

International Virtual Aviation Organisation

Operation Gulf Shield

Saudi Arabia

August 15th 2025



Special Operations Department

International Virtual Aviation Organisation

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1 Introduction

1.1. Overview Operation Gulf Shield is a dedicated air security event focused on simulating the safeguarding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's airspace. The primary activity is the safe escort of visiting VIP delegations for the virtual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit being held in Riyadh. This event is designed to test pilot and controller coordination in a structured, high-fidelity environment, emphasizing precision, communication, and adherence to operational plans.

1.2. Scenario As the host of the GCC Summit, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is welcoming heads of state from neighboring nations. To ensure the utmost security and demonstrate regional cooperation, a multi-faceted air operation has been planned. Fighter squadrons will provide close escort for the VIP flights from the moment they enter Saudi airspace until they have safely landed in Riyadh. Support elements, including AWACS and aerial tankers, will establish a secure air corridor and provide operational overwatch. All participants will play a role in the successful execution of this high-stakes diplomatic movement.

2 Objectives

- **Airspace Security:** To establish and maintain a secure aerial environment over the designated operational area.
- **VIP Protection:** To provide dedicated, close protection for all official presidential (VIP) flights from a designated intercept point until their safe arrival at the destination.
- **Operational Coordination:** To ensure seamless coordination between support assets (AWACS/Tanker), escort squadrons, and Air Traffic Control for the duration of the event.
- **Procedural Adherence:** To execute the mission according to the established flight plans, communication protocols, and rules of engagement outlined in this master plan.

3 Date And Time

Date : **15 August 2025**
Time : **17.00 UTC – 20.00 UTC.**

4 Definitions

4.1 Abbreviation

Terminology	Explanation
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System. Provides airborne surveillance and command/control functions.
AAR	Air-to-Air Refueling. The process of transferring fuel from a tanker to a receiver aircraft in flight.
VIP	Very Important Person. Refers to the VIP flights carrying heads of state.
Escort	Fighter aircraft tasked with the close protection of another aircraft.
Meet Point	A pre-determined geographical location where the escort squadron will intercept the VIP flight.
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council.

5 Pilot

5.1 Guidelines

- 5.1.1 Aircraft must be suitable for each planned and registered task.
- 5.1.2 Pilots must register on the SOD website.
- 5.1.3 Departure and arrival flights will operate as GAT (General Air Traffic) until reaching the designated training area.
- 5.1.4 Pilots must be online at least 10 minutes prior to their scheduled departure time.

5.2 Departure & Arrival

- 5.2.1 Pilots shall contact the **RSAF FRAG** unit upon transfer to the Mission Commander.
- 5.2.2 Pilots shall contact "COMPLETED EXERCISE" before returning to base.

5.3 Rules

- 5.3.1 Pilots must park on the ramp with engines off before contacting ATC or at the start of the event.
- 5.3.2 All intra-flight communications shall be conducted via the discord event channels in accordance with event guidelines.

5.1 Airframes

- 5.1.1 Escort Squadrons: Multirole fighter jets (e.g., F-15, Typhoon, Panavia Tornado).
- 5.1.2 Support Aircraft: AWACS (e.g., E-3 Sentry), Tanker (e.g., A330 MRTT, KC-135).
- 5.1.3 VIP Flights: Business jets or airliners designated as presidential transport (e.g., B747, A340, B77W).

6 Controllers

6.1 Guidelines

6.1.1 Controllers Must Have An In-Depth Understanding Of The Exercises And Phraseology Of Special Exercises

6.1.2 Controllers Should Be Understanding And Accommodating Of Pilots Who Are Unfamiliar With Special Exercise Phraseology And Procedures And Should Assist Where Possible.

6.1.3 Controllers Must Use Clear English When There Is An Apparent Misunderstanding In Instructions.

6.1.4 Controllers Must Register On The IVAO SA Website.

6.1 Positions

The following positions will be available during the event:

Position	Callsign	Frequency
Dhahran Ground	OEDR_GND	121.900
Dhahran Tower	OEDR_TWR	118.100
Prince Sultan Ground	OEPS_GND	121.750
Prince Sultan Tower	OEPS_TWR	118.300
Riyadh Tower	OERK_TWR	118.700
Riyadh Ground	OERK_GND	121.600

Riyadh Approach	OERK_APP	120.000
Jeddah Center	OEJD_CTR	134.300

7 Assistance

7.1 Communication Center

Leading up to this event, you can contact the special operations staff using the following means:

- Discord : [SA-discord](#)
- Forum : [Operation Gulf Shield | IVAO Community Forum](#)
- Email : [SA-SOC@ivao.aero](#), [SA-SOAC@ivao.aero](#)

