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**توضیحات:**

1. **توی متن کتاب استان "نیسان" نوشته شده . (صفحه 2 پیشگفتار) که ظاهرا باید میسان باشد .**
2. **نام افراد های لایت شده که دیکته آن باید با پاسپورت یکی شود (در صورت مغایرت)**

**Preface**

The outbreak of the Islamic Revolution based on religious beliefs has affected all political, social and security-defense mechanisms. Therefore, it is desirable for thinkers and analysts to adopt this attitude taking into account any phenomenon, especially Post -Islamic Revolution events and developments.

The eight –year imposed war against the new system established by the Islamic Revolution may be considered as an event with specific regional and international impacts as well as domestic impacts on the both countries: Iran and Iraq.

Throughout this long battle, which gradually evoked the boundary between disbelief and faith in mind, the Iranian nation, on the one hand faced unbalanced combat with the Iraqi army and the Iraqi Ba'athist regime, and on the other hand, with the power of the world arrogance that had come to support Saddam Hussein. In this unequal war, people from all strata of society, along with armed forces with full authority began to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the achievements of the Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force IRIAF was the first army military force joined the roaring waves of people believing in the school of the Prophets with a conscious uprising against the regime of oppression and fought at the forefront of confrontation with the enemy with the outbreak of the imposed war with a double sense of responsibility (and following the promulgation of Imam Khomeini's command to repulse aggression).

The full and thorough defense of this divine power, in addition to advanced disciplines and well-trained staff, provided a combination of faith, science, the power of innovation and initiatives, creating a new chapter in the history of Sacred Defense. And in different periods of time, the process of war changed for the benefit of the heroic nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The process of designing and executing aerial operations, such as some reconnaissance, patrol, standby and limited aerial bombardment operations against the dispersed attacks of the enemy to the border areas took on a regular and intensive pursuit with the onset of the invasion of the Ba'ath Party forces.

the Iranian air force conducted "first response" in the form of retaliatory action after the Ba'ath regime invasion in a fast-paced and harsh operation, in less than two hours after Iraqi attack, (in which Kut Air Base in Maysan Governorate and Shaibah Air Base in Basra Governorate were bombarded), that was the tooth breaking response to Ba'athist aggression.

Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force enjoyed a comparative and appreciable advantage over the enemy Iraq Air Force at the outbreak of the imposed war (despite the sanctions)[[1]](#footnote-1).

Iraq managed to change this trend and gain aerial superiority in the battlefields with the advanced aircraft assignment and the use of intelligence satellites and the capabilities of the AEW & C (belonged to the Saudi Arabia). Over time, the deployment of modern offensive-defense systems and electronic warfare equipment along with chemical and biological weapons from the eastern and western superpowers to the ruling regime in Iraq led to profound changes in the process of the continuation of the war, considering most of the Arab countries on the Persian Gulf sided to Iraq; thus the imbalance of power during the war and the enemy's favor is clear.

But this was not the end. The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force did take control and managed to overcome many of the shortcomings by managing sensitive flying systems and using the principle of “Saving Power”, and with the help of young commanders and committed personnel to confront the superiority of the Ba'ath regime. Following this strategy throughout the war led to the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force preservation of combat readiness in defense of the land and the vital facilities of the country.

Training specialist personnel with the aim of providing the required staff who follow the path of the martyrs and warriors of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force were among the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force priorities that originally are something to boast about by this “Divine Power” during the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war. The realization of this heavy process without dependence on the West as well as presence in flight missions increases the importance and magnitude of the issue. At the same time, The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force helped the country's civilian commercial airplane fleet through the assignment of experienced pilots to the airline of the country, which is truly praiseworthy.

