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**(U) OPERATIONS ORDER 004-2015-11 (Mission 11 – Ghosts of Anaconda):**

**(S) F-15E Sortie CAS Support for Task Force Mountain forces under Duress near the village of Mestia**

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

**I. Situation**

(S) Hawg Flight (4 x F-15E Flight) is tasked with providing CAS for Task Force Mountain forces under duress in the Mestia AO. Task Force Mountain consists of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 75<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger, and other SF units. Task Force Mountain was tasked with an air assault raid on a prevelant enemy training base camp in the Mestia AO. During the early morning hours, four platoons from the 101st Airborne Division conducted an air assault raid via six CH-47's on a terrorist training camp in Mestia, a mountainous border area. During the assault, the weather turned nasty, and the LZ's for two of the CH-47's Callsign Raider-1-1 and Raider 2-1 was heavily fortified. Raider 1-1 took a direct SAM hit, and the Raider 2-1 took RPG and heavy weapons fire. Both crash sites are at elevated positions; friendly forces have multiple friendly casualties, taking continuous heavy weapons fire, mortar fire, and are trapped with little cover. The remaining four chawks had to divert to an alternate LZ seven clicks west of the enemy training camp, and are essentially cut off from reinforcing friendlies at the elevated crash sites. Mega 4-5 (USAF Tactical Air Control Party) is located at the SE crashsite and has workable communications. Hawg Flight will be available for CAS operations as requested by Mega 4-5 in the AOR. Savior 2-1 (USAF CSAR) assets (4 x UH-60's) are enroute from FOB Suse to Mestia to assist with CASEVAC and Rescue operations in the AO.

(S) Russian Defense forces were not been notified of the Task Force Mountain operation in Mestia. Possible Russian CAP assets may be present in the AO. US Coalition Command Elements are currently in contact with Russian Defense forces to notify them of the situation. More information will be available as the situation unfolds; Whiplash-1 will give updates to Hawg Flight as information becomes available.

**A. Enemy Forces**

(U) 1. Weather conditions in the AOR consist of heavy snow storms with high temperatures in the high 20's. Heavy cloud conditions have been observed throughout the region. Moonlight illumination is 1/4 strength within the next 24-48 hours.

(U) 2. Terrain: The region consists of high mountain ridges, 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, anti-air assets, artillery units, 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 been spotted by reconnaissance assets occupying various cities and villages near Mestia. The original enemy camp target is located at grid coordinates; LN 07676 78140. Mega 4-5 is located at the SE crashsite, grid coordinates; LN 10056 79042. North crashsite is located at

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grid coordinates; LN 09762 79386. The temporary LZ / Staging Area for the majority of Task Force Mountain is located at grid coordinates; LN 01323 78765.

(S) 5. Activity: Enemy activity in the region is on-going and imminent. Heavy defended and highly skilled enemy insurgents are located throughout the Mestia AO. Heavy weapons fire, sniper fire, mortar and artillery strikes on the two crashsite locations is intense and on-going at time of this order.

(S) 6. Strength: Exact strength of the enemy force is unknown. Expect company, platoon, and squad size troop levels throughout the Mestia AO. Sniper, anti-air, mortar, and heavy weapons teams have been spotted along the mountain ridges and base of the mountain area at Mestia. Morale of the enemy forces is very high. Enemy equipment ranges from heavy weapons, crew-served weapons, anti-tank weapons, mortar, artillery, anti-air, and light armor. The enemy force is believed to have the capability to reinforce key terrain within 1 hour with platoon to company size units.

(U) 7. Probable course(s) of action when the enemy is contacted: Enemy units in the AO are expected to hold their positions at all costs. Rules of Engagement are Weapons Free on confirmed enemy forces. HOLD FIRE on Russian air assets in the AO. 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) Oscar-4 (US Army, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, 75<sup>th</sup> US Army Ranger Regiment): (Callsign: Mega-1 through Mega-9)

1 x CO (with laser designator), 4 x Platoon Leaders, 170 x Coalition Forces, various specialties and weapon loadouts.

(S) Mega 4-5 (USAF Tactical Air Control Party): (Callsign: Mega 4-5)

1 x TAC-P Operator (with laser designator)

(S) Savior 2-1 (USAF Pararescuemen, 4 x UH-60s): (Callsign: Savior 2-1)

12 x Pararescuemen, 16 x UH-60's crew members

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

4 x F-15E pilots (Hawg Flight) (Flight Lead): (Hawg 1-1)

(S) 2. Location and planned actions of units; Hawg Flight will depart Kutaisi AB and follow the established flight plan at Angels 23. Hawg Flight will contact Mega 4-5 at WP2/WP3 for CAS tasking's in the AO. Texaco 1-1 (KC-135 Air Refueler) will be on-station at Angels 23 orbiting between WP2/WP3.

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

(U) Attachment: None

## **II. Mission**

(S)(1) Provide immediate support for friendly forces under duress in the Mestia AO.

(S)(2) Provide CAS for friendly forces in the AO.

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(S)(3) Complete tasks as directed by the Operational Commander in the region (Whiplash-1).

### **III. Execution**

#### **Intent**

(U) Hawg Flight (4 x F-15E Flight) is tasked with providing CAS for Task Force Mountain forces under duress in the Mestia AO.

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

(S) The sortie will be conducted during the early morning. Follow your established flight path at Angels 23. Provide CAS to Ground Forces in the region as requested by Mega 4-5.

#### **B. Tasks to Maneuver Units**

(S) CSAR assets (Savior 2-1) have been tasked from FOB Suse to the Mestia AO. Multiple Conventional and Non-Conventional Coalition Forces are operating in the region. 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 Mega 4-5 and 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 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. Senaki Air Base is the designated alternate airfield in the AOR. Whiplash-1 will task CSAR assets from FOB Suse or COP Moto with CASEVAC transport if required.

#### **A. General**

(S) RV FOB Suse with CASEVAC patients.

#### **B. Material and Services**

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

#### **C. Medical Evacuation:**

(S) Additional CSAR assets are on alert and positioned at FOB Suse and COP Moto. 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.

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**V. Command & Signal**

**A. Command**

(S) Hotel (CP) (Whiplash-1) has overall command of the region. Mega 4-5 has overall command for coordinating CAS at in the AO. Hawg Flight Leader has overall command of Hawg Flight personnel for this sortie.

**B. Signal**

(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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