

# AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

## **1. SITUATION**

0005 Local, 1 April 2012, Persian Gulf

### **BACKGROUND**

The artillery attack on Bushehr caught us off guard and we paid a heavy price: 12 KIA and 51 WIA. Nearly all the Iranian shells landed in the research complex, where US troops had set up a temporary headquarters while we occupy Bushehr. The attack also potentially destroyed intelligence, as the troops were in the middle of a more thorough search of the buildings. We are fortunate that no shells landed near the reactor, which would have made a difficult situation much worse. Somehow these artillery vehicles escaped detection until starting the barrage, and were most likely hidden in buildings in the nearby towns just before rushing out to attack.

We cannot allow something like this to happen again, especially anything endangering the reactor or spent fuel while it is being removed. On the ground, air defenses were brought in and equipment has been repositioned to be more robust to such an attack. In the air, the Air Force has blanketed a 40 NM radius with surveillance drones, and CENTCOM has ordered 12 Air Force or Navy strike aircraft to be on X-CAS at Bushehr continuously (up from the 3 we had). Tonight that duty will go to Air Force F-16s.

Our mission tonight is against one of the primary targets of the campaign: the underground plutonium reprocessing facility at Darab. This is the facility where we believe Tehran intended to divert Bushehr's spent fuel, deep underground.

### **OVERVIEW & COMMANDER'S INTENT**

The President has ordered the Darab facility to be destroyed. The Iranians know this is likely to be on our target list and have heavily protected it. A tunnel was dug to carve the facility out inside the south side of a mountain north of the town, hoping they could keep it secret and safe from air strikes. After it became publicly known, the Iranians surrounded it with strong air defenses. B-2s from Whiteman AFB will arrive to deliver 4 Massive Ordnance Penetrators (MOPs), our best bunker busting bombs, in succession to dig their way down into the Darab facility (Bullseye).

CSG-8's mission is SEAD around Darab prior to the B-2 strike. As great as stealth is, we cannot count on low observability to keep the B-2s safe with powerful SAMs so close to the target and their ingress path (forced by steep mountain side). Our goal is to disable major EWR and SAM radars prior to and during the strike, especially the SA-10 posing the greatest threat to the B-2s.

## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

**WEATHER:** 18C, Scattered at 12,000, Wind 147 @ 2kt. Altimeter 29.87.

### ENEMY FORCES

We do not expect a heavy IRIAF presence, particularly given the distance from air bases. But enemy air threat is possible from F-4s at Shiraz (BE 294/110), F-4s and F-7s at Bandar Abbas (BE 136/134), and Mig-29s and F-14s from Kerman (BE 056/151).

Air defenses around Darab are extensive:

- EWR at BE 277/15
- SA-10 at BE 231/6
- 2 \* Hawk batteries: BE 242/13, BE 213/7
- SA-2 battery at BE 246/16
- At least 1 \* SA-6, moving between various locations.
- At least 3 \* SA-8s, moving between various locations. These seem to be on continuous patrol in the area.
- MANPADs and AAA are possible throughout the AO.

### FRIENDLY FORCES

The USS George Washington (CVN-73) will deploy the following flights:

- Ford 1 (4 F-14s): CAP to the north
- Ford 2 (4 F-14s): CAP to the south
- Ford 3 and Ford 4 (3 F-14s each): TALD volleys against major SAMs
- Dodge 1, Dodge 2, Dodge 3, Dodge 4 (2 F/A-18s each): JSOW volleys against radars of SA-10, SA-2, Hawk and SA-6
- **You:** Dodge 5 (3 F/A-18s): SEAD directly over AO following TALD/JSOW volleys
- Chevy 1 (3 E/A-18s): EA and SEAD
- Uzi 1 and Uzi 2 (1 B-2 each): striking Darab reprocessing facility with MOPs

USAF flights Enfield 1 and Enfield 2 (2 F-15Cs each) will provide barrier CAP for around Texaco after CSG-8 aircraft egress.

