



**CONFLICT BIBLE**



# THE REPUBLIC OF QASRA

## PARTNER'S STATE WARPED

A Major non-NATO ally and former British colony, Qasra was a "democratic" functioning military dictatorship that maintained a modern and disciplined fighting force among the most capable on the African continent. Hosting special operations forces from a number of NATO states, Qasra was the launchpad for covert operations in North Africa and throughout the Med from the early 1950's right up to the day that the Berlin Wall fell.

Qasra continued to prosper for more than two decades after, sustained by a reliable stream of wealth flowing from the Republic's organic hydrocarbon reserves. Qasra's demise came not in the form of poverty or revolution, but populism.

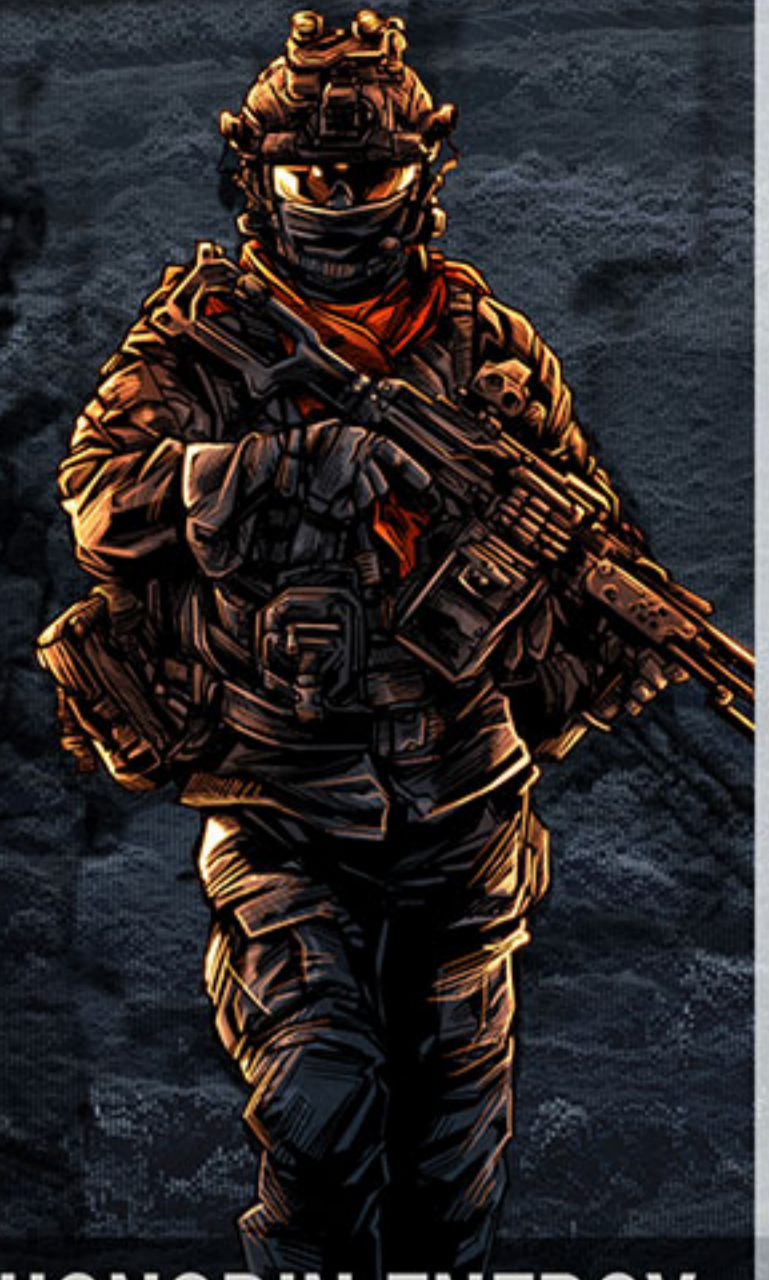
The 2012 elections saw the center of power shift from the military to a Salafist political party, the Movement for Islamic Law (MIL). Despite being a franchise of the Muslim Brotherhood, ideologues in the US State Department praised the MIL as a "beacon of democracy in the Middle East." Ironically, this virtue signaling did not have the desired effect.

Purges began almost immediately. Power was consolidated decisively through asset seizures, arrests, and assassinations of secular rivals. In less than 12 months, the Republic of Qasra was transformed into a de facto single-party state.



Sensing an opportunity, representatives from the People's Republic of China (PRC) began dialogues with the incumbent Qasra leadership. After seducing the MIL with Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) loans, the PRC locked Qasra into an inescapable debt trap that allowed the Chinese to dictate foreign policy and launch infrastructure projects all over the country. These contracts were awarded to the Chinese proxy of choice, Hongbin Energy.

Alongside the construction crews, party members, and executives, a contingent of security experts quietly inserted themselves into every aspect of the relationship. Composed initially of former PLAN Marine officers and NCOs, this force was quickly augmented by consultants from the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Room 39 as well as former Syrian Republican Guard units.



## HONGBIN ENERGY

ONE OF MANY PARTY OWNED MINERAL EXPLOITATION FIRMS FOUNDED IN THE 1980'S, HONGBIN ENERGY EXPANDED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY NAVY (PLAN) AS CHINA SECURED ITS INTERESTS THROUGHOUT NORTH AFRICA POST Y2K.

LEVERAGING BELT + ROAD INITIATIVE "DEBT TRAPS" IN EXCHANGE FOR RESOURCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE RIGHTS, HONGBIN DEVELOPED A KINETIC CAPABILITY TO WORK HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE MINERAL EXPLOITATION UNITS. WHILE CAPABLE OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS, THESE FORCES WERE PRIMARILY ORGANIZED TO ENABLE AND TRANSFORM LOCAL PARTNERS INTO USEFUL PAWNS.





**2025** Now embedded with the Qasran Army, plans were quickly drawn up for a special military action to “stabilize” the neighboring nation of Sanhaja. Accused of aiding Berber separatists in Qasra, Sanhaja was more importantly home to organic reserves of lithium and other rare earth metals valued at \$3 trillion-\$11.5 trillion.

To seize these assets intact, the Hongbin trained and equipped a new light infantry fighting force within the Qasra Air Force Intelligence Directorate — the SPEAR Brigade. Capable of deep penetration raids and critical infrastructure seizures, the SPEAR Brigade was composed of four combat battalions enabled by an organic UAS swarm capability. Descending on their targets via dismounted offset or direct insertion by helicopters and fighting vehicles, SPEAR detachments were the first across the border capturing refineries, ports, rail lines, and airfields throughout Sanhaja.

But before these prizes could be realized, errant strikes of Hongbin supplied, Chinese-made hypersonic missiles ignited several of the seized tank farms and refineries. White phosphorus and other incendiary munitions were mistakenly directed to the very sites secured by the SPEAR combat battalions. Inflicting significant friendly casualties and destroying the very infrastructure the Hongbin were after, PLAN commanders in Djibouti immediately directed that Hongbin refocus their agents attention east, to Awbari.

