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Imagery analysis report

Iraq/Iran Military Summary

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OCTOBER 1980

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IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY SUMMARY

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1. (S/D) This report updates the most recent¹ in a series of imagery-derived reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict and covers the period from [] The report discusses deployed ground forces in the forward area, rear garrison units, airfields, naval bases, commercial shipping, and POL facilities (Figure 1 and 2). Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.² Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

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OVERVIEW

2. (S/D) Imagery of the forward areas of conflict on [] showed the Iraqi and Iranian forces in the Dezful area receiving reinforcements. Iraqi forces in the Khorramshahr area were deployed on the west-northwest and northeastern outskirts of the town on [] In downtown Khorramshahr, heavy battle damage and smoke were evident.

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3. (S/D) Three Iraqi and three Iranian rear area garrisons were imaged during the period. Iraqi units remained out of garrison. At two Iranian installations in the Shiraz area, units had departed.

4. (S/D) Four Iraqi and eight Iranian airfields were imaged. No new bomb damage was observed at the Iraqi airfields. In Iran, Abadan Airfield International suffered severe battle damage and was not operational. The Iraqi bomber base at Al Taqaddum and the Iranian F-14 bases at Shiraz and Khatami were not imaged.

5. (S/D) No damage was seen at two Iraqi naval facilities. Two Iranian naval facilities were imaged. Damage was evident at the Khorramshahr Naval Base on [] No evidence of the conflict was seen on the islands of Sirri and Jazirat Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz.

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6. (S/D) Twelve POL facilities in Iraq and two in Iran were imaged. Damage to an Iraqi facility at Al Basrah was observed for the first time. Significant new damage was evident at the Abadan refinery on []

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GROUND FORCE ACTIVITY**Iraq/Iran Forward Area****Khorramshahr Area**

7. (S/D) Iraqi ground forces were observed in the vicinity of Khorramshahr on [] (Figure 3). Two Iraqi tank platoons and a mechanized infantry platoon were deployed in the northeastern outskirts of the city at 30-28-10N 048-09-09E; two mechanized infantry platoons were 3 nautical miles (nm) west-northwest of the city at 32-30-00N 048-09-00E; four artillery batteries and a mechanized infantry platoon were 10 nm west-northwest of the city on the Iraq/Iran border at 30-33-00N 047-58-00E; and five artillery batteries (23 guns) were 3 nm southwest of the city at 30-24-54N 048-06-30E in Iraq. The five artillery batteries southwest of the city were oriented toward Abadan.

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8. (S/D) Heavy battle damage and smoke were observed in the Khorramshahr downtown commercial area on [] In addition, the bridge over the Rud-E-Karum river connecting Khorramshahr and Abadan appeared to be intact. Vehicular traffic was crossing the bridge.

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9. (S/D) Although no Iranian forces were discernible in the Khorramshahr area, infantry forces may have been present in the city on []

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Dezful Area

10. (S/D) At least one battalion-sized tank unit, three battalion-sized mechanized infantry units, and five SA-6 battalions (elements of the Iraqi 1st Mechanized Infantry Division) were visible through heavy clouds 20 nm southwest of Dezful on [] (Figure 4). Iraqi forces continued their occupation of Dezful Hawk Site 3 C25-35 [] where six armored personnel carriers (APC) were parked in defensive positions outside the fence on [] In addition, three tank battalions, one mechanized infantry battalion and four artillery batteries were deployed on the west bank of the Karkheh River opposite the town of Shush on [] (Figure 5). The units opposite Shush, with the exception of the artillery batteries, have maintained their positions since []

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11. (S/D) A brigade-sized armor unit appeared to have recently arrived 45 nm west of Dezful on the Iraq/Iran border at 32-04-00N 047-38-00E on [] (Figure 6). Heavy lift transporters, numerous trucks, and support vehicles were also moving into the area. These new units may be an armor brigade of the Iraqi 10th Armor Division from the Baghdad area.

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12. (S/D) A tank battalion, possibly elements of the Iraqi 9th Armor Division, was being transported to an area just north of Al Halfayah (31-51-30N 047-26-20E) on [] (Figure 6). This battalion, with trucks and support equipment, was moving along the highway, 15 nm east of Al Amarah.

