"The Pebble of Discord : A Mirage Story" is a fictional story-driven 8 mission campaign for the Mirage 2000C, fully voiced-over, taking place in 1992 in the Persian Gulf between UAE and Iran about Abu Musa island.

Mods needed : M-2000C, Persian Gulf map.

Real historical context

Abu Musa is like a pebble in the sea. It is a tiny island less than 13 km² but strategic due to its potentials oil fields and its position in the Strait of Hormuz halfway between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

January 1968. UK announced that it would withdraw all its forces from the Persian Gulf by the end of 1971. At that time the sheikdom of Sharjah (later part of the UAE not still created) controlled Abu Musa. However, Iran contested this sovereignty.

November 1971. With no other way to prevent a total invasion of Abu Musa, Sharjah accepted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Iran for the joint administration of the island, granting to the first the local police, to the second the presence of military forces and to both the sharing of oil revenues.
One day after the signature, an Iranian contingent landed on Abu Musa in accordance with the MoU. But this military presence, the Iranian flag hoisted at the top of the Haifa mountain (the highest point in Abu Musa) and the words of the Iranian Prime Minister about the sovereignty of his country on the island looked more like an occupation than a fair sharing.

December 1971. UAE was created including the emirate of Sharjah.

During the next two decades, supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), UAE protested to the United Nations in vain :
Until the 1979 Revolution, Iran was an essential ally for USA in the Gulf so Americans didn't want to get involved.
From 1981 to 1988 the focus was on the Iran-Iraq War.
In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait leading to the first Gulf War six month later.
In short, so many reasons to defer the affair of Abu Musa.

March-April 1992. Iran expelled foreigners from Abu Musa. These workers (mainly from South Asia) were running the UAE-sponsored school, medical clinic, and power-generating station. Then Iran asserted its full control of the island.

Situation

June 1992. Negotiations are underway between UAE and Iran to find a peaceful outcome. But UAE fear it is a fool's game and suspect Iran to build up military capabilities on the island, including constructing an airport and upgrading port facilities.
The Iranian stranglehold and the ground troops on Abu Musa are mainly infringements on the UAE's amour-propre. But possible air and naval bases 70 km from the UAE's coast are intolerable direct threats.

To face all eventualities United Arab Emirates Air Force (**UAEAF**) is on alert. It's a well-trained but modest force using 36 Mirage 2000s ordered in 1983 and based at Al Dhafra.
Across the Gulf, despite the end of American support in 1979 and losses due to the war with Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (**IRIAF**) is a potent opponent. It still has tens of F-5s, F-4s and F-14s purchased during the Shah's regime but also around 30 MiG-29s delivered in 90-91 by Russia, the new partner of Iran. Furthermore, many IRIAF's pilots are veterans, harden by 7 years of war with Iraq. Bandar Abbas is the closest Iranian air base to Abu Musa.

UAE are walking on eggshells. They can't match Iran in a general conflict. Especially as their neighbors and historic allies seem reluctant to get involved. So, escalation must be limited.

Advice

- In all missions, the <u>operational</u> instructions are clearly explained in the docs or via the radio discussions. For

everything else (preflight setting, startup, takeoff, landing, ...) of course you are fully autonomous and must use the standard procedures and communications.

- Al Dhafra is your home base. Al Minhad (housing a Hawk squadron), closer to Abu Musa can be used as a diversion base for refueling if needed.

References

The content of the "Real historical context" paragraph is a short but real summary of this period (as far as I know ...).
Overall, the 1992 status of the two air forces described in the "Situation" paragraph is also correct. To be more precise, in

1983, UAE purchased 22 single-seat Mirage 2000EADs, 8 single-seat Mirage 2000RADs (reconnaissance), and 6 dual-seat Mirage 2000DADs (training), for a total order of 36 aircraft. These versions use a RDM radar and some specific (Italian) ECM equipment. The RAD has no built-in camera or sensor but can use 3 pods (SLAR 2000, COR-2 and AA-3-38 HAROLD) for recon missions ; moreover it can also assume air combat or strike roles.

To do

Copy "The Pebble of Discord (A Mirage Story)" folder into
C:\Users\<your name>\Saved Games\DCS\Missions\Campaigns

You probably already know it but if you are not a Mirage 2000 veteran, download the excellent Chuck's guide :
https://www.mudspike.com/chucks-guides-dcs-mirage-2000c/