Still embroiled in a civil war fueled by Qasra’s ongoing support of regional extremists, Awbari became the mission.

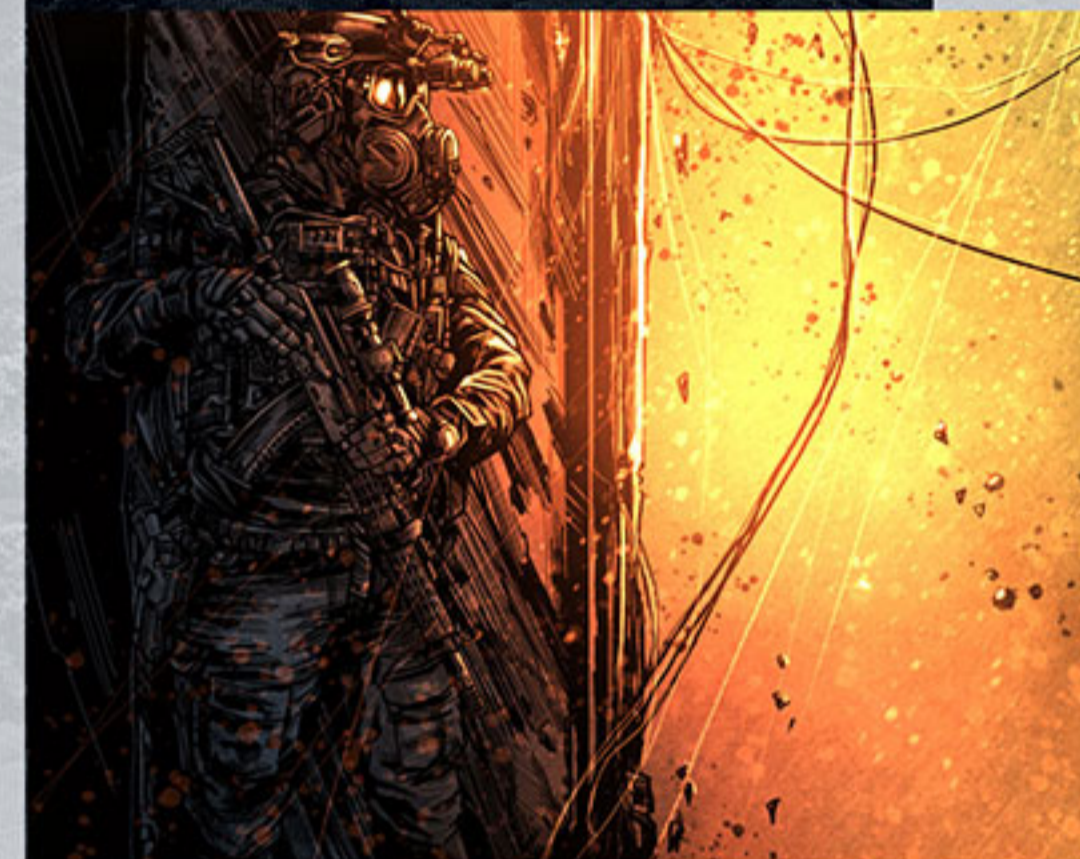
## HONGBIN RESEARCH + ENABLING DIVISION

REVERSE ENGINEERING AND COUNTERFEITING WESTERN TECH CAPTURED THROUGHOUT THE MENA. THE HONGBIN RESEARCH AND ENABLING DIVISION IS HOUSED ON THE PLAN BASE IN DJIBOUTI. THEIR MISSION: TO INCREASE THE SURVIVABILITY OF THE AAYARI NETWORK FIGHTERS AGAINST THE LOITERING MUNITIONS EMPLOYED BY CRISIS TROOPS IN AWBARI AND TO REDUCE REMOTE CAPABILITIES IN GENERAL OF THE SURROGATE KINETIC FORCE.



## HONGBIN KINETIC FORCES NEZHA’S SPEAR

OFFICIALLY, THE KINETIC ARM OF THE COMPANY ARE PROTECTION OFFICERS - GUARDING SITES, ASSETS, AND PEOPLE VITAL TO HONGBIN’S INTERESTS IN THE REGION. THE REALITY IS, THE HONGBIN KINETIC FORCE IS BATTALION-SIZED GROUP OF PLAN MARINE VETERANS AND NORTH KOREANS SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES OVERSEEING A GROUND FORCE OF SYRIAN MERCENARIES.



**2026** Despite years of training and logistical investment from Qasra, the destabilization efforts had produced limited results. The Shadow Emirate and the Aayari Network were consistently overmatched by foreign internal defense contractor; Cold Harbor. The kinetic arm of the Greenfield hedge fund, Cold Harbor secured favor and mineral rights for their parent company with every jihadist killed by the surrogate force.

PLAN Admiral Jūn zhé Zhang, commander of the Djibouti base and the majority shareholder of Hongbin Energy, opened secretive back channel communications with the Awbari Western Army Group Commander, General Kais Saïdi, after an informal meeting in Djibouti. In December 2026, the two concluded an intelligence sharing agreement to, “prevent injury to Chinese nationals and ensure continuity of business they were conducting in Qasra.” Additionally, both parties agreed to, “secure present and future interests of General Saïdi as well as select senior officers under his command throughout the region.”

From that moment, Crisis Troop Scorch (CTS) deterrence raids in Qasra saw a quantifiable decline in encounters with high value targets.

**2027** The first instance of a UAS platforms being effectively employed against CTS ground teams occurred in January, 2027. Hongbin FengHuang-918s decisively engaged several CTS operators during a terrorist pursuit into Qasra. Dozens of additional incidents followed.

Additionally, highly effective mobile UAS jamming platforms were detected at target sites by CTS forward observers and aerostats monitoring prospective areas of interest.

September 2027 - the first Hongbin kinetic forces are positively identified (PID) alongside Network fighters at the beginning of the winter fighting season.

Co-located along the border at high-risk sites, likely to be the targets of CTS deterrence raids, Hongbin kinetic forces are poised to respond to any CTS incursion in 30 minutes. When decisively engaged, Hongbin “enablers” employ the extremists as cannon fodder, pushing Network fighters into CTS kill teams in an effort to overwhelm their formations and fighting positions.

Survivability of their “partner forces” is not a priority. Destruction of the CTS elements is.

Elsewhere in Qasra, Hongbin security advisors gradually rebuild the decimated SPEAR Brigade — reorganizing the entire Qasra Eastern Army Group into a force capable of seizing mineral-rich territory within Awbari.

An additional force arrives in Awbari City. Officially these reps are negotiating mineral concessions in-country. In reality, these Hongbin agents assume advisory and mentoring positions in the General’s elite Republican Guard force controlling the city.

