



TOP SECRET



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

08:00, 20th October, 2011.

Background

Please click on the link and view the video.

<https://youtu.be/nLBxugfcXkU>

Situation

Inspired by the successes of the recent arab springs in Tunisia and Egypt, on the 14th February this year Iranians took to the streets in what was called the *Day of Rage*. The protesters called for governmental reform, real democracy and an end to oppression. What they got was a brutal crackdown and a lot of death.

The brutal repression only furthered the cause of the reformists and both international and domestic pressure built on Iran. The protests continued to gain momentum until breaking point was reached and Iran retaliated hard, killing thousands in a brutal crackdown and displaying an alarming ruthlessness when the city of Ravar, a particular focal point of the protests, was attacked with chemical weapons.

The rest of the world, already concerned about WMD programmes in Iran decided enough was enough, the presence of such weapons in range of Israel, as well as key western strategic allies such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE could not be tolerated, nor could the systematic murder of it's own citizens.

Forming the biggest coalition seen since Desert Storm, NATO and Gulf states started to build up military forces in preparation of a military campaign to topple the Iranian government from power and free the people of Iran and the wider region from tyranny and oppression.

This campaign was to become known as Operation Persian Freedom.



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Strategic

Operation Persian Freedom consists of three strategic goals:

1. Remove the Iranian government from power and prepare the country for free elections.
2. Remove the Iranian military and IRGC as a regional threat.
3. Destruction of all WMD stockpiles and potential production sites.

To achieve these goals there are three distinct phases of military action:

- Phase 1 - "The Air War".
 - Achieve air supremacy over Iran.
 - Degrade Iran's command & control capability.
 - Degrade Iran's military infrastructure and logistics.
- Phase 2 - "Crossing the Strait".
 - Capture Iranian controlled islands within the Gulf/Straits of Hormuz.
 - Establish a beachhead in Iran.
- Phase 3 - "Dismantling the Machine".
 - Destroy Iran's warfighting capability.
 - Search out and eliminate WMD's.
 - Capture/removal of senior government, military and IRGC figures.

The first Air Tasking Orders are now being prepared ahead of the imminent start of the air war.

The build up of forces in theatre is now complete, and ground forces of over 300,000 troops stand ready to begin the attack on Iran supported by hundreds of coalition aircraft out of Al Dhafra airbase in the UAE, Al Udeid in Qatar and the USS John C. Stennis in the Arabian Sea.



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Strategic

The US has provided the majority of forces for Persian Freedom, however sizable contingents of British, French, German, Emirati and Saudi forces are also present.

On the ground the US has deployed the Army V Corps, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and elements of the 18th Airborne Corps - specifically the 3rd Infantry Division, 10th Mountain & 82nd Airborne Divisions.

2 expeditionary air wings have been assembled, these are the 379th staging out of Al Udied and the 380th staging from Al Dhafra.

The Navy has sent Carrier Strike Group 3, led by the USS John C. Stennis, they will initially be operating from the Arabian Sea.

The 5th Special Forces group will also be active in the region.

Personnel

The 74th FS is at full strength with 18 A-10C's now assembled at Al Dhafra.

Amongst our number we are pleased to welcome our RAF exchange officer, Flight Lieutenant David 'Steep' Hill who now joins us as a fully active squadron member.

