



OPERATION DESERT RAT

A fictional DCS F/A-18C Campaign

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PREFACE

This is the first of my hopefully many campaigns for DCS. At present time the campaign is for the DCS F/A-18C Hornet, however I plan to broaden it to include a playable F-14 Tomcat upon release. Extensive research, time, and care has been put into simulating a realistic scenario in which the United States faces off against Iran. The core storyline elements for *Operation Desert Rat* have been taken from the real world conflict between the United States and Iraq in 1999; known as *Operation Desert Fox*. Missions for this campaign will be distributed on an individual basis; hopefully released no more than a month apart. The zip file which each scenario is distributed will contain three different mission files: one for single player (C_ODR_XX_SP), one for four-player multiplayer (C_ODR_XX_MP), and one lite version which contains much less assets for those who have found they are experiencing poor fps (C_ODR_XX_L).

With all this said I am not a historian, nor am I a former member of any Armed Forces, as stated I have attempted to create this using principles and procedures that are true to US air combat doctrine. In addition to this, a few liberties have been taken due to the constraints of the DCS editor, and an emphasis on fun and enjoyment.

SITUATION

Since the 1979 Revolution, Iran has become increasingly hostile towards the Western world, and other nations located within the Persian Gulf Region whose ties have grown closer to NATO. In 1994 it was determined by the United Nations that China and Iran had garnered a close relationship following the collapse of the Soviet Union. China announced to its fellow Security Council partners that the nation intended to assist Iran in development of nuclear energy. The United States, Great Britain, and France all strongly opposed China's intention, however no official sanctions were put in place to prevent the nuclear development.

In 1996 the United States uncovered information that China had been secretly assisting Iran in development of ballistic missiles, following a test in which Iran fired an SRBM that landed 150nm South within the Strait of Hormuz. Presenting this information to the UN resulted in passing an official sanction halting all assistance to Iran regarding the development of nuclear technology and ballistic missiles.

On March 31, 2000 Iranian state controlled media reported the first successful test of a nuclear missile, which was fired from a position near Bandar Bushehr, landing only 50km North of Kuwait City. This demonstrated a range of approximately 250nm. At the State of the Union address following the test, the President of the United States stated that “a volatile power within the Persian Gulf region cannot be permitted to possess nuclear

arms” and “the United States and its military cannot standby and watch as its allies are intimidated.” The following Monday, US Congress approved the use of Armed Forces to destroy Iranian nuclear armaments, and their means of production. Carrier Strike Group Seven of the United States Navy, along with USAF elements located across Europe are given order to prepare to strike targets on April 4th, 2000. The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and the 25th Infantry Division are to standby to receive Warning Orders.

Area of Operations: Persian Gulf

Enemy Force: Iran

H-Hour: 0201 Local - 04APR2000

Forecasted Weather: Temperature 21 C | QFE 2958 | Mostly Clear | Winds 5-25 mph

ENEMY FORCE

Combat Aircraft:

The Iranian Air Force is mainly equipped with older American built aircraft and munitions which were acquired prior to the 1979 Revolution. IAF aircraft are located at two major airbases along the Persian Gulf, an additional detachment of fighters are located at Lar Airfield.

Bandar Abbas International Airport

12 x F-5E3

4 x Mirage F-1

3 x Su-24M (armed with the Kh-31A ASM)

Shiraz International Airport

10 x MiG-29A

10 x F-14A

Lar Airbase

8 x MiG-29A

2 x F-14A

The Iranian Air Force has an additional 53 Fighter aircraft located in the Northern regions of Iran. The IAF possesses no ability to complete air-to-air refueling, limiting its combat range to just over 300nm during intense operation. Along the coast of the Persian Gulf a near 24/7 combat air patrol is maintained.

Air-to-air missiles of the IAF is limited to the following:

AIM-9L

AIM-9P

AIM-7M

Magic-II Super 530

All numbers and locations are estimations based of recent intelligence.

