

TF Tarawa



Battle of An Nasiriyah

22 Mar – 02 April 2003



Mission and Intent

MISSION: On order, TF Tarawa secures MEF OBJ C (JALIBAH) IOT facilitate establishment of LSA VIPER. **On order, conduct relief in place with 3ID at western crossing site vicinity Hwy 1 and Euphrates River. BPT secure crossing sites on the eastern side of An Nasiriyah** and continue attack north to seize MEF OBJ E (QALAT SIKAR) IOT facilitate the main effort's rapid attack towards Baghdad.

PURPOSE:

- Facilitate I MEF's rapid attack north
- Preserve main effort's combat power for the decisive fight.

METHOD:

- Enable MEF main effort to attack north rapidly.
- Execute tasks that range from combat through humanitarian operations.
- Focus on I MEF's rapid movement north to hasten the collapse of the Iraqi regime.
- Economy of force effort.
- C4I maximize combat power at critical decision points.
- Use 3d MAW as a force multiplier.
- Employ IO to affect capitulation or minimize effects on combat operations.

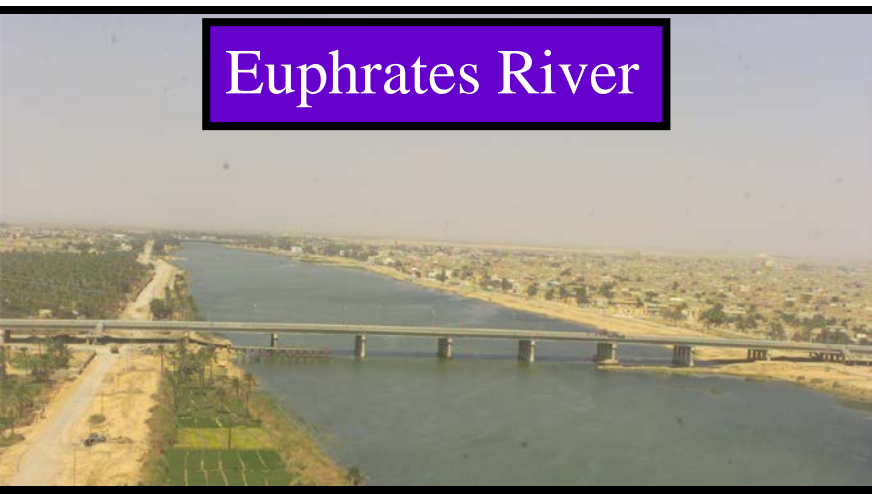
END STATE:

- I MEF advancing towards Baghdad.
- Flanks secured along MSRs in zone,
- Logistics throughput unhindered
- TF Tarawa poised for follow-on combat operations to the north.

Anticipated Enemy Situation

- 11th ID expected to capitulate. No longer able to conduct a coherent defense
- Strength and composition of paramilitary forces unknown
- Expect paramilitary to put up an initial defense and then withdraw north along Hwy 7

