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Imagery analysis report

Military Activity, Susangerd
Iraq/Iran Forward Area



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MILITARY ACTIVITY, SUSANGERD, IRAQ/IRAN FORWARD AREA,

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1. (S/D) This report is the most recent in a series of [] reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict¹ and covers the period from [] This report discusses deployed ground forces in the Susangerd forward area (Figure 1).

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2. (S/D) Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.² Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

DISCUSSION

3. (S/D) Elements of two Iranian armor brigades attacked an Iraqi armor brigade deployed west and northwest of Susangerd between [] (Figures 2 and 3). Elements of the Iranian armor brigade north of the Karkheh River had advanced 3.5 nm northwest of its previous location, driving the opposing Iraqi forces from their positions in the Allah Akbar Hills and destroying numerous Iraqi tanks and APCs. Elements of a second Iranian armor brigade south of the Karkheh River also advanced 3 nm west of Susangerd during the same time period, driving the Iraqi forces from their entrenched positions opposite the city.

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4. (S/D) Preparations for these advances were evident on [] (Figure 2). On that date, one mechanized infantry platoon, two M-109A1 SPG battalions, elements of two Scorpion-equipped armored reconnaissance platoons, and a large infantry unit were in an area 4 nm east and south of Susangerd and south of the Karkheh River. A large flooded area protected the southern flank of these forces. Since [] the Iranians had deployed a second PMP bridge and a new footbridge (bringing the total to four footbridges) over the Neysan River, which separated the Iraqi and Iranian forces. Iranian infantry was deployed in two locations on the west bank of the Neysan River on [] In addition, a footbridge had been erected over the Karkheh River 6 nm northwest of Susangerd by [] Two Iranian bulldozers were being used to improve a road connecting the footbridge with Iranian forces immediately north of the Karkheh River at Susangerd.

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5. (S/D) On [] an increased Iranian presence was observed north-northeast of Susangerd, north of the Karkheh River. Iranian forces deployed in this area included one tank battalion, three tank platoons, two mechanized infantry battalions, five mechanized infantry platoons, two M-107 SPG batteries, and three M-109A1 SPG battalions. The two mechanized infantry battalions had arrived since []

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6. (S/D) Three Iraqi infantry units, possibly Special Forces, were observed in an area between 1 and 8 nm northwest of Susangerd [] Elements of one previously observed Iraqi armor brigade remained deployed in this area, on both banks of the Karkheh River, on the same date. The brigade consisted of six tank companies, four tank platoons, four mechanized infantry platoons, and three FA batteries. A second armor brigade also remained deployed between 6 and 9 nm southwest of Susangerd on [] Only minor repositioning of Iraqi forces in the area had occurred since []

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7. (S/D) Iraqi bridge construction was identified on the Neysan River, 8.5 nm west of Susangerd, on [] Another bridge, 4.5 nm farther to the west over the Karkhehku River, has become impassable since [] because heavy currents have cut away one river bank and widened the channel. A small infantry unit was observed on the perimeter of the town served by the bridge.

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8. (S/D) by [] advancing Iranian forces north of the Karkheh River consisted of one tank battalion, one tank company, two tank platoons, two mechanized infantry battalions, two mechanized infantry platoons, two M-107 SPG batteries, three M-109A1 battalions, and one infantry unit (Figure 3). Lead elements of these forces had advanced to a position 6 nm north of Susangerd. Numerous destroyed Iraqi armored vehicles littered the area. In addition, an Iranian FA battery was newly deployed 15 nm north of Susangerd. A mechanized infantry platoon and an infantry unit previously identified in this area were not discernible.

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9. (S/D) Iranian forces south of the Karkheh River crossed the Neysan River between [] and advanced to positions between 3.5 nm northwest and 5 nm west-southwest of Susangerd. Iranian forces west-southwest of Susangerd, on the west bank of the Neysan River, on [] included one tank battalion, one mechanized infantry battalion, one mechanized infantry company, two Scorpion-equipped armored reconnaissance platoons, and an infantry unit. Additionally, an Iranian infantry unit was deployed on the south bank of the Karkheh River in the vicinity of a footbridge 6 nm northwest of Susangerd. Iranian forces remaining southeast of Susangerd included two M-109A1 SPG battalions and an AA gun battery.

