**OPERATION DESERT MIRAGE: Tactical Engagement**

**Anonymous Conflict Scenario: Contested Borderlands**

In this tactical scenario, two opposing forces clash in a remote, resource-scarce region with strategic importance to both sides. The engagement features an insurgent force (Side A) against a resident defensive force (Side B) in a harsh arid environment.

**Battle Environment**

The battleground features deceptively challenging terrain. From aerial reconnaissance, the landscape appears relatively flat with minimal features, creating an illusion of open visibility. However, ground-level reality reveals gently undulating terrain that conceals significant troop movements.

The environment includes:

* Seasonal dry waterways that transform dramatically during rare rainfall
* Scattered vegetation clusters providing concealment
* Rocky outcroppings and loose gravel beds
* Deep erosion channels creating sudden drops and ravines
* A small settlement with local civilian population
* A critical water source (well) that holds strategic importance

**Side A**

**Resources**

* Battalion headquarters with support elements
* Multiple mechanized infantry companies
* Medium mortar systems
* Light automatic weapons
* Armored personnel carriers
* Superior numerical advantage

**Vulnerabilities & Challenges**

* Unfamiliar with local terrain features
* Operating far from established supply lines
* Must avoid damaging the critical water source
* Restricted movement near civilian settlement
* Limited knowledge of opponent's defensive positions

**Strategic Approach**

* Deploy forces north and south of the contested waterway
* Position a company near the settlement for tactical advantage
* Utilize numerical superiority to overwhelm defensive positions
* Victory achieved by maintaining operational capability

**Side B (Defensive)**

**Resources**

* Mobile support elements with armored vehicles
* Light and medium infantry companies
* Mounted reconnaissance units
* Medium mortar capabilities
* Engineering support elements
* Superior knowledge of terrain

**Vulnerabilities & Challenges**

* Numerically disadvantaged
* Must protect critical water source
* Civilian settlement restricts combat operations
* Need to prevent insurgent force from establishing positions

**Strategic Approach**

* Enter battle area through designated access points
* Deploy after insurgent force movements are identified
* Utilize covering terrain for tactical advantage
* Victory achieved by breaking insurgent force capabilities
* Employ mounted units for rapid response

**Special Considerations**

1. The civilian settlement is considered neutral territory. Combat operations can only occur after initial engagement elsewhere.
2. The critical water source represents a decisive objective. Any force damaging it automatically loses the engagement.
3. Terrain classifications include:
   * Dense vegetation zones
   * Primary and secondary difficult terrain areas
   * Seasonal waterways
   * Vehicle-accessible paths
4. The engagement will conclude after 12 tactical phases.