

AIR TASKING ORDER - RESTRICTED ACCESS

1. SITUATION

0720 Local, 5 April 2012, Persian Gulf

BACKGROUND

We successfully repelled the ground attack on Bushehr on April 2 after Iranian armor got within 15 miles of the Bushehr Power Plant Complex (BPPC). The Iranians took heavy losses, and pulled back the attack as the weather cleared. We did lose two A-10s to MANPADs that day but were able to rescue the pilots. Since then, there has been an uneasy calm. In the early hours of April 4, the safe extraction of Bushehr's spent fuel was completed, and our troops and the engineers evacuated the BPPC.

President Obama announced yesterday that Operation Measured Imperative's objectives for degrading Iran's nuclear program have been achieved, and that the US now seeks de-escalation. As we try to de-escalate, we are on watch for Iranian retaliation. We have reports that privately many Iranian leaders saw the presence of US boots on Iranian soil as especially humiliating. While Iranian TV is publicly portraying the A-10 wreckage as a great victory, hardliners in Iran's government are demanding a more forceful counterattack to our strikes.

We believe that Iran may look to attack Americans in Iraq as well as ships from US and allied countries. IRGC Boghammar speedboats increased movement significantly around the Strait of Hormuz since our campaign began, and we are monitoring them to keep them from harassing shipping in the area. USN ships are positioned nearby to deter attacks on civilian shipping while keeping some distance to avoid Iranian misperception of our intentions.

OVERVIEW & COMMANDER'S INTENT

Dodge 2 will provide air cover for civilian and USN ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Our primary objectives are:

1. Deter Iranian attacks with our presence.
2. Defend against attacks if necessary.
3. Avoid unnecessary escalations of tensions.

The USS Mason is protecting civilian shipping in the east Persian Gulf while the USS Sampson does so in the Gulf of Oman. Dodge 2's task is to monitor Iranian movements around the strait, maintain a visible but non-aggressive presence in the absence of an attack, and -- only if ordered -- provide defense of the destroyers or their protectees if needed.

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WEATHER: 18C, Few at 12000, Wind 323 @ 6kt. Altimeter 30.01.

ENEMY FORCES

Enemy air threat is possible from F-4s and F-7s at Bandar Abbas (BE 013/72), F-4s at Shiraz (BE 320/280), and Mig-29s and F-14s from Kerman (BE 011/261). Iranian HAWK sites are on Abu Musa (BE 262/57) and near Bandar Abbas (BE 002/66), along with EWR at Kish and Bandar Abbas. Over Iranian territory, MANPADs and AAA are also a threat.

IRIN larger ships have largely stayed moored Bandar Abbas and Jask, but there dozens of IRGC Boghammars have transited the strait (staying in Iranian waters) in the past 24 hours.

FRIENDLY FORCES

Fixed wing assets in the AO:

- Ford 1 (3 F-14s): CAP orbiting near CVN-73
- **You:** Dodge 2 (2 F/A-18s): patrol anchored in West or East Patrol Zones near Strait
 - **You** will be flying as Dodge 7-2: follow 7-1's lead.
- Texaco (KC-135 MPRS): orbiting 30 NM west of Bullseye, providing tanker support
- Chevy 2 (2 F-15Cs): escorting Darkstar
- Chevy 3 (2 F-15Cs): escorting Overlord
- Chevy 4 (2 F-15Cs): escorting Texaco

C&C:

- Darkstar (E-3): C&C west of Al Dhafra
- Overlord (E-3): C&C east of Al Dhafra

Ships:

- USS Mason: west civilian ship protection (BE 237/44)
- USS Sampson: east civilian ship protection (BE 101/41)

You will be relieved by Enfield 4 (4 F-15Es).

ATTS/DETS

- Tanker: Texaco (30Y / 230 MHz)
- AWACS: Overlord (253 MHz)
- AWACS: Darkstar (255 MHz)

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2. MISSION

Dodge 2 is tasked with self-escort patrol near the Strait of Hormuz in designated East and West Patrol Zones, to protect friendly and civilian ships area. It is critical to remain in designated airspace (international or UAE) to avoid inadvertent escalations.

