

AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

1. SITUATION

0900 Local, 26 March 2012, Persian Gulf

BACKGROUND

The following overview describes the intelligence community (IC) assessment of Iran's nuclear program (with annotated confidence levels).

Starting October 2011, Iran began an increasingly committed effort to obtain nuclear weapons, perceiving 2012 as a critical window to obtain nuclear deterrence against later invasion (high confidence). HUMINT indicates that hawkish voices in the Iranian government, aligned with President Ahmadinejad, argued that Iran faces an existential threat if John Bolton, the current front runner in the Republican presidential primary, becomes president in 2013. They claim Bolton will direct military action against Iran with regime change as the objective, regardless of any reasonable Iranian concessions. Although Supreme Leader Khamenei even now regards a Bolton presidency as less likely to happen than not, he takes it as a serious possibility and believes negotiations with Bolton would likely fail without an Iranian nuclear deterrent (medium confidence). Khamenei also believed that Obama would not ultimately take military action to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons (medium confidence).

Khamenei gave the go-ahead in October with a goal of producing enough weapons grade uranium for 2 bombs without detection by June 2012 (medium confidence). As monitoring by the international community and IAEA uncovered the enrichment effort in January, Tehran decided it was too strongly committed to turn back and should pursue other routes to the bomb, in case of delays with the enrichment program.

IC believes after unsuccessfully soliciting North Korea for higher grade plutonium (low confidence), Tehran decided to obtain it from partially spent fuel rods from the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Iran's agreement with Russia requires them to receive all of Bushehr's fresh fuel from, and return all spent fuel to, Russia. Bushehr began operating in 2010, and Russia transferred operational control to Iran in September 2011. Bushehr is also under IAEA safeguards with regular inspections.

On March 9, four days after the most recent IAEA inspection, the Bushehr power plant began unloading the fuel, claiming problems with fuel contamination. Tehran is keeping Russian engineers out of the plant, saying that Iranians will better handle the fixes necessary due to Russian mismanagement. The IAEA expressed serious concern about the unloading and requested inspector

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access to oversee it, but Iran insists it is not obligated to allow inspections before the next scheduled inspection on June 5.

The IC believes the fuel contamination claim is a cover story to divert spent fuel to a secret plutonium reprocessing facility (high confidence). Tehran accepted that the diversion would be suspected based on satellite surveillance and ultimately verified by the IAEA, but believed it would obtain nuclear weapons, successfully testing a uranium or plutonium bomb, before the IAEA declared it. Khamenei also believed the international community would avoid taking significant action before an IAEA declaration (medium confidence).

On March 18, President Obama issued his “ultimatum of last resort” to Iran, warning that it faces US military action if it does not comply with his three demands by March 27:

1. Allow IAEA inspectors full access to all enrichment facilities listed by the US, Bushehr, and 3 sites suspected of being plutonium reprocessing facilities by March 27.
2. Agree to removal of centrifuges and highly enriched uranium discovered by inspectors beyond certain limits to ensure an 8 month breakout time.
3. Allow transfer of control of Bushehr back to Russia, and immediately return any fuel discovered missing from Bushehr.

Khamenei was surprised by the ultimatum, but we assess he believes Obama is probably bluffing (medium confidence). Iran has made counterproposals for inspections ranging between 30 and 120 days at various facilities, believing Obama’s reluctance to repeat the mistakes of the Iraq War will prevent strikes. IC also assesses that Tehran believes US airstrikes will fail to set the program back enough to stop nuclear weapons from being obtained by the end of 2012, due to sufficient underground protection or obscuring of locations of centrifuge halls and the reprocessing facility.

OVERVIEW & COMMANDER’S INTENT

With the ultimatum’s deadline fast approaching, the President has ordered us to prepare for Operation Measured Imperative, an air campaign designed to set back Iran’s nuclear program several years with the following aims:

1. Destroy significant Iranian facilities for uranium enrichment, plutonium reprocessing, and centrifuge assembly.
2. Secure and remove spent fuel from Bushehr.
3. Destroy the heavy water reactor under construction at Arak.
4. Minimize civilian casualties, especially large-scale dispersion of radioactive and toxic materials.
5. Prevent escalation to a larger conflict by limiting attacks to only the nuclear facilities above and military targets directly defending them, exercising restraint when Iran retaliates.

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Today's daytime mission is training for our Night 1 mission of that campaign, a raid on the Bushehr Power Plant Complex (BPPC) -- should the President give the order. That mission would have three primary objectives:

1. Securing the fuel assemblies currently located at Bushehr prior to their diversion elsewhere.
2. Collection of intelligence from the research complex at the facility.
3. Avoid damaging the vicinity of the reactor to avoid a radioactive material dispersion disaster.

We are inserting ground forces because damaging the reactor or spent fuel assemblies could cause a regional humanitarian disaster, and preventing such damage is a critical goal of our mission. The purpose of raiding Bushehr on Night 1 is to prevent destruction of material valuable for intelligence at the research complex and any reckless attempts by Iran to remove the spent fuel quickly.

Removing the fuel assemblies is expected to take five days and will require deployment of significant equipment and personnel to carry out, with US ground forces plan to holding the BPPC for that time. Russia is disillusioned with Iranian behavior at Bushehr, has cooperated with sharing details of Bushehr's operation and security, and agreed to secretly assist with unloading and removing the reactor fuel if Iran fails to deliver the spent fuel. We do not expect immediate large-scale ground opposition to SOCOM forces during our raid, but we anticipate that as Iran realizes the situation, they may launch a counterattack.