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10. (S/D) Elements of the Iraqi armor brigade and the three infantry units deployed northwest of Susangerd had relocated to an area between 5 and 10 nm northwest of the city by [] Elements of the armor brigade (two Iraqi tank battalions north of the Karkheh River) were under fire from Iranian units. One Iraqi tank was burning, and at least eight others appeared to be damaged or destroyed on [] Evidence of Iraqi reinforcement was observed in the area between [] when an Iraqi armor battalion was identified 8 nm west of Susangerd, immediately north of the Neysan River. A second Iraqi armor brigade was still deployed between 6 and 9 nm southwest of Susangerd on []

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REFERENCES

[Redacted] 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

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

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. Z-20070/81, IAR-0069/81, *Military Activity Summary, Iraq/Iran Forward Areas*, [Redacted] 25X1
[Redacted] (S), 13 May 81 (SECRET) [Redacted] 225X1
2. DIA. DDB-1100-IZ-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Iraq (U)*, Jan 80 (SECRET) [Redacted] 25X1
DIA. DDB-1100-IR-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Iran (U)*, Sep 80 (SECRET) [Redacted]

[Redacted] 25X1

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

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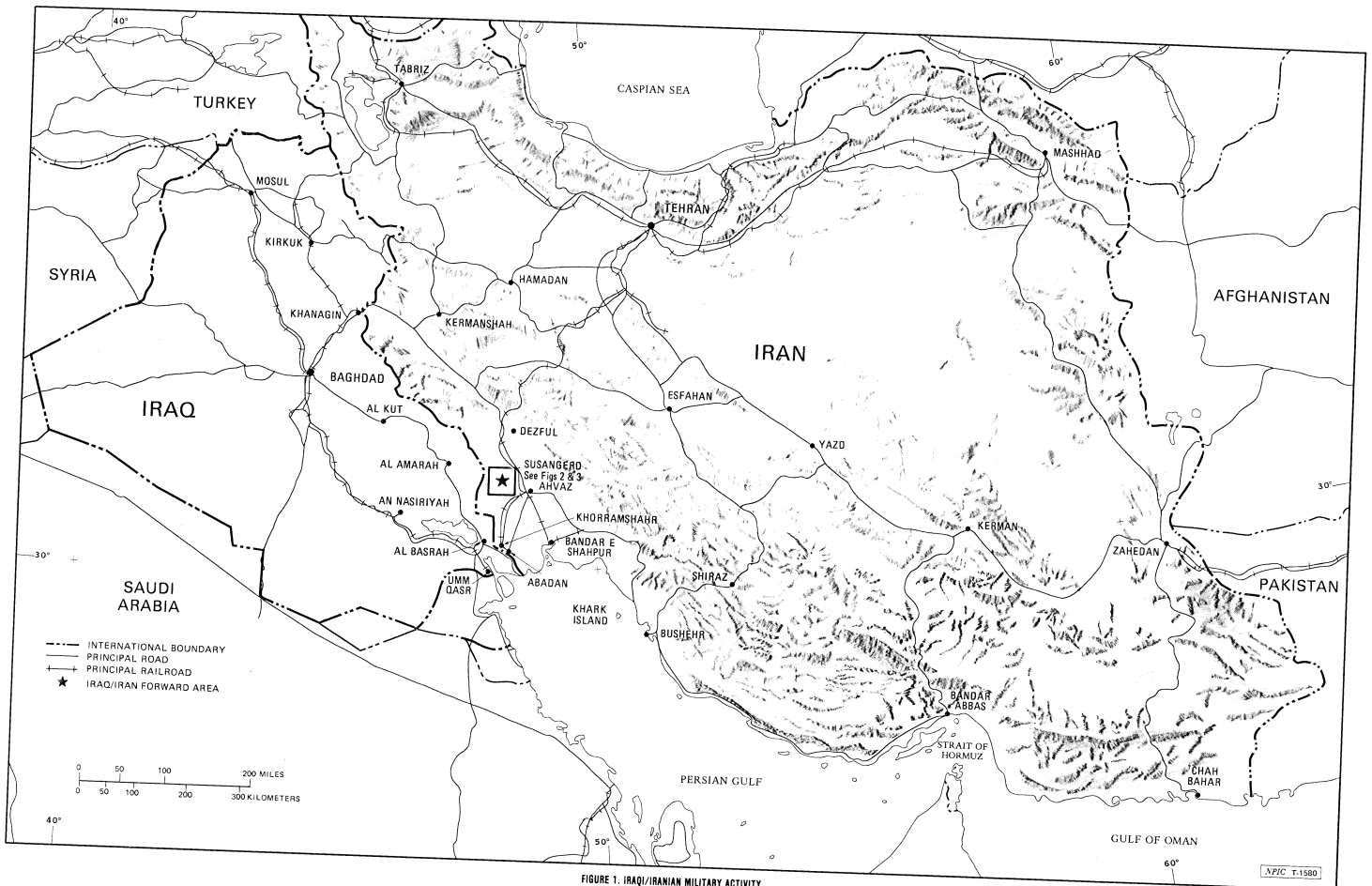


