,Subject: IRAQI'S BW MISSION PLANNING

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DIST: 1992

COUNTRY: IRAQ

SUBJ: IRAQI BW MISSION PLANNING

SUMMARY: IN THE FALL OF 1990, IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN ORDERED
THAT PLANS BE DRAWN UP FOR THE AIRBORNE DELIVERY OF A BIOLOGICAL
WARFARE (BW) AGENT   THE PLAN CALLED FOR
THREE MIG-21'S, CARRYING ONLY CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE TO
STAGE AN AIR RAID   IF THIS INITIAL MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL,
THEN A SECOND MISSION OF THREE MIG-21'S WAS TO BE FLOWN WITH AN SU-22
BW DISPERSAL AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THEM AT A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER
ALTITUDE. THE FIRST MISSION WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE PERSIAN GULF,
HOWEVER, AND NO EFFORTS WERE MADE TO FIND ANOTHER METHOD TO DELIVER
THE BW AGENT.

07/17/96 09:18:16

THE PLAN CALLED FOR A TEST MISSION OF THREE MIG-21'S TO CONDUCT AN AIR RAID   USING CONVENTIONAL HIGH EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE. IF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE   AIR DEFENSES AND SUCCESSFULLY BOMB   THEN A SECOND MISSION WAS TO TAKE OFF WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE FIRST, USING THE SAME FLIGHT PATH AND APPROACHES. THE SECOND MISSION, ALSO COMPOSED OF THREE MIG-21'S CARRYING CONVENTIONAL ORDNANCE, WAS TO SERVE AS A DECOY FOR A SINGLE SU-22 AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING THE SAME ROUTE BUT FLYING BETWEEN 50 AND 100 METERS ALTITUDE. OPTIMAL DELIVERY ALTITUDE FOR THE BW AGENT WAS JUDGED TO BE 50 METERS AT A SPEED OF 700 KILOMETERS AN HOUR. WHILE WIND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD BE CRITICAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A BW MISSION, FOR SECURITY REASONS THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO INVOLVE AIR FORCE METEOROLOGISTS IN MISSION PLANNING.

SHORTLY AFTER HOSTILITIES BEGAN.
THE THREE-MIG TEST MISSION TOOK OFF FROM TALLIL AIRFIELD, NEAR AN NASARIYAH. ALL THREE AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN EARLY IN THE MISSION, AND AS A RESULT PLANS TO LAUNCH THE SU-22 ARMED WITH A BIOLOGICAL AGENT AND FLYING UNDER COVER OF A SECOND, DECOY MISSION WERE CANCELLED.

END OF MESSAGE

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First Page |Prev Page |Next Page |Src Image

07/17/96 03:18:16