For our mission today, we will train against Air Force and Army assets simulating Bushehr and its defenses, around a mockup of the BPPC (at Bullseye) in the Saudi desert south of the village of Al Qulayyib. Our goal in this exercise is to clear the REDFOR air and air defenses so that a Blackhawk successfully deploys simulated troops at our BPPC mockup.

WEATHER: 21C, Mostly Clear, Wind 132 @ 3kt. Altimeter 29.85.

ENEMY FORCES

REDFOR F-16s will stand in for the possible IRIAF fighters (likely F-4s) scrambling out of Bushehr Air Base (7 nm from the BPPC), and from Shiraz Air Base (100 nm from the BPPC). Today, expect possible bandits to appear very near Bullseye or from 100 nm to the south.

Known REDFOR air defenses are:

- Patriot battery at BE 253/3 (simulating SA-10)
- 4 * Hawk batteries: BE 160/3, BE 345/2, BE 339/5, BE 340/18 (representing actual Hawks!)
- 2 M163 Vulcans and 2 Stinger MANPADs at the BPPC, likely deployed within a mile east or north of Bullseye (simulating for Shilkas and Iglas)

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FRIENDLY FORCES

CSG-8 will deploy the following flights

- Ford 1, Ford 2 (3 F-14s each): fighter sweep/CAP
- Ford 3 (4 F-14s): releasing TALDs on initial push, followed by CAP
- Dodge 1 (4 F/A-18s): SEAD with HARMs
- Dodge 2 (4 F/A-18s): DEAD following Dodge 1
- **You:** Dodge 3: strike/CAS over mock BPPC following Dodge 2
- Dodge 4 (1 F/A-18): DEAD on northmost HAWK
- Chevy 1 (3 E/A-18s): pushing behind Dodge 3, jamming major SAM sites, anchoring 12 nm northeast

To simulate SOCOM deployment:

- Colt 1-1 (Blackhawk): will hold on the ground 5 nm NE of Bullseye until cleared, then push and land in the mock research complex landing zone. Mission success will be Colt 1-1's successful landing without violating ROE at reactor, defined below. (Actual SOCOM helos will anchor off coast at low level until cleared, then deploy initial troops at research complex first to secure intel assets.)

USAF will also deploy:

- Pontiac 1-1 (MQ-9): JTAC lasing for Dodge 3. Pushing behind Chevy 1, orbiting Angels 25 over Bullseye.

