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| لطفا در صورت وجود هر گونه سوال از طریق ایمیل *Tarjomano@Gmail.com* و یا شماره تلفن 09107660253 با ما در ارتباط باشید. |

10) According to The Gendarmerie reports a No. of high-altitude Iraqi aircrafts appear in the sky of Mehran each night, between 20:00 and 24:00, on July 30, 1980, which last time it was disappeared by firing air defense units deployed in the region.

11) At midnight on July 31, 1980, Iraqi aircrafts attacked the village of Shamshir on the Ilam province. The local people delivered bombs to the Shirvan checkpoint. The enemy apparently intended to bombard the checkpoint.

12) On these days, the Sixth Airbase conducted in turn patrols in the region in order to know the quantitative and qualitative status of the enemy's threats.

An investigation into the process of aggression on these days shows that Iraqi aircraft fly at high altitudes over western regions at different hours of the night. Due to the absence of Iranian flights during this time, the enemy can detect and shoot aerial photos without any hindrance. The Air Defense Command and the Third and Fourth Airbases were informed that to carry out measures needed to deal with aggressive aircraft in line with current regulations and announce the outcome. Accordingly, the explored and expanded F-14 aircraft was put on agenda[[1]](#footnote-1).

13) At 22:30 on August 3, 1980, from the Fourth Airbase informed the IRIAF command headquarter that Iraqi helicopters attacked the region of ​​Mehran and are engaed in bombardment of the positions. It was announced that if helicopters were exposed, they would be shot by anti-aircraft guns in the region.

14) At 23:56 on August 3, 1980, the Scramble Fighter fought with an Iraqi MiG aircraft. The second scramble aircraft flew from the Fourth Airbase at 00:04 on the intended mission.

15) On August 4, 1980, the regions of Ilam and Mehran were attacked by Iraqi helicopters. The Fourth Airbase was requested scrumble flight, and minutes later, the mission was carried out by two F-4s from the same Airbase. According to pilots, several enemy aircraft flew at 30 to 50 miles at a low altitude inside the Iraqi border, which did not require any chasing or fighting.

The Iraqi air raids and operational actions by IRIAF from August 5, 1980 to August 22, 1980 are as follows:

- The occurrence of an unexpected and harmful event for the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF)

1) On August 5, 1980, a F-27 transport aircraft disappeared from the Tabriz Radar[[2]](#footnote-2) during educational flight and hours later:

 "The Iraqi government officially announced that the aircraft had fled to that country and applied for asylum. The Ba'ath government has agreed with the refugee aircrafts and the aircraft is currently stationed at Baghdad International Airport. "

Eventually, at 21:30, Baghdad TV showed the aircraft to the public.

(2) At 15:30 on August 11, 1980, four Iraqi MIG aircrafts were flying over a Khorramshahr region, shooting was not possible due to the high altitude.

3) According to the commander of the Air Support Center (Letter No. 19, dated August 11, 1980), there is the possibility of the Iraqi invasion of the country alongside the counter-revolutionaries in the Baneh and Sardasht regions.

Four F-4s should be ready to support Iranian forces.

4) On August 12, 1980, the Iraqi Army was tasked 1200 of its most accomplished military personnel and one MIG aircraft to attack the Javanrood, Khalkhi, Bazmır Abad and Thallat regions. Apparently, sometime ago, the region was identified by Iraqi aircraft.

5) On August 12, 1980 a Soviet aircraft landed in Saqez and immediately flew. SEMAJA asked for a quick review.

6) From 22:00 to 24:00, on August 13, 1980, a RAF-4 reconnaissance aircraft photographed the region between 40 miles west of Dezful to 60 miles south of Kermanshah on the borderline.

7) On August 14, 1980, six Iraqi MIGs flew over the military positions in Mehran in low altitute forced to flee with the fire of the army and the Revolutionary Guards.

A full-scale Iraqi attack is likely in the next few days on the Illam border. The air force and all bases were informed.

8) The Air Force Chief Command announced that counterrevolutionary forces with the support of Iraqi helicopters intend to raid on the Orumiyeh. Therefore, it was requested that from 03:30 am on August 15, 1980, to provide armed air cover support over the Urumia region until further notice. The command of the Second and Third Airbases were announced to carry out air cover and air defense, also, Radar stations of Tabriz and Hamadan were commanded to be coordinated in order to fully be inform and prepared.

9) The following day (August 16, 1980), at 21:15, an Iraqi aircraft entered on the Iranian soil from Khorramshahr's naval base, which immediately shot by the Artilleryunits. The aggressive aircraft was redirected to Abadan, which was forced into the Iraqi territory by firing of "Naghdi" carrier and units located at the airport.

10) On the same date (August 16, 1980) and according the announcement of the Navy, an Iraqi aircraft raided Iran's sky at 21:26 that was fired by the Alvand Air Force Air Defense units at Khoramshahr and later by the Baynder carrier. The aggressive aircraft inevitability escaped to Iraqi territory.

11) On August 19, 1980, the Army report showed ground and air preparation, and the expansion of Iraqi forces and the displacement of heavy weapons. These changes were often accompanied near “Tape rash”, and by the construction of several observation posts, as well as the spreading of Iraqi surface to air artillery.