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13. (S/D) Iranian forces reinforced the Dezful area between [] Figures 4 and 5). Elements of a tank brigade (two understrength tank battalions), one M107 175mm self-propelled (SP) gun battalion, one BM-21 multiple rocket launcher (MRL) battalion, one M109 SP gun battalion, and a field artillery (FA) battalion-plus had been deployed 7 nm west-northwest of Dezful astride the main highway on []. The elements of the tank brigade and the M109 SP gun battalion were not present on []. However, on that date, an Iranian force of undetermined strength was partially imaged 7.5 nm east-northeast of Dezful, at 32-24-30N 048-33-00E. This force consisted of at least one tank company, one mechanized infantry platoon, and 80 support vehicles. This was the first observation of additional Iranian forces in the Dezful area and was the first indication of Iranian reinforcements being sent to Dezful. Additional equipment consisting of three tanks, five APC, and 11 vehicles was observed along the rail line at 32-25-57N 048-19-05E, approximately 5 nm northwest of Dezful on []. This equipment was not present on []. Also, two tank companies and approximately 100 vehicles (elements of the 2d Armored Brigade, 92d Armored Division) remained dispersed throughout Dezful Barracks and Brigade Headquarters (BE []). No battle damage was discernible in or around the barracks area. Dezful Hawk Site 2 A24-35 [], 2 nm southwest of Dezful, remained occupied on [].
14. (S/D) The forward elements of Iraqi and Iranian units deployed on the banks of the Karkheh River west of Dezful were not imaged on []. The forward Iraqi and Iranian units deployed in the Shush area on the banks of the Karkheh River were not imaged on [].
15. (S/D) Two of the ammunition storage areas, the transshipment area, and the railspur at Dezful Barracks and Ammunition Depot ([] had been destroyed by [] (Figures 7 and 8). The earth-covered ammunition storage, administration/housing area, and barracks areas did not appear to have been damaged. The installation was last observed operational on [].

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Rear Areas**Iraq**

16. (S/D) In the Az Zubayr area, the three major installations housing the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division were imaged on []. Major elements of this division were still out of garrison. At Az Zubayr Barracks and Brigade Headquarters South [] two mechanized infantry battalions, a tank battalion, an anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) battalion, and two artillery battalions were out of garrison. Sixty vehicles were dispersed immediately south of the installation. At Az Zubayr Barracks and Brigade Headquarters Southwest [], a tank transporter battalion, two tank battalions, elements of two additional tank battalions, a mechanized infantry battalion, elements of the reconnaissance battalion, and possibly the artillery battalion were out of garrison. At Az Zubayr Barracks and Division Headquarters Ash Shuaybah [] the mechanized infantry brigade, which includes three OT-64 APC-equipped mechanized infantry battalions and a transport battalion, was out of garrison.

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Iran

17. (S/D) In the Shiraz area the support vehicles of the 55th Airborne Brigade at Shiraz Barracks Training Center and Brigade Headquarters ([] last observed on [] remained in garrison on [].
18. (S/D) At least one company-sized Chieftain tank unit (22 tanks), an M-47 tank platoon (five tanks), a company-sized M-60 tank unit (12 tanks), a Scorpion tank platoon (three tanks), two company-sized mechanized infantry units, and numerous support/transport vehicles (elements of the 37th Armored Brigade) departed Shiraz Barracks and Armor Training Center West [].
19. (S/D) Twenty-two 60-ton transporters and six 20-ton transporters departed Tehran Barracks and Special Forces Brigade Headquarters Bagh E Shah []. The CH-47 helicopter, seen in this facility on [] had also departed. Thirty 60-ton transporters, fifteen 40-ton transporters, and twelve 20-ton transporters remained on both [].

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AIR ACTIVITY**Iraq**

20. (S/D) Four airfields in Iraq were imaged during the reporting period. No new battle damage was observed at any of them.
21. (S/D) Two probable FISHBED, 12 small straight-wing aircraft, four HIP, and four SUPER FRELON helicopters were at Shaibah Airfield [] in the Al Basrah area on [].
22. (S/D) Twenty FITTER, ten FISHBED, one L-39, and two Wessex helicopters were at Kirkuk Airfield [].

