

549<sup>th</sup> mtbr /motorised brigade/ COMMAND  
PRIZREN BARRACKS  
23 March 1999

MILITARY SECRET  
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TO THE COMMAND \_\_\_\_\_ /handwritten: **files**/

### O R D E R

**on destroying ŠTS /šiptar (derogatory for Albanian) terrorist forces/ in the general sector of the village of Retimlje, lifting the blockade of the Suva Reka – Orahovac road and establishing control of the territory**

**Map 1 : /? 50,000/ Prizren, sheets 1 and 2**

#### 1. ENEMY

ŠTS have reorganised, equipped themselves with modern weapons and trained to continue their armed struggle against the defence forces of the FRY/ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/.

The strongest ŠTS strongholds are in the general area of Retimlje, mount Milanovac, the village of Studenčane, the village of Samodraže, the village of Dobrodeljane and Pagaruša. The Podrimlje – Paštrik operations zone has been established with about 1,500 *šiptar* terrorists.

Podrimlje – Paštrik OZ /operations zone/:

Comprising two KLA brigades:

- 122<sup>nd</sup> KLA br /brigade/ (about 250 terrorists), KM /command post/ in the village of Veliki Dernovac with a special KLA unit (70 to 90 terrorists).

- 124<sup>th</sup> KLA br (about 300 terrorists), KM in the village of Retimlje.

The Podrimlje – Paštrik OZ KM and the KLA operations staff are in the village of Maralija.

Local staffs (50 to 100 terrorists) are in the villages of Dragobilje, Maralija, Gornje Potočane, Donje Potočane, Našpale, Velika Kruša, Bace and Kravasarija.

There are armed local guards consisting of 30 to 50 terrorists in the villages on the slopes of Mount Milanovac and in the area of Gajrak.

The objective of ŠTS is to take over military, commercial and public facilities, expand and consolidate operations zones, broaden the scope of armed rebellion and create conditions for taking control of the KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/ territory, as well as to declare an independent Kosovo.

ŠTS are armed with: automatic weapons, PM /light machine-guns/ machine-guns mounted on m/v /motor vehicles/, *Ambrust* PO /anti-armour/ weapons, RB /rocket launchers/, *zoljas* /hand-held rocket launchers/, *osas* /hand-held anti-artillery rocket launcher/ BsT /recoilless guns/ and 60-mm and 82-mm MB /mortars/ support weapons.

Fire from 60-mm and 82-mm MB is anticipated from the sector of Kravasarija, Pagaruša, Dragobilje and Retimlje villages.

Intensive ambushing of, and surprise attacks on, units and supply columns are anticipated within range of the roads. They send groups ahead of their basic positions – strongholds to reconnoitre and establish combat contact. In the sectors – strongholds they are building fortification facilities for operations and protection (full profile). In populated localities they have set booby traps in schools, houses and shops. They have also placed obstacles on access and bypass roads which have been mined, dug or barricaded. In order to delay and slow down the pace of attacks and to inflict losses on VJ /Yugoslav Army/ and MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ units, ŠTS have mined the sector of Zatrić village, Mališevo village, Orahovac village and the village of Sopina. Mines have been laid within ranges of the Štimlje – Suva Reka road and along the road connecting the village of Opteruša with the village of Zočićte. Their recruitment centres are in Kravasarija, Retimlje and Pagaruša villages, and in the villages of Retimlje and Pagaruša they have urban terrorism training centre.

On 21 and 22 March 1999, ŠTS opened strong fire from the sector of Trlišće feature, Grab feature (tt. / trig. point/ 488), houses to the east of the village of Studenčane, the village of Opteruša, preventing MUP patrols from travelling along the Suva Reka – Orahovac road thus rendering it impassable. An undisturbed corridor has been established allowing the flow of weapons and combat MTS /materiel and technical equipment/ along the Retimlje - Samodraža -Dobrodeljane - Pagaruša axis.

2. The 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr — Continue with securing inland DG /state borders/. Engage some of the forces in cooperation with the 5<sup>th</sup> company of the Prizren PJP /Special Police Unit/, 37<sup>th</sup> Od. /Detachment/ of the Niš PJP and the 4<sup>th</sup> Company of the Đakovica PJP to lift the blockade of the road, rout and destroy the ŠTS along the axis of the attack and enable normal control of the territory along the Suva Ruka – Orahovac road and the general area of the village of Retimlje as far as the Prizren – Zrze asphalt road.

On lifting the blockade, secure the road by taking control of dominant features. Prevent overspill of ŠTS from the Mališevo sector.

Supporting: 128-mm bVBR /self-propelled multiple rocket launcher/ 122-mm vHa /? howitzer artillery platoon/, 120-mm vMB /mortar platoon/ and 82-mm oMB /armoured mechanised battalion/.