With all the planets slowly coming into alignment, Hongbin are on a timeline to invade Awbari in 2029.

But when a Scorch Deterrence Raid on October 29, 2027 kills a patron of General Saïdi, a series of events quickly unfolds with the Western Army Group command facilitating an attack on a CTS Mission Support Site. The veneer of grudging collaboration within the nascent Awbari government comes apart at the seams, ending in a hasty move by the Army Group to seize power in Western Awbari.

Unable to discern if the coup is an attempt to backdoor the agreement between Saïdi and Admiral Zhang, by seizing power ahead of the agreed upon invasion and then claiming further intervention is not required, Zhang orders the special military action to begin with whatever Qasra can put on the ground immediately.

Still coordinating with the Awbari Western Army Group, the attack begins on the Jadid Salient at 2200 Zulu on 12, November 2027.



# SPEAR BRIGADE

THE SPEAR BRIGADE IS THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE'S SPECIAL MISSION UNIT. OUTSIDE THE CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE ARMY, THE SPEAR BRIGADE ANSWERS ONLY TO A SELECT CADRE OF HONGBIN KINETIC OFFICERS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SELECTION AND TRAINING.

EACH SPEAR KILL TEAM IS COMPOSED OF COMBAT EXPERTS THAT EMPLOY RIFLES, MACHINE GUNS, UAS SWARMS, AND SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS TO DECISIVELY ISOLATE, SEIZE, AND DESTROY THEIR TARGETS. METHODICAL AND RUTHLESS, THEY ARE BOTH TECHNICALLY CAPABLE AND A LETHAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS RAID FORCE NOW ORIENTED TOWARDS AWBARI.

## INFILTRATOR



## MARAUDER

Recruited exclusively from the commandos and special forces, SPEAR teams are built from the ground up as infiltration marauder elements. Trained and equipped with sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities such as Cognitive Jammers, they isolate areas of interest and employ kinetic UAS swarms while moving kill teams onto the X to finish survivors in close combat.

Unlike other infantry forces in the Qasra East and West Army Groups, SPEAR troops are organized into machine gun, UAS, rifle, and breacher kill teams. Night fighting specialists, all SPEAR Teams run the latest generation white phosphor night vision devices provided by the Hongbin Research & Enabling Group. This tech gives them near panoramic views of the battlespace versus the more limited FOV in the dual tube 3Is employed by Crisis Troops and their partner force.

Inflicting casualties, disrupting communications, and seizing infrastructure for conventional Qasra Army Groups to exploit, SPEAR teams are among the most lethal threats hunting the battlespace of 2027.

### AK-105 ASSAULT RIFLE

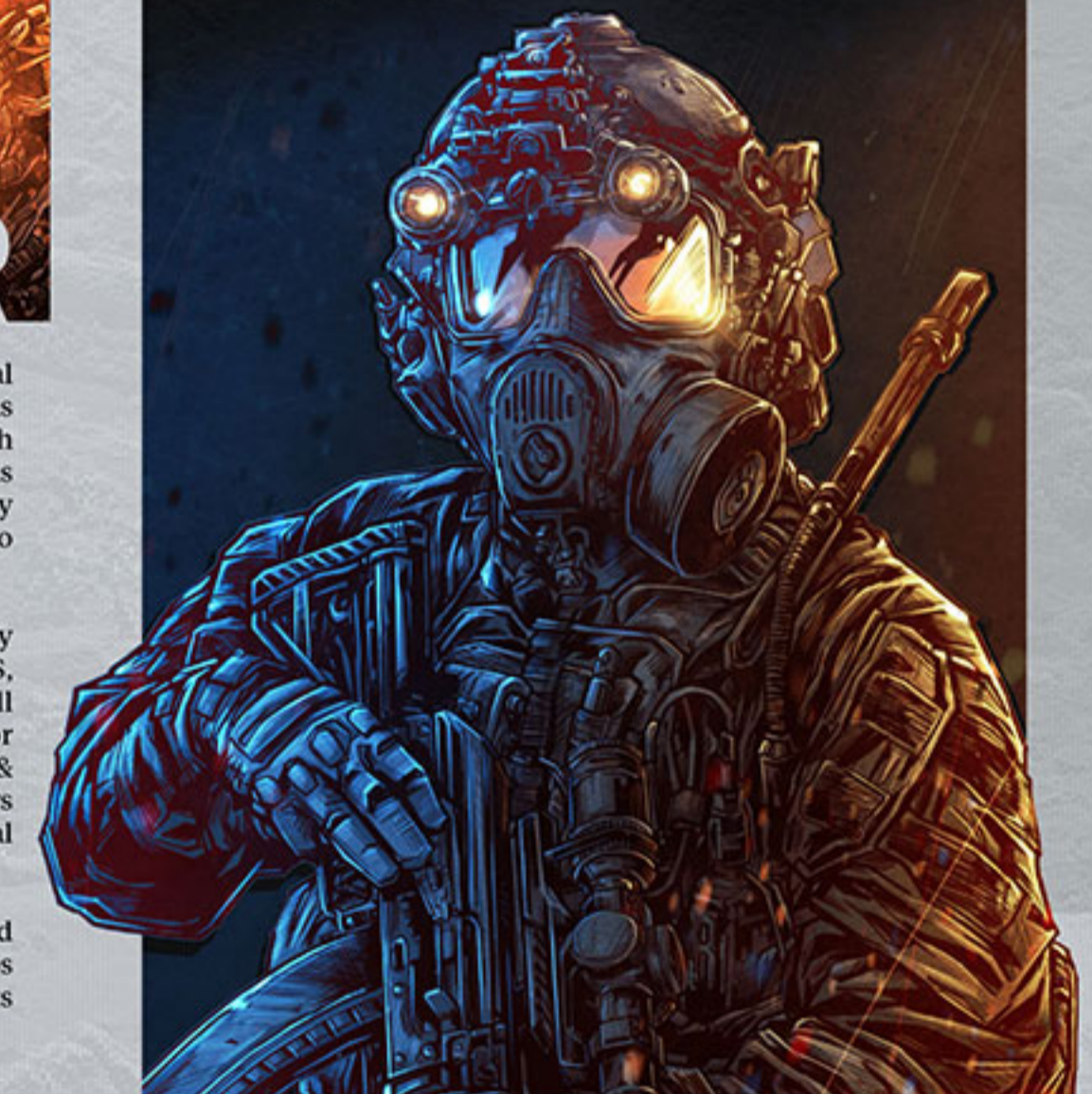


A carbine version of the AK-74M, the SPEAR Team 105s are highly customized with specialized rail systems, electro-optics, and ergonomic enhancements to facilitate their mission. Employing armor piercing incendiary 5.45x39mm rounds, these rifles are optimized to combat a peer infantry ground force.

### COGNITIVE JAMMERS

Counter UAS operators employ cutting-edge backpack jammers to deny opponents control of the air space.

