**(U) Section I. Background**

(U) The Caucasus Region is bordered on the west by the Black Sea and on the east by the Caspian Sea. The north side of the Caucasus Mountains includes a portion of the large country of Donovia, most of which is outside the region. The states of Gorgas, Minaria, and Atropia are in the middle of the region on the south side of the Caucasus Mountains. Portions of Kemalia and the Arianan Islamic Republic form the southern boundary of the region. The Caspian Sea holds large oil and natural gas reserves, potentially as large as those in the Arabian Peninsula, which lends geostrategic significance to the adjacent Caucasus region. The region has a long history of fighting, factionalism, and unrest. Minaria, backed by Donovia, supported a successful revolt by the Minarian majority in the Artzak region of Atropia, and the resultant rebel government refuses to return this area to Government of the Republic of Atropia (GoRA) control. There are long-standing quarrels between most of the countries in the region, with the last two decades seeing incidents between Donovia and Gorgas (2008 War), Kemalia and Minaria (Minarian Genocide Dispute), and internal unrest in several countries (e.g., Atropia, Kemalia, Ariana, and Gorgas). Highly volatile political tensions are exacerbated by both traditional and emerging regimes' willingness to use external threats to bolster their own legitimacy and justify bloated national security budgets. The rise of Islamic fundamentalism complicates the challenges faced by some regimes in modernizing their political and economic systems. These tensions resulted in Ariana becoming a Revolutionary Islamic Republic in 1979 and Ariana's support for fundamentalist movements continues to complicate issues in the region. In addition, the region's low-level insurgencies beginning in 2009 continue to affect stability throughout the area. Western investors have been reluctant to invest in economic modernization outside of the energy sector, resulting in an economic profile overly reliant on oil and gas. Networked terrorist organizations of various sizes and effectiveness operate throughout the Caucasus region, with various doctrinal (Islamic Fundamentalism, Christian Reactionary Orthodoxy, ethnic nationalism, tribalism, etc.) motivations contributing to these movements' long-term presence. Although many of these movements are ostensibly home grown, state sponsors are suspected of providing logistical and financial support in many cases. The United States has a vital stake in a stable and secure Caucasus Region. Maintaining effective support for democratic regimes and ensuring their countries' access to free markets remains among the United States' highest foreign policy priorities. In order to contribute to the region's stability, USEUCOM has been tasked with the responsibility for military operations that support the other instruments of the United States' national power (economic, diplomatic, and informational.). With relief from the restrictions of Section (907)(a) of the Freedom for Donovia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act, USEUCOM continues a program of military interaction with Kemalia, Gorgas, and Atropia with emphasis on combined operations in the event of war.

**(U) Section II - Regional Actors - Gorgas**

(U) 1. Gorgas has experienced civil war, bitter ethnic feuding, and hostile Donovian intervention since the establishment of a democratically elected government in 1991. Gorgas has tried to gain control of fractious regions split by tribal rivalries and long-standing feuds, but has been hindered in its attempts by official and unofficial Donovian interference. Donovian-Gorgan tensions increased from 2006 due to Gorgas's desire to integrate more closely with the EU and NATO. In 2008, the Zabzimek and South Ostremek regions erupted in civil war, as separatists attempted to establish independent states. Donovia recognized their independence and launched a military campaign that forced the Gorgan government to cede de facto control of these areas. Gorgas welcomes US Government involvement in their country, including diplomatic and military "advisory groups," to build Gorgan military capability and interoperability with NATO forces. During the 1991-1994 War between Atropia and Minaria, Gorgas allowed US Forces to build an enduring training base in the country, and utilize its ports on the Black Sea to access the region. These efforts have led to continued cooperation between the US and Gorgas. While friendly with the West, Gorgas does not desire a regional conflict, as this would provide pretext for further encroachment on its sovereignty by more powerful neighbors.