Anti-Aircraft Equipment:

Iranian surface-to-air missile, and anti-aircraft artillery sites are manned by the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force. Their systems consist of both US and Soviet/Russian technology. A US Hawk M-192 battery and a Russian SA-10 site protect the port city of Bandar Abbas, and Bushehr. In addition the ADF employs the ZSU-23-4 SPAA, the ZU-23, and the SA-18 MANPAD at a number of key locations.

Early Warning Radar:

Early Warning Radar is located across the entirety of the coastline in overlapping layers. The ADF is equipped with the 55G6 “Nobo” VHF radar, with a range of 63nm. Additional radar installations are located in vicinity of Shiraz airfield. The Iranian Air Force does not possess early warning or AWACS aircraft, and relies solely on ground control intercept controllers to guide it to hostile targets. Within Bandar Abbas the Peace Ruby System is the command and control headquarters of the entire Southern Iranian Air Defence System.

Naval Force:

The Iranian Navy has a fleet of three Kilo class submarines, and approximately two corvettes operating within the Persian Gulf. In addition, approximately twenty coastal patrol/fast attack boats are also present. The main headquarters of the Iranian Navy is located in Rajaei Port, South of Bandar Abbas.

Ground Force:

Approximately two battalions from the Iranian Ground Forces are located in vicinity of Bandar Abbas, with a large amount of their force around the weapons storage facility East of the city. A further battalion is located South of Bushehr manning a number of Zelza-2 surface-to-surface mobile missile platforms, which are capable of hitting targets within Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. They are equipped mainly with Soviet-bloc weapons and vehicles.

Infrastructure:

The Southern portion of Iran possesses seven power plants, four natural gas, and three hydroelectric. Located 65nm to the Southeast of Shiraz International, a

former Chinese, now Iranian, uranium conversion facility has recently completed construction. The purpose of this facility is to enable Iran to construct nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons. A large weapons storage facility is located to the East of Bandar Abbas, it is believed to house ballistic missiles, and potential weapons of mass destruction.

FRIENDLY FORCE

Carrier Strike Group Seven:

- CVN-69 USS Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - VF-143 Pukin' Dogs (F-14B)
 - VF-11 Red Rippers (F-14A)
 - VFA-136 Knight Hawks (F/A-18C)
 - VFA-131 Wildcats (F/A-18C)
 - VAQ-140 Patriots (E/A-6B)
 - VAW-121 Bluetails (E-2C)
 - HS-5 Night Dippers (SH-60F)
 - VS-31 Topcats (S-3B)
- CG-68 USS Anzio
- CG-71 Cape St. George
- DDG-72 USS Mahan
- DDG-58 USS Laboon
- DDG-52 USS Barry
- FFG-59 USS Kauffman
- FFG-58 USS Samuel B. Roberts

Prince Sultan Airbase

- 335th Fighter Squadron (F-15E)
- 963d Airborne Air Control Squadron (E-3A)
- 92d Air Refueling Squadron (KC-135)

Sheik Isa Airfield

- 37th Bomb Squadron (B-1B)

Ahmed Al Jaber Airbase

- 147th Fighter Squadron (F-16C)

Al Dhafra Airbase

- VMGR-152 (KC-130)

Diego Garcia
23d Bomb Squadron (B-52H)

MISSION

United States forces are to destroy all nuclear facilities, and weapons of mass destruction within Southern Iran. Furthermore US Air and Naval forces are to incapacitate the Iranian Navy and Air Forces in the first 72 hours of their campaign. United States Army and Marine forces are to standby to complete overland and amphibious assaults upon Iran, 72 hours after the start of the Air/Naval campaign. Carrier Strike Group Seven is to prepare to sustain 96 hours of continuous combat operations, until the USS John F. Kennedy and Carrier Air Wing One arrive within the AO.

EXECUTION

Phase One (H+0001-2300):

US Naval and Air Force are to complete destruction of Iranian early warning radar, surface-to-air missile sites, and air bases along the Southwestern coastline of Iran.

Phase Two (H+2400-4700):

Complete destruction of Shiraz Airbase, and air defense sites within the city of Bushehr. B-52 Stratofortress are expected to arrive from Diego Garcia at H+3000 and complete bombing of the Rudan Conversion Facility.

