



132nd Virtual Wing

OPERATION ACTIVE RESOLVE (OPAR)

Road to war and situation

CAO: 2020-09-06

Version: 1.1



GLOBAL SITUATION

Europe:

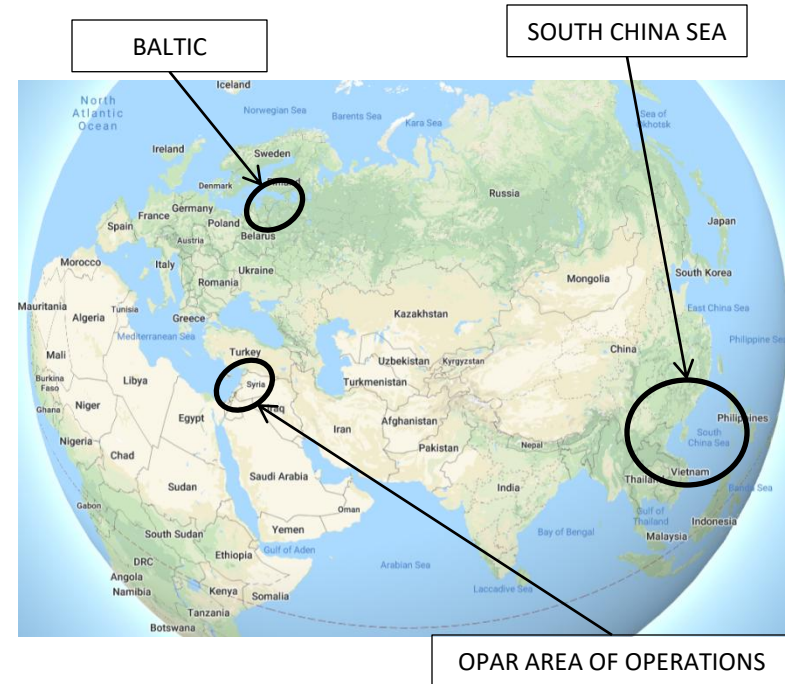
- Russia have been threatening to invade Baltic countries as a response to NATO actions. NATO have deployed forces to the Baltic to reinforce the country and deter a Russian attack.

Asia:

- After months of deteriorating in relations between US and China, the situation escalated a few weeks ago with fighting breaking out between Chinese and US fleets in the South China Sea.
- While both sides are trying to contain the conflict and prevent it from escalating, both China and the US has been reinforcing their bases in the region.
- Russia has declared its full support in Chinese territorial claims and condemned US "Western intervention in Asia's affairs"
- As of this time there's no clear end to the conflict and we can expect the US to focus its attention - both in the diplomatic arena as well as the prioritization of military and economical assets - in South-East Asia rather than the Middle-East.

Diplomatic:

- Due to the current situation in Europe and Asia, Russia and China are boycotting the United Nations Security Council.



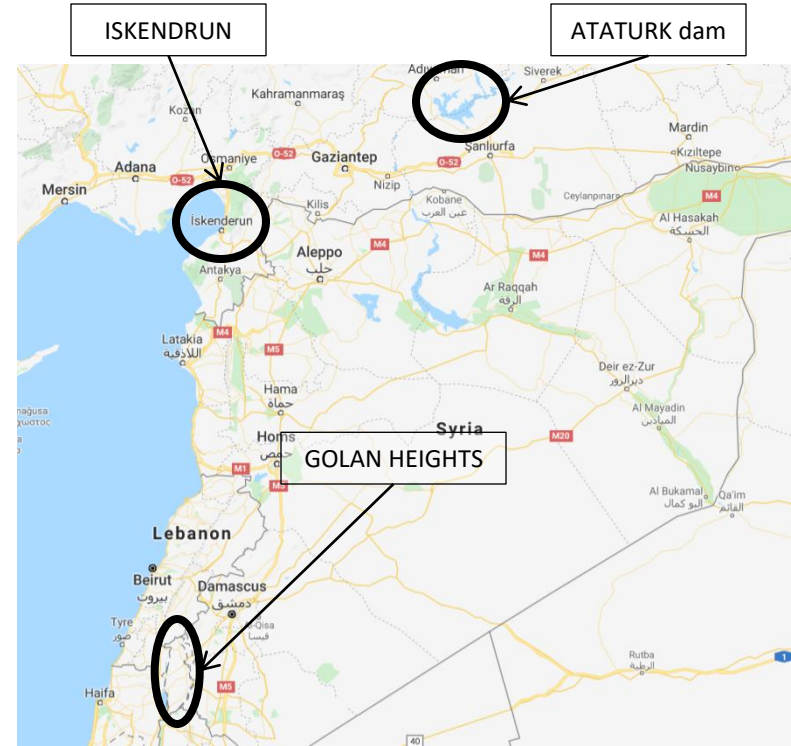
Middle East (OPAR Area of Operations)

