

Kiowa: Operation Silent Thunder

Mission 01: Prey

Date/Time: 02 AUG 2006 1500UTC (1800LT)

Weather:	Clear	Temp: 19°C /66°F	Sunset:	1934LT
Visibility:	Unlimited	Clouds: 2,000ft	Wind:	GRND 39°, 1 m/s
QNH:	29.91			2000m 06°, 4 m/s



Situation

Its August 2nd 2006, Twenty-One days into the 2006 Lebanon War. On July 12th, Hezbollah fighters fired rockets at Israeli border towns as a diversion for an anti-tank missile attack on two armored Humvees patrolling the Israeli side of the border. The ambush left three Israeli soldiers dead and another two captured and taken by Hezbollah to Lebanon. Hezbollah hoped these military hostages could be exchanged for Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Thus far, Israel has refused to negotiate and instead of a prisoner exchange, provided Hezbollah airstrikes, rocket attacks and artillery fire on targets in Lebanon. Targets include civilian and business infrastructure including Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport. In response, Hezbollah launched rockets into northern Israel and engaged the IDF in guerrilla warfare from hardened positions.

At the height of this regional conflict, the United States was drawn into the region through a completely unrelated act.

During the second week of the Lebanon War, a team of twelve US and Lebanese Archaeologists were ruthlessly killed while excavating the Roman Ruins of Berytus in Northern Beirut. This expedition, funded via a joint US/Lebanese government grant sponsored by the American University of Beirut, discovered a rare and priceless set of artifacts alongside the Roman Ruins of Berytus. These artifacts were packed into crates and ready for transfer to the National Museum of Beirut, but never arrived. A small group of well-armed insurgents ambushed and murdered the entire expedition team while hijacking the museum shipment. Shortly after the theft, a group of Hezbollah terrorists who call themselves Mahwar Al-Zalam "Axis of Darkness" claimed responsibility for the event. US Intelligence expects Al-Zalam to sell these artifacts on the black market to fund a larger and deadlier attack somewhere in the region. The US has a special operations team on the ground in Beirut working to uncover the whereabouts of Al-Zalam and where the next attack will likely occur.

Had this terrorist act occurred 2 months earlier, the US response might have been different. Sitting alongside the backdrop of the brutal July 12 activities, the event enraged the US public. President George W. Bush had no choice but to respond to the American civilian deaths and make an example out of Al-Zalam.

The USS Tarawa Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG), already steaming towards the middle east, received orders to station themselves off the West coast of Beirut. Along with her standard loadout of Harriers and Blackhawks, she carried OH-58D Kiowa units from Alpha Troop 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry 10th Mountain Division Assassins. The Assassins are the main



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units in "Operation Silent Thunder" the objective of which is to locate and eliminate the radicals behind this theft of priceless artifacts and American life. The leader of this terror cell is, Amir Hassan Al-Najjar, known within CIA circles as "The Shadow".

Blue Task

Operating on very limited intelligence, the CIA believes the Shadow's right hand lieutenant carried out the attack at Roman Ruins of Berytus. This same group has reason to believe this individual is looking to sell these antiquities within the local region reducing risk to Mahwar Al-Zalam itself and providing immediate funds for other nefarious actions.

Approximately 45 minutes ago, intelligence on the possible whereabouts of the lieutenant came through from stateside. It is believed that this lieutenant is meeting black market brokers in a public setting. Local intelligence confirms cell tower traffic outlining a meet at in the vicinity of "kurat alqadam". Loosely translated this means football (known as soccer in America). Intelligence conjectures you will find the lieutenant in the vicinity of the soccer practice facility of the American University of Beirut, likely in the concession area to the West of the field.

Your tasking is one of surveillance and intel gathering. The lieutenant has been seen in a Luv Tigr up armored SUV. We don't want you to engage, rather we need you to find, identify and surveil the situation. See where the lieutenant leads you. With any luck, he'll lead you directly to the Shadow and we can arrange a strike. Try to remain covert as best you can. Flying US marked helos over Beirut isn't exactly low key, but do your best to remain inconspicuous.

As a reminder, Beirut is an active engagement area with both the IDF and Hezbollah in a shooting war. In recent days, the IDF has sent rockets North from MLRS batteries in Northern Israel and the Rafic Hairi International Airport still burns from yesterday's most recent airstrikes.

MISSION: Find the Shadow's lieutenant

Mission Elements

- [-01-] Cold start from Tarawa
- [-02-] Travel to American University Soccer Practice facility
- [-03-] Locate Luv Tigr & Check-in with command
- [-04-] Return to Tarawa

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RED assets

While an active war zone, we don't expect US assets to be engaged. Even Hezbollah understands shooting at American assets escalates an already tense situation into something untenable. Besides insurgent small arms, we are unaware of any Hezbollah warfighter presence within Beirut.

It should be noted, however, that IDF rocket attacks occur with a high degree of frequency. These barrages will be monitored on the Tarawa and relayed to you in real time should they occur while you're in the vicinity.

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Images



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