3. EXECUTION

1. Dodge 2 will launch from CVN-73 by 0500Z and head direct to WP 1, forming up and climbing to Angels 27. Tune TAC 2 freq en route. Ensure flight is on Guard Receive the entire flight.

2. Head to WP 2 and refuel at Texaco. After refueling, push TAC 1 (Overlord).

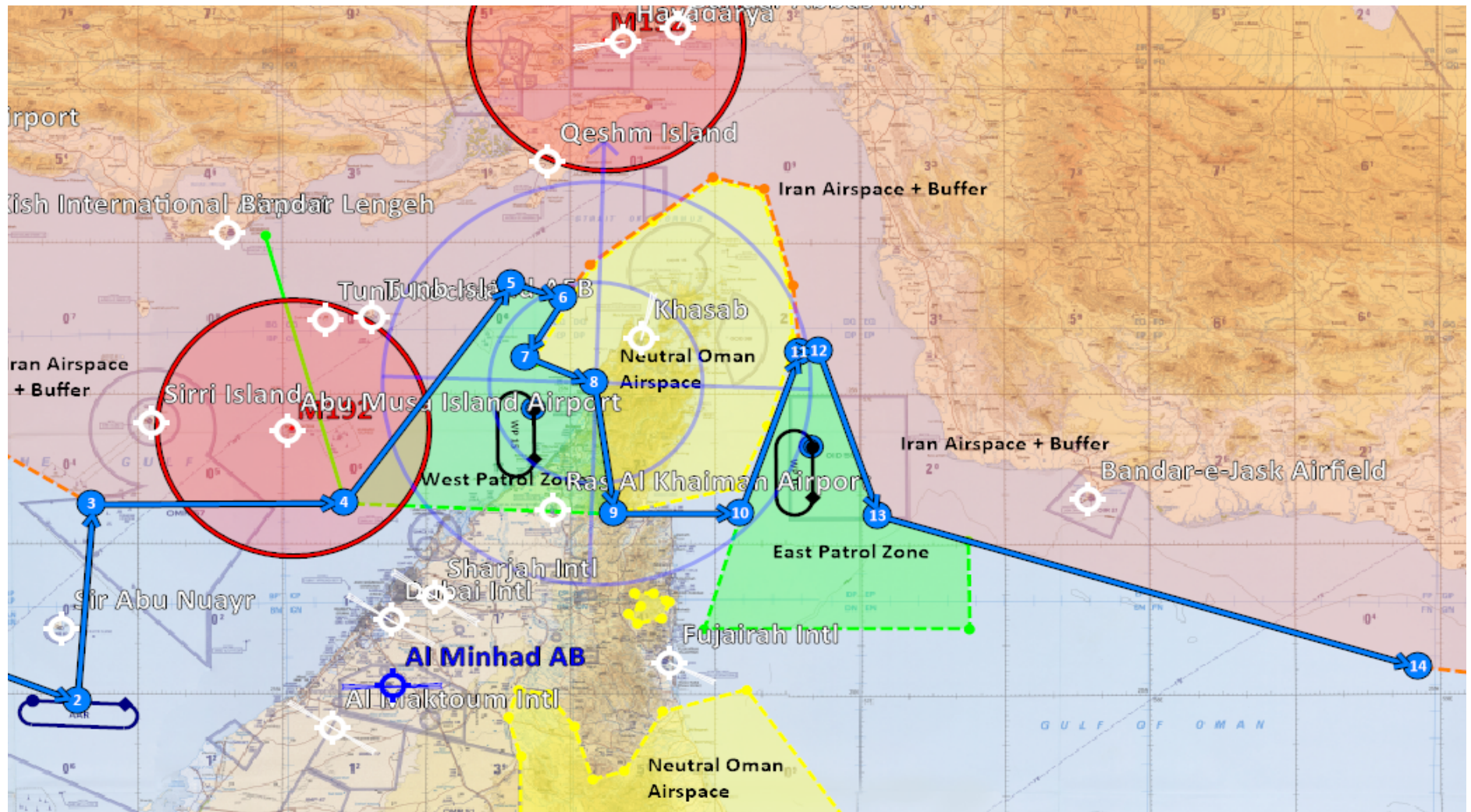
3. Familiarize yourself with Fig. 1 showing the AO. Expect to push to West Patrol Zone or East Patrol Zone depending on Overlord's tasking. Perform FENCE IN checks but remain MASTER ARM OFF while on patrol until ordered or if you come under attack.

