

JOINT COMMAND FOR KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/
Strictly confidential number 455-63
23 March 1999

MILITARY SECRET
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Copy number _____

O R D E R

to provide assistance to MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ in crushing and destroying
ŠTS /šiptar terrorists forces/ in the Orahovac, Suva Reka and Velika Kruša sector

Scale of map: 1:50,000 - Đakovica 2 and Prizren 1 and 2 sectors

1. THE ENEMY:

In the past 15 to 20 days the ŠTS increased their combat activities and attacks on VJ /Yugoslav Army/ units and MUP members together with intensified DT /sabotage and terrorist/ actions in urban areas. The most indomitable strongholds of the ŠTS are in the following sectors: Retimlje village, Mount Milanovac, Studenčane village, Samodraže village and Pagaruša village.

The ŠTS have established a Podrimlje-Paštrik OZ /operations zone/ with two brigades (of around 1,500 terrorists).

- 122nd OVK /Kosovo Liberation Army – KLA/ Brigade with around 250 terrorists in the Veliki Drenovac area, where the KLA special unit is also based (made up of around 70-90 terrorists);

124th KLA Brigade with around 300 terrorists, KM /command post/ in the Retimlje village area;

- local headquarters of around 50 to 100 terrorist are based in Velika Kruša, Brestovac and Donje Retimlje villages.

The ŠTS' most likely goal would be to capture military, economic and socially owned facilities, to expand and link up the OZ into a whole, to seize the main roads and establish suitable conditions in order to be able to control the territory.

The ŠTS are armed with automatic rifles, PM /light machine-guns/, machine-guns, anti-armour weapons (*osa* /hand-held anti-artillery rocket launchers/, *zolja* /hand-held rocket launcher/, *ambrust* /light anti-tank weapon/) and support weapons 60mm and 82mm MB /mortars/.

We can expect 60mm- and 82mm mortar fire from the following sectors: Kravasarija, Pagaruša, Dragobilje and Retimlje villages.

On roads we are expecting ambushes and surprise attacks on supply convoys and on individual VJ and MUP vehicles.

In deployment sectors they are constructing fortifications for action and protection, as well as creating obstacles by laying groups of mines on roads going in and out of inhabited places. They have set up booby traps in schools, houses and shops. They have laid mines in the area of the Opteruša-Zočište villages road.

We are expecting that the ŠTS will put up fierce resistance on the axes of the VJ and MUP attacks, and the resistance will weaken when they lose their positions and suffer casualties, when they will abandon their positions and facilities.

2. PrK /Priština Corps/ Assignment:

With reinforcements and armed non-*šiptar* population from KiM, the PrK is assisting the MUP crushing and destroying ŠTS in the zone of responsibility.

T a s k : To support MUP forces in blocking, crushing and destroying ŠTS in the general area of Orahovac, Suva Reka and Velika Kruša. At the same time, secure the DG /state borders/ and prevent ŠTS from infiltrating by closing off the routes from the Republic of Albania and Republic of Macedonia; secure all military facilities, communications and /ensure/ combat monitoring and control of the territory. Use part of the forces to prevent the overflow and withdrawal of ŠTS from the Mališevo area to Podrimlje.

KM in the sector: the Priština PrK Command building.

3. NEIGHBOURS:

3.1. The NK /Niš Corps/ engages its forces in its original zone on securing the DG towards the Republic of Macedonia, on preventing ŠTS from infiltrating the PrK zone from the /?Pčinja/ district and spilling over from the Kim area into the /?Pčinja/ district. Breaking up and destroying ŠTS in the Pčinja district, ready to cooperate with the PrK.

3.2. The 2nd /?Battalion/ of the 203rd mabr /mixed artillery brigade/ shall set up an AAG-3 /army artillery group/. Its assignment: to support PrK forces from the Kuršumlijska Banja area on demand.

4. DECISION:

I have decided: To support the MUP forces in their attack by engaging our *g/s* /main forces/ on the following axes: Velika Hoča-Retimlje-Donje Retimlje villages, Bela Crkva-Mala Hoča- Velika Kruša villages and Raštane-Studenčane-Neprebište villages; /by engaging/ our *p/s* /auxiliary forces/ on the axes of: Slapuzane-Semetište-Kostrce villages; and a blockade on the following line: Velika Kruša-Mala Kruša-Pirane-Donja Srbica-Smać-Vistra-Trnje villages.

Goal: To block the ŠTS in the general area of the villages of Brestovac, Opetruša, Celine, Velika Kruša, Mala Kruša, Randubrava, Pirane, Retimlje, Dobrodeljane, Studenčane, Slapuzane and Semetište.

Break up and destroy ŠTS on their axis of attack from the all-round support point.

Prevent ŠTS from spilling over or withdrawing from the Mališevo area to Podrimlje area with part of our forces.

/?Furthermore,/ ensure the passability of main communications and combat monitoring and control of the territory.

Combat operations should last one or two days.

Combat disposition:

- troops for the breaking up and destruction of ŠTS;
- troops for blockades;
- troops for support;
- troops for securing communications and controlling the territory;
- troops for securing b/d /combat operations/; and
- troops for command and communications.

Readiness: To break up and destroy ŠTS at 0500 hours on 25 March 1999.