**(U) Section II - Regional Actors - Donovian Federation**

(U) 2. Donovian Federation is the dominant actor in the Caucasus Region. It is nominally a federal republic, but its governing power continues to remain with a small cadre of political elites and their circle of connected oligarchs. Donovia has provided the Arianan regime with extensive weapons and technical assistance despite outstanding debts and the latter's religious fundamentalism. Donovia considers the Arianan regime to be a friendly nation due to the latter's regular military purchases and consistent support of Donovian positions with regard to energy matters in the Caucusus. Throughout the rest of the region, Donovia seeks to counteract American engagement while maintaining its own sphere of influence through either overt (the 2008 Gorgan War) or covert (nullification of the 2012 South Ostremek Presidential Election) means. Donovia views Atropia's pipelines to Western Europe as a threat, believing that these were created with the intent of circumventing Donovia's energy dominance. Donovian elites generally consider their Arab culture to be superior to others, and the government often displays chauvinistic and nationalistic tendencies in the international arena. The Donovian regime is unwilling to publicly support Arianan aggression, but has a long history of tacit support through UN Security Council vetoes.

**(U) Section II - Regional Actors - Ariana**

(U) 3. Ariana has been a theocratic state ruled by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah and the Council of Guardians Revolution since 1979, and is considered to be the second most powerful actor in the region after Donovia. The Revolution considers itself to be the vanguard of true faith, and the heart of a global conversion to its version of Islam. Ariana's international goals are focused on exporting the Revolution and dominating the Caucasus and its energy market. While Ariana has maintained its ties with Islamic terrorist and insurgent organizations throughout the Caucasus and Middle East (particularly SAPA and the Hezbollah), it has sought to gain diplomatic legitimacy within international organizations (e.g., the United Nations). It has been helped in this endeavor by Donovia, with which it has strong economic ties. With regards to its neighbors, Ariana enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with Minaria, with which it trades energy for access to Western markets, but views Atropia and Kemalia with suspicion. Ariana seeks to gain control of Atropian energy reserves in the Caspian Sea, as its own energy resources continue to dwindle, and relations between the two countries are generally antagonistic as a result.

**(U) Section II - Regional Actors - Atropia**

(U) 4. Atropia is theoretically a republic, but has a strong presidential system in which the president dominates the legislative and judicial branches. The Republican Party of Democracy has dominated Atropian politics since 1995, and the Ismailov family has controlled the presidency since. However, the 2010 election was marred by political protests, charges of corruption, and alleged violence by state agencies. These issues exacerbated internal concerns regarding the government's legitimacy and the embezzlement of state energy profits by high-ranking government officials. An insurgency spearheaded by the South Atropian People's Army (SAPA) has gained momentum with Arianan support since 2009, and many regions of southern Atropia are loyal to the Baku government in name only. Extended ethnic-Atropian families straddle the Atropia-Ariana border and the border region closely identifies itself with the ancient Arianan Persian Empire. Therefore, Ariana's message of Persian religious nationalism has resonated with many of this region's inhabitants. Atropia has had border disputes with all of its neighbors. In the case of Gorgas, arguments over national territory were settled amicably. In the west, however, Atropia and Minaria engaged in a war over the Artzak region from 1991-1994, which resulted in the establishment of the Minarian-majority Artzak Republic, recognized as an independent state by Minaria. This conflict has created 750,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). In the political arena, the Atropians attempt to balance diplomatic links to the West in a way that is less likely to inflame regional tensions, feed Arianan or Donovian rhetoric, or give either Ariana or Donovia a casus belli for an attack. Nonetheless, Atropia has consistently rebuffed Arianan and Donovian efforts to alter the demarcation of Caspian Sea energy resources, culminating in Atropia's exit from the 20XX Caspian Energy Talks. As tensions mount, Atropia has sought increasingly closer ties with the US and EU, further increasing friction with Ariana and Donovia.

**(U) Section II - Regional Actors - Minaria**

(U) 5. Minaria is Atropia's neighbor and historical enemy, and attempts to remain neutral in the midst of growing regional tensions. The Minarian government suffers from massive internal corruption, and the ingrained resentment for the Minarian Genocide (1915-1922) influences all official discourse and decision-making. The Minarians continue to cultivate a strong relationship with Donovia, and have considerable economic ties with Ariana, with whom they trade access to Western markets for energy. The major flash point of Minarian relations continues to be control of Artzak, over which Minarian-backed rebels gained control through military action during the 1991-1994 war. The entire ethnic Atropian population returned to Atropia, leaving Artzak relatively peaceful internally, though sniping and other exchanges of fire periodically occur along the "Artzak Republic"-Atropian line of control. Negotiations on the final status of Artzak continue, and the conflict has consistently poisoned relations between Minaria and Atropia.