### ATTS/DETS

- Tanker: Texaco (30Y / 230 MHz)
- AWACS: Magic (253 MHz)

## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

### **2. MISSION**

CSG-8 is tasked with suppressing or disabling all SA-10 radars around Darab to enable safe passage by B-2s. We will accomplish this mission with a saturation attack of TALD and JSOW volleys followed by SEAD with HARMs and JSOWs.

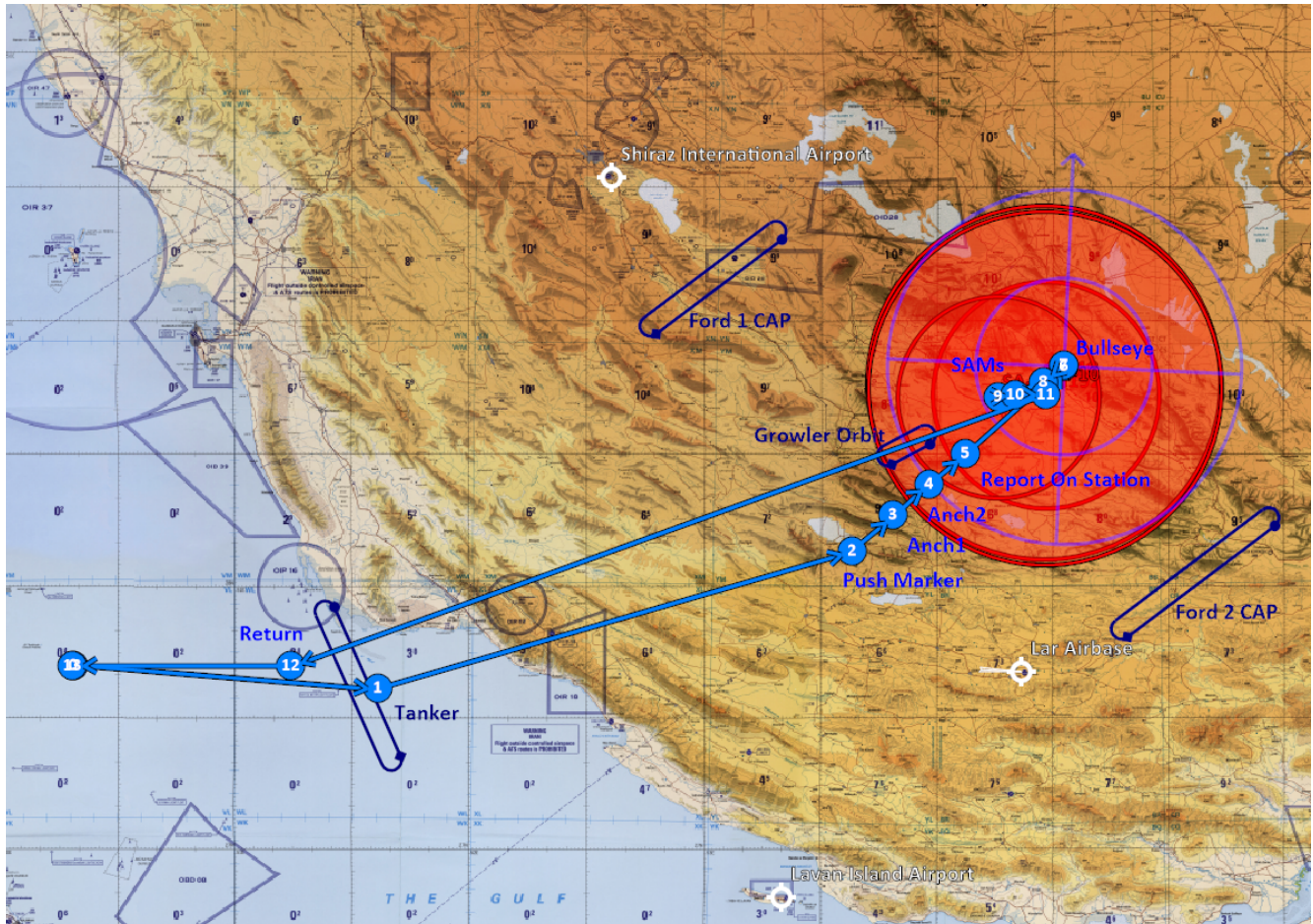
The mission does not require disabling less powerful SAM radars (all besides SA-10) but the JSOW volley will target them to protect the SEAD package. We particularly expect to ignore the numerous SA-8 radars, staying above Angels 20 to mostly avoid their effective range.