At the same time, the The Islamic Republic of Iran Army launched a Joint Operation Headquarters in the western part of the country and a issued an "announcement" on the likelihood of Iraqi army attack in three provinces of Kermanshah, Ilam and Kurdistan.



Figure 4-1 The F-4s are carrying out an armed surveillance mission and moments after air refueling (the fuel receiving valve on the body is still open)

On the same day, 70 Iraqi soldiers were killed in frontier districts. The IRIAF has been flying over the three provinces around the clock, and the fire has provided close air support from the ground forces.

12) On August 19, 1980, the Iraqi Ba'ath army forces were moving on the Noosud border and the Iraqi city of Tavileh towards Noosud and intended to settle in the Noosud mountains.

13) The news is that Iraq plans to attack Iran with 30 aircrafts. During the conflict in the Qasr-e-Shirin region on August 21, 1980, a large number of people settled around the Noosud and Doab and settled in the mountains with mortar bombs. Iraqi airaircrafts and helicopters have also provided them with munitions and intend to deploy forces in the "Mala Palangane"[[3]](#footnote-3)

14) On August 20, 1980, The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Forces, (NEZAJA) announced that the Iraqi government carried out transfers along the path of the Klisin to Hajji Imran (Tamarchin) on the borderline, which required 20 kilometers deep, visual and photographic reconnaissance. So, the support request was sent to the IRIAF.

15) According to the Revolutionary Guards of the West, 30 warhead jets have been placed at the Iraqi Kurdistan Air Base to carry out a coup or air strike by Shapur Bakhtiar (the last prime minister of the Pahlavi regime). In addition to being fully alert to all the Revolutionary Guards units in the region, all the Air Force was also asked to be in the state of alert. In this regard, a reconnaissance flight was also performed on the borderline.

16) According to the "Operational Headquarters of the West of the Country", on August 20, 1980, the Iraqi Army forces moved to Noosud in Noosud and the Iraqi city of Tavileh, and they intend to deploy in Noosud.

The Iraqi troops were on the state of alert and the news confirms that there are 30 aircrafsts plan to launch an air strike on Iran.

Note: since August 6, 1980, due to the unpredictable disclosure of the plot “Neghab”, although the intensity and upward curve of Ba'athist enemy movements and raids apparently continued the regime's actions in deceiving some fugitive soldiers (after the discovery of a coup designed at the Third Airbase and Asylum of a F-27 airliner to Iraq) indicate that there will be more acute events in the future.

In addition, the process of enemy movements this month made the data collected by the intelligence unit more accurately analyzed.

“The Iraqi army has deployed and expanded its news and intelligence networks across the border to gain information, and 12 wiretapping posts have captured 38 people across the shared boundaries for collecting information. Meanwhile, a total of 3 fishing boats report hearing activities on 451, 452 and 453 MHz.”

Reviewing and summarizing the content of this information signaled the beginning of a war that the transnational powers and their regional allies, in turn, fueled it. Thus, the IRIAF degree of readiness was rising day by day in spite of the current problems, and the air force prepared to defend against a massive aggression.

- Among the remarkable actions of Iraqi forces on this period of time was a target parctice using real ammunition inside the border, which could be a sign of another hostile intentions in Iran.

- Already at this period of time, the IRIAF, while defusing the repeated violations of Iraqi aircrafts in the west and south and carrying out tactical operations, identified the aircrafts in the radar system, and, with the help of the scramble aircrafts and air combat patrol succeeded in defeating their missions.

**- From August 23, 1980 to September 22, 1980**

Given the suspicious movements and aggression of the enemy, and given the events of the previous months, it was very natural that the period of August 23, 1980 to September 22, 1980 differs far from previous months. At the end of this period of time, finally, the sweet dreams of the rulers of Baghdad came to fruition, and in the hope of a great conquest, Iraq launched the full-scale attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the pages below, briefly provide the events of August 23, 1980 to September 22, 1980as follows:

Threats, raids and defensive measures (From August 23, 1980 to September 5, 1980):

1) The IRIAF headquarters (according to the information received) sent letter No. 2640 to all bases and units: "The August 23 and 25, the security of the radar shall be ensured and operational, and the ground-to-air defense shall be 100% ready.”

(2) Two Iraqi helicopters were identified and patrolled on a low altitute flight on August 23, 1980in the checkpoint region (25km west) conducting reconnaissance.

3) One day later, two MiG aircrafts flew over Qasr-e-Shirin to allow Iraqi air strikes. State of alert is required on air defense units and Airbases.

4) On August 25, 1980, the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth bases (due to American threats) were notified to be on a state of alert for the scramble.

5) On August 27, 1980, two F-4s (after the establishment of an Airborne Provisional Officer) were currently being deployed by the IRIAF to provide close air support for Paveh region and 72 kilometers west of Sanandaj.

6) On August 27, 1980, on the coordination of the navy and air forces it was supposed to carry out marine patrol on two occasions in the morning and afternoon.

