



TOP SECRET



Briefing conducted by Lt. Colonel Pete Jones, 74th FS.

06:30, 15th November, 2011.

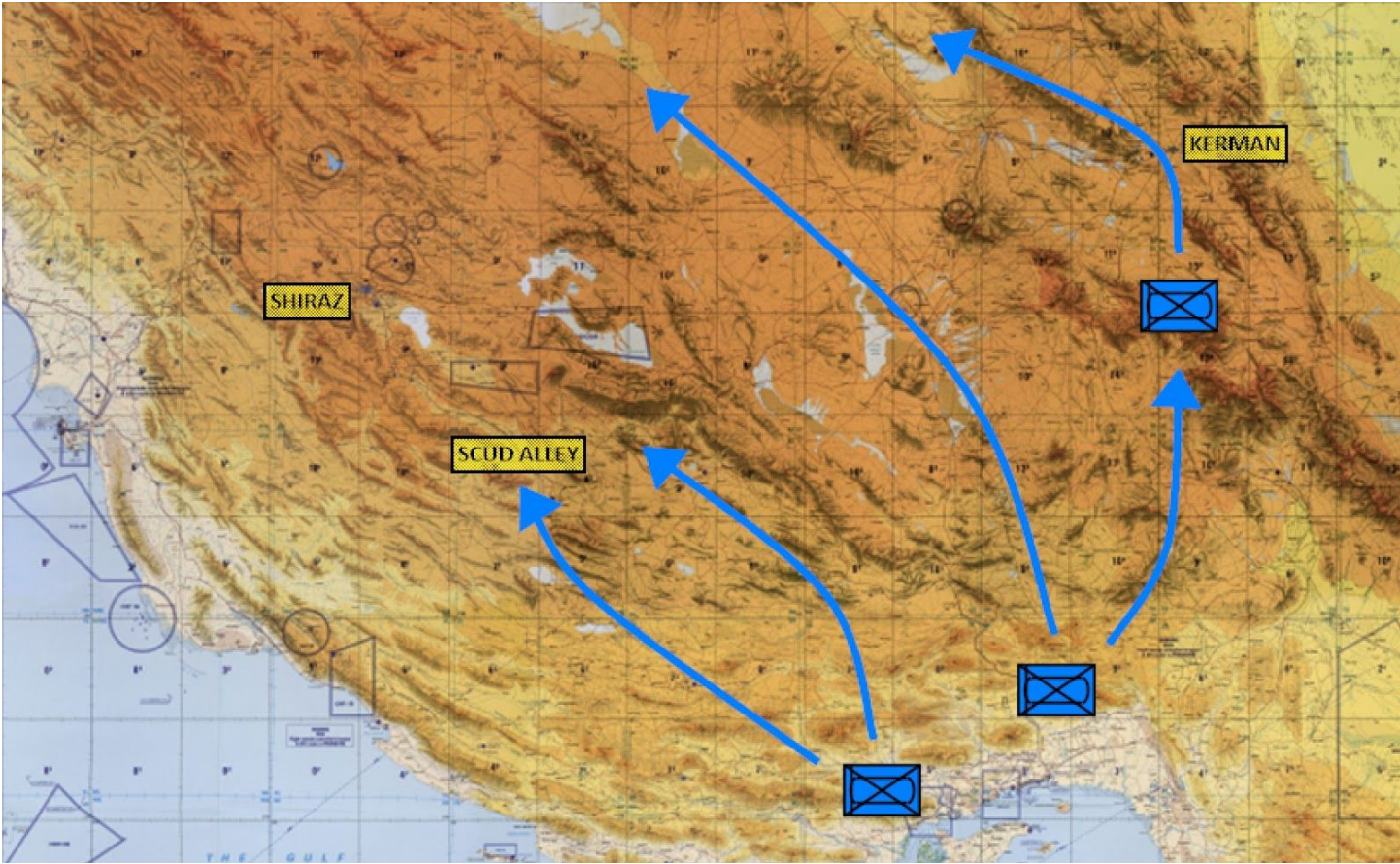
Situation

Over the last 10 days we've seen a tremendous reduction in the number of Scud missiles launched by Iran. This success can be attributed to our sustained air campaign in Scud Alley along with significant progress made on the ground by our forces.

