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Copy 21 of 33 copies
Headquarters, 7th MEU (SOC)
Aboard USS Khe Sanh (LPD-21)
[bdula DTG here??]
Reference #31-9932

OPERATION VORPAL THUNDER OPORD 1-003 (VORPAL HAMMER) (U)

Reference: (S) OVF standard map package 1-02 (C), (C) OPLAN OVT-01-003 Humanitarian Support Plan for Faministan (U), (S) OPERATION VORPAL THUNDER OPLAN OVT- 01-103 (C)

(U) Time Zone Used Throughout Order : BRAVO

(S) Task Organization:

(S) TF CHESTY

TEAM RECON

Elements of 13th Marine Reconnaissance Battalion.

4th Bn, 7th Marines

ALFA Co. (M-1A1) (aboard LCAC)
BRAVO Co. (EFV infantry)
CHARLIE Co. (EFV infantry)
DELTA Co. (LAV scouts)
ECHO Co. (EFV infantry)
FOXTROT Co. (Humvee mortar/GSR aboard LCAC)

Team DOZER

Elements of 33rd Marine Engineer Battalion (Aboard LCM(8))

Elements of HMLA-211 (Owl Stretchers) (AH-1Z and OH-58D)

Elements of VMM-432 (Thunderchickens)

Elements of HSL-111 (SubStompers)

LPD-21 amphibious landing group (LCAC)
Amphibious landing group (LCVP(8))

Blomai Navy patrol boats # 54 and 76

Faministan Inter-Agency Working Group Humanitarian Support Activity (HSA) Embarked aboard LPD-21 amphibious craft

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1. SITUATION (U)

a. Friendly Forces (U)

Higher's Mission & Intent (U)

(S) CG, TF VORPAL THUNDER has been tasked by national command authority with occupying and pacifying Faministani port city of Budt-Fuq. It is intended that US Marine Corps forces will advance from the sea and secure a disused naval base on the shore (Assembly Area JUDY) allowing it's use as an administration and logistics base for the HSA. To permit civilian freedom of action, the city of will be occupied, cleared of hostile armed forces, fortifications and obstacles. It is intended that a successful outcome of this operation will facilitate further humanitarian, stabilization and counter-terrorism operations in the Faministan area.

Adjacent Units (U)

(S) With the exception of SPECWAR reconnaissance units deployed in depth and on the flanks of TF CHESTY no adjacent units are presently deployed..

(S) No friendly forces are presently deployed in the same echelon as TF CHESTY.

Supporting (U)

(S) Fire support available from USS Halsey (DDG-71) and USS King (DDG-91). (See Tab D (Naval Gunfire Support) to Annex C (Fire Support)).

(S) Air strike support available (see Tab E (Air Support) to Annex C (Fire Support)).

(S) Armed Predator drone support available. (See Tab E (Air Support) to Annex C (Fire Support)).

Attachments/Detachments (U)

(C) No units not originally included in the TF VORPAL HAMMER Task Organization have been attached or detached.

b. Enemy Forces (U)

(S) Expected enemy resistance consists of a mixture of light infantry forces with a variety of motivations and commanders. For the most part these units are located in concealed and/or dug in in buildings or prepared fortifications. These units are distributed throughout the city in company and smaller-sized deployments. Most units lack formal unit designations or command subordination. A noteworthy exception being the Faministani Islamic Jihad (FIJ) which are controlled by local Al-Qaeda commanders. FIJ units area concentrate around the area of the mosque located in the north-west of the city. Some armored support of former Soviet design from stocks formerly under Faministani Army control are deployed to the north and West. The status and serviceability of these units is presently unknown. Reliable reports of the size, location and disposition of enemy forces is a minimum of 68 hours old as of the time of issue of this Order. (See Appendix 2 (TOP SECRET Supplement) to Annex B (Intelligence)). Most expected opposition forces will be armed with former Soviet pattern light infantry weapons of assorted vintages as well as older weapons of similar type. Improvised munitions (Molotovs, grenade bundles, satchel charges, etc.) may also be encountered.

(S) Hostile forces are generally poorly trained and indifferently led and may be expected to offer resistance only because they are fighting on home ground. Although formal training is usually lacking many individual fighters have extensive experience fighting in the numerous conflicts which have occurred on Faministan during the last two decades. It should be noted that FIJ units are often better trained and led than their local counterparts.

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(S) It is expected that hostile units will resist USMC forces as they enter the city. Due to lackluster training, leadership and communications counterattacks on greater than a squad/platoon level are not anticipated. It is considered probable that FIJ units both in the city and stationed nearby will enter the area and attempt counterattacks.

(S) Commanders should be aware of possible fortification construction activity underway on the shallow water/tidal area surrounding the lighthouse in the harbor near the landing area.

(S) The FIJ is in possession of numbers of Soviet pattern light artillery fire units (mortars and single-shot rocket launchers). It is thought these units are integrated into a wire communications system allowing them relatively quick reaction times.

(C) Faministani culture has traditionally valued rifleman-ship. Thus commanders should expect a robust sniper threat.