7) On August 28, 1980, at the request of Kermanshah DASC, a Third Airbase deployed a F-4 aircraft equipped with a shotgun and a bomb, but the pilot (due to lack of contact with the Airborne Provisional Officer) did not succeeded on throwing ammo. So, at the expense of the rules, he left the bombs in region (the protected region of ​​shooting and aerial bombardment) and returned to the base. Kermanshah DASK again requested a bomber, but with sunset and flight restrictions at night, arming of the aircraft was not possible. So, in coordination with the director of the Kermanshah DASC, an aircraft was sent with a rocket and a shotgun, and the result of the mission was announced to SEMAJA.

8) According to the announcement of the second office at 21:30 on August 29, 1980, four Iraqi aircrafts raided Iran's sky in the region of ​​Susangerd and returned to Iraq.



Figure 5-1 Two F-4 fighter jets equipped with Maverick missiles and external fuel tank

9) On August 30, 1980, SEMAJA authorized the Air Force to stop the Iraqi Air Force raids and to inform the Ground Force defense that they would shoot Iraqi aircrafts in the event of striking on Iran sky.

10) On September 1, 1980, three Iraqi Army reconnaissance aircrafts infiltrated Iran's air borders from last night to dawn. Subsequently, the heavy bases of the naval base and other units based in Khorramshahr came into action and the aircrafts had to leave the sky of Iran.

11) On September 2, 1980, an air patrol was conducted by F-5 aircraft in Khorramshahr region. Pilot reports indicate that:

“A number of trenches have been constructed on the borderline (dirt road) facing Shalamcheh checkpoint in Khorramshahr region, and about 100-150 tanks and carrier have been deployed”.

12 ) On September 3, 1980, the head of the Joint Staff, based on the experience of recent conflicts in the border regions, states:

“Iraqi aircrafts flew freely and shot or bombed in the border regions, and commanders of the air forces are not able to respond tactically due to the need for time in making calls and obtaining orders. Therefore, from the time that this command is announced and without the assignment, if you discover any enemy air raid, try to counteract and take tactical action”[[4]](#footnote-4).

13) On September 4, 1980, the rules of silence will be enforced in the city of Basra and refineries in the region.

14 ) At 21:40 on September 4, 1980, the command post informed that: "Mehran and Saleh Abad were attacked by air and ground forces."

15) On September 4, 1980, a shooting aircraft shot the western part of the country at ultrasonic speed.

From September 5, 1980 to September 8, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1. On September 5, 1980, a RAF-4 shooting aircraft and a F-4 fighter jet flew as escort to take shot from the western region from Mehrabad Airbase and having completed the mission landed in Mehrabad.
2. On September 5, 1980, the "3-B" state of alert was issued and LAME DUCK[[5]](#footnote-5) plan and the aircrafts flight of insider units were examined and analyzed[[6]](#footnote-6).
3. SEMAJA approved the shooting mission of the western border line and called for its prompt action. Meanwhile, in coordination with the Air Force Operations Deputy Commander, I was issued to the First Airbase reconnaissance battalion for the implementation.
4. The invasion of Iraqi forces in Mehran, which began on September 4, 1980, continued until the next day. The airspace airlift officer reported on the movement of Iraqi tanks to the border and requested air support. This support began at 9:00 AM by the Air Force (Fourth Airbase) and the Iraqi forces stopped.
5. According to reports, it is possible that several Iraqi helicopters attack targets in Iran between Sardasht and Piranshahr, so that a sramble flight order per 1hour and a half was issued to fighter aircrafts.
6. The 81st Armored Division of Kermanshah requested the deployment of four F-4 aircrafts to support Mehran-based units subjected to fire by Iraqi forces, on September 7, 1980.

“On September 7, 1980, the Seventh Airbase (equipped with F-14 Interceptor aircrafts) offers the following to the headquarters: "Since the radar-guided Phoenix missiles must be launched from above 30 miles from the target and the pilot at that distance is not able to identify the target with eye visibility, it is therefore preferable for ground radars to measure the distance, allowing firing for the pilot”.[[7]](#footnote-7)

1. On September 7, 1980, the command post informed that Qasr-e-Shirin is under fire from enemy helicopters. The Third Airbase was ordere to fly aircrafts equipped with ammunition.
2. On September 7, 1980, it was announced that Ilam was attacked from the ground and air and requested support for the Third Airbase. After contacting the Ilam governor and verbally verifying the news of, the Third and Fourth Airbasees were issued to take action.
3. According to the announcement of the Revolutionary Guards on September 7, 1980, six Iraqi helicopters bombed the army base in Nazarabad (Qasr-e-Shirin), resulting in three military personnels martyrs and a number of injured.
4. Three Iranian helicopters clashed with Iraqi helicopters in “Tang Huan” on September 7, 1980 and an Iraqi helicopter crashed.
5. At 16:30 on September 7, 1980, several Iraqi helicopters attacked the Qassir Shirin Radio and Television Station with rocket, resulting in two military personnels martyrs and 24 others wounded.
6. Iraqi air strikes intensified and expanded on September 7, 1980. The enemy's helicopters flew in the sky to the western borders and blew up the identified regions. In this operation, an Iraqi helicopter was overthrown by the fire of Iranian forces. The blown up region was in Nasrabad District of the city of Naftshahr.
7. On September 8, 1980, four F-4 fighter aircrafts were launched at four sorties for close air support of Khan Lili and Mimak checkpoints, as well as four other F-4s were deployed to the Tonkab naw and Takab-e Khohneh regions.
8. An Iraqi checkpoint near Gilan-e Gharb (five miles into Iraqi territory) was destroyed by a Maverick missile (launched from a F-4 aircraft).
9. According to the IRIAF announcement, at 16:44, on September 8, 1980, a F-4 aircraft sent hit by Iraqi air-to-air missiles on the way to Tangab checkpoint but airaircraft safely landed at the base.
10. At 13:25, the Third Airbase informed that the F-4 aircraft No. 6591 piloted by Major General Mahmud Eskandari (belated) had been trapped.



