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imagery analysis report

Disposition of Military Forces, Iraq/Iran Forward Areas, February 1981 (S)

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DISPOSITION OF MILITARY FORCES, IRAQ/IRAN, FEBRUARY 1981 (S)

1. (S/D) This imagery-derived report provides information on the disposition of military forces along the Iraq/Iran border during late February 1981 (Figure 1). The report discusses the disposition of forces committed by each nation to the conflict and delineates the FEBA.

2. (S/D) Analysis of subsequent imagery of portions of the battle area indicates that the Iraqi and Iranian force dispositions remained relatively unchanged between late February and [redacted] Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. This report updates a previous report published in December 1980.²

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OVERVIEW

3. (S/D) The entire Iraq/Iran border area, from Paveh, Iran, in the north to Abadan, Iran, in the south, was covered on satellite imagery during the reporting period. Although refinements to the FEBA were made, the extent of the Iraqi advances in the six major areas (Khorramshahr/Abadan, Susangerd/Ahvaz, Dezful/Shush, Mehran, Mandali/Naft-E-Shah, and Qasr-E Shirin) remained essentially the same as that reported on satellite imagery since [redacted] Iraqi forces have been reinforced in the Susangerd/Ahvaz area, while Iraqi forces in the Qasr-E Shirin area have been reduced. At Shush, an Iraqi armored brigade was replaced by a mechanized infantry brigade. The Iraqis have committed elements of at least four and possibly five armored divisions, elements of two mechanized infantry divisions, and elements of at least three mountain infantry divisions to the front. Iranian forces have been reinforced along the entire front. The Iranians have committed elements of at least six brigade-sized armored forces, 13 battalion-sized divisional/nondivisional SP gun units, and eight battalion-sized divisional artillery units to the front.

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4. (S/D) A comparison of the amount of Iraqi and Iranian military equipment observed in the forward areas still shows the imbalance between the Iraqi and Iranian forces committed to the conflict. The Iranians have, however, increased their forces since [redacted]

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Military Equipment	Iraq		Iran	
	Oct 80	Feb 81	Oct 80	Feb 81
Tanks	1,329	1,548	278	523
Armored personnel carriers	747	1,173	148	542
Self-propelled guns	24	5	95	212
Field artillery	437	456	61	167
Rocket launchers	4	0	0	5
Surface-to-air missiles	70	64	12	12

5. (S/D) Iraqi armored and mechanized infantry forces in the Khorramshahr/Abadan, Susangerd/Ahvaz, Dezful/Shush, and Qasr-E Shirin areas have acquired 122mm howitzers D-30, formerly associated only with mountain infantry, since [redacted]

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6. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Khorramshahr/Abadan area remained in control of the city of Khorramshahr with an armored brigade and a mechanized infantry brigade still deployed east of the Karun River and north and east of the city of Abadan. Elements of an additional Iraqi armored/mechanized infantry force was north of Khorramshahr, and a second armored brigade was newly deployed in the Az Zubayr, Iraq, area. The opposing Iranian forces in the Abadan area have been reinforced since [redacted] and now consist of elements of a tank company and a mechanized infantry company with supporting artillery in the city. In addition, elements of two Iranian tank battalions and elements of two mechanized infantry battalions, with supporting artillery, were east and northeast of the city of Abadan. The Iranians had also established two resupply points southeast of Abadan on the Bahmanshir River in a continuing effort to strengthen their forces in the city.

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7. (S/D) In the Susangerd/Ahvaz area, Iraqi forces have been reinforced since [redacted] by elements of an armored division. Iraqi forces in the area consisted of elements of three Iraqi divisions (two armor and one mechanized infantry) by [redacted] Elements of the two armored divisions (one armored brigade and two armored brigades-minus) were positioned opposite the city of Susangerd while elements of the mechanized infantry division (one armored and one mechanized infantry brigade) were positioned opposite the city of Ahvaz. An additional armored brigade, possibly associated with one of the armored divisions at Susangerd, was also southwest of Ahvaz. In addition, the Iraqis had constructed two ammunition storage depots west-southwest of Ahvaz in Iran. The opposing Iranian forces in the Susangerd/Ahvaz area consisted of at least two and possibly three brigade-sized armored units, nine divisional/nondivisional SP gun battalions, and one divisional battalion-sized FA unit on [redacted] One and possibly two Iranian brigade-sized armored units and five divisional/nondivisional SP gun battalions were defending Susangerd, with one brigade-sized armored unit and four divisional/nondivisional SP gun battalions defending Ahvaz. The Iranian forces in Ahvaz had been reinforced with additional armored and artillery forces between [redacted]

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8. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Dezful/Shush area remained essentially unchanged on [redacted] Elements of two Iraqi divisions (one armored and one mechanized infantry) were in the area. One armored brigade and one mechanized infantry brigade of the armored division were opposite Dezful, and two mechanized infantry brigades of the mechanized infantry division were opposite Shush. The Iraqi armored brigade previously deployed in the Shush area had been withdrawn between [redacted] and replaced with a mechanized infantry brigade. The opposing Iranian forces in the Dezful/Shush area consisted of one and possibly elements of a second brigade-sized armored unit, two divisional/nondivisional SP gun battalions, and three divisional FA battalions. The majority of these forces was defending the approaches to Dezful, and a smaller portion of the forces was defending the Shush area. 25X1
9. (S/D) In the Mehran area, Iraqi forces consisting of one mountain infantry brigade-minus, two tank battalions, and one mechanized infantry battalion were still in the area on [redacted] The opposing Iranian forces consisted of a company-sized armored unit and at least a battalion-sized divisional artillery unit with infantry. 25X1
10. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Mandali/Naft-E Shah area consisted of a brigade-minus-sized armored force, a mechanized mountain infantry brigade-minus, a mountain infantry brigade-minus, and a mountain infantry battalion. The armored force arrived in the area between [redacted] and probably prior to [redacted] The opposing Iranian forces have been reinforced since [redacted] and consisted of a brigade-minus-sized armored force with supporting artillery on [redacted] The portion of the Iranian forces southeast of Mandali had advanced farther westward and was positioned in the mountains on the Iraq/Iran border. 25X1
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11. (S/D) In the Qasr-E Shirin area, an Iraqi armored brigade has been withdrawn since [redacted] and the remaining Iraqi forces have been repositioned throughout the area. An armored brigade, a mechanized infantry brigade (both elements of an armored division), and two mountain infantry brigades remained in the area on [redacted] Opposing Iranian forces had been reinforced in the Gilan-E Gharb area and repositioned closer to the FEBA along the entire front line between Pol-E Zohab and Gilan-E Gharb. A brigade-sized armored force and supporting artillery were in the area on [redacted] 25X1
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GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY**Khorranshahr/Abadan Area****Iraqi Forces**