- See next slides



SITUATION & TIMELINE

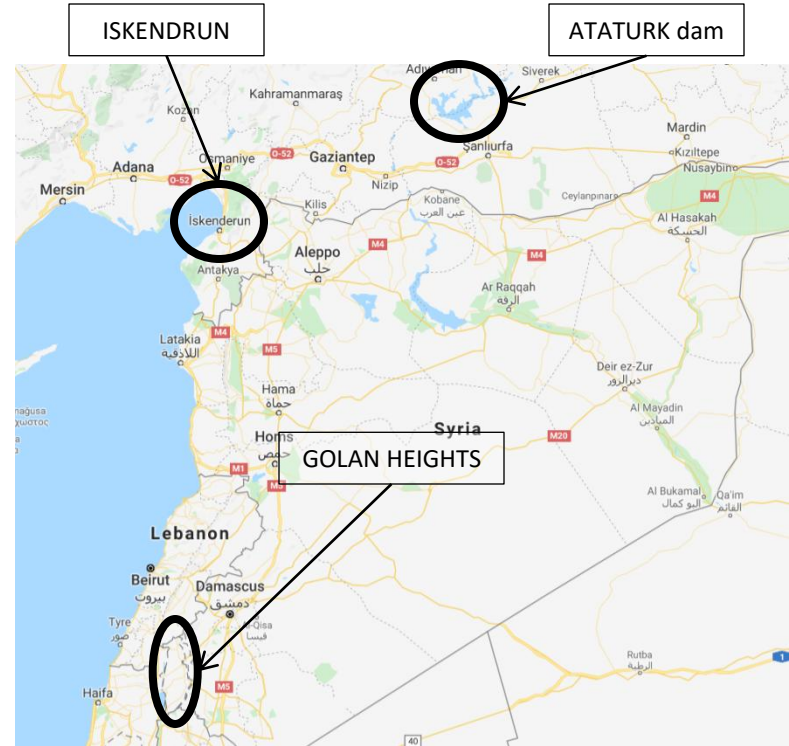
- **Time now:** Last week of august 2011.
- 1st July 2011 , Syria conducted a surprise attack against Turkey in order to seize control of the area of Iskenderun.
- Syrian objectives in Turkey is assessed to be
 - Seize control of the Ataturk dam to gain a strategic advantage by controlling the source of fresh water and electrical power in the area.
 - Iskenderun is attacked to deny Turkey the major sea-port which can be used to receive supplies/reinforcements closest to the ATATURK theater
 - Syria likely also want to cut off the main road (O-52) which is expected to be used as a primary resupply line to the Ataturk area.
- At the same time Syria also conducted a surprise attack to seize control of the Golan Heights from Israel.
- Syrian objectives in Israel is assessed to be:
 - Re-taking the entire Golan Heights (GH) from Israeli occupation would greatly improve the prestige of the government to the Syrian people. It would also raise Syrian power in the middle-east as a first Arab country that would be able to act by force and gain a territorial victory against Israel after dozens of years of conflicts and place Syria as a regional superpower.
- 2nd July: NATO & EU expressed support to Turkey and condemned the Syrian attack.





SITUATION & TIMELINE

- **5th of July:** UN Security Council (UNSC) expressed concern on the situation and asked the parties to end the violence and resolve the conflict with diplomatic means.
- **7th of July:** After a week of fighting, the Syrian forces effectively defeated both Turkish and Israeli forces and in control of its main objectives (Iskenderun, Ataturk and Golan Heights)
- **8th of July:** Turkey and Israel called for a UN Security Council Resolution for Syria to withdraw from the occupied territory
- **10th of July:** UN Security Council released resolution 3263: S/RES/3263 (2011) which states that Syrian action is against international law, and Syria should return its forces back to the borders from before 1st July.
- **14th of July:** UN Security Council released resolution 3266: S/RES/3266 (2011) which reaffirmed UNSCR 3263 and imposed economic sanctions against Syria to make it comply with UNSCR 3263.
- **15th July:** A coalition of the willing is being formed. Combined Joint Task Force 82 is created to form the international response to support Israel and Turkey against Syrian aggression.
- **1st August:** UN Security Council released resolution 3274: S/RES/3274 (2011) which gave Syria a deadline of 31st August 2011 to comply with UNSCR 3263 and withdraw from Turkey and Israel. The resolution empowered states to use "all necessary means" to force Syria out of Turkey and Israel after the deadline.
- **Throughout August:** CJTF builds up combatpower in the region. Syria prepares defensive positions and the situation is static while the time toward the deadline is counting down. Syria used the August effectively and resupplied its military forces so their forces are fully equipped and combat ready.

