



VIRTUAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE

*OMNIA VINCIT SAPIENTIA*

# **SYRIAN INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM**

## **INTREP VID-OPAR-002**

**DISCLAIMER:**

This is for multiplayer online gaming using the Digital Combat Systems simulation software published by Eagle Dynamics. The information is not in any way suitable for real world use or operations.

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# INTRODUCTION

## Aim:

This report intends to present information on the Syrian IADS, how it functions and critical target components.

## Reference:

[INTREP VIS B-001 Generic Ground Force Structure v1.0](#)

## Content:

[Part 1: General IADS information](#)

[IADS](#)

[Command Centre](#)

[SAM Site](#)

[Early Warning Radar](#)

[Connection node](#)

[Power supply](#)

[AWACS](#)

[Air Defense Fighters](#)

[IADS Tactics](#)

[Part 2: Syrian IADS](#)

[Syrian IADS organization](#)

[Syrian ADF sector South](#)

[Syrian ADF sector West](#)

[Syrian ADF sector East](#)



# **PART 1: GENERAL IADS INFORMATION**



# Integrated Air Defense System (IADS)

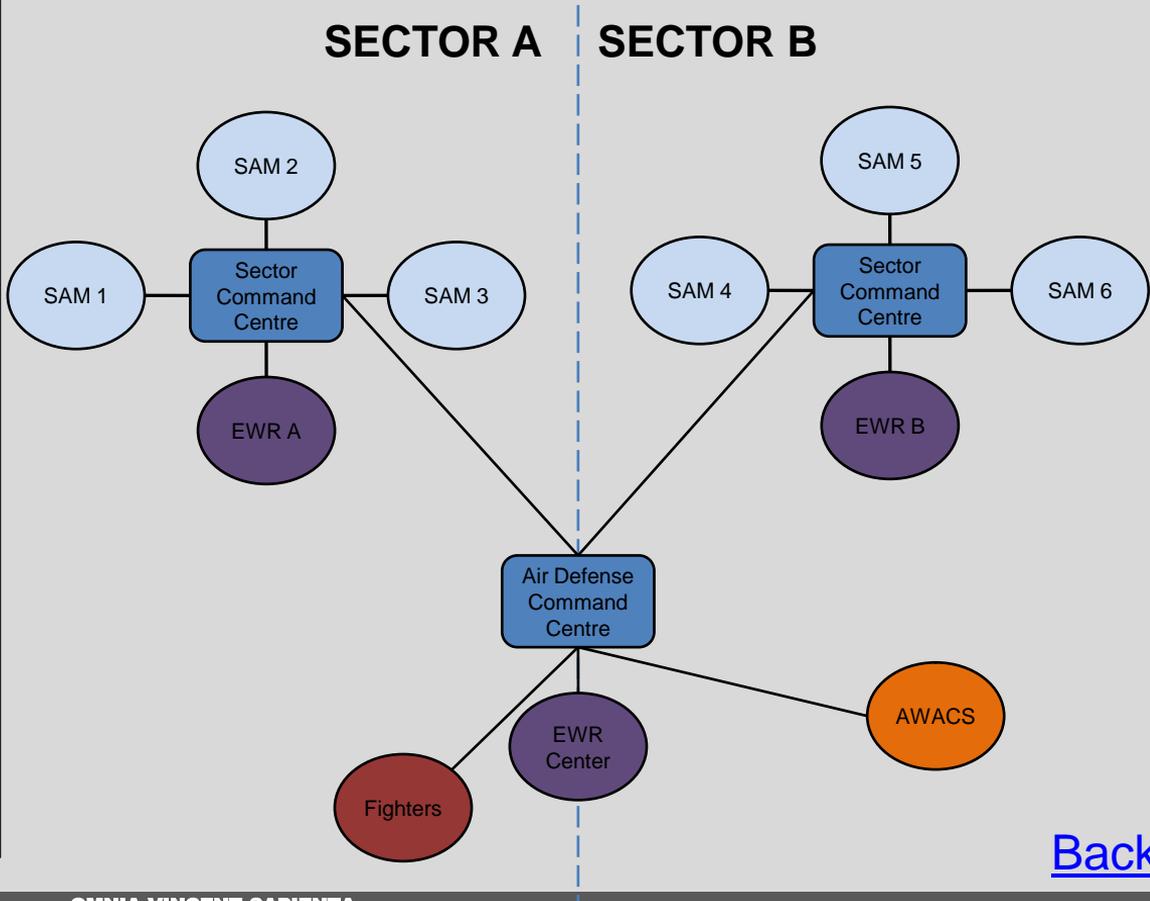
An Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) is a wide network of surface-to-air forces that work together to defend the skies of a specific area. The system is also connected to the fighter aircraft in the A-A role either in a airborne CAP or intercept aircraft on ground alert that can be scrambled toward incoming threats.