In the east, US and UK forces have succeeded in securing Kerman and are now pushing northwest towards Tehran, whilst in the west our forces have pushed up into Scud alley itself. It is in this area where the heaviest fighting is currently taking place, with the Iranian forces taking full advantage of the mountainous terrain to defend their position.

The next major objective in the west is the city of Shiraz and it's major airport, US and UK air assets are currently preparing the battlefield ahead of the arrival of our ground forces.

Situation





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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 = 242 10kn @ GL, 189 20Kn @ 6600, 116 35Kn @26000.

Temp 24C.

Zero cloud cover, but strong winds blowing in from the west have brought a number of sandstorms in recent days.



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Mission

Mission Summary:

- Report to TEMPLE and engage targets as instructed.

Mission Details

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

Proceed to WP Marshall, checking in with Overlord enroute. TOT is 10:10 (06:10 ZULU).

Once at Marshall check in with Whiplash. Whiplash will provide details of the agency controlling attacks.

Make contact with the controlling agency and engage targets as instructed.

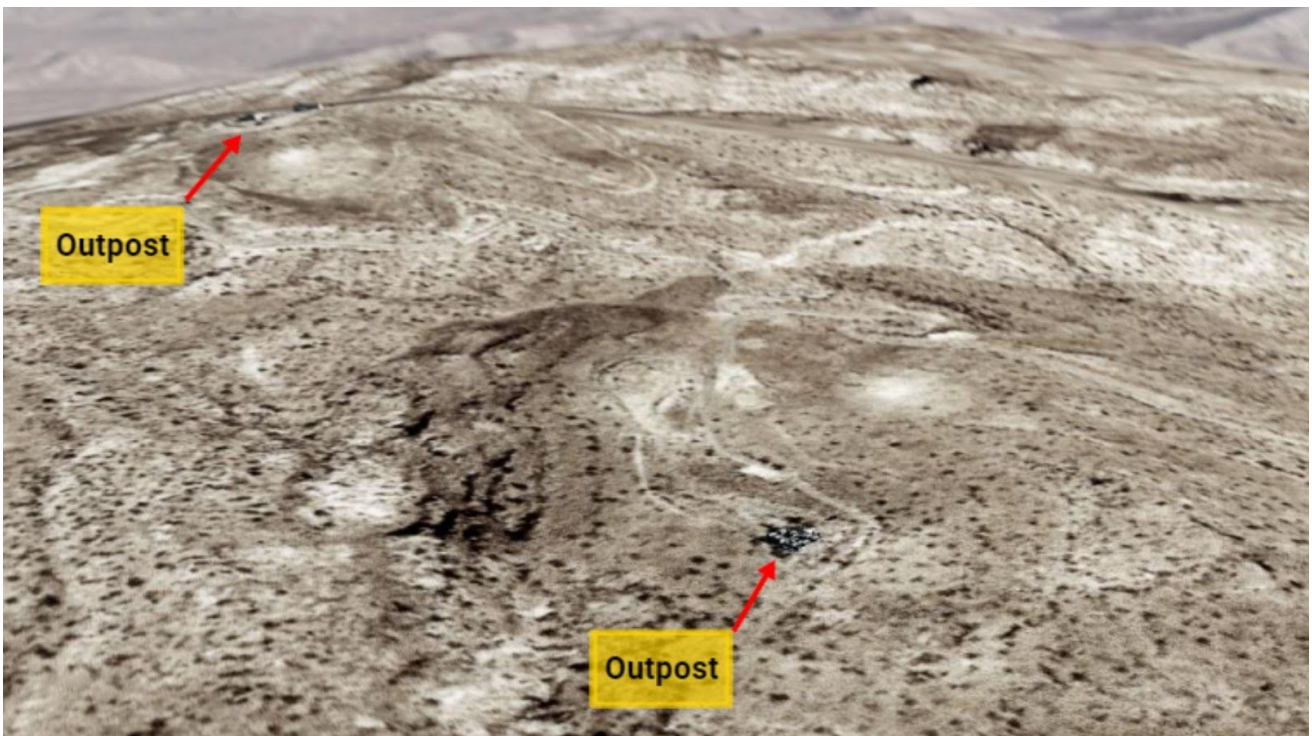
Mission Specifics

With the apparent success of the Scud hunting mission the majority of our air assets in southwest Iran have been reallocated to assist our ground forces moving towards Shiraz.

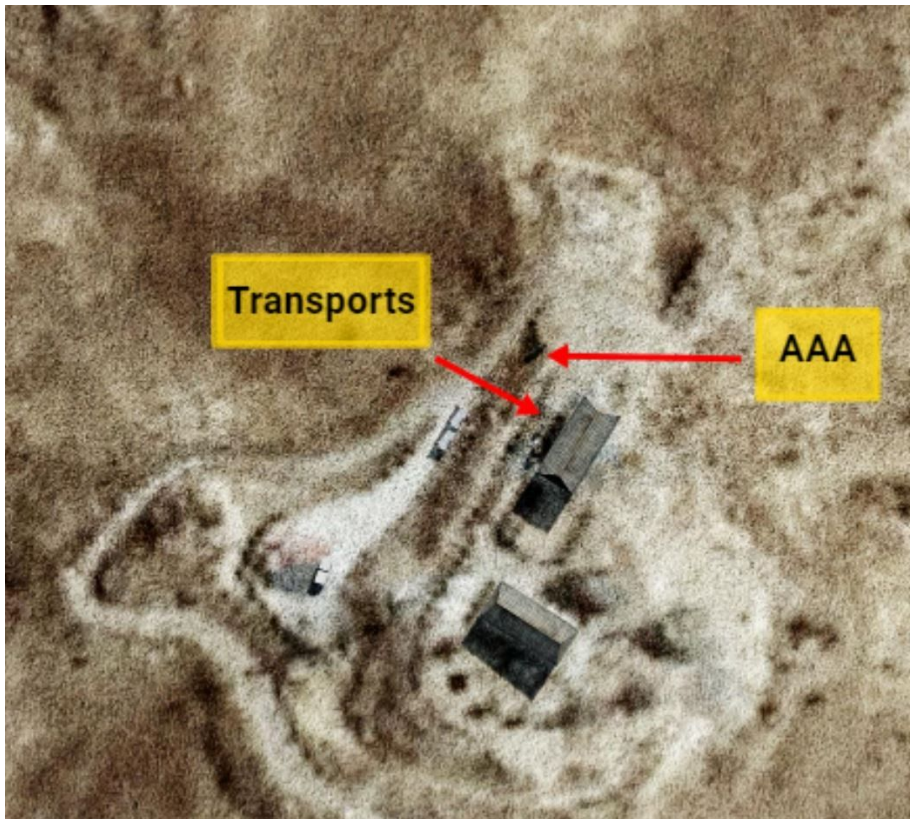
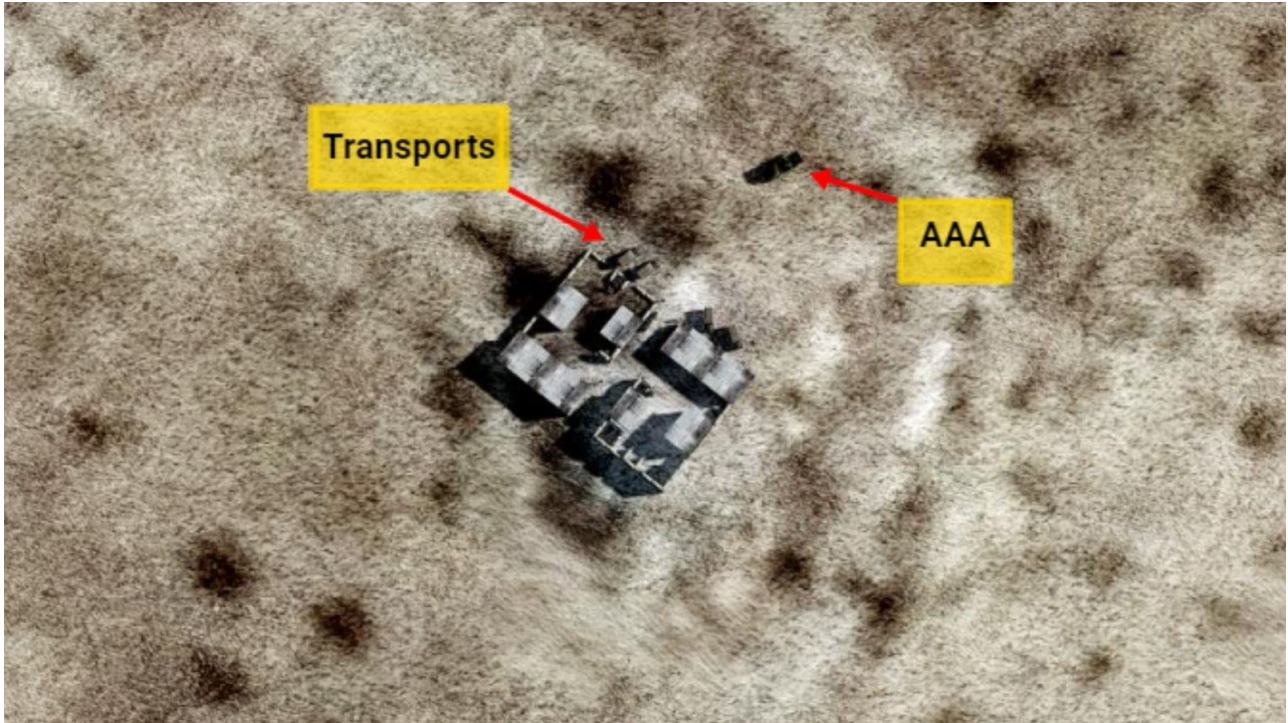
The current primary focus of our attacks is Mount Kharman, southeast of Shiraz - codenamed TEMPLE.

