in both rural and urban areas.

b. **Friendly Forces.** The security situation in close proximity to PIKSEK has stabilised. In order to improve the security force's presence, a Forward Operating Base (FOB) location has been identified to the SOUTH of TRITH and an operation to secure it is to be completed in the coming weeks. An infantry company group with an EOD team attached has been tasked to secure and clear the site prior to construction work starting.

5. **Mission.** UNAC Bn is to conduct convoy support between PIKSEK and TRITH in order to allow a new FOB to be CONSTRUCTED and subsequently DENY insurgents freedom of movement.

Key Timings. The FOB is to be completed by 15 May 2024. It will take the Engineers 15 days to construct the FOB once the area is secure.

EXERCISE REQUIREMENT

You are the IED TM advisor to your HQ. You are to give a brief to the commander on risk reduction for the movement to the new FOB, as part of the wider mission planning.

Specific Requirements. You are to:

- *Carry out a Threat Assessment*
- *Carry out a route analysis:*
 - *Establish your Areas of Interest (AOI)*
 - *Gather Information on all AOIs*
 - *Establish all VA's and VP's.*
 - *Assign mitigation measures to all VA's and VP's.*
- *Plan a convoy move implementing threat mitigations measures and coordinating all supporting assets.*

You are to brief the following:

- *Brief your threat assessment.*
- *Brief your route analysis.*
- *Brief your suggested mitigation measures.*
- *Brief a proposed Course of Action which incorporates*
 - *Task Org*
 - *A scheme of manoeuvre (outline plan)*
 - *Phases of the operation*
 - *Key timings*
 - *Convoy plan i.e. What is the order of march and where are assets placed in the convoy including ECM to ensure coverage of whole convoy.*
- *What are your key risks and what do you require to address the risks.*

The brief should last max 20 mins with a 5 min debrief/questions from the commander.