In total, The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force with over 218 martyrs, 53 missed, and 53 released war prisoner pilots and dozens of veterans, have the title of the highest ratio of martyrs and released war prisoners to the total number of employees involved in the war (more than 60 percent)[[2]](#footnote-2). These figures, along with other martyrs of revolutionary and committed forces in ground combat and bombardment of the enemy (total 1614), represent a major task toward the Islamic system and the dear homeland.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, as an established and trusted entity by nation and Imam Khomeini, with its specialized capacities and operational capabilities, with its dedicated and revolutionary staff, was without exaggeration to establish an unparalleled role in adhering to the demands of the people, defending the Islamic Revolution aspirations and achieving the goal of self-sufficiency in the immortal course of the Sacred Defense. The main effective activities (which, along with other elements of the armed forces, have resulted in Saddam's failure to achieve an “easy” victory) are summarized as:

1. Revolutionary action of a large number of personnel of this force after joining the people under the leadership of the Imam Khomeini and breaking the backbone of the Shah's army and thus accelerating the process of victory of the Islamic Revolution;
2. Imam Khomeini’s escort when he arrived in Iran's sky and being responsible for protecting him, supplying helicopters and transferring them to designated destinations;
3. Historical parade of a number of employees of IRIAF on February 8, 1979, in the presence of Imam Khomeini and the uprising, along with violations of the Martial law by the personnel of the Air Force Training Center;
4. Confronting deceived and counter-revolutionary groups around the country, especially the Kurdistan region and helping to stabilize the Islamic Revolution;
5. Confronting domestic and international threats and observing the apparent violations of the Iraqi Ba'ath regime as well as their espionage activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran sky with the declaration of alert state;
6. Carrying out various missions of identification, patrol and standby and limited aerial bombardment in different parts of the border (in the weeks leading to September 1980), and the martyrdom of the first pilot on June 25, 1980 (Shalamcheh region) and captivated the first missed pilots of this force on October 19, 1980 (Mehran and Fakkeh regions);
7. Planning and implementation of the first retaliation operation called “First Response” on September 22, 1980 and then the operation “Kaman 99” (140 fighter-bombers) on September 23, 1980;
8. Carrying out numerous aerial operations in the form of action against the enemy’s Air Force, including offensive attacks on the vital and economic facilities of the Iraqi Ba'ath regime and the destruction of refineries and other economic centers with the aim of weakening the country's economy and gaining aerial superiority;
9. Providing the Ground and Navy Forces with close aerial support operations; and continued onslaught on armored units of the enemy's ground forces (known as Tank Wars) on a wider scale;
10. Conducting operations for the separation of the battlefield and the bombardment of connecting lines, bridges, depot centers and enemy standby forces stationed in garrisons in Iraqi territory and even operational regions and front lines;
11. Disrupting and stopping the advancement of enemy ground forces, as well as facilitating the alignment of Iranian ground forces against the enemy onslaught during the stabilization phase;
12. designing and implementation of independent aerial operations in the depths of Iraqi territory to the western borders of that country (to the point where was unthinkable for military experts, such as airstrike on Al-Walid Airbases (The H-3 airstrike) on April 4, 1981, which apparently was out of IRIAF fighter bomber aircrafts access;
13. Police and military missions, such as the strike on the al-Dawra refinery near the Non-Aligned Summit in Baghdad on July 21, 1982, in order to insecure the Iraqi space, as well as spread the flyers over major Iraqi cities in the form of soft warfare and psychological operations, as well as counteract operations in response to the cowardly Ba'athist attack on the defenseless people of Iran;
14. Air reconnaissance missions and collect boarding electronic information at anytime and anywhere in enemy territory;
15. Air and naval martial patrol and escort cargo ships and oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the continuation of export of oil and import of basic and industrial goods needed by the country;
16. Carrying out tactical air transportation operations and transfer and spread forces from the farthest parts of Islamic Iran to the operational regions of the south, west and northwest of the country under special conditions up to two or three times and even sometimes up to more than five times
17. Carrying out air fueling and air reconnaissance missions and rescue operations;
18. Active and effective company in all joint operations with other forces of the Army and Revolutionary Guard Corps;
19. Deploying volunteer staff to the Kurdistan region and the war fronts to assist the armed forces of the country;
20. Guard or escort aircrafts (main displacements), civilian aircraft and displacement of high level civilian and military officials;
21. Continuity of the training and supply of specialist and dedicated personnel of the armed forces and commercial air transport of the country with the assignment of experienced pilots (without the assistance of foreign and Arab countries);
22. Participating in the construction Jihad and the initiator of the industrial and technological self-sufficiency jihad in the country and ...;
23. Establish a network of air defense in defense of vital areas and facilities, including: Kharg, Sirri, Lavan, oil and petrochemical refineries, pumping stations, oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, power plants, industrial complexes, political centers of the country, such as Jamaran and ...