12. (S/D) An Iraqi armored brigade, a mechanized infantry brigade, and elements of an armored/mechanized infantry force remained in the Khorranshahr/Abadan area on [redacted] (Figure 2). In addition, a second armored brigade, which had been deployed to the Az Zubayr area between [redacted] [redacted] was still present. 25X1
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13. (S/D) An Iraqi armored brigade and a mechanized infantry brigade were deployed in an area between 3 and 9 nm northeast of Abadan on both sides of the Abadan/Bandar-E Mashur pipeline (Figure 3). The armored brigade was deployed north and northwest of the mechanized infantry brigade between 4 and 14 nm north-northeast of Abadan along the Ahvaz/Abadan road. Elements of the supply/transport battalions and a field logistics base were collocated with the armored brigade.
14. (S/D) A PMP ponton bridge, reported on [redacted] remained across the Karun River, 9 nm north of Abadan. A second PMP bridge was under construction across the Karun River 7 nm north of Abadan. Ponton sections were in the river, and extensive road construction was underway in the area east and west of the river. A new defensive berm was under construction between 5.5 and 10.0 nm northeast of Khorranshahr and parallel to the Karun River. 25X1
15. (S/D) Iraqi forces on the west bank of the Karun River 10 nm northeast of Khorranshahr included two tank platoons, one mechanized infantry company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one FA battalion, two FA batteries, and two AA batteries. These forces have remained essentially unchanged since [redacted] 25X1
16. (S/D) Although Iraqi forces remained in control of Khorranshahr, only one Iraqi tank platoon was observed in the city, on the northeast end of the bridge over the Karun River connecting Khorranshahr and Abadan. The bridge itself had sustained additional damage since [redacted] but still appeared to be usable. 25X1
17. (S/D) Iraqi forces north of Khorranshahr, along the Khorranshahr/Ahvaz road between 5 and 35 nm north of the city, included three tank companies, seven mechanized infantry platoons, and two air defense batteries. Construction was underway to improve this north/south road. In addition, an artillery battery was 4 nm northwest of Khorranshahr. Iraqi units remained in two areas on the west bank of the Shatt Al Arab opposite Abadan on [redacted] Three FA batteries and an AA battery were deployed 9 nm west-northwest of the city, and a 130mm FA battalion, a mortar battery, and two AA batteries were 6 nm southwest of Abadan. 25X1

Iranian Forces

18. (S/D) The opposing Iranian force levels in the Abadan area remained relatively unchanged between [redacted] [redacted] However, those force levels represented a large reinforcement of the Iranian forces since [redacted] [redacted] Iranian forces deployed north, east, and southeast of Abadan consisted of elements of three tank platoons, three mechanized infantry platoons, three FA batteries, and two infantry units. An AA battery remained deployed around Abadan International Airfield [redacted] An Iranian ponton bridge was erected across the Rudkhaneh-Ye Bahmanshir River, 3 nm southeast of Abadan, between [redacted] 25X1
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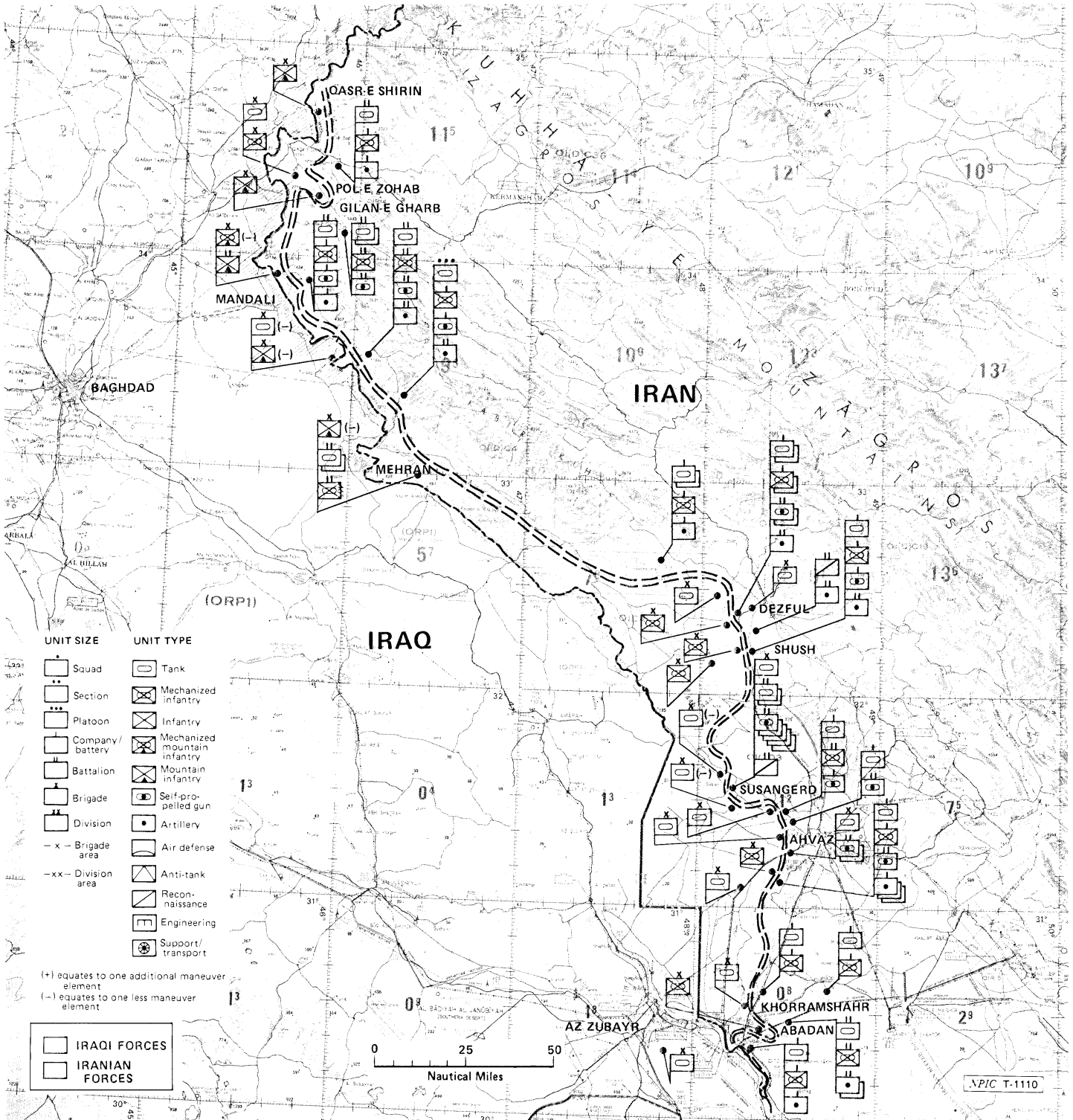