Utilizing machine learning, these systems automatically classify RF emitters and determine appropriate electronic countermeasures — in some cases being capable of hijacking remote piloting signals. These jammers hopelessly outclass the counter countermeasures of weaponized COTS drones and can even degrade peer adversaries' ISR and fires.



- + EVERY SOLDIER IS A SENSOR
- + ESTABLISH A BASE OF FIRE TO ISOLATE OPPONENTS
- + WORK ANGLES + EMPLOY SELECTIVE KILL TECHNIQUES
- + UAS FINISHES OPPONENTS THAT ARE FIXED



Pop shots. The SPEAR Team Leader gestures. Two quadrotor UAS push out and lift.

At altitude, their gimbals drop and scan the surroundings. Intermittent structures are parked on a winding dirt road, but the details are lost in the churn of pollutants still settling from earlier strikes.

Half a dozen aiming lasers flick on, drawing a line to a dismantled patrol. Pop shots erupt into a gunfight.

Unclear who is who, the SPEAR Team Leader gestures again. The spinners drop down above both groups and detonate, sending concussion and shrapnel stabbing down into both elements.

The SPEAR Team Lead shoots a glance to his Hongbin "advisor" and gestures. The Hongbin nods back, standing and stepping off with his element in a wedge. As anticipated, the Chinese Hongbin mercs care nothing for their North Korean and Syrian counterparts—they are little more than farm hands. The SPEAR Team Lead falls in with a second wedge offset to their rear and right.

Both wedges move with purpose, moving over sun bleached crop fields, speckled with shocks of yellow grass, trash, and weeds, towards the kill box. The infrastructure is mostly intact, minus an abandoned tire shop destroyed by an errant hypersonic missile. So much for the "precision munitions" that would decisively eliminate the bastard mercenaries. The Hongbin Advisor turns to signal and then his element breaks off without waiting for permission.

Bodies sleeved in gore matted fabric sprawl contorted where they were killed. The SPEAR Team clears through the objective, patrolling past dead Network fighters and several Hongbin mercs. They drop to a knee at the opposite side of the kill box. No survivors. The entire element pivots and repositions towards an eruption of small arms fire. Hongbin FFIs are maneuvering

The SPEAR Teams send two more spinners up and push them towards the Hongbin FFI transponders. The quad rotors quickly take up a shallow orbit over the pitched battle. The feed cuts suddenly. Both his UAS have been override detonated. The bastard mercenaries are well prepared.

The Team Lead gestures and his element falls into formation, already moving to open a flank in the ground fight ahead. Keeping a 100 meter distance from the Hongbin kill team, the SPEAR element advances towards a two story structure, ideal to lay fires anywhere in a 300 meter radius. But they were not the first with this idea.

Hisses lash into a succession of immediate and sharp reports. The point man takes a dead step and pitches forward in a heap. Rifle and machine gun fire scythe his men down from the exact structure they are approaching. Another man goes down, but the rest fight their way to cover and begin returning effective fire.



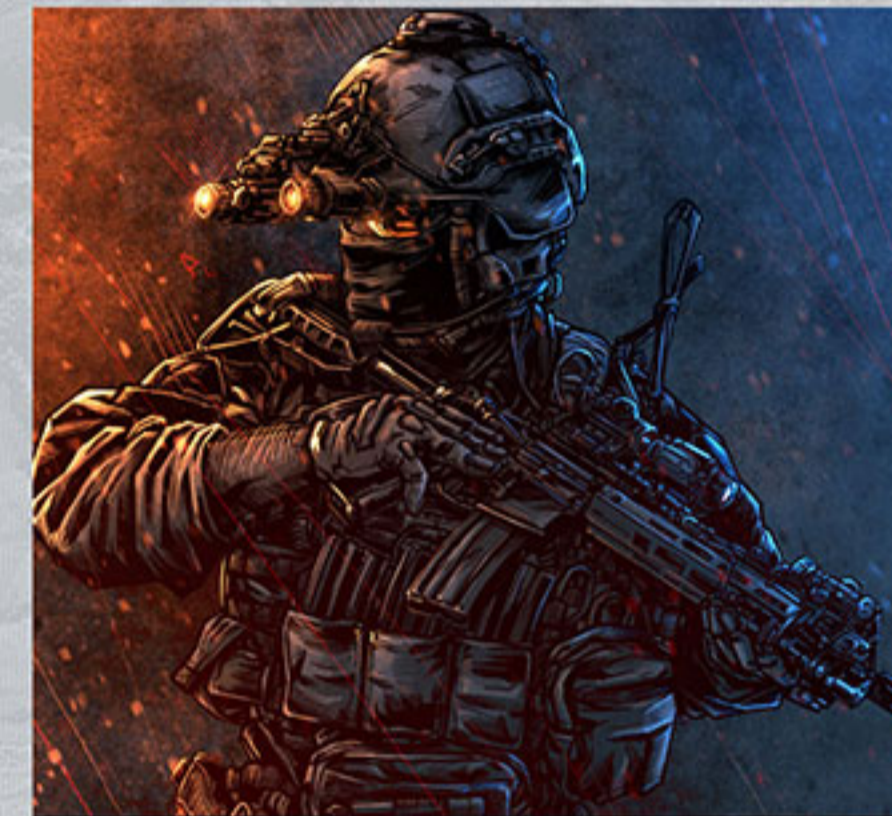
# 00 UNIT NITTO

A NATIONAL STRIKE UNIT UNDER THE AWBARI NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE, NITTO IS A KINETIC PURSUIT AND INTERDICTION FORCE DEDICATED TO TARGETING EXTREMISTS ILLEGALLY CROSSING FROM QASRA INTO AWBARI. STATIONED ALONG THE BORDER, NITTO CONDUCTS OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY TECHNICAL ENABLERS FROM CRISIS TROOP SCORCH. THEIR PRIMARY TASKINGS — QUICK-REACTION MISSIONS HITTING TIME-SENSITIVE TARGETS OR DELIBERATE “NO CAPTURE” STRIKES ON KEY PERSONNEL.

## INDISCRIMINATE EXTRAJUDICIAL EFFECTIVE

Nitto prosecuted their first target in 2025, after a riot at the Awbari Border Guard holding center in the southern province turned into a charnel house. Freed by an insider, Aayari Network prisoners precipitated an “insurrection” within the prison where they killed and mutilated dozens of Border Guard agents and “apostate” detainees.

A Nitto kill team, accompanied by CTS advisors, arrived at the location and determined there were no more hostages alive inside. Rather than attempting to retake the site, the team leader called an audible and dropped the compound with kinetic UAS employing thermobaric warheads.