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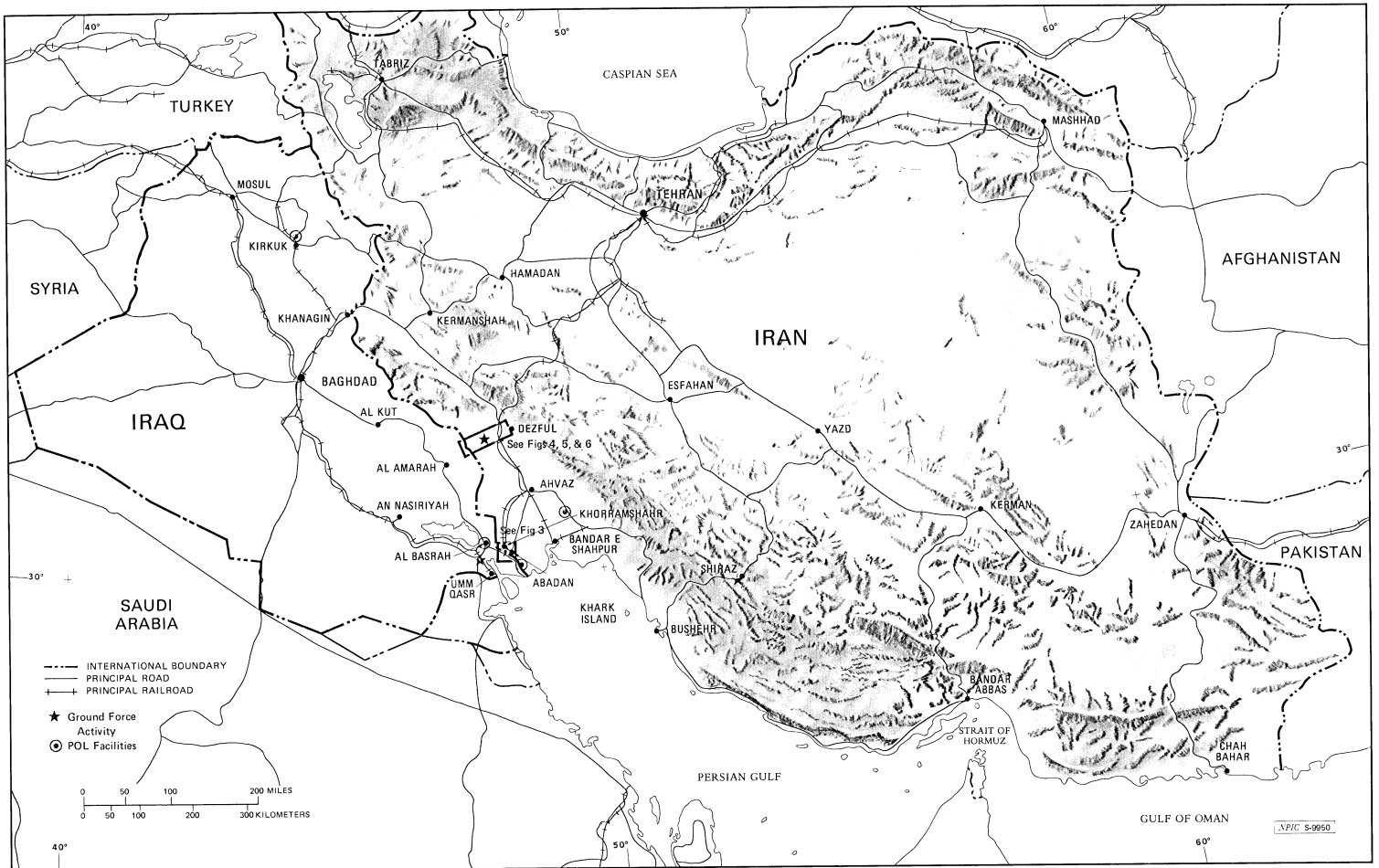


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY AND REFINERIES

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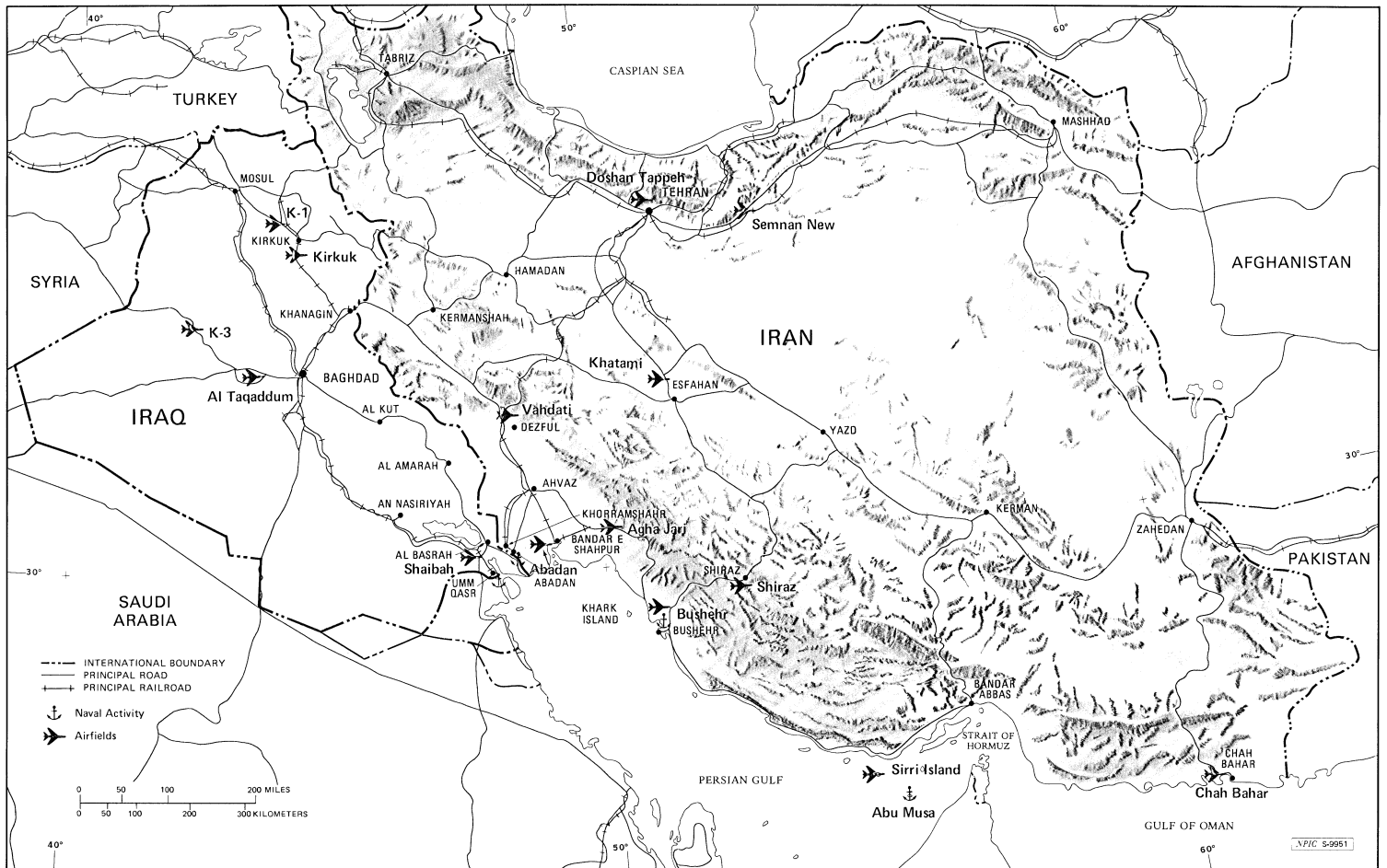


