

THREAT GUIDE

This document contains information that you should be familiar with while flying F/A-18 OIF. The first section lists all the types of mission roles you are expected to fulfill as a Hornet Strike/Fighter pilot. The second section contains a reference section with detailed information about the vehicles, aircraft, SAMs, AAA and ships that you can encounter while operating in the Iraqi theater. The reference section presents specifications and a side view for each friendly and enemy system.

F/A-18 OIF contains a wide variety of types. The various types are:

Mission Descriptions:

AR – Anti-Runway

This type of mission involves invading enemy territory and neutralizing an enemy airbase by eliminating their capability to deploy/recover aircraft. Other structures on the airfield, such as the control towers, also make tempting targets.

AT – Anti-Tank

This type of Close Air Support mission will require you to concentrate solely on the destruction of the enemy's heavy armor (tanks). Such missions may or may not be performed with the aid of friendly troops in the area.

CAP – Combat Air Patrol

Enemy fighters are a constant threat to friendly forces. Because they want the advantage of surprise they usually don't announce their attack times. Therefore, Combat Air Patrols are a constant duty. Your F/A-18 will be outfitted with a wide range of air-to-air weaponry and usually one or more external tanks. That excess fuel will come in handy while manning your CAP!

CAS – Close Air Support

The friendly forces on the ground have been engaged by overwhelming enemy firepower and now need your assistance! Make sure you can positively identify where the enemy troops are, don't accidentally drop on friendly positions and have a "blue on blue!" The pilot is often unaware of the nature of the SAM and AAA threat until he is closer to the target area. This mission requires a high amount of flexibility and caution.

Escort

This mission involves safely escorting one or more aircraft during their own missions. Usually the aircraft you will be assigned to escort shall have little or no self-defense capability. Depending on the type of aircraft you must protect, you'll probably find that aircraft requiring an escort will be

THREAT GUIDE

considerably slower than the enemy A/A aggressors. Keep the bad guys as far away as possible to ensure mission success.

Intercept

Enemy fighters have been detected heading into friendly territory. Your mission is to eliminate this threat. In the case of an integrated enemy strike package (bomber escorted by fighters), mission success depends upon eliminating the strike aircraft (bomber). However the fighters are likely on an escort mission of their own, and their job is to prevent you from doing your job!

SEAD – Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses

This type of mission involves destroying or degrading enemy SAM or AAA sites. This mission is usually given in preparation for a strike mission or used in conjunction with CAS or other Attack missions.

Strike A – Light free fall ordnance

This is the most basic of the Strike missions. The aircraft is outfitted with a wide range of relatively light ordnance. The target is usually fragile or lightly shielded. Sometimes this mission requires the strike aircraft to perform some SEAD.

Strike B – Heavy Laser Guided Bombs

This mission involves precision bombing of heavily shielded / reinforced structures. Heavy LGBs are required for both their accuracy and destructive capability. Aircraft sent on this type of mission will usually have to deal with aggressive enemy air defenses and fighters.

Strike C – Heavy free fall ordnance

Much like the Strike B missions, Strike C's involve targets that are structurally reinforced. However, in this case, collateral damage is usually not a problem.

Strike D – Deep Interdiction

This is a rather dangerous mission as it is usually performed without much chance of support from friendly forces. This involves going deep into enemy territory and destroying a high value target that Command has deemed to tempting to pass up. After which, you must safely RTB. Heavy laser-guided bombs and fuel tanks will take up most of the aircraft's hardpoints. There might not be any extra room for HARMs or added air-to-air weaponry.

Weapon abbreviations and descriptions:

Allied Weaponry:

SW	AIM-9M Sidewinder	All-aspect, short-range, infrared-guided, air-to-air missile.
120	AIM-120 AMRAAM	All-aspect, medium-range, radar-guided, air-to-air missile.
65B	AGM-65B Maverick	Electro-optically guided air-to-ground missile.
88	AGM-88 HARM	High speed, anti-radiation, air-to-ground missile.
82	Mk-82 500 lb. Bomb	Free-fall, general-purpose light bomb.

