

**Assault on Al Tanf, 2024:** Located in Syria on the Iraqi border and within miles of the Jordanian border, the U.S. garrison at al-Tanf has, since 2016, served as a launching point for counter-ISIS operations and training for Syrian opposition factions fighting the jihadist group. Iranian and Iran-backed forces are deployed in close proximity to the al-Tanf desert outpost, which sits on the strategically significant Baghdad-Damascus highway. U.S. forces in al-Tanf established a 55-km de-confliction zone, beyond which lie an array of forces described as either “pro-regime” or “Iran-backed” that have set up checkpoints in the area. Several incidents in recent months underscore al-Tanf’s potential as a flashpoint between U.S. and Iranian and/or Iran-backed forces.

**Caravan, 1982:** Since the start of the Iraqi invasion, the northern Persian Gulf has been the site of an intense naval war between the Iranian and Iraqi navies. Most of the fighting has been centered around Iraqi attempts to stop the flow of vital material to the port of Bandar-e Emam Khomeyni. The Iranian navy and air force have devoted significant forces to protect the convoys. Slightly over a year ago, the Iraqi navy first deployed a new weapon in their battle against the convoys, the French Exocet anti-ship missile. A few hours ago, Unit 114 of the Directorate of Technical Equipment detected another Iranian convoy departing from Bushehr.

**Dead from EABOve, 2027:** Approximately 2 hours ago, following an earlier announcement by PRC of a blockade of Taiwan, US initiated hostilities with China after interdicting a PLAN SAG attempting to transit the Bashi Channel out to the West Pacific.

The Chinese have taken the first blow, now they are ready to return the favor. US bases in the Philippines, Palau and Guam will be in their crosshairs.

You will be required to hold off the numerically superior PLA forces and do so while being subjected to heavy bombardment from PLARF elements.

For your forces to survive, they will be required to disperse, and to refuel and rearm at austere locations. Capturing PRC bases in the South China Sea for follow on operations is also a nice option.

This is a complex 2-day scenario, happening just after the author’s other scenarios Tighten the Straitjacket and before Penetrating the Blockade.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 1 France Enters the Fray, 1957:** This scenario assumes World War III began in late April of 1957.

During most of April in 1957, the Soviets sortied a large number of ships and submarines, claiming they were conducting a series of military exercises.

In the early morning hours of April 25, the Soviets initiated a large and well-coordinated attack on NATO forces.

NATO forces already at sea have been organized into task groups and ordered to hunt down Soviet ships and submarines. It is critical that NATO remain in control of the sea lanes. As commander of a French

task group centered around the cruiser *De Grasse*, your mission will be to secure the waters south and southeast of Sardinia.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 1 Poseidon's Play, 1957:** You are in command of the Greek submarine *Poseidon*. She is actually an old American submarine, the *Lapon*, recently recommissioned and on loan to the Greek government. However, as her captain, you are sure *Poseidon* loves her new country as much as she loves the country where she was born.

Today, she will have a chance to prove that love. As the only Greek vessel in the southern waters of the Mediterranean, *Poseidon* has an opportunity to intercept a Soviet convoy on its way to the Egyptian city of Marsa Matruh. The Egyptians appear to have allied with the Soviets, although they have not yet officially declared war.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 1 The Battle of Elefsina, 1957:** In the early morning hours of April 25, 1957, you receive a flash priority message. There is credible intelligence that a massive Soviet attack against NATO is about to begin.

As the commanding officer of the 114th Combat Wing of the Hellenic Air Force and its three squadrons of F-86E Sabres, your mission will be to help protect Greece from the Soviets and their allies.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 2 Head 'Em off at the Sunda Strait, 1957:** It is the second day of the war.

Shocking news has arrived from Europe. The Soviet Union has launched massive attacks against European air bases and other military targets. There are reports that the American carrier *Forrestal* and the British carrier *Bulwark* have both been sunk.

