



Original Concept By: Christopher Stoner

Date: August 4th 2024

Location: Strait of Hormuz

Playable Side: United States

Duration: 1 Day

Following the July 2024 attack on Gaza, the Islamic Republic of Iran demanded a UN censure of Israel as the 'unprovoked aggressor' in that crisis. Although the measure was enthusiastically supported by several member nations the proposal was swiftly quashed by the US UN Ambassador with a Security Council veto. Frustrated on the international stage, the Iranian President declared a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz until such time as the United States 'allowed the world to speak'.

While only a few years before such an action would have been foolhardy, it would be unwise to discount Iran's ability to make good on its' threat today. In recent years the Americans' international prestige has suffered. In particular, progressively worsening relations with Russia have led to a state of brusque intolerance between the two nations. China has also been at odds with the US over their expansionism in East Asia and trade inequities. Both have worked to increase their influence with Iran, in particular by providing them a new generation of 'defensive armaments', despite the protests of a weakened United States.

The American President is not deterred from standing against the Iranian ultimatum. With only 1 carrier and an amphibious ready group in the region, with little else to support them, he orders a Freedom of Navigation operation through the Straits of Hormuz and authorizes pre-emptive action to guarantee its' success. It's a bold move that will demand the most from the limited forces available to the US Navy, where

success will bolster the flagging prestige of the United States and failure means a massive loss of its' influence in the Middle East.

Situation

The Iranian military is enforcing a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. A handful of tankers transiting the strait have been attacked by air-launched anti-shipping missiles, mines and torpedoes. Large commercial traffic has all but ceased though small coastal vessels are still out in number.

Our Mid East friends are shying away from confronting Iran in this instance. Recent Iranian expansion in ballistic missile capabilities have them concerned. While we retain some overflight rights, basing in countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and even Turkey is not forthcoming.

Enemy Forces

Iran

Being the recipient of Russian and Chinese assistance over the past few years has improved Iranian military capabilities significantly. In particular the incorporation of older, but modern Russian SAMs, such as the the SA-10 and SA-20, to the Iranian IADS is of great concern. Shorter ranged systems like SA-11, SA-13 and SA-15 augment the network along with older HY-2 and SA-6 batteries. Low level defenses include various MANPADS and AAA guns at key locations.

The SAM umbrella protects air bases now housing squadrons of newer MiG-29 and J-7 fighters at Bandar Abbas and Cha Bahar. A newly-operational unit of Chinese-made J-10 fighters and the remaining handful of old US F-14As now fly out of the base at Shiraz. Smaller auxiliary fields such as Jask and Bandar Lengeh host older, legacy MiG-29s. Strike capability is primarily the job of F-4E Phantoms at Bandar Abbas and Su-24s out of Shiraz - both are capable of launching anti-shipping missiles.

Naval assets include several Kilo-class conventional submarines, which have been recently augmented with a second batch of improved hulls to complement those received in the 1990s. The Chinese-made Houbei-class missile boats have recently joined the Iranian fleet along with other older Chinese-supplied PCMs. The Navy also operates several batteries of land-based, mobile anti-shipping missile batteries, which are thought to be covering the Strait itself.

Of particular concern is the deployment of naval mines in the Strait itself. Intelligence indicates that the approaches to Bandar Abbas are heavily mined, while mines in the Strait's transit lanes appear to be only less concentrated.

