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**(U) OPERATIONS ORDER 235-2015-12 (Mission 13 – Juggernaut Pt.2):**

**(S) A-10C Sortie Hawg Flight is Tasked with Destroying Armor Units at Vanziani AB.**

**(S) Task Organization:** JSOC / Operational Commander, Hawg Flight Lead, Hawg Flight Wingman.

**I. Situation**

(S) Hawg Flight is tasked with destroying armor units at Vanziani AB. Hawg Flight will be available for CAS operations as requested in the AOR. Hawg Flight is tasked with providing CAS for Friendly Forces conducting Rescue Operations at Tbilisi as requested.

(U) On Christmas Day, 25 December 2015, Al-Doran and Special Purpose Islamic Army forces conducted a coordinated string of terrorist attacks across Georgia and Russia. There were five suicide bombings and attacks in Moscow, with approximately 521 casualties; the death toll is still rising at the time of this report. At the time of the Moscow terrorist attacks, enemy forces attacked Beslan Airbase and an army depot in Russia. In Georgia, Tbilisi-Lochini Airport was attacked and there are approximately 260 hostages. Vaziani Air Force Base was also attacked and is occupied by terrorist forces at the time of this report.

(S) The current situation at Tbilisi Airport has become deadly, intel estimates 75-100 Al-Doran extremists are present at the airport. The terrorists have encircled the interior perimeter of the airport with armored vehicles, planted explosives throughout the terminal buildings, and have approximately 260 hostages. The terrorists are demanding the US release all prisoners from the TIF at FOB Suse or they will kill one hostage an hour. At the time of this report, 3 hours have passed since the demand, and 3 hostages have been killed. Coalition forces are at a severe disadvantage for this mission, and have limited resources in Eastern Georgia. The enemy has armor, explosives, line of sight in all directions, and known to detonate suicide vests and explosives for their cause. Georgian government officials have authorized Russian Spetsnaz to participate in the rescue operation.

**A. Enemy Forces**

(U) 1. Weather conditions in the AOR are variable with high temperature in the high 30's. Partly cloudy conditions are most likely. Moonlight illumination is 1/6 strength within the next 24-48 hours.

(U) 2. Terrain: The region consists of heavily forested areas, man-made and natural obstacles, urban areas, and variable elevation.

(U) 3. Identification of enemy forces: Al-Doran and Rebel forces will range from semi-skilled militia fighters in mixed military gear, to highly skilled infantry and anti-tank personnel with full body armor and light to heavy weapons. Armored assets and motorized infantry units have been spotted in the region. Fixed wing Air Support for the enemy is not likely. However, rotary assets are possible.

(S) 4. Location(s): Enemy forces have occupied Tbilisi International Airport and Vanziani AB.

(S) 5. Activity: Enemy activity in the region is on-going and imminent. 75-100 Al-Doran fighters have control of the Tbilisi Airport. In addition, enemy armor units are encircled around Tbilisi Airport. Al-

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Doran forces have overtaken Georgian forces at Vanziani AB. Enemy forces have multiple armor units occupying Vanziani AB.

(S) 6. Strength: Exact strength of the enemy force in the Target AO is estimated between 150-200 fighters. Expect company, platoon, and squad size troop levels throughout the region. Morale of the enemy forces is very high. Enemy equipment ranges from small arms, crew-served weapons, heavy machine guns, anti-tank weapons, and light to heavy armor. The enemy force is believed to have the capability to reinforce key terrain within 4-6 hours with platoon to company size units.

(U) 7. Probable course(s) of action when the enemy is contacted: Enemy units at Tbilisi are expected hold their positions, kill hostages, and possibly detonate explosives throughout the airport. Many fighters have been observed wearing IED vests. Armor units at Vanziani are expected to reinforce Tbilisi fighters once rescue operations begin. Rules of Engagement are Weapons Free on confirmed enemy forces once cleared. Contact Command for authorization for force on non-positive identified forces in the region.

