

An overview of the history of Hormuz and Bastak

The nations of Hormuz and Bastak are both results of British nation making in the Great Game during the nineteenth century and are considered modern heirs to other nations that have occupied the same place and had similar names. While Great Britain usually took no account of the traditions and cultures of the people living in these regions, Bastak and Hormuz became the exception though this was not by design. The leaders of both nations quickly realised the problem and had an open border policy between them that went on for several decades, allowing different groups to move - or immigrate - across the border as they pleased. Both nations also quickly adopted secular policies and welcomed all Abrahamic religions.

After World War Two, both countries would see their Jewish inhabitants emigrate to the newly founded state of Israel, something that sparked resentment in both Hormuz and Bastak; prompting both countries to send forces against the Jewish Nation in 1967 and 1973; however Bastak already saw where the wind was blowing. Placing itself firmly in the western camp, they aggressively pursued good diplomatic relations with the United States and was rewarded for the effort with both economic treaties and purchases of military hardware. The nation would continue to be a loyal US Ally well into the new millennium, joining efforts in the War on Terror after 9/11.

Hormuz on the other hand focused more on economic incentives and a firm political neutrality. However, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, many Russian investors found the nation easy to work with and considered a place where one would not only invest fortunes but also gain contacts and friends to expand the business networks in the Middle East. Hormuz was eager to replace its early Cold War vintage British vehicles and found that the Russian business ventures could easily supply it with transport helicopters, aircraft and modern army vehicles with all bells and whistles.

The Russian Federation quickly followed up this economical success with a diplomatic one; gaining a friendship that has stood between the nation of Hormuz and the Russian Federation for well over twenty five years.

In 2009, a prospecting team found a large deposit of natural gas off the island of Qeshm. This gas field, quickly dubbed "Salakh" was expected to contain more than previous deposits and became a source of contention. The Free Nation of Bastak has argued that since many of its citizens and their descendants now inhabit the island, the region rightfully belongs to them. The issue has been under UN Mediation but neither side refuses to yield. In 2015, Bastak declared it reserved the right to intervene with military force. The situation remains tense to this day.

Hormuz Defence Force:

Army: The Hormuz Army is staffed with professional soldiers and is considered the best posting with the most chances for promotion and recognition. Using Cold War soviet equipment including long range anti-aircraft systems, the army's opinion is that any air attack can be countered from the ground. Against the local insurrection, they have proven an efficient combat force though their lack of smaller helicopters has been a problem.

Navy: The Hormuz Navy consists of three Neustrashimyy Class Frigates purchased in the 1990s as part of an offset agreement with the Russian Federation. While these ships are capable in their own right and still dangerous, their crews seldom see any sort of meaningful action. Boredom and discipline problems are common in the service. The Navy also possess four Kamov Ka-27 Helicopters; one per destroyer and one in reserve.

Air Force: The Hormuz Air Force is in a dreadful state, suffering from the political influence of the army forcing it into a clear support role. For this reason, Hormuz Air Force has qualified transport assets in the form of Il-76 Cargo Planes and Mi 26 Helicopters. Their combat component is however outdated, consisting of a single squadron MiG 21s divided between three airfields with no replacements ordered or even considered despite offers to purchase different SU 25 variants from Russia and Georgia.

Bastak Armed Forces:

Army: In the mid 2000s, the Army of Bastak was described by Janes as the “best example of a standard middle eastern conscript army”. While officers and non-commissioned officers are staff, most of the privates consist of conscripts, serving their mandatory two years in the armed service, a model based on the outdated British National Service system. Discipline is harsh and average morale amongst the enlisted men is low. The vehicle pool is mostly of cold war vintage and the army is often seen as the disposable part of the Bastak Armed Forces.

Navy: Bastaks navy is limited to a pair of surface warships purchased from the United States. They are sufficient to protect their ports but mostly rely on the air force for strike power. The two naval vessels also carry the only long range air defence assets Bastak possesses. Their Marine forces are the only capable ground force available to Bastak but they are few in number and centered around the role of amphibious assault.