These activities, along with the tremendous effects on the battlefields, have always been the subject of attention by the various strata of the society, the patriotic people and the authorities of Islamic Republic of Iran. During the imposed war and after that, the leakage of some negative thoughts both inside and outside the country failed to diminish or eliminate the significant measures taken by the IRIAF. The use of the term “Divine Power” by the late founder of the Islamic system eliminated any ambiguity in the operational capabilities and loyalty of the IRIAF to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, so that the Iranian nation and society more than ever admire the dedication and courage of the IRIAF in line with the interests of the country and the system. Given the importance of the issue and the repeated emphasis of the Supreme Leader and the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution on the institutionalization and use of the Sacred Defense treasury, there is no doubt that organizing, documenting, systematizing and writing these epics, along with creativity and innovation, self-reliance and pursuing the self-sufficiency Jihad during the glorious period of the Islamic Revolution, and especially the eight years of Sacred Defense is a tremendous task. Undoubtedly, the result of this collective effort will include strategic achievements for enthusiasts, scholars, researchers, curious young people, and future generations. Therefore, I would like to sincerely appreciate the efforts made by the group responsible for writing and compilation of the second volume of “Air Battles in the Sacred Defense” series, the honorable Amirs, Alireza Namaki Iraqi, Dr. Hossein Khalili, and Col. Aliraza Javaheri, who described the process of this volume as “The First Response: A Massive Air Operation in Response to Iraqi Pervasive Attack”; as well as Amir Technical Brigadier general Seyyed Mahmoud Yamini, Amir Brigadier general Dr. Reza Ramezani, Col. Mohsen Mirzakhani, Lieutenant colonel Amir Houshang Khadem Daghegh and Alireza Sharifipour, who worked hard on editing and reading the work. Certainly, this collective effort, with the help of pioneers and witnesses who were directly involved in the victories of the Islamic Revolution, the headquarters and battlefields, as well as the thought of a large number of scholars, experts, and strong support of the Amir of the commanding authority and IRIAF Board of Directors and all the staff deputies has become a coherent and attractive outcome, I express my sincere appreciation to all of these loved ones.

Head of the Center for Strategic Studies;

Gen. Pilot Dr. Nik Bakhsh Habibi

**Introduction**

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, months before the official launch of the imposed war, was involved in identifying and assessing the enemy's ability simultaneously to confront the aggressions of the Ba'ath regime in Iraq. Although the observation of the enemy's actions and the speed of action eventually led to the overthrow of several Iraqi aggressor planes, in overcoming this difficulty, as it was mentioned in the first volume of this book, Iran also suffered a number of serious incidents some are recited in the following lines:

On June 25, 1980, on one of the air reconnaissance missions, Lieutenant Pilot Gholam Hossein Bastani was martyred and later on September 8, 1980, during the border clashes and confronting the occupation of Khan Lily and Mimak, the first IRIAF, F- 4 aircraft was attacked by an anti-aircraft fire, and the pilot of the rear cabin, Lieutenant Ali Ilkhani, was martyred. Two days later, at the same spot, one IRIAF helicopter was attacked, and in addition to the martyred its pilots (Captain Felizadeh and Lieuten Rashidi), Major Shamsi Beygi, commander of the battalion 31 of Shahid Nogheh military base in Hamadan, who was heading Direct Air Support Center (DASC) was martyred.