Euphrates River

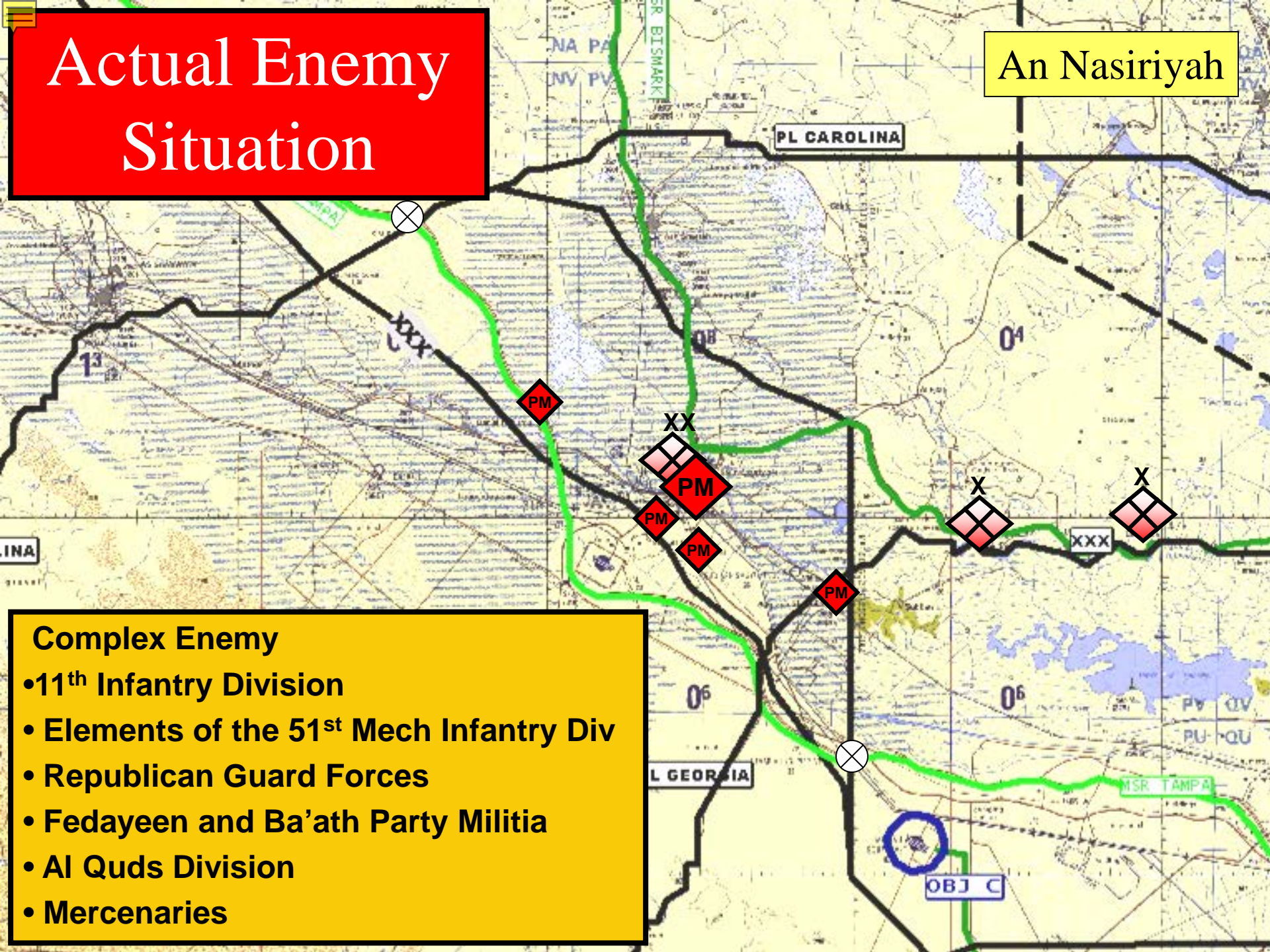


Saddam Canal



Actual Enemy Situation

An Nasiriyah

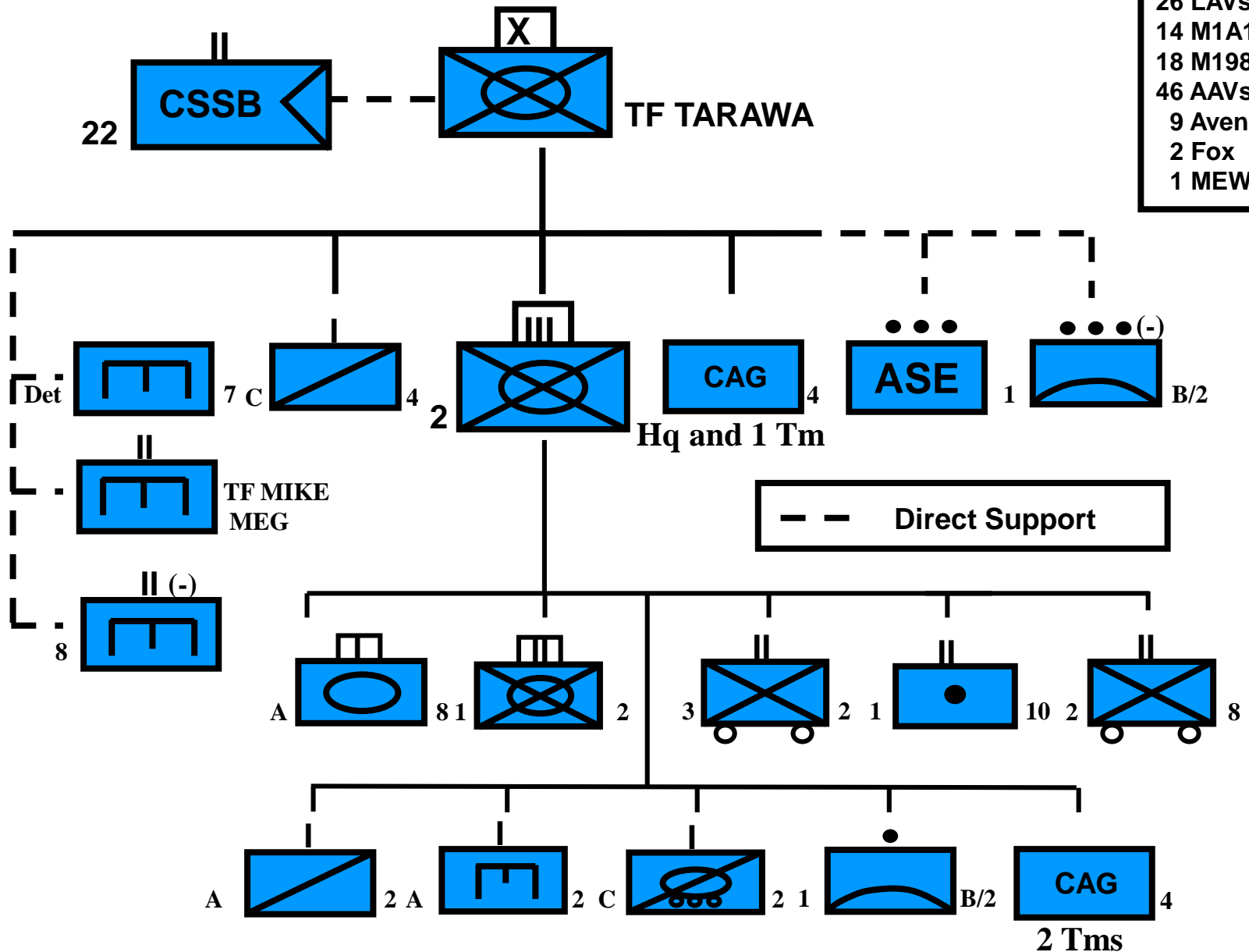


Complex Enemy

- 11th Infantry Division
- Elements of the 51st Mech Infantry Div
- Republican Guard Forces
- Fedayeen and Ba'ath Party Militia
- Al Quds Division
- Mercenaries