There are several elements that are part of this network, which all will be explained more in detail in the next slides:

- Air Defense Command Centre
- Early Warning Radar (EWR)
- SAM Site
- Sector Command Centre
- Power source
- AWACS
- Air Defense Fighters

**Example:**

The illustration to the right show a simple IADS. Each sector have a EWR that feeds information into a sector command centre. SAMs are off, and only turn on to fire based on the information from the EWR that they are within range. In addition, as long as the sector is connected to the entire IADS, they can also be activate based on other EWRs in IADS. AWACS is also supporting and contributing via the command center and functions as a extra EWR. Fighters on standby can also be launched to either sector based on radar information from EWR or AWACS.



[Back](#)



# AIR DEFENSE COMMAND CENTRE (ADCC)

This is the central node of the entire IADS. The air defense command centre coordinates all parts of the IADS and make sure to give orders and information to the relevant participants.

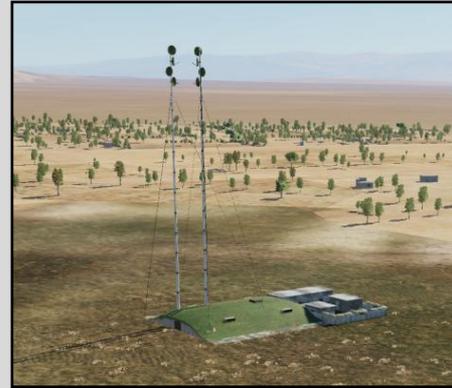
The air defense command centre is powered by a primary power source and a backup power source.

By attacking and destroying the power sources the air defense command centre is unable to function.

Often the air defense command centre also will have a backup command centre that takes its function if the primary command center is destroyed. The backup command center will have its own power sources to function.

The air defense command center and backup command center are fixed installations that are not moved around.

Example of a command center can be seen to the right.





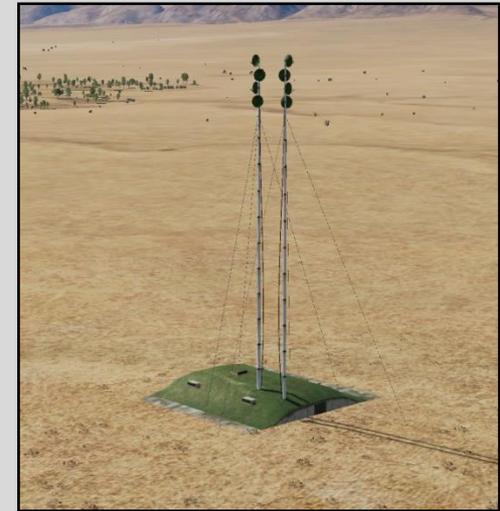
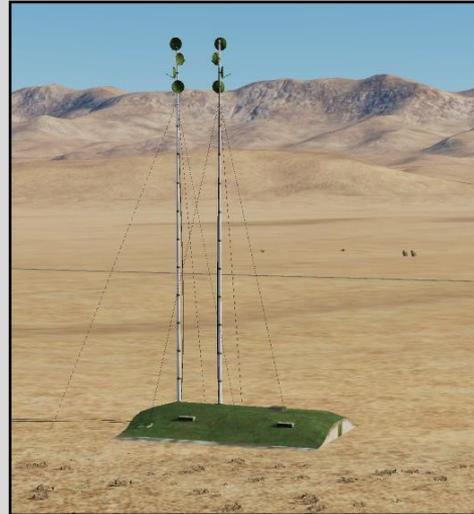
# SECTOR COMMAND CENTER (SCC)

The sector command center is the centralized area where a air defense sector is controlled. All SAMs and EWRs in a region will be connected to the sector command center.

The air defense sector will also be supported by the overall IADS resources such as other EWRs, AWACS, air defense fighters flying CAP or interceptors on ground alert.

If the sector command center is destroyed, the sector will be cut off from other IADS resources, some SAMs may then be off permanently (they are not aware that the sector command center is destroyed), or they can be active all the time, making it easier to locate them SAMs in the sector for engagement with standoff precision munitions.

Example of a sector command center seen on the right.





# EARLY WARNING RADAR (EWR)

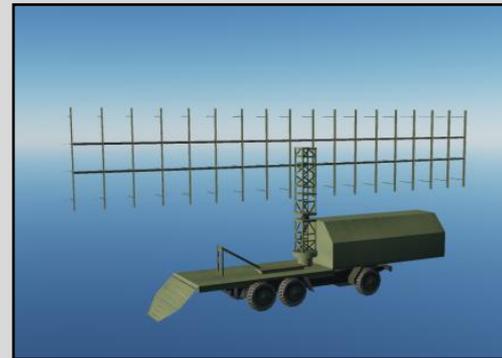
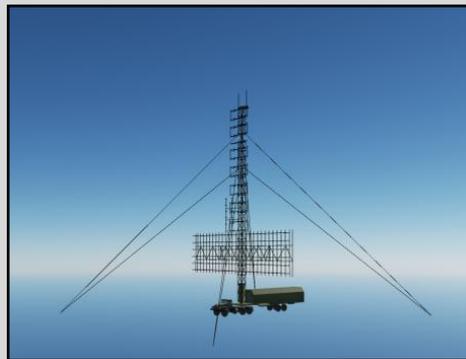
EWRs are critical parts of the IADS network. EWR scan the skies regularly and feed information to the sector command center or the IADS command center. This makes it possible for SAM sites to be dark (radar off), and only activating to fire a missile once they know a target is within range. This creates a lethal combination as the first time a pilot may get a warning from the SAM is when it starts firing at the pilot.