FIGURE 2. IRAQI/IRANIAN AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES

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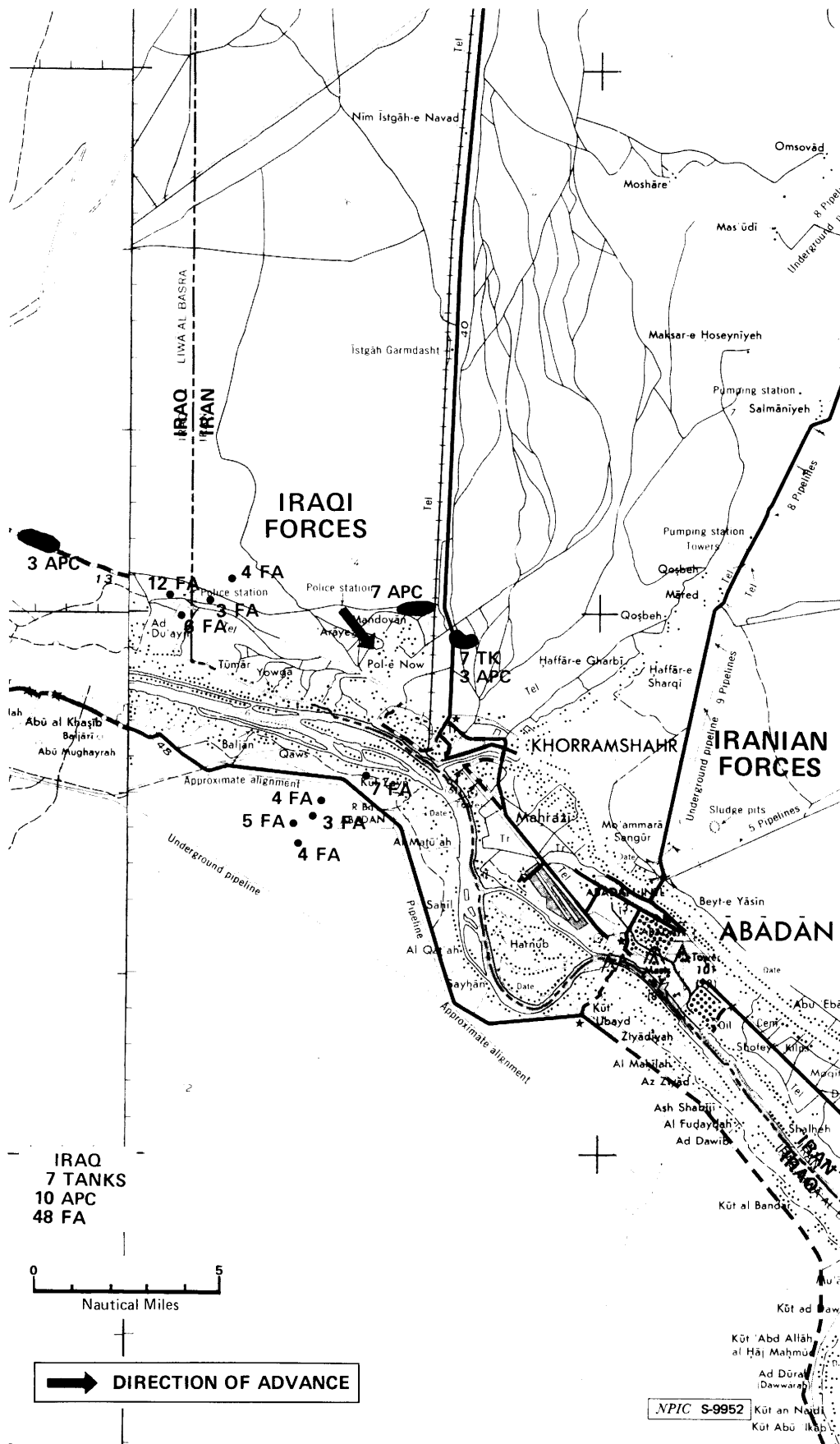


FIGURE 3. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE KHORRAMSHAHR, IRAN, AREA ON