Air Force: The Bastak Air Force is the favoured child of Bastak. Equipped with F-16s as their primary aircraft as well as AH-64 attack helicopters, UH-60 Black Hawks and MQ-1 UAVs. Well trained and with cross training with foreign powers; including participation in Red Flag they are

considered one the best organised air forces in the middle east. Main Air Force base is Kish Airbase; formerly the nation's foremost international airport.

Kuban Security Mission Overview:

After our successful deployment in Operation Black Bear, Kuban Security has been firmly entrenched as one of the world's foremost Private Military Contractors of Air Support and have expanded accordingly. With **Russian Helicopters** and **Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group** both investing into the company as major shareholders with votes in the company board of directors, we have been able to expand our operations with a rotary element as well as guarantee the supply of **JF-17 Thunder** and armaments for the aircraft. Recruitment for a helicopter borne infantry force is being considered but not implemented at this time.

Kuban Security strength as a whole is currently at twenty **JF-17 Thunder**, sixteen **KA-50 Black Shark** and thirty two **Mi-8 Hip** helicopters, allowing us to undertake several deployments at once but currently, only the Hormuz deployment is active.

Kuban Security services have been purchased by the **Republic of Hormuz** but subsidised by the Russian Federation as the latter wish to keep the former stable as an economic and strategic partner. The intention of the deployment is to suppress activity by the fundamentalist terrorist organisation **The Prophets Faithful** as well as act as a deterrent in the border dispute with **The Free State of Bastak**. The Russians would have preferred to deploy their own armed forces but have their hands full in Syria and cannot spare the airframes or the supply apparatus for such a deployment unless the situation deteriorates significantly.

Our deployment has been specifically tailored to the local conditions. We will deploy six **JF-17 Thunder** divided into three sections of two aircraft each, dubbed *Thunder 1*, *Thunder 2* and *Thunder 3*. This will be the main air component responsible for the majority of the missions.

In direct support of the army, we will deploy a rotary wing of four **KA-50 Black Shark** Attack Helicopters. These will be responsible for the task of providing fire support and area suppression for the Hormuz Army in areas where the risk of anti-aircraft fire is deemed low or where the tactical advantage is such that it negates the risk

For tactical transport, a secondary rotary wing of eight **Mi-8 Hip** will be deployed. The Republic of Hormuz do have infantry trained to operate from helicopters but their own Mi 26 Transport helicopters are not suited for fast tactical deployments.

Threat Assessment:

The Threat Assessment will be broken down into two parts.

The Prophets Faithful are a fundamentalist group, dedicated to creating a caliphate that contains both Hormuz and Bastak. They have been active for the past fifteen years and claim to draw inspiration from the 9/11 attacks against the United States. They do not enjoy popular support in either population but seem to draw enough recruits from abroad and domestic sources to continue to be a threat to the stability of both nations. Joint Operations against them have occurred but since the border dispute flared up has been put on permanent hold.

They use trucks, technicals, APCs and do have both **AAA** and **Manpads** at their disposal. They have scored several kills against Hormuz Air Force MiGs and Helicopters. Consider these threats when operating against them.

The Free State of Bastak has a professional air force and a decent navy to boot. They are well supplied with modern weapons and well versed in modern tactics. Some of their pilots have participated in Red Flag in the United States. While we do not think Bastak will resort to open conflict, we do think they will make attempts to challenge our supremacy of Hormuz airspace as this is something they have taken almost for granted up to this point.

Their primary aircraft is the **F-16C Viper** that replaced their aging **F-5E Tiger II** in service. Their total number of airframes is two squadrons of aircraft, a total number of twenty four. Their armaments inventory for air combat include the **Sidewinder-L** and **AMRAAM-B** missiles.

It is unclear if Bastak still deploys the **F-5E Tigers** in an operational capacity. Their current role in the Bastak Air Force seems to be that of training aircraft or aggressor in exercises.

Bastak does have tactical AA systems consisting of licence-built **MIM-72 Chaparral** and **M163 Vulcan AA Guns**. These anti-aircraft units are clearly dimensioned to deter attacks from equally outdated aircraft but they can be a problem at short range.

The only long range AA Systems that Bastak have at its disposal are onboard their ships, two ex-US Navy Destroyers purchased in the early 2000s. While highly effective, these systems can be easily avoided as long as the border conflict does not deteriorate further.