Task Organization

26 LAVs
14 M1A1
18 M198
46 AAVs
9 Avengers
2 Fox
1 MEWSS



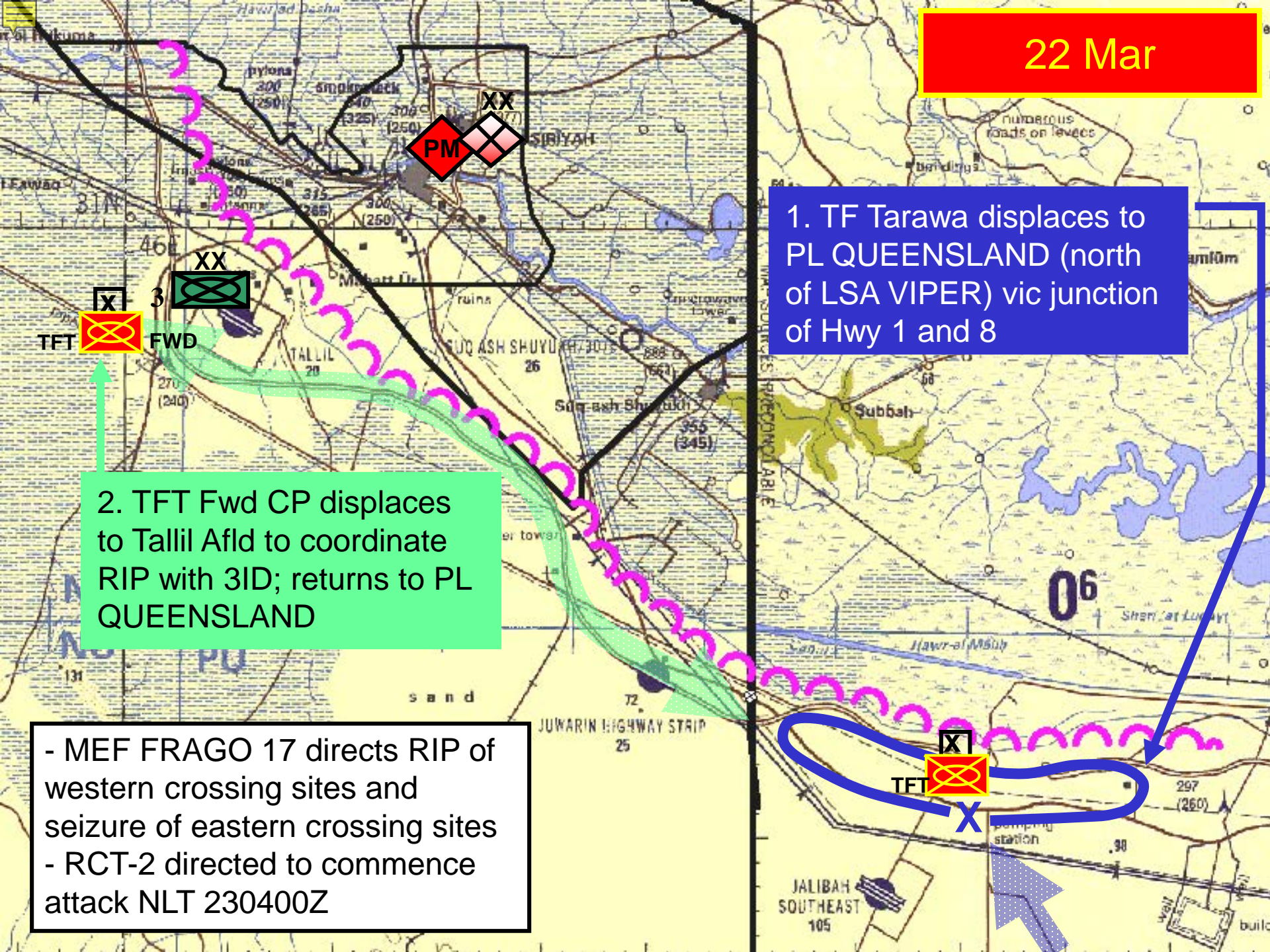
Friendly Situation

22 Mar

1. TF Tarawa displaces to PL QUEENSLAND (north of LSA VIPER) vic junction of Hwy 1 and 8

2. TFT Fwd CP displaces to Tallil Afd to coordinate RIP with 3ID; returns to PL QUEENSLAND

- MEF FRAGO 17 directs RIP of western crossing sites and seizure of eastern crossing sites
- RCT-2 directed to commence attack NLT 230400Z