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS, FEBRUARY 1981

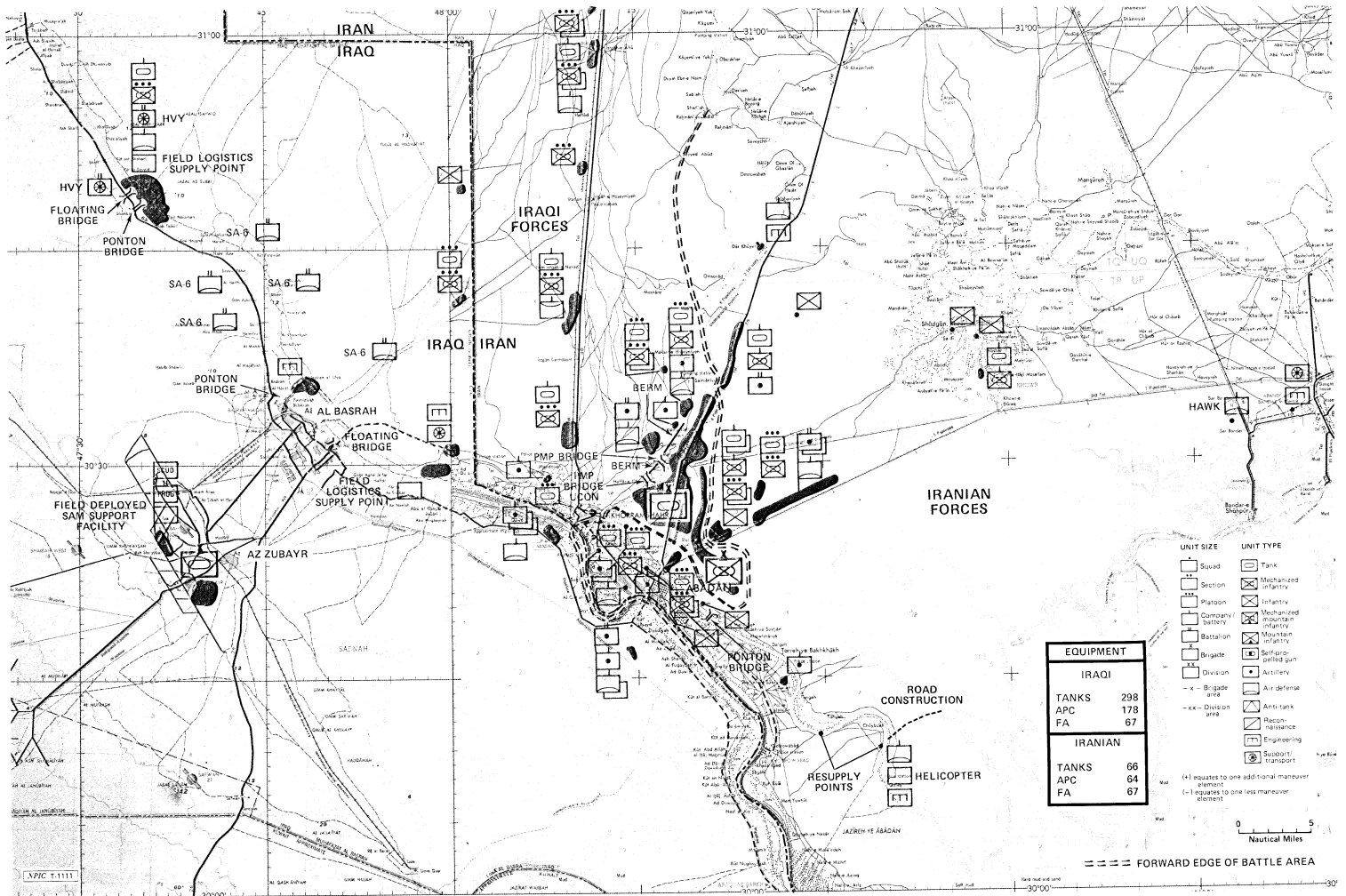


FIGURE 2. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, KHORRAMSHAHR/ABADAN AREA, IRAN, ON

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[redacted] This bridge is probably used in the resupply, and possibly in the reinforcement, of combat troops deployed on the east bank of the river. 25X1

19. (S/D) One FA battery remained positioned 9.5 nm southeast of Abadan, on the west bank of the Bahmanshir River. Two probable resupply points for the Iranian forces in Abadan were newly identified southeast of Abadan, on the west bank of the Bahmanshir River. The northernmost resupply point was 14.5 nm southeast of the city and consisted of two truck-mounted cranes, numerous tractor-trailer trucks, trucks, sedans, and personnel (Figure 4). A third crane was on a barge at the river bank. Several large barges and numerous small boats were tied up to the river bank. Extensive vehicle track activity was also observed in the area.

20. (S/D) The second probable resupply point was 18 nm southeast of Abadan. A PMP ponton bridge company, one RH-53 helicopter, one probable AB-214 helicopter, and numerous trucks, buses, and personnel were in this area. Several large barges were tied up to the nearby river bank. Several additional trucks were observed in a cleared area on the opposite bank of the river, and one large barge was tied up to the bank. In addition, two AA guns were positioned on each river bank. Three additional AB-214 helicopters were observed in flight just south of the Khowr-E Koyvarin River, traveling toward this resupply point. The flight direction of these aircraft indicated that they were probably traveling from the Bandar-E Shahpur/Bandar-E Mashur area. RH-53 and AB-214 helicopters have been stationed at Bandar-E Shahpur Port Facilities [redacted] for several months. In addition, road grading was observed, extending from the Khowr-E Koyvarin River southwest to the Rudkhaneh-Ye Bahmanshir River. 25X1

21. (S/D) Iranian forces along the Abadan/Bandar-E Mashur road, 6 nm east of Abadan, had been reinforced since [redacted]. These forces consisted of two tank companies, one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry company, three mechanized infantry platoons, two FA battalions, one AA battery, and an infantry unit. 25X1

22. (S/D) An additional Iranian deployment, composed of one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, and two infantry units, remained 27 nm northeast of Abadan, 4 nm north of the Abadan/Bandar-E Mashur road. This force was essentially unchanged from that observed on [redacted]. 25X1

23. (S/D) Iranian forces deployed 18 nm northeast of Abadan along the east bank of the Karun River have remained essentially unchanged since [redacted]. These forces consisted of one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, one FA battalion, and an infantry unit. Further to the north, approximately 25 nm northeast of Abadan, an Iranian engineer unit and an AA battery were deployed on the east bank of the Karun River. 25X1

24. (S/D) In the Bandar-E Mashur area, a divisional engineer unit (6 GSPs) was newly identified 2 nm west of the city. This equipment had not been present on [redacted]. The heavy lift unit remained in the area, and the Bandar-E Shahpur Hawk Site [redacted] remained occupied. 25X1
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Related Activity

25. (S/D) Iraqi activity in support of their forces in the Khorramshahr/Abadan area was observed along the Iraq/Iran border, in the Al Basrah area, northwest of Al Basrah along the Shatt Al Arab, and in the Az Zubayr area.

26. (S/D) Iraqi forces in Iraq, along a 25-nm segment of the Iraq/Iran border 25 nm northwest of Khorramshahr, consisted of one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry platoon, an infantry unit, an engineer unit, a supply and transport unit, and a field logistics supply point.

27. (S/D) In the Al Basrah area, a floating bridge across the Shatt Al Arab remained in operation. A second, ponton, bridge was floating in midriver north of Al Basrah at the confluence of the Qarmat Ali River and the Shatt Al Arab.

28. (S/D) An SA-6 brigade (five battalions) was redeployed within a 14-nm radius northeast and northwest of Al Basrah on [redacted]. Previously, an SA-6 brigade including four SA-6 battalions had been deployed within a 14-nm radius east of Al Basrah on [redacted]. 25X1
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29. (S/D) Further northwest of Al Basrah (20 nm), two ponton bridges had been erected across the Shatt Al Arab. One bridge was present on [redacted] and the second has been added to the area since that time. A tank company, one mechanized infantry platoon, two heavy lift battalions, one AA battery, and a field logistics supply point were also in the area. One of the two heavy lift battalions was parked in convoy formation along the road on the west bank of the Shatt Al Arab on [redacted]. 25X1
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30. (S/D) In the Az Zubayr area, major elements of an armor brigade were still at Az Zubayr Barracks and Brigade Headquarters Southwest [redacted]. Also, a SCUD unit, a FROG-7 unit, and a new field-deployed SAM support facility were 2 nm southwest of Shaibah Airfield [redacted]. [redacted] 25X1
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Susangerd/Ahvaz Area

31. (S/D) Elements of three Iraqi divisions (two armor and one mechanized infantry) were deployed in the Susangerd/Ahvaz area on [redacted] (Figure 5). Elements of the two armored divisions were west and south of Susangerd, and elements of the mechanized infantry division were southwest of Ahvaz. 25X1

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32. (S/D) Two ammunition storage depots were also constructed 31 nm west-southwest of Ahvaz between [redacted]. These depots will enable the Iraqis to stockpile ammunition near the FEBA, thereby enhancing their capability for sustained combat operations in the Ahvaz area.