4. At all times, remain south of the "Restricted Line", the path following all waypoints between WP 3 to WP 14 (set "SEQ" on HSI page). The Restricted Line designates either Iranian airspace or neutral Omani airspace plus a safety buffer.

- WP 15 (west) and WP 16 (east) give reference waypoints for you to navigate and setup your orbit in each patrol zone, but depending on what you are monitoring you should orbit wherever you need to within the zone (so long as you don't risk crossing the Restricted Line).
- We don't particularly expect Iranian fighters to show up, but if they do, you are self-escorting. Friendly CAP can be scrambled quickly from Texaco, Al Dhafra, and Al Minhad. But we are trying to keep our presence in the strait light, so you will be the only fighters immediately on station in the patrol zones.
- Avoid the Abu Musa HAWK WEZ within the West Patrol Zone if at all possible. It has not given us trouble so far, but do not take unnecessary risk.
- Oman has remained neutral throughout this and warned us not to use their territory for our military planes and ships. We're under orders to respect this and only cross Oman airspace in an emergency. Besides Oman's airspace containing Khasab (just north of the Restricted Line), avoid the Madha exclave and the main Omani territory (containing Sohar). This is easiest to do by remaining no more than 15 NM south of WP 9 and WP 10 while transiting between the patrol zones.

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Fig. 1: Flight Plan Overview



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3. You will be relieved by Enfield 4 (2 F-15Es). **Dodge 2 will RTB when ordered by Overlord. At that point, FENCE OUT and fly to Texaco to refuel as needed.**

4. After refueling, push TAC 2 (Darkstar) and return to CVN-73.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- **A/A: Weapons Hold**
 - You may use force to defend Dodge 2-1 or 2-2 if under attack, but only as needed to ensure your own safety.
 - Otherwise, all use of force against air targets requires orders from Darkstar or Overlord, including to defend other friendly assets.
- **A/G: Weapons Hold, except as directly ordered by Darkstar or Overlord.**

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4. ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS

Launch Time: 0450Z, 5 April 2012

Recovery Window: 0620Z - 1000Z

ARMAMENTS:

- Dodge 2: 1*AGM-65E, 1*AGM-65F, 1*GBU-12 (double ugly)

AIR REFUELING: Texaco will orbit at WP 2.

EW/ELINT: Darkstar will orbit off the coast of Doha while Overlord will be in the Gulf of Oman.

5. COMMANDER/SIGNAL

SIGNAL:

COMM 1:				COMM 2:		
Name	Preset	Freq		Name	Preset	Freq
Dodge 2	1	142		Dodge 2	1	142
TAC 1	2	253		TAC 1	2	253
TAC 2	3	255		TAC 2	3	255
CVN-73	4	127.5		CVN-73	4	127.5
Texaco	5	230		Texaco	5	230

COMMAND: Commander CVW-1, CSG-8

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SUMMARY

Launch Time: 0450Z, April 5, 2012

Recovery Window: 0620Z - 1000Z

Joker: 6000. **Bingo:** 5000.

BULLSEYE: WP8, Al Darah Border Crossing (N 26° 2.18', E 56° 4.93')

TARGET: N/A (only as ordered by Darkstar/Overlord)

AIR THREAT: Bandits from Bandar Abbas, Shiraz or Kerman

AA THREAT: 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	Alpha	Form up, contact Darkstar (TAC 2)	27	Mach 0.7 to 0.8
2	Texaco	Refuel, then push to West Patrol Zone (WP 15) unless other tasking from Overlord. After push, do FENCE IN checks but remain MASTER ARM OFF.	Refuel: 20 En route: 27	Mach 0.7 to 0.8
3 to 14	Restricted	Remain south of path from WP 3 to WP 14 (Restricted Line). Bullseye is WP 8.	N/A	
15	West Patrol Zone	Reference WP for navigation/orbit.	27	
16	East Patrol Zone	Reference WP for navigation/orbit.	27	
17	Return	FENCE OUT checks at RTB.	27	