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Assault Against Linkaro Continues! Southern Alliance steps up the pressure

This month reports of action started to come in early in the month with a Molteni armoured recon which has served them so well advancing towards Paraga. It appears that the light armoured vehicle was approaching the village from the East when it encountered some troops being moved by truck out of After the Grey Dawn have carried the village. A brief exchange of fire took place and after narrowly avoiding an RPG and some small arms fire the Armoured car fell back along the road to leave the Forces Government to their business

Partido De Unidad forces have continued their strategy of interdiction of Sons of Minerva forces in the Linkaro area. A number of naval craft mounting multiple heavy anti aircraft guns have patrolled the sea area to the North of Linkaro in the hope of using their anti aircraft guns in the ground role against any units from moving to and the beleaguered village. In a short period they have engaged a number of vehicles destroying several trucks and disabling an armoured car. Although not decisive in its nature we believe that this has had a very great impact on the resupply and reinforcement of Linkaro, which is the focus of much enemy action. The amount of combat supplies and weapons used in the defence of Linkaro must be high and attrition must have severally weakened the garrison. If the perimeter into the heart of the

supplies and reinforcements are being interdicted to such an extent the defenders must have suffered in their ability to defend the village. So far the SoM defenders are yet to develop a counter to the ad hoc naval force.

out a series of air attacks on Alliance forces and facilities The PdU have been involved in an intense search of areas to the West in a bid to locate the airbase where so many air strikes are originating One attempt at destroying the air threat was carried out against Yaja. a suspected airbase. A strike by a rocket and gun carrying Hoplite was executed causing some casualties and the destruction of a light armoured vehicle. The helicopter returned to base unharmed but no airfield was located.

Back at Linkaro the Molteni had been gathering forces and stockpiling combat supplies for an all out assault on the SoM defenders. The dawn attack saw combat engineers advance under the cover of artillery and smoke to deploy a large number of bangalore torpedoes through the hedge of barbed wire and mines. A narrow but clear path was blown through the defences and with covering fire from every available weapon pouring onto the defenders position, the attackers advanced through the

village. Fighting was extremely heavy with instances of hand to hand combat. Although the defenders were more numerous and supported by armour it seems that the interdiction and recent heavy fighting had exhausted their combat supplies after only a brief period of resistance. After the perimeter had been breached their was very little ammunition left and the defences crumbled leaving a large amount of prisoners of war. Collateral damage to the village is extensive and it will take serious measures to repair the damage that weeks of fighting has caused.

The search for the Grey Dawn airfield has resulted in a helicopter strike by a pair of PdU MI-2s upon Pica, where they discovered three air revetments, two of which contained RTAF-5s on the pan of a medium sized airstrip. The helicopters immediately attacked but were engaged by a well hidden M53/39 and a large volume of small arms fire. One helicopter was mortally hit and crashed within the perimeter but the other engaged the anti aircraft gun before strafing the air revetments with machinegun and rocket fire. The value of air revetments can be seen in that neither of the the light attack aircraft within were totally destroyed.

Close by Grey Dawn ground forces have been in action. They have carried out an assault on the

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Nacional Unidos Democratica Estados defensive positions at Sarava. The attacking force of infantry supported by armoured cars, light artillery and close air support from a SF-260 Warrior. The forward base of the N.U.D.E. Forces was lightly defended but the Infantry and artillery units were only able to hold of the inevitable for a short time. After a brief fight the village fell to the Grey Dawn.

The naval forces, so effective off the coast of Linkaro have been moved North to attempt a similar feat at the SoM base at Lojas. They engaged trucks and excavators moving in the area but then were engaged by heavy artillery and mortars firing from the base. One fishing boat was extremely badly damaged and had to be towed to safety by the other craft before it

could be sunk. It may never return to service so severe was the damage.

PdU Forces have shifted their emphasis to the West with a surprise attack towards Ethern. Finding this to be neutral they passed through the Molteni controlled village of Incandra and carried out an attack upon Valdra a Government Forces base in the heart of the mountains. The attack was supported by an ever present MI-2 Hoplite carrying а machinegun and anti tank missiles. The attackers used anti tank missiles, tank gun fire and mortars to swamp the base in fire but the defenders held their ground and their nerve and withstood the short lived but powerful onslaught. The Centre Of Internal Aggression

have returned to Agda, scene of

their recent defeat with a new tactic. The night attack saw the attackers deploy combat engineers armed with demo and bangalores and supported by artillery and forward observers to covertly approach the perimeter of the Government Forces base. Having placed several lines through the defending wire and mines they partially withdrew before blasting a number of paths through the outer defences. This was followed shortly after by a whirlwind artillerv barrage. inflicting heavy losses on the defenders as they rushed to their positions. defensive Almost without loss the CIA forces withdrew presumably the task of the operation was to weaken the defences and cause maximum harm. They seemed to have achieved that goal.

Jason's Bit

Well what a month. The fall of Linkaro was unexpected but attrition has been very high in the fighting. I am amazed at the scarcity of Infantry in some factions. Infantry have always been the backbone of any fighting force in Company Commander and lack of troops seems to be a very real handicap to operations. On the other side of the coin it seems that everyone is very interested to keep their highly trained men alive. Perhaps a better more realistic achievement than in previous games where there was plenty of cannon fodder around and attacks were being recklessly launched against any odds.

I think the newsletter hints at the effect that a group of operations against a given target has. We have seen interdiction, raiding artillery bombardment and probes all used to weaken an enemy. Indeed combat supplies and their availability have been key on a number of occasions where continuous combat has lead to their depletion and when resupply is either interdicted or prevented the village has fallen with relatively light losses to the attacker. The CIA attack has shown real imagination in how to go about weakening an enemy before the assault phase. With helicopters and light aircraft entering the fray the battle is become three dimensional and the speed at which forces advance has increased dramatically. Here's to another month of action. Jason.