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Susangerd Area

33.(S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** Elements of two armored divisions (three armored brigades) with supporting artillery and supply and transport units were deployed in the Susangerd area on [redacted]. Elements of one armored brigade-minus were deployed northwest of Susangerd on both sides of the Karkheh River. Lead elements of that brigade were within 1 nm of the city. A CP and a field logistics supply point were northwest of this brigade. Elements of the second armored brigade-minus were deployed 5 nm southwest of Susangerd. This brigade arrived in the area between [redacted]. The third armored brigade was deployed 10 nm southeast of Susangerd, in the area of the reported Iranian January counteroffensive. Evidence of previous hostilities in this area included extensive track activity, artillery craters, and nine destroyed vehicles.

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34. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The opposing Iranian forces in the Susangerd area have undergone some repositioning since [redacted] but force levels remained essentially unchanged on [redacted]. Iranian forces deployed southeast of Susangerd and south of the Karkheh River consisted of one tank battalion, one tank platoon, two mechanized infantry battalions, elements of one armored cavalry squadron, three M-109A1 SP gun battalions, and an infantry unit. A new ponton bridge had been erected across the Karkheh River, 3 nm southeast of Susangerd, since [redacted]. Some of the Iranian SP gun battalions were probably withdrawing to the north side of the river. Iranian forces northeast of Susangerd, on the north side of the Karkheh River, included one tank battalion, two mechanized infantry companies, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-107 SP gun battalion, one M-109A1 battalion, and one M-109A1 battery. The M-109A1 battalion had moved north across the river since [redacted].

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Ahvaz Area

35. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** Elements of an Iraqi mechanized infantry division (one armored brigade and a mechanized infantry brigade) with supporting artillery, air defense, and supply and transport units were deployed southwest of the Ahvaz area. The armored brigade was deployed 16 nm west-southwest of Ahvaz, and the OT-64 APC-equipped mechanized infantry brigade was 15.5 nm southwest of the city. Additional units deployed 13 nm west of the lead elements of this division included a tank company, an AA battery and transport unit, a CP, and a field logistics supply point.

36. (S/D) An additional armored brigade arrived in an area approximately 30 nm southwest of Ahvaz between [redacted]. Other units in this area included one tank battalion, one AA battalion, a supply and transport unit, elements of two heavy lift battalions, and a field logistics supply point. Elements of the tank battalion were on tank transporters in convoy formation. The newly constructed ammunition depots were also in this area. Because of their locations, these units could serve as a reserve force for the Iraqi units at either Ahvaz or Susangerd.

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37. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The main opposing Iranian force, deployed within 11 nm southwest of Ahvaz and north of the Karun River, had been significantly reinforced since [redacted]. Forces observed in this area on [redacted] included one tank battalion, two tank companies and one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry battalion, one mechanized infantry company, two mechanized infantry platoons, two M-109A1 SP gun battalions, and one M-109A1 SP gun battery.

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38. (S/D) On imagery of [redacted] a new Iranian force was identified on the southern flank of the main force, 20 nm southwest of Ahvaz and south of the Karun River. This flanking force was composed of one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, one mechanized infantry platoon, two M-109A1 SP gun batteries, and three FA batteries.

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39. (S/D) Iranian forces were also positioned northwest of Ahvaz in the area between that city and Hamidiyeh. Units in the area included one tank company, six tank platoons, two mechanized infantry companies, three mechanized infantry platoons (one traveling southeast on the Hamidiyeh/Ahvaz road), one M-109A1 SP gun battalion, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, one MRL battery, and a supply and transport unit. The elements of this force within 10 nm of Ahvaz (one tank company, two tank platoons, and one M-109A1 SP gun battalion) probably constituted a flanking force on the northeast side of the Iraqi armored brigade. The remaining units probably constituted a reserve force which could be used at either Ahvaz or Susangerd.

40. (S/D) Elements of the armored brigade at Hamidiyeh Army Barracks [redacted] 17 nm northwest of Ahvaz, have remained essentially unchanged since [redacted] and included two tank companies, one battalion-sized mechanized infantry unit, and elements of an engineer unit.

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41. (S/D) Iranian units at Ahvaz Barracks Storage Depot Brigade and Division Headquarters [redacted] remained essentially the same on [redacted]. They included one tank battalion, one brigade-sized mechanized infantry unit, two Scorpion-equipped armored cavalry platoons, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, one ponton bridge company, an engineer unit, and a supply and transport unit. A heavy lift unit was newly identified in an associated area 3 nm northeast of the barracks.

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42. (S/D) Seven AH-1 helicopters, one AB-214 helicopter, and one Jet Ranger helicopter were stationed at Ahvaz Airfield ([redacted]). These helicopters were probably providing air support for Iranian combat forces deployed in the Ahvaz area. One battery of ZSU-57/2 SPAA guns remained deployed around the airfield.

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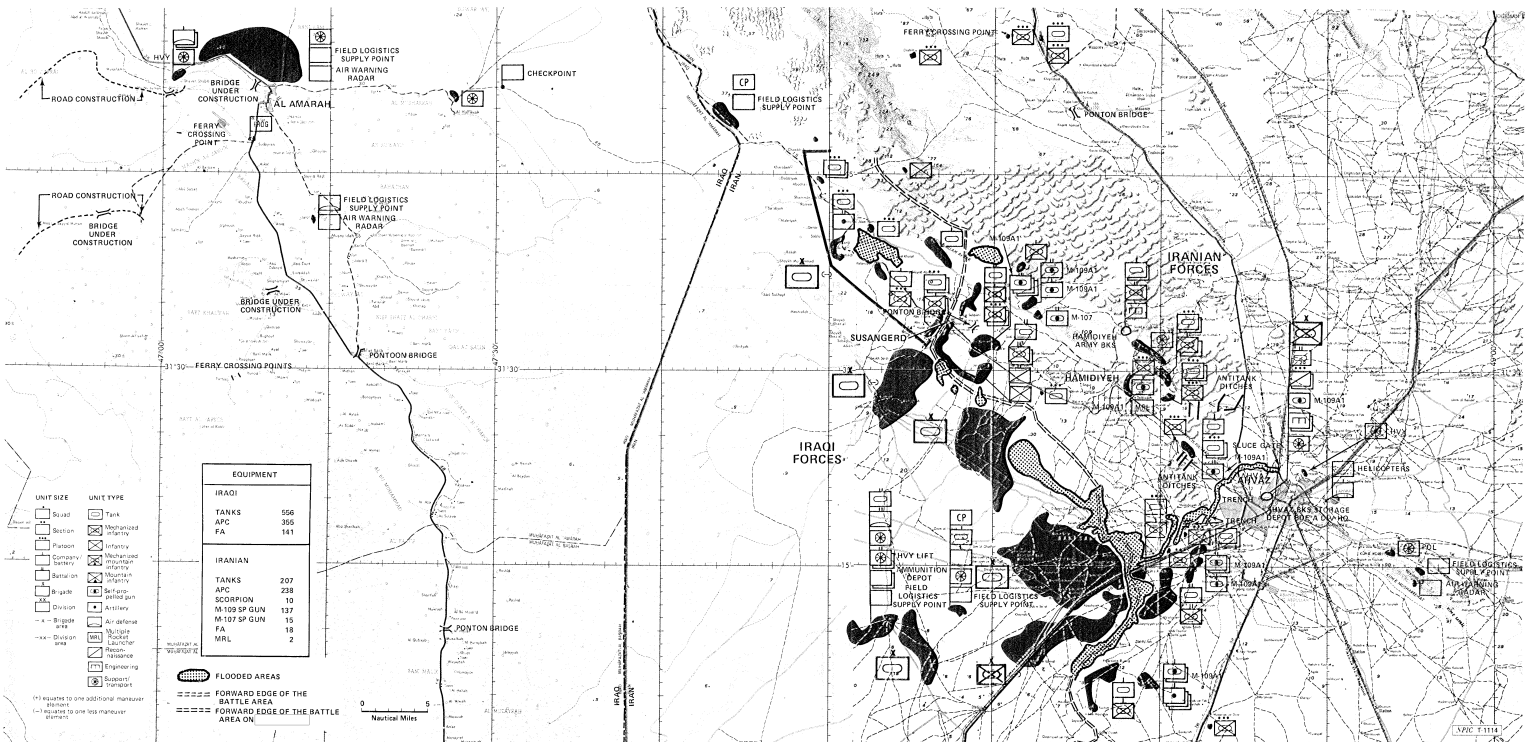


