



TOP SECRET



Briefing conducted by Lt. Colonel John Mitchell, 380th AEW.

14:00, 2nd November, 2011.

Situation

Jiroft and its airport have now been secured and coalition forces are briefly pausing for resupply before they continue their push onto Kerman. Airborne coalition forces also succeeded in the capture of Lar airbase this morning, the first step in widening the front west of Bandar Abbas.

But whilst the battle goes well north of Bandar, coalition forces have struggled to contain the nightly Scud missile attacks launched by Iran. These attacks have increased in intensity over the last 3 days, reflecting the increasing desperation of the Iranian government as the coalition continues to make ground in Iran. Many missiles are either intercepted by the Patriot batteries or fall harmlessly into the sea or empty desert, but some do get through and when they hit populated areas it is with devastating consequences. The US has made a commitment to the Gulf states that it will stop these attacks, however this is easier said than done.

The Scud missile is a medium range ballistic missile, its range is limited and in order to hit targets across the Gulf the Transporter Erector Launchers (TELs) need to be positioned in southern Iran. Given the air power deployed against Iran the Iranians also have the need to make their TEL's hard to locate and difficult to engage. As a result Iran has deployed the majority of its TEL's to the mountainous region in the Fars Province, south of Shiraz - dubbed Scud Alley by US forces. This region contains many valleys and ridges in which the TEL's can be hidden and protected, the region is also elevated up to 4500 feet MSL so when experiencing any low cloud cover makes the search a hazardous one for aircraft. Iran is well aware of the difficulties this poses and had flooded the region with low cost air defences. Dozens of AAA sites and large numbers of shoulder mounted SAM systems await any aircraft forced down to lower levels.

Situation

To facilitate the search and destroy mission US forces have been forward deployed to two locations, the airbase at Kish houses the majority of the jets involved in the search, with the small airfield at Lavan also being used to house the special operations forces and helos supporting the search. Given the overcrowding at Kish and the ability to use the shorter runway the handful of Warthog's assigned to the search have also been deployed to Lavan.





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Command and Control:

Local ATC will be responsible for all airspace control within 10nm of their respective airfields.

UAE airspace is currently closed to almost all civilian traffic and all airspace movement in the UAE / Gulf region will be controlled from E-3 platforms under the callsign **Overlord**.

Once handed off by ATC, coalition aircraft must report to Overlord who to ensure aircraft deconfliction will assign altitude blocks in high traffic areas.

Airborne radar coverage will be provided by a combination of E-3 and E-2 flights, the SA picture will be coordinated through the airborne command post and communicated via callsign **Darkstar**.

Upon entering the battlespace strike aircraft will be handed off from Overlord to the Air Support Operations Centre (ASOC), callsign **Whiplash**.

Whiplash will have final GO/NO GO authority on all strike missions and will also collate and prioritise requests for air support, assigning strikers to JTAC's when required.

All communications channels should be monitored as listed in the mission briefing at all times.



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Rules of Engagement.

Aircraft Classifications

Bandit - Aircraft identified as belonging to a hostile force.

Bogey - Unidentified aircraft.

Friendly - Aircraft identified as belonging to a friendly force.

Unknown - An unknown aircraft, presumed friendly.

Hostile Intent

Hostile Act considered if unit:

- Engages friendly forces with a weapons system.

OR

- Supports the weapons systems of other units, resulting in weapons release. Including but not limited to lasing, marking, radar illumination of targets.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **all** the conditions below:

- Spikes/spots/marks a friendly target within their weapons range or the range of a supporting unit.
- Persistently maneuvers to maintain a weapons firing solution or to maintain solution for fire support.
- PosID as a bandit or belonging to a hostile force.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **all** the conditions below:

- Moves in an aggressive manner towards friendly forces.
- Actively deploys countermeasures and/or seeks to avoid detection.
- PosID as a bandit or belonging to a hostile force.



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Rules of Engagement.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **any** of the conditions below:

(note these conditions may often apply to individuals that are civilian in appearance)

- Observed preparation of an ambush position, including but not limited to the positioning of weapons systems, explosives or significant obstructions in tactically advantageous positions.
- PosID as engaging in the command and control of hostile forces.
- Observed in the use, transportation or maintenance of weapons systems that pose a threat to coalition forces within a contested battlespace.

Upon confirmation of a hostile act, aircrew are cleared to engage and act in self defence or the defence of friendly forces.

Predefined targets

Targets defined within a briefing are pre-cleared for engagement providing the briefed details are followed. In these conditions visual ID will not be required.

Dynamic Targets

Targets may be assigned to aircrew via ASOC or JTAC in the field.

Weapons release authority will be under the control of the JTAC/AFAC at all times. The only exception to this is if contact with JTAC/AFAC is lost and that in the defence of friendly forces the conditions for hostile intent can be met.