### UNDER THE INFLUENCE

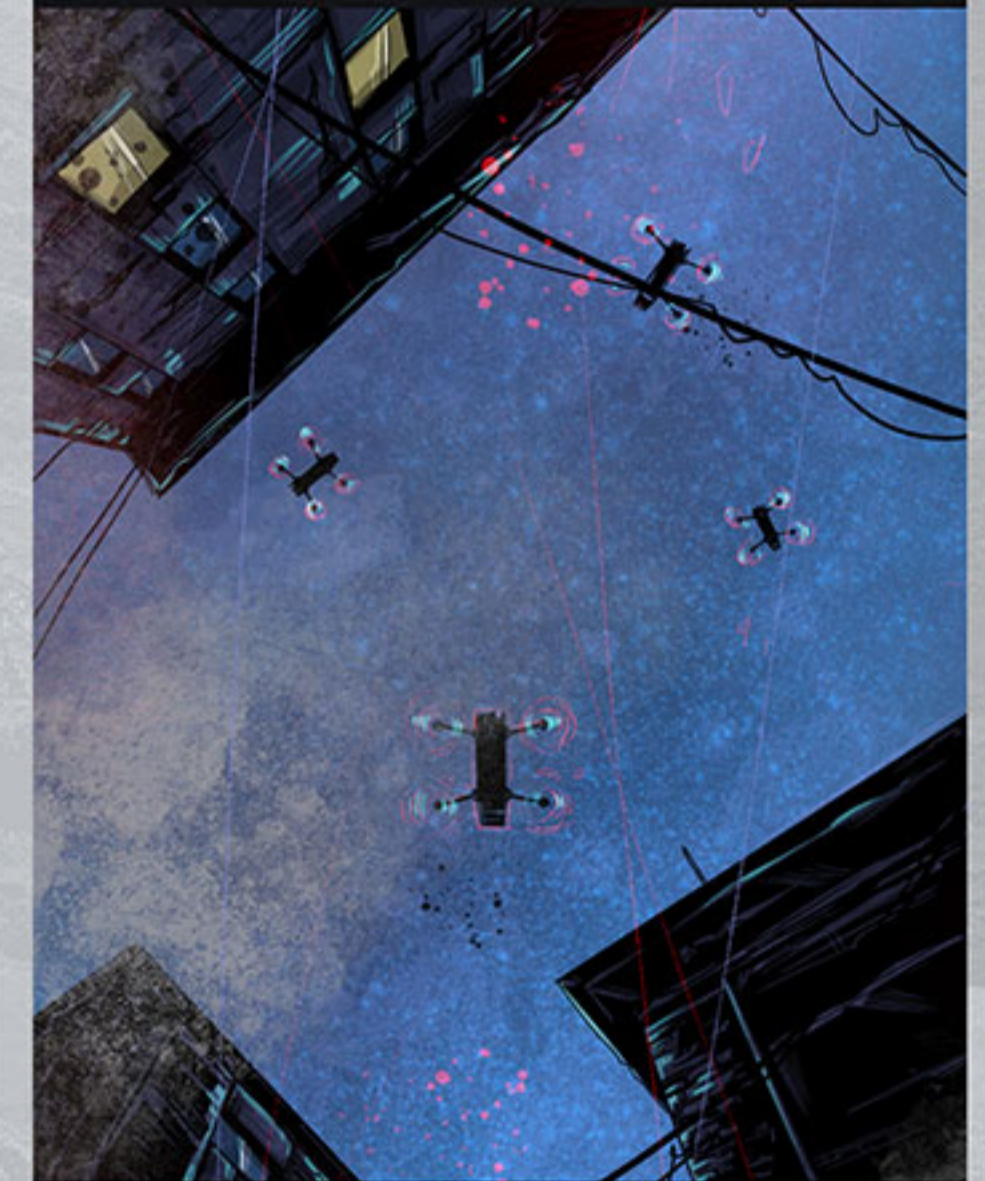
Today, Nitto kill teams are often co-located with Crisis Troop Scorch Special Purpose Forces. Nitto elements operate largely independent of direct oversight from the Ministry, instead directly controlled by CTS advisors on-site both planning and enabling their kinetic activities.

Given the absolute commitment of the extremists and their enablers, Nitto teams will always prioritize a lethal resolution. Squirters who show any resistance are gunned down without warning. Surrendering fighters are also typically killed regardless of compliance. Given the mid-level targets they typically prosecute, it is simply not worth it for a Nitto kill team to risk an s-vest detonation among their ranks.

Nitto commandos are compensated by Crisis Troop auditors in addition to their Ministry paycheck, making Nitto the best compensated and, accordingly, most loyal forces in the NDI. To date, there has not been a single Green-on-Blue (insider) attack on any MSS (Mission Support Site) cohabited by Nitto and a CTS Special Purpose Force.

### KINETIC DRONE SWARMS

Organic to the Nitto Kill Teams, UAS swarms are composed of multiple unmanned airframes that flock to a target, where they converge and strike nearly simultaneously. These swarms can overwhelm both prepared fighting positions and infantry formations in a single decisive attack. Combined with fast moving ground teams, swarms are a responsive tool to fix an enemy while commandos take positions to finish them.



- + VIOLENCE MAINTAINS THE INITIATIVE
- + UNITS THAT ARE MOVING ARE ATTACKING
- + BYPASS POSITIONS THAT CANNOT BE DESTROYED
- + DENY OPPONENTS EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Safety off, six rounds, safety on. Sights move from target to target, putting rounds into each man until he collapses into a mangled wreck or simply catches fire. In a last ditch, a fighter throws his hands into the air, screaming something about God – then he triggers his s-vest. Body parts and shrapnel fling off the channelized compartments of the house, riding the blast wave into oblivion.

New magazines. Topped off, the Crisis Troop leader waves at me, “Dead check.” I nod back.

Stepping through the bodies, I hear a quiet, strained moan. Half step back and I see him stir. One of the Hongbin mercenaries is alive. I aim my rifle, but I don’t shoot. I toe the man’s face so he is looking right into my eyes and press my boot against his throat. It takes only a few moments until the collapsing trachea gives with a wet crack.

There will be no prisoners tonight. Not after the vomit-choked bodies dead in the streets. Not after the suffocating “survivors” we had to leave behind. Pleading. Weeping. Their shrieks disintegrated into rasps as their chlorine burned lungs disintegrated, and they drowned in their own blood.

The city’s emergency teams were killed responding to the sarin attack. The hospital and police station were then obliterated by hypersonic missiles. What little counter agents we possess needs to be reserved for the fighting force if we are to hold the city.

“Movement. Red side.”

The Nitto force posts on fighting positions, oriented towards the inbounds. Hongbin mercenaries stalk carefully forward, bounding to and from cover. Keeping guns up and ready to provide a base of fire. There is an open draw they must traverse to get to us. Finally one of them gestures forward. We let them get into the open. At 35 meters out, we go cyclic.