FIGURE 5. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, SUSANGERD/ANVAZ AREA, IRAN, ON

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43. (S/D) One field logistics supply point and elements of a POL transport unit were deployed within 13 nm southeast of Ahvaz. Also in this area a new AW site, Ahvaz AW Site () was observed on a mountaintop approximately 12 nm east of Ahvaz, at 31-13-59N 048-52-41E, on () Equipment observed included one Marconi S-330 AW radar. Since no height finder radar was discernible, it was not possible to determine whether or not the site was completely operational. However, the AW radar was rotating. The site had apparently been established in this area to provide AW support to Iranian combat forces operating in the Ahvaz area.

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44. (S/D) The extent of the flooding in the Ahvaz area has remained essentially unchanged since early February (Figure 6). An additional antitank ditch had been added north-northwest of the city since that time. Increased trenching activity was also observed west of Ahvaz on ()

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45. (S/D) A newly identified Iranian force was defending the northern approach to Ahvaz 40 nm north of the city. In this area, an Iranian bridgehead was newly identified on the Karkheh River at 31-49-30N 046-22-00E. The road spur leading to a ponton bridge had been improved since () Equipment observed near the bridge included five BMK-90 powerboats, 12 trucks, and three jeeps. Iranian forces defending the bridge were positioned on both sides of the river, 10 nm north of the bridge, and 16.5 nm south of Shush. These forces included a tank platoon and four mechanized infantry platoons. In addition, an infantry unit was 14 nm west-southwest of the bridge. An Iranian ferry crossing point on the Karun River at 31-55-40N 048-15-55E was also new in this area.

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Related Activity

46. (S/D) Additional support for the Iraqi forces in the Susangerd/Ahvaz area was observed in the Al Amarah area of Iraq. Most of the units in this area were along a 30-nm segment of the Tigris River and its tributaries from Falah to Qal At Salih and included elements of a FROG battalion, three AA batteries, a heavy lift unit, a supply and transport unit, a field logistics supply point, two AW sites, a ponton bridge, and four ferry crossing points. An additional supply and transport unit and a checkpoint were in an area approximately 17 nm east of Al Amarah.

47. (S/D) Construction was continuing on two new roads and three permanent bridges in the area west and south of Al Amarah. A permanent bridge along the new road west of Al Amarah had already been completed.

48. (S/D) An additional ponton bridge was across the Tigris River at 31-10-10N 047-25-50E, approximately 35 nm south-southwest of Al Amarah.

Dezful/Shush Area

49. (S/D) Elements of two Iraqi divisions (one armor and one mechanized infantry) remained deployed in the Dezful/Shush area on () The armored division elements were west of Dezful, and the mechanized infantry division elements were west of Shush. The armored division has repositioned some of its units since () and the armored brigade of the mechanized infantry division has been replaced on the front line by a mechanized infantry brigade since ()

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Dezful Area

50. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** Major elements of the Iraqi armored brigade of the armored division were still deployed 14 nm west of Dezful, although some units of the brigade had been repositioned to the west-northwest to counter a newly deployed Iranian force in the mountains northwest of Dezful. The mechanized infantry brigade of the armored division remained deployed along the west bank of the Karkheh River, immediately southeast of the armored brigade. Some of the units of the mechanized infantry brigade have been repositioned further south since () In addition, a possible Iraqi bridgehead has been constructed on the Karkheh River in this area since () A road with protective earthen berms has been constructed from the Iraqi-occupied village of Sorkheh, on the west bank of the Karkheh, to a sandbar at the river's edge, where a road grader and two trucks were preparing a ferry landing position. A ferry and powerboat were adjacent to the east bank, opposite the position under construction, with one truck nearby. No Iraqi military units were identified on the east bank.

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51. (S/D) Reserve and support units of the armored division, deployed 8 nm west of the lead elements, included one tank battalion, one mechanized infantry battalion, three FA battalions, one FA battery (D-30), three SA-6 battalions, a supply and transport unit, and a CP. Two SA-6 battalions had departed this area between ()

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52. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The opposing Iranian forces were still deployed in the area from the west bank of the Karkheh River east to Dezful and south to a point approximately 9 nm southwest of Dezful. An additional force was newly deployed in the mountains approximately 40 nm northwest of the city.

53. (S/D) The new Iranian force had been deployed in the mountains 40 nm northwest of Dezful between () This force, which was flanking the Iraqi force in the area, consisted of one tank company and elements (three tank platoons and a tank squad) of a second tank company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one mechanized infantry squad, four FA batteries, four supply and transport units, and two infantry units.

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54. (S/D) The Iranian forces remaining west of the Karkheh River and within 5.5 nm west of Dezful Highway Strip [] included one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, one FA battery, and one infantry unit. These forces have been gradually reduced in size since [] when an armored brigade was observed in this area. Forces adjacent to and on the east bank of the Karkheh River included a tank platoon and a mechanized infantry company. 25X1
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55. (S/D) Supporting forces had been positioned both northeast and southeast of these units. In the northeast, two Iranian M-107 SP gun batteries, an FA battery, and an AA gun battery had been repositioned from an area just east of the highway strip to a location 3.5 nm north of the highway strip between [] [] These units remained in the area on [] Supporting forces to the southeast, and within 10.5 nm west-southwest of Dezful, remained essentially unchanged between [] [] Minor repositioning occurred, and an armored cavalry squadron was added to the area. Forces present on [] [] consisted of one tank platoon, one M-107 SP gun battery, two M-109A1 SP gun batteries, one Scorpion-equipped armored cavalry squadron, three FA batteries, and two supply and transport units. 25X1
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56. (S/D) The major Iranian reserve forces were within 5 nm west and northwest of Dezful. The forces consisted of an armored brigade-sized force (one tank battalion, one tank company, two mechanized infantry battalions, one mechanized infantry company, a probable CP, and a supply and transport unit). This force had fluctuated in size and composition between late October and late February.

57. (S/D) Ground force elements still garrisoned at Dezful Barracks and Brigade Headquarters remained essentially unchanged. One tank battalion-minus, one mechanized infantry battalion, and one M-109A1 SP gun battery were present on [] 25X1

58. (S/D) Two Hawk sites southwest and northeast of Dezful—Dezful Hawk Site 2 A24-35 (BE [] and Dezful Hawk Site ([]—remained occupied on [] Four AH-1 helicopters, four AB-214 helicopters, and one AH-1/AB-214 helicopter were at Vahdahi AB Airfield [] [] and six AA batteries remained deployed around the airfield. These helicopters were probably providing air support for Iranian combat forces in the Dezful area. 25X1
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59. (S/D) Iranian forces observed within 9 nm northeast of Dezful remained unchanged and included an infantry unit in a large bivouac area and a field logistics supply point.