Variants:

82H	High drag	
82L	Laser Guided	
83	Mk-83 1000 lb. Bomb: Free-fall, general-purpose medium bomb.	
83L	Laser Guided	
84	Mk-84 2000 lb. Bomb: Free-fall, general-purpose heavy bomb.	
84L	Laser Guided	
CBU	CBU-59B APAM: Cluster bomb, anti-personnel and munitions.	
WE	AGM-62 Walleye: Electro-optically guided glide bomb.	
EXT	External, disposable fuel tank: 2500 lb. capacity.	
FLIR	Forward Looking Infra-Red pod: Electro-optical targeting device.	
BLU	BLU-107B Durandal: Specialized anti-runway bomb.	

Soviet Weaponry:

AA8	AA-8 Aphid	All-aspect, short-range, infrared-guided, air-to-air missile.
AA7	AA-7 Apex	All-aspect, medium-range, radar-guided, air-to-air missile.
AS9	AS-9 Karen	Electro-optically guided air-to-ground missile.
AS12	AS-12 Kegler	High speed, anti-radiation, air-to-ground missile.
25G	250kg GP Bomb	Free-fall, general-purpose light bomb.

Variants:

25H	High drag	
25L	Laser Guided	
50G	500kg GP Bomb: Free-fall, general-purpose medium bomb.	
50L	Laser Guided	
150G	1500kg GP Bomb: Free-fall, general-purpose heavy bomb.	

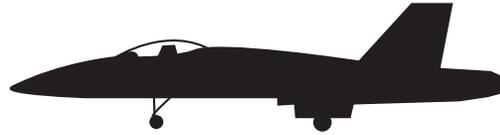
THREAT GUIDE

150L	Laser Guided
RBK	RBK-500 Cluster Bomb: Anti-personnel and material munition.
KAB	KAB-500 TV-Guided Bomb: Electro-optically guided glide bomb.
EXT	External, disposable fuel tank: 2500 lb. capacity.
FLIR	Forward Looking Infra-Red pod: Electro-optical targeting device.
BetaB	BetaB-500ShP: Concrete-piercing bomb (anti-runway / bunker).

F/A-18C Hornet

Multirole Strike Fighter

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	McDonnell Douglas
Type:	Multirole Fighter
Max Speed:	Mach 1.8
Service Ceiling:	50000 ft
Combat Radius:	490 nm
Payload Capacity:	14000 lb



The versatility of the F/A-18 Hornet to serve as an attack platform and an interceptor give the aircraft an extremely wide range of missions. Primary roles include Strike, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, Interception, and Interdiction.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

Patrol: SWx2
AT: SWx2 65Bx6
Ferry: SWx2 EXTx3
Intercept: SWx2 120x4 EXTx2
AR: SWx2 BLUx2 82Hx6
CAP: SWx2 120x4 EXTx1
Escort: SWx2 88x2 120x2 EXTx3
CAS: SWx2 65Bx2 88x2 CBU
SEAD: SWx2 88x4 120x2 EXTx1
Strike A: SWx2 82x4 EXTx1
Strike B: SWx2 84Lx4 EXTx1
Strike C: SWx2 83x8 EXTx1
Strike D: SWx2 84Lx2 EXTx3
CAP B: SWx6 120x2

F-14D Tomcat

Air Superiority Fighter

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Grumman
Type:	Air Superiority
Max Speed:	Mach 2.34
Service Ceiling:	65000 ft
Combat Radius:	570 nm
Payload Capacity:	10000 lb



The F-14D is the primary air superiority fighter of the United States Navy. With more hardpoints for A/A weaponry than the F/A-18, the F-14D is a reliable air superiority fighter. However, its lack of A/G payload capacity make it ill-suited for attack missions. Primary missions include Escort, Intercept, and Patrol.