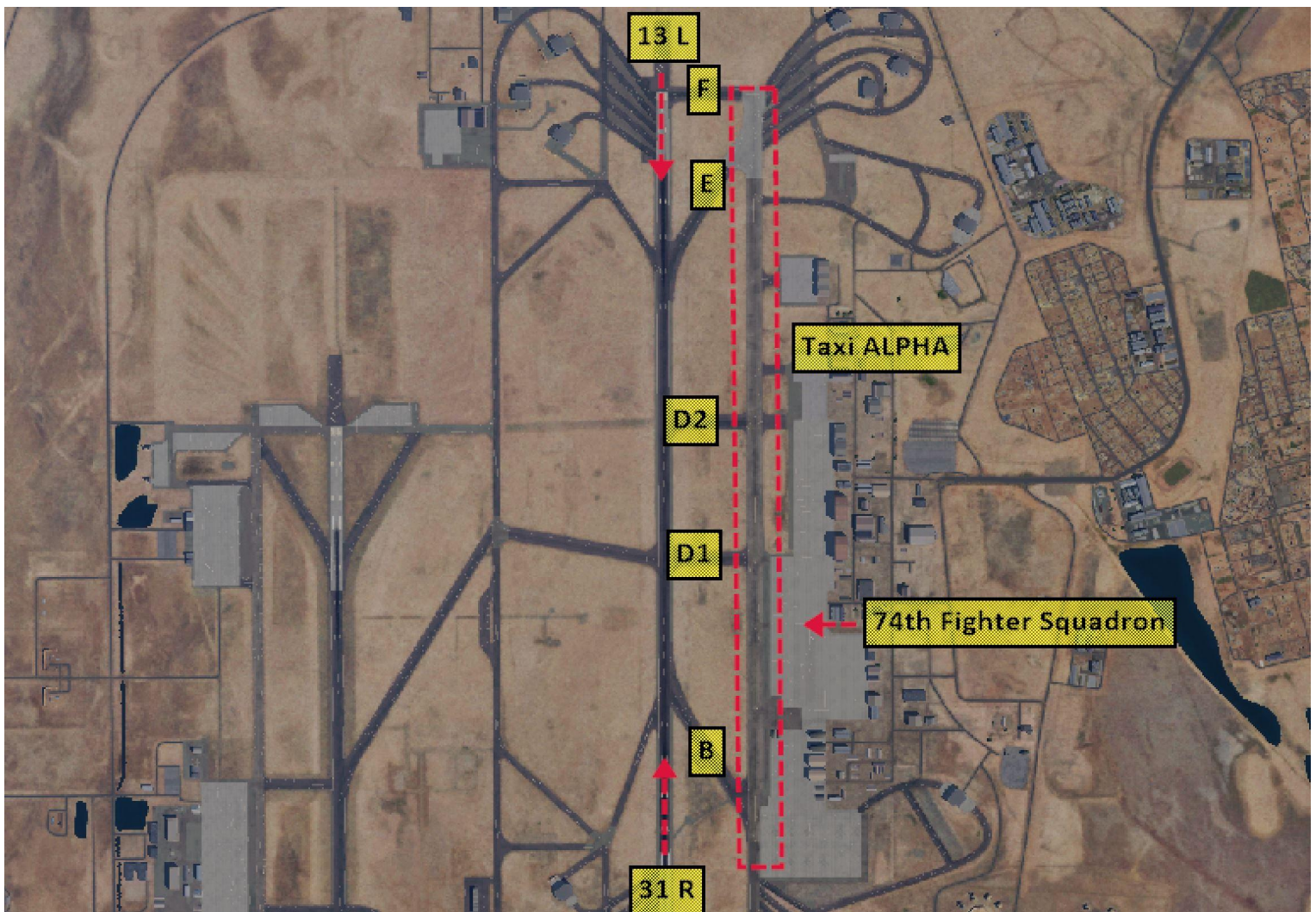
Lt. Hill hails from the ground attack world having flown both the GR9 Harrier and GR4 Tornado for the RAF and has recently finished the A-10 conversion course with the 355th Training Squadron.

Steep has seen considerable active duty in both Operation Allied Force and Operation Enduring Freedom and will be a valuable addition to our squadron.

SPINS

The following SPINS apply to Al Dhafra AB.

The base is shared between both UAE and US forces, US forces primarily occupy the eastern side. Please see the map below for the routes to be used when navigating the base.



ATC is on frequency 131.5 AM, pilots **must** obtain authorization before all aircraft movements or engine starts.

All aircraft movement **must** be made in accordance with ATC instructions, following designated taxiways and runways.



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SPINS

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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SPINS

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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SPINS

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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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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SPINS

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

Conditions at 07:00:

Abu Dhabi - wind 220, 10kn - clear skies, 19C.

Dubai - wind 190, 10kn - clear skies, 19C.

Al Ain - wind 230, 10kn - clear skies, 19C.

Liwa - wind 220, 5kn - clear skies, 19C.

Chance of high scattered clouds forming.



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Mission

Mission Summary:

- Conduct a familiarisation flight of the area around Al Dhafra.
- Assess ability to navigate the A-10.
- Evaluate weapons proficiency with the A-10's armament.

Mission Details

Lt. Col Jones will lead Lt. Hill on a fam flight of the area around Al Dhafra. With Lt. Hill's recent conversion to the A-10 and the imminent commencement of hostile action it will also be necessary to evaluate the ability of Lt. Hill to effectively operate the Warthog's navigation and armament systems.