**B. Friendly Forces**

(S) 1. Mission and concept of next higher unit:

(S) Cowboy (US Army; Delta Force, Russian Defense Forces; Spetsnaz Alpha Group, SF Units):  
(Callsign: Cowboy)

2 x Team Leader (with laser designator), 26 x Operators, 4 x Grenadier, 6 x Medic, 4 x Support Gunner, 8 x Demolition Specialist

(S) Lonestar (British Army; Special Air Service, Georgia; Georgian Special Forces Brigade, SF Units): (Callsign: Lonestar)

2 x Team Leader (with laser designator), 70 x Operators, 4 x Grenadier, 7 x Medic, 4 x Support Gunner, 8 x Demolition Specialist

(S) Blackjack (US Army, 75<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rangers, SF Unit): (Callsign: Blackjack)

1 x Team Leader (with laser designator), 30 x Operators, 4 x Grenadier, 2 x Medic, 4 x Support Gunner, 6 x Demo Experts (Units will use 4 x Cobra IFV, 2 x HMMWV, 1 x Striker IFV, 3 x Bradley IFV vehicles for transport)

(S) Panther (USAF; Pararescueman; Combat Controllers, Georgia; Georgian Special Forces Brigade, SF Unit): (Callsign: Panther)

3 x Team Leader (with laser designator), 24 x Operators, 16 x Pararescuemen, 6 x Combat Controllers, 4 x Support Gunner, 6 x Demolition Specialist (Units will use 4 x MI-8's for transport)

(S) Reaper Flight (Close Air Support, 4 x AH-64D) (Callsign: Reaper-1)

8 x Crew (Reaper Flight) (Flight Lead): (Reaper-1)

(S) Hawg Flight (Close Air Support): (Callsign: Hawg 1-1)

4 x A-10C pilots (Hawg Flight) (Flight Lead): (Hawg 1-1)

(S) Blade Flight (USAF Transport, 2 x C-17) (Callsign: Blade 1-2)

16 x Crew (Blade Flight) (Flight Lead): (Blade 1-2)

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(S) 2. Location and planned actions of units; Hawg Flight will depart Kutaisi AB and follow the established flight plan at Angels 18 to WP1 (HOLD). Cowboy is located in 4 x train passenger cars near Terminal Alpha at the Tbilisi Airport. Cowboy is tasked with capturing Terminal Alpha and Delta. Lonestar will HALO drop over Tbilisi Airport. Lonestar is tasked with capturing Terminal Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. Blackjack is located near Soganjug AB. Blackjack is tasked with destroying perimeter armor and enemy units around Tbilisi Airport. Panther is located at a holding area West of Tbilisi Airport. Panther is tasked with providing medical care and air traffic control for Tbilisi Airport. Reaper Flight is located at a holding area West of Tbilisi Airport. Reaper Flight is tasked with providing CAS for forces assaulting Tbilisi Airport. Units providing fire support as directed: Hawg Flight (CAS)

### **C. Attachments/Detachments**

(U) Attachment: Multiple Coalition Forces

## **II. Mission**

(S)(1) Destroy armor units at Vaziani Air Base.

(S)(2) Provide support for Friendly Forces performing hostage rescue operations at Tbilisi-Lochini Airport.

(S)(3) Complete tasks as directed by the Ground Commanders conducting rescue operations in the region.

## **III. Execution**

### **Intent**

(U) The immediate rescue of hostages located at Tbilisi Airport. Neutralize enemy forces at Tbilisi Airport and Vanziani Air Base.

#### **A. Concept of the Operation:**

(S) The sortie will be conducted during nighttime hours. Follow your established flight path to WP1 (HOLD). Once Hawg Flight is in the Target AO (WP1) Blade 1-2 and 1-3 will begin their approach to Tbilisi Airport. Once over the Tbilisi Airport; Lonestar will HALO drop on the Tbilisi tarmac and initiate the CODEWORD: JUGGERNAUT over the radio net. Lonestar will assault Terminal Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie.

