

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*, DG #00-4, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134 or fax 703-630-9147.

UE SMC

Evacuation From Enniottu, Continued

by Maj John F. Schmitt, USMCR

Situation

This situation is the continuation of TDG #00-4, "Evacuation From Enniottu City," described in detail in *MCG*, Apr00 and summarized on p. 91 of this issue. You are still the commander of a MEU(SOC). Your original plan is to wait until you are within range to launch all your assets at once, and to conduct a simultaneous two-axis evacuation: India Company (reinforced with a platoon from Lima) and an Evacuation Control Center (ECC) element will go into the American University by helo to evacuate the Embassy, while Kilo Company and an ECC element will evacuate the American Fruit & Sugar Company (AFSCO) by assault amphibious vehicles over North Beach. Your Cobras and Harriers will provide escort and close air support. The Light Armored Recon-

naissance Platoon, preboated on an LCAC, will be prepared to launch a surface tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP) or Sparrow Hawk (platoon-size reaction force). The Mortar Platoon will be prepared to launch a helicopterborne TRAP. Lima Company (minus) will be prepared to launch a helicopterborne Bald Eagle (company-size reaction force) with one platoon designated for Sparrow Hawk.

The situation deteriorates during the night, with the Embassy and University taking sporadic mortar fire and a mob forming outside the Embassy walls, so at 0145 you launch your CH-53Es with India Company (minus) to secure the Embassy. The CH-53s refuel once en route. By 0500 India has secured the Embassy perimeter, although the situation outside the walls is still very tense, and the CH-53s have

departed with 135 evacuees. India reports the mob growing outside the Embassy and another forming further west on Independence, near the market and Parliament.

At 0800 Kilo Company comes ashore at North Beach, met by members of the media. Hundreds of locals are manning the obstacles at the beach exits, and the situation quickly turns dangerous as gunfire is heard and Molotov cocktails and even a few rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) explode. Employing CS gas, Kilo scatters the crowd, skirts the obstacles to the east and moves on AFSCO, making contact with a hostile force firing RPGs and machineguns from across 5th St. opposite the cannery.

Meanwhile, the rest of India (with the platoon from Lima) lands at the University by CH-46. One inbound CH-46 takes machinegun fire and crash lands off Freedom Blvd. in the slum about 400m northwest of the Embassy. Of the 18 Marines on the flight, 10 are injured, 2 seriously. The Cobra flying escort is talking to the Marines on the ground and reports that they have set up security around the crash, but the locals are starting to get curious. He reports



that the nearest landing zone is the intersection of Freedom Blvd. and 7th St., but it will handle only one CH-46 at a time (maybe a CH-53).

It is now 0815. You have one section of Cobras in the air and another refueling. Kilo reports overcoming its resistance and securing the canery after a sharp engagement. Both the Embassy and University start taking sporadic fire from the three-story apartment building about 150m north of the compound. Because of the compound walls and the high ground, most of the fire hits the upper stories of the Chancery and the University buildings. This fire seems to be increasing in volume and accuracy. It includes a heavy machinegun, but its exact location has not been pinpointed yet. The CH-46s are still on the deck at the University soccer field, waiting for the second wave of evacuees to appear from the Embassy building. One of your Cobras now reports what appears to be a company-size convoy departing the National Barracks by the main gate and turning west on Caserne Rd. Your State Department representative reports he is trying to make contact with the Cambodian Army now to learn what its intentions are.

All this is not quite the way you drew it up at 2300 last night. What do you elect to do?

Requirement

In a time limit of 5 minutes, decide what you will do in the form of any instructions or orders you will issue. Provide an overlay and a brief explanation of your decision. Submit your solution to *Marine Corps Gazette*, TDG #00-6, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or fax 703-630-9147.

US  MC

A Bridge Too Far?

by S. E. Richmond

Situation

As CO, 26th MEU(SOC) you are called to a meeting on the USS *Wasp* (LHD 1) off Dubrovnik in the Adriatic. It is early afternoon on 7 December. There you are introduced to a delegation of senior U.S. Officials who have flown out from Sarajevo. The briefing can be summed up as follows.

The phaseout of U.S. forces had been going well, but 2 days ago the Bosnian Serbs removed their artillery and armored vehicles from Russian control and started dispersing them among the civilian population. Simultaneously, two Serbian Army mechanized brigades moved from Titovo-Uzice to the border and spread themselves throughout the populace. We know that the Serbs have stockpiled ammunition in population centers. All indications are that they intend action within the next few days unless something is done to dissuade them.

Intelligence reports indicate that a senior Bosnian Serb general and his political boss, both indicted for war crimes, have already entered the French sector and are establishing new headquarters in Mosovic just inside the border. Security around the site is heavy.

The French have a patrol in a good hide on the top of Hill 1084 and have provided information about Mosovic. They tell us that security consists of an approximate infantry company mounted in seven BRDMs and several trucks. They are parked all around the village square. They also have SA-7B missiles. Activity is centered on the meeting hall at the northeast edge of the square. The closest known Bosnian Serb force of any note is the Mihailovich Brigade, about 750 very aggressive mountain fighters, bivouacked in the hills approximately 6 kilometers due east of town. The Serb leaders apparently will safe in Mosovic.