ATTS/DETS

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

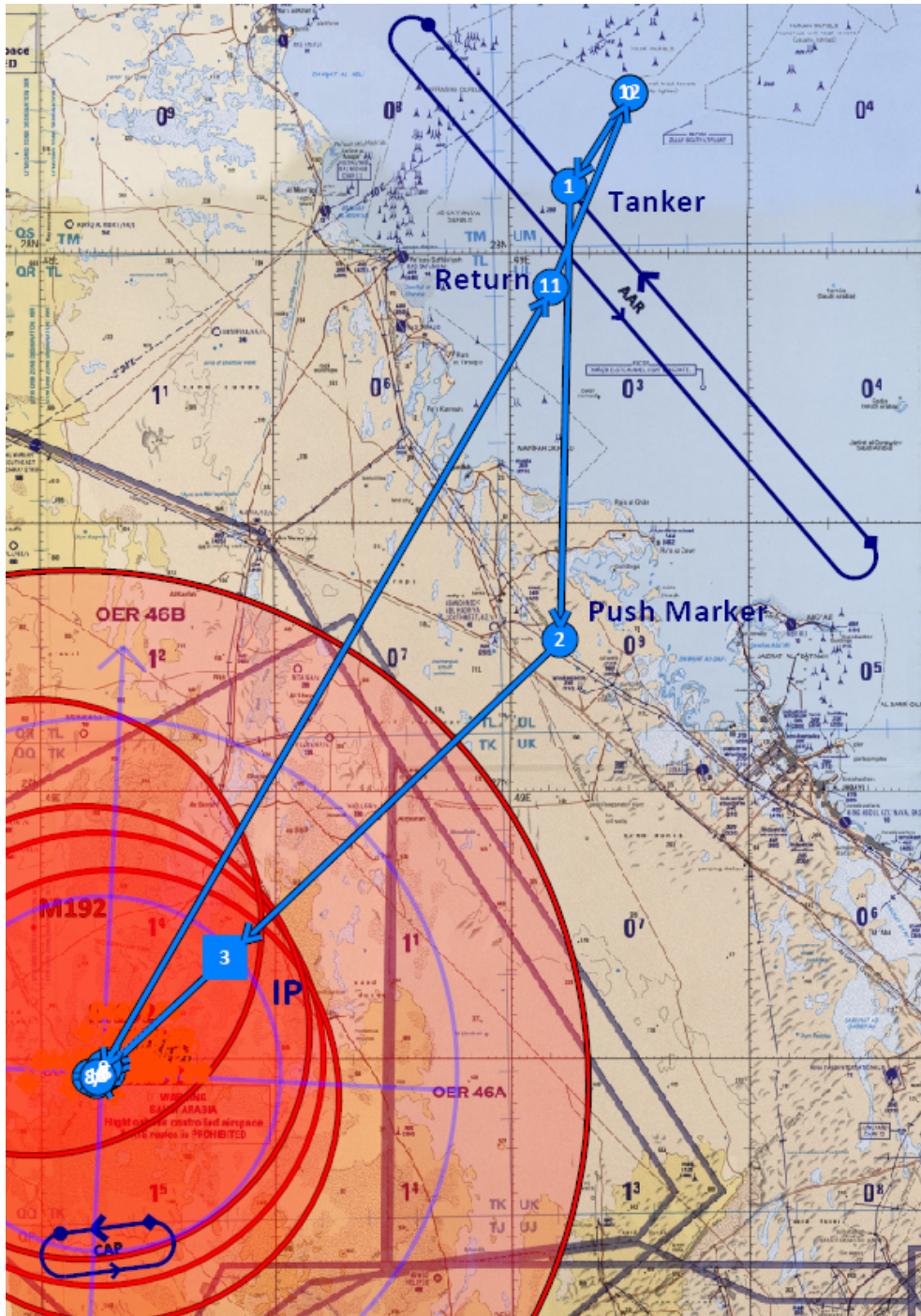
2. MISSION

VF-11 and VFA-81 are tasked with CAP, SEAD and DEAD to secure the airspace, along with strike/CAS for the special forces as they deploy into the mock BPPC. In order to maximize surprise in capturing the mock BPPC, we will conduct the strike/CAS even before DEAD of all medium/long range SAMs around it is complete, if possible. The most critical task is to remove MANPADs and AAA from the mock BPPC to clear the way for Colt 1-1's deployment.

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3. EXECUTION

Fig. 1: Flight Plan Overview

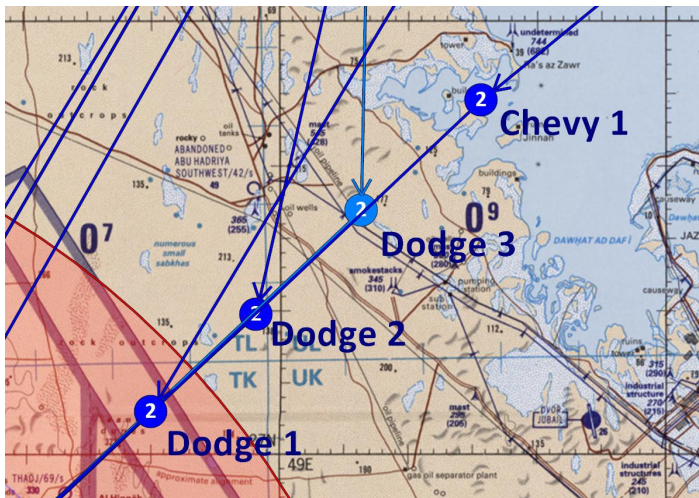


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1. Dodge 3 will take off last from CVN-73 by 0610Z and head direct to WP1, angels 20. From there, rejoin with Texaco, top up, and maintain formation with Texaco until push time of 0628Z, to maximize time on station. Switch to Strike freq on COMM 2 before 0628Z; other Dodge and Ford flights will also push at the same time.

2. Adjust speed to cross WP2 “Push Marker” at 0635Z, angels 20. Dodge 1, Dodge 2, and Chevy 1 each have their own Push Markers they will cross at the same time. From there, all four flights will maintain Mach 0.83 as they ingress to Bushehr. This will ensure the Dodge flights arrive in the correct order (Dodge 1 doing SEAD ahead of Dodge 2’s DEAD, followed by Dodge 3 strike/CAS) with Chevy 1 providing jamming from behind aligned with the Dodge flights. Fig. 2 illustrates the positions of the Push Markers and altitudes.