60. (S/D) Iranian forces 10 nm north of Dezful have been reduced since [] These forces, which probably also function as a reserve element, may have moved southwest to supplement Iranian troops northwest of Dezful. On [] only one AA battery, a heavy lift unit, and a field logistics supply point remained in this mountain area. An additional field logistics supply point remained 14 nm north-northwest of Dezful. 25X1
25X1

61. (S/D) The Dez Dam remained intact, and the reservoir appeared to be full on [] 25X1

Shush Area

62. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** The Iraqi armored brigade of the mechanized infantry division previously deployed 3 nm west of Shush was withdrawn and replaced by a mechanized infantry brigade between [] [] One tank battalion, three FA battalions, and a supply and transport unit were deployed immediately to the west of the mechanized infantry brigade. Reserve and support units were deployed between 11 and 22 nm west-southwest of Shush. These forces included a mechanized infantry brigade, three SA-6 battalions, a supply and transport unit, and a CP. 25X1
25X1

63. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** Opposing Iranian forces within a 5.5-nm radius of Shush remained essentially unchanged, although minor repositioning had occurred since [] These forces included two tank platoons, one mechanized infantry company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, two FA batteries, one AA battery, and two infantry units. One of the infantry units is deployed on the east and west banks of the Karkheh River. 25X1

Related Activity

64. (S/D) Iraqi activity in support of their forces in the Dezful/Shush area was observed along the Iraq/Iran border and further to the west along the Tigris River. The area between the Iraqi forces at Dezful and the border along the Mehran/Dezful road was cloud covered.

65. (S/D) Units deployed in Iraq and Iran along the border between 24 and 56 nm west and northwest of the Iraqi reserve and support units at Dezful included two tank companies (one T-72 equipped), three tank platoons, two mechanized infantry companies, two FA batteries, an AA battery, and two supply and transport units. A probable field-deployed SA-6 PRTB and a field logistics supply point were also in the area. Additional units along the border between 15 and 25 nm west of the Iraqi forces opposite Shush included one tank platoon, one engineer unit, one AA battery, and two supply and transport units.

66. (S/D) Activity observed further to the west along a 30-nm segment of the Tigris River between Ali Al Gharbi (32-37-30N 046-41-00E) and Kumayt (32-02-00N 046-32-30E) included three ponton bridges spanning the river and one ferry crossing point. An AW radar site protected by an AA battery and a field logistics supply point were also in the area.

Mehran Area

67. (S/D) Minor reinforcement and repositioning of both Iraqi and Iranian forces has occurred since [] 25X1

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[] The presence of the additional Iranian units caused an adjustment to the FEBA, which was approximately 8 to 10 nm farther to the west than on [] 25X1
25X1

Iraqi Forces

68. (S/D) A mountain infantry brigade-minus, two tank battalions, a mechanized infantry battalion, five FA battalions, and support units were in the Mehran area on [] (Figure 8). The units were deployed primarily along the Mehran/Ilam road and the Mehran/Dezful road. By [] elements of the mountain infantry brigade had been repositioned along both roads, whereas on [] the forces had been along the Mehran/Ilam road. Forces along the Mehran/Ilam road on [] included two tank platoons, three mountain infantry companies, and two FA battalions. The lead elements of these forces were approximately 7 nm northeast of Mehran. 25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

69. (S/D) Iraqi forces along the Mehran/Dezful road included four tank companies, three tank platoons, one mechanized infantry company, three mechanized infantry platoons, four mountain infantry companies, one FA battalion, four FA batteries, two AA batteries, and a supply and transport unit. The lead elements of these forces were approximately 14 nm east of Mehran. The combat units in this area had moved from their positions along the main road to hilltops and strategic defensive positions in the valley. In addition, an elaborate network of wire fences had been constructed across the valley to hinder the east-west movement of the Iranians.

70. (S/D) A probable reserve force of one mechanized infantry platoon, one FA battalion, and one AA battery was approximately 15 nm southeast of Mehran.

71. (S/D) Support elements remaining in Iraq included a mountain infantry company, an ammunition storage depot, and a helicopter unit 11 nm west of Mehran. A field logistics supply point was approximately 23 nm southwest of the city.

Iranian Forces

72. (S/D) The opposing Iranian forces 20 nm north of Mehran consisted of one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry company, one mechanized infantry platoon, one M-109A1 SP gun battalion, two FA batteries, one AA battery, and an infantry unit. One infantry unit and one field logistics supply point were 14 nm northeast of Mehran.

73. (S/D) The area where opposing Iranian forces had been reported on [] east and east-southeast of Mehran, was cloud covered on [] A destroyed bridge on the Mehran/Dezful road, spanning the Changuleh River 22 nm east-southeast of Mehran, appears to have halted the Iraqi lead elements which had been in this area on [] An additional Iranian infantry unit was in the mountains, 39 nm southeast of Mehran. 25X1
25X1
25X1

Mandali/Naft-E Shah Area

74. (S/D) An Iraqi brigade-sized armored force, a mechanized mountain infantry brigade-minus, and a mountain infantry brigade remained in the Mandali/Naft-E Shah area on [] (Figure 9). These forces were deployed northeast and southeast of Mandali and east of Naft-E Shah. A westward shift of the FEBA has been observed southeast of Mandali since [] 25X1
25X1

Naft-E Shah Area

75. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** Elements of an Iraqi mechanized mountain infantry brigade-minus and one mountain infantry battalion supported by a company-sized tank force and a battalion-sized FA force were 7 nm northeast of Mandali and 10 nm east of Naft-E Shah.

76. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The opposing Iranian forces between 13 and 26 nm east of Naft-E Shah had been reinforced since [] and consisted of one tank company, four tank platoons, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, one FA battery, one AA battery, two infantry units, and one supply and transport unit. One Iranian mechanized infantry platoon and two infantry units were 5 to 10 nm north of these forces. 25X1

Southeast of Mandali

77. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** Elements of an Iraqi brigade-minus-sized armored force and elements of a mountain infantry brigade-minus (two battalions) were deployed between 8 and 28 nm southeast of Mandali on [] The forces in this area were deployed with the armor units flanked on the north and south by mountain infantry units. The mountain infantry forces were probably elements of the mountain infantry brigade which had departed the area northeast of Mandali and southeast of Naft-E Shah prior to [] 25X1
25X1

78. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The opposing Iranian forces southeast of Mandali also have been reinforced since [] The Iranian forces were deployed in the mountainous area 29 nm east-southeast of Mandali and 18 nm west of Ilam. These forces included two tank companies, three tank platoons, seven mechanized infantry platoons, three M-109A1 SP gun batteries, one M-107 SP gun battery, one BM-21 MRL battery, two FA batteries, one infantry battalion, one infantry unit, and two field logistics supply points. Three AH-1/AB-214 helicopters were parked in a valley 13 nm southwest of Ilam. 25X1

(Continued p. 25)