(S) It is not thought the hostile forces have any heavy ADA forces available, however the possession of light shoulder-fired SAMs, especially by FIJ forces cannot be discounted.

2. Mission (U)

(S) 4th Battalion, 7th Marines will advance from the sea entering Budt-Fuq occupying the area, defeating and pacifying hostile and potentially hostile forces, removing and destroying fortifications and obstacles, and providing peacekeeping and local security for the HSA. Significant offensive military operations will be completed in the city area within 12 hours of H-Hour. The endstate of this operation will provide a stabilized and peaceful infrastructure to allow the HSA and follow-on humanitarian elements to initiate and sustain food shipments and other aid activities IAW (C) OPLAN OVT-01-003 Humanitarian Support Plan for Faministan

(U) A secondary mission will be to create a base to support planned deployment of further elements of 7th MEU(SOC) in the Faministan AO. The eventual goal of Operation VORPAL THUNDER is the establishment of a safe, prosperous, peaceful and non-terrorist Faministan and surrounding area.

3. Execution (U)

A. Concept of the Operation

Intent is to deploy TF CHESTY troops from the sea, occupy and secure Assembly Area Judy and adjacent airfield and subsequently entering the city, occupying Objectives WILL, MAUREEN, WEST, ROBINSON, ROBOT and SMITH, defeating all resistance by hostile forces and beginning the process of removing all obstacles and fortifications from the area. Simultaneously the Humanitarian Support Activity will land at and occupy AA JUDY and begin humanitarian relief operations. Once the sector is considered secure second echelon Marine forces will be landed to relieve 4/7th personnel. After the airfield near AA JUDY is rendered operational US Army/US Air Force units will begin to deploy to the Faministan AO by air. It is intended the city will be secure before sundown.

Scheme of Maneuver (U)

(1) Maneuver. (U)

- a. (S) Team RECON deploys aboard V-22 OSPREY aircraft securing AA JUDY and adjacent airfield. After these tasks are complete Team RECON will conduct reconnaissance operations locating and fixing hostile forces between the city and the shore directing artillery and air support against them and destroying them. Team RECON deploys at H+0.

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- b. (S) DELTA Company self-deploys aboard LAVs landing north of AA JUDY, conducting reconnaissance, providing security along the northern flank, and supporting ALFA and BRAVO Company's operations. DELTA Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- c. (S) BRAVO Company self-deploys aboard EFVs landing north of AA JUDY attacking and securing Objectives ROBINSON and WILL, the Al-Qaeda mosque, and Objective IRWEN, the bridge north of the city. ALFA Company also provides security against FIJ/Al-Qaeda forces attempting to enter the battle area from the north and west. BRAVO Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- d. (S) CHARLIE Company self-deploys aboard EFVs landing south of AA Judy attacking and securing Objectives WEST and SMITH and the southern mosque. CHARLIE Company also provides security against any hostile forces attempting to enter the battle area from the west and south. CHARLIE Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- e. (S) ECHO Company self-deploys aboard EFVs to VIC AA Judy and acts as a mobile reserve. CHARLIE Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- f. (C) ALFA Company deploys aboard LCM(8) landing craft in three tank teams north and south of AA JUDY. ALFA Company provides armored support to other deployed elements and provides anti-armor support to TF CHESTY. ALFA Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- g. (S) FOXTROT Company deploys aboard LCAC to VIC AA Judy. Mortar units adopt hasty concealed positions and provide direct fire support to TF CHESTY. GSR/NGS units integrate with maneuver companies and provide GSR/NGS/air strike direction support to TF CHESTY, FOXTROT Company deploys at approximately H+15 minutes.
- h. (C) LCAC and LCM(8) units safely transport passenger units to their assigned landing/debarkation areas. Following debarkation, transporter units will provide light fire support to TF CHESTY as directed by the commander.
- i. (S) 33rd Engineers deploy aboard LCM(8) transport units move to positions at or near obstacles VIC Objectives WILL, MAUREEN and WEST and begin obstacle and fortification removal operations, providing fire support as required.
- j. (C) HMLA-211 provides prompt attack helicopter and scout helicopter support to TF CHESTY. HMLA-211 deploys at approximately H+5 minutes.
- k. (S) VMM-432 transports Team RECON to its initial deployment sites and remains available to provide light fire support as required. VMC-432 aircraft will remain east of Phase Line PENNY until Team DOZER arrives and deploys. After this time they may be employed as the commander directs.
- l. (C) VHS-111 provides anti-armor support to TF CHESTY. VHS-111 aircraft are adapted anti-submarine helicopters and commanders should remember not to use them as attack helicopters. These aircraft can also provide light transport support.
- m. (S) LPD-21 LCAC and LCM(8) assets transport their passengers to their landing sites. After deployment they will remain available to provide light fire support as directed by the Commander. LCAC units will remain east of Phase Line PENNY until Team DOZER arrives and deploys. After this time they may be employed as the commander directs.
- n. (S) Blomani Navy Patrol Boats #s 54 and 76 reconnoiter the lighthouse in the harbor, engaging, suppressing, and destroying any fortifications detected. After the lighthouse area is secured these units provide observation and light fire support as required.