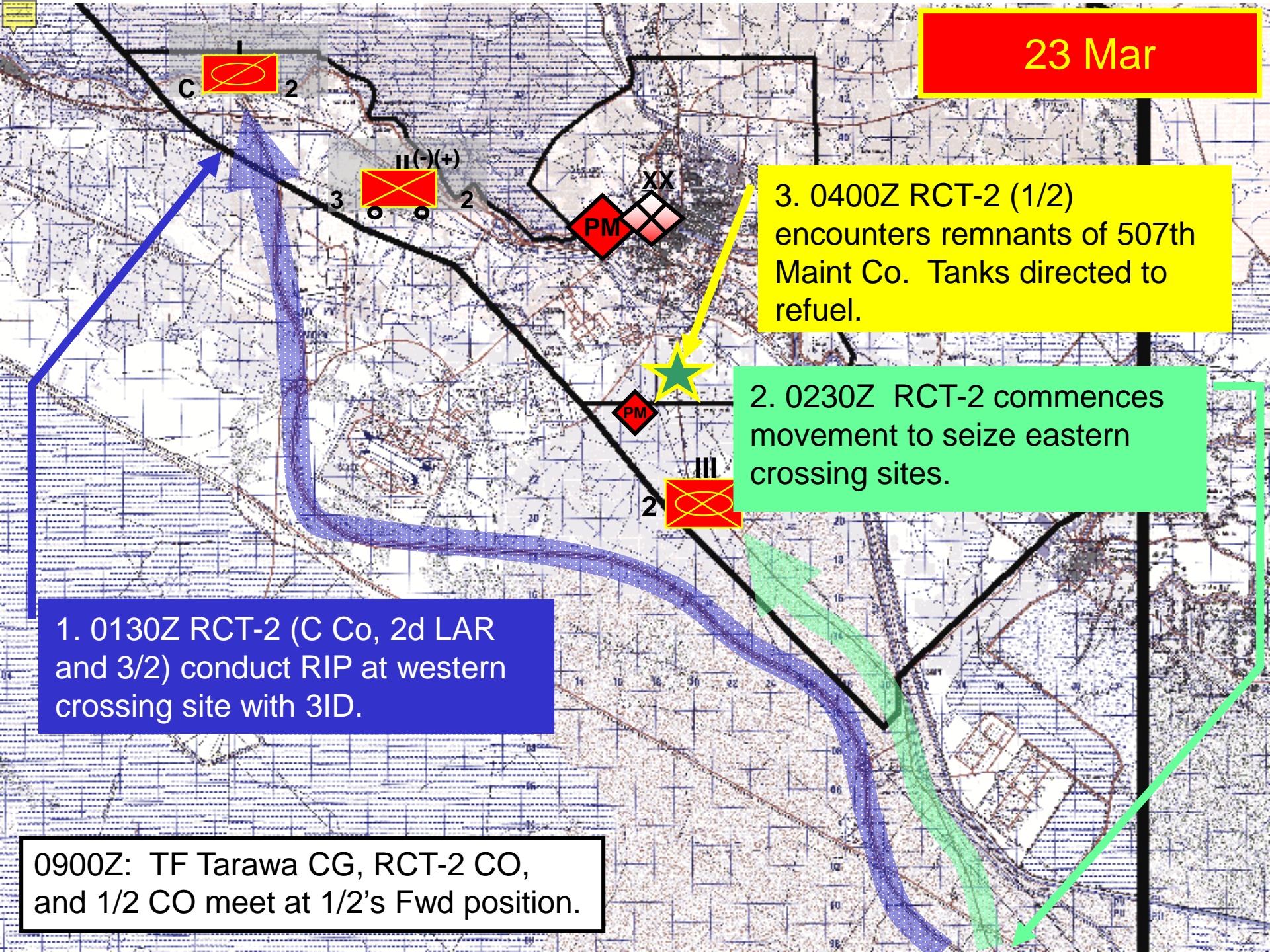
23 Mar

1. 0130Z RCT-2 (C Co, 2d LAR and 3/2) conduct RIP at western crossing site with 3ID.

0900Z: TF Tarawa CG, RCT-2 CO, and 1/2 CO meet at 1/2's Fwd position.

3. 0400Z RCT-2 (1/2) encounters remnants of 507th Maint Co. Tanks directed to refuel.

2. 0230Z RCT-2 commences movement to seize eastern crossing sites.