Fig. 2: Push Marker Order for Dodge and Chevy flights

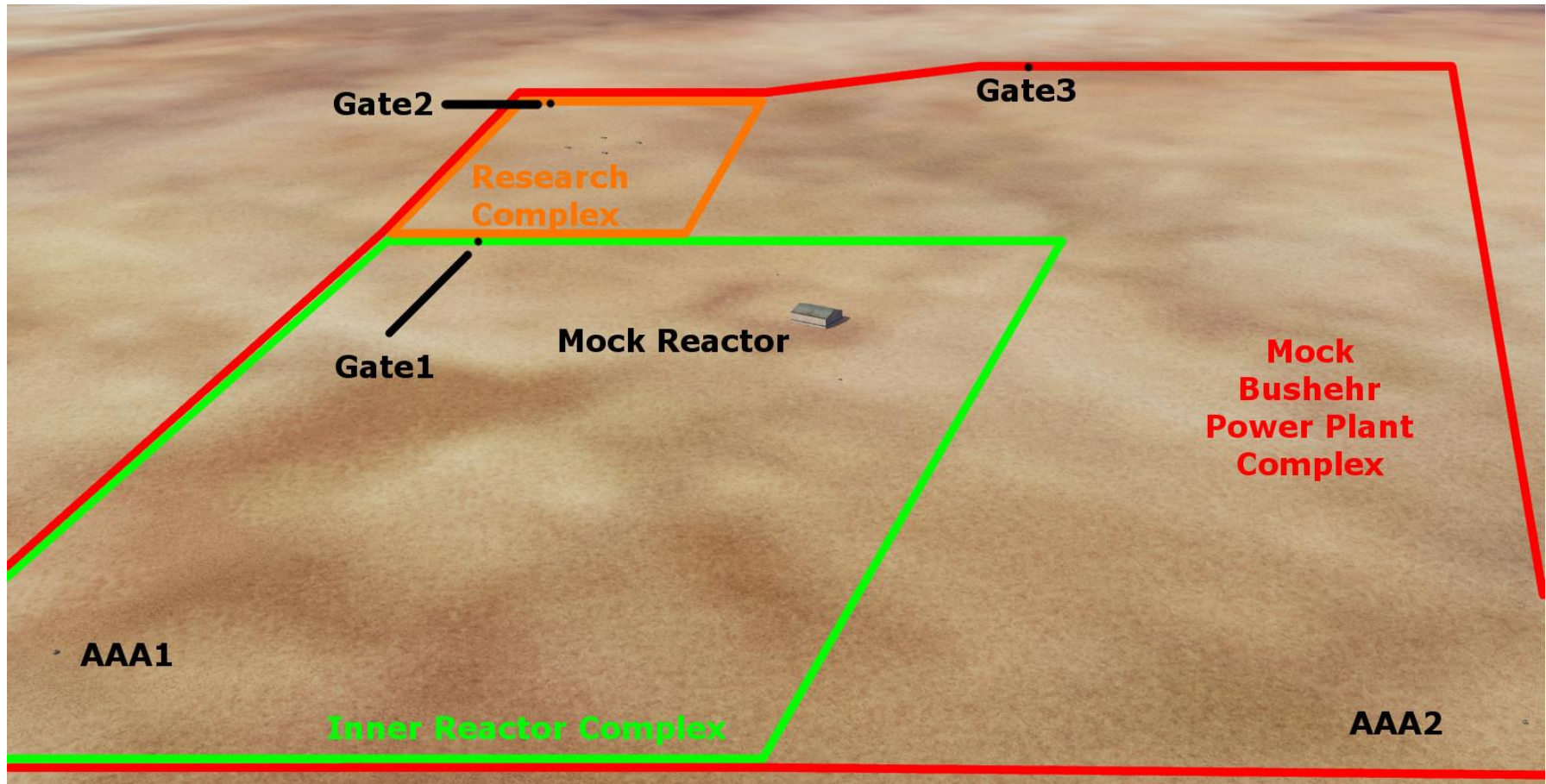


Ford 3 will be launch TALDs to the south of Dodge 1. Note that Ford 1 and Ford 2 will also ingress just ahead Dodge 1 for fighter sweep, and will then establish CAP orbits 15 NM south of Bullseye. **Just before WP3, FENCE IN.**

3. WP3 is the IP for Dodge 3’s initial strikes. Just after crossing, order your flight to “Engage Mission and Rejoin.” Familiarize yourself with the recon photo (Fig. 3) and map (Fig. 4) of the BPPC.

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Fig. 3: Recon photo of Mock BPPC