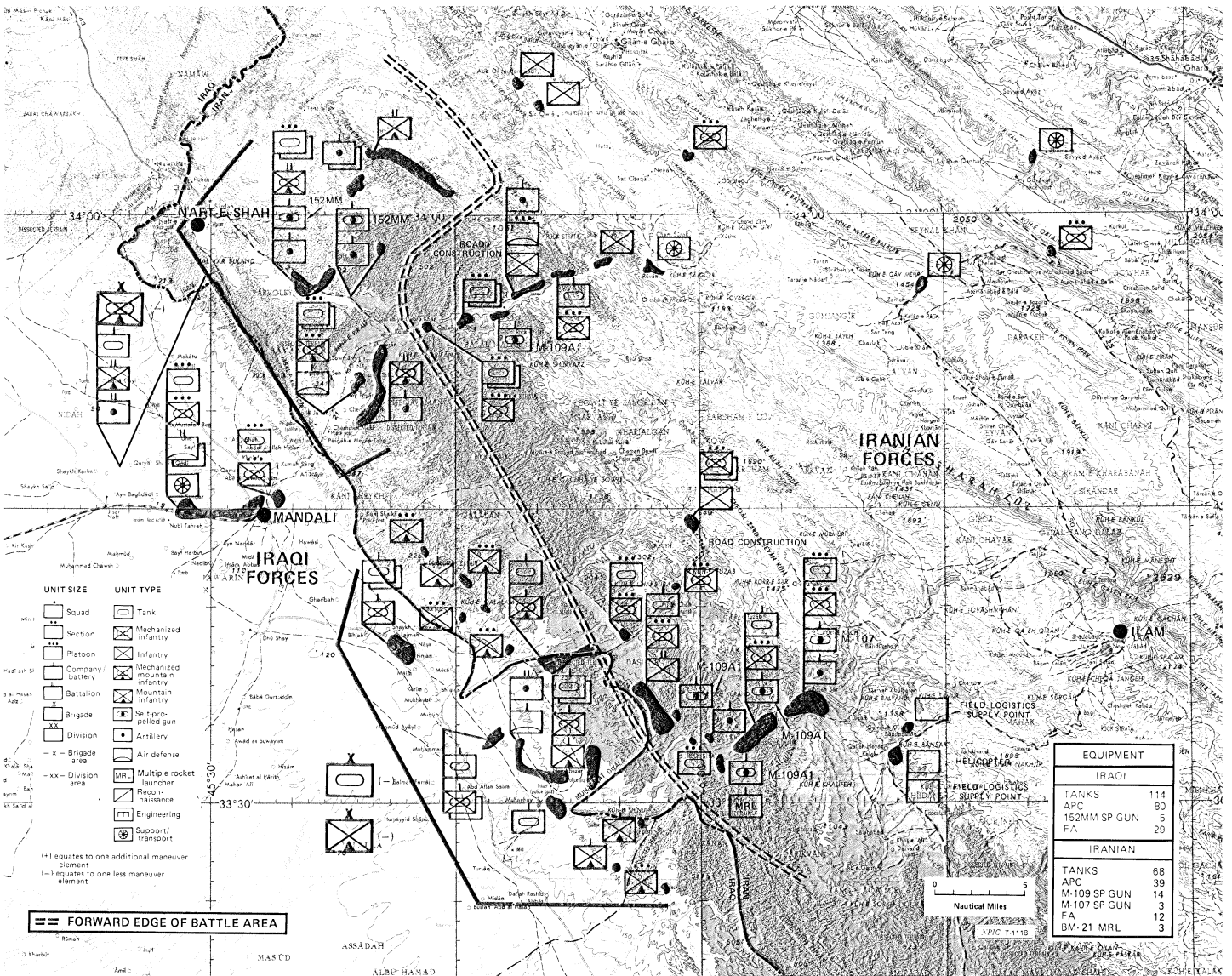


FIGURE 9. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, MANDALI/NAFT-E SHAH AREA, IRAQ, ON

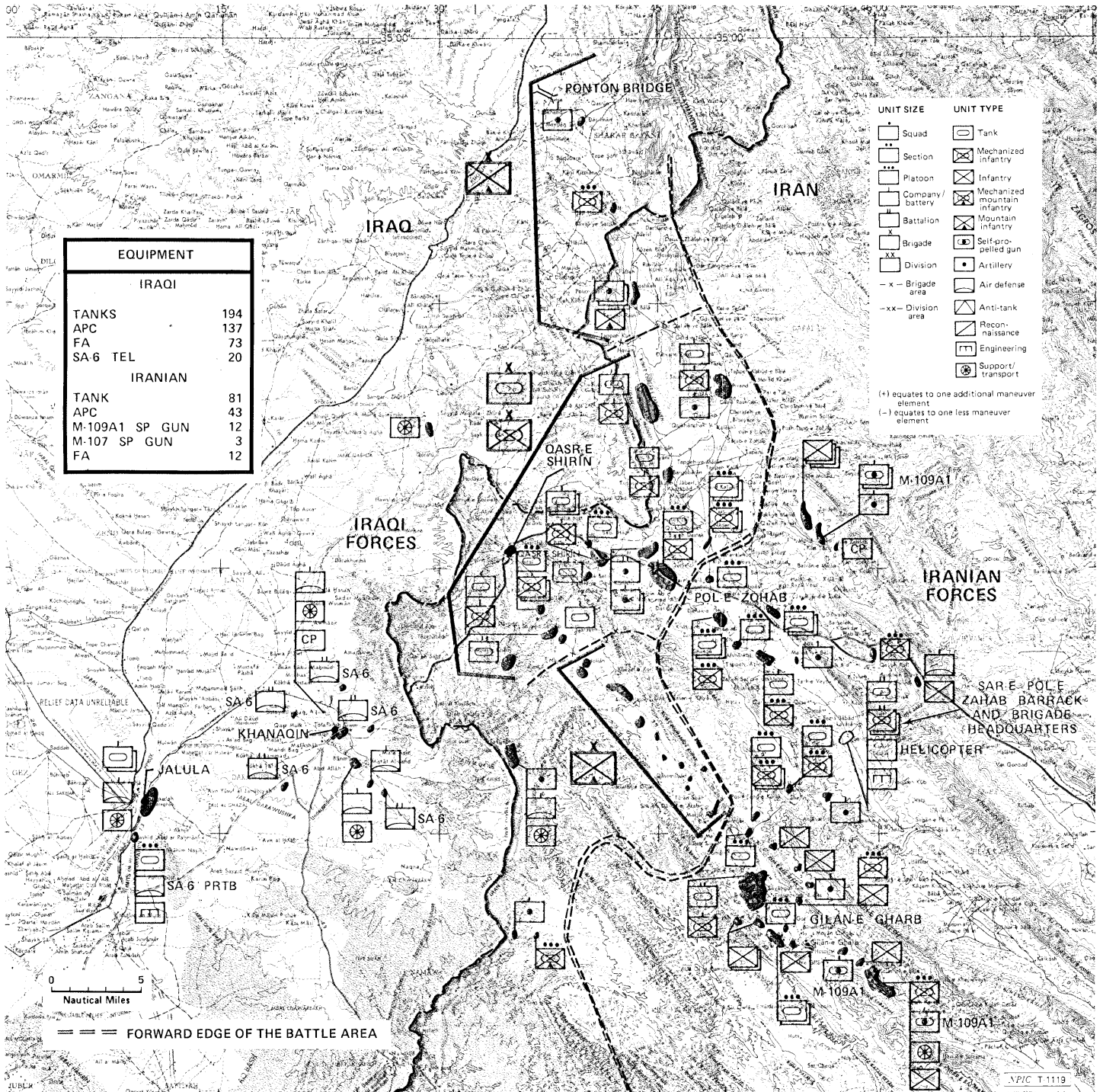


FIGURE 10 GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, QASR-E SHIRIN AREA, IRAN, ON [REDACTED]

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79. (S/D) **Related Activity.** Iraqi reserve and support units within 5 nm of Mandali consisted of two tank platoons, two mechanized infantry platoons, two AA battalions, and a supply and transport unit.

80. (S/D) Additional Iranian forces were in the mountains approximately 22 nm north-northwest of Ilam and consisted of one mechanized infantry platoon and two supply and transport units.

