

Kiowa: Operation Silent Thunder

Mission 02: Fish Barrel

Date/Time: 03 AUG 2006 1930UTC (2330LT)



Weather:	Clear	Temp:	29°C /85°F	Sunrise:	0551LT
Visibility:	Unlimited	Cloud base:	2,500ft	Wind:	GRND 229°, 2 m/s
QNH:	29.98				2000m 225°, 6 m/s

Situation

Through strong intelligence gathering, the team identified the Lieutenant you tracked yesterday as Rashid Elsayed aka "The Butcher". Elsayed is a favored henchman of "The Shadow" and often receives high profile assignments from who we now understand is his uncle. Tonight, Elsayad arranged a meeting with a notorious arms dealer and local Beirut business owner, Hamza Faheem. The two HVT's are suspected to meet at the Hippodrome in central Beirut. This is where you tracked the Lieutenant in your last meeting. The purpose of their rendezvous tonight according to intel we gathered from our special operations team is to discuss the logistics of transporting a new shipment of materials crucial for manufacturing explosives. This meeting appears to be a critical one for expanding their operational capabilities and planning their next attack.

Hamza Faheem is a prominent Beirut businessman who has been covertly supporting Hezbollah's terrorist activities for years. He imports materials such as electronics and casings for bomb-making under the guise of his legitimate electronics business named Taqniat Al-Ru'ya or in English "Vision Technologies". Operating from his well-established storefront in East-Central Beirut, Faheem has long provided essential supplies, including detonators and specialized circuits, camouflaging them within shipments of electronic goods. His unwavering support for Hezbollah spans decades, driven by deep-seated ideological alignment and financial incentives, making him a pivotal figure in facilitating the group's operational capabilities while maintaining the facade of a respectable entrepreneur. The U.S. Government has had their eyes on him in the past 6 months suspecting he may have had some involvement with the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Our Beirut special forces team, codenamed "Condor", has tracked Faheem and Elsayed's movements for several weeks. Our team is currently positioned on a rooftop across the street from the Hippodrome surveilling Elsayed. Faheem's entourage arrived at the safehouse 30 minutes ago. The operators noted the arrival of several SUVs indicating something larger and more nefarious might be underway.



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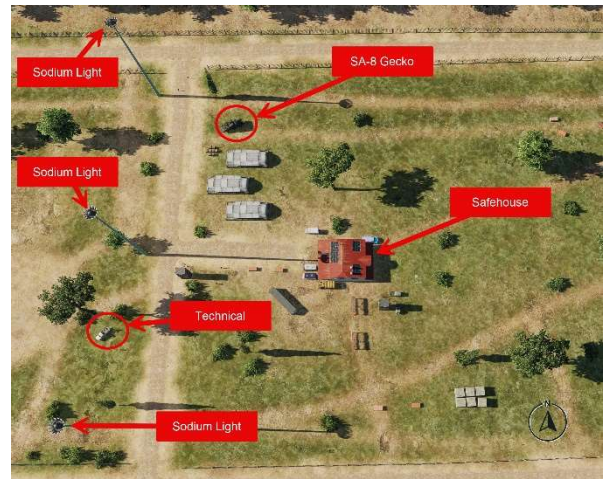
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Rashid Elsayed's paranoia is likely in full force after yesterday's brush with the Assassins. Although he couldn't identify the origin of our Kiowa's, they undoubtedly suspect our surveillance. Given this suspicion, we expect a heightened security posture around the safehouse. Late yesterday afternoon, a satellite pass captured an SA-8 Russian "Gecko" in the safehouse's courtyard. This changes the tenor of our operation from intelligence gathering to surgical strike. We must maintain air superiority for our Assassins and therefore cannot allow this air defense equipment within our sphere of influence.



Blue Task

Your first objective must be to neutralize the SAM site to eliminate losing one of our birds. This would be a major set back to our operations in the area. The last thing we need to be concerned with is conducting SAR operations in the middle of Beirut and detonating one of our downed aircraft in a populated area.

This operation is at night and while the moon is setting, this operation takes place in a well lit area of a major metropolitan city. While the SA-8 is a short range air defense unit, its range is up to 6 miles and 15,000 ft altitude. You'll be well within its reach by the time you are feet dry. Operations is telling us its best to approach the safehouse from the South and recommend blending in with the radar noise generated by the International Airport (WP01). From there travel North via one of two routes. The Westerly route is named Ardvark while the Easterly one Possum. Each route brings you into optimal engagement zones where you can identify, lase and engage the targets. Stay low and maintain stealth as much as possible. Remember, we know there's at least one SAM on site. Stay alert to the possibility of additional SAMs in and around the AO. The known SA-8's location is in your targeting computers as Target 3. Target 1 and Target 2 mark Route Ardvark and Possum respectively.



This will need to be a precision strike. As soon as you destroy the SAM site, you will need to target the safe house and level it. Any delay in acquiring the safe house and taking it out will give our targets time to escape. As soon as you strike the safe house, you are cleared hot to engage any insurgents around the Hippodrome since there is sufficient space to avoid civilian casualties, but make it quick if you decide to engage. We do not want a full on battle ensuing to wake up half the town. RTB to the ship for debrief once your objectives are complete.

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MISSION: Eliminate any/all SAM units and destroy “The Butcher’s” hippodrome safehouse

Mission Elements

- [-01-] Cold start from Tarawa
- [-02-] Travel to Beirut International Airport (WP01)
- [-03-] Wait for Condor’s release into AO (Special Operators)
- [-04-] Decide on proper route (Ardvark or Possum) to engage AO
- [-05-] Eliminate Air Defense units from safehouse courtyard
- [-06-] Return to Tarawa

RED assets

We are aware of Russian SAM unit(s) in the hippodrome courtyard. Besides surface to air threats, we are aware of insurgent foot traffic with small arms and occasional RPGs.