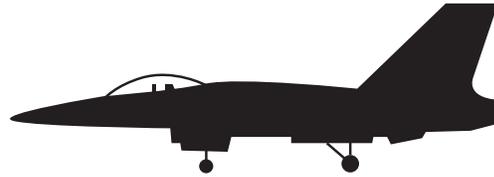
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Patrol: SWx2
Ferry: SWx2 EXTx3
Intercept: SWx2 120x6
CAP: SWx2 120x6 EXTx1
Escort: SWx4 120x4 EXTx3
CAP B: SWx2 120x6

F-16C Falcon

Multirole Fighter

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	General Dynamics
Type:	Multirole Fighter
Max Speed:	Mach 2
Service Ceiling:	50000 ft
Combat Radius:	500 nm
Payload Capacity:	15200 lb



The F-16 Falcon is a lightweight fighter used primarily by the United States Air Force. Although intended primarily as a fighter and interceptor, the F-16 can support a number of air-to-ground roles. Primary missions include Escort, Intercept, Close Air Support, and Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses.

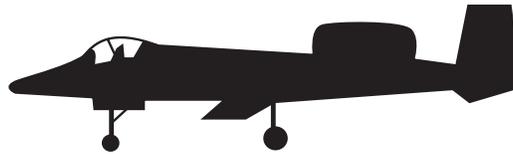
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Patrol: SWx2
AT: SWx2 65Bx6
Ferry: SWx2 EXTx3
Intercept: SWx2 120x4 EXTx2
AR: SWx2 BLUx2 82Hx6
CAP: SWx2 120x4 EXTx1
Escort: SWx2 88x2 120x2 EXTx3
CAS: SWx2 65Bx2 88x2 CBU
SEAD: SWx2 88x4 120x2 EXTx1
Strike A: SWx2 82x4 EXTx1
Strike B: SWx2 84Lx4 EXTx1
Strike C: SWx2 83x8 EXTx1
Strike D: SWx2 84Lx2 EXTx3
CAP B: SWx6 120x2

A-10A Thunderbolt II

Attack Platform

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Fairchild/Republic
Type:	Attack
Max Speed:	450 mph
Service Ceiling:	45000 ft
Combat Radius:	250 nm
Payload Capacity:	16000 lb



The A-10 Thunderbolt II's extremely high carrying capacity make it ideal for strike and ground support missions. The A-10 also sports the GAU-8/A Avenger cannon making it a devastating anti-tank anti-personnel aircraft. Although capable of carrying Sidewinders, the A-10 is ill-suited for air-to-air engagements. Primary roles include Close Air Support, Strike, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, and Anti-Tank.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

AR: *BLUx4*
AT: *SWx2 65Bx6*
Ferry: *SWx2 EXTx3*
SEAD: *88x6 EXTx1*
Strike A: *SWx2 82x4 EXTx1*
Strike B: *84Lx6 EXTx1*
Strike C: *83x12 EXTx1*
Strike D: *84Lx4 EXTx3*
CAS: *65Bx2 88x2 CBUx4*

B-52G Stratofortress

Strategic Bomber

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Boeing
Type:	Strategic Bomber
Max Speed:	595 mph
Service Ceiling:	55000 ft
Combat Radius:	7450 nm
Payload Capacity:	66000 lb



The B-52 Stratofortress is a bomber, pure and simple. Capable of carrying massive amounts of ordnance exceptionally long distances, the B-52 can strike multiple targets in a single sortie. The B-52 is, however, by no means a fighter. It is usually escorted in several stages by combinations of F/A-18's, F-14's or F-16's.

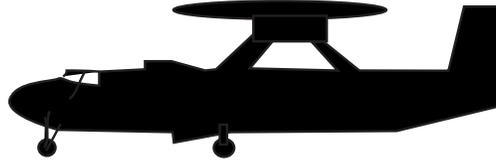
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Strike A: **83x18**

E-2C Hawkeye

Airborne Early Warning Aircraft

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	McDonnell Douglas
Type:	AEW
Max Speed:	425 mph
Service Ceiling:	31700 ft
Combat Radius:	1660 nm
Payload Capacity:	N/A



Being small enough to perform carrier operations, the E-2 Hawkeye is the primary Early Warning aircraft used by the United States navy. It is, however, a support aircraft only and carries no ordnance of its own. Primary roles include Patrol, Support, and Communications.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

None

B-2A Spirit

Strategic Stealth Bomber

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Northrop
Type:	Strategic Bomber
Max Speed:	660 mph
Service Ceiling:	50000 ft
Combat Radius:	6000 nm
Payload Capacity:	30500 lb



