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Naval Special Warfare ISA Naval Special Warfare Center Dam Neck, VA 6th March 2024

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ORIENTATION

A recent attack on JSOC personnel operating in Yemen led to the death of 13 rangers part of Joint Task Force 45. Yemen is a high risk conflict nation with primary threats originating from ISIS-Yemen, AQAP, Hizballah, IRGC-QF, and other Iran backed terrorism cells. One of these Iran backed terrorism cells includes Al-Sharam, a religiously motivated violent extremist organization based in Yemen. Al Sharam's primary local objective is the establishment of an Islamist state in the Horn of Africa based on Sharia law and the elimination of secular and foreign influence, including through violent means.

The Topography of this region of Yemen is characterized by coastal plain, with semi-desert environments spanning the majority of inland Yemen. A vast mountain range runs through Yemen with the highest peak at 3,760 meters (12,300').

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SITUATION

A U.S. Army Ranger assigned to 1-75th Ranger Regiment, operating as a part of Joint Task Force 45 was captured and considered MIA as of 23 FEB 2024. Recent intel confirms Al-Sharam maintains possession of SSG William E. Stroud, a Squad Leader of 1-75th Ranger Regiment. Al-Sharam primarily operates covertly out of cities and nearby towns. Al-Sharam controls many warehouses and shipping lanes, and utilizes these for the manufacturing, storing, and transport of explosive weapon technologies.



ENEMY SITUATION

GROUND SITUATION

ENEMY SALUTE: AL-SHARAM

Size: Estimated 400-500 MAM's sympathetic to Al-Sharam, less than 100 active combatants.

Activity: Religiously motivated terrorism within HOA

Location: HOA-Yemen

Unit: Al-Sharam

Time: 23FEB24Z0300

Equipment: Soviet Bloc weapons, Anti-tank capable, IED, S-Vest, Boscoe, potential for light MANPAD threats.

Capability: Current capability is estimated to be a mixture of light motorized and infantry forces with mobilization primarily utilizing Hilux mounted DSKA and UAZ mounted SPG-9's. Their force structure offers quick tactical mobility and a sophisticated EW system due to a large number of civilians sympathetic to the organization's cause. Anti-Tank capabilities are limited, but highly mobile, while their anti-air consists of highly limited numbers of IGLA missile platforms.

MISSION

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Joint Task Force 46 has been tasked with the hostage recovery of SSG W. Stroud, and the capture/kill of Musa Met Suleyman; a local Al-Sharam cell leader believed to be responsible for the capture of SSG Stroud and the death of the 13 Rangers. A tertiary objective includes the site exploitation for intel suggesting manufacturing locations of explosive ordinance and weapons technology. There are three suspected locations that could be utilized for the detention of SSG Stroud. Each location is a Al-Sharam headquarters and/or manufacturing site with potential for garrison and QRF forces. The following locations are depicted here.



- To deploy JTF 46 comprised of NSWDG and TF 160 to Yemen to facilitate the following key tasks:
 - Repatriation of SSG W. Stroud.
 - Exercise the possibility to capture/kill specially identified targets.
 - Conduct site exploitation in support of further HOA-Yemen operations