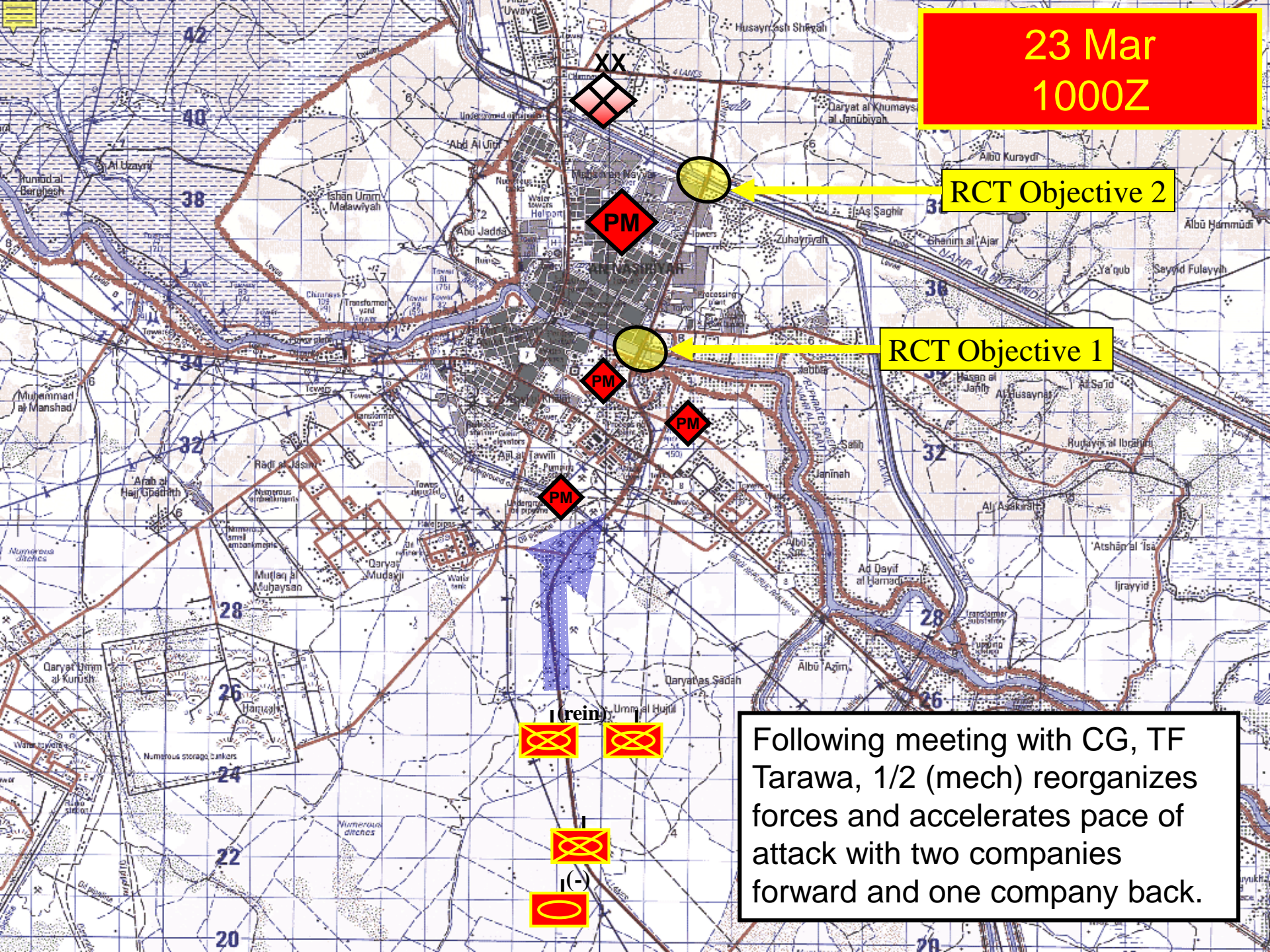


23 Mar
1000Z

RCT Objective 2

RCT Objective 1

Following meeting with CG, TF Tarawa, 1/2 (mech) reorganizes forces and accelerates pace of attack with two companies forward and one company back.