Surrendered Forces

The surrender of all forces must be observed and engagement ceased immediately.

If soldiers abandon a vehicle and move away from the battlefield in a manner consistent with surrender they must be allowed to escape to a safe distance before engaging the vehicle. Surrender should be distinguished from retreat, surrender is defined as the abandonment of all weapons/ weapons systems and overt actions such as white flags, raised hands.



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Control of Air Support.

Air support requests (ASR) will commonly be made through the ground commander CAS to the air support operations center (ASOC).

The ASOC will process the ASR and match to available CAS platforms. ASOC will direct the CAS platform to the AO and connect them to the JTAC / AFAC.

The JTAC or AFAC will provide the targets details, locations of friendly forces or civilians and specify the attack details such as IP, attack direction, weapons to be employed and egress routes. The JTAC will also specify the type of control authority they will have over the attack, these are detailed as below:

Type 1

JTAC requires control of individual attacks and must visually acquire the attacking aircraft and the target for each attack. Targets and friendly positions should be marked whenever possible.

Visual acquisition must be obtained through eyes-on or via optics such as binoculars, without the use of third party devices such as laptops or other digital imagery.

Control will be made over the attack direction of the aircraft to reduce the risk of collateral damage or the attack affecting friendly forces.

Type 2

JTAC requires control of individual attacks but JTAC is unable to visually acquire the attacking aircraft at weapons, unable to visually acquire the target, or the attacking aircraft is unable to acquire the mark/target prior to weapons release.

JTAC can acquire the target visually or use targeting data from a scout, fire support team, joint fires observer, unmanned aircraft (UA), special operations forces, CAS aircrew, or other asset with accurate real-time targeting information.



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Control of Air Support.

Type 3

JTAC provides clearance for multiple attacks within a single engagement subject to specific attack restrictions.

JTAC does not need to visually acquire the aircraft or the target.

JTAC will provide attacking aircraft with targeting restrictions and then grant blanket weapons release clearance to meet the stated restrictions.

JTAC maintains abort authority.

9 Lines

The JTAC will commonly provide the CAS platform with a 9 line specifying the instructions for the attack. The 9 line format is as follows.

1. Initial point (IP)
2. Heading from the IP to the target.
3. Distance from the IP to the target in nautical miles.
4. Target elevation in feet above mean sea level.
5. Target description.
6. Target location coordinates.
7. Type of mark.
8. Location of friendlies from the target, direction, and distance in meters.
9. Egress direction.



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Terminology

The JTAC and air support platform will communicate using set terminology. This terminology is detailed here.

Cleared hot - air support is cleared to engage the target.

Winter - this is the predetermined abort code in theatre. If the JTAC issues code winter or calls abort then the attacking aircraft must safety weapons systems and maneuver off target.

Contact - refers to spotting visual references used to talk onto a target.

Tally - Visual confirmation by the pilot of the target.

Visual- Visual confirmation of friendly forces.

Weather

Wind = 304 5kn @ GL, 304 10Kn @ 6600, 100 30Kn @26000.

Temp 21C.

Clouds 9/10 coverage, 9000 ft base, 3000 ft depth.



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Mission

Mission Summary:

- Carry out a search for Scud TEL's in box 'Copper'.

Mission Details

Take off from Lavan and form up with Gunman 1-1 and Gunman 3-1 at WP1.

Proceed north to 'Scud Alley' where the flight will separate and search their assigned boxes, checking in with Overlord enroute.