Limbs shear off as Chicom body armor disintegrates, gored easily by the TSX bullets we push into each silhouette. Their PKM is up now, but we keep firing. One of the Nitto men, Amal, is hit. But he stays on the gun. Sights back on target, he sends accurate fire. Bleeding and damaged, his anger and adrenaline keep him fighting.

The Crisis Troop leader grabs me. “You and you,” gesturing to my cousin Omar, “on me.”

He grabs the LAMG and leads us out of the backside of the house to a neighboring two story structure. We bound across the space, forming a hasty stack, and entering the structure. More bodies. Children. Fuck. How many? How many—“Hey, hey!”, the Crisis Troop lead snaps twice.

We make eye contact. Curtly and calmly, he issues orders. “West side.”

Omar and I take up fighting positions. We see them a moment later. Not Hongbin... Qasra special forces...





# THE BATTLE OF THE JADID SALIENT



## THE JADID SALIENT

Jadid is a free trade commercial city built along the on the Sarrath River, sitting directly adjacent to the Awbari-Qasra border. Less than 10 kilometers to the Mediterranean, the Jadid Salient is a long time destination for European companies to purchase goods from North Africa, and then have them conveyed to their deep water vessels moored just off the coast.

Jadid is mirrored on the Qasra side of the border by the city of Ajim. Originally, traders and merchants moved freely between the two cities, even maintaining residences on both sides of the border, but as Awbari's civil war escalated the border was "sealed".

In late 2026, during ongoing internecine fighting, the Mayor of Jadid was assassinated in a suicide attack carried out by the Aayari Network.

Rather than holding an election to replace him, the Province Governor appoints his cousin Asma Ebeid mayor and establishes a Special Emergency Gendarmerie unit to "restore order". Staffed entirely with Republican Guard commandos from the Awbari National Army, these Gendarmeries immediately clashed with the civil police and Border Guard forces in the city. The Gendarmeries arrested several senior police commanders as well other ministry agents, accusing them of facilitating the previous Mayor's assassination.

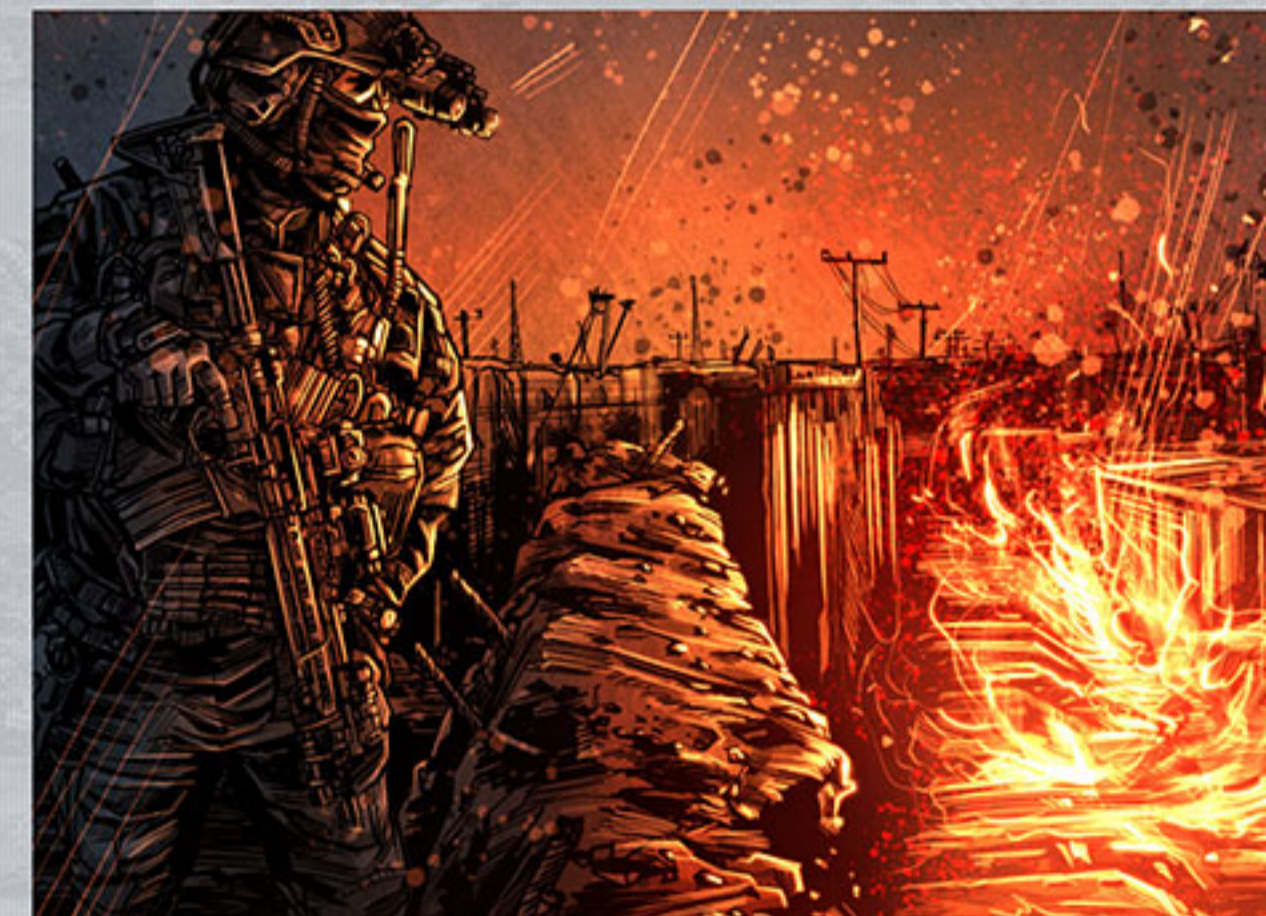
With no courts to process them, the abolition of the city courts had been one of the first dictates of the newly appointed Mayor, these officials were left to rot in indefinite detention creating a vacuum of power quickly filled by appointees from the Gendarmerie.

Cold Harbor forward deployed two Ground Combat Elements to Combat Outposts (COP) north and south of the city (Torch and White Birch, respectively) leaving the remaining element of Special Purpose Force 11 to embed with client forces inside the Jadid city limits. This element would not only advise on ongoing Foreign Internal Defense (FID) missions in the province, but would provide protection details to senior Ministry officials moving about in the city.

Despite the tension, the city continues to function.