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

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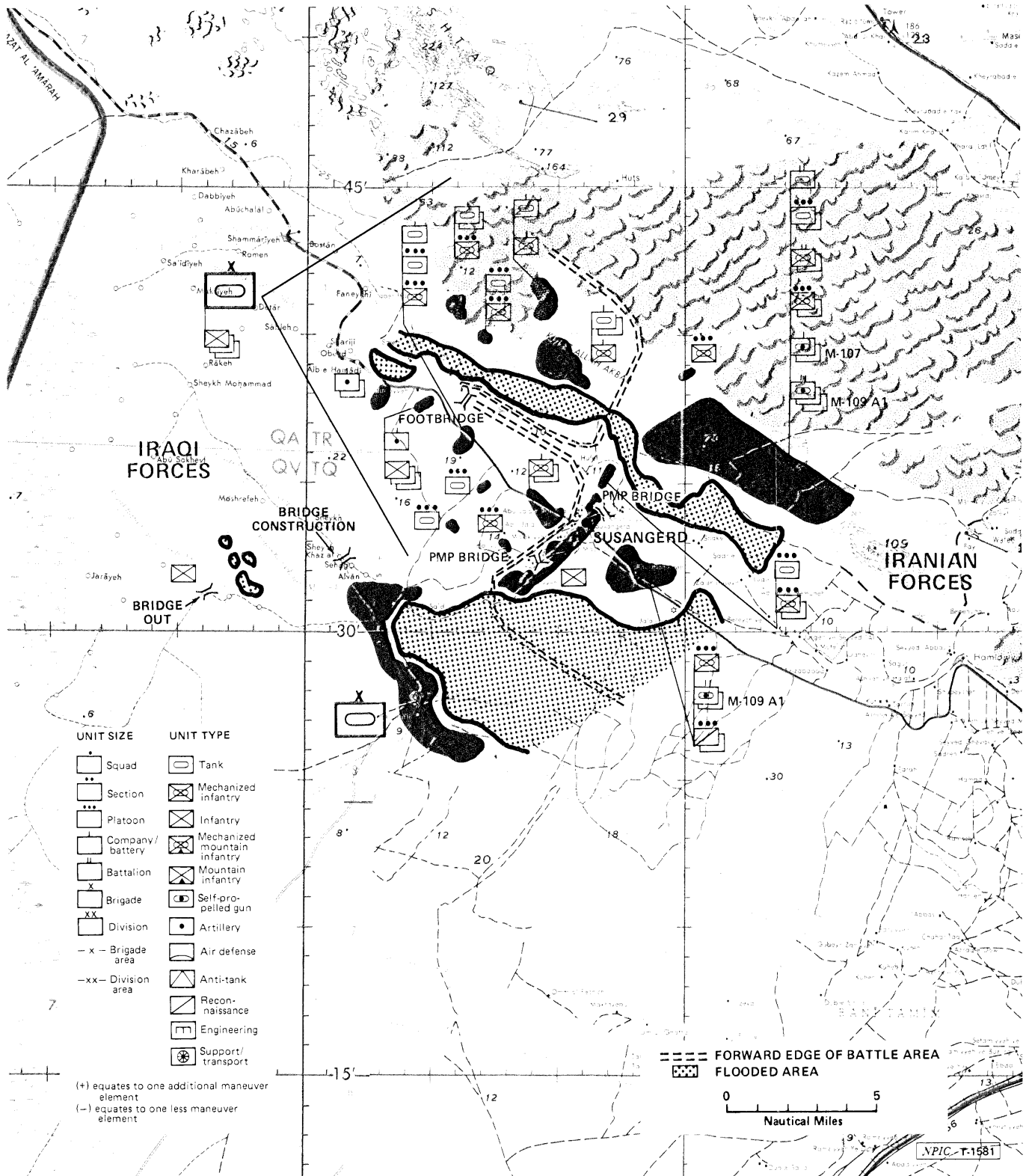


