

Task Force Peterjohn *

Map16

Scenario time limit: 60 minutes

Note: this is a quasi historical scenario. This action did not happen during Operation Desert Storm, but could have. In January of 1991 the US 1st Cavalry Division was prepared for this contingency.

Situation:

The Coalition air campaign against Iraq began on 17 January 1991. Historically, Iraqi forces did not attempt any large-scale movements during the first two weeks of the air campaign. However, during the Iraqi attack on Khafji which began on January 29, Allied commanders became concerned about a possible Iraqi armored thrust into Saudi Arabia, which would most likely come down the Wadi al Batin and would be aimed at Hafar al Batin and Pipeline Road. Pipeline Road was an essential element of the "Hail Mary" battle plan which the Allies were about to execute, and its loss would have been a significant setback for the Allies. During this time, the 1st Cavalry Division actually moved some distance into new positions, in order to protect Hafar al Batin and Pipeline Road, but the Iraqis did not attack. In an attempt to explore what "might have happened" under a best-case situation for the Iraqis, this scenario presumes that after only one day of air operations, the weather turned bad on 18 January and continued to worsen on 19 January. If that had happened and if strong Iraqi armored forces had seized the opportunity to mount a pre-emptive attack into Saudi Arabia while they were still at full strength and while bad weather kept Allied airpower grounded, the battle depicted in this scenario would have occurred.

The 2-8 Cav Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division is now moving into a blocking position, with orders to prevent the Iraqis from taking Hafar al Batin and cutting Pipeline Road, a vital communications artery.

Admin Note: Unfavorable weather conditions consisting of alternating rain, wind, and blowing sand limit maximum visual and thermal sighting to 2000 meters.

MISSIONS:

US - Prevent enemy occupation of Objective A.

OPFOR - Occupy Objective A.

Admin Note 1: OPFOR wins if at the end of 60 minutes there is at least one OPFOR unit in Objective A. It does not matter if the US also has a unit in the town.

Admin Note 2: Iraqi tanks and ATGMs did not have thermal sights during Desert Storm.

US - 3 x Tank Company, 1 x Mech Infantry Company, 1 x 4.2" Mortar Platoon

OPFOR - 3 x Tank Battalion, 1 x Mech Infantry Battalion (+)

OFFMAP ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT:

US - 3 x 155mm Howitzer, 1 x 227mm MLRS
5% chance of additional artillery ammo.
No air support.

OPFOR- 3 x 122mm Howitzer
5% chance of additional artillery support.
No air support.

* Scenario Disk 1