Figure 6-1 A group of F-5s aircrafts flying on combat-educational mission at the Dezful Airbase

From September 9, 1980 to September 11, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1. At 6:50 pm, on September 9, 1980, the Phantom Fighter (F-4) fired on the positions of the Iraqi Army's aggressive trenches and tanks near the city of Naftshahr and broke the sound barrier in the region.
2. According to the Revolutionary Guards, at 16:00, on September 9, 1980, an Iranian Phantom aircraft destroyed an Iraqi MiG and killed its pilot at Nasrabad region of Qasr-e-Shirin.
3. At 16:50, the Third Airbase command post informed that as soon as possible, one F-14 airaircraft flew from the 8th Airbase and Qasr-e-Shirin and the border line for air cover, while observing the enemy aircrafts work on cooperating with insider flights operating in the region. The dispatches were sent to the 8th Airbase and the First transportation base on message No. 3072 on September 9, 1980.
4. At 17:25 pm, on September 9, 1980, Qasr-e-Shirin region close air reconnaissance and support was accomplished by a F-14 airaircraft. The pilot's observations were as follows: “The city of Naftshahr is burning in fire and Iraqi MiG aircraft at 500 feet attacks Iranian forces”.
5. At 18:39 on September 9, 1980, close air support was provided by two F-4s in the Qasr-e-Shirin region, and 20 tanked camps were attacked with 152 rockets.
6. At 10:07 on September 10, 1980, a IRIAF helicopter crashed in the northern region of ​​Qasr-e-Shirin with six occupants with all paassengers martyres.
7. According to the IRIAF, at 19:20 on September 11, 1980 a number of 26 enemy tanks were seen opposite Anjireh checkpoint by the F-4s pilots launched to the region, and seven or eight of them were targeted, but the aircraft had to leave the site as a result of defense of enemy ground forces and the probability of deplition of gasoline.
8. According to Defense Information at 12:22 on September 10, 1980, an Iraqi airaircraft was seen by a F-14 aircraft at a distance of 5 miles across the border, and the pilot asked if he could target it. Colonel Omarni (successor) was informed, he said: "Do not fire"; Colonel Golchin again said:

“The order is that the IRIAF aircrafts to attack any aircraft, whether inside or outside of the border.”

It was told to Colonel Omrani, after coordinating and checking the subject with the operation, he said: “If the order is issued by the commander of the force, act upon the order”. It was requested to record order number.

Note: At this point of time, due to increased raids in the West, the Hamadan Airbase has actually entered the conflict, and the F-14 interceptor is also used to fight the enemy. A full description of these incidents and the F-4 aircraft crash is presented in Volume I.[[8]](#footnote-8)



Image 7-1 Colonel Pilot Mohammad Reza Ataei and Lieutenant Behrouz Pashapur the launcher of the first air-to-air destruction with Phoenix missile in the history of air battles

At 13:40, Major General Ataei, from Vahdati Airbase (Dezful) command post informed that I was an F-14 pilot officer who launched the Phoenix missile to the Iraqi aircraft on Mehran with the following information:

* The very low altitude of the enemy aircraft, very close to the ground
* Speed, 450 nats
* Direction , 120°
* Distance to the insider airaircraft (F-14), 47 miles
* Position, north east of Mehran Band
* The altitude of the insider airaircraft, 15,000 feet.

It was reported to SEMAJA to declare whether the enemy aircraft crashed or not? It was the first Phoenix (AIM -54) missle in Iran to be fired by an F-14 aircraft[[9]](#footnote-9).

It is worth noting that from this date onwards, the documents of the Office of the Operations Deputy of the Eighth Airbase of Esfahan, as well as the flight office of most of the pioneers of the base[[10]](#footnote-10), a F-14 interceptotr –fighter aircraft launched on Combat Air Patrol missions every day using air-to-air refueling systems in the western part of the country.

At the end of this chapter, a selection of memories by Amir Brigadier Mohammad Reza Ataei, who succeeded in defeating an enemy MiG-21 fighter by firing the first Phoenix missile, is presented[[11]](#footnote-11).

10) Iranian-Iraqi air and ground warfare took place on several fronts: Iran's phantoms aircrafts cover fled the Iraqi MiGs on the border and only Iraqi helicopters often fly over the city of Naftshahr and Sumar. In total, eight Iraqi aircraft and helicopters were crashed.

11) On September 11, 1980, Ilam governor made a call, saying: "An Iraqi MiG aircraft attacked the site of Nakhjir and one or six individuals are martyred." At the time of the event, two F-5s were in the region and two others were flown. Meanwhile, Nakhjir site was asked to inform the event of when making a call.