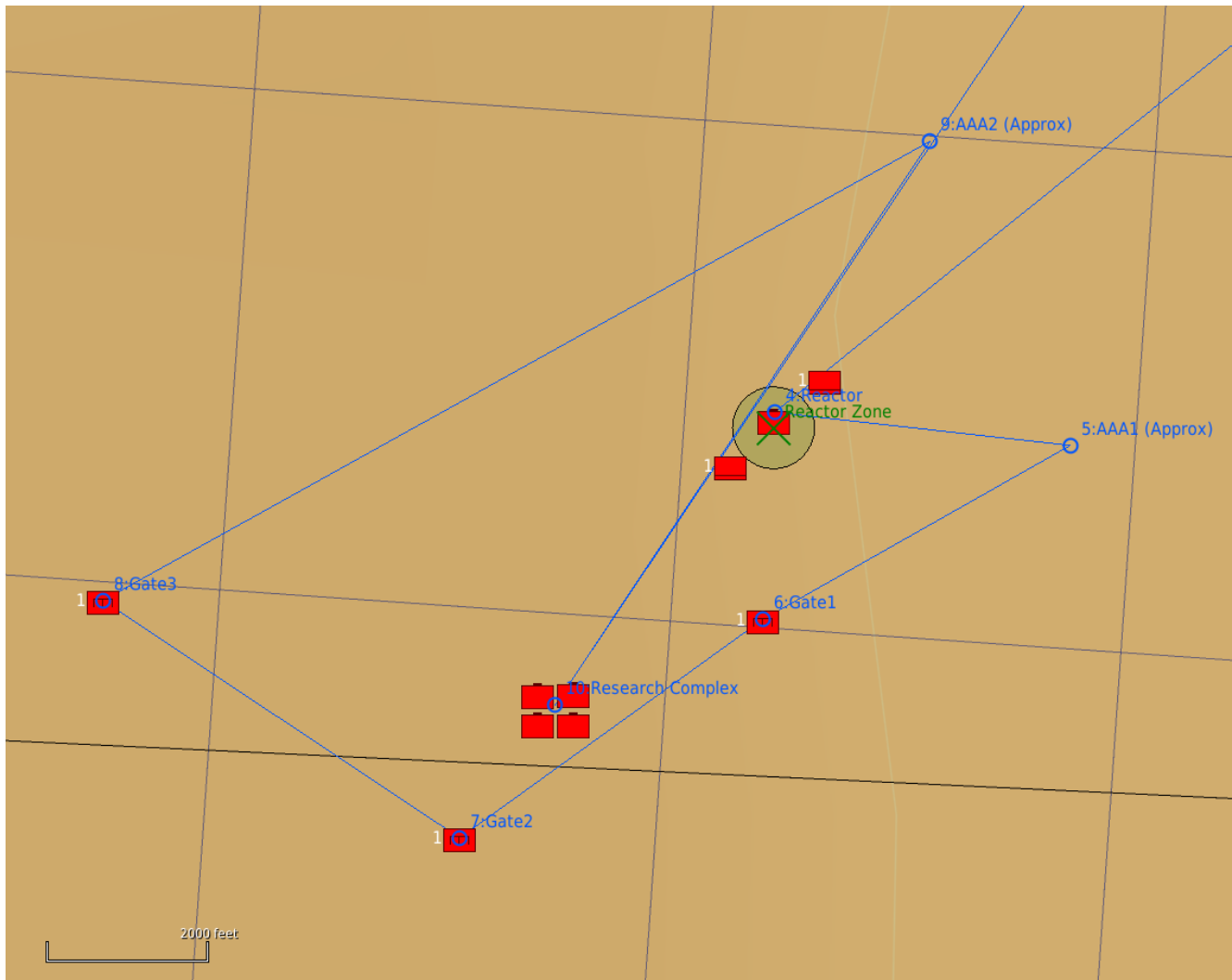


Prior to IP, Dodge 3 will identify the Mock Reactor for SA to avoid accidental targeting of within 500ft (the Reactor Zone, shown in more detail below). Then it will strike 5 known/likely targets at AAA1, Gate1, Gate2, Gate3, AAA2, with waypoints.

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Structures of the mock BPPC itself are marked in red. The 500 ft radius “Reactor Zone” is marked in green, where explosive weapons are strictly prohibited.

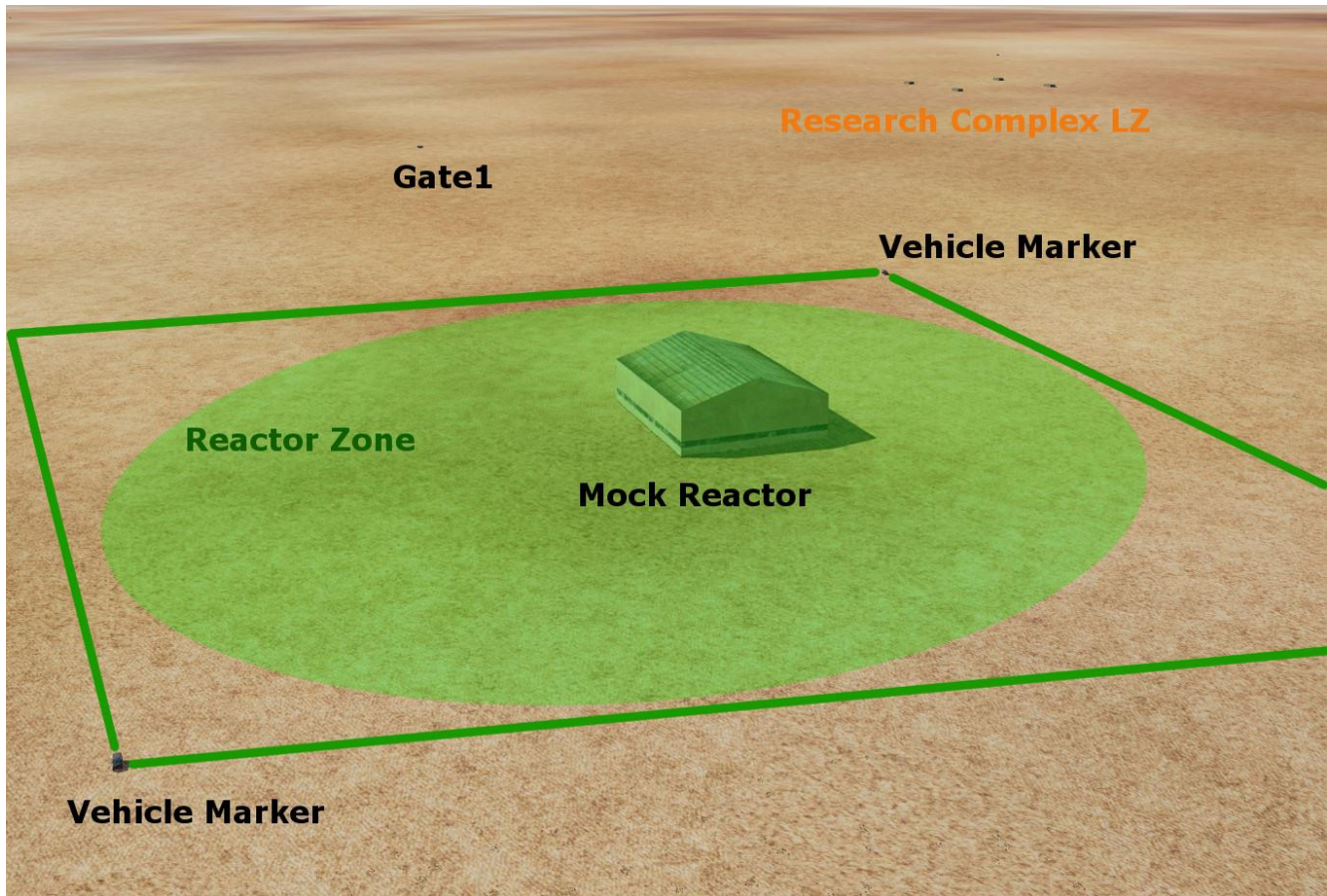
Fig. 4: Map of mock BPPC, waypoints and Reactor Zone