Surface

- P 313-1 Fath [Thondor Type 021 Houdong]
- Toragh [Boghammar Mod]

- Type 022 Houbei

Air

- Boeing 707-3J9C Boom/Drogue Tanker
- F-14A Tomcat [F-14AM]
- F-4E Phantom II
- Il-38N May
- J-10A Vigorous Dragon
- J-7IIH Fishbed [MiG-21 Copy]
- Ka-27PL Helix A
- MiG-29 Fulcrum A
- P-3F Orion
- Su-24M Fencer D

Submarine

- PL-877EKM Kilo

Ground

- AAA Bty (100mm KS-19 Auto [Sair] x 4, GFCR)
- AAA Bty (14.5mm/79 ZPU-4 Quad x 4)
- AAA Plt/2 (23mm ZSU-23-4 Shilka x 2)
- AAA Plt/3 (23mm ZU-23-2 x 2)
- AAA Sec (35mm Twin Oerlikon x 2)
- AAA Sec (35mm Twin Oerlikon x 2, Skyguard FCR)
- Radar (AN/TPS-70)
- Radar (China JY-14 Great Wall)
- Radar (Tin Shield A [5N59])
- SAM Bn (HQ-2b)
- SAM Bn (SA-10a Grumble [S-300PT-1])
- SAM Bn (SA-20a Gargoyle [S-300PM-1])
- SAM Bn (SA-6a Gainful [2K12E Kvadrat])
- SAM Plt (HN-5A MANPADS x 4)
- SAM Plt (RBS 70 Mk1 MANPADS x 3)
- SAM Plt (SA-11 Gadfly [9K37 Buk-M1])
- SAM Plt (SA-13 Gopher [9K35 Strela-10])
- SAM Sec (SA-16 Gimlet [9K310 Igla-1] MANPADS x 3)
- SSM Bn (C-704 [Nasr])
- SSM Bn (C-802)

Friendly Forces

Due to other current operations, it will be at least 48 hours before additional forces can be expected to arrive. This is the combat operational debut of the F-35B - it would be very unfortunate to lose any of these aircraft to hostile action - but their capabilities should prove useful. TLAMs are available though a number of those onboard ship have been sequestered for later use.

Surface

Bush CSG

- CVN 77 George Bush [CVN 77 George Bush [Nimitz Class]]
- CG 56 San Jacinto [CG 56 San Jacinto [Ticonderoga Baseline 3, VLS]]
- DDG 76 Higgens [DDG 72 Mahan [Arleigh Burke Flight II]]
- DDG 92 Momsen [DDG 91 Pinckney [Arleigh Burke Flight IIA]]
- T-AOE 8 Arctic [AOE 6 Supply]

America ARG

- LHA 6 America [LHA 6 America [Flight 0, Assault-Optimized Makin Island]]
- LSD 46 Tortuga [LSD 41 Whidbey Island]
- LPD 20 Green Bay [LPD 17 San Antonio]
- DDG 65 Benfold [DDG 51 Arleigh Burke [Arleigh Burke Flight I]]

Zumwalt SAG

- DDG 1000 Zumwalt [DDG 1000 Zumwalt]
- DDG 99 Farragut [DDG 96 Bainbridge [Arleigh Burke Flight IIA]]
- LCS 11 Sioux City [LCS 1 Freedom]
- LCS 6 Jackson [LCS 2 Independence]

Air

CVN 77 George Bush

- HSC-9 Tridents (4 x MH-60S Knighthawk)
- HSM-70 Spartans (6 x MH-60R Seahawk)
- VAQ-131 Lancers (4 x EA-18G Growler)
- VAW-124 Bear Aces (4 x E-2C Hawkeye 2000)
- VFA-213 Black Lions (12 x F/A-18F Super Hornet)
- VFA-31 Tomcatters (12 x F/A-18E Super Hornet)
- VFA-37 Bulls (12 x F/A-18C Hornet)
- VFA-87 Golden Warriors (12 x F/A-18E Super Hornet)
- VRC-40 Det 1 Rawhides (2 x C-2A(R) Greyhound)

T-AOE 8 Arctic

- HSC-22 Sea Knights Det 8 (2 x MH-60S Knighthawk)

DDG 92 Momsen

- HSM-48 Vipers Det 92 (2 x MH-60R Seahawk)

CG 56 San Jacinto

- HSC-22 Sea Knights Det 56 (1 x MH-60S Knighthawk)
- HSM-48 Vipers Det 56 (1 x MH-60R Seahawk)

