

OP Northern Clout – Outline Brief

Red insurgents, supported by neighbouring Redland, are trying to seize the Western edge of Georgia. They have infiltrated men, artillery and AFV into the north of this area, just south of the lake at 37&T FJ 244 155, and are preparing to advance down the road to the south towards the coast at BZYB. Additionally they have established a FARP near the lake into which they are moving additional stores, using helicopters between that FARP and a FARP at Sochi airfield. At the same time Redland have set up a SAM-6 site just over the border, north of the lake, which provides air cover to their forces.

Redland have also moved eight Mig-21 fighters to the airfield at Sochi, in addition to the L-39s that normally operate from there. There is also an established SAM-6 site around 12-13 nm NW of Sochi, which could impede any medium or high level strike on that airfield. There are also fighters at the Redland bases of Maykop, Gelendzhik, Krasnodor, and Mineralnye Vody, each base with its own SAM cover. The airfields of Krasnodor and Mineralny are both joint Military and Civil, and so must not be attacked.

We have solid intelligence that the insurgents will begin their advance down the valley towards Bzyb at 0900 on 9 Jun, and appear to be reconnoitring sites for artillery along that valley, and sending out patrols in the region. Additionally there has been increased training being carried out by the L-39s, Mig-21s and Mig-29s in the area, together with a build up of helicopter traffic in and out of Sochi.

Attack Plan

SEAD. SEAD sorties will be flown by F-18s: Springfield from Sukhumi, and Enfield from CVN Abraham Lincoln – both launching at 0815. They are to attack identified SAM-6 sites with HARM, with Destroy-By Times (DBT) as shown. Those marked ** are critical to the safety of Blue attack ac:

<u>Tgt</u>	<u>WP Title</u>	<u>DBT</u>	<u>Flight</u>
** Maykop SAM-6	May SAM	0840	Springfield
** Gelendzhik SAM-6	Gel SAM	0840	Enfield
Valley SAM-6	Val SAM	0840	Springfield
Sochi SAM-6	Soc SAM	0838	Enfield
Central SAM-6	Okt SAM	0850	Enfield
Valley Tunguska	FARP & Arty	ASAP	Springfield

It may be necessary to split SEAD flights into 2 pairs to achieve the DBTs. The destruction of each SAM launcher is to be reported by flights on 251.0 (Common AWACs). It is essential that Springfield and Enfield Flt Cdrs liaise to ensure that all the SAM-6s nominated are destroyed. Once all SEAD targets are destroyed, Flt Cdrs may, if they have remaining A-G ordnance, contact Hog (Springfield) or Boar (Enfield) to offer assistance within the Valley. Alternatively they may RTB and refuel/rearm before re-joining the fray, as they see fit.

SEAD is not to be carried out at Krasnador or Mineralnye Vodyy airfields.

Main Valley Attack. The core of the response will be an attack against insurgent forces in Georgian territory. This will be carried out by A-10Cs (Boar Flt and Hog Flt). Both will launch from Kutaisi at 0815 and 0817 respectively, with Boar attacking from the South of the valley, and Hog from the north. To reduce risk to the A-10s, SEAD will be provided (by F-18s) to eliminate the SAM-6 to the north, and any Tunguskas within the Valley itself. The A-10s primary targets will be:

the artillery position set up midway in the Valley and the mortar position south of it, which will be attacked by Boar; and

the FARP and associated supply depot in the north of the Valley, which will be attacked by Hog.

Hog and Boar will then eliminate any red units within the valley, concentrating on the armour, and ensuring that none reach the built up area to the north of Bzyb. A small Blue blocking force is located at 37T FH 131 919 and 2 Blue BTRs are positioned on the road 2 nm north of this position. These must not be attacked.

Airfield Attack – Gelendzhik. Ford (F-16s) is to launch from Sukhumi at 0817, after the departure of Springfield. They are to maintain 250 ft agl and a nominal 420 kias throughout their sortie, except for their attack run. They are to route at low level, heading north-west around 10-20 nm off the coast, before turning in to their IP, to attack Mig-29 aircraft on the pans at Gelendzhik. The time at the IP is to be 0840, but before commencing their attack run, the Flt Ldr is to confirm that the SAM-6, located at Gelendzhik is not operating. The weapon load will be Mk-82 Snake-Eyes. After their attack, they are to turn out right and depart to the south, over the sea to recover to Sukhumi.

Airfield Attack – Maykop. Dodge (F-16s) is to launch from Sukhumi at 0819, after the departure of Springfield and Ford. They are to maintain 250 ft agl and a nominal 420 kias throughout their sortie, except for their attack run. They are to route at low level, heading north-west around 10-20 nm off the coast, before coasting in north of Sochi, to attack Mig-29 aircraft on the pans at Maykop. The time at the IP is to be 0843, but before commencing their attack run, the Flt Ldr is to be sure that the SAM-6, located at Maykop is not operating. The weapon load will be Mk-82 Snake-Eyes. They are to depart to the south-east to recover to Sukhumi from the north.

Airfield Attack – Sochi. Colt and Chevy (AV-8B), are to launch from Tarawa and Abraham Lincoln, at 0825 and 0830 respectively. Weapon loads are to be 8 x Mk-82 Snake-Eyes. They are to route at low level to attack Sochi airfield from the West.

Colt is to attack Mig-21s parked on the pans at Sochi, with a time at the IP of 0840.

Chevy is to attack the Assembly Point and FARP on the south-west corner of the airfield, with a time at the IP of 0844.

Sochi SAM may still be operative, but will be out of range, provided that aircraft stay within or to the south of, the airfield boundaries. Following the initial attack, Flt Cdrs are to assess whether further

runs, using guns, are justified. If fuel and ammunition permit, a line search along the known track of the Red helicopter supply route to the Northern end of the Valley may be carried out, and any helicopters encountered destroyed. However Colt ac are not to enter the Valley itself since A-10s and F-18s will be operating there.

Overall CAP Cover. Two flights of F-14Bs (Uzi and Pontiac) will launch from CVN George Washington, and maintain CAP to the north of the valley. They should launch so as not to be overland before 0830, so as not to alert red Ad in advance. There are assessed to be 8 Mig-21s and up to 8 L-39s based at Sochi, and up to 16 Mig-29s based at both Gelendzhik, and Maykop. All three of these airfields will have been subject to attack by Blue ac between 0840 and 0845, and it is anticipated that the majority of the red fighters will have been damaged. However, there are assessed to be up to 8 Su-27s based at Mineralnye Vody and 8 Mig-29Ss at Krasnodor, neither of which will have been subject to previous ground attack.

Blue Aircraft Slots

A-10C	5-8	2 Flights	CAS
AV-8B	4-8	2 Flights	LL airfield attack/CAS, anti-R/W - all carrier based
F-14	4-8	2 Flights	CAP – all carrier based
F-16	4-8	2 Flights	LL airfield attacks, some CAP – all land based – 2 tgts
F-18	4-8	2 Flights	SEAD, some CAS, some CAP – one carrier, one land based

Total of 20-30 slots