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o. (C) Humanitarian Support Activity elements deploy aboard LPD-21 LCM(8) and land at AA JUDY occupying the Navy base and initiating humanitarian operations. HSA deploys at approximately H+ 1 hour. Commanders should be aware of a small media pool element included with the HSA .

(2) Fires. (U)

(S) Due to the uncertain status and location of Faministani civilians in the battle area, no pre-planned artillery or air strike support fires are planned.

(3) Obstacle, mines, and fortifications. (U)

(C) The presence of extensive fortifications and obstacles in the battle area is a cause of concern for TF CHESTY forces. Team DOZER elements are included in the task organization so that removal operations may commence as soon as possible after the area is secure.

(S) Due to difficulties with overhead surveillance assets it is unknown to what extent existent fortifications and obstacles may have been reinforced. It is not believed significant minefields have been emplaced but due to warning provided to hostile forces by media reports this situation may have changed.

(4) Intelligence and electronic warfare. (U)

(U) See Annex B (Intelligence).

(5) Other support activities. (U)

a. Air Defense. (U)

(S) The Faministani Air Force in the area is largely ineffective. The main air threat faced by TF CHESTY is expected to come from transport aircraft dropping crude bombs. Faministai government forces have used this tactic against civilian targets in the past and may be ready to do so against TF CHESTY. These tactics are considered to be little threat to active military units, thus no specialized ADA assets have been included in the Task Organization.

(U) For further information see Annex F (Air Defense).

b. Nuclear, Biological, Chemical

1. (C) No nuclear threat is expected to exist in the Faministan Area.

2. (S) Although the Faministani government has been accused of attempting to manufacture chemical weapons in the past, it is not thought any chemical weapons threat now exists.

3. (C) No known biological weapons threat now exists in the Faministan area. However a number of dangerous diseases are naturally endemic to the area including typhoid and dengue fever. Commanders should advise their subordinates to avoid consuming local water and observe proper field hygiene. For more detailed instructions see Tab 3 (Medical) to Annex G (Service Support).

Fire Support Plan (U)

(U) See Annex C (Fire Support).

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B. Tasks (U)

Critical Tasks for TF CHESTY:

- a. (C) Occupy and secure AA JUDY
- b. (S) Occupy and secure airfield near AA Judy.
- c. (C) Advance to, occupy and secure Objectives WILL, MAUREEN, WEST, ROBINSON, ROBOT and SMITH.
- d. (S) Enter, occupy, and secure both mosques.
- e. (S) Secure Objective IRWEN. Provide security against hostile forces entering the battle area from that axis.
- f. (C) Locate, fix and defeat all hostile forces in the city.
- g. (C) Locate and destroy any hostile artillery fire units and snipers in the city and surrounding area.
- h. (C) Establish HSA and secure base at AA JUDY.

C. Coordinating Instructions (U)

(U) See Annex N. (Joint Operations and Interoperability).

4. Administration/Logistics (U)

- A. (U) See Annex G (Service Support).
- B. (U) See Annex G (Service Support).

5. Command/Signal (U)

A. Location of Key Leaders (U)

- (S) CG 4/7 MEU(SOC) aboard USS Khe Sanh.
- (S) CDR, TF CHESTY with ECHO Co.
- (S) XO, TF CHESTY with BRAVO Co.

B. Succession of Command (U)

(U) IAW 4/7 MEU(SOC) SOP.

Acknowledge:

ERMRY
MG, USMC
Commanding

Lawrence
COL, USMC
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ANNEXES

- A. (S) Maps and Overlays (U)
- B. (S) Intelligence (U)
- C. (S) Fire Support (U)
- D. (S) Engineer (U)
- F. (S) Air Defense (U)
- G. (S) Service Support (U)
- H. (S) Signal (U)
- I. (S) Contingencies (U)
- J. (C) Civil Affairs (U)
- K. (C) HSA Operations (U)
- L. (S) Blomani Navy Operations (C)
- M. (C) Media Relations (U)
- N. (C) Joint Operations and Interoperability (U)
- O. (C) NBC (U)

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EYES ONLY
SENSITIVE

Tab 2 (TOP SECRET Supplement) to Annex B (Intelligence) OPCODE 1-003 (U)

3. Space Imagery Collection Situation. (S)

(TS-TK-M) A software failure has occurred on a TOMTOM radar/optical imagery collection satellite (NIMA-USA-237) space-based imagery intelligence collection in the Faministan area has been reduced to essentially zero. This situation has persisted for a period of approximately 72 hours preceding H-Hour for Operation VORPAL HAMMER. No other Space-based imagery collection platform is presently in a suitable orbit for collection from the Faministan area. Senior commanders should plan for significant changes in the enemy situation and advise their subordinates in a manner consistent with security considerations of this lack of capability.

(TS-TK-M) It is anticipated that functionality will be restored to NIMA-USA-237 within 24 to 72 hours from the time of issue of this Annex.

(TS-TK) No atmospheric overhead reconnaissance assets are presently available for operational level takings in the Faministan area.

(TS-TK-M) This equipment failure has not significantly affected SIGINT/COMINT/ELINT collection capabilities from space-based platforms or imagery collection activities in other critical areas.

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