The B-2 Spirit is the first generation of stealth bombers produced by the United States. It can intrude deep into enemy territory undetected. The B-2's stealth capabilities make it perfect for strategic bombings without the need for fighter escort. Indeed, fighter escort would give away the location of the Spirit. Primary missions include Strike and Precision Strike.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

Strike A: **83x18**

Strike B: **84Lx9**

F-117A Nighthawk

Attack/Recon Fighter

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	McDonnell Douglas
Type:	Attack/Recon
Max Speed:	Mach 0.8
Service Ceiling:	45000 ft
Combat Radius:	750 nm
Payload Capacity:	4400 lb



The F-117 Nighthawk was the first 'stealthy' aircraft to see actual combat service. The 'F' in the name is something of a misnomer as the Nighthawk's relatively low speed and low carrying capacity make it ill suited for air-to-air engagements. However, the first indication the enemy has that a Nighthawk is in the area is usually when a strategic target explodes. Primary missions include Strike and Reconnaissance.

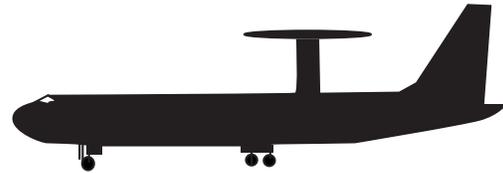
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Strike A: **84Lx2**

E-3A Sentry

Airborne Early Warning Aircraft

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Boeing
Type:	AEW
Max Speed:	530 mph
Service Ceiling:	39000 ft
Combat Radius:	3280 nm
Payload Capacity:	N/A



In a combat zone the E-3 serves many roles. First and foremost, the E-3 is an early warning system. The E-3 can also serve as a communications relay between fighters and bombers deep in enemy territory. Often the E-3 serves as a mobile command center. It carries no ordnance of any kind and is usually escorted. Primary roles include Patrol, Support, Communications, and Command.

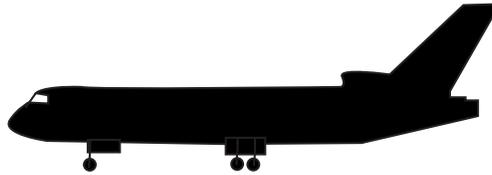
Mission Editor Loadouts:

None

Boeing 727

Commercial Airliner

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Boeing
Type:	Civilian Airliner
Max Speed:	N/A
Service Ceiling:	N/A
Combat Radius:	N/A
Payload Capacity:	N/A



The Boeing 727 is the mainstay of many commercial airline fleets. As such it is employed worldwide for a variety of purposes ranging from transportation to shipping. Many less-scrupulous nations have been known to use these craft as disguised military transports in times of conflict.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

None

Douglas DC-10

Commercial Airliner

Nation:	USA
Mfg:	Douglas
Type:	Civilian Airliner
Max Speed:	N/A
Service Ceiling:	N/A
Combat Radius:	N/A
Payload Capacity:	N/A



Like its larger cousin the 727, the Douglas DC-10 is another popular aircraft for many of the larger commercial fleets. Less suited for cargo than the 727, the DC-10 is used primarily for passengers. As such, many less-scrupulous nations use these craft for transfer of high-ranking personnel throughout conflicted areas.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

None

MiG-21M Fishbed-N

Light Fighter

Nation:	USSR
Mfg:	Mikoyan-Guevich
Type:	Light Fighter
Max Speed:	Mach 2.1
Service Ceiling:	65600 ft
Combat Radius:	175 nm
Payload Capacity:	6000 lb



The limited range and low carrying capacity of the MiG-21 Fishbed make it ill suited for protracted engagements. However, the low cost and high maneuverability of this fighter make it a perfect interceptor. Primary missions include Intercept, Ferry, and Escort.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

- Patrol:** AA8x2
- Ferry:** AA8x2 EXTx3
- Intercept:** AA7x2 EXTx1
- CAP:** AA8x2 AA7x2
- Escort:** AA8x4 EXTx1

MiG-23MF Flogger-G

Medium Fighter

Nation:	USSR
Mfg:	Mikoyan-Guevich
Type:	Medium Fighter
Max Speed:	Mach 2.3
Service Ceiling:	50000 ft
Combat Radius:	500 nm
Payload Capacity:	4000 lb



The MiG-23 Flogger is the mainstay fighter of the Soviet arsenal. Although seemingly less capable than its American counterparts, the Flogger's lower price tag and quick response time make it perfect for a variety of air-to-air missions. Primary roles include Combat Air Patrol, Intercept, and Escort.

