

DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force  
8 April 1994**Fighting in Bosnia: Who's on the Offensive?**

The relative success of the Sarajevo cease-fire and the Muslim-Croat cease-fire and rapprochement has shifted the focus of fighting to other parts of Bosnia.

- Bosnian Government forces increasingly are taking advantage of the cessation of hostilities with the Croats to take the fight to the Bosnian Serbs, particularly around Maglaj, Zavidovici, and Bugojno. The Bosnian Army reportedly also has planned operations for Brcko, Olovo, the eastern enclaves, and Bihac.
- The Bosnian Serbs are wary of a new Bosnian-Croat alliance and have warned publicly of a Muslim spring offensive. They have launched a major offensive on Gorazde, and have shelled areas near the Croat-Muslim confrontation line in an effort to undermine the nascent cease-fire.

**Recent Government Attacks**

**Maglaj-Doboj.** Government forces currently hold the initiative in fighting around Maglaj. They apparently have taken some ground from the Serbs between Teslic and Tesanj and southeast of Zavidovici, and also have shelled Doboj. The Zepce to Maglaj road reportedly is open, effectively relinking Maglaj to Muslim-held territory to the south.

- Bosnian goals, in addition to securing the north-south link to Muslim-held territory, probably include capturing Teslic, securing roads in the Serb-held Ozren mountains, and cutting Serb supply routes which run through Doboj.
- Bosnian Serb forces appear to have made Bosnian Army operations easier by withdrawing from areas east and west of the Zepce-Maglaj road after the Muslim-Croat truce made these positions vulnerable.

**Bugojno.** The Bosnian Army also holds the initiative in fighting west of Bugojno in central Bosnia, which began when Government forces captured high ground east of Kupres from the Bosnian Serbs shortly after the Muslim-Croat cease-fire took

[REDACTED]

effect. Government forces recently gained ground near Serb-held Donji Vakuf, according to a variety of reporting.

- Capturing Donji Vakuf and Kupres would provide Government forces--and eventually a Muslim-Croat federation--with a major supply route between Herzegovina, Bugojno, and Travnik. [REDACTED]

#### Areas Where Serbs Are Pressing

**Bihac.** Serb forces, in cooperation with Muslim separatist leader Abdic, until recently had been attacking government troops in the Bihac enclave and had gained high ground near the town. Hard-pressed Bosnian Army commanders reportedly now believe they have the situation in hand. Bosnian Serb, Croat, and Government commanders reportedly have worked out the terms of a cease-fire for the Bihac enclave, but no accord has yet been signed.

- Government forces are cut-off from outside resupply and face a two-front battle, and we do not expect them to undertake any significant offensive operations against the Serbs. [REDACTED]

**Gorazde.** The Bosnian Serbs launched an offensive against the Gorazde enclave in late March and have taken almost half of Government-held territory on the right bank of the Drina River. Bosnian Serb troops are currently three to four kilometers from the center of Gorazde. Serb commanders expect to continue their advance and have made plans to handle civilians and surrendering troops if the Serbs capture the towns of Gorazde itself, [REDACTED]

#### Potential Flashpoints

**Brcko.** The warring factions have traded accusations of attacks around Brcko in recent days, and this heavily-contested area is likely to see additional fighting.

- Government and Croat forces would like to interdict the Serb supply corridor from Serbia to the Krajina and to establish a link between Muslim-held territory and the Sava River.
- Serb forces would resist strongly any efforts to sever or block the corridor, which they have fought to maintain throughout the war. [REDACTED]

**Olovo.** This heavily-contested area has been relatively quiet since Government forces rebuffed a Serb effort earlier this year to take the town and the key crossroads it controls. Any Bosnian operations there likely would be limited to securing the



main road between Olovo and Kladanj. The Serbs may step-up their shelling of the area to maintain pressure on Bosnian forces and keep open the possibility of driving north to isolate Tuzla.