### 3. NEIGHBOURS:

BG/combat group/ /243 mbr provides support to MUP units and the attack on ŠTS along the Birač – the village of Lapužane – the village of Pećine – the village of Semetište – the Grab feature axis, and carries out coordinated lateral operations with the 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr in destroying ŠTS in the village of Studenčane sector and on the eastern slopes of the Grab feature (tt. 488). Prevent any spillover of ŠTS from the sector of Pagaruša and Dobrodeljane.

### 4. I HAVE DECIDED:

In cooperating with the 37<sup>th</sup> Od. of the Niš PJP, the 5<sup>th</sup> Company of the Prizren PJP, and the 4<sup>th</sup> company of the Đakovica PJP, lift the blockade of the Suva Reka – Orahovac road. Cut off and destroy ŠTS in the general sector of the village of Retimlje and establish control of the territory in this area by grouping the main forces

along the axes of Studnečane – Samodraže and Opteruša – Retimlje, and the auxiliary forces along the following axes: Bela Crkva – Nogavac, Velika Hoča – Mala Hoča, Wine Cellar – Pirane – Zojić – Medvedce and Neprebište – Mamuša.

Objective: Lift the blockade of the Studnečane – Samodraže – Opteruša road and completely cut off ŠTS in the general area of the village of Retimlje from a flexible attack position. Rout and destroy ŠTS along the axes of attack. With some forces prevent any spillover and pulling out of ŠTS from the area of Retimlje into the general sector of Paraguša and in the villages of Trnje and Lešane, and then ensure that the road remains passable and that control of the territory is established. Lift the road blockade, cut off and destroy the ŠTS within two to three days.

Combat disposition:

- attack forces
- forces for blockade of the territory
- support forces
- combat security forces
- command and communications forces

Readiness to start supporting MUP forces at 0700 hours on 25 March 1999.

## 5. UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

5.1. BG-5/549 mtbr (consisting of: the command, the communications section, mtč /motorised company/, tv /tank platoon/, vPAT 30/2 /vehicle-mounted double-barrelled 30-mm anti-aircraft gun/ (-1) /minus one squad/, SO /self-propelled gun/ 90 mm, vMB 120 mm and a sniper squad) in cooperation with two companies of the 37<sup>th</sup> PJP Detachment.

Assignment: with strong artillery and MB support, destroy important individual targets with fire from SO 90 mm, tv, and vPAT 30/2; lift the blockade from the road connecting the village of Raštane, the village of Studnečane and the village of Samodraže; destroy ŠTS in the above villages; take control of dominant features within range of the road and prevent any spillover of forces from the village of Dobrodeljane or an attempt by ŠTS to pull out along this axis.

Supports: bVBR 128 mm, vHa 122 mm and vMB 120 mm.

KM /command post/: the village of Raštane.

5.2 BG-6/549th mtbr (consisting of: the command, the communications section, idč /reconnaissance and sabotage company/ two sv /rifle platoon/, vPAT / 30/2 (-1), SO 90 mm, oMB /mortar squad/ 82 mm and a medical squad) in cooperation with one company of the 37<sup>th</sup> PJP Detachment.

Assignment: with strong artillery fire and MB support, destroy important individual targets with fire from SO 90 mm, tv, and vPAT 30/2, destroy ŠTS in the village of Opteruša in a coordinated action with BG-5/ 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr while taking control of and destroying ŠTS in the village of Samodraže and lifting the blockade of the road; destroy ŠTS in the village of Retimlje with some forces from the village of Opteruša and the village of Zočišta.

One company of the 37<sup>th</sup> PJP Detachment should envelop and take control of the Trlišče feature (tt 650).

Support: bVBR 128 mm, vHa 122 mm and oMB 82 mm.

KM: the village of Zočište.

5.3 BG-7/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr (consisting of: the command, the communications section, čVP/Military Police company/ tv, vPAT 20/3) in cooperation with five PJP companies.

Assignment: with strong artillery preparation in a coordinated action with BG-6/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr cut off and destroy ŠTS along the axis of Velika Hoča – tt. 475 – Odmenive (tt. 466) Brestovačka Padina and along the axis of tt. 435 – Kosa Leskovac – the village of Brestovac – Mala Hoča.

Provides flank guard from the direction of the village of Retimlje.

Supports: bVBR 128 mm and vHa 122 mm.

KM: tt. 475

5.4. BG-1/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr (consisting of: the command, the communications section, two sv, tv, vPAT / 30/2 (-1), SO 90 mm, sn /? medical/ squad,) in cooperation with one company of the 37<sup>th</sup> PJP Detachment and two platoons of the MUP forces holding the position.