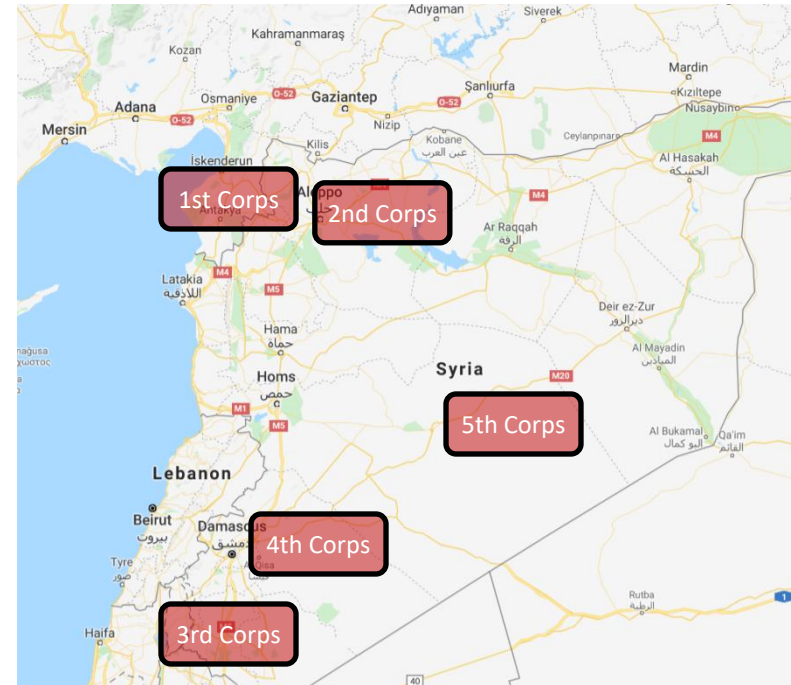




MILITARY SITUATION

Syria ground force dispositions is as follows:

- 1st Corps have seized the Iskenderun area and are in defensive positions to defend Syrias newly seized area of Iskenderun.
 - 2nd Corps have left their bases and are lining up on the border to the north.
 - 3rd Corps have seized the Golan Heights and are established in defensive positions.
 - 4th Corps are conducting rear duty assignments and protecting Damascus
 - 5th Corps are in their base in Palmyra, finishing their workup to be prepared for operations.
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- Air Forces IAW [INTREP VIS OPAR-003 - Syrian Air Force](#)
 - Syrian strategic IADS IAW: [INTREP VIS OPAR-002 - Syrian IADS](#)
 - For details see intelligence page on OPAR briefing page: [OPAR Intelligence](#)





Turkey

- Slowly recovering from a financial crisis affecting military combat readiness which manifests as:
 - Difficulties maintaining qualified personnel
 - Deterioration of equipment due to maintenance difficulties
 - Limited national reserves of consumables needed for combat activity

Israel

- The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has been has been undergoing a slow transformation since the 2006 war in Lebanon. More effort spent on training for counter-guerrilla scenarios and reduced focus on large-scale combat scenarios as are expected against the Syrian armed forces.
- Israeli air-force (IAF) have conducted a limited number of air attacks in Syria against strategic targets (Iranian targets and Syrian targets) the last decade.
- Along the Lebanese border, the IDF is engaged in constantly high level of tension facing Hezbollah in Southern-Lebanon



ACTORS - Neutral

Lebanon

- Enjoys good relations with Syria
- Have had a neutral stance toward Israel the recent years.
- However, Hezbollah is based in Lebanon

Jordan

- Jordan have currently not taken any sides in the conflict and have expressed discontent with the Syrian invasion, but have not gone so far to condemn it, or to support CJTF operations.



Syria

- The Syrian leadership party has gone weaker in past months and is seeking to re-affirm itself as strong and aggressive by pursuing a militant stance.
- With intent to gain access to more economical assets and becoming a dominant , regional superpower, Syria set an ambitious goal to launch a major military campaign against its historical enemies in Turkey and Israel.
- This approach become more appealing with the US being occupied with its conflict with China and lack of apparent interest in Middle-East affairs
- In the recent years, Syria has been hosting large numbers of foreign military units:
 - Russian air force has been staging in Syrian airbases as part of a strategic agreement of providing Russia with a naval base and part of a airfield
 - Iranian revolutionary guards are very active in establishing bases to be used for possible operations against Israel in the event of a conflict between the two countries. Those bases and efforts have been the targets of numerous air raids by Israeli air force.



Iran

Iran also seeks to increase its influence in the region. Iran aspires to achieve a status of dominant power. Iran invests effort in building capabilities against Israel in the following areas:

- 1) Build deterrence against Israel by staging forces close to Israeli border. Such force can include ballistic missiles as well as militants which would can be used to retaliate against Israel
- 2) Supporting Hezbollah in military equipment, training camps and funding to be used as an additional deterrence tool against Israel

Hezbollah

Hezbollah is maintaining presence in Southern Lebanon and in the Syrian side of the Golan-Heights to inflict pressure on Israel and deter against possible Israeli incursions into Lebanon (Although not initiating escalation of the situation without specific instructions of support from Iran)

Russia

Russia has its strategic interests in Syria:

- 1) The TARTUS naval base (Russian's only major port in the Eastern Mediterranean) operated by Russian personnel (advisors and fleet shipyard) and defended by SAM units manned by Russian servicemen.
- 2) The presence of military advisors and aerial assets used for infliction of power and influence in the Middle East
- 3) Bassel Al-Assad Airport is the airbase used for Russian operations in the middle east. The last months there have only been sporadic Russian activity at the base.