5. TASKS ASSIGNED TO UNITS:

5.1. 549th mtbr /motorised brigade/ (549th BG /?combat groups/ 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7): bring /?them/ in from the deployment area to the following blockade line: the villages of Bela Crkva-Velika Hoča-Zočište-Raštane-Lešane-Basarina-Toplike-Moriza.

T a s k: In a joint action with the VJ and MUP carry out an /?all-out/ attack from the all-round support point on the following axes: the villages of Bela Crkva, Mala Hoča-Velika Kruša, Velika Hoča-Brestovac-Mala Hoča, Zočište-Donje Retimlje, Raštane-Studenčane-Neprebište, Velika Kruša-Randubrava and Lapužane-Smetište.

The more immediate task is to break up and destroy the ŠTS in the following areas: the villages of Celina, Velika Kruša, Mala Kruša, Pirane, Zajić, Medvece, Opteruša, Studenčane, Slapužane and Pećane.

Continue the attack, destroy the remaining ŠTS on the axes of attack and the next task is to break through to the following line: the villages of Mala Kruša-Nogavac-Randubrava-Donje Retimlje-Mamuša-Neprebište-Samodraže-Semetište.

Use part of the forces to prevent the ŠTS from withdrawing to the Podrimlje area.

Furthermore, ensure the passability of the main communications and combat monitoring and control of the territory.

KM in the area: Velika Hoča village.

5.2. 243rd mbr /mechanised brigade/ (243rd BG-1): bring /the BG/ in from the deployment area along the Dulje-Birač route and from the tt /trig point/ 656-tt 598 line in order to support the MUP forces in their offensive.

T a s k: To support the MUP forces in breaking up and destroying ŠTS on the axis of Slapužane-Semetište-Kostrce villages; the more immediate tasks is to break through onto the Grab-Pećane villages line.

Continue the attack, destroy all remaining ŠTS and the next task is to capture the Vrela-tt 574 line.

Use part of the forces to link up with the 549th mtbr /motorised brigade/. Furthermore, secure the line reached and ensure combat monitoring and control of the area.

KM in the area: Birač.

6. INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT:

The focus of intelligence support shall be on direct reconnaissance of the strength, complement and deployment of DTS /sabotage and terrorist forces/ on the axes of attack.

Special attention shall be paid in order to keep data and documents safely from getting lost and the protection and transmission of orders through communications.

7. SECURITY SUPPORT:

While executing tasks, take measures to protect personnel and SRT /combat hardware/ as ordered. Take special measures in order to prevent booby traps causing casualties and to prevent casualties when opening fire during blockades of ŠTS in inhabited places.

8. COMBAT SECURITY:

During offensive operations, ensure appropriate deployment to prevent surprise terrorist operations and make every effort to protect wing and flank.

During attacks, focus security on protecting combat vehicles from ŠTS close-range operations, especially in inhabited places and woodland.

9. MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT:

When preparing to carry out tasks, all units must be undergo moral and psychological preparation in order to ensure that personnel is motivated and ready to execute tasks.

Stress the importance of proper conduct towards loyal civilian population, especially towards refugee convoys and private property. Deal with the members of the media in the spirit of the orders that have been issued. Open fire at buildings from which ŠTS operate. During combat prohibit entry into houses and other buildings in the field.

10. LOGISTIC SUPPORT:

PoOb /Logistics Support/ and reinforcement units shall deal with the commands of engaged units through its own troops and equipment.

The following may be used in order to complete tasks:

- two b/k /combat sets/ for infantry and one b/k for other weapons;
- 0.5 p/r /tankful/ for all motor vehicles.

The repair to seriously damaged TMS /materiel and technical equipment/ shall be done by your own troops and with your own equipment with the support of the 202nd PoB /Logistics Base/.

The wounded shall be treated by your own forces and with your own equipment and, for the more seriously wounded, request a medivac helicopter through the PrK Command OC /Operations Centre/.

Provide a combination of dry rations and cooked food. Provide water supplies from tested sources. Prohibit the use of water from local sources in areas where fighting is taking place.

Organise PPZ /fire prevention/ for all units in deployment areas and areas where combat operations are taking place by monitoring and reporting fires. Use establishment equipment and personnel to put out small fires.

In areas where there are large fires restrict and contain them, and when combat operations have been completed, confine them to limited areas with the help of the MUP fire-fighting unit.

Interrogate detained persons and then hand them over to the MUP organs for further processing.

Weapons, ammunition and other hardware that have been found and seized shall be collected in deployment areas and then handed over to the organs of the 202nd PoB. When collecting abandoned and found hardware, beware of booby traps.

11. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The KM PrK shall be in the peacetime location.

Maintain communications with the PrK Command and subordinated units in line with existing communications documents with obligatory use of general KZ /cryptographic data protection/ documents.

Communications to be ready by 0400 on 25 March 1999.

Signals: signals table.

12. Reports to be sent as follows:

- a) Regular: on readiness to carry out attacks;
daily /reports/ by 1800 hours with the situation at 1700 hours;
on completion of tasks,
- b) Interim: as necessary.

13. Coordinated actions with MUP forces on preparations for combat operations shall be organised before and during combat operations.

The Joint Command for KiM from the Priština section shall command and control all forces during combat operations.

Joint Command for KiM