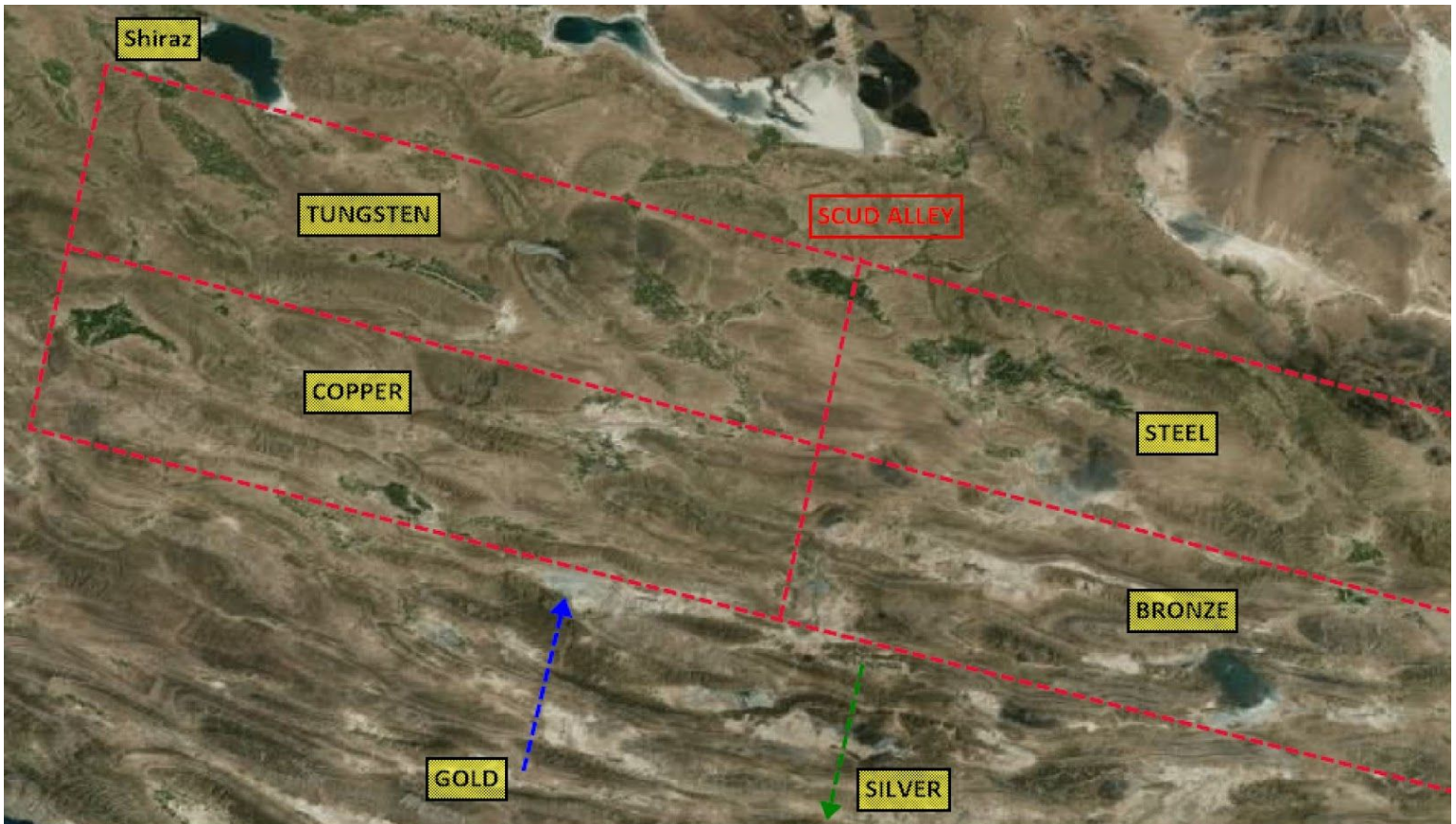
A radio frequency specific to the special operations forces operating in each search area will be assigned upon check in.

Attempt to contact these special forces as you carry out the search of the box. Any identified TEL's can be engaged at will.

Mission

Mission Specifics

Scud Alley is a large area, roughly 100 nm long east to west and 40 nm deep north to south. The area has been separated into 4 search boxes, designated Copper, Tungsten, Steel and Bronze. Access to the boxes will be through route Gold to the west and egress through route Silver in the east. Routes Gold and Silver have a minimum altitude of 15,000 feet MSL to ensure deconfliction with other search aircraft and any helos operating in the area.



Prior to arrival at the search box, flights should check in with Overlord. Overlord will provide the radio frequencies being used that day by the ground forces, these frequencies should be used to attempt to make contact with special operations forces who are actively searching for the TELs. Radio communications must be authenticated with the challenge and response codes MIKE ZULU (challenge) and WHISKEY BRAVO (response).

Mission

The TELs are large and difficult to hide, but Iran has made many attempts to do so, bridges, overpasses and deep gorges have all been used previously with varying degrees of success. In searching there is one major factor in our favour, the TELs are large, wheeled vehicles and struggle to go off road, therefore they rarely stray far from paved roads. The terrain however does present many other issues, namely the funnelling of aircraft at low level through predictable routes and LOS issues with radio signals being knocked down in the mountains. The weather today is forecast to be poor with heavy clouds down to 9000 feet MSL, in the higher regions of Scud Alley this will leave limited room to maneuver below the clouds and put aircraft in range of the substantial AAA and MANPAD presence now deployed throughout the region.