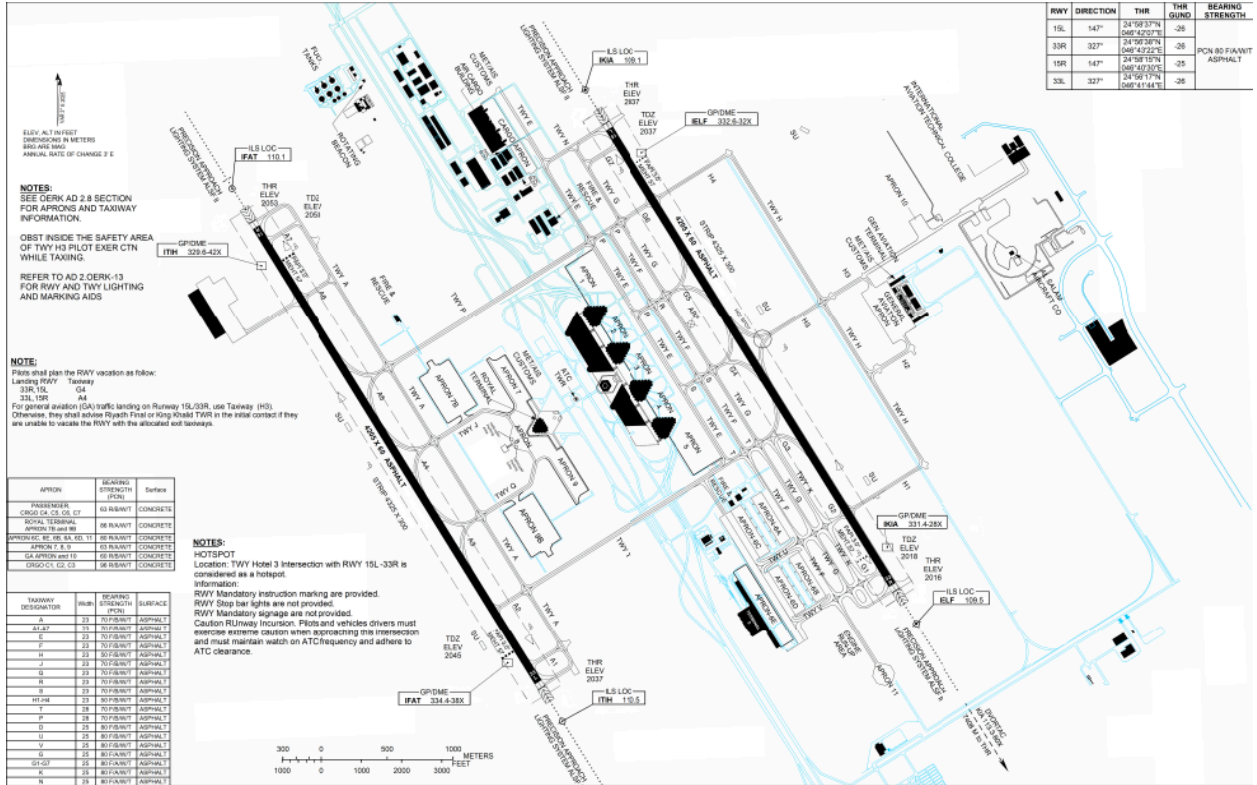
7.1 Documentations

The Following Areas For Documentations Are Available Below:

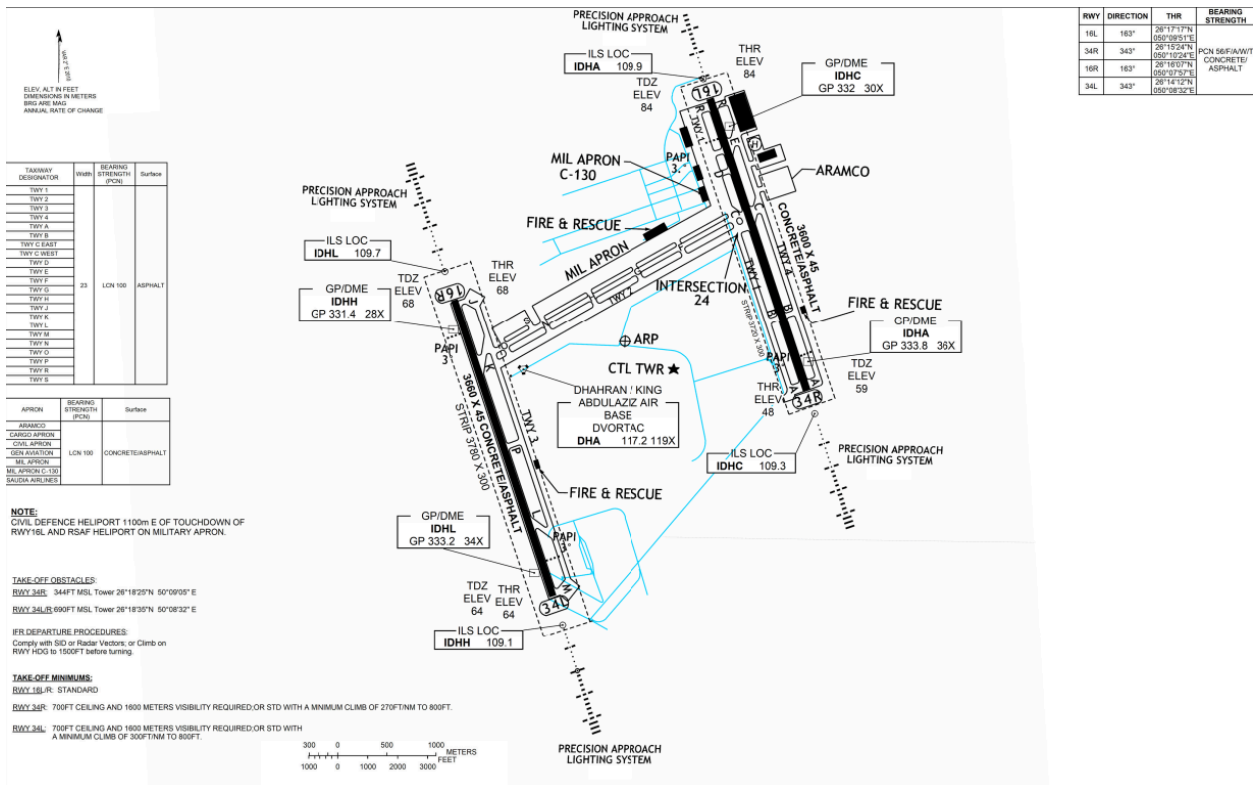
- [General Special Operations Pilots & Controller](#)
- [Ground Control Interceptions](#)
- [Aerial Refuelling](#)
- [Brevity Code](#)