**(U) Section III - Building Tensions**

(U) Since 2001, the Caspian has been the scene of numerous confrontations between oil and gas exploration teams and Arianan forces over disputed waters near the border with Atropia. Over the following decade, a series of inconclusive energy talks and increasingly antagonistic relations between the United States and Donovia further polarized the region, as regional actors aligned themselves to best protect their interests. Meanwhile, the rise of the South Atropian People's Party (2003) and SAPA, supported by Ariana, signaled the beginning of growing irredentist sentiment in southern Atropia and Arianan covert intervention. Continuing negotiations concerning the Artzak region failed amidst border clashes between Atropian and Minarian-supported forces, and the 2008 Donovian intervention in Gorgas further destabilized the region. Finally, in 2009, a series of car bombings in Baku were linked to SAPA and Arianan intelligence services, and ushered in a new wave of tensions and a war of words between Atropia and Ariana. Tensions continued to rise in 2010, when Atropian elections marred by allegations of fraud gave pretext for Ariana to lodge a formal complaint to the U.N., coupled with allegations of human rights abuses against the South Atropian people. The 2012 announcement of the signing of a gas deal between BP and the Atropian government was met with bellicose statements by Ariana that the field in question was located in Arianan territorial waters. Ariana pursued this claim, filing a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization, but under pressure from the United States and the EU, the claim was rejected in 2013. In frustration, Ariana attempted to raise the issue again at the 20XX Caspian Energy Conference, resulting in a breakdown of the talks and the Atropian, British, and Kemalian delegations walking out in protest. In August 20XX, BP vessels attempting to begin work on the Alov field were fired upon by Arianan naval forces and detained. The United States and Britain attempted to pass a U.N. Security Council Resolution imposing the threat of force if Ariana refused to comply with international law, but the resolution was vetoed by Donovia and China. In late September 20XX, the first elements of CJTF-Caucasus deployed to Atropia at the request of the Atropian government.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - Over Last 24 Months**

(U) Over the last 24 months, intelligence has shown a slow but steady deployment of both conventional and unconventional Arianan ground combat power to the north, primarily along the border with Atropia. Despite claims of a defensive build-up designed to protect Arianan interests from Western attack, other intelligence indicated clear hostile intent toward Atropia. Arianan military and government assets-including oil survey and coastal defense ships, civil and military aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles- continued to actively and aggressively reconnoiter Atropian energy and defense interests. The Arianans also conducted multiple division or greater-sized military exercises in the year prior to hostilities, to include Integrated Air Defense System and Theater Ballistic Missile System drills.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - Within Past 6 Months**

(U) Within the past six months, Arianan forces utilized the capabilities of their home-produced Hermes 450 UAVs to conduct reconnaissance across the border into Atropia. On D-30, Atropia's Air Defense Force shot down one of these UAVs, which it claimed had been modified to accept additional payloads. Ariana also moved its air and missile strike assets into range of Atropia and its capital, and it is believed that Arianan Special Purpose Forces had infiltrated Atropia as early as D-180.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - Arianan INFORWAR capabilities**

(U) Arianan INFOWAR capabilities have probed Atropian government networks (including those related to oil/gas production) and used the Internet, including social media, to carry out an aggressive perception management operation targeting the Atropian population. Much of the content focused on the repressive nature of the Atropian government, and its close links to the US. Social media attempted to discredit the Atropian Government by highlighting recent corruption scandals and the concentration of wealth in the capital of Baku. Atropia was also the victim of several cyber attacks of undetermined origin, the most recent of which shut down the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline for several days. Defense networks experienced a series of active Denial of Services attacks, but these attacks failed to yield effective results. In perception management operations over the last 12 months, the Arianans have portrayed the large South Atropian minority population within Ariana as well-treated and integrated, in contrast to the majority of South Atropians within Atropia, whom the Arianan government claims are exploited by the Atropian regime. Additionally, Arianan state historians claim that Atropia has always been part of the historic Persian Empire of Ariana.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - Tensions begin to mount**

(U) As tensions began to mount and Arianan cross-border IC efforts increased, the Atropian Supreme High Command began preparations for possible conflict, moving the 1st and 2nd Corps to defensive positions near the border and in the vicinity of Baku. The High Command also increased air defense and air interdiction efforts, focusing on Baku and the border regions. In September 20XX, GoRA began a partial call-up of reservists.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - US President issues a PNSD**