FIGURE 2. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, SUSANGERD, IRAN, ON

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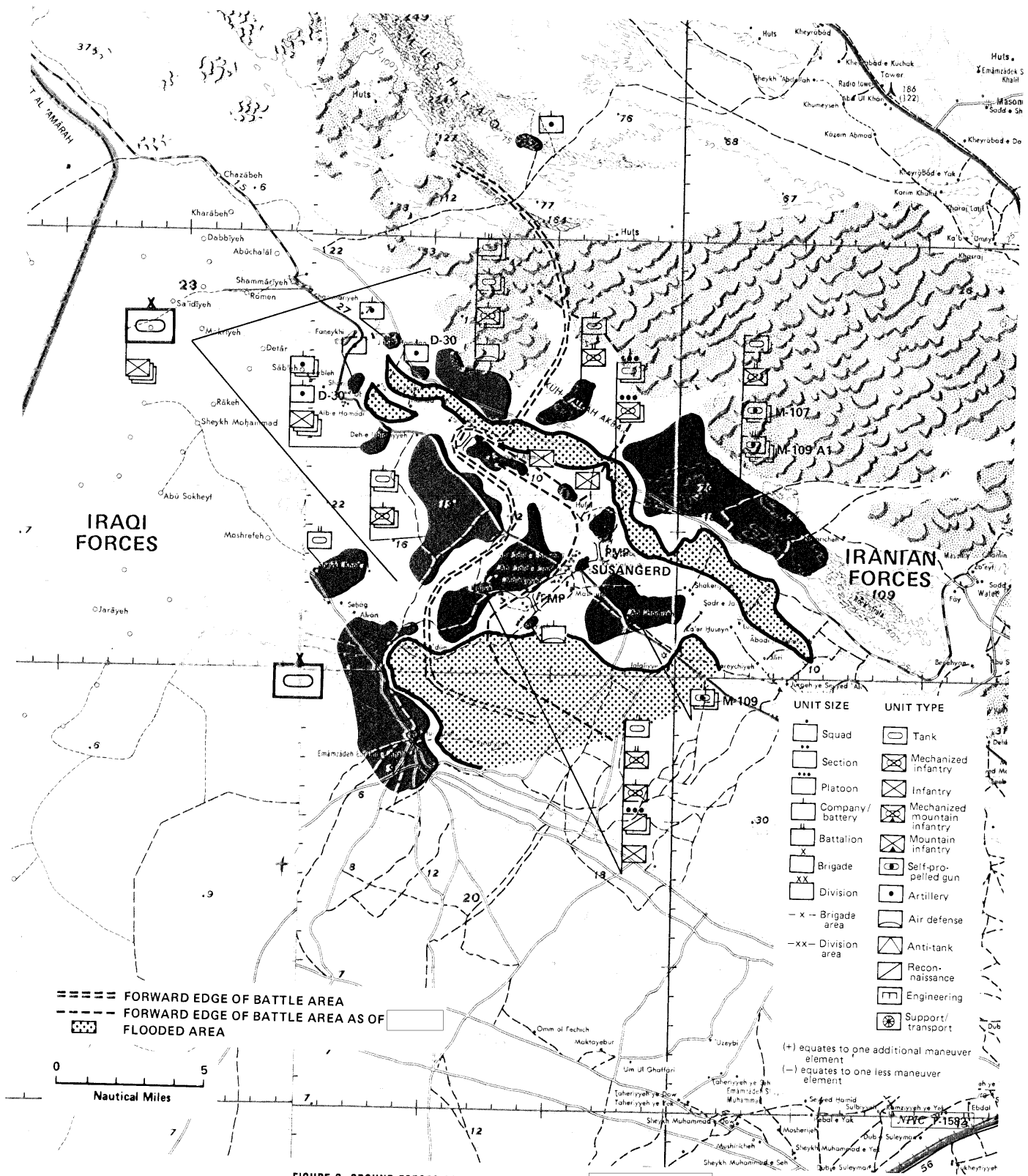


FIGURE 3. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, SUSANGERD, ON
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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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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