Dodge 3's tasking after IP (WP3) is in three phases:

- A. **Find and identify the 500 ft radius Reactor Zone centered at WP4.** Damage to the reactor or spent fuel could cause a humanitarian disaster, so ROE here is especially strict. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO FOLLOW ROE IN THE REACTOR ZONE. EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHIN THE REACTOR ZONE, AND ANY USE OF 20MM CANNON MUST FOLLOW STRICT PROCEDURE IN ROE BELOW TO AVOID STRIKING BUILDINGS.** See Fig. 5 for detail of the Reactor Zone.

Fig. 5: Reactor Zone Detail



The Reactor Zone is a 500 ft radius circle centered at the mock reactor. For visual reference, we have placed two vehicles at opposite corners of a square that roughly circumscribes the Reactor Zone.

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B. Each aircraft will identify and strike pre-planned targets for the first pass over the BPPC using the targeting pod.:

- Dodge 3-1: WP5 AAA1, approximate location of M163 Vulcan AAA, simulating Shilka
- Dodge 3-2: WP6 Gate1, vehicle simulating gate guardhouse for Inner Reactor Complex
- Dodge 3-2: WP7 Gate2, vehicle simulating gate guardhouse for Research Complex
- Dodge 3-3: WP8 Gate3, vehicle simulating gate guardhouse for outer BPPC perimeter
- Dodge 3-3: WP9 AAA2, approximate location of M163 Vulcan AAA, simulating Shilka

Our intended TOT for these pre-planned targets is Push Time +15 min (0643Z), but we will anchor away from bandits/the WEZ of SAMs to delay if CAP/SEAD needs more time.

C. Await tasking from Pontiac and monitor for air defenses. Our priority is MANPADs: we especially need to keep clear Colt 1-1's route inbound to the Research Complex (WP10). Pontiac will lase targets using code 1688. **Again, any targets within the Reactor Zone must be engaged with 20mm (even air defenses).** See Fig. 6 and 7 for recon photos of possible air defenses. When the mock BPPC appears clear of air defenses, Pontiac will clear Colt 1-1 to deploy.

Mission Success is when Colt 1-1 has landed in the Research Complex LZ (a square of tents at WP10, see Fig. 8). Mission Failure is Colt 1-1 is shot down or we determine we cannot secure safe deployment for Colt 1-1. After either outcome, all flights will RTB.

4. RTB when ordered by Pontiac, and then FENCE OUT.

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, except as cleared below.**

Damage to the Bushehr reactor or reactor-connected buildings (see Fig. 3, 4 and 5) could cause a Chernobyl-like disaster spreading radioactive fallout across nearby civilian areas in Iran and neighboring countries as far as the UAE. This could be a humanitarian disaster and may be considered a war crime.

- Dodge 1 is cleared to launch HARMs at radar signals of SAMs listed in “ENEMY FORCES” above, but only if launch azimuth does not coincide with the reactor (within 5 degrees). This is to ensure stray HARMs do not hit the reactor buildings.
- Dodge 2 and Dodge 4 are cleared to engage all SAM sites listed in “ENEMY FORCES” above, except for those at the BPPC.
- Dodge 3:

- **OUTSIDE the Reactor Zone (beyond 500 ft from WP4).** Dodge 3 is cleared to engage only the following targets with GBU-12s, GBU-38s, AGM-65Es, or 20 mm:

- Air defenses identified with targeting pod near WP5 (“AAA1”) and WP9 (“AAA2”)
- Vehicles simulating gates at WP6, WP7, and WP8
- Targets designated by Pontiac, or air defenses visually identified

- **INSIDE the Reactor Zone (within 500 ft of WP4).** Dodge 3 is only cleared to engage targets designated by Pontiac (with laser) using 20 mm, and must be within all of the following parameters:

- a) Close enough to get an “IN RNG” cue
- b) Must obey attack heading cleared by Pontiac, and attack runs must not cross the reactor building itself (WP4).
- c) Target must be sufficiently separated from any buildings to fully ensure bullets do not stray into them.

- Chevy 1 is cleared to engage all SAM sites listed in “ENEMY FORCES” above, except for those at the BPPC.

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4. ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS

Launch Time: 0600Z, 29 March 2012

Recovery Window: 0700Z - 0900Z

ARMAMENTS:

- Ford 1, Ford 2: 4*AIM-54, 2*AIM-7, 2*AIM-9
- Ford 3: 4*TALD, 2*AIM-54, 2*AIM-9
- Dodge 1: 4*AGM-88C, 1*AIM-120, 2*AIM-9
- Dodge 2: 4*GBU-12, 4*AGM-154C
- Dodge 3: 4*GBU-12, 2*AGM-65E
- Dodge 4: 4*GBU-12, 4*AGM-154C
- Chevy 1: 2*AGM-88C, 2*AIM-120

AIR REFUELING: Texaco will orbit over CVN-73.