Phase Three (H+4800-7100):

Destruction of Iranian Command and Control Sites for Air Defense and Naval forces.

Phase Four (H+7200-8000):

United States Marine Corps conduct amphibious landings in vicinity of Bandar Lengeh, and Kolahi. US Navy forces will support by maintaining fighter superiority and close air support.

Following the completion of Phase Four, CVN-69 and her Strike Group are to relinquish area of operations responsibility to CVN-67, to steam out to sea and stand down for 72 hours.

COMMAND AND SIGNAL

Radio Frequencies:

CVN-69 - COM 1 - Button 1 (127.500 MHz) | TACAN 69X | ICLS Channel 6

AWACs Frequency - COM 1 - Button 5 (254.000 MHz)

Strike Mission Command Frequency - COM 1 - Button 10 (262.000 MHz)

Air Mission Command Frequency - COM 1 - Button 15 (263.000 MHz)

Search and Rescue Frequency - COM 1 - Button 20 (266.000 MHz)
Joint Terminal Attack Controller Frequency - COM 1 - Button 18 (251.000 MHz)
VMGR-152 Frequency - COM 1 - Button 12 (268.000 MHz)
VS-31 Frequency - COM 1 - Button 19 (253.000 MHz)

VF-143 Frequency - COM 2 - Button 14 (260.000 MHz)
VF-11 Frequency - COM 2 - Button 11 (264.000 MHz)
VFA-136 Frequency - COM 2 - Button 16 (261.000 MHz)
VFA-131 Frequency - COM 2 - Button 13 (269.000 MHz)

Aircraft/Mission Call Signs:

FORD - VF-143 Pukin' Dogs (F-14B)
DODGE - VF-11 Red Rippers (F-14A)
PLYMOUTH - VFA-136 Knight Hawks (F/A-18C)
CHEVY - VFA-131 Wildcats (F/A-18C)
COLT - 335th Fighter Squadron (F-15E)
UZI - 147th Fighter Squadron (F-16C)
ENFIELD - 37th Bomb Squadron (B-1B)
SPRINGFIELD - 23d Bomb Squadron (B-52H)
JEEP - VAQ-140 Patriots (E/A-6B)
DARKSTAR - 963d Airborne Air Control Squadron (E-3A)
MAGIC - VAW-121 Bluetails (E-2C)
PONTIAC - HS-5 Night Dippers (SH-60F)

Tanker call signs are specified in each mission briefing.

LOGISTICS

Creators Notes/Mission Settings:

- Missions in this campaign are to take no longer than 90 minutes to complete.
- All missions will start with aircraft cold and dark on the deck of the carrier unless otherwise specified in individual mission briefings.
- Mission briefing documents will reference times for taxi, takeoff, and IP push. It is strongly recommend you do not exceed these times due to late activation units which may hinder launch from the carrier.
- Upon spawn your aircraft will be armed with the ordinance advised in the briefing document/MDC, it is recommended that you do not rearm and utilize these in order to meet your reference times.
- It is recommended that in situations where you are confronted by the AI completing remedial tasks (ex. Carrier approach) that you give way to them and

allow them to accomplish their goal. The AI is stupid, don't expect it to react to you.

Time Period Restrictions:

Due to this campaign taking place within 2000 the AIM-9X, and the AIM-120C have been removed from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Additionally it is requested that the use of inappropriate equipment for the era, such as the JHMCS/HMD is not utilized by players.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Iranian SAM Deployment:

<http://www.ausairpower.net/APA-Iran-SAM-Deployment.html>

Early Warning Radar Deployment:

<http://www.ausairpower.net/Google-Earth/IREWCOVERUPDATE.jpg>

SAM Deployment Bushehr:

<http://www.ausairpower.net/Google-Earth/IRBUSHEHRUPDATE2.jpg>

SAM Deployment Bandar Abbas:

<http://www.ausairpower.net/Google-Earth/IRBANDARABBASUPDATED.jpg>