TEMPLE is a large, flat topped mountain, peaking at 10,344 feet MSL. It offers a commanding view and strongly defensible position of it's southern approaches. IRGC troops have withdrawn to TEMPLE and SATINT and recon flights have identified numerous occupied positions across the mountain, from which the IRGC will be able to observe, coordinate and conduct attacks on our forces. Our squadron has been tasked to assist in sanitising TEMPLE of hostile forces.

Mission



Mission





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Mission

We are maintaining UAV coverage above TEMPLE around the clock and JTACs will be monitoring this feed to provide continuous attack control. Although TEMPLE itself is clear of civilians there are a number of towns and villages in close proximity to the mountain. Our current Forward Line of Troops (FLOT) runs east to west from Jahrom, there are no friendly forces north of this line.

Your flight is to depart Kish and form at WP1 before pushing to WP MARSHALL, you are to relieve Blade 3-1 at MARSHALL with a TOT of 10:10 (06:10 ZULU). It is imperative that you meet this TOT to enable us to maintain around the clock coverage over TEMPLE. Any breaks in air cover will allow the IRGC opportunities to reposition forces or remove them from the mountain.

Once on station at Marshall, contact Whiplash who will connect you with the current JTAC monitoring the UAV feed. This JTAC will then provide attack control.

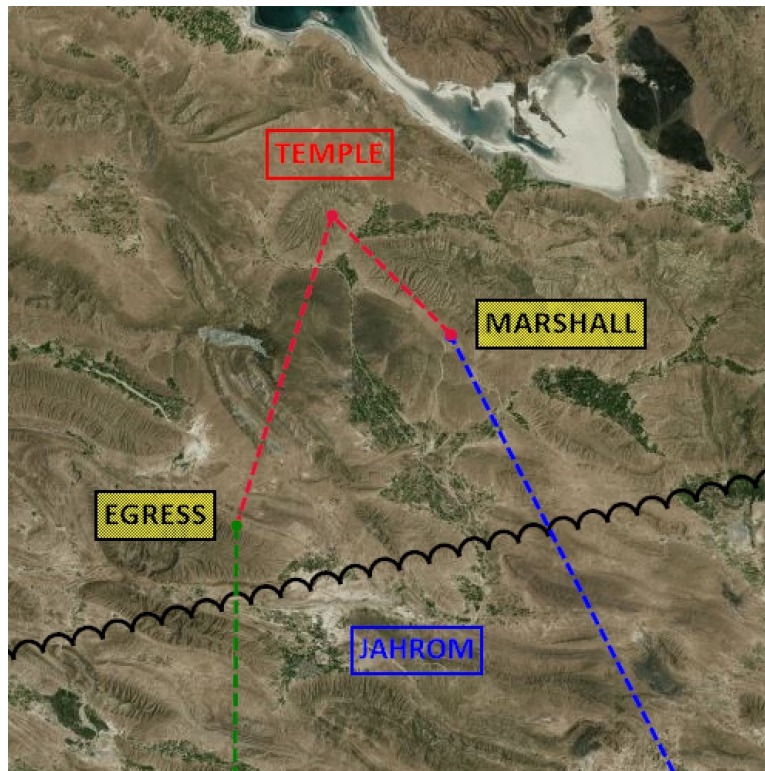
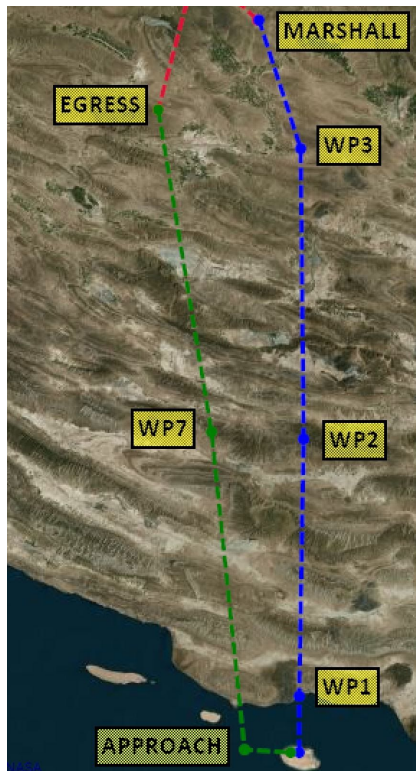
Remain on station until cleared to depart by Whiplash.

Flight Plan

WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes	WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes
1	5	230	RV Gunman 3-1	6	14	270	EGRESS
2	14			7	14	270	
3	14			8	4	270	APPROACH
4	14		MARSHALL TOT 06:10 ZULU	9			Land
5	20000		TEMPLE				

Joker Fuel 2500lb

Bingo Fuel 2000lb





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Threats

A number of mobile AAA positions have been identified across TEMPLE, especially around the outposts being occupied by the IRGC. No MANPAD positions have been confirmed but it is highly probable that these systems are also in place on the mountain.

Given the 10k ft elevation of TEMPLE take care in it's vicinity, AAA and MANPADS will be able to reach altitudes normally considered a safe haven if positioned on the mountain.