All alone in the dust By Ben Rome

Sinclair throttled the Bushwacker into a run, keeping part of his attention on the HUD and the red icon which showed a Firefly closing on his position. A light 'Mech and an older Clan design, the Firefly's trio of medium lasers still demanded a modicum of respect. He would smash it from range, and then move on toward rendezvous.

The comm system crackled to life with an abnormally loud burst of static. "Leave it? ...hauling explosives...Commander." A long pause. "Aff...bridge."

He'd set his system to scan known Clan civilian frequencies, though the receiver was having difficulty pulling in more than a broken signal. Thomas Sorenson had apparently picked it up as well.

"Lieutenant, did you receive? Laborer caste frequencies, but something about explosive charges? Watch your step."

Situation

Grid 45-E, Nav Point Baker N'Greve Desert Tranquil Clan Space Spring, 3060

The Damocles Commando One strike force has made planet fall on the Smoke Jaguar hideout of Tranquil. Scattered across the drop area due to damage inflicted on the *Blackhammer* from a surprise attack, the Star League force is attempting to regroup after the orbital disaster. While doing an initial recon of the area, Lieutenant Sinclair has stumbled across a Jaguar communications base and its defenders, an ad-hoc command of Jaguar warriors. Lt. Sinclair must destroy the small communications tower before the enemy units can inform Jaguar Command of his presence—and that of his valuable Mobile Field Bases, which are hidden nearby. He stands alone against the Clan defenders as his fellow pilots attempt to regroup.

Game Set-Up

Lay out the *BattleTech* maps as shown. Use both Desert Mountain maps from *BattleTech Map Set 3*, or *Classic BattleTech Map Set Compilation 1*.

The Jaguar communications facility occupies hexes 0802 and 0803 on the Desert Mountain #2 map and each building has a CF of 30. Additionally, there is a ramp connecting 0806, 0906, and 1005 on the Desert Mountain #2



map. The ramp may only be entered from 0806 and 1005 and has a CF of 60. Each hex of the ramp costs 2 MP for movement purposes.

Underneath the ramp in hex 1005 is a retaining wall. The wall has a CF of 20 and if destroyed, causes a rock slide that reduces hex 1005 to an elevation of Level 3. Any unit on the wall when it is destroyed must make a PSR with a +4 penalty to remain standing. A failure results in the unit taking damage for a one level fall as per the *Falling Damage to a BattleMech* rules (see p. 25, *BMR*) and the unit begins the next turn in the prone position. The wall cannot be destroyed if the ramp still exists.

ATTACKER

TheattackerisLt.ConnorSinclairofDamocles Commando One in his *Bushwacker*. The *Bushwacker* begins the game with only half a ton of LRM ammunition.

Damocles Commando One

BSW-X1 *Bushwacker* (Lt. Connor Sinclair; Gunnery 2, Piloting 2)

DEFENDER

The defender consists of remnants of Clan Smoke Jaguar defending the Tranquil communications facility; these warriors have recently returned from the Inner Sphere, fielding captured Inner Sphere designs.

Ad-hoc Smoke Jaguar Command FFL-4B *Firefly*

- (MechWarrior Tristan; Gunnery 4, Piloting 5) FFL-4B *Firefly*
- (MechWarrior Isolde; Gunnery 3, Piloting 4) OW-1C *Owens*
- (MechWarrior Marjorie; Gunnery 4, Piloting 4) Flatbed Truck (no driver)

Attacker Deployment

The attacker enters anywhere along the south edge of the Desert Mountain #2 map during the Movement Phase of turn 1.



Defender Deployment

The defender places all of its units before play begins. One *Firefly* begins in hex 0502 on the Desert Mountain #2 map, another begins anywhere on the lower half of the Desert Mountain #2 map, and the *Owens* begins in hex 0311 on the Desert Mountain #1 map. The



flatbed truck is positioned on the ramp at hex 0906 on the Desert Mountain #2 map and is considered to be immobile.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The scenario ends if the attacker is able to either destroy the communications facility or destroy all three of the defender's 'Mechs, or if the attacker is destroyed. There are no partial victories for this scenario; it is an all-or-nothing battle.

The attacker wins if it destroys the communications facility or all of the defending 'Mechs.

The defender wins if the attacker is destroyed.

SPECIAL RULES

The following special rules apply during this scenario.

Flatbed truck

The flatbed truck is wired to detonate on command from MechWarrior Isolde's cockpit. When detonated, the explosion does 30 points of damage to any unit in a one-hex radius, assigned in 5 point clusters to the Front/Back column of the BattleMech Hit Location Table.

If detonated on the ramp, the explosion undercuts the ramp supports and destroys the entire ramp. The truck automatically detonates if destroyed by weapons fire.

MechWarrior Isolde will detonate the truck if the attacker comes within 3 hexes of the ramp (determined by the position of the attacker at the end of the Movement Phase). She may also detonate the truck at any time.

Turrets

There are two retractable turrets located next to the ramp in hexes 0805 and 0905 on the Desert Mountain #2 map. Each turret contains a Clan Ultra Autocannon 2 with 30 rounds of ammunition. The turrets begin the scenario in the 'down' position and only 'pop up' when the attacker approaches within 6 hexes or less of the turret (determined by the attacker's position at the end of the Movement Phase). Once in the 'up' position, the turrets may fire in a 360 degree arc and have a gunnery skill of '5'.

Each turret has a CF of 10 and is considered inoperable once the CF is met or exceeded.

Honor Level

The Clan players are fighting with Level 2 Honor Rules in effect. No defending unit may fire upon the attacker if another defending unit is already engaged.









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- Crew Stunned (no actions for rest of this turn and next 2 turns). Main Weapon Jams (no fire from largest system for one turn).
- 2 3 Engine hit (no movement for rest of game).
- 4 5 Crew Killed (vehicle out of game).
- Fuel Tank Hit (vehicle explodes). Ammo/Power Plant Hit (vehicle explodes). 6

¹ Axle has been destroyed; unit cannot move for rest of the game.

² Wheel has been damaged; -1 Cruising MP for rest of the game.