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

5. COMMANDER/SIGNAL

SIGNAL:

COMM 1:				COMM 2:		
Name	Preset	Freq		Name	Preset	Freq
Dodge 3	1	143		Strike	1	253
				Texaco	2	230
				CVN-73	3	127.5

COMMAND: Commander CVW-1, CSG-8

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SUMMARY

Launch Time: 0600Z, 26 March 2012

Recovery Window: 0700Z - 0900Z

BULLSEYE: Mock BPPC Reactor (N 26° 28.41', E 48° 08.19)

TARGET: Threats to SOCOM force deployment at BPPC

AIR THREAT: Bandits from mock BPPC and 100 nm south

AA THREAT: Patriot, HAWK, MANPADS, AAA

WEAPONS HOLD EXCEPT AS BRIEFED

NOTES

Carriers	Tankers	Support
-- 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

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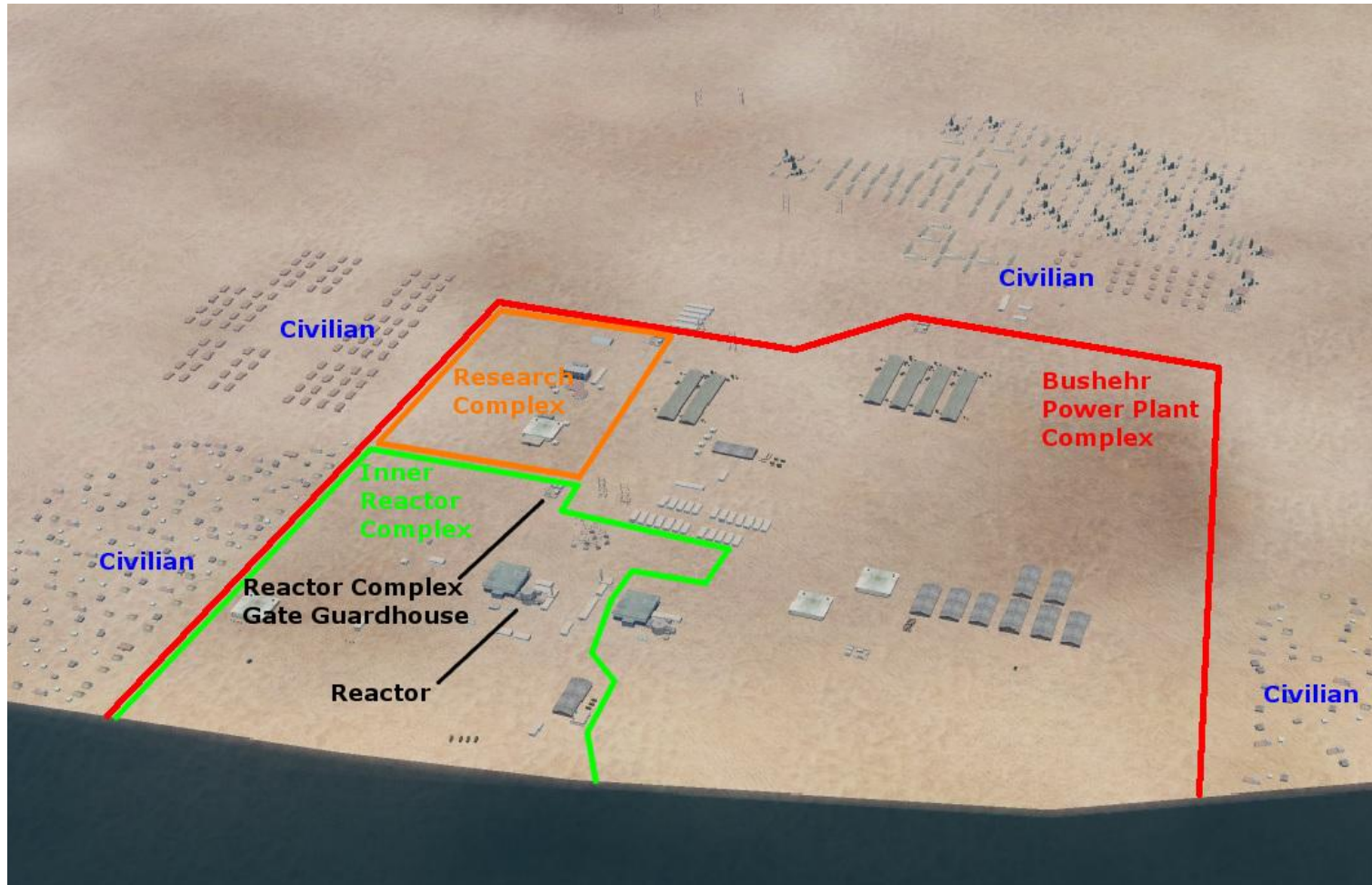
WP	Name	Remarks	Angels	Speed
1	Tanker	Hold formation with Texaco. Push to WP2 at 0628Z.	20	
2	Push Marker	Cross at 0635Z. FENCE IN just before crossing WP3.	20	As needed to make WP2 on time.
3	IP	Just after crossing, order flight to “Engage Mission and Rejoin.”	20	Mach 0.83
4	Reactor / Bullseye	DO NOT ATTACK		
5	W Corner	Inexact First Pass Target (Dodge 3-1): AAA or MANPADs. TOT 0643Z. Coordinates not exact, need to identify.		
6	Reactor Complex Gate	First Pass Target (Dodge 3-2). TOT 2134		
7	N Gate	Second Pass Target (Dodge 3-2)		
8	NE Gate	Second Pass Target (Dodge 3-3)		
9	SE Corner	Inexact First Pass Target (Dodge 3-3): AAA or MANPADs. TOT 0643Z Coordinates not exact, need to identify.		
10	Research Complex	LZ Colt 1-1 (DO NOT ATTACK)		
11	Return	FENCE OUT	20	

