

Operation: Desert Guardian

Mission 2: Rendezvous



CLEARWAY

06/01/2020 Al Dhafra AFB, UAE

Tonight marked the close of my first day of flying over the Persian Gulf, and I've got a lot on my mind. The thrill of being back in the cockpit something else. Flying the F/A-18C over the vast expanse of the Strait of Hormuz, it felt like a dream. There's a certain magic in the air, a connection with the machine, the sky, and the mission.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith, or Rocket 1-1 as they call him, is one impressive airman. His command of the sortie, his knowledge of the area, it's nothing short of inspiring. Today's flight was a familiarization one, but Smith made it clear that there's more to the Persian Gulf than what meets the eye. The man knows this region like the back of his hand.

Despite Smith's expertise, there's an underlying tension. Maybe it's the difference in branches or something deeper. His subtle comments about the Navy "taking over the area" didn't go unnoticed. He might have a point, though. The Air Force has been in the region since 2002, and here I am, a Navy guy, getting accustomed to the surroundings. It's like stepping onto someone else's turf, and Smith isn't shy about expressing his sentiments.

Speaking of tensions, there are whispers circulating about something happening to the shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz. Nobody seems to have the full picture yet, just vague murmurs. The uncertainty is unsettling, especially when the Strait is our primary patrol area. It's a reminder of the volatility of the region, and I can't help but wonder what challenges the next mission might bring.

In any case, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be back in the cockpit, to be a part of this coalition effort, and to contribute to something larger than myself. Tomorrow's mission over the strait has an air of mystery about it, but I'm ready for whatever comes our way. Until then, signing off.

Mission Briefing

Welcome to the Desert

Mission Start: 06/01/2020 0300 Zulu

Situation

Enemy

Iran Civil War Status

- No Changes -

Iran Government Status

- No Changes -

Notable Events

Hijacking of Tanker "Marah"

Tanker Name: Marah

Date: 06/01/2020

Time: 1742 Zulu

Incident Overview:

On the specified date and time, the commercial tanker "Marah" was hijacked in a targeted operation by unidentified perpetrators in the Persian Gulf. The incident occurred within the context of the ongoing civil war and political instability in Iran.

Method of Hijacking:

The hostile forces employed a tactic of masquerading as the Iranian Coast Guard. This deceptive strategy allowed them to approach the tanker without raising immediate suspicion. The hostile forces ordered the Marah to stop for an inspection, citing security concerns in the region. The vessel complied, unaware of the true intent behind the interception. Once the Marah had come to a halt, the hostile forces issued threats, indicating that non-compliance with their directives would lead to severe consequences. Their operation suggests a level of coordination and planning.

Ransom Demand:

Following the hijacking, the perpetrators have communicated a ransom demand of \$15,000,000. This demand reflects a growing trend in the region where illicit actors exploit the chaos for financial gains.

Crew Situation:

The status and well-being of the crew onboard the "Marah" remain uncertain. The hijackers' motives and potential actions against the crew are subjects of concern.

Enemy Forces

- No Changes -

Friendly Forces

- No Changes -

Campaign Objective

To restore stability and security in the Persian Gulf region amidst the ongoing civil war in Iran, neutralize terrorist and insurgent threats, safeguard maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, and support the reestablishment of governmental control.

- No Changes -

Mission

Objective

1. Conduct a patrol over the Strait of Hormuz to ensure the safety of maritime traffic and respond to potential threats from insurgent and terrorist groups.
2. Link up with Carrier Strike Group 9.

End State:

The completion of the mission aims to provide enhanced security and stability in the Strait of Hormuz by ensuring the safety of maritime traffic, responding to potential threats from insurgent and terrorist groups, therefore giving security guarantees to the shipping companies operating in the AO.

Execution

Route

WP	Name	Grid	Alt.	Remarks
1	WP 1	40 R CN 73982 48103	20000	
2	PT 1	40 R DP 49815 37099	20000	Patrol Start
3	PT 2	40 R DQ 47773 37843	20000	Patrol End
4	CVN	40 R EN 63936 28269	0	Est. CVN Pos.
5	B/E	40 R DQ 46693 93763	474	Bullseye

Map



Time on Target

- Mission commencement at 0700 hours local time.
- Expected completion within 1.5 hours, with flexibility for adjustments based on the operational requirements.

Loadout

Station	Amount	Armament	SMS
1	1	AIM-9X	9X
2	1	AGM-65 F	MAVF
3	1	FPU-8A Tank 330Gal	FUEL
4	-	AN/AAQ-228 ATFLIR	ATFLIR
5	1	FPU-8A Tank 330Gal	FUEL
6	-	-	-
7	1	FPU-8A Tank 330Gal	FUEL
8	1	AGM-65 F	MAVF
9	-	AIM-9X	9X
Cannon	578	HEI-T	
Flare	90		
Chaff	30		

Weights

Empty	26,934 lbs.
Max Internal Fuel	10,803 lbs.
MTW	51,899 lbs.
Onboard Fuel	10,803 lbs.
Additional Fuel	6,732 lbs.
Total Fuel	17,535 lbs.
Total Loadout	2,319 lbs.
TOW	46,788 lbs.
T/O Trim	12° (Field)

Packages

Flight		Callsign	Airframe	Notes	
	1 Lead	Rocket 11	F-15E S4+		
	2 Wing	Ragin 21	F/A-18C Lot 20		
	3 Element				
Package	4 Wing				
	Callsign	A/C Type	UHF	TACAN	Task
	Magic	E-3A	246 AM	-	AWACS
	Arco	KC-135MPRS	257 AM	45Y	Refuel
	Karim 2	M2000C	263 AM	-	CAP
	Raven 8	Tornado	265 AM	-	Patrol

Command and Signal

Mission Command
Magic

Tactical (Comm 1)			Support (Comm 2)		
CHL	Freq.	Name	CHL	Freq.	Name
1	305 AM	TAC 1	1	251 AM	OMAM Twr
2	246 AM	Magic	2	257 AM	Arco
3	129.5 AM	Mother	3	127.5 AM	MAM ATIS