Assignment: energetically attack and destroys major individual targets using hardware to overpower and destroy the ŠTS in Mala Kruša, takes control of the wine cellar and come out on tt. 382, destroy ŠTS in the village of Pirane and the village of Zojić, come out on tt. 348 and tt. 356 (s./z /northeast/ of the village of Zojić, cuts off and prevents the retreat of ŠTS from the direction of the village of Medvedce.

Support: vHa 122 mm

KM: wine cellar.

5.5 BG-2/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr (consisting of: the command, the communications section, tv, mtč, vBVP, vPAT 20/3, vMB 120 mm and the medical squad) in cooperation with the 4<sup>th</sup> company of the PJP Detachment.

Assignment: carry out an energetic attack and search the village of Bela Crkva, come out on the Brnjača line, Brod elevation point tt. 432, tt. 440 in a coordinated action and cut off and destroy ŠTS in the village of Celine and the village of Nogavac. Seal off Velika Kruša and direct some forces from the Brod elevation point towards Amovac and where necessary attack from the flank in a coordinated action with our forces to take control of the village of Brestovac and the village of Mala Hoča.

Supports: vMB 120 mm

KM: tt. 440

#### 5.6 Forces to seal off territory

Parts of the poz.b. /logistics battalion/, čv, had, bardPVO /expansion unknown/ shall seal off the following line: tt. 357, the village of Trnje, the Jezero feature, the Mistra feature, tt. 330, the village of Smać, tt. 316, the village of Donja Srbica.

Assignment: to prevent any pull-out on the part of ŠTS through their positions.

The following forces of the 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr shall block off the area from the junction of the road leading to the village of Donja Srbica and the regional PZ – DJ /Prizren - Đakovica/ asphalt road and then along the asphalt road all the way to the village of Zrže: BG-3/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr, parts of the mpoad /mixed anti-tank artillery battalion/, parts of bardPVO and some troops from the engineers company.

Assignment: to prevent any pull-out on the part of ŠTS across the asphalt road and to coordinate their actions with our forces in taking control of the villages of Pirane, Mala Kruša, Velika Kruša and Celina.

## 6. SUPPORT

### 6.1. Artillery support:

bVBR 128 mm: VPo /basic firing position/ the general area of the village of Landovica. The principal axis of operations: the village of Retimlje. In preparing attack destroy ŠTS with 02.5 b/k in the sector of the village of Retimlje and the village of Studenčane.

Hav 122 mm: VPo in the village of Novake sector. The main axis of operations: the village of Dobrodeljane.

Assignment:

a) In preparation for the attack: fire according to the artillery fire plan, focusing on the sectors of Grab, Trlina, Rid, tt. 420, Mali Grab, tt. 499, the village of Retimlje, tt. 451 and tt. 371.

b) in the course of the attack: fire as planned to support the attack of the 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr, 37<sup>th</sup> Od. PJP, 5<sup>th</sup> čPJP, 4<sup>th</sup> čPJP, targeting newly-appearing targets.

## 7. CONTENTS OF ARMED COMBAT

### 7.1. Anti-aircraft defence:

Engage the 30/2 PAT platoons from the BG/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr in a coordinated action with other units to support the 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr and MUP forces in routing and destroying ŠTS along the axes of engagement for the purpose of lifting road blockades and defending tank platoons.

Focus PVZ /anti-aircraft protection/ measures on camouflaging, fortifying, loosely deploying forces and hardware, and making decoy firing and radar positions.

## 8. COMBAT SUPPORT

### 8.1. Intelligence support:

Intelligence support should focus on direct reconnaissance of the strength, composition and disposition of ŠTS along the axes of attack and in the sectors from which stronger ŠTS could intervene in the course of introduction of forces. By engaging reconnaissance organs and in coordination with MUP organs, constantly gather information about the enemy and the implementation of intelligence support assignments along the axes of engagement of combat groups.

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### 8.2. Security support:

Focus security support on counterintelligence protection of the elements of b/r /combat disposition/ of units. Escort captured terrorists to the POW concentration point in the administrative building of *Metohijavino* in the settlement of Široko near Suva Reka and the wine cellars in Mala Kruša.

In the course of combat operations I explicitly forbid unsupervised entries into populated localities, plunder of property of the local population, violations of

provisions of MRP /international humanitarian law/ and relocation of enemy weapons, military equipment or corpses, as well as any entry into enemy shelters before the arrival of expert organs.

### 8.3. Combat Security

In the course of bringing in the units, take all security measures, and once the units have been brought to the lines of advance, raise the level of immediate security of personnel and MTS /materiel and technical equipment/ against surprise ŠTS operations.