23 Mar
1030Z

7 T-55's

2. Enemy tanks encountered at RR Bridge; destroyed with CAAT Plt and CAS aircraft.

1. C Co, 1/2 slows in restrictive terrain. Shifts back to the road and repositions to rear of Bn formation.

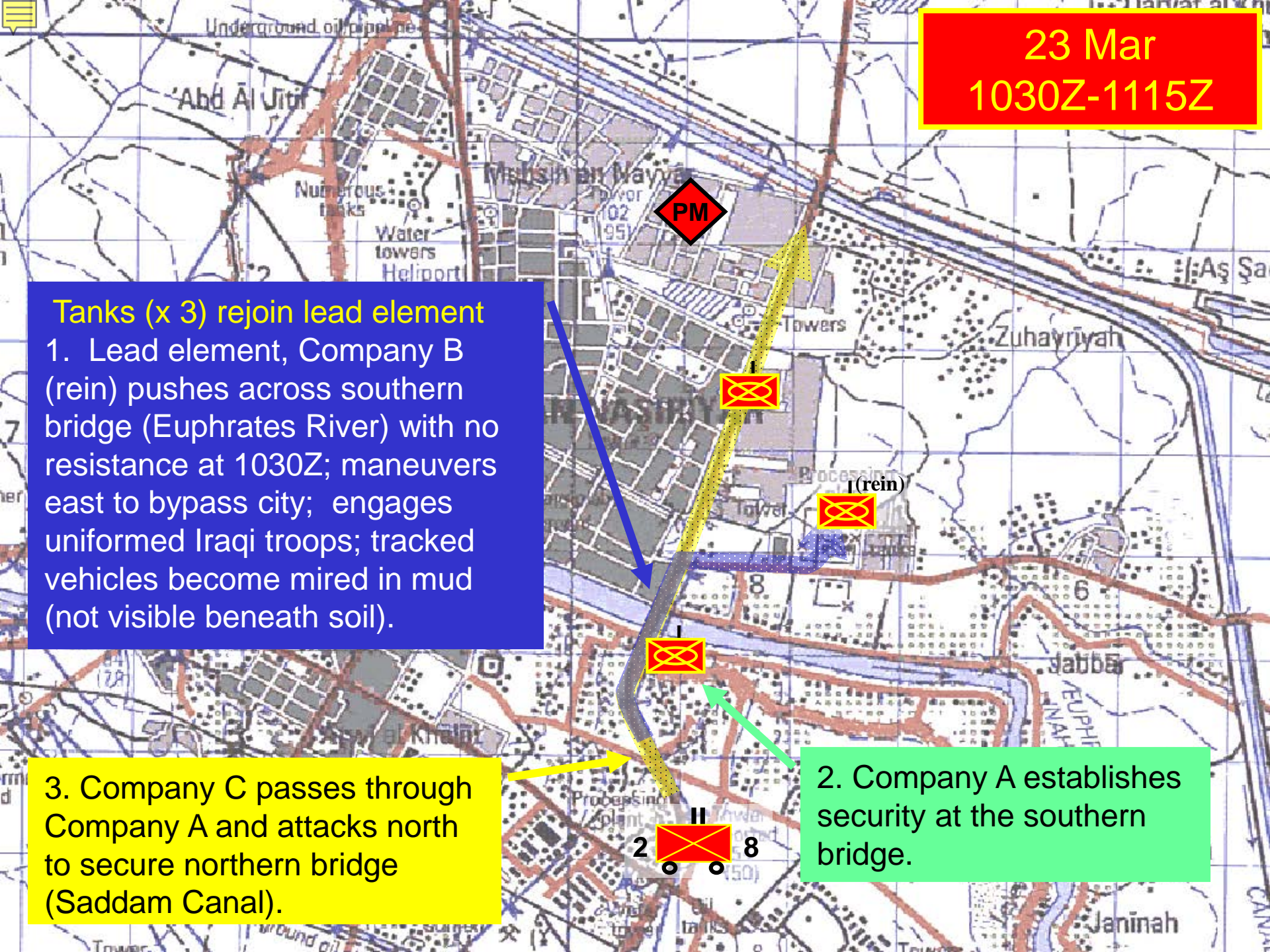
23 Mar
1030Z-1115Z

Tanks (x 3) rejoin lead element

1. Lead element, Company B (rein) pushes across southern bridge (Euphrates River) with no resistance at 1030Z; maneuvers east to bypass city; engages uniformed Iraqi troops; tracked vehicles become mired in mud (not visible beneath soil).