After successful overflight by one SEAD flight (Dodge 5) to Bullseye without an SA-10 spike, Uzi 1 and 2 will be cleared to strike. The mission is complete when Uzi 1 and 2 have struck their target and egressed.

## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

### 3. EXECUTION

Fig. 1: Flight Plan Overview



1. CSG-8 flights will take off and anchor along the coast, tanking as needed, until push time at 2214Z. To maximize time on station, **Dodge 5 flight will immediately rejoin with Texaco (Angels 20) and top up, followed (time-permitting) by anchoring at WP1 at Angels 24, until push time of 2214Z.** Make sure that at 2214Z, you are on Strike freq on Comm 2 (leaving Comm 1 on Intraflight at all times).

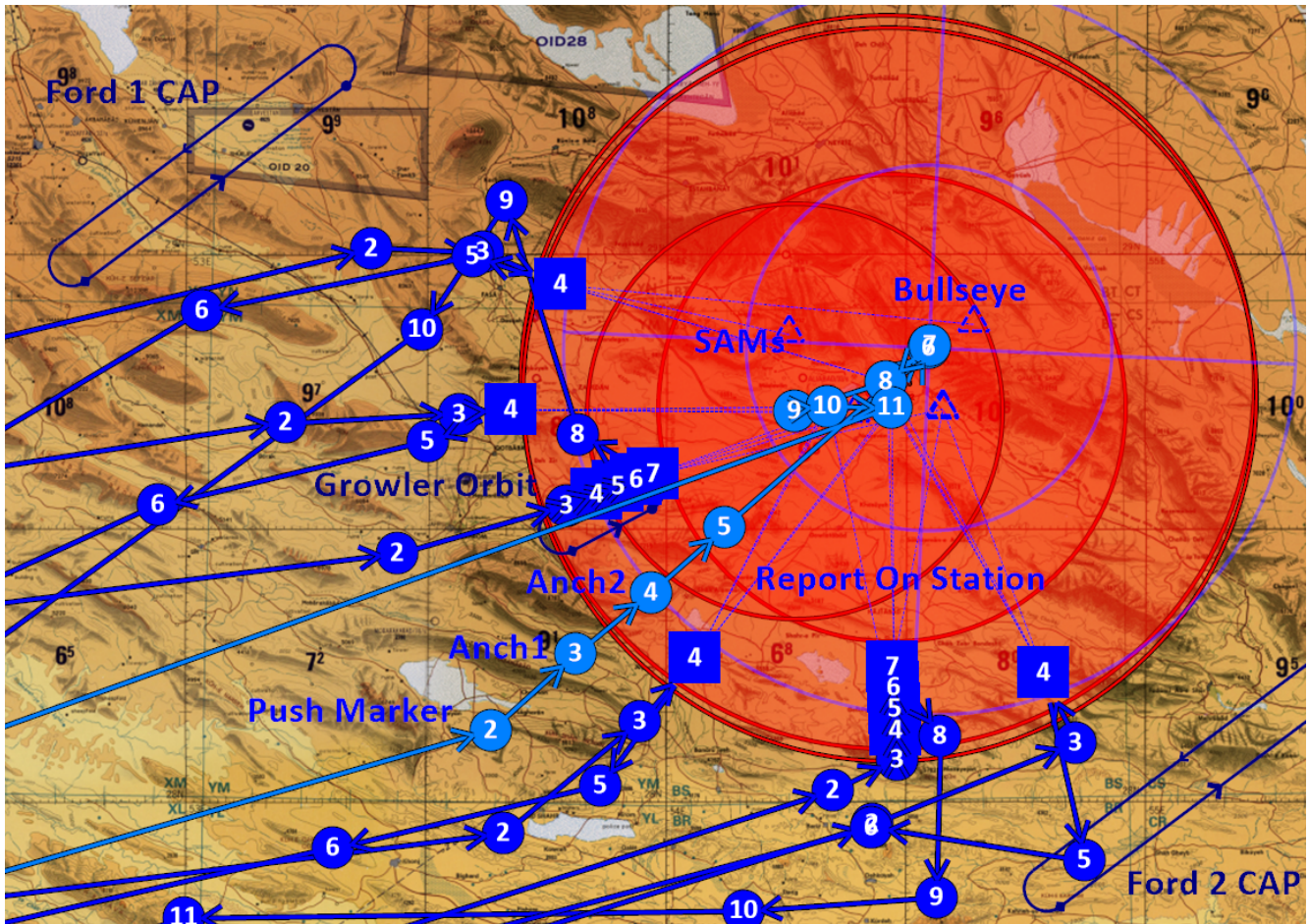
2. After pushing, **FENCE IN** and adjust speed to cross WP2 “Push Marker” at 2230Z, angels 24. All TALD/JSOW volley flights have their own Push Markers, closer to Bullseye, that they will cross at 2230Z, at angels 26 and 27 for deconfliction. These Push Markers are arranged to saturate the Darab radars at a wide angle with the volleys (see Fig. 2). Chevy 1 will anchor behind the volley to jam radars and provide additional SEAD with HARMs if needed.



## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

**Fig. 2: Detail of TALD/JSOW Volley Flight Plans**

Flight plans of Ford 1, 2 plus Dodge 1, 2, 3, 4 are shown in dark blue. They will cross their WP3 (Push Markers) at 2230Z. Dodge 5 waypoints are in light blue.



3. The TALD and JSOW volleys will be released just after 2230Z, and the last JSOWs should hit their target radars by 2237Z. **Between 2230Z and 2237Z, Dodge 5 will anchor between WP3 and WP4.** Use this time to track the SA-10 radars using the HARM and FLIR to prepare for ingress.

4. At 2137Z, Dodge 5 will push from WP4 to WP5 and report on station. The top priority is to identify and destroy any active SA-10 radars (either search radar or tracking radar). See Appendix A for photos of SA-10 radars. Other radars may be targeted if needed for self defense, but save ordnance for the SA-10 if possible. It is recommended to use the HARM's HUD symbology to slew the FLIR target on to the radar, identify it on the FLIR, and launch a JSOW followed by a HARM (which will overtake the JSOW). **Ignore SA-8s if possible; they are not a threat to the B-2, there are likely too many of them anyway for our ordnance, and appear to frequently move around.**

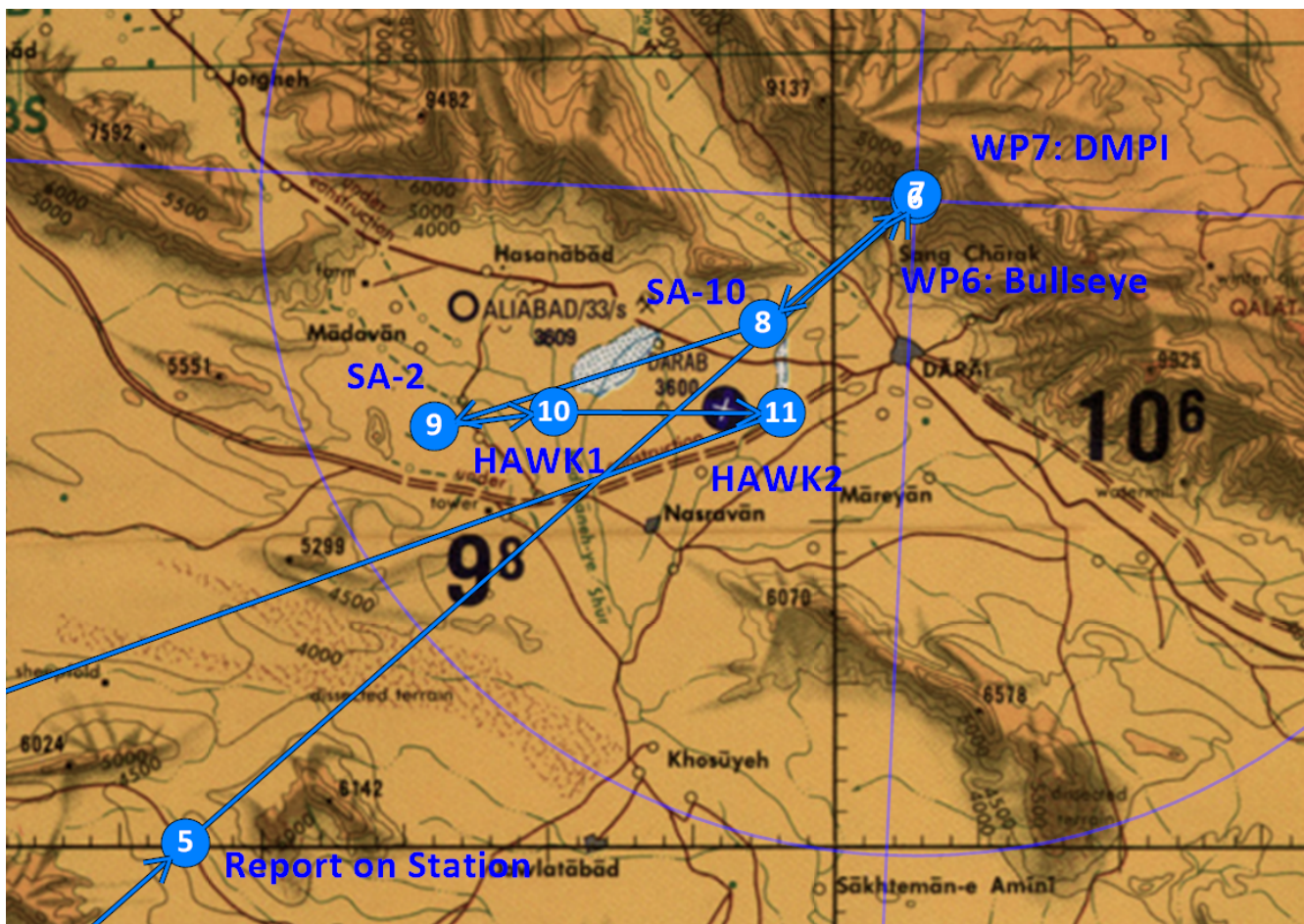


## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

Keep your speed up, and avoid going below Angels 20 (except if needed to evade missile launches) to stay out of their most effective range.