The President has decided it is imperative that the United States act to deter this development. But using air is questionable; the risk of collateral damage is

too great. The National Security Council has recommended the immediate arrest and removal of the two Serb leaders in Mosovic. But these two can move quickly. The Joint Chiefs are considering use of Marines for this mission and need to know within the hour if it can be done. The question comes down to you: "It is 100 nautical miles from the launch point to Mosovic. Can you get them out?"

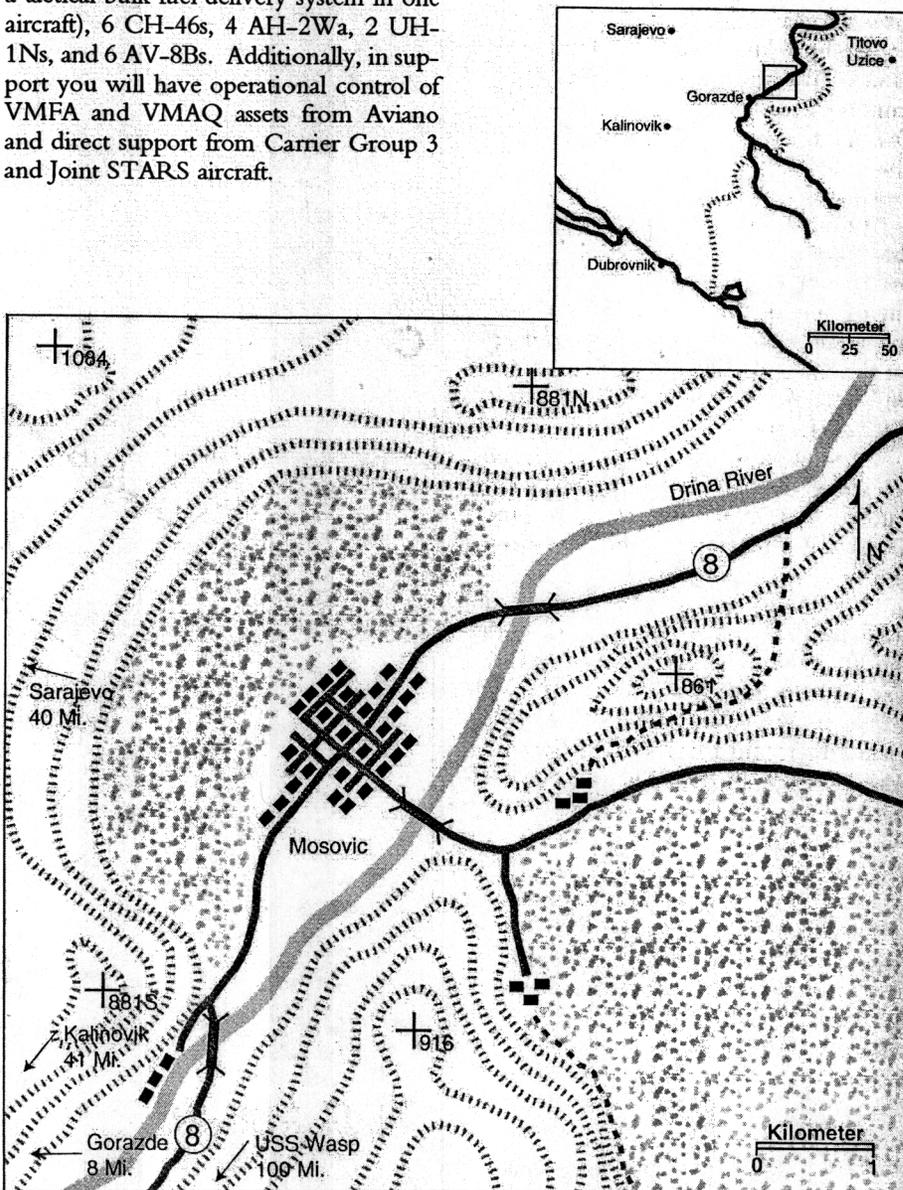
You have BLT 1/6, MSSG-26, and HMH-464 (Rein) with 9 CH-53Es (with a tactical bulk fuel delivery system in one aircraft), 6 CH-46s, 4 AH-2WAs, 2 UH-1Ns, and 6 AV-8Bs. Additionally, in support you will have operational control of VMFA and VMAQ assets from Aviano and direct support from Carrier Group 3 and Joint STARS aircraft.

Requirement

In a time limit of 20 minutes decide if there are feasible mission options. Then use 20 minutes to prepare a short operations brief of your recommendation, be it yes, no, or maybe. Include any support requests and a map sketch.



For more detailed information on the structure of Marine Corps units, Marine Corps equipment, and symbols used in TDG sketches, see MCG, Oct94, pp. 53-56 and the modification reported in Jan95, p. 5.



