

## B TROOP AAR FOR THE BATTLE OF COP KEATING

**1. ISSUE:** Entry Control Point guard/gate overall security of ECP

**DISCUSSION:** 1) The ASG at COP Keating were known to be unreliable at best yet they were still charged with our ECP TCP and security at that point of the COP, they were over-watched by a guard from a turret/tower. 2) The ECP's field of view was limited due to the elevation of the point and the limitations of the HMMWV turret used as a tower.

**RECOMMENDATION:** 1) U.S. Forces need to control entrance/exit points. Use ASG/ANA to assist but U.S. forces need to be able to affect the ECP at all times. 2) Construct and improve an ECP that can visually observe the desired sector and whose weapons system can affect said sector with direct fire.

**2. ISSUE:** Claymores

**DISCUSSION:** Claymores did not blow when they were clacked; this happened both at COP Keating and OP Fritsche.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Claymores need to be checked daily; the enemy knows we have them, put them in locations where it is easy for us to watch them. Monthly basis blow the claymores and put new ones out.

**3. ISSUE:** Patrolling and integrating with ANA

**DISCUSSION:** Many of our patrols were conducted jointly with the ANA. This enabled each element to move and maneuver under the overwatch of the other. Additionally, joint patrols strengthened the situational awareness of each unit, understanding each others' TTP's and what routes they used more frequently than others. A fault of this TTP is that in the face of contact, the ANA and ANP almost always run away or refuse to fight; losing any overwatch or additional combat power you had previously coordinated and planned on.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Integrate ANA into CF patrols, to where they are not just in overwatch of each other, but to ensure the patrols hold a mixture of both units. This would likely assist in breaking the ANA mentality of fleeing in the face of danger if they see their American counterparts fighting.

**4. ISSUE:** Fires plan and regular registration

**DISCUSSION:** Routine target registration was not done, most time targets were only fired during a TIC and the KANGOW cycle. Although many leaders wanted to fire more it was discouraged.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Register targets as much as possible. There is no harm in observing an area and then firing. Executing the FPL occasionally would allow the COP/OP as a whole to practice worst case scenario battle drills.

**5. ISSUE:** Combined security plan with ANA

**DISCUSSION:** At COP Keating the ANA was responsible for the eastern side of the COP's security plan. They had a couple of towers that they manned as well as two supplementary battle positions. The problem is they have no supervision by U.S. forces. When they broke contact the entire eastern half of the COP was left unprotected. Incorporating them throughout the security plan probably would have been more productive. Incorporating U.S. with ANA at guard positions would do three things; 1) Constant oversight of ANA Soldiers at the position, thus providing constant overwatch of that sector 2) Assisting in the training and refining of ANA TTPs and capabilities provided by the professional oversight of the American Soldier and Sergeant of the guard and 3) This would strengthen relations between the ANA and Coalition Forces, building a level of trust that is necessary during a TIC.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Continue to integrate ANA and CF in fixed positions, when and where possible. Every ANA position should be checked on during the SOG rotation, and if that position is not or cannot be jointly occupied constantly, at least coordinate for the occasional joint manning of the guard position.

**6. ISSUE:** Multiple COP defense drills

**DISCUSSION:** COP Keating had a standard COP defense drill that the ForcePro PLT could execute easily. It was rehearsed and understood; additional forces to include attachments knew their roles within that defense drill. However, an improvement would have been developing an alternative plans, one for worst case scenarios where the COP has been or is very close to being breached. In addition to that ForcePro should alter their TTP's of how they move to assigned locations, how many people go to each position.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Update TTP's and battle drill frequently, and do not set patterns. Rehearse these battle drills on a weekly basis.

**7. ISSUE:** COP size and movement

**DISCUSSION:** COP Keating was too large for the size of force we had located there. It's fine to have a large COP as long as the garrison there is large enough to defend it. Because we had so few people there were large portions of the COP that were open and unprotected. Those spaces were easily suppressed by the enemy and this was part of our problem. If the size of the COP cannot be altered then build trenches or HESKO to battle positions, build protected ways to man battle positions, so that Soldiers have the ability to make it to the guns.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Build the COP to the size that it can be manned. Always improve position and put in as many covered and concealed movement routes as possible, this will allow you to always have covered and concealed routes.

**8. ISSUE:** Generator protection

**DISCUSSION:** On multiple occasions we had generators go down due to enemy contact. On 3 OCT generators were knocked out within moments of initial contact.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Use Sandbags and HESKOS to protect generators. In addition to that had multiple grids set up on the COP so that if one is knocked out, you can simply switch to a separate power grid, hooked to an alternative back-up.

**9. ISSUE:** Conduct weekly classes at the section level with the ANA

**DISCUSSION:** On a weekly basis, with or without the OMLT, plan and conduct joint classes, teaching the ANA our TTP's and refining their basic and advanced Soldier skills. Doing this down to the section levels instills relationships, trust, and confirms a level of expertise at the SSG and below level. In addition, this provides a level of support to the OMLT, furthering relationships with the TT's and Latvian Soldiers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Continue to teach classes to the ANA on a weekly basis. Outline a lesson plan with the OMLT and delegate to the SGT level to plan, coordinate, and teach the class.

**10. ISSUE:** Covered and concealed routes to facilitate safe resupply of battle positions

**DISCUSSION:** During the Battle of COP Keating, several soldiers were wounded or killed when attempting to resupply M1151 Gun Truck battle positions. While the battle lasted for an entire day and the amount of enemy force was overwhelming, there were no covered and concealed infil and exfil routes and many of the positions were extended as far as 200 meters away from the ASP. All said, even with covered resupply routes, the sheer size of the enemy force and heavy direct fire caused gun trucks and fighting positions to be continually suppressed, but routes could have at least mitigated some of the threat. Additionally, each tuck carried a full battle load of ammunition, but the length of the battle was the cause for exhaustion of initial ammunition supplies.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Develop a covered resupply system with Hescos, sandbags or trenches to ensure safe resupply of ammunition and exfil routes.