In the course of the attack and combat along the depth, ensure that gaps, points of convergence, flanks, and difficult terrain within the battle range are protected. Also ensure the protection of tanks and other equipment from close range ŠTS fire.

### 8.4. Engineering Support:

Keep the emphasis of engineering support on securing movement, discovering MEP /mines and other explosive obstacles/ and defusing them. If possible, circumvent any MEPS on the roads and axes of the attack and, if not, destroy or remove them.

### 8.5. PNHB /anti-nuclear, chemical and biological/ security:

Insofar as PNHBOb /anti-nuclear, chemical and biological defence/ measures are concerned, put emphasis on the measures of NHB /nuclear, chemical and biological/ protection. Reconnoitre and mark any contaminated terrain and ensure that units move around these sectors.

### 8.6. Moral and psychological support:

Focus moral and psychological support on motivating the units and commands for the performance of the forthcoming assignment. Raise moral and prevent defeatism, fear and panic through direct work, personal example and the courageous demeanour of commanding officers.

Treat the loyal civilian population correctly, especially fleeing refugees and people's property. Open fire only on features used by ŠTS to engage you.

Continuously point out examples of bravery of individuals and units and their successes in combat. Treat representatives of the media in keeping with orders issued.

Prevent any enemy's attempt at psychological and propaganda activities through timely provision of information to all the troops.

In all situations fully observe the provisions of international laws of war.

### 8.7. Logistical support:

Focus logistical support on the attack forces that are routing and destroying ŠTS and removing blockades from roads.

Organise logistical support by relying on the Prizren garrison /? and/ engaging your own forces and equipment.

#### a) Technical support

The use of the following is hereby authorised for the performance of the above assignments:

- ammunition for infantry weapons.....2 b/k /combat set/
- artillery support ammunition:
  - for bVBR 128 mm.....0.25 b/k
  - for vHa 122 mm.....1 b/k
  - for MB 120 mm.....1 b/k
  - for MB 82 mm.....2 b/k (use seized mines)
- SO 90 mm ammunition .....2 b/k
- ammunition for PVO weapons (barrelled artillery) .....1 b/k
- b/v /combat vehicle/ ammunition.....0.5 b/k
- b/v fuel.....1 p/r /thankful/
- fuel for non-combat motor vehicles .....0.5 p/r

Bring units up to strength before the beginning of combat operations.

Repair slightly damaged TMS on the spot, and pull out seriously damaged TMS to convenient sectors and then on to the Prizren garrison.

b) Quartermaster support:

Provide hot food to the troops until the start of combat operations and during the combat operations use dry rations. Ensure regular supplies of water from reliable sources to all the units. Until the beginning of combat operations organise bathing and change of clothes to unit members.

c) Medical support:

For medical support to p/o /sick and wounded/ ensure: a medical helicopter in the barracks and a medical team for general medical help at the GA /garrison infirmary/. For first medical help to the BG secure necessary medical personnel and SnK /medical supply set/1-3.

Treat the slightly wounded on the spot and evacuate the seriously wounded to the territory's GA and MC /medical centre/ or the Niš VB /military hospital/ or VMA /Military Medical Academy (in Belgrade)/

d) Transport Support:

Supply units with the required number of transport and towing m/v in order to ensure necessary mobility.

e) Firefighting support:

Prevent any fires from spreading through loose disposition of ammunition, fuel, and MES /mines and explosives/ thereby avoiding any risk to same. Engage establishment equipment and personnel in putting out any fires.

f) POW security in the rear:

Organise logistical support for captured persons within POW collection points in the Široko sector and the wine cellar. Once you have interviewed the prisoners, hand them over to MUP organs for further processing.

Gather the seized and found weapons, ammunition and other combat hardware in redeployment areas and then hand them over to the training service.

g) Clearing up the battlefield

Clear up the battlefield by engaging your own forces and equipment and, once b/d are over, in cooperation with organs in the territory.

9. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Organise communications as per the communications plan to be drawn up by the chief of communications of the 549<sup>th</sup> mtbr and monitor the functioning of communications in the course of combat operations.

Readiness of communications on my orders.

Submit reports:

- Regular reports – daily by 1900 hours with the situation as at 1700 hours.
- Interim reports – as necessary.

Signals as per the signal chart.

In the course of combat operations issue commands exclusively as per the agreed code tables, using coded maps.

SK/GS

C O M M A N D E R  
Colonel  
Božidar DELIĆ  
/signed and stamped/

One original typed.

Five copies made and  
forwarded to:

- files
- BG - 5, 6, 7, 1 and 2/549<sup>th</sup> mtbr