Island Takedown

by Maj Douglas J. MacIntrye

Situation

The time is now 1630, Wednesday. You are the battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 2d Marines (1/2), an east coast unit deployment program infantry battalion. Your unit is well trained and is currently preparing to return to the continental United States after over 5 months in theater. As part of the United States' continuing war on terrorism, the Commander in Chief, Pacific Command has identified a terrorist training camp on Hok Island located 190 nautical miles from Okinawa. Seizure of this island and capture of these terrorists would be seen as a key indicator of U.S. resolve in the region and a major boost for the American public.

Intelligence estimates place the number of rebels on the island as platoon- to company-sized strength with limited small arms capability. Operating mainly in the northern portion of the island, they have established a village base and a trail network connecting the island's northern beaches. The terrorists have also been seen operating small patrol craft in the bays surrounding the island.

Hok Island is a small, irregularly shaped island, 5 kilometers by 3 kilometers, located in the Philippine Sea. Except for four beaches, a village, and the known trail network, it is primarily covered with dense jungle and rough terrain. The beaches are generally rocky and rise sharply into the jungle. The two eastern beaches (East Beach 1 and East Beach 2) are suitable for up to a section of CH-53Es, while West Beach 1 and West Beach 2 can only support single aircraft landings.

At the 1800 planning session, III Marine Expeditionary Force designated 4th Marines as mission commander, HMH-465 as the aviation combat element (ACE), and 1/2 as the ground combat element. The ACE commander turns and tells you that the lift available is 4 CH-53Es (30 passengers each) with a 4-hour round trip flight window. He also states that fixed-wing close air support will be available continuously after L-hour (specific hour at which a deployment operation commences) from available Marine F-18 squadrons and a 3-hour window for an AC-130 mission. L-hour is set as 0600, Thursday.

Mission

Within the rapid response planning process that followed, 4th Marines' operations order tasked you with the following: "Seize, occupy, and search Hok Island." With this in mind, the

battalion's concept of operations seems clear—long-range helo insert, seize a foothold, multiple waves. As you are discussing this with your operations officer, an intelligence update is brought in via messenger.

Intel Update

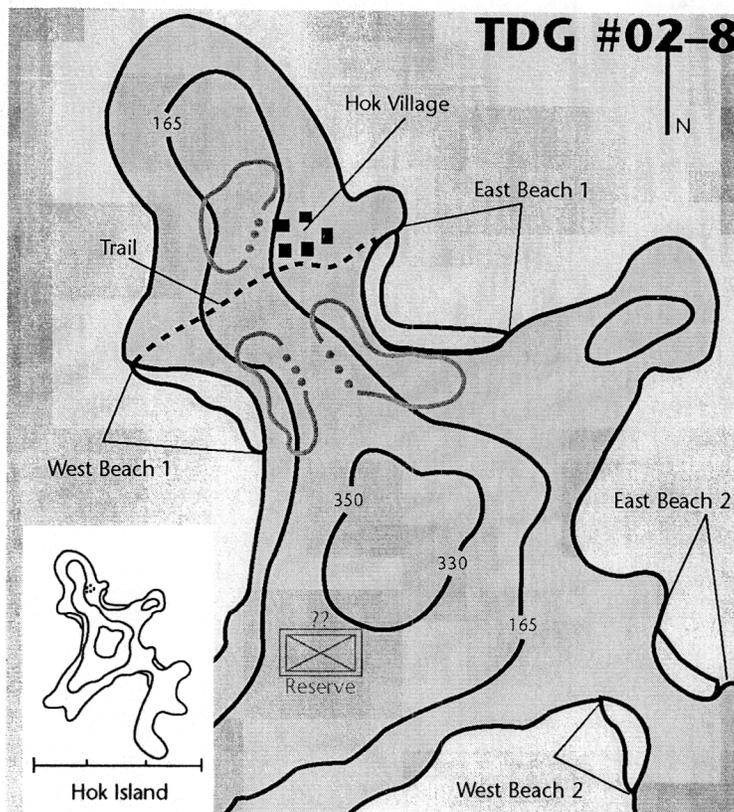
"Terrorists on Hok Island appear to have prepared fortified positions surrounding their village and are guarding the two northern beaches. Patrol craft with heavy weapons seen in bay near East Beach 1. Reserve unit of unknown strength seen moving in central portion of the island."

Requirement

The time is now 2115, Wednesday. In a time limit of 10 minutes, issue the changes to the concept of operations and orders to all companies and supporting arms addressing this updated situation. Provide a brief rationale for your actions and a sketch

of your plan. Submit your solution to *Marine Corps Gazette*, TDG #02-8, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, fax 703-630-9147, or e-mail <gazette@mca-marines.org>.

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For more detailed information on the structure of Marine Corps units, Marine Corps equipment, and symbols used in TDG sketches, see the MCG web site at <<http://www.mca.marines.org/Gazette/gaz.html>>.