Lt. Colonel Jones will use callsign Gunman 1-1 and Lt. Hill Gunman 2-1.

Aircrew should ensure ATC is contacted before aircraft engine start, taxi and takeoff.

Once airborne Gunman 2-1 will monitor Gunman 1-1 on UHF channel 1 / 260 AM and follow all instructions given.

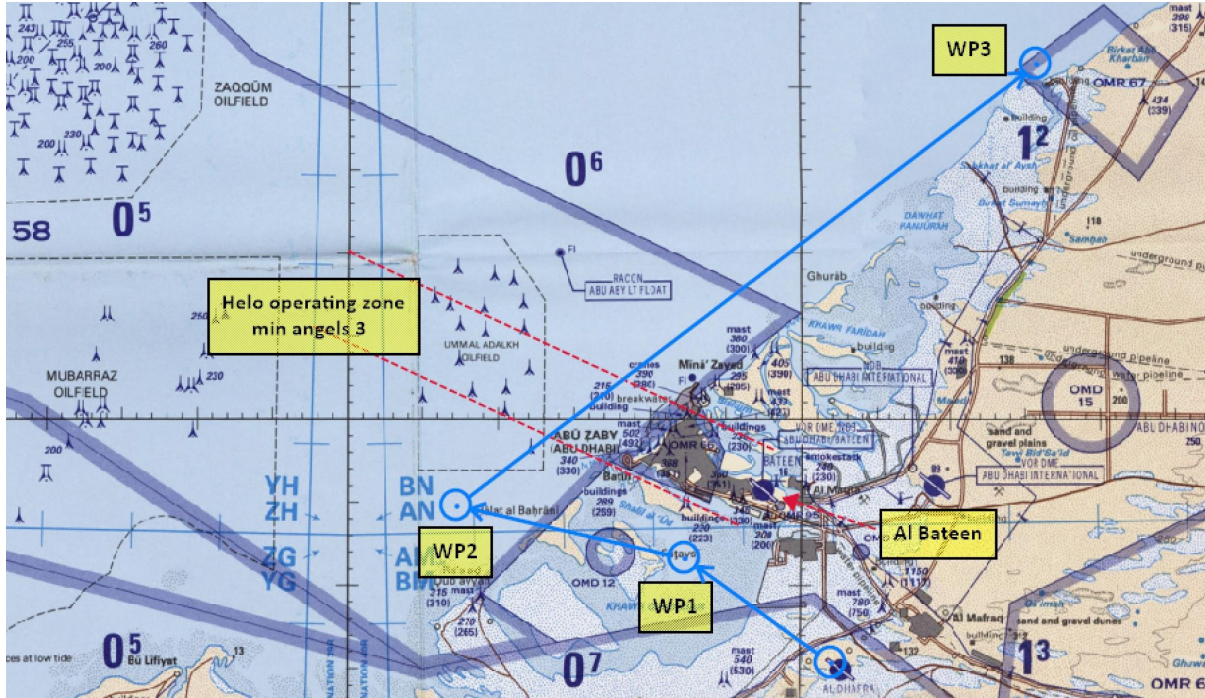
Gunman 2-1 should RV with Gunman 1-1 at WP2 and proceed to WP3. Local landmarks and airspace control procedures will be highlighted and explained.

Once at WP3, Gunman 1-1 will allocate a series of navigation and weapons tests for Gunman 2-1 to complete, all instructions must be followed precisely.

Following the completion of assessments, Gunman 1-1 and 2-1 will return to AL Dhafra. ATC must be contacted and landing clearance obtained once within 10nm of the airbase.

Weapons release authority will be granted by Gunman 1-1 in designated areas only.

Flight Plan



WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes
1	5	230	
2	10	230	RV Gunman 1-1
3	10	230	Commence assessments

Joker Fuel = 2500 lb

Bingo Fuel = 2000 lb

Al Bateen airport has regular commercial traffic to the oil fields, max alt for helos in this area is 2500ft MSL, min angles for military aircraft in this area is angles 3



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Threats

No airborne threats expected.

Iranian EWR sites are active north of Al Dhafra.

SA-6 battery believed to be located at Sirri Island.

DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE FLIGHT PLAN AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DEPART UAE TERRITORY.