

Afghan Hydra

Location: Afghanistan

Date: February 2022

Classification: JTF-323 SECRET – Eyes Only



1. Situation

Two insurgent warlords, Commander Nasir Wali and Qari Fadil Noor (to be known as OPFOR), dominate the local threat environment, both command mixed insurgent formations that operate as semi-autonomous militia and maintain sanctuary in the surrounding highlands and river valleys. According to mission input, these groups receive significant external support in the form of materiel and advisory assistance reported as Russian backing allowing them to field not only conventional guerrilla forces and armed technicals but also improved air-defense threats (MANPADS/light AAA/short range SAMS), advisor-directed tactics, and a more resilient logistics tail. Their core capabilities include dismounted ambush teams, IED belts along primary and secondary routes, mobile raiding elements in technicals and light armour, and concealment of drug-production and processing nodes that both fund and shield their operations.

Intel suggests that the warlords and Russians have formed an alliance to provide militia training, arms & protection, in exchange for a large cut of the profit from the drug production operations. This involvement has proven to bolster the confidence and capabilities of the OPFOR, given that they have systematically wiped out all opposition warlords, while at the same time allowing them to amass substantial money & influence to pocket political & police figures giving them almost complete control of the northern regions.

Friendly forces consist of the JTF-323 air elements operating from Camp Bastion, supported by Artemis Group assets, JTAC/Special Forces liaison teams, and ISR UAVs. These assets will conduct combined fixed-wing and rotary operations to interdict, fix and dismantle insurgent capabilities while providing CASEVAC/MEDEVAC and logistics support for ground elements and forward teams. The civilian population is concentrated in river valleys and town centers; high non-combatant presence in these areas elevates the requirement for strict positive identification, precision effects, and collateral-damage mitigation. Finally, theatre weather and terrain directly shape operations: Afghanistan's mix of rugged mountain ridgelines, constricted wadis and open desert/plateau produces significant line-of-sight limitations and natural concealment for enemy AA/ambush sites.



Commander Nasir Wali (left) and Qari Fadil Noor (right)

2. Mission

Primary: Conduct sustained air operations from Camp Bastion to disrupt and dismantle forces loyal to Commander Nasir Wali and Qari Fadil Noor, deny their ability to mass for attacks on friendly lines, and interdict logistical/drug-production nodes while minimizing civilian harm.

Secondary: Investigate & disrupt Russian involvement in OPFOR activities.

End state: Warlord offensive capabilities degraded; key terrain and GLOCs secured; combined friendly control of primary objective areas established.

Russian coalition with warlords degraded or removed.

(GLOC - Ground Line(s) of Communication)

4. Rules of Engagement (ROE)

Collateral minimization: Positive ID; avoid large-yield munitions in population centers.

Environmental hazards: Dust/dust-devils in plains degrade IR/optics; cold nights increase hypothermia risk for dismounted forces.

Asset / Force protection: Asset protection over mission tasking

5. Intelligence Summary / Threat Overview

Threat composition: Insurgent small-arms teams, IED belts on roads, ambush teams in wadis, light-armored technicals for raiding, possible Russian-supplied light ASMs/MANPADS and military advisors (tactical support). Treat external state-supplied materiel as increasing enemy lethality and durability.

Russian ground (MBT, BTR etc), SAM (AAA, SA systems) & air units (MiG variants & RW units)

Logistics & Economy: Warlords fund operations via opium trade and extortion; key facilities include processing labs and concealed convoys in river valleys.

TTPs observed: Night movement in wadis, ambush/withdrawal tactics into mountain cover, use of civilian markets for concealment.

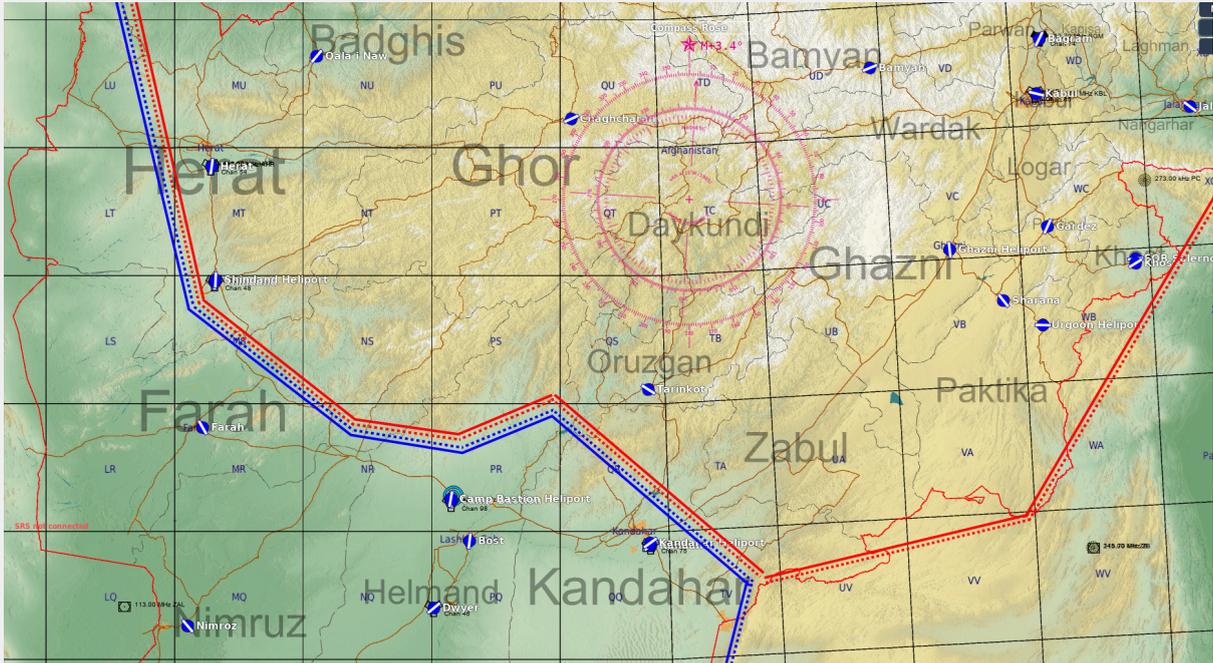
Vulnerability windows: Weather-limited periods (heavy mountain snow) reduce insurgent mobility exploits during clear windows. Intelligence collection should prioritize movement along river corridors and seasonal migration trails. (VUL times subject to Mission Maker)

6. Logistics

FOBs & FARPs to be resupplied from Camp Bastion

JTF-323 AFGHAN HYDRA (2026 Q1)

MAP Overview



JTF-323 Mission Designer(s)

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- JTF-323 Acel

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