**(U) Atropian Military Strategy**

(U) Atropia?s military continues to attempt to obtain more technologically-advanced equipment from other countries, primarily Israel, and the US. Atropian military remains in mainly a defensive posture as it protects its oil and other key infrastructure.

**(U) Atropian military Alliances to the West**

(U) Atropia receives a ?soft power? approach, probably due to its 100 military protocols signed with NATO. Through its additional direct NATO training and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of US operations, Atropia hopes to maintain warm relations with the West without angering its regional neighbors. Atropia also maintains bilateral relations with Gorgas, Israel, and other non-NATO nations.

**(U) Atropian Attitudes towards the U.S.**

(U) Despite disfavor with Atropia?s domestic policies and actions, the US generally favors Atropia as a counterbalance to Arianian and Donovian influence in the Caspian Sea region and as the largest export market for its petroleum resources. In April 2006, Salam Ismailov met President George W. Bush in an official state visit in which Bush hailed the strong relations with Atropia, a recognition of the strategic position Atropia gives the US in the region. Atropian troops continue to deploy in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Atropia also grants extensive freedom for US forces to use Atropian military facilities for multiple purposes to include logistics and flight routes. Atropia welcomes the growth of investment in its industries, especially hydrocarbon, and seeks to use its newfound economic clout to create an identity as an independent regional power.

**(U) Atropians Welcome US Involvment**

(U) The Atropians, willingly welcome US Government involvement in their country, including diplomatic and military "advisory groups" to build Atropian military capability and interoperability with NATO forces.

**(U) Terrorist groups and other non-state actors operating within Atropia**

(U) A variety of terrorist groups and other non-state actors are operating within Atropia, some with state backing, and others pursuing religious and ethnic goals. Criminality in the form of significant trafficking in illicit goods, along with other organized crime, is endemic to the region.

**(U) Atropia continues to contain violent Islamic Extremists**

(U) President Salam Ismailov continues to contain extreme elements of Islamic fundamentalism. Although predominately Shia Muslim, the country practices a more secular, less radicalized version than Ariana. Shia Islam in Atropia does not exercise the political influence it does in Ariana or other Middle Eastern nations.

**(U) Within the Last Year**

(U) The US President, Donald Trump issued a Presidential National Security Directive (PNSD) that identifies respect for current Caucasus international boundaries and continued unfettered export of Caucasus oil and gas supplies as vital US national security interests. The PNSD also directed the Department of Defense to create and deploy a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) to Atropia to demonstrate US resolve and deter potential aggression from neighbors and from internal anti-government factions. The U.S. plans to deploy the 52ID into Atropia.

**(U) In the last six months**

(U) BFB has repeatedly attacked Atropian Army interests. ATR Forces Mobilize and deploy in heightened alert status. The Atropian government has requested NATO / U.S. assistance in advising, counter insurgency, and counter-terrorism.

**(U) Last Week- 52ID arrives in Baku, Atropia. 1/25 SBCT moves into AA WOLF in S W Atropia.**

(U) 1/25 SBCT has deployed to South West Atropia to assist in the 350th MIB with military advising, counter terrorism (CT) and counter-insurgency operations within the Northern region of Atropia.

**(U) Anti-Western factions quickly resort to terrorism**

(U) Several extremists anti-western factions quickly resorted to expanded terrorism since the 52ID arrived in Atropia. Highly opposing western interference, they have recently started targeting US/Coalition forces, logistical staging points, and Atropian law enforcement and internal security forces. It is assessed that the BFB in Atropia, is receiving support by foreign entities in order to influence instability in Atropia. Intelligence has reported that Donovia has been supplying the BFB with money, material, and training to elevate civil unrest within Atropia. BFB, has been found to be operating in the south near AA WOLF. Foreign entities may influence any of these three domestic factions with money, materiel, or training to elevate civil unrest as long as it helps accomplish the outside group?s long-term goals.

**(U) Anti-government factions such as the BFB increase resistance since the U.S. deployment**

(U) Several anti-Atropian government factions have increased overt resistance in the Southwestern part of Atropia. They have initiated violent and nonviolent protests against the Atropian government and the U.S.- led coalition because they consider the outsiders to be an extension of the current regime.

**(U) U.S. forces requested to assist Atropian forces in combating insurgents and terrorists.**

(U) Atropia and U.S. agree on conducting joint military operations against agitators, insurgents, and terrorists within Atropia.

**(U) US and Atropians step-up operations against the BFB in Atropia.**

(U) Over the past year, the minister of defense has initiated counter terrorism operations to destroy BFB leadership, degrade local populace support and deny resources to the guerrilla organization. With the U.S. fully established and operational, the 350th MIB (SEP), 1/25 SBCT, and the local police have conducted multiple actions to disrupt the BFB influence within the AO to include the adjacent towns of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well as the surrounding countryside.

**(U) Last 24 hours:**

(U) Intelligence has identified BFB defensive positions for which they utilize to stage operations out of. U.S. 1/25SBCT is making preparations for offensive operations to destroy the BFB forces in the AO.