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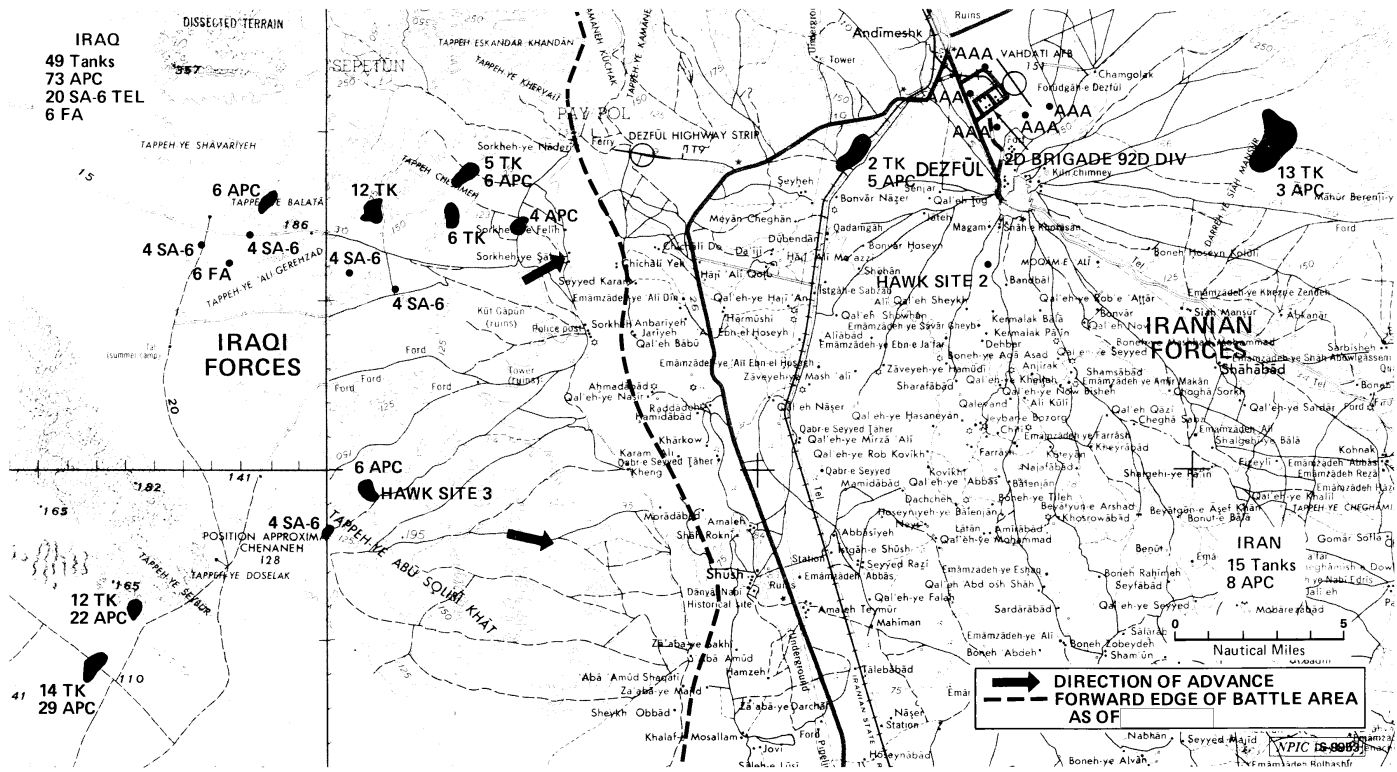


FIGURE 4. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE DEZFUL, IRAN, AREA ON [REDACTED]