LHA 6 America

- HM-14 Vanguard (4 x MH-53E Sea Dragon)
- HMLA-169 Vipers (7 x AH-1Z Viper [Super Cobra])
- HMLA-169 Vipers (7 x UH-1Y Venom [Huey])
- HSC-23 Wildcards Det 6 (2 x MH-60S Knighthawk)
- VMFA-122 Flying Leathernecks (6 x F-35B Lightning II)
- VMM-161 Greyhawks (12 x MV-22B Osprey)

LPD 20 Green Bay

- HMH-462 Heavy Haulers (2 x CH-53E Super Stallion)

LCS 11 Sioux City

- HSM-46 Grandmasters Det 11 (1 x MH-60R Seahawk)
- HSM-46 Grandmasters UAV Det 11 (1 x MQ-8B Fire Scout UAV)

LCS 6 Jackson

- HSM-46 Grandmasters Det 6 (1 x MH-60R Seahawk)
- HSM-46 Grandmasters UAV Det 6 (1 x MQ-8B Fire Scout UAV)

Diego Garcia AB

- 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (6 x KC-135R Stratotanker)
- VP-6 Tigers (3 x P-8A Poseidon)
- VUP-19 Big Red (4 x MQ-4C Triton UAV [Global Hawk Mod])

Djibouti AB

- VMGR-352 Raiders (3 x KC-130J Hercules)
- VUP-19 Big Red (4 x MQ-4C Triton UAV [Global Hawk Mod])

Submarine

- SSN 775 Texas [SSN 774 Virginia [Flight I]]

Mission

Break the Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Logistics

The political consequences of US pilots falling into the hands of the Iranian military would be far reaching and detrimental to the success of the overall operation. Therefore retrieval of downed pilots is a high priority.

Operation Brass Drum, 2017 - Command v1.04 - Build 1147.52

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Auto EngageTargetManual Engage TargetPlot CourseThrottle & AltitudeFormation EditorMagazinesAircraft OperationsBoat OperationsMounts & WeaponsSensorsSystems & DamageUnit / Group DoctrineMission Editor

Time: viernes, 4 de agosto de 2017 - Zulu: 10:00:00 - Local: 14:00:00 - 1 d to go - Camera Alt: 1122534m

Selected:
1x MQ-4C Triton UAV [Global Hawk Mod]

Message Log

Group View ▶ 15 sec ▶ 1 min ▶ 5 min ▶ 15 min

UNIT STATUS

VUP-19 Big Red #4

Regular

MQ-4C Triton UAV [Global Hawk Mod]
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

Unit Message Log

Loadout: Recon [Internal EO/IR/SAR]

Side: United States

Course: 271 deg

Speed:
TAS 338 kts (M 0.59)
Gnd 338 kts (Loiter)

Altitude: 60000 ft ASL

Damage: 0.0%

Damage Ctrl

Systems:
Assigned base: Djibouti AB
Status: Unassigned (Airborne)

SensorsWeapons

UNIT ALT / SPEED

UNIT

AltThrottle

Manual - Set Auto

Max Altitude

Hover

High Altitude (36000 ft)

Loiter

High Altitude (25000 ft)

Cruise

Medium Altitude (12000 ft)

Military

Low Altitude (2000 ft)

Airborne

Low Altitude (1000 ft)

Min Altitude

UNIT WEAPONS

4x AN/ALE-50 [RT-1646/ALE]

UNIT FUEL

VUP-19 Big Red #4

3521.0 kg total fuel, 15 hr 38 min, 5282.6 nm
2736 kg mission fuel, 785.0 kg reserve
3.8 kg / minute fuel burn rate
1634.5 kg to Bingo fuel, 6 hr 49 min, 2302.3 nm
1488.0 nm to base: Djibouti AB
0 flying time

UNIT EMCON

EMCON Window (Ctrl + F9)

Sensors Window (F9)