(U) In early 2013, the US President issued a Presidential National Security Directive (PNSD) that identified sovereignty of Caucasus nations and market access for their energy resources as vital US national security interests. The PNSD also directed the Department of Defense to create and deploy a Combined Joint Task Force-Caucasus (CJTF-C) to the region to demonstrate US resolve and deter potential aggression. According to the directive, should shaping and deterrence fail, the CJTF-C must be prepared to conduct combat operations. The CJTF-C was formed in February 20XX under VII Corps Command, with a headquarters staff at Tblisi, Gorgas by private agreement with the Gorgan government. Shortly thereafter, the United States and United Kingdom initiated a maritime pre-positioning plan to forward position CJTF-C supplies and equipment at Diego Garcia. In June 20XX, SOTF 0100 deployed to Atropia to advise and assist Atropian forces, and units assigned to CJTF-C made final deployment preparations.

**(U) Section IV - Preparations for War - early September 20XX, following the Arianan attack on BP vessels in Atropian waters**

(U) In early September 20XX, following the Arianan attack on BP vessels in Atropian waters, Atropian President Ismailov called on the President of the United States to deploy a limited contingent of troops to Atropia. Shipping was dispatched from Diego Garcia to the Black Sea and the US advance element began arriving at Baku air base in mid September, as the US government negotiated port and land route use with Gorgas. The Gorgan government, under pressure from Donovia, was unable to reach an agreement on the use of Gorgan territory by CJTF-C troops. After NATO's offer of Article V security guarantees in the case of any retaliation to the Atropian mission, the Gorgan government agreed to allow port and transit use by CJTF-C forces. However, Gorgas stipulated that CJTF-C forces cannot use Gorgan territory to conduct offensive operations. Donovia protested to the U.N. and threatened to materially support Ariana against Western "mercantilist" aggression. On D-10, MPP shipping began disembarking combat supplies at Poti as CJTF-C troops landed in Tblisi. The Arianans, realizing that the window of opportunity to act before US forces were committed was rapidly closing, decided to attack, seize Baku, and force the Coalition and Atropians to the bargaining table.

**(U) Section V - Hostilities - forces attacked on D-day with two Operational Strategic Commands (1st and 2nd OSC)**

(U) Arianan forces attacked on D-day with two Operational Strategic Commands (1st and 2nd OSC) abreast to defeat Atropian Forces (AF) and seize the control of Baku and the B-T-C pipeline, thus forcing a favorable negotiated settlement. Combat operations began when Special Purpose Forces (SPF) and SAPA conducted a series of coordinated attacks on key mission command nodes of 1st and 2nd Corps (AF) and Atropian Air Force facilities. Additionally, Arianan Shahab-3B strikes on Supreme High Command infrastructure severely degraded the Atropians' ability to mount a synchronized defense. OSC-1 attacked first to the northwest to seize key lines of communication and prevent an international coalition from being able to reinforce positions at the capital of Baku. They quickly overwhelmed defending elements from the 2nd Corps (AF), and by D+3 had reached the cities of Agdam and Lemberan, as the 2nd Corps withdrew towards Ganja. Meanwhile, OSC-2 attacked northeast to seize Baku, and also successfully defeated initial defending units from the 1st Corps (AF). The remainder of 1st Corps withdrew to the north towards Baku. On D-Day the US responded with Black Sea-based USN T-LAM strikes and USAF air strikes from bases in Kemalia, and by D+4 had forced OSC-1 to culminate south of PL WHITE.

**(U) Section V - Hostilities - CJTF-C Elements move West**

(U) Once Ariana attacked, the CJTF-C advance elements in Baku moved west to link up with VII Corps lead elements before the Arianans reached the Atropian capital. By D+3, CJTF-C forces had entered Atropia and were preparing for combat operations to expel Arianan forces from Atropian territory.

**(U) Section V - Hostilities - OSC-1 forced by US air power**

(U) OSC-1, having been forced by US air power to culminate short of their objectives, is now transitioning to the defense, in order to prevent CJTF-C forces from massing combat power on OSC-2. They are establishing disruption zones to allow OSC-2 time and space to seize Baku and force an Atropian settlement. OSC-2 is continuing its advance on Baku, although the Atropian command has recovered from its initial shock and has begun an organized defense of the capital. Although OSC-2's advance has slowed considerably, Arianan leaders recognize that failing to seize Baku before the arrival of CJTF-C forces will severely limit the ability to achieve their strategic objectives.