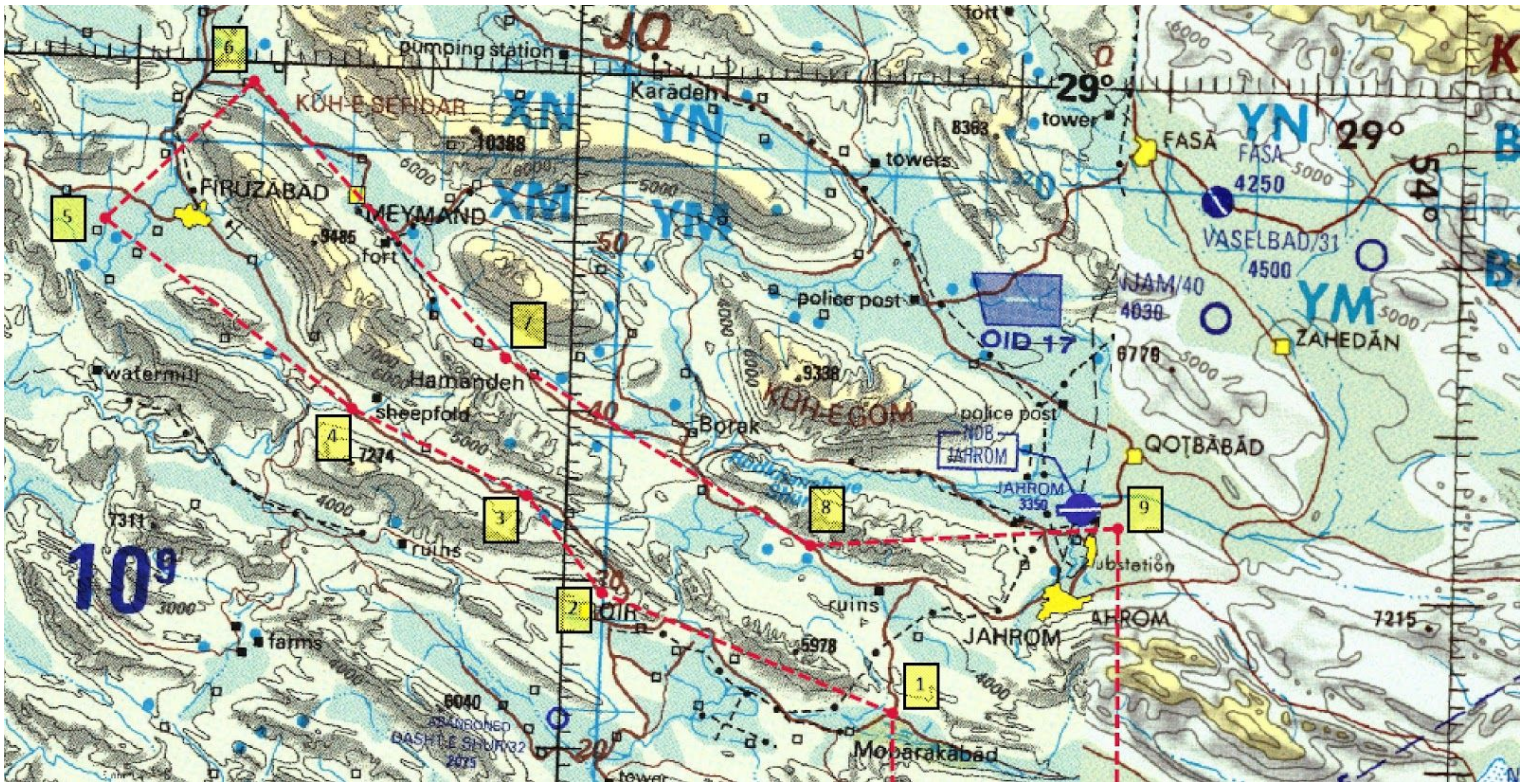
The Iranians typically move, fuel and launch the TELs during the night but we have seen some instances of this occurring in the last hours of daylight.

Scud TEL:



Mission

Gunman 2-1, you have been assigned to box Copper. Your flight plan includes waypoints with the designation SEARCH 1 to SEARCH 9, these correspond to the locations shown on the following map and will direct you through the areas our search is focused on.



As you follow the flight plan make regular MIKE ZULU calls to the forces on the ground on the allocated frequency. You have standing authorization to engage any TELs you locate. The altitude you choose to fly through the box is at your discretion, flying at higher altitudes will protect you from the low level threats but will make the search significantly more difficult due to the cloud cover, you will be highly reliant on the assistance of the special operations forces in this case.



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Flight Plan

WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes	WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes
1	5	230		8		230	SEARCH 6
2	15	230	Route Gold	9		230	SEARCH 7
3		230	SEARCH 1	10		230	SEARCH 8
4		230	SEARCH 2	11		230	SEARCH 9
5		230	SEARCH 3	12	15	230	Route Silver
6		230	SEARCH 4	13	5	230	Approach
7		230	SEARCH 5	14			Landing

Joker Fuel 2200lb

Bingo Fuel 1700lb

Flight Plan





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Threats

No air to air threats or radar guided SAM threats are present at this time.

However the Iran has flooded the valleys south of Shiraz with air defences such as mobile truck mounted AAA and MANPADS. Expect heavy resistance if operating at low level.

NOTES FOR PLAYER

This mission will be a hot start from the runway at Lavan, do not take off until cleared to do so.