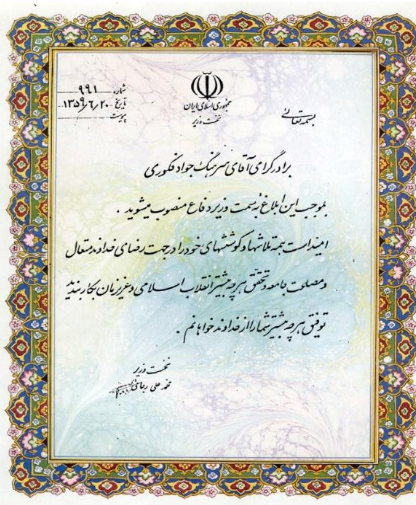


Image 8-1 the appointment of Colonel Fakori (Commander of the IRIAF on that point of time) to the Minister of Defense.

From September 12, 1980 to September 14, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1. On September 12, 1980, it was reported that Ilam had been attacked. Upon confirmation by the Third Airbase Command Officer, the deputy ordered the Air cover aircrafts be headed to Ilam and also a F-14 aircraft was deployed from the 8th Airbase to the region. Because the F-14 was in fueling operation, so a F-4 scrambled from the Fourth Airbase.
2. At 21:24, the above news is again confirmed (the flight of Iraqi aircrafts on the Ilam region); based on the decision made by theIRIAF deputy of operations “one phantom aircrafts carry out the air-to-air refueling and the other support". The F-14 has flown to Ilam. At 21:40, the Defense Command Officer reported that two F-4s had been blocked during the gasoline operation. Two other F-4s were scheduled to be deployed instead of them.
3. At 22:47 on September 13, 1980, the First Transport Airbase was informed that at 08:00 am two tankers flight scheduled for refueling aircrafts in the designated region.

Eventually, the Ilam governor states: "F-4s and F-14s are perfectly fine and well-functioning, so that the targets are still burning and asking for encouragement from the pilots.

2) At 06:00 on September 13, 1980, the insider aircrafts destroyed the enemy's positions and tanks at the Ney Khazar Heights, and the Anjire and Shor-e Shirin checkpoints were tightly placed under the fire of the enemy's artillery.

3) On on September 13, 1980, the air force's intelligence estimates indicate that the enemy has been intensifying its forces and using surveillance systems for the past two years, and for this purpose they used three frigates and 12 ground posts (with Russian equipment) on the border line and an advanced electronic information station (with French equipment) in the western part of the Ali region[[12]](#footnote-12).

4) According to the IRIAF: The following aircrafts have conducted operational flights in order to carry out close air support and counteract the raids of the enemy to the west of the country:

- A number of 12 F-4 aircrafts;

- A number of 21 F-5 aircrafts;

- A number of 8 F-14 aircrafts;

- A number of six Tanker aircrafts (Boeing-707), sent to the region for fueling F-14s and F-4s.

Note -1: the Iraqi news agency on the severity of the border clashes between Iran and Iraq and the raids of the Ba'athist regime's air force from Khosravi to the Khan Lili checkpoints, as well as the severe attacks that Iran began on Iraq's positions around the Khosravi border reported that Iraqi Air Defense overthrew two IRIAF aircrafts (which certainly was nott true)[[13]](#footnote-13).

Note -2: After months of self-restraint, finally, on September 14, 1980, during two security briefings with the presence of the President (Bani Sadr), Prime Minister (Shahid Mohammad Ali Rajae), commanders of the armed forces and gendarmerie for 12 hours, it was announced that the Iranian government had decided to act (counter-attack) against the attacks of the Iraqi army[[14]](#footnote-14).

- Given the permit to counteract such acts, from September 14, 1980 to September 16, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1) On September 14, 1980, a heavy air conflict broke out among theIranian phantoms and the Iraqi Ba'ath Air Force fighter aircrafts, the site of the conflict was over the villages of “Garde naw”, “Bishegan” and “Sarpol-e Zahab”. In this confrontation and close combat, Two Iraqi MiG-21 aircrafts were toppled in a way that their pilots were killed in the smoke and fire caused by the aircraft's explosion and their bodies were transferred to the Qasr-e-Shirin morgue.

2) Iraqi aircraft attacked on helicopters carrying government delegation: “When the country's authorities were visiting the border line, an Iraqi aircraft fired on helicopters carrying the presidency and the prime minister and his companions, accompanied by several Cobra helicopters. These attacks were neutralized by timely response of the pilots and the rapid intervention of the IRIAF fighter aircrafts and the enemy fighters were forced to flee.Therefore, the president and fellows were saved from a certain danger”.



Image 9-1 of the High Commanders Council meeting on September 14, 1980

Note: The Iraqi Ba'thist news agency claimed that the Iraqi Air Force bombed some parts of Iran, especially the city of Naftshahr, the Diyala distric and the Iranian garrison in Sarpol-e Zahab, and that the the Iraqi Air Force could manged to topple a F-4 fighter aircraft and a helicopter carrying Iranian high-ranking officials[[15]](#footnote-15).

3) During this course of time, the following aircrafts have conducted operational flights in order to carry out close air support in the west of the country:

- A number of 4 F-4 aircrafts;

- A number of 15 F-5 aircrafts;

- A number of 3 F-14 aircrafts;

- A number of 2Tanker aircrafts[[16]](#footnote-16).