**(U) Section V - Hostilities - CJTF-C forces conduct decisive action**

(U) CJTF-C forces will conduct decisive action in four phases, with stability operations occurring throughout: (I) Deter Threat State aggression into Atropia through the build-up of forces into theater, (II) Seize the Initiative by conducting defensive operations to defeat Threat State offensives into Atropia in order to set the conditions to assume the offensive, (III) Dominate the AO by conducting offensive operations to expel Threat State forces in order to restore Atropian territorial integrity, and (IV) Stabilize the regional operational environment by establishing a disengagement zone inside Threat States in order to prevent future aggression and assisting GoRA and other aid organizations in re-establishing Atropia's internal security by neutralizing irregular threats, restoring essential services to the Atropian population, and providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees. The phases of the operation may overlap.

**(U) Section V - Hostilities - SOCCE-C**

(U) Special Operations Command and Control Caucasus (SOCCE-C) conducts special operations in support of Theater Special Operations Commander's theater security cooperation plan. SOCCE-C personnel will act as a communications link between Atropian and coalition units, provide joint fires coordination and support capability to their partnered Atropian unit facilitating joint firepower in support of the Atropian defense plan, assist in all necessary coordination for any passage of lines or relief in place operations, and provide intelligence reporting in support of theater collection priorities. SOCCE-C conducts special reconnaissance in support of theater collection priorities to provide indications and warning and targeting assistance. Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force- Caucasus (CJSOTF-C) is established to command and control special operations forces conducting operations within the theater AOR. CJSOTF-C forces are prepared to conduct the following missions: Unconventional Warfare, Foreign Internal Defense, Counterinsurgency, Direct Action, Special Reconnaissance, and Security force Assistance.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2001**

(U) 2001 - BP forced to suspend work on one of the Caspian oilfields after an Arianan gunboat chases a research vessel out of disputed waters claimed by Ariana. Talks between the Caspian littoral states on division of the region's energy resources continue all year but are inconclusive.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2003 December**

(U) The SAPP (South Atropia People's Party) formed to represent the "South Atropian" people who straddle the Atropia-Ariana border, and consider themselves a distinct ethnic group.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2004 April**

(U) Arianan patrol boats confront ExxonMobil oil exploration ships in the Caspian Sea.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2005 November**

(U) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begin infrastructure improvement in Gorgas and Atropia, including repairing and maintaining the rail system.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - April 2006**

(U) Donovia hosts the first Caspian Energy Conference; event is not attended by Atropia or Gorgas.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - February 2007**

(U) Ariana dispatches several thousand "volunteers" to Lebanon where they conduct advise and assist operations with Hezbollah forces.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - November 2007**

(U) President Jaheer hosts the second Caspian Energy Conference in Saratov, Donovia which is attended by all nations other than Atropia. The nations propose a new energy resource demarcation plan for the Caspian Sea's resources to be implemented in June 2010.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - February 2008**

(U) The former Serbian province and U.N. protectionary of Kosovo declares independence and is quickly recognized by the United States and several other Western nations. Donovia decries this move, claiming that it sets a precedent the United States will come to regret.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - March 2008**

(U) Minarian forces initiate the 2008 Mardakert Skirmishes with Atropia. The United Nations passes UN 62/243 reaffirming that Minaria should cease attempting to occupy additional Atropian territory.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - August 2008**

(U) Donovia and Gorgas fight the August 2008 Donovo-Gorgan War, leading to the secession of Zabzimek and South Obstemek from the latter country. Donovia recognizes the two breakaway republics in a move the U.S. State Department considers to be retaliation for the United States' recognition of Kosovo.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - November 2008**

(U) President Jaheer makes a state visit to Baku to personally invite Atropia to the Caspian Energy Conference scheduled for December 2008. He is publicly rebuffed by Atropia's President Ismailov.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - December 2008**

(U) Ariana, Donovia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Gorgas sign the Caspian Energy Treaty in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Atropia is invited to take part in the treaty but refuses to attend the conference or abide by any of the treaty terms.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - Early 2009**