APPENDIX A: APPROXIMATE SAM COORDINATES

- Patriot: N 26° 26.95', E 48° 04.52'
- Hawk 1: N 26° 26.05', E 48° 09.39'
- Hawk 2: N 26° 30.15', E 48° 07.52'
- Hawk 3: N 26° 44.91', E 47° 59.53'

APPENDIX B: Actual BBPC Info

Fig. 3: Recon photo of Actual BPPC



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Civilian structures surrounding the BPPC are in blue; structures of the BPPC itself are in red. The 500 ft radius “Reactor Zone” is marked in green, where explosive weapons are strictly prohibited.

Fig. 4: Map of actual BPPC, intended waypoints and Reactor Zone

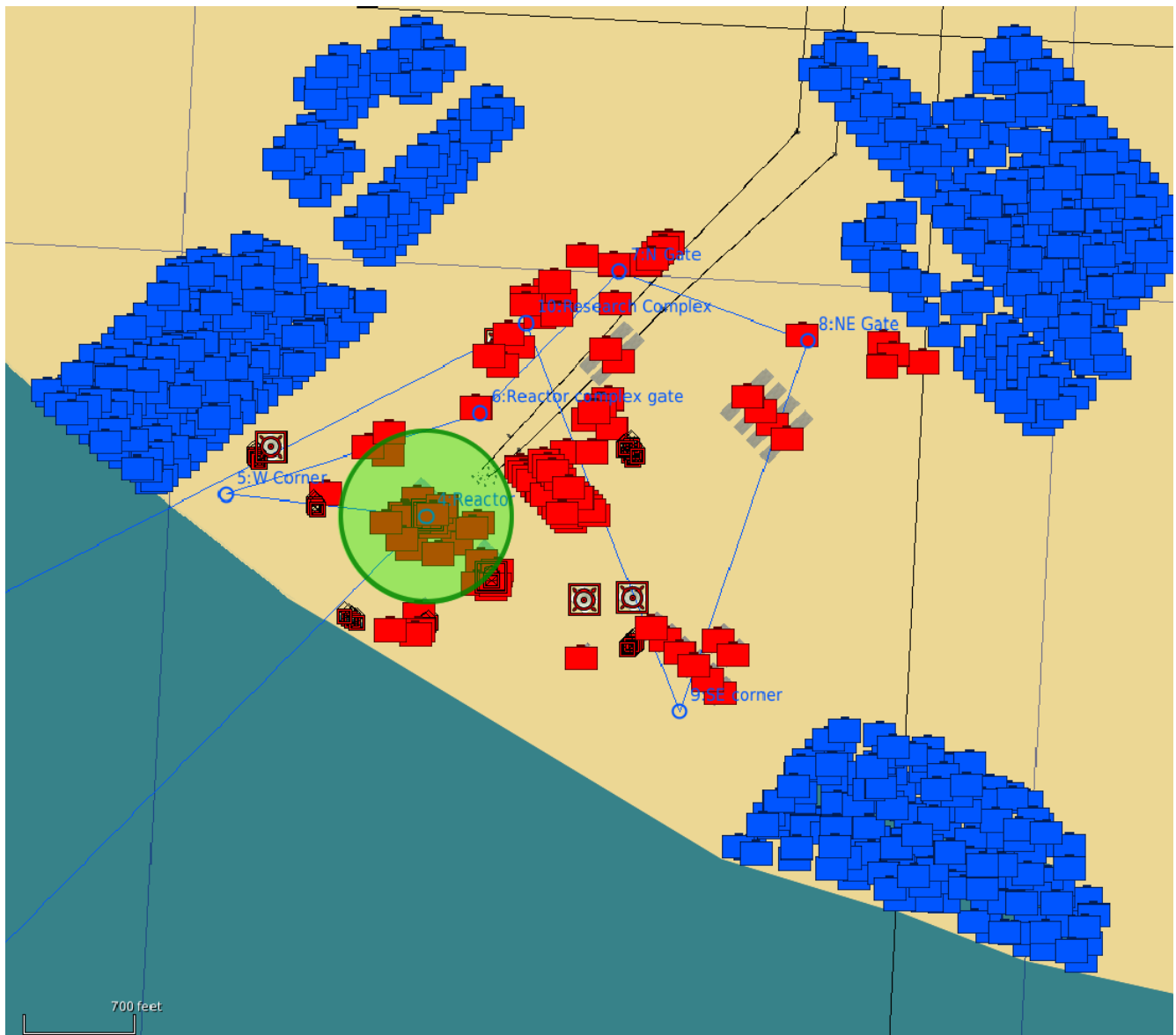


Fig. 5: Buildings in Reactor Zone