**Fig. 3: Detail of Reference Waypoints in AO**

Although the Iranians have frequently moved their SAMs, these are at least approximate locations we expect for major SAM sites. WP6 (Bullseye) is the tunnel entrance to the reprocessing facility, while WP7 is the DMPI for the B-2 strikes, targeting the main chamber of the facility. Because of the mountains, a bomb attack requires running in from the southwest, which is likely why Iran has positioned them this way.



## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

**5. If/when RWR is clear of SA-10, fly to Bullseye (WP6). If able to do so without being spiked by SA-10, clear the strike package (with F10 menu).** The B-2s will be under EMCON so they will not answer to confirm, but will begin their run in (ETA 5 minutes) on the DMPI (WP7). See Fig. 7 for a recon photo of the area. The B-2s will follow your path from WP5 to WP6 on their run in (to avoid undetected SAMs elsewhere) at Angels 25 and 26, so stay at Angels 24 or below for deconfliction. **After you observe the strike is complete, remain on station until Magic clears you RTB (ETA 3 minutes).**

**6. If you are unable to fly to Bullseye without an SA-10 spike, declare that the path is not clear (with F10 menu) and the strike mission will be aborted. Regardless of mission outcome, after being cleared RTB, you may proceed direct to CVN-73 or tank at Texaco as needed. When you are feet wet, FENCE OUT.**

## AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

### **RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

- **A/A: Weapons Tight**

EID matrix:

1) Lack of friendly IFF and 2) NCTR

1) VID (Visual ID)

1) Lack of friendly IFF and 2) AWACS declared Bandit

- **A/G: Weapons Hold on non-air defense targets. Weapons Tight on air defense targets: HARMs must be fired at a SAM radar or EWR radar, and JSOWs may only be fired on targets confirmed to be a radar with the FLIR.**

### **4. ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS**

**Launch Time:** 2145Z, 31 March 2012

**Recovery Window:** 2245Z - 0130Z

### **ARMAMENTS:**

- Ford 1 and Ford 2: 4\*AIM-54, 2\*AIM-7, 2\*AIM-9
- Ford 3 and Ford 4: 4\*TALD, 2\*AIM-54, 2\*AIM-9
- Dodge 1, Dodge 2, Dodge 3, Dodge 4: 4\*AGM-154C, 1\*AIM-120, 2\*AIM-9
- Dodge 5: 2\*AGM-88C, 2\*AGM-154C, 1\*AIM-120, 2\*AIM-9
- Chevy 1: 2\*AGM-88C, 2\*AIM-120

**AIR REFUELING:** Texaco will orbit off the coast near WP1.

**EW/ELINT:** Magic will orbit over CVN-73 for ABM. Chevy 1 will provide EA over the AO.



# AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

## **5. COMMANDER/SIGNAL**

### **SIGNAL:**

<b>COMM 1:</b>				<b>COMM 2:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Preset</b>	<b>Freq</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Preset</b>	<b>Freq</b>
Dodge 5	1	145		Strike	1	253
Texaco	2	230		Texaco	2	230
CVN-73	3	127.5		CVN-73	3	127.5

**COMMAND:** Commander CVW-1, CSG-8

### **SUMMARY**

**Launch Time:** 2145Z, March 31, 2012

**Recovery Window:** 2245Z - 0130Z

**Joker:** 5000. **Bingo:** 4000.

**BULLSEYE:** WP6, Darab Reprocessing Facility Entrance  
(N 28° 49.74', E 54° 33.63')

**TARGET:** Darab Reprocessing Facility

**AIR THREAT:** Bandits from Shiraz, Bandar Abbas, Kerman

**AA THREAT:** SA-10, HAWK, SA-2, SA-6, SA-8, MANPADS, AAA

**WEAPONS HOLD EXCEPT AS BRIEFED**

### **NOTES**

<b>Carriers</b>	<b>Tankers</b>	<b>Support</b>
-- USS George Washington -- 127.5 MHz AM TACN: 73X GW ICLS: 3	-- Texaco -- TEX 30X 230.0 MHz AM	-- AWACS -- 253.0 MHz AM Magic

# AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

WP	Name	Remarks	Angels	Speed
1	Tanker	Top off and hold formation with Texaco. Push to WP2 at 2214Z. FENCE IN after push.	20	
2	Push Marker	Cross at 2230Z	24	As needed to make WP2 on time.
3	Anch1	Anchor at racetrack between Anch1 and Anch2.	24	320 IAS
4	Anch2	Push toward WP5 and WP6 at 2237Z.	24	
5	Report On Station	Report on station to Magic. Search for SAM radars.	20 to 24	Mil Power
6	Bullseye	Reference: Tunnel entrance to reprocessing facility.		
7	DMPI	Reference: B-2 strike DMPI to hit reprocessing facility. Monitor this for strike success after strike is cleared.		
8	SA-10	Reference: expected SA-10 site.		
9	SA-2	Reference: expected SA-2 site.		
10	HAWK1	Reference: expected west HAWK site.		
11	HAWK2	Reference: expected east HAWK site.		
12	Return	At feet wet, FENCE OUT.	24	

**APPENDIX A**

**Fig. 4: SA-10 Big Bird 64H6E Search Radar**



**Fig. 5: SA-10 Clam Shell 5N66M Search Radar**





**Fig. 6: SA-10 30N6 Track Radar**



**Fig. 7: Reprocessing Facility Tunnel Entrance and DMPI**