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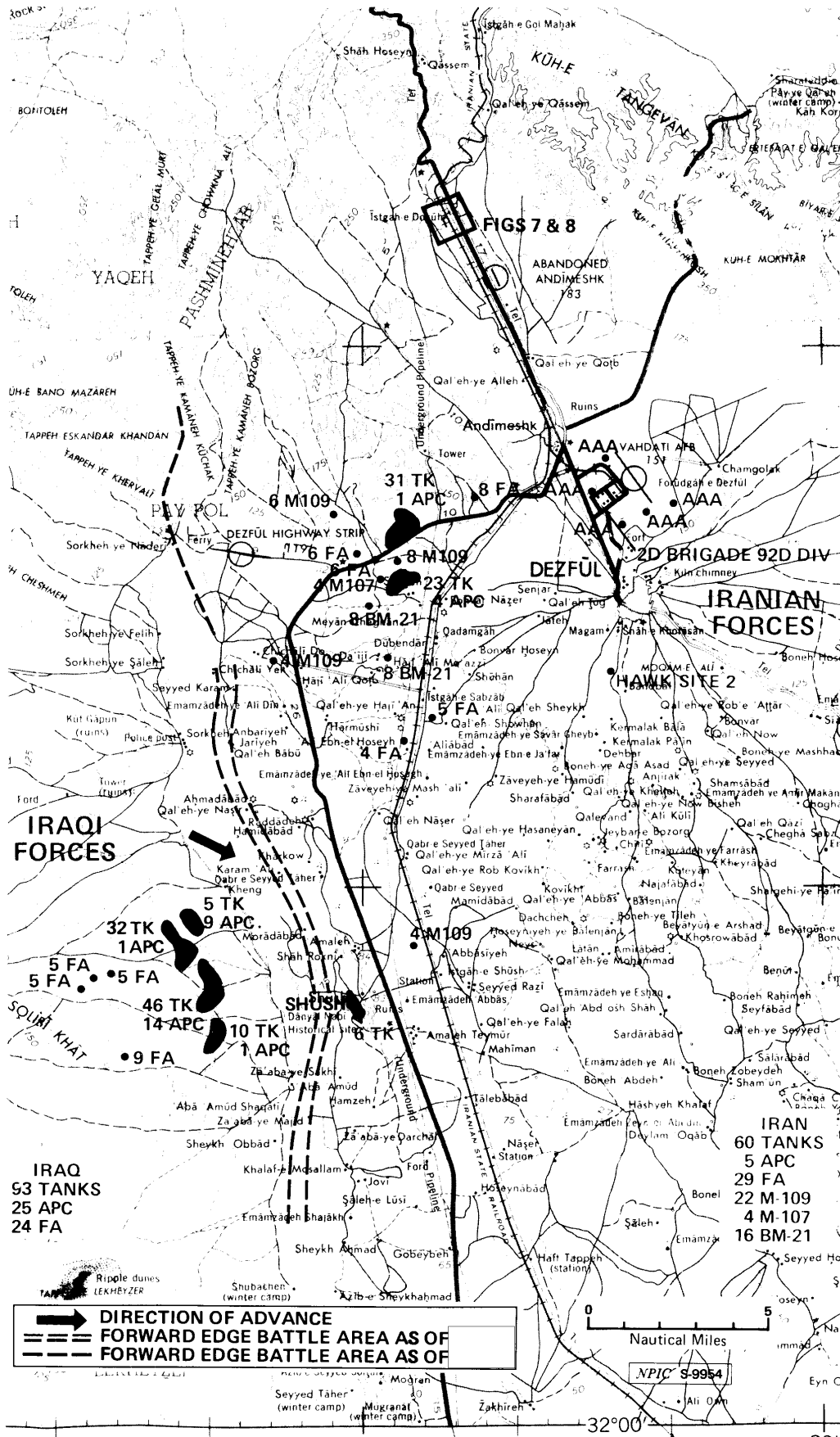


FIGURE 5. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE DEZFUL, IRAN, AREA ON []

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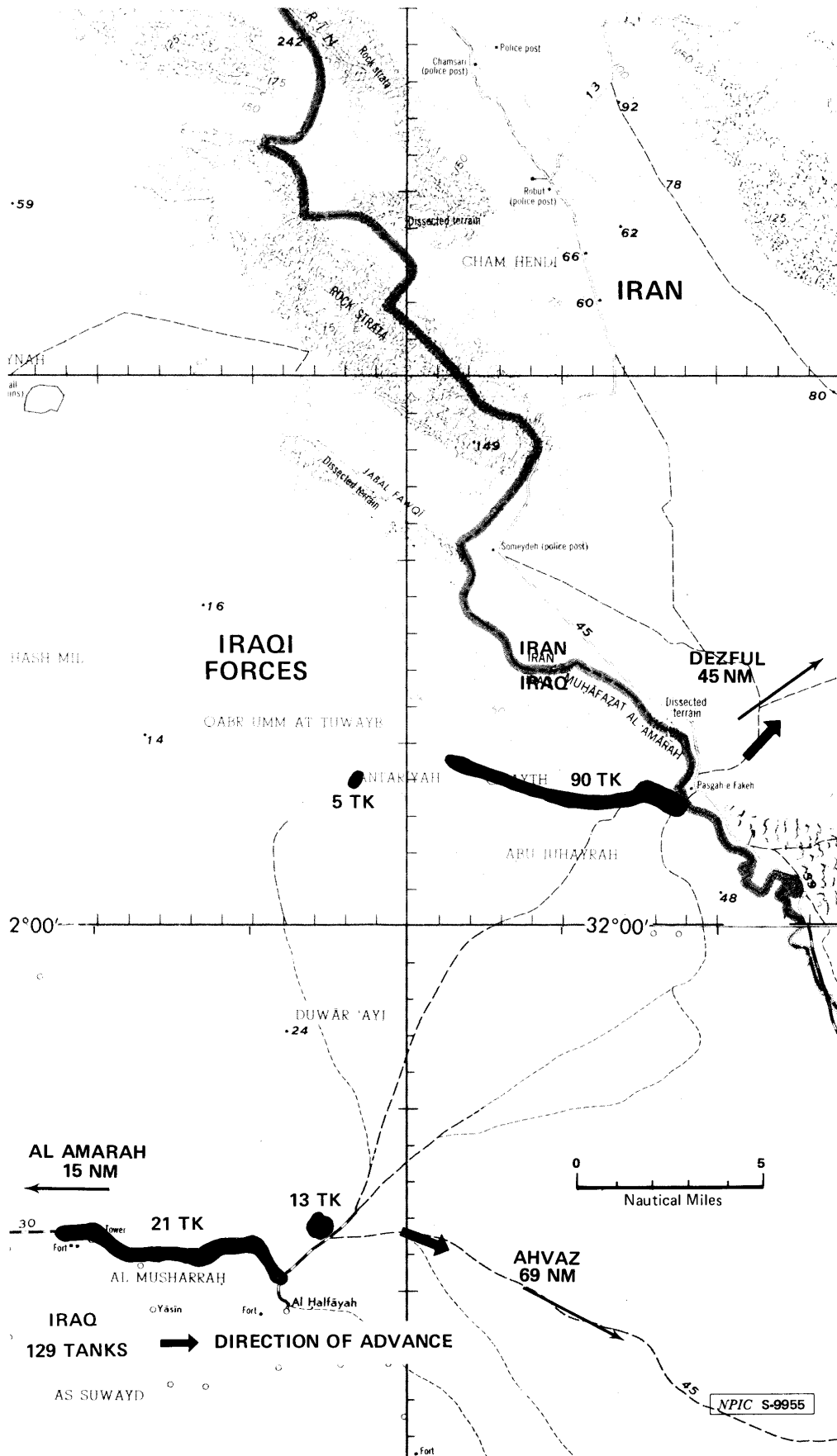