You are in command of a British naval squadron in the Far East. Some elements of the Soviet navy have been operating in your area of responsibility. It will be your task to destroy these ships and submarines.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 4 Birmingham Goes Hunting, 1957:** It is the fourth day of the war.

Intelligence suggests the Soviets have sortied additional submarines and surface groups to threaten shipping in the Atlantic. You have been placed in charge of one of the task forces assigned to deal with this threat.

**Khrushchev's War, Day 30 South Dakota Says Goodbye, 1957:** It is the end of the first month of the War of 1957.

NATO has received reliable intelligence that a large surface group has left Soviet waters. It appears to be designed to attack NATO shipping trying to cross the Atlantic.

Most NATO ships are already engaged in other theaters of the war. No carriers and few submarines are available to intercept the battle group.

You are in command of a battle group of available vessels assembled to intercept and destroy the Soviet battle group. It is a curious collection of ships from the late 1950s, being centered on two World War II-era battleships, *South Dakota* and *California*. Both vessels had been reactivated shortly before hostilities erupted in Europe with the idea of using them as test platforms for new technologies. However, once the Soviet attacks started, these plans were put on hold.

**Korean Campaign (Operation Dragon Fire), 2018:** It is the Spring of 2018, and it appears that Kim Jong-un is finally going to make good on his constant threats to launch an attack into South Korea.

**Operation Ardent Shield, 2030:** The world's worst fear just materialized. Open conflict has erupted between the world's two superpowers over the South China Sea.

Singapore, as a neutral country but finding many of its fundamental interests in line with upholding the principles of UNCLOS and with keeping the US presence strong in the Pacific, has decided that it will allow US military assets to continue to refuel and resupply in the country, and for limited US military operations to be conducted from the country so long as no direct strikes on Chinese mainland territories are staged from Singapore.

**Operation Sallyport, 2029:** In mid-2029, China commenced an intervention under the pretense of restoring order in Papua New Guinea. For Australia and its allies, the stakes were high, as the stability of the South Pacific, regional security, and the influence of Western alliances in the Indo-Pacific hung in the balance. The ensuing operation would determine the future of Papua New Guinea and reshape the power dynamics of the region.

**Ouadi Doum, 1986:** In response to Libyan aggression in Chad, President Mitterrand has deployed French forces to Africa.

France is determined to prevent Libya from destabilizing its former colonies and is concerned about the ability of al-Gaddafi's government to stage long-range bomber attacks out of the Ouadi Doum airfield.

**Sapphire, 1977:** On June 27, 1977, the former French colony of Afars and Issas gained its independence as the country of Djibouti. At first, the FLCS (Front for the Liberation of the Somali Coast), a guerrilla organization fighting against French colonial rule, celebrated this victory and was partially absorbed into the new country's government.

But days after the declaration of independence, a splinter group formed calling for the integration of

Djibouti into 'Greater Somalia'. After gathering support, the group launched their insurgency against the Djibouti government and French forces stationed in the country.

Somali leader Siad Barre had primarily been focused on absorbing the Ogaden region controlled by Ethiopia but started shifting his focus to the newly independent nation.

Somali forces that had been thought to have been preparing for an invasion of Ethiopia quickly deployed to the border with Djibouti. The French have started sending a large number of reinforcements to Djibouti, but due to the limited infrastructure and short time frame, this has been difficult.

The first units from metropolitan France arrived a short time ago, joining a number of units airlifted in from French territories in the Indian Ocean. French intelligence has assessed that there is a high likelihood that Somalia will launch an invasion in the coming days or hours, before most of the reinforcements can be brought in.

**Soviet Endgame - Seize Giebelstadt<sup>3</sup>, 1981:** At the opening of the Third World War, the Soviet Union launched a continent-wide effort to sweep into NATO Countries in a war of conquest.

This Scenario focuses on one small aspect of the overall war. As a part of the effort to secure central Germany, The Soviet Airborne Forces, the VDV are tasked with taking the NATO Airfield at Giebelstadt, just south of Würzburg.