4) Since September 15, 1980, from the northernmost point to the southern coast, the IRIAF conducts armed air patrol. Thus, two F-5s, from the Fourth Airbase, one F-4 from the First Airbase, one F-14 from the Eighth Airbase and one fuel tanker, continuous patroed suspicious movements and air raids special in the western sky of the country, and some in the were in scramble state of alert ready to fly and battle[[17]](#footnote-17).

5) SEMAJA approved a request for close air support mission in the western region with two F-5s equipped with a rocket and shotgun. On September 15, 1980, it was announced to the command post of the Fourth Airbase and emphasized that the mission is urgent and should be carried out as soon as possible. A few minutes later, two F-5Es flew to the region due to the deteriorating situation in the Ilam region.

6) SEMAJA once again sent a near-air support mission from the West with two F-5Es equipped with rocket and cartridges, which was announced at 11:20 to the command post of the Fourth Airbase and emphasized that the mission is urgent and should be carried out as soon as possible. Also, at 11:49, the subject was notified to "Colonel Tabeshfar" for further speed. He stated that, in line with the Ilam Governor's announcement, the situation was very severe and suggested that aircrafts equipped with CBE: Cluster Bomb Unit[[18]](#footnote-18) be deployed to the region.

Two F-5s flew 55 minutes after the mission was launched. Col. Tabeshfar said that since the task of preparing (to take off) the aircrafts is carried out in the hangar, the minimum time to fly is one hour from the moment of the announcement.

7) According to the report of the Fourth Base the activity of the base against the enemy has been as follows since September 15, 1980[[19]](#footnote-19).

- Approximate destruction of 40 tank units;

- Approximate destruction of 20 cars with forces inside;

- Approximate destruction of the facilities of the three Airbases;

- Destruction of ammunition depots.

8) An illuminated object (like an aircraft) flew over Ilam Saleh Abad's checkpoint on the night of September 16, 1980. The Ilam border guards shot down their machine guns, after which it fled away from the checkpoint sky[[20]](#footnote-20).

From September 17, 1980 to September 19, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1. In the letter No. 92/5913 on September 17, 1980, the request for the "FRAG”[[21]](#footnote-21) was submitted to the deputy of operation. Requested regions were "Fakkeh" and “Tavusiyeh “of Iraq.
2. On September 17, 1980, the Fourth Airbase and Khuzestan DASK aked readiness on the pincer movement attack was on Doweiraj checkpoint. The base notified that so far, six aircrafts have been assigned to three missions. The Eighth Airbase was also commissioned to fly three F-14 aircrafts in order of priority.
3. According to the IRIAF, at 10:30 on September 17, 1980, one Iraqi MiG (Sukhoi -22) aircraft was toppled in the western part of the country.

Note -1: At this point of time, the “FRAG” or detailed command on counteracting the invasion of the Iraqi Ba'ath army and the attack on checkpoints was formally issued and communicated to the pilots. Also on this day, Saddam Hussein terminated Algiers agreement unilaterally, the Iraqi National Assembly, as a sign of support for its decision, declared: "If Iran does not retreat from the borderlands (from Arvand), the Iraqi Army uses the force to regain them.”

Note - 2: Short memories of Amir Brigadier general Farajollah Baratpour, the operational assistant of Hamedan's Airbase and the leader of the attack on "H-3", will be presented in the next section.

1. According to The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Forces (NEZAJA), at 08:00 on September 18, 1980, the “Dowaeiraj” and “Fakkeh” checkpoints (Mosian and Mehran) were attacked by the Iraqi Artillery. Meanwhile, a number of 70 Iraqi tanks intend to attack the checkpouints that close air support is being requested[[22]](#footnote-22).
2. According to the gendarmerie on September 18, 1980, Iranian aircrafts inflicted huge damage in the enemy forces on Fakkeh -Samida and Dowaeiraj - Safariyah checkpoints, and since the Iraqi Air Force did not react, the attack on the Dezful Airbase is probabile.
3. According to the gendarmerie, at 08:00 approximately 60 tanks with the support of the Artillery attacked Fakkeh and Dowaeiraj checkpoints that forced to retreat by forces stationed at the checkpoints and air support. In the clash, three enemy tanks were destroyed.
4. According to IRIAF, from September 18, 1980 until the next day, 10 sorties of Fighter aircrafts were deployed to air support Orumieh Division 64.

Note: On September 18, 1980 (four days before the Ba'ath regime's full-scale attack), the fall of two F-5E fighter aircrafts by enemy combat in two different flight classes of martyrdom of Capt. Mohammad Zare Nemati), and the captivity of Seyyed al-usarra Martyr Hossein Lashgari created changes in the history of sacred defens[[23]](#footnote-23).

From September 19, 1980 to September 21, 1980, the following border raids by the enemy have been reported and recorded and appropriate measures have been taken to counteract them:

1. Several Iraqi aggressor aircrafts were observed by Tabriz Radar at 13:30 on September 19, 1980, over the Oshnavieh sky, and the two F-5s scrambled from a Second Airbase to fight them[[24]](#footnote-24).
2. One F-4 aircraft was deployed to destroy a pedestrian column near Ilam, where the mission was successfully completed.

