



Quick Decision Exercise

UAV Incident

 <http://ako.dm.mil.au> @armyknowledgecentre @ArmyLessons army.lessons@defence.gov.au



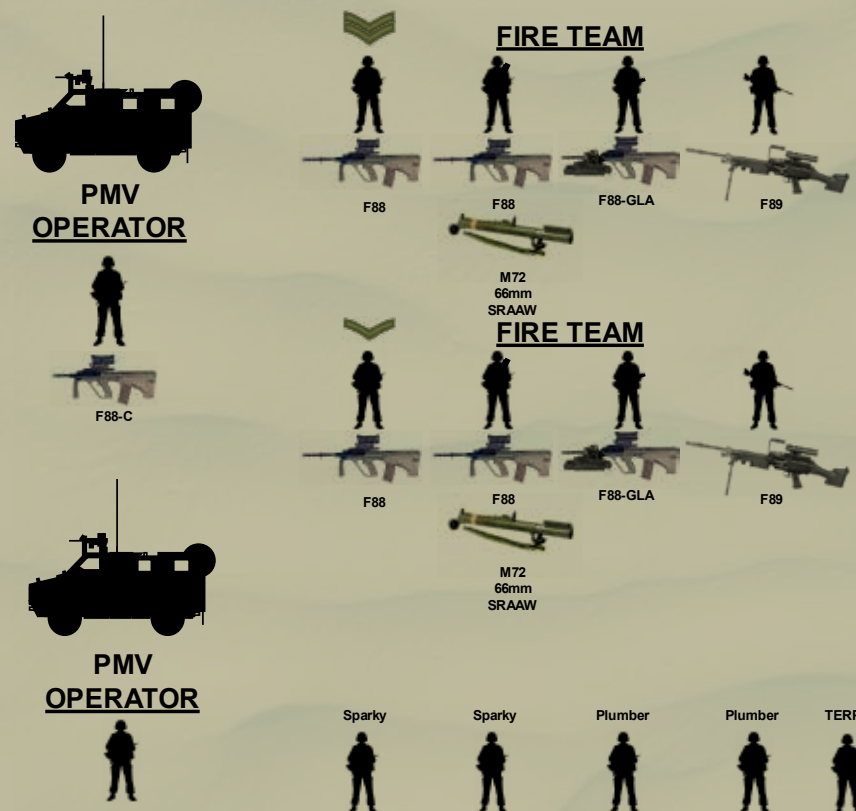
Background

You are the Section Commander of a security team currently supporting a Construction Engineer element finishing off repairs to a local school. You are purely providing local security at the job site and security on the move when transiting from your combat team (CT) forward operating base (FOB) and the school.

Given that it is now the final plumbing and electrical tasks for the job, you only have 4 engineer personnel (2 x Plumbers and 2 x Electricians) with you, as well as an interpreter to speak with the school officials and 6 locally employed labourers when required. In order to move this group and your section, you have 2 x PMV, which are currently parked astride the school compound.

Currently you have a fire team securing the actual job site within the school. You have a piquet in each of the vehicles covering East and West respectively down the main route which are the most likely approach routes for insurgents or anti-Government elements.

The rest of your Platoon is on CT quick reaction force (QRF) duties at the FOB which is 12km to the North of your current location. You are set to return to the FOB at 1730h. Your orbat is provided to the right.



Topography

Physical Terrain. You are in a mid to high density built up urban area. Houses are basic single brick with corrugated iron roofing structures. Your elements working in the school are in exposed locations or in single brick buildings – there is the main school building in the North East and 2 smaller buildings in the West of the yellow area on the imagery provided below. There is no compound wall around the school. Your PMVs (show by black boxes with yellow infill) are currently located either side of the school complex on the verges of the road, partly concealed by metre high vegetation.

Human Terrain. The population within your area are accepting of your presence, but not overtly supportive; however, the work that has been done recently has been welcomed by the local population and officials. That said, there has been frequent insurgent attacks within the urban area in the past 3 weeks, predominantly improvised explosive device attacks on coalition convoys and local police vehicles as well as kidnappings of key local leaders that are supportive of the Coalition. There has also been some youth violence and civil disturbance but, given the task at the school, their interference is unlikely.



Situation

As you are preparing your confirmatory orders to return back to the FOB in about 30 minutes, you first hear and then see an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) whine overhead from southeast to northwest at a very low height. As it passes overhead you hear the whine cut out and it dives towards the ground. Although you hear no impact due to traffic noise, you are confident that it has just crashed about 500 – 600 metres to the North West of your location. You take a quick bearing towards where you think it would have landed given its glide path.

You immediately contact the CT HQ and inform them of your observation. They immediately confirm to you that the only battlegroup UAV operating today is still airborne, but will check with other Coalition force elements.

Minutes later they contact you and indicate that another force's UAV has been lost in your area. They have given a projected

impact zone of the UAV which conforms to your observations and have requested your team's assistance in recovering it.

Time now is 1705h.

Tasks

Given that you have a reasonable estimation of the UAV crash location and you are due to return to the FOB shortly, you choose to take the initiative and report to the CT HQ that you intend to move now. You believe this would maximise your ability to secure the UAV and await marry up with the CT QRF who have been tasked to transport the UAV back to the FOB.

Having gained approval for this to occur, review what specific actions / tasks you would need to secure the UAV.

You need to give quick orders and move within the next 5 - 10 minutes. How will you do it?

Win a military history book

Submit a solution to this QDE and be in the running to win a military history book. To make a submission, simply email your response for the task to army.lessons@defence.gov.au

To take your QDE training to the next level, have a go playing them out at a Battle Simulation site. By using a Battle Simulator, you will be able to play out and review your decision making skills with your section or platoon. This will allow your team to review SOPs/TTPs against your decisions a number of times in a condensed period. To make a booking and find out how to best maximise your training time using a simulator, ask your Company or Platoon commander to contact Land Simulation by email landsimulation.centre@defence.gov.au. Land Simulation are located at Puckapunyal, Singleton, Enoggera, Darwin, Adelaide, Canungra, Townsville and Darwin.

Contributions Wanted

At Smart Soldier we are always on the lookout for fresh ideas, stories and photos. Help us by providing submissions and/or suggestions for inclusion into upcoming issues. This offer is open to all ranks and trades.

Soldiers providing suggestions that become an article in Smart Soldier will receive a military history book. Send your ideas to army.lessons@defence.gov.au.



ARMY KNOWLEDGE ONLINE

<http://ako.drn.mil.au>

Access this and more through one website.