Then, on December 18, 1980, Lieutenant Pilot Hossein Lashgari[[3]](#footnote-3) was captured by the enemy and also Capt. Mohammad Zare Nemati was missed and yet no one has received any information from him. Eventually, the IRIAF faced with the full-scale enemy attacks on most air bases, radar stations, and some airports and border towns after a few days of relaxation, on September 22, 1980 at 2.00 PM.

Accordingly, in Volume I, the second edition of the series “Air Battles in the Sacred Defense” was devoted to the IRIAF history, its role in the consolidation of the Islamic Revolution, the pre-war events, all-round measures and defenses against overt and covert invasions of the enemy as well as plane crashes.

The second volume addresses a more detailed description of the hostile aggression, the alert state process in the IRIAF, the arrangement of the enemy air force, study of the status of the command system and major air defense units and the state of the IRIAF equipment and human readiness, as well as full-scale enemy attacks and the operation “First Response” as the supplement to Volume I and the continuation of the reciting of “Air Battles in the Sacred Defense” based on the documentary evidence, organized in the following six chapters, are presented below:

The first chapter represents the air strikes by the enemy, the second chapter is on the alert state process in the IRIAF and the process of Operation Alborz; the third chapter is about the Iraqi Air Force combat capability before the start of full-scale offense; the fourth chapter includes the IRIAF combat and operational capability before the start of the imposed war in two parts: 1- the operational status of the IRIAF Air Defense Command Commander, and 2- The general state of the IRIAF organization prior to the onset of the imposed warfare; Chapter 5, addresses the pre-emptive air strike and to the full –scale Iraqi invasion, and the sixth chapter is about the rigorous operation “First Response”, along with the elaborated and explained summary of the issues.

In the end, it is hoped that this effort, along with the confirmation of the Almighty God, will bring about the satisfaction of the great and noble nation of Iran, as well as bless the enthusiasts of the Air Force's proud operations and all its flight and technical staff, with Divine Success.

Group of authors: Winter 2016

**Chapter 1**

**The Enemy Air Strikes and The Measures taken by The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF)**

The current chapter first provides the readers with a brief account concentrating on the implementation of a variety of Air Force combat missions and then the process of Iraqi air raids and signs of war in order to describe the Islamic Republic of Iran airspace and illustrate pre- imposed war atmosphere (especially the western borders of the country).

Then, the reader is provided with air strikes recorded in 1979 and 1980, using valid documents in turn (monthly), along with the continuation of the IRIAF operational activities to discover, identify and deal with them. In addition, each discussion is summed up in Tables and Figures.

The chapter ends up with a record of operational activities and the sortie rates of the IRIAF since the Islamic Revolution (February 12, 1979) to the outbreak of the imposed war (September 22, 1980), including fighter aircrafts, transport aircrafts and helicopters in Tables and Figures.

1. **How combat missions are carried out by the IRIAF**

Here we discuss Offensive Air Raid Missions, Aerial Operations against enemy ground forces and the IRIAF other martial missions in a row:

**A. Offensive Air Raid Operation**

The operation is intended to reduce the attacking or offensive power of the enemy by attacking its air bases, which could include attacking airport aprons (protected and non-protected), fuel tanks, ammunition depots, radar sites and defense systems including missiles and ground-to-air artillery, as well as attacks on gravity centers, vital areas, communication, command and control systems, enemy’s defense forces and infrastructures.

**B. Air Raid Operation against Enemy Ground Forces**

The operation includes Air- to -ground support and air –to- sea support (surface and subterranean) in the form of Close Air Support (CAS) missions, separating the battlefield and interrupting the connecting lines, as well as armed and unarmed reconnaissance executed upon requests by ground forces. The requests executive structure called the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) is comprised of independent headquarters and independent teams, and is a response to the need for ground forces.

Requests are usually anticipated in tactical plans of the ground troops against the enemy and the number of sortie required are responded to by the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) from the bases (some may be unpredictable in the demands of the ground forces, emergency case or with immediate preference). Such requests usually come to targets that appear suddenly in the “scene of operations” and are beyond the reach of ground forces weapons. In general, all requirements are given a positive response if necessary, and a quota may be allocated to them even before the operation.

