

Operation: Desert Guardian



CLEARWAY

Campaign Briefing

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Campaign Start: 06/01/2020 0000 Zulu

Situation

Enemy

Iran Civil War Status

The civil war in Iran has evolved into a complex and multifaceted conflict, marked by internal strife, political fragmentation, and a struggle for control. The situation is highly fluid, with various factions and groups competing for dominance.

Different factions, representing diverse political, ethnic, and religious interests, are engaged in a power struggle. These factions may include government loyalists, opposition forces, ethnic separatists, and religious groups.

Bandar Abbas, a significant port city on the southern coast of Iran, has emerged as a hotspot due to its strategic importance and diverse demographic makeup. The control of Bandar Abbas holds symbolic and strategic value, making it a focal point for clashes between rival factions.

Iran Government Status

The Iranian government is in a precarious position, facing challenges from multiple factions seeking to assert dominance. The struggle for control extends across various regions, with competing political, ethnic, and sectarian groups vying for power.

Semi-autonomous regions have emerged as power centers, challenging the centralized authority of the national government. These regions often align with specific ethnic or sectarian groups and have their own administrative structures and security forces.

The government's efforts to regain control are concentrated on strategic locations, with a primary focus on reclaiming the Bandar Abbas Airbase. The airbase holds significant military importance due to its strategic location and capabilities, making it a crucial asset in the government's bid to stabilize the region.

Notable Events

-None-

Enemy Forces

Three Main Terrorist Groups:

Crimson Crescent:

- Known for their involvement in guerrilla warfare and targeted attacks.
- Ideologically motivated with affiliations to extremist beliefs.
- Active in the southern regions, including the Strait of Hormuz.

Shadow Serpent:

- Operates with a focus on asymmetric warfare and covert operations.
- Engaged in acts of sabotage and disruption against critical infrastructure.
- Presence extends across various regions, adapting to the fluid nature of the conflict.

Black Scorpion:

- Specializes in maritime terrorism, utilizing small boats for attacks.
- Notorious for hijackings and ransom demands, as seen in the "Marah" incident.
- Operates in coastal areas, particularly around key shipping routes.

Ground

Various insurgent and terrorist groups operating in the region have been observed using a mix of military and improvised assets. This includes armored vehicles, technicals, and infantry. Notable groups are known to have adopted unconventional warfare tactics and guerrilla-style hit-and-run strategies.

Air

Some insurgent groups have been observed employing helicopters for reconnaissance and limited transport purposes. While not a regular occurrence, the sporadic use of helicopters adds a vertical dimension to their tactics.

As of the present, there is no evidence of terrorist groups operating fighter jets. However, the possibility of such acquisition remains a concern, requiring continuous monitoring.

Anti-Ship

Insurgent and terrorist groups have demonstrated a notable presence of speedboats, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz. These vessels are often utilized for hit-and-run attacks on commercial shipping.

Unverified reports suggest that some terrorist factions may have acquired or have access to anti-ship missiles, posing an additional threat to maritime traffic.

Anti-Air

As of the latest intelligence, there are no confirmed reports of significant anti-aircraft assets in the hands of terrorist groups.

An early warning radar station (P19 "Flat Face" Search Radar) located in the mountains north of Qeshm Island is suspected to be under the control of insurgent forces. Ownership and control of this radar station remain unknown.

Small arms, including Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA), and Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS) are prevalent threats across the Area of Operations (AO).

Friendly Forces

Status

Aircraft:

The friendly forces consist of a multinational coalition with a variety of aircraft. This includes F/A-18C Hornets, F-15E Strike Eagles, Mirage 2000s, Mirage F1B-1 and Tornados. The diverse fleet ensures a range of capabilities, including air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

Weapons

Adequate supplies of munitions are available for both air-to-air engagements and air-to-ground strikes.

Personnel

The personnel strength is satisfactory for the assigned mission. Adequate manpower is available to fulfill mission objectives and respond to emerging threats.

Despite the challenging circumstances, morale among the personnel remains high. Training, coordination, and a sense of camaraderie contribute to a resilient and motivated force.

Campaign Objective

To restore stability and security in the Persian Gulf region amidst the ongoing civil war in Iran, neutralize terrorist and insurgent threats, safeguard maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, and support the reestablishment of governmental control.

Key Tasks:

- **Neutralize Terrorist and Insurgent Threats:** Target and eliminate key leadership, disrupt supply lines, and dismantle the operational capabilities of identified terrorist groups operating within the AO.
- **Secure Strategic Locations:** Reclaim and secure strategic locations, including the Bandar Abbas Airbase, to weaken insurgent footholds and support the government's efforts to regain control.
- **Protect Commercial Shipping:** Conduct continuous patrols and operations in the Strait of Hormuz to deter and neutralize maritime threats, ensuring the safe passage of commercial shipping through the vital waterway.

- **Provide Air Superiority:** Establish and maintain air superiority over the AO to prevent hostile aerial activities, secure critical airspace, and protect friendly forces and assets.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected civilian populations, fostering goodwill and contributing to the restoration of normalcy in the conflict-affected areas.
- **Multinational Collaboration:** Coordinate closely with coalition partners, including the Carrier Strike Group 9, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Germany, and France to maximize operational effectiveness and share intelligence and resources.

End State:

The successful accomplishment of Operation Desert Guardian will result in a stabilized Persian Gulf region, reduced threats from terrorist and insurgent activities, restored government control in critical areas, and the resumption of safe and secure maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. The campaign aims to establish conditions conducive to regional stability, supporting the long-term security interests of the multinational coalition and regional partners.

