

OPERATION: WENDIGO,

Danny P travelled with Tier 1 Military Simulation to Sweden for Operation: Wendigo

Tier 1 Military Simulation and Pandion Airsoft put on a 48 hour MilSim event in Sweden, about three hours outside of Gothenburg. I was lucky enough to be invited along – not just as a reporter but also to take part. The trip started with an early morning flight from an airport in the UK to Sweden. We were picked up by coach, transported to the game area and the operation started with kit preparation, ready for the following day's insertion by parachute (this operation didn't actually involve a live parachute drop).

After a good night's sleep we were all called together for the final briefing before insertion into the Area of Operations (AO). I was asked to join one of the sections for the jump and we boarded the vehicles.

I would like to stress right off that we were all carrying *everything* we needed into the field. For me this meant my weapon, webbing system and a bergen weighing in at 50kg – and some of the guys were carrying more!

Having 'jumped' into the AO we immediately knew something was wrong. Once on the ground a quick map check by the Section Commanders discovered we were a good 2km from our drop zone rendezvous (RV) and other sections had been scattered all over the AO. As we were now in hostile territory it was decided we'd move out as soon as possible, make our way to the RV at the edge of the drop zone and await the other members of the patrol. After an hour or so all sections were at the RV and we had to find a harbour area for the night.

We moved out and after patrolling for a couple of hours a suitable area was found. The patrol moved in and started to set up bashas and get some scan on before a stag system was sorted for the night. All sections were stood-to at last light and there were at least three members of the patrol on stag at any one time. After sleeping in the woods under a star-filled sky we were stood-to at first light. It was a very quiet night but after an intelligence update it became apparent that the enemy had been looking for our patrol all night without success.

Following an early morning briefing from the Troop Commander the decision was made to move the harbour area in case we had been compromised. Everything was collapsed, put into bergens and we moved off. Having found an alternative suitable area

SWEDEN

EVENT REPORT



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a quick briefing was held; two patrols were assembled and briefed on their different objectives. I was to accompany one of these patrols on their reconnaissance mission to find and possibly destroy an enemy surface-to-air-missile (SAM) battery. After prepping equipment and making sure everyone was fed and watered we moved out.

Having covered a fair bit of ground we encountered an enemy patrol. Due to our Standing Orders we decided to avoid them and work around the position. We reached the area where the SAM battery was suspected to be and managed to get eyes on the target from a distance, so the patrol Commander asked for two guys to go forward and ascertain enemy strengths and see if it would be possible to mount an attack on the site. I was chosen to go forward with another member of the patrol.

After spending some time observing the location we were able to confirm





that although the enemy forces looked to be regular military they were not very disciplined or alert. We would mount an assault to destroy the SAM battery. The Troop Commander gathered his forces and a plan was put in motion to attack the site. As a patrol we moved forward and once a baseline was achieved close enough to engage the enemy a countdown was initiated and the first shot fired.

The fire-fight was intense but short-lived and the enemy really didn't know what had hit them. The patrol I was with was very professional and capable in their attack; the enemy forces were quickly overrun and the position secured. The SAM battery was destroyed and the guys also managed to destroy an IED that had been left. Following

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the attack the patrol was ordered back to the Harbour area to wait for the other patrol's return.

Back at the Harbour area it was time to build our bashas for the night. The other patrol returned not long after. There was a quick debrief for the Commanders and we learned that the other guys had a very interesting day as well. They managed to make contact with the resistance and called in an airstrike on a SAM battery to destroy it (Pandion had set up huge speakers, played an F18 flying in and then had an explosion with pyro to simulate an airstrike).

Following another intelligence update a four-man patrol was put together to go out in the night and make contact with more resistance members. They were also to do a close-target reconnaissance on a farm complex. They managed to complete all their objectives by the following morning.



The same routine was followed as the previous night and we were all stood-to in the morning. After eating and packing away all equipment another intelligence briefing was convened and our role was changed from reconnaissance to a fighting patrol, with orders to engage the enemy. We were tasked to move to an area near a quarry where a large enemy force had been spotted, so as a whole we moved out and started to patrol towards the area.

While en-route we were compromised on a road by an enemy vehicle; we were

outgunned but the vehicle was quickly overrun and its occupants killed. While securing this area an enemy quadbike with six personnel onboard managed to ride into a hastily put-together snap ambush and, after a very brief fire-fight, they lay dead too. After searching the bodies for intel we moved off on our previous tasking and towards the quarry where we were immediately engaged by enemy forces, including technicals with heavy machine guns. During the hour-long fire-fight the enemy forces were pushed back – but we

had also taken casualties and it was decided we would pull back to our extraction point and await pick up.

I have written this as a (sort of) 'After Action Report' of the events that took place in Sweden with Tier 1 – but to give you some idea of what was achieved, not only by Tier 1 but by all the guys that took part...

The temperature ranged from -3° in the daytime all the way down to -15° at night.

Every member of the Tier 1 group covered around 50km on foot, carrying everything required for them to be able to operate for 48 hours in the field. Some players travelled up to 60km.

The ground was covered in around 12in of snow in most places and up to 36in in others, and walking with a heavy bergen in those conditions is a feat in itself – let alone playing an airsoft MilSim.

Tier 1's tagline is 'Dare to be tested!' I can certainly say I was tested – and I have done this for real! ■



If this sounds like your cup of tea then check out the Tier 1 event calendar on page 11 or visit: www.tier1militarysimulation.com The next event in the UK is at the end of March, at STANTA .