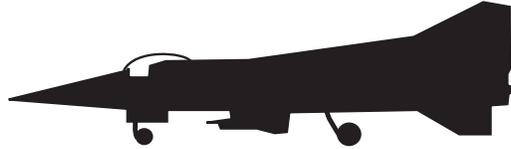
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Patrol: AA8x2
Ferry: AA8x2 EXTx3
CAP: AA8x2 AA7x2
Escort: AA8x4 EXTx1
Intercept: AA8x2 AA7x2 EXTx1
CAP B: AA8x2 AA7x2

MiG-27 Flogger-J

Attack

Nation:	USSR
Mfg:	Mikoyan-Guevich
Type:	Attack
Max Speed:	Mach 2.3
Service Ceiling:	50000 ft
Combat Radius:	500 nm
Payload Capacity:	8000 lb



The MiG-27 Flogger- J variant is basically a MiG-23MF with increased carrying capacity and air-to-ground avionics. The Flogger-J combines the low price tag and serviceability of the Flogger design with Attack capabilities. These aircraft rarely carry air-to-air ordnance and, as such, are often escorted. Primary missions include Strike, Interdiction, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, and Close Air Support.

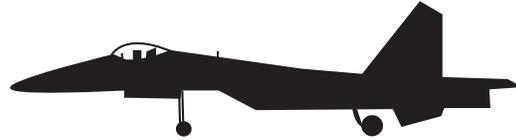
Mission Editor Loadouts:

Ferry: AA8x2 EXTx3
AT: AA8x2 AS9x4
Strike A: 25Gx8 EXTx1
Strike B: 50Gx4 EXTx1
Strike C: 150Gx2 AA8x2 EXTx3
AR: 25Px6 BetABx2 25Hx6
SEAD: AA8x2 AS12x4 EXTx1
CAS: AA8x2 AS9x2 AS12x2 RBKx2
CAP B: AA8x2 AA7x2

Su-27UB Flanker

Multirole Strike Fighter

Nation:	USSR
Mfg:	Sukhoi
Type:	Multirole Fighter
Max Speed:	Mach 2.3
Service Ceiling:	65000 ft
Combat Radius:	930 nm
Payload Capacity:	13225 lb



The Su-27 Flanker is the pinnacle of Soviet air power. In many ways it is comparable to a cross between the F-15 and the F/A-18. It is capable of carrying out a wide variety of Strike and Fighter roles. Fortunately, the high price tag of this particular aircraft makes it a rarity in most third-world combat zones. Primary missions include Intercept, Combat Air Patrol, Strike, Close Air Support, Escort, and Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

Intercept: AA7x8
Ferry: AA8x2 EXTx3
CAP: AA8x4 AA7x4 EXTx1
Escort: AA8x2 AA7x6 EXTx1
Strike A: AA7x2 25Gx6 EXTx1
Strike B: AA7x2 50Gx6 EXTx1
Strike C: AA7x2 150Gx2 EXTx3
CAS: AA8x4 AS9x2 AS12x2 RKBx2
AR: AA8x2 BetABx4 AA7x2 EXTx1
SEAD: AA8x2 AA7x2 AS12x4 EXTx1
CAP B: AA8x6 AA7x2

Tu-20 Bear-F

Strategic Bomber

Nation:	USSR
Mfg:	Tupolov
Type:	Strategic Bomber
Max Speed:	440 mph
Service Ceiling:	44000 ft
Combat Radius:	6850 nm
Payload Capacity:	25000 lb



The Tu-20 Bear is the primary strategic bomber of the Soviet Armed Forces. It has a carrying capacity and range comparable to the B-52 and is almost always escorted. Primary roles include Strike and Ferry.

Mission Editor Loadouts:

Strike: 83x18