This month the process of Ba'ath militant aggression accelerated exponentially. The Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army instructed on September 20, 1980 two formal announcements, the full text of which is presented in the first volume of the same series.

1. On September 21, 1980, the Hamadan radar reported that six aircrafts were located in the city of Naftshar and the Somar radar. At 12:19, again, the Defense announced that eight aircrafts were seen in the city of Naftshar and the Somar region and the Third Airbase was ordered scramble flight, and at 12:30, two F-4s scrambled.
2. On September 21, 1980, four F-4s were dispatched to the region to destroy the Iraqi Corps (Zulfiqar or Darafsh project) located at the mouth of Arvandroud. An Uza frigate was shot and destroyed by Maverick missle, as reported by the expedition aircraft.
3. On September 21, 1980, the international air routes known as "B-51", "G-55", "V-3" and "V-11" that are part of the Iraqi air strike threat closed to all International flights[[25]](#footnote-25).

Turning to the process of suspicious movements and frequent air violations by various means to the borders and privacy of the country (comprehensive support for the counter-revolutionaries in the West and planning for a plot "Naghab" for the overthrow of the new system of Iran), the need to respond was inevitable to discover and defuse the leading threats by the armed forces of the country in particular the IRIAF. But a general overview of the events this month shows that the border regions have been undergoing a relatively quiet transition from August 23, 1980 to September 6, 1980.

The Iraqi air raids were less associated with shooting and bombing, and in contrast, most of the flights were in the form of reconnaissance of the region. Although Iraq started its martial targets slightly balanced in September, but in this regard, the astuteness of The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force may not be overlooked. By proving the seemingly hidden enemy intentions, the IRIAF began to make regular night-time flights from the beginning of the August 23, 1980. These flights, often AIMED AT reconnaissance, contained a message of authority and combat readiness of the IRIAF that in the defense of the sky of the country; a message that could have been meaningful and alarming for the Ba'ath party's command, but Iraqi commanders was unable to analyze such messages due to the enthusiasm for reaching a large part of the southern regions of Iran.

From September 6, 1980 to September 22, 1980 in an unexpected turn, the two sides are witnessing a semi-full-scale war. The gradual deployment of the Iraqi Army in the western and southern border forced the IRIAF to expand its operational range. The Iraqi air strike, then the ground invasion of Mehran and Saleh Abad, and the immediate presence of Iranian air force bombers over Iraqi forces, were the beginning of the crisis on September 22, 1980 onward. Eventually the promised moment came, and the Ba'ath Party's ambitious leader, who was impatiently waiting for a command of attack to his army, found the reason for the beginning of the war; an extremely worthwhile excuse that, in a sense, landed as heavenly mother in his filthy lap. On the afternoon of September 18, 1980, 1st Lt. Hossein Lashgari on a combat air patrol flight in the western part of the country (45 kilometers west of Abdanan) was fired by the nemy and being landed by parachute was captured by Ba'athist forces. Now, from the perspective of Saddam Hussein, Iran could have been introduced as the initiator of the war. Therefore, the last obstacle in the aftermath of a war of attrition was also removed, and after four days of propaganda abuse of Hussein Lashgari on the international level, Iraq began an all-out attack on Iran.

Therefore, the enemy, in order to achieve its goals and planning to surrender, compromise or transform the Islamic Revolution of Iran by obtaining the consent and protection of the East and West and global arrogance, began its invasion of Iran and thus began the eight- year imposed war against our beloved homeland. At the end of this topic, the enemy's aggression Table 2-1 illustrated the enemy air stikes from March 21, 1980 to September 22, 1980.

Table 2-1 Iraq air stikes on Iran (from March 21, 1980 March 21, 1980 to)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| March 21, 1980 to April 20, 1980 | April 21, 1980 to May 21, 1980 | May 22, 1980 to June 21, 1980 | June 22, 1980 to July 22, 1980 | July 23, 1980 to August 22, 1980 | August 23, 1980 to March 21, 1980 to |
| 293 | 64 | 85 | 71 | 57 | 33 |

**D- Memories of Amir Brigadier Pilot Mohammad Reza Ataei and Amir Brigadier Pilot Farajollah Baratpour**

this section predents the first Phoenix missile launched in the history of the air strikes that resulted in the overthrow of the enemy MiG-21 fighter, as well as a review of the events of September 14, 1980 to September 20, 1980, quoted by two of the Sacred Defense pioneers (Amir Brigadier Mohammad Reza Ataei And Amir Brigadier, Farajollah Baratpour):

1. Amir Brigadier Pilot Mohammad Reza Ataei and firing the first Phoenix missile

Amir Brigadier Pilot Mohammad Reza Ataei was born in Hamedan on October 11, 1945. Having graduated from high school entered the Air Force technical unit on October 22, 1965, he and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. Then he entered the Pilot School in 1969, and in that same year he was sent to the United States on a jet piloting course, and on April 28, 1971, he was awarded a pilot's name and transferred to the Dezful Airbase. He initially served as the F-5s pilot with two thousand hours of flight and a thousand hours pilot training at Dezful Airbase. After a while, on February 3, 1977, he traveled to the United States for a F-14 flight training course, and at Horsiana's base passed advanced aircraft classes togather with pilots such as Martyr Brigadier General Hashem Al Agha, Amir Brigadier Shahram Rostami, Brigadier Abolfazl Houshyar, Yadollah Khalili, Khalil Dashti Zadeh and ... and returned to the country on September 2, 1977. After the Islamic Revolution victory, he was appointed to the command of the battalion of 81 battalions at the 8th Airbase on September 6, 1980 ranking Major until on 1981 when he was appointed as Support Assistant, and then on November 11, 1982 accepted the deputy of operation post at the 8th Airbase of Isfahan at the time when Shahid Abbas Babaei was commander of that Airbase.