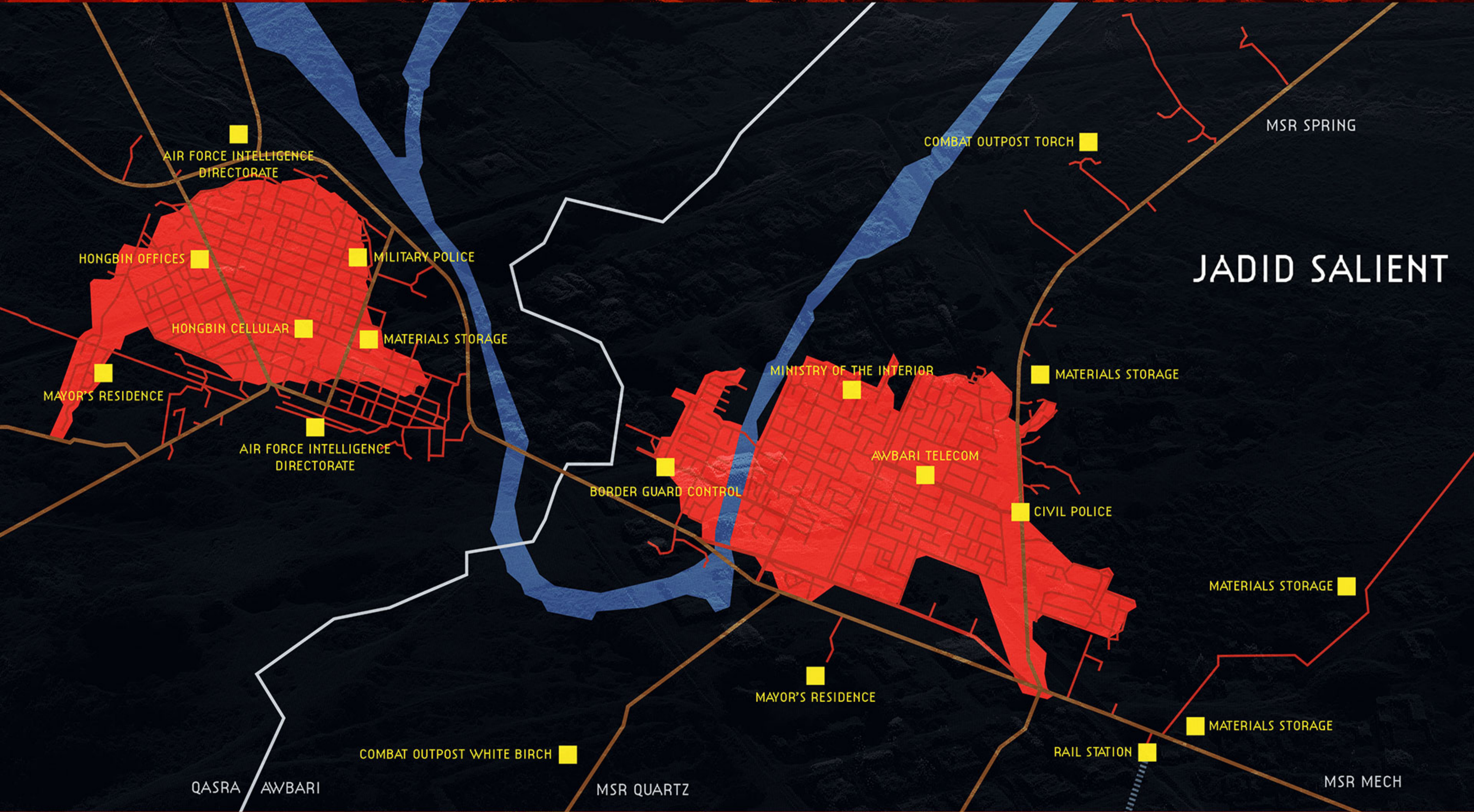
November 2027. Tensions escalate suddenly after a green on blue "insider" attack by members of the Awbari National Army Western Force decimates one of the Special Purpose Forces at Mission Support Site (MSS) 88. Western Forces commander Saïdi publicly declares the attack a fake - carried out by "crisis surrogates" employed by "western mercenaries" IE Cold Harbor.

As the Ministry makes dramatic moves to consolidate their position of influence, Saïdi communicates with Hongbin agents in Qasra, indicating he is moving forward with a planned coup almost a full year ahead of schedule.



## AWBARI\_BURNS





# JADID SALIENT

AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE

HONGBIN OFFICES

MILITARY POLICE

COMBAT OUTPOST TORCH

MSR SPRING

HONGBIN CELLULAR

MATERIALS STORAGE

MAYOR'S RESIDENCE

AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

MATERIALS STORAGE

BORDER GUARD CONTROL

AWBARI TELECOM

CIVIL POLICE

MATERIALS STORAGE

MAYOR'S RESIDENCE

COMBAT OUTPOST WHITE BIRCH

RAIL STATION

MATERIALS STORAGE

QASRA AWBARI

MSR QUARTZ

MSR MECH

## OPENING ROUND 5 12, NOVEMBER 2027

### 2100 ZULU

Aayari Network fighters trigger several dozen sarin vessels staged throughout the city of Jadid and the city's surrounding suburbs. In thirty minutes, locals are overcome with nausea, migraines, blindness, seizures, and coughing fits.

### 2133 ZULU

CTS ground team 6-2-3 conducts a routine site assessment after a Scoria strike decisively engages a cluster of "clandestine migrants" attempting to violate the Awbari border. While pulling biometrics - it is determined that all of the EKIA present are fully equipped Hongbin agents. Midway through the exploitation process, a force of Gendarmeries arrives via helo from Jadid, taking control of both the location and associated intel.

After reporting to higher, 6-2-3 is appraised of the situation in the city and ordered back to base. Departing the bomb site, the element begins movement to White Birch.

### 2147 ZULU

Jadid Civil Police and emergency services attempting to respond to the now mass casualty event, and are themselves overcome with the toxic effects of the sarin vapors. UAS platforms controlled by Crisis Troop and Nitto Border Guard are redirect from their patrol routes on the border to provide real-time look down on the metro area.

Ground Forces Commander, GFC, "Jock" attempts to contact Bonfire and relay the situation, but comms between the two locations are being disrupted.

### 2153 ZULU

Two of the seven structures at White Birch are burning. Luckily, casualties are minimal. It is only the mediocrity of the onboard guidance systems that prevents the strike from achieving a total decapitation.

Feeds of COP Torch show all inbound miss, landing harmlessly in the desert east of the base. However, the city guard force is much worse off with the Ministry of the Interior offices and the Civil Police headquarters suffering direct hits. Aayari Network fighters begin massed attacks against these locations and the Border Guard Control station on the west edge of the city.

### 2200 ZULU

6-2-3 arrives on base. The situation in Jadid, still developing. Feeds from Cold Harbor aerostats provide real-time of events in the city and surrounding areas. A motorcade with Gendarmeries FFI departs the city, pushing south down MSR Quartz towards COP White Birch.

Moments later a flight of DF-17 hypersonic missiles spears into Awbari airspace, hitting White Birch, Torch, and multiple targets in the city of Jadid simultaneously.



### COMBAT OUTPOST WHITE BIRCH

Set up inside clusters of abandon highway shops, these Combat Outposts (COP) appear to be little more than squatters or smuggler waypoints to the untrained eye but house multiple kill teams with enough organic assets to repel a company of tanks.