3. Company C passes through Company A and attacks north to secure northern bridge (Saddam Canal).

2. Company A establishes security at the southern bridge.



1. Company C engaged with ZPU, RPG, and small arms vic northern bridge.

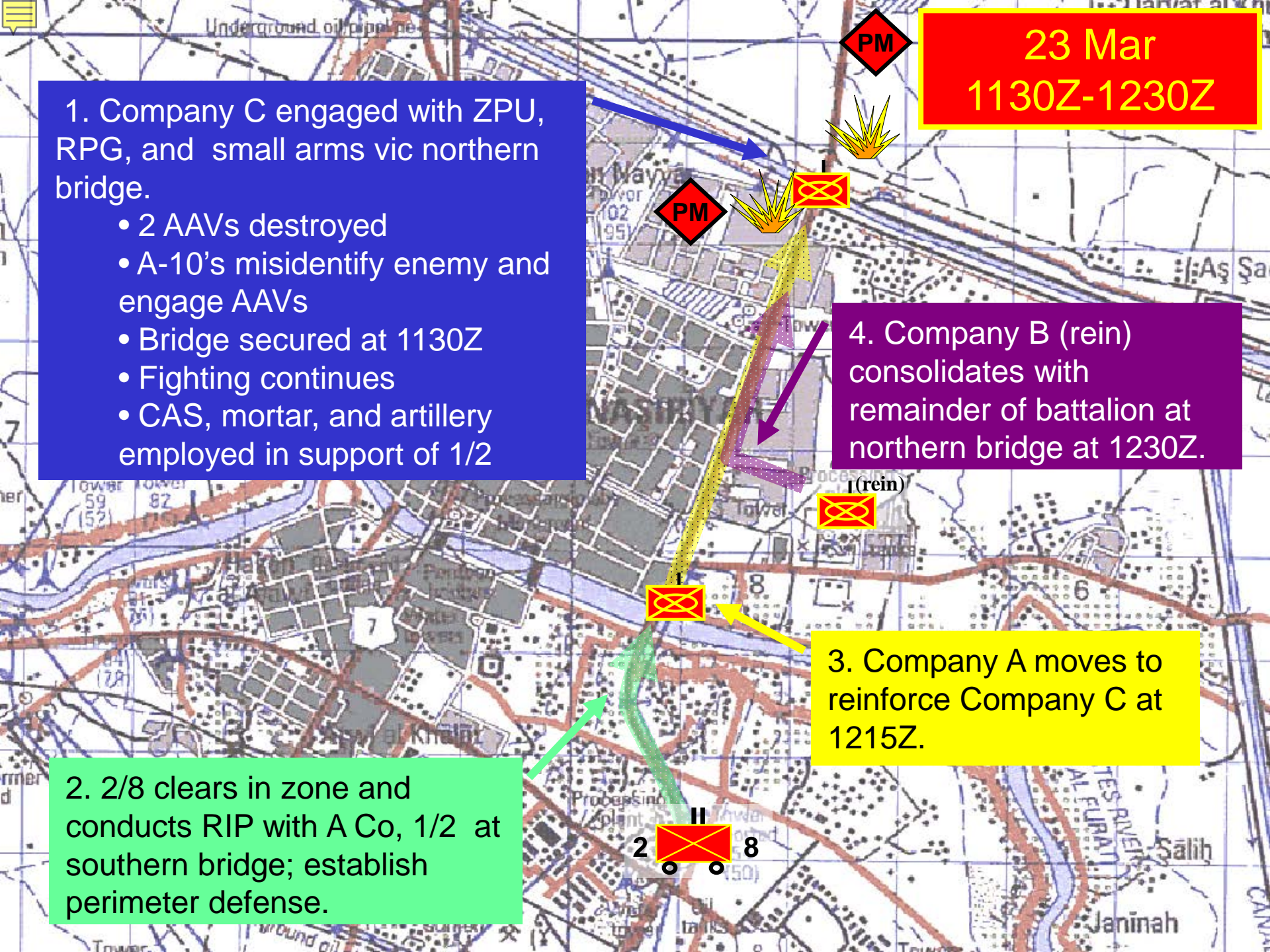
- 2 AAVs destroyed
- A-10's misidentify enemy and engage AAVs
- Bridge secured at 1130Z
- Fighting continues
- CAS, mortar, and artillery employed in support of 1/2

2. 2/8 clears in zone and conducts RIP with A Co, 1/2 at southern bridge; establish perimeter defense.

23 Mar
1130Z-1230Z

4. Company B (rein) consolidates with remainder of battalion at northern bridge at 1230Z.

3. Company A moves to reinforce Company C at 1215Z.



23 Mar
PM

1. TF Recon engages enemy along Hwy 8; breaks contact; retrogrades west to linkup with TF Tarawa HQ

2. 1700Z, 3/2 engages Iraqi vehicles and dismounted infantry; two vehicles destroyed, mortar positions neutralized, and weapons cache confiscated.

3. 2100Z, C Co, 2D LAR engages uniformed dismounted infantry north of the Euphrates River.