He was promoted to the post of Colonel on December 1, 1983 and was appointed to the Commander of the Airbase, and then he was sent to Tehran on September 15, 1985 for one year to complete the "School of Command and Staff" courses. On September 6, 1986, he was appointed to the command of the Isfahan Airbase and was honored to the rank of second general on December 22, 1988. Brigadier Ataei was appointed to the Air Force Planning and Assistance Program on February 1, 1990 until he was reinstated in retirement on October 22, 1996; however, after several months, due to organizational needs reemployed as Advisor to General Dr. Firoozabadi in the General Staff of the Armed Forces, and eventually retired in 2000. This Amir of The Islamic Republic of Iran Army has flown over four thousand hours

1. At this point of time, there were two options to counteract the aggression of the enemy through the F-14 Interceptor-Fighting Aircrafts: first, the expansion of this type of fighter to the bases of Hamadan and Dezful. Second, the use of the Airfueling Tactics using Boeing's "707 and 747" fuel aircrafts, which actually the second option is on the agenda of the deputy of operation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The report of SEMAJA in the letter No. 2446/03/29/1701/18 (review of the contents of this event is described in Chapter III, "The Function of the Commander of the IRIAF Defense” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. According to the Second Office of SEMAJA [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This word (LAME DUCK) means to creat a safe airspace for the landing of insider aircraft at its closest base in times of war and crisis in the absence of radio communication between the aircraft and the ground station [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. See Volume I, Second Edition, “Sacred Air Defense History ", pp. 368-372. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The IRIAF Deputy Commander's Command Operations Center Shift records from December 24, 1979 to May 31, 1981. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Examples: Major Hassan Afghan Toloui / Lieutenant Mohammad Oghbaee, the "CAP" mission over the western region for five hours and fifteen minutes along with air refueling (Amir Brigadier General Mohammed Oghbaee flight records). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The pilots of this flight, Major Mohammad Reza Ataei, the front cabin and Lieutenant, Behrouz Pashapur, rear cabin, fired the first Phoenix ultra-advanced rocket in the battlefield. Of course, according to the video of the flight lessons session of the 8th Airbase (Shahid Baba'i in Isfahan), and based on the memories of their brother in arms, Lieutenant Behruz Pashapur previously been selected as one of the professors of the rear cabin of the F-14, along with Major Pilot Mohammad Farahavar (of experienced pilots and prominent commanders) had launched a Phoenix rocket at a predetermined target and destroyed it on a test site in an Amircan Airbases. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Source: London, Asharq al-Awsat Newspaper on September 10, 1980, detailing the events ounder the headline “September 10, 1980 and the ground and air defeat of the enemy” which was also reflected under the title “The Great Fighting of Iranian Phantoms and Iraqi MiGs in border” in Kayhan Newspaper. This has already been mentioned in the first volume of Second Edition, “Sacred Air Defense History”, pp. 338. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. SEMAJA Headquarters, Report No. 177, p. 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. See: the first volume of Second Edition, “Sacred Air Defense History”, pp. 386-388 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. SEMAJA Headquarters, Report No. 176, p. 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. The Cluster Bomb Unit" or "CBU is a type of anti-personnel and armored vehicles combat armament, and is composed of a reservoir with a large number of grenades opened after being thrown by a fighter-bomber the tanks open with the grenades are spread over a wide region. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. The IRIAF Deputy Commander's Command Operations Center Shift records from December 24, 1979 to June 1, 1979 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Kayhan newspaper: September 16, 1980. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. FRAG: Special flight mission statement (bombardment, etc.) with detailed commands "FRAG" [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. SEMAJA Headquarters, Report No. 181, p. 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. See details of the events and the process of captivity of Martyr Hussein Lashkari and Mohammad Zare Nemati in the first volume of Second Edition, “Sacred Air Defense History”, pp. 421-438. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. According toavailable documents, including oral history by Brig. Gen. Azadeh Jamshid Oshal at the Office of Strategic Studies in the IRIAF Office in 2015, and Brigadier-General Hussein Khalili Flight Office, on the day after the fall of Hossein Lashkari (on Friday, September 19, 1980) who were present at the region, the aggressive aircrafts being intercepted fled to Iraq. In addition, Brig. Gen. pilot Hamid Najafi, who during these days accopained Shahid Lieutenant general Sayad Shirazi, as chief of officer in Baneh-Sardasht region continuously reported the aggressions of Iraqi fighters to the command center of the Tabriz Airbase. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Mahmoud Khordand et al., (1998) "Air Defense: On the Eight –Year Sacred Defense " Volume I, Tehran: Strategic Studies Office of the IRIAF [↑](#footnote-ref-25)