FIGURE 6. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE DEZFUL, IRAN, AREA ON []

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23. (S/D) Fifteen HIP, one Alouette, and seven Wessex helicopters were at K-1 Airfield [] just northwest of Kirkuk on []
24. (S/D) In west-central Iraq, four HIP helicopters were at K-3 Airfield [] Only two platoons of BMP APC were deployed in revetted positions around the airfield. A mechanized infantry company was deployed near the airfield on []
25. (S/D) Al Taqaddum Airfield [] the major Iraqi bomber base, was not imaged.

Iran

26. (S/D) Extensive battle damage was observed at Abadan Airfield International [] on [] Eight craters and three pieces of equipment were on the southwest runway, three craters and two pieces of equipment were on the northeast runway, one crater and five vehicles were on the southwest parking apron, and the roof of a hangar on the northeast side of the airfield was damaged. Two F-27 and the tail of one possible F-27 (protruding from a hangar) were observed.
27. (S/D) In the Dezful area, Vahdati AB Airfield [] was observed on [] One hangar in the northwest dispersal area had been badly damaged by [] This damage may have occurred as early as [] but was not observed because of obliquity. Aircraft observed on [] included four F-5, one possible F-5, one C-130, one CH-47 helicopter, 14 AH-1/AB-214 helicopters, and one probable Jet Ranger helicopter. The possible F-5, the C-130, and five of the AH-1/AB-214 had arrived since [] Aircraft observed on [] included three CH-47, two C-130, ten UH-1, two probable Jet Ranger, one probable F-5, and three small helicopters.
28. (S/D) No new battle damage was observed, and the runways appeared to be operational at Bushehr Airfield [] One C-130 and one AB-214 were present.
29. (S/D) No evidence of hostilities was observed at Agha Jari Airfield [] The partially imaged runway was not blocked. Two F-27 were observed on the parking apron.
30. (S/D) No battle damage or activity was observed at Semnan New Airfield [] This airfield is approximately 100 nm east of Tehran.
31. (S/D) No damage was observed at Tehran Transport Squadron Headquarters Doshan Tappeh [] One CH-47, three AB-214, and one AH-1 helicopters were observed on partial coverage of the support area.
32. (S/D) No significant activity was observed at Chah Bahar Airfield [] This graded-earth airfield appeared to be operational.
33. (S/D) Shiraz International Airfield [] and Khatami AB Airfield [] the F-14 bases, were not imaged.

NAVAL ACTIVITY

Iraq

34. (S/D) In the Umm Qasr area, three Osa missile attack boats (PTG), seven P-6 patrol torpedo boats (PT), and an SO-1 submarine chaser (PCS) were at the pier at Umm Qasr Naval Base [] Four Osa PTG and two Polnochny medium amphibious assault landing ships (LSM) were dispersed along the Khawr Az Zubayr.
35. (S/D) One Osa PTG was at the pier and one Osa PTG was on the repairways at Umm Qasr Port Facilities [] The Soviet Leninlyk Komsomolsk-class merchant ship and seven other merchant ships were still at the quay.

Iran

36. (S/D) At least one probable barracks and two support buildings at Khorramshahr Naval Base Repair and Storage Facility [] appeared to have been damaged by artillery fire on [] One MK-III patrol boat (PB) remained at the facility. No other naval ships were present.
37. (S/D) One PF-103 patrol frigate (PF) and three La Combattante-IIB (Kaman) PTG departed from Bushehr Naval Base [] A La Combattante-IIB PTG had also been removed from the repairway. The remaining naval order-of-battle included one PF-103 PF, three La Combattante-IIB PTG, and seven MK-III PB. Additionally one La Combattante-IIB PTG and one MK-III PB were at Bushehr Port Facilities [] Combatants are not usually seen at this facility. Large oil slicks were observed in the Persian Gulf adjacent to Bushehr on the same date.