(U) Minaria, Donovia, and Atropia attempt to conduct peace talks to resolve the Artzak crisis. These talks are marred by skirmishes in the Mardakert region.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 15 February 2009**

(U) Ariana conducts its first PERSIAN LION military exercise with OSC-2 in the Zagros Desert.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 28 March 2009**

(U) Multiple car bombs strike several military targets throughout Atropia. Atropia finds evidence implicating SAPA and the Arianan intelligence service. Tensions rise between Ariana and Atropia.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - April 2009 - October 2009**

(U) Atropia's government conducts severe crackdowns on the South Atropian people in retaliation for the March 2009 terrorist attacks. A low grade insurgency ensues in southern Atropia with SAPA playing the most prominent role.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 16 October 2010**

(U) Atropia holds presidential elections. Voter suppression is so extensive in southern Atropia that International Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International file formal complaints with the United Nations. Ariana makes a complaint to the U.N.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - November 2012**

(U) BP and Atropia announce a gas exploration deal to exploit the Alov Gas Field in the Caspian Sea.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 1 December 2012**

(U) Ariana files a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization claiming that the natural gas field in question actually lies partially within Arianan territory.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 3 December 2012**

(U) The United States and United Kingdom quietly agree to establish MPP forward posture at Diego Garcia.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2 July 2013**

(U) The World Trade Organization, under pressure from the United States, United Kingdom, and Kemalia, rejects Ariana's protest of the new contract between BP and Atropia.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - January 20XX**

(U) POTUS announces the PNSD establishing CJTF-C.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - January 20XX**

(U) Ariana conducts several military exercises culminating in a multi-corps PERSIAN LION with OSC-E and OSC-W.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - February 20XX**

(U) CJTF-C established; HQ at Tblisi, Gorgas. US and UK implement MPP plan to forward position CJTF-C supplies at Diego Garcia.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - June 20XX**

(U) SOTF 0100 deploys to Atropia to conduct advise and assist operations.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - 2 July 20XX**

(U) The World Trade Organization, under pressure from the United States, United Kingdom, and Kemalia, rejects Ariana's protest of the new contract between BP and Atropia. BP and Atropia begin work on the new field.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - July 20XX**

(U) Donovia hosts the 20XX Caspian Energy Conference. When the issue of the BP contract and the natural gas field is raised, Atropia, Kemalia, and the United Kingdom leave in protest.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - August 20XX**

(U) Arianan naval forces sink a BP vessel and detain its crew. The US and UK propose a UN resolution, which is vetoed by Donovia and China.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - September 20XX**

(U) President Ismailov requests limited US troops to deploy to Atropia. The first contingent of the advance element arrives in Baku.

**(U) Section VI - Historical Timeline - October 20XX**

(U) SAPA activity in southern Atropia sharply drops. Atropia claims that this is indicative of the announced reforms beginning to placate the South Atropian population.

**(U) Planning Event - D-120**

(U) Elements of three Arianan commando brigades begin land, sea, and air infiltration into Atropia. It is unknown but suspected that some of these elements use Donovian airspace in order to reach their LZs.

**(U) Planning Event - D-100 - D-30**

(U) Ariana conducts multiple air defense exercises collectively entitled DARIUS ARCHER.

**(U) Planning Event - D-10**

(U) Gorgas and the US reach a deal on military transit rights. MPP ships disembark at Poti and CJFT-C begins to land at APOD at Tblisi.

**(U) Planning Event - D-6**

(U) Ariana announces the initiation of military exercises it dubs OPERATION CYRUS. For the first time, these exercises include the mobilization of Ariana's reserves.

**(U) Planning Event - D-5**

(U) Two USN PHIBRONs are dispatched from Newport News to reinforce the U.S. Sixth Fleet. CJTF-C elements conducting RSOI.

**(U) Planning Event - 0300 D-Day**

(U) Ariana initiates hostilities on D-Day with commando attacks on key mission command nodes.

**(U) Planning Event - 0400 D-Day**

(U) Atropian air force bases are also struck by commando / SAPA forces, and the strategic mission command infrastructure is struck with TBMs.

**(U) Planning Event - 0500 D-Day**

(U) OSC- 1 attacks across the border towards Yevlakh.

**(U) Planning Event - 0800 D-Day**

(U) OSC-2 attacks across the border toward Baku.