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COMMAND BG /combat group/-4
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Analysis of performed combat
Operations

To: Command of the 125th mtbr/ Motorised
Brigade/, Kosovska Mitrovica

An analysis of combat operations for 22 September 1998.
From 0700 hours on the 22 September 1998 to 0200 hours on 23 September 1998.

Combat operations were carried out in co-ordinated action with the organs of the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/: the gs /main forces/ in the direction of the villages of Ljubišta – Vrbnica – Pirča – TT /trig. point/ 706 – Ošljane; and the p/s /auxiliary forces/ in the direction of the villages of Resnik – Kolo – Brusnik - Čečen – Taradža.

Along the main axis of attack in the area of the village of Vrbnica, individual *Šiptars* /derogatory for Albanian/ were observed withdrawing, but they were not armed. In the area of TT 706, fire was opened on the MUP units, slightly wounding one member of the MUP. The strength of the terrorist forces was about 20 or 30 men and they were positioned along the line TT 706 of the northern slope – Šutska mahala /hamlet/ – Point 562. They organised the defence in a hurry because they had anticipated an attack from the direction of Pantina – Hercegovu.

The terrorists used firearms: automatic rifles, sniper rifles, a 12.7mm PAM /anti-aircraft machine gun/ and hand-held rocket launchers against our forces and the forces of the MUP.

In the area of Point 656, a Jeep was spotted and fire came from that direction.

As our forces advanced the terrorists had support only in transferring motor vehicles /as printed/.

In the area of the village of Hercegovu, TT /trig. point/ 628, they built a road leading to the village of Pantina. They constructed this road to the second level of engineering works.

In the course of operations our forces captured one terrorist and they liquidated two in the area of the Šutska Mahala.

At 2200 hours, an infiltrated group of PJP /special police units/ in the area of the Šutska mahala reported that they also had one seriously wounded /member/ and asked for a tank to bring out the wounded man. They came under fire from infantry weapons.

The following forces were engaged in the combat operations:

On the main axis of attack: the MUP 3rd Infantry Company and one company of the Special Police Units, two T-55 tanks, one 90 mm SO /self-propelled gun/, one PASO /anti-aircraft self-propelled gun/, four BOV-1s /armoured combat vehicle/, a 122 mm howitzer platoon, a 120 mm vMB /mortar platoon/ and a TZI /recovery tank/.

On the secondary axis of attack: one T-55, a 90 mm SO, one PASO, an 82 mm vMB, the 1st str. /Rifle/ Platoon, an S-2 /anti-aircraft missile/.

The forces were correctly positioned and fulfilled the given objective as regards the disposition of the DTS /sabotage terrorist forces/.

During the operations, co-ordinated action with the organs of the MUP was not at the necessary level because engagement of technical equipment was sought for opening and for sniper fire on them and for shelling with a tank /sentence as printed/.

But support was very good, organised and precise, while the firing power of the 82 mm MBv /mortar platoon/ was not engaged along the secondary axis of attack.

The security of combat operations functioned well. We had no losses in manpower or TMS /technical equipment and material/, while one member of the MUP forces was killed.

In the combat operations, the following forces of the MUP were engaged: 5th Squad of Special Police Forces and a company of Special Police Forces, and on the secondary axis the 1st and the 8th Company of Special Police Forces. And about 300 policemen from the reserve force were engaged in the blockade /extending/ from the village of Veliki Kičić to Priluzje.

During the operation, there are many shortcomings in the work of the MUP organs: the very act of moving into combat, grouping and not securing resting places, logistics support for the units from the rear, some commanding officers lack confidence in commanding and a knowledge of map-reading.

In BG /Combat Group/ 4, all the preparations were carried out for performing the assignment. The objective was achieved in full.

From the regroupment line in the area of the village of Brusnik, part of the BG-4 was attached to the MUP unit from Belgrade, which positioned itself along the line of the blockade in the area of the village of Kolo, border right command Vučitrn – Brusnik - Dubovac, border right Resnik – Vrnica and with one 82 mm mortar squad, a 90 mm SO /self-propelled gun/, and one BOV /armoured combat vehicle/ took up a position at the intersection of the Vrnica – Kolo roads and controlled the blockade in that direction.

In the area of the hamlet Kotar, 300 m north-eastwards, a firing position was set up for the other 82 mm mortar squad, with the remainder of the forces (one tank squad and a squad of RPOAB /?anti-tank rocket artillery battery/ and a two-barrelled 30 mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun, and secured the line of blockade: border right: sewage pipeline; border left: village of Kolo.

23 September 1998

At 0800 hours, artillery preparations began for an attack on the village of Ošljane, the school, and they fired with an 82 mm mortar deep into the area of Šutka mahala. The special police forces and the two-barrelled 30 mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun squad, and in the area of Ošljane the special police forces slowly gained ground towards the school, emerging in the area of the school at 1140 hours, where fire was

opened on them from the direction of TT 678. In that time, part of Combat Group 4 fanned out as far as the school and took up the line along the road from the school to Point 562, firing and giving support to the special police force at TT point 678 in the area around the school 400 metres southwards. Six motor vehicles were found, three of which were destroyed by artillery action and three confiscated by the MUP. At 1600 hours, we started out with the Combat Group 4 to the village of Pantina and took up the line from TT point 589, to the right of the road intersection, where we spent the night.

The auxiliary forces of Combat Group 4, consisting of three platoons of the special police units, and with our M-55 TO /tank squad/ and a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun squad, combed the ground in the direction of Tarada by way of Kolara – Mozaća and Suvo Brdo, occupied the village of Taradža and TT point 746, and organised a firing position there, controlling Čičavica – Suvo Brdo - Čečen – Galica – Taradža – Ošljane – Balince jezgro, with MUP units providing support. At around 1800 hours, they linked up in the area of the village of Balince with the forces of the MUP, who took up positions in that area, and part of the Combat Group 4 returned to Taradža. Meanwhile, a MUP unit took up positions on the Čečen peak, thus enabling passage for the other part of the forces of Combat Group 4, and this from the area (90 mm self-propelled gun squad and the RPOAB squad) who also took up positions on the Čečen peak.

24 September 1998

At 0700 hours we began operations against the Pantina feature. We encountered resistance from Pantina. We directed operations against the village of Štitnica, where we did not encounter resistance. Here, we came across civilians. We passed through the village in marching order while the special police forces combed the ground and checked people. We rested at the TT point 640 feature and received the signal to halt combat action along this direction.

A T-55 squad and a two-barrelled 30 mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun squad were sent from Taradža towards the Čečen peak, from where they entered Čičevica with the MUP units. The units progressed through the forest in combat order with the vanguard, flanks and rear secured, with the objective of discovering and destroying sabotage terrorist forces on the axis of movement. The unit on the left wing drove back the sabotage terrorist forces on its flank. The vanguard units, moving across the summit of Čičevica, encountered resistance from the terrorists in the area of TT point 868, where one terrorist was killed, in the area of Elevation 958, where two terrorists were killed, and in the area of Elevation 906 (intersection of cart roads), where another 12 terrorists were liquidated.

In the area of TT point 1091, Kadra, we joined up with the other forces of the MUP, who were approaching from the opposite side.
The operation ended at around 1930 hours.

/handwritten: For the/ COMMANDER

Major
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