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38. (S/D) No naval, air, or ground force activity was observed through heavy clouds on Jazirat Abu Musa Island [redacted] 25X1
39. (S/D) On Sirri Island, six evenly spaced vehicles blocked the runway of Sirri Airfield [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] No evidence of battle damage was observed at the airfield or at the POL facilities. 25X1

COMMERCIAL SHIPPING**Shatt Al Arab**

40. (S/D) Ten freighters and one small coastal freighter were moored in the Shatt Al Arab between 30-28-30N 048-28-30E and 30-27-57N 048-00-30E on [redacted] In addition, eight freighters and one floating drydock were moored between 30-25-20N 048-09-25E and 30-20-25N 048-15-00E, and a freighter with smoke rising from the stern was at 30-24-10N 048-10-45E. One Osa PTG, four freighters, one bulk carrier, and one coastal freighter were moored at the quay; two coastal freighters were moored in the river opposite the Khor Al Zubayr Port Facility [redacted] Iraq. Four freighters were also moored at the quay at Abu Flus Port Facility [redacted] Iraq. 25X1
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Iran

41. (S/D) Smoke from fires at a nearby petroleum refinery obscured much of the Abadan Port Facilities [redacted] No battle damage was discernible in the unobscured area and no smoke appeared to be emanating from the port facilities. One small coastal freighter was moored at the quay. 25X1
42. (S/D) Extensive battle damage was observed at Khorramshahr Port Facilities [redacted] on the Shatt Al Arab River on [redacted] (Figures 9 and 10). Three large transit sheds had been destroyed and a fourth was burning. Six warehouses had been destroyed and one was burning. Two fires were seen in the open storage area. Seven medium-sized freighters remained moored at the quays while two freighters and four smaller coastal freighters were dead in the water adjacent to the port facilities. 25X1
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POL FACILITIES**Iraq**

43. (S/D) Battle damage was observed in the storage/support area in the north end of Basrah Petrochemical Plant [redacted] A pipeline may also have been damaged in the south end of the facility. 25X1
44. (S/D) No additional battle damage was observed at Kirkuk Petroleum Pumping Station and Storage K-1 [redacted] 25X1
45. (S/D) Also in the Kirkuk area, nine petroleum-related facilities were observed on [redacted] with no damage to any. These were Hanjira Degassing Station [redacted] Qutan Degassing Station (BE [redacted] Sarbashakh Degassing Station [redacted], Saralu Degassing Station (BE [redacted] Kirkuk Gas Absorption and Stabilization Plant North [redacted] Kirkuk Petroleum Refinery and Storage [redacted] Jabalbur Degassing Station ([redacted] Kirkuk Petroleum Storage Town [redacted], and Al Hadithah Petroleum Topping and Storage K3 [redacted] 25X1
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Iran

46. (S/D) Significant damage to the facilities at Abadan Petroleum Refinery NIOC [redacted] occurred between [redacted] Pipeline damage was observed in the crude oil distillation area, and one crude oil distillation unit appeared to have been burned (possibly as a result of a nearby pipeline fire). The water treatment area associated with the main steam plant had sustained fire damage. Several small unidentified processing units between the catalytic reformer and the storage area to the south were also damaged/destroyed by fire. Further damage was also sustained in the POL tank storage areas. 25X1
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47. (S/D) No battle damage was observed at Agha Jari Petroleum Stabilization Plant NIOC (BE [redacted] 25X1

SECRET**OTHER****Iraq**

48. (S/D) Two new SA-3 sites were identified in the Kirkuk Area on [] Kirkuk SA-3 SAM Site Northeast [] 2.2 nm northeast of Kirkuk at 35-30-05N 044-25-00E, contained three four-rail SA-3 launchers, a LOW BLOW radar, a FLAT FACE radar, a communications antenna, and support equipment. Kirkuk SA-3 Site Southeast [] 2.5 nm southeast of Kirkuk at 35-26-30N 044-24-30E, contained three four-rail SA-3 launchers, a LOW BLOW radar, a SQUAT EYE radar, and support equipment. Preliminary excavation for a third possible SAM site was underway 21 nm northwest of Kirkuk at 35-43-50N 044-07-00E. No missile equipment was present. 25X1
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49. (S/D) A mobile TALL KING B air warning site and a probable troposcatter set were observed 14 nm southwest of Shaibah Airfield, Iraq, on [] at 30-22-16N 042-23-01E. This site was not present on [] 25X1
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Iran

50. (S/D) In Tehran, several thousand people and numerous buses and sedans filled Kheyaban-E-Buzarjomhri Street in front of the Military Governors Offices on [] No change in status was observed at the US Embassy on the same date. 25X1

51. (S/D) Effects of the Iraq/Iran war on Iran's economy have been observed in five cities in central and southwestern Iran. Unusually long gas lines composed of both commercial and private vehicles were formed at stations in Tehran [] Esfahan [], Ahvaz [] Jahrom [] [] and Shiraz [] 25X1
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REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

DoD. Joint Operations Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. Z-20127/80, IAR-0266/80, *Iraq/Iran Military Summary*. [] (S). Oct 80 (SECRET/[]) 25X1
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2. DIA. DDB-1100-IZ-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Iraq (U)*, Jan 80 (SECRET/[]) 25X1
DIA. DDB-1100-IR-78, *Ground Order of Battle: Iran (U)*, Aug 78 (SECRET/[]) 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the South Asia/Arabia Branch, Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] 25X1

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