7.1 Airspace Overview

OERK_Aerodrome Chart



OEDR_Aerodrome Chart



7.1 Procedures

Before and during the event, SO staff will be available to assist with understanding and completing the necessary procedures for these operations.

This is a training exercise; therefore, it is not expected that pilots and controllers know the procedures fully.

9 Airfields Information

9.1 Aeronautical Information Package

- In MSFS 2020/2024 and X-Plane 11/12, the OKKK code may not appear by default. Make sure the airport exists with this code, or use OKBK instead.
- In FSX, P3D-v3 and earlier simulators, the new Doha airport OTHH may not be available by default.

9.2 OERK Riyadh International Airport.

During the Operation Gulf Shield event, runway 15R/33L will be the active runway designated for VIP aircraft arrivals, with parking at the Royal Terminal at King Khalid International Airport. **Parking stand will be assigned during the booking process through the flight booking system.**

10 Air Tasking Order (ATO)

The Air Tasking Order section outlines the core tactical elements of the event. Each assignment represents a critical component of the overall operation, including VIP escort missions, combat air patrols, reconnaissance tasks, and logistical support. These assignments are structured to ensure mission coordination, realistic traffic flow, and situational awareness throughout the airspace. Participants will be assigned roles based on their registration, with each operation linked to a specific location, objective, and coordination plan.

10.1 Reconnaissance Patrol Units

Helicopters will conduct air patrols around OERK to monitor surrounding airspace and ensure situational awareness for arriving VIP aircraft. This task will simulate ground coordination and airborne security operations within the terminal area of Riyadh.

Squadron	Task	Location	Coordinates	Altitude	Remarks
6	Recon Helicopter Patrol	OERK	N24°53.36' E46°45.19'	VFR	Patrols around King Khalid Intl. Airport for airspace surveillance. Operates at low altitude. Visual recon only.

10.2 Meet Point

All escort squadrons will intercept their assigned VIP aircraft at a designated meet point. Each meet point is selected to be within the FIR of Saudi Arabia, but as close as possible to the inbound route of each VIP aircraft, based on their origin country.

Squadron	VIP Origin	Meet Point	Coordinates	Altitude	Remarks
1	Bahrain	NARMI	N26°18.25' E50°19.16'	To be assigned per mission briefing	East of Dhahran, ideal intercept. Visual join.
2	UAE	ULADA	N26°45.46' E50°16.40'	To be assigned per mission briefing	East of Dhahran, ideal intercept. Visual join.
3	Qatar	NARMI	N26°18.25' E50°19.16'	To be assigned per mission briefing	East of Dhahran, ideal intercept. Visual join.
4	Kuwait	KATOD	N28°31.73' E47°55.81'	To be assigned per mission briefing	East of Hafr Al-Batin. Radar join recommended.
5	Oman	BOSOB	N22°41.66' E48°2.19'	To be assigned per mission briefing	South of Alkharj. ideal intercept. Visual join.

10.3 AWACS Orbit Location

To designate the specific patrol orbit area for AWACS aircraft, ensuring optimal radar coverage and support for ongoing special operations. This location facilitates effective surveillance, command, and control of friendly forces within the operational zone.

Squadron	Task	Location	Coordinates	Altitude	Remarks
7	AWACS Support Operation	OERK	To be provided before the event start	To be assigned per mission briefing	AWACS orbit patrol providing radar coverage and command support within the operational area. Maintain communication and situational awareness.

10.3 Air Refueling Zones

To designate specific airspace areas where air-to-air refueling operations are conducted safely and efficiently. These zones ensure proper separation between tanker and receiver aircraft, facilitate smooth refueling procedures.

Squadron	Task	Location	Coordinates	Altitude	Remarks
8	Air Refuel (AAR)	OERK	To be provided before the event start	To be assigned per mission briefing	Conduct air-to-air refueling operations to extend mission endurance. Maintain radio contact and coordinate with receiver aircraft.