(S) Once JUGGERNAUT is announced; Cowboy will begin their assault on Terminal Alpha and Delta. Blackjack will begin their assault from Soganjug AB via 9 x IFVs and assault armor and enemy perimeter forces. Panther will begin their ingress via 4 x MI-8's to specified LZs and setup Casualty Collection Points West of the Tbilisi terminals, and initiate the air traffic control operations for Tbilisi. Panther will assist with assaulting Tbilisi terminals if requested by Cowboy or Lonestar.

(S) Hawg Flight will engage approximately twenty (20) armored vehicles positioned at Vanziani AB once JUGGERNAUT is announced. Enemy armor forces at Vanziani are expected to reinforce Tbilisi once the assault / rescue operation begins.

(S) Reaper Flight will engage enemy armor at Tbilisi Airport once JUGGERNAUT is announced over the radio net.

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(S) Slam-1 will be positioned 80 KM's West of the Target AO for CAP support if required.

**B. Tasks to Maneuver Units**

(S) CSAR assets are on alert and positioned at FOB Suse. Utilize emergency radio if ejected and on the ground. Follow SERE SOP for the AOR. Whiplash-1 will task assets for search and rescue or support for DURESS calls from friendly forces in the AO. Always announce when crossing into another teams AOR or Sector to avoid friendly fire.

**C. Tasks to Combat Support Units**

(S) CAS Flights will provide CAS as directed by ground force commanders.

**D. Coordinating Instructions**

(S) Team leaders will coordinate what movement speed, type of formation, and rules of engagement for their respective members. Whiplash-1 and ground commander may dictate diversion in plans depending on the battlefield situation.

**IV. Service Support**

(S) Kutaisi Air Base is the main service and support airport for fixed wing assets in the AOR. Soganjug Air Base is the designated alternate airfield in the AOR for this operation. Whiplash-1 will task CSAR assets from FOB Suse or COP Moto with additional CASEVAC transport if required. Texaco 1-1 (KC-135) is on-station in the AO for aerial refueling.

**A. General**

(S) RV Soganjug AB with CASEVAC patients.

**B. Material and Services**

(S) Contact Hotel (CP) for resupply needs.

**C. Medical Evacuation:**

(S) CSAR assets are on alert and positioned at various locations throughout the AO. Utilize emergency radio if ejected and on the ground. Follow SERE SOP for the AOR.

**D. Personnel:**

(S) EPW's will be transported to FOB SUSE and held at the TIF Cropper.

**E. Miscellaneous:**

(S) Special equipment. Biometrics scanner, Tear Gas. Advanced Reconnaissance Equipment.

**V. Command & Signal**

**A. Command**

(S) Hotel (CP) (Whiplash-1) has overall command of the region. Cowboy has overall command of ground forces in the Tbilisi AO. Hawg Flight Leader has overall command of Hawg Flight personnel for this sortie.

**B. Signal**

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(S) Main Communications will be portable and long range encrypted radio signals. Ground teams must meet with the COMSEC NCOIC to ensure CCI keys are current before mission start. (Will be present at airstrip on FOB SUSE)

Frequency: 251.000 UHF (Interflight and Command Communications)

Frequency: 135.000 VHF AM (Air-to-Air, Fire Direction Center)

Frequency: 33.000 VHF FM (Ground Operations)

(S) Loss of communications:

(S) Ground forces: Deploy WHITE smoke if in need of immediate help, with no communications. Closest friendly unit will backup team in duress. Inter-personal communications devices and manual hand and arm signals should be used by team for movements. Fixed wing assets: Return to Kutaisi Air Base. Fly upwind of airfield and flare six times to alert ground forces you are without radio communications. Tower will utilize light gun and give further instructions for landing. Pilot must be with 1.5 km's of airfield for proper utilization of manual / alternate communication methods.

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