The ground unit’s requests are responded by the IRIAF fighter-bomber aircrafts fire on the targets or in the form of reconnaissance flights to discern the military arrangement and the enemy's situation. Having set in special forms, requests will be sent to the Direct Air Support Center (DASC). There, analyzed and confirmed requests will be communicated to the bases capable of performing, through the command and control system. In fact, the Air Force's combat missions, being projected by the Force Commander, through the IRIAF command center is communicated to the centers or command post of the operational bases through the command and control system. The deputy for operations of each base, which owns at least two battalions[[4]](#footnote-4) of fighter aircrafts, acts as follows (although at the training bases, one of these battalions may be educational)[[5]](#footnote-5):

1. The base’s command center announces missions to the flight battalion. The operations commander and officer of the battalion, according to the suitability of the mission, select the pilots and execute the mission according to Frag Order. The base deputy of operations also requests the number of aircraft and ammunition according to the order form of the flight deputy and the logistical support for the mission.
2. The operating pilots are being provided with the explanations on how to conduct a mission by the fly leader in the flight briefing room in the pre-flight flying battalion. The flight leader explains all the issues related to the mission and answers all questions[[6]](#footnote-6). The base operations information officer also explains the enemy's defense systems in the mission area on the status map. Flight operator bodies responsible for bombing targets, included at least one battalion of two aircrafts to tens of two to four aircraft battalion of fighter-bomber aircrafts, varying in size depending on combat missions. In sufficient time and before the flight time, the battalion responsible for base maintenance provides the flight battalion with the number of requested aircraft equipped with the required weapons, in accordance with the aircraft's number[[7]](#footnote-7).
3. having received equipment for the flight (clothing and hat) the operating pilots, at least 45 minutes prior to the take-off, go to the designated parking site, and after the aerial view, sit in the cabin, start the aircraft and receive signs of the correct airplane status (motors, levels of equipment orders, ammunition, etc.) and declare their readiness to take off to flight leader using airplane radio. At the right time (usually a few minutes before the take-off), the flight leader informs the tower about flight readiness to take off from the runway by radio communication or the lamp sign. The tower issues permission to fly having coordinated and analyzed all the related aspects and the mission begins.

1. At the outbreak of the imposed war the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force was armed with 440 different types of fighters, while the Iraqi Air Force was armed with more than 340 heavy fighter and bomber aircrafts, with 2,000 ground-to-air launchers and guided anti-aircraft guns. During the war, the Iraqi Air Force was exponentially organized and equipped with advanced aircrafts such as MiG-25, MiG-29, Sukho-24, Mirage F1, rented Super Étendard aircraft, advanced ground-to-air missiles and anti- radar radiation missiles, and ... by the Western and Eastern supporters of the Iraqi Ba'ath regime. Although during the imposed war, a total of 400 Iraqi military aircrafts were overthrown in various forms (training, defense, by self, technical, etc.), at the end of the war it was equipped with a capacity of more than 600 different types of military aircrafts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The number of active pilots in the Joint Base System in The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force that directly participated in the Sacred Defense is estimated to be 500 individuals. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. To learn more about the events mentioned above and to get acquainted with the process of captivity and biography of martyr Hossein Lashgari, see the book "6410" of Martyr memoirs. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Each battalion capacity at the base is usually between 8-12-16 and 25 aircrafts, depending on the type of plane. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. During the war, these battalions also carried out missions in a tactical way. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Time to take off and reach the target; bombardment tactics, speed direction and altitude during the round-trip; how to deal with enemy interceptor aircraft and ground-air defense system in the target area and how to escape from them, carry out electronic warfare operations; if necessary, air-to-air refueling during the round-trip, issues related to the emergency situation of the aircraft and how to resolve them and in brief dozens of other related issues leading to a successful and protected mission. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. In the northwest area, missions are also requested or carried out in a single-flight manner. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)