

DRINA CORPS COMMAND

Strictly confidential number: 2-126

24 November 1992

VERY URGENT

Decision for further operations

To: ZVORNIK LPBR /LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE/ COMMAND  
(Personally to the Commander or Chief of Staff)

Pursuant to Directive of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska strictly confidential number 02/5 of 19 November 1992 and an assessment of the situation, I have decided:

1. Launch an attack using the main body of troops and major equipment to inflict on the enemy the highest possible losses, exhaust them, break them up or force them to surrender, and force the Muslim local population to abandon the area of Cerska, Žepa, Srebrenica and Goražde. Liberate and render usable the Milići – Konjević Polje – Zvornik road and open the corridor towards eastern Herzegovina.

Use auxiliary forces to defend decisively Višegrad (the dam), Zvornik and the Sokolac – Vlasenica – Šekovići – Caparde – Zvornik corridor. At the same time, break up and chase all paramilitary formations out of the zone.

The aim of the operation:

- Break up and expel enemy forces from the Corps' zone of responsibility. Defend the free territory at all present positions of the unit, stabilise the current corridors and establish new ones for unobstructed movement in the Corps' zone of responsibility.
- Open the Višegrad – Rogatica Pale and Višegrad – Goražde – Foča corridors.
- Break up and expel all paramilitary formations from the zone of responsibility.
- Create favourable conditions for the functioning of civilian authorities in liberated towns and in the whole area of the Corps' zone of responsibility.
- Secure the best possible conditions for the life of members of the Army of Republika Srpska and of the local population, particularly during winter, in the Corps' zone of responsibility.

Carry out this operation in two phases without a time limit.

In the first phase, which should last between 20 and 30 days, break up enemy forces or force them to surrender unconditionally in the sectors of Cerska, Konjević Polje and Žepa, and directly blockade Olovo.

In the second phase, break up enemy forces and free Srebrenica, Goražde, Olovo and Kladanj, and open the corridors towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Eastern Herzegovina, clear the area in the Corps' zone of responsibility of the remaining enemy groups (reconnaissance and sabotage, sabotage and terrorist and other groups). Readiness for defence immediately, /readiness/ for offensive operations on 24 November 1992.

2. Tasks for the units:

- 2.1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Zvornik Lpbr: in its current zone of responsibility, make the necessary regroupings and secure the Zvornik – Crni Vrh – Caparde corridor with the main body of troops; link-up directly with parts of the Eastern Bosnia Corps and establish coordination with them in the sector of the eastern slopes of Mt. Majeвица, as well as

with parts of the Birač Brigade in the Pandurica – Caparde sector. At the same time, liberate the general sector of Kamenica village from the sector of Kostijerevo village – Miloševići village – Mladevac – Snagovo village through offensive operations and in coordination with parts of the Birač and the Bratunac Brigades. Keep part of the forces at the ready in the direction of Kalesija.

- 2.2. The Bratunac Lpbr: use the main body of troops to launch an attack to break up enemy forces and reach the features of Loznik (tt /trig point/ 822), Zanik (tt 831), Čauš (tt 773), Bijela Stijena (tt 449); use the remaining forces to cut the Srebrenica – Cerska road in coordination with part of the Birač Brigade (the Milići Battalion), and then, in coordination with the Birač and the Zvornik Brigades, liberate Pobude, Hrnjice and Konjević Polje and thus create conditions to open the Vlasenica – Milići – Drinjača road.

Consolidate the Fakovići Battalion as soon as possible and give it the task to penetrate as deep as possible into the area of Srebrenica using the territory of Serbian villages and attack Srebrenica. The KM /Command Post/ in Bratunac.

- 2.3. The Birač pbr /Infantry Brigade/: make the necessary regroupings of the forces in the zone of responsibility and in coordination with the Bratunac and the Zvornik Brigades liberate the sector of Cerska; at the same time reinforce the defence positions in the sectors of Osmaci – Vis and Kaštijelj and through an offensive operation cut the Kladanj - Živinice – Tuzla road and create conditions for the liberation of Kladanj. Establish close coordination with the 2<sup>nd</sup> rmtbr /Romanija Motorised Brigade/ in the sectors of Staniški Vrh (tt 1089), Sokolina (tt 1313) and Slivanjsko Brdo (tt 1179). The KM /command post/ in the Šekovići sector.

### 3. Support to combat operations:

- a) Intelligence support: Focus the intelligence support on reconnaissance and collection of data on the deployment of enemy forces, their groupings and intentions, detection of reconnaissance, sabotage and terrorist enemy groups infiltrated into the disposition and the rear of our forces.

In brigades and other units, form groups of three and more soldiers (volunteers) and prepare them for operations in the enemy deployment and their rear. Use the same groups at night and in other conditions of limited visibility. Have units of the strength between that of a platoon and a company ready and trained to carry out ambush and assault operations and use them along the axis of delivery and evacuation of enemy forces and on the roads that the enemy use for manoeuvre, commitment of units and their rotation.

The focus of intelligence support should be on the checking of the staff, particularly the “volunteers” that come to the Brigade.

- b) Engineers support: Form special groups in the Brigade for clearing mines and train the soldiers to deactivate all kinds of mines. Pay utmost attention to secure movement in winter conditions and set up additional obstacles, particularly in the gaps and along exposed wings.

Remove snow from the roads and cover the ascents and descents with grit and gravel.

On passes or parts of the roads that are particularly exposed to snow, keep the engineers machinery on permanent duty. Engage road maintenance companies for major and regional roads. Depending on the thickness of the snow cover and the threat it poses to specific parts of the road, set up additional obstacles.

- c) Moral and psychological preparations: Before initiating any kind of operation, inform the unit members about the important aim of that operation and underline that the outcome of minor actions and of the whole operation is of a crucial importance for the

realisation of the aim of the Serbian people, namely, the creation and establishment of a Serbian state in these areas.

- d) Logistical support: Before initiating a combat operation, in addition to replenishing units with manpower, it is necessary to replenish them with appropriate MTS /materiel and technical equipment/ according to the current scheme of logistical support.

The ammunition, MES /mines and explosives/ and fuel must be used extremely economically, but never below the minimum reserves (or 0.5 combat set).

Supply the units with two combat sets of all kinds of ammunition and a tankful of fuel before they set off for the following tasks.

4. Command and communications: During execution of combat operations, secure the secrecy of command of the units (of written information, special documents and oral information) by using general documents for cryptographic data protection: table of code names and contour maps. Pay particular attention to protecting the secrecy of decisions at all levels.

Set tasks directly on the ground through commander reconnaissance.

C O M M A N D E R

Colonel

Milenko ŽIVANOVIĆ

/signed and stamped/

To:

- Commander of the Zvornik lpbr – one copy

- Corps files – one copy