### DF-17 HYPERSONIC MISSILES

A Chinese-made ballistic missile, the DongFeng-17 is capable of maneuvering at speeds up to mach 5 with a max effective 1,600km effective range. Designed to strike aircraft carriers, each hypersonic warhead is easily capable of destroying even a hardened land target.





## REACT TO CONTACT 12, NOVEMBER 2027

### 2300 ZULU

Unable to establish comms with the Gendarmerie motorcade moving towards White Birch, Jock orders the force to engage the column of six Kirpi MRAPs. The electronic minefield ringing the base kicks on, crippling four of the six trucks almost immediately. AT4s and Scoria HC UAS plunge into the surviving vehicles rendering them disabled or destroyed. Surviving Gendarmeries dismount and attempt to set a base of fire but CTS kill teams have the entire area pre-sighted and massacre the entire Gendarmerie force. Dying among the burning wrecks, the Gendarmeries live just long enough to see the real attack on White Birch begin.

Pinpointing the now exposed CTS fighting positions, Fenghuang kinetic UAS plunge into the Crisis Troop fighting positions. Ten kill teams of Hongbin shock troops, augmented with a Qasran SPEAR team, put sustained and accurate fire onto the COP.

Destroying hardened Addax M-ATV (Mine Resistant All-Terrain Vehicles), the force pushes into the base perimeter, planting satchel charges and dropping each structure as they advance. White Birch is lost.

In a last ditch effort to deny the Hongbin forces victory, Jock orders a "Broken Arrow" strike, calling all Scoria UAS loitering in the airspace onto his position. Both the Hongbin shock troops and the Qasran client force are annihilated, eviscerated by a saturation strike that carpets the entire area with viscera.

### 2320 ZULU

Quad rotor UAS drop precision munitions inside the perimeter of COP Torch. Knocking out all three of the Addax M-ATV's acting as fighting positions, Three SPEAR teams lay fires into the perimeter from the north and east, having crossed the Sarrath the night before.

The fight collapses inside 100 meters as CTS and Nitto commandos fight for their lives against the SPEAR teams, using UAS to suppress each structure just long enough for an assaulter to deploy a satchel that drops the building.

Pitched fights erupt over every meter, with small arms punctuated by grenades and machine gun teams racing to establish a base of fire before their opponents can seize the same ground.

### 2340 ZULU

Both Torch and White Birch are burning with neither side able to claim a victory. Broken comms come out of Jadid. There are still CTS troops fighting in the city. Unwilling to leave friendly forces behind, the remaining CTS elements from both COP locations strap up whatever they can, and patrol towards the city limits.

## SPEAR TEAMS

SPEAR teams are elite shock troops from the Qasran Air Force that employ UAS and provide advanced capabilities to turn every soldier into a sensor.



## A HASTY INTERVENTION

Originally intended as a "peacekeeping force" responding to planned civil unrest in Awbari, the sudden escalation forced a massive reorganization to capitalize on General Saïdi's gambit for power.

Despite protests from senior staff, only a single battalion of SPEAR troops cross the border alongside a force largely composed of Hongbin mercenaries. Counting on Aayari Network fanatics to reduce the Awbari "loyalists" and their surrogates, the entire operation is fraught with risk.

## HOUSE TO HOUSE 13, NOVEMBER 2027

### 0030 ZULU

Cold Harbor driven UAS attempt to establish an airspace perimeter over the city, but are repeatedly shot down by technicals with bed mounted DShK guns. Directed by counter battery aerals set up around the city, the DShK operate with unexpected accuracy.

Unable to hold the Border Guard Station without further UAS support, the surviving members of CTS element 6-2-1 and Nitto element B263 relocate, moving east towards the Awbari Telecom building. A hardened structure with both organic power generation and a satellite uplink, the Awbari Telecom seems the best defensible candidate to reestablish comms with higher.

Despite sarin vapors having long been evaporated, the ground force finds streets choked with carnage. Bodies of those who died from exposure mixed with those who survived to be executed by the Aayari Network for apostasy. Shot in the back of the head or brutally decapitated. The black flag of the Aayari Network drapes down from windows of "purified" buildings. Snipers perch in the tallest buildings to systematically target and survivors that have escaped their purge.

Ignoring the carnage, the CTS and Nitto operators continue across the city, block by block. Unable to employ Scoria UAS, the force establishes hasty strong points just long enough to cover the continuously bounding movement to the next position.

Hongbin kill teams man geolocation/counter battery aerals, identifying the positions of the Crisis Troop elements every time they engage an Aayari or Hongbin patrol. Moving house-to-ahouse, the CTS and Nitto elements run down several of these aerals, dropping the buildings and leaving nothing for the occupying force.

With the aerals diminished, Scoria UAS are back in the skies. The CTS and Nitto forces quickly kill their way to the Awbari Telecom using the drones to slaughter any fighters in their path.

### 0230 ZULU

Fifteen shooters are still on their feet and in the fight when comms are re-established with Bonfire, in the Awbari Capital. A coup is underway. The Army, supported by Hongbin mercenaries, are now fighting the Cold Harbor and Ministry forces across the country.



## AWBARI BURNS 13, NOVEMBER 2027

### 0240 ZULU

CTS team 6-2-2, pushing out of COP Torch, is stalled on MSR Spring. Hongbin shock troops and SPEAR teams occupy a line of structures heading the north entrance to the city. Despite heavy casualties, they are unable to breach the city limits.

CTS 6-2-3 is locked in a fight with Hongbin mercs and SPEAR teams hard pointing in positions overlooking the two bridges that cross the Sarrath along the southern edge of the city. Comms are re-established with team 6-2-1. It is clear that the Qasra and Hongbin forces are here to preserve the bridges for Qasra tanks to cross into Awbari.

The GFC directs 6-2-3 to push south to a tank farm where they will discharge the contents into the Sarrath and ignite them.

### 0300 ZULU

6-2-3 moves in two groups. Bounding from house to house, they establish fighting positions just long enough to pick off a few of the Hongbin and SPEAR teams pursuing them and places charges. They then collapse to the next house, dropping the structure as soon as the Hongbin and SPEAR teams advance to occupy them.

Casualties are dire on both sides, with wounded men manning machine gun positions, laying in cover for their own troops to the last second when they drop the house on themselves.

### 0330 ZULU

6-2-3 reaches the tank farm.

### 0345 ZULU

The waste tanks drained of toxins, 6-2-3 ignites the contaminant with grenades. The blaze consumes the river, releasing an immediate toxic cloud that floods the surrounding areas killing and maiming every living thing within minutes of exposure.

### 0430 ZULU

Sections of both bridges, degraded by the chemical fires, collapse into the river leaving the area impassable.

### 0600 ZULU

Three hundred airborne assault troops, loaded onto a flight of Shaanxi Y-8 transport airframes, head to the capital in a last bid effort to reinforce Saïdi and salvage the coup.