Qasr-E Shirin Area

81. (S/D) Iraqi forces remaining in the Qasr-E Shirin area on [] consisted of an armored division-minus and elements of two mountain infantry brigades (Figure 10). The armored division-minus was still positioned primarily north and south of the Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zohab road, one mountain infantry brigade remained along the Qasr-E Shirin/Gilan-E Gharb road, and elements of the second mountain infantry brigade appeared to be positioned 15 to 25 nm north-northeast of Qasr-E Shirin. 25X1

Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zohab Axis

82. (S/D) **Iraqi Forces.** One Iraqi armored brigade of the armored division, previously deployed in the Qasr-E Shirin area, had been withdrawn from the area between [] The remaining armored division units, consisting of one armored brigade and one mechanized infantry brigade, had undergone major repositioning. These remaining forces were deployed along a 20-nm northeast/southwest axis, from 7 nm southeast to 16 nm northeast of Qasr-E Shirin. 25X1

83. (S/D) Elements of the Iraqi armored division-minus, deployed between 5 and 10 nm east of Qasr-E Shirin along both sides of the Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zohab road, consisted of three tank companies, four tank platoons, one mechanized infantry battalion, one mechanized infantry company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one FA battalion, and two FA batteries. Leading elements of this force were one BMP-equipped mechanized infantry battalion and a supporting tank platoon. Major elements of a mechanized infantry brigade had previously been deployed in this general area on [] 25X1

84. (S/D) Iraqi forces deployed from 10 to 15 nm northeast of Qasr-E Shirin, north of the Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zohab road, consisted of one tank battalion, two tank companies, three mechanized infantry companies, and one FA battery. These forces had previously been identified as elements of an armored brigade on partial coverage of this area acquired on [] 25X1

85. (S/D) Further to the north, elements of an Iraqi mountain infantry brigade remained deployed between 15 and 25 nm north-northeast of Qasr-E Shirin. Partial coverage of this area because of weather conditions prevented an accurate assessment of these forces. A PMP ponton bridge remained spanning the Nahr Diyala River, 24 nm north of Qasr-E Shirin.

86. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** The opposing Iranian forces in the vicinity of Pol-E Zohab on [] appeared to have been reduced in strength since [] They included one tank company, six tank platoons, three mechanized infantry platoons, one FA battery, one AA gun battery, and an infantry unit. An additional Iranian force was positioned along a ridgeline of the Kuh-E Band Zaedeh (mountain), 5 nm north-northeast of Pol-E Zohab, on [] This force consisted of two M-109A1 SP gun batteries, one 130mm FA battery, three infantry units, and a probable CP. This area was cloud covered on [] 25X1
25X1
25X1

Qasr-E Shirin/Gilan-E Gharb Axis

87. (S/D) An Iraqi force remained deployed along the Qasr-E Shirin/Gilan-E Gharb road on [] This force, deployed between 7 and 19 nm southeast of Qasr-E Shirin, consisted of one mountain infantry brigade with supporting tank and artillery units. The forward elements of this brigade had withdrawn to new positions approximately 1 nm to the northwest, closer to Qasr-E Shirin, since [] 25X1
25X1
25X1

88. (S/D) Additional Iraqi units of the armored division-minus, deployed in an area approximately 5 nm southeast of Qasr-E Shirin and northwest of the mountain infantry brigade, consisted of one tank battalion, three tank companies, one tank platoon, and three mechanized infantry companies. These forces appeared to have been deployed as a reserve force for the units along both axes. Major elements of an armored brigade were deployed in this general area on [] 25X1

89. (S/D) **Iranian Forces.** Significant repositioning and reinforcement of the opposing Iranian forces in the vicinity of Gilan-E Gharb has occurred since [] The FEBA opposite Gilan-E Gharb has shifted approximately 4 nm to the northwest. Forces deployed in the vicinity of the city on [] included one tank battalion, six tank platoons, one mechanized infantry company, five mechanized infantry platoons, elements of two M-109A1 SP gun batteries, two FA batteries, eight infantry units, and one supply and transport unit. 25X1
25X1

90. (S/D) **Equipment remaining in garrison** at Sar-E Pol-E Zohab Barracks and Brigade Headquarters and Depot [] consisted of one tank battalion, two mechanized infantry battalions, and an engineer unit. Two AB-214 helicopters and three probable AH-1 helicopters were stationed in the garrison. These helicopters are probably providing air support for Iranian forces in the Pol-E Zohab/Gilan-E Gharb area. 25X1

91. (S/D) Additional Iraqi forces were seen in Iraq and along the Iraq/Iran border. An Iraqi supply and transport unit in support of the forward battle elements was deployed approximately 8 nm northwest of Qasr-E Shirin in Iraq.

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92. (S/D) Iraqi forces deployed from the Iraq/Iran border to a point 25 nm southwest of Qasr-E Shirin, near Khanaqin, consisted of one FA battery, one SA-6 brigade, four AA batteries, two supply and transport units, and a probable divisional CP. The SA-6 brigade was deployed around the town of Khanaqin. By [] three of the SA-6 battalions had been removed. One of those was observed redeployed in Iran, approximately 7 nm south-southeast of Qasr-E Shirin. 25X1 25X1

93. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Jalula area 13 nm southwest of Khanaqin consisted of two tank companies and one tank platoon in reserve, one AA battery, one SA-6 PRTB support unit, one engineer unit, and one supply and transport unit.

94. (S/D) Iraqi forces deployed along a river valley 22 nm south of Qasr-E Shirin consisted of one mechanized infantry platoon and one FA battery.

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) [] 25X1

DOCUMENTS

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2. NPIC. Z-20165/80, IAR-0346/80, *Summary of Military Activity, Iraq/Iran*, [] 25X1
(S), Dec 80 (SECRET) [] 25X1

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(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, [] Information contained in this report was coordinated with [] Office of Imagery Analysis/Land Forces Division; and [] DIA, DB-5D1. 25X1 25X1 25X1

SECRET**GLOSSARY OF
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***This glossary in its entirety is UNCLASSIFIED*

AA	Antiaircraft
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery
AD	Air defense
AOR	Replenishment oiler
APB	Barracks ship
APC	Armored personnel carrier
AR	Repair ship
ARD-D	Floating drydock
ARD-T	Auxiliary repair dock
AW	Air warning
AWT	Water carrier
AX	Training ship
CP	Command post
DD	Destroyer
DDG	Guided missile destroyer
DIW	Dead in the water
ECM	Electronics countermeasure
EW	Early warning
FA	Field artillery
FEBA	Forward edge of battle area
FFG	Guided missile frigate
GCI	Ground controlled intercept
GSP	Heavy amphibious ferry
LCM	Medium landing craft
LCMA	Medium landing craft (air cushion)
LCU	Utility landing craft
LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship
LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher
MSC	Coastal minesweeper
MSF	Fleet minesweeper
MSI	Inshore minesweeper
NM	Nautical mile(s)
PB	Patrol boat
PBA	Patrol boat (air cushion)
PBR	River/roadstead patrol boat
PC	Patrol craft
PCL	Small submarine chaser
PCS	Submarine chaser
PG	Patrol escort
PGM	Motor gunboat
PMP	Heavy folding ponton bridge
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant
PRTB	Missile assembly and checkout facility
PT	Torpedo boat
PTG	Missile attack boat
PTS	Tracked amphibian
RTP	Rail-to-road transfer point
RO/RO	Roll-on/roll-off
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SP	Self-propelled
SPAA	Self-propelled antiaircraft
SPG	Self-propelled gun
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
TEL	Transporter-erector-launcher
TELRL	Transporter-erector-launcher radar
TMM	Truck-mounted bridge
VLCC	Very large crude carrier

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Secret

Secret