EWRs may be on all the time, or be on at regular intervals to ensure good coverage. EWRs are high value targets that are likely protected by point defense systems and are placed within the umbrella of the IADS network.

EWRs are normally placed at locations which give the best possible coverage of the airspace in the sector. By avoiding detection by EWRs it is possible to sneak in to a sector and conduct the mission without being shot at.

Large SAM sites such as the SA-10 have powerful radars that also can be used as EWR.

Examples of EWRs seen to the right.





# POWER SOURCE

Certain parts of the IADS network may require an external power source to function. Many elements of the IADS, such as the smaller SAM systems, have autonomous power and will not be affected by the destruction of power sources. But EWRs and IADS command centers may require a minimum of one power source to operate. Some elements may also have a backup power source to be able to function in case the primary power source is destroyed.

Examples of primary power sources are shown to the right.





# SAM SITE

SAMs is the primary threat to aircraft and helicopters.

SAM units are explained in [INTREP VIS B-001 Generic Ground Force Structure v1.0](#), pages 46-57.

IADS will normally consist of multiple systems complementing each other. The larger systems (SA-5, SA-10, SA-2, SA-11, SA-6) can be protected by point defense systems such as the Air Defense Forces Battalions/Batteries and Platoons.

Mobile SAMs in the IADS will move regularly. SAMs will stay silent (dark= avoid emitting with their radars) as long as possible to avoid being targeted and to keep the element of surprise.

## IADS SAMs static vs mobile

**SA-11:** Mobile

**SA-10:** Mobile

**SA-6:** Mobile

**SA-3:** Semi static

**SA-2:** Semi static

**SA-5:** Semi static

### **Semi static:**

Launchers are static but the SAM system can be moved if required due to shifting priorities of the IADS commander. This will likely be picked up by intelligence sources, and will take some time to complete.

### **Mobile:**

SAMs as a part of the IADS are given a area to protect, and will stay fairly static to be able to cover this area. But the radar and the launchers will be moving around, in order not to stay in the same location for prolonged period of times (more then 24 hours). The movement can vary from a few meters to kilometers. The intention is to avoid being targeted by weapons that is launched at coordinates.

[Back](#)



# POINT DEFENSE

High Value Targets (HVT) such as EWRs, command centers or important SAMs may have a local point defense. The intention for the point defense is to be able to shoot down Anti Radiation Missiles (ARM) that are being launched at the HVT.

The only known point defense system is the SA-15.

It is assessed that if a point defense system is protecting a enemy radar, such as a EWR or SAM, the EWR or SAM may still operate even though a ARM is fired toward it. It will require multiple ARMs to flood the point defense in order to be able to shut enemy radars down if they are protected by point defense systems.



[Back](#)



# AWACS

AWACS can be a huge contributor to the IADS by providing coverage down into valleys and into areas where the EWRs are not able to detect aircrafts.

AWACS function in the IADS in a similar was as EWRs.

AWACS is limited in numbers and a very high value target.

AWACS is transmits its information into the IADS and the command center via a connection node, as shown on the picture to the right.



[Back](#)



# AIR DEFENSE FIGHTERS

Air Defense fighters flying either CAP mission, or a ground based alert, ready to scramble and intercept incoming fighters is a important part of any IADS.

Continuous CAP mission require a high availability of aircraft and is likely only possible for limited time or a very few areas. A more resource friendly way of supporting the IADS is to have intercept aircraft on ground alert. This way, the aircraft can be on alert and ready to scramble in case EWR or other parts of the IADS detect incoming aircraft.

Air Defense fighters can be controlled either from AWACS if a country have that, or they can be controlled by Ground Controlled Intercept (GCI), where a human controller, normally situated in the ADCC or SCC vectors the air defense fighters against incoming threat.





# IADS TACTICS

## **ARM defense**

SAM sites and EW radars will shut down their radars if they assess that a ARM (Anti Radiation Missile) is heading for them. For this to happen, the SAM site has to detect the ARM missile with its radar.

SAMs will not shut down for each ARM launched in the air, but they will calculate if a missile is going to land close enough to their position, and if so, they will turn silent and stop feeding information to the ARM missile.

## **Point defense**

If an ARM was launched on an emitter, other friendly radars that are close enough can detect the missile incoming and intercept it with their own weapons. For this are required more modern radars, that can pick up the radar cross section (RCS) of an ARM missiles. SA-10 and SA-15 are powerful enough to employ this tactic to shoot down ARMs. SA-10 systems are strategic systems and will not be used in a point defense role, while the SA-15 is often used in the point defense role.

[Back](#)



# **PART 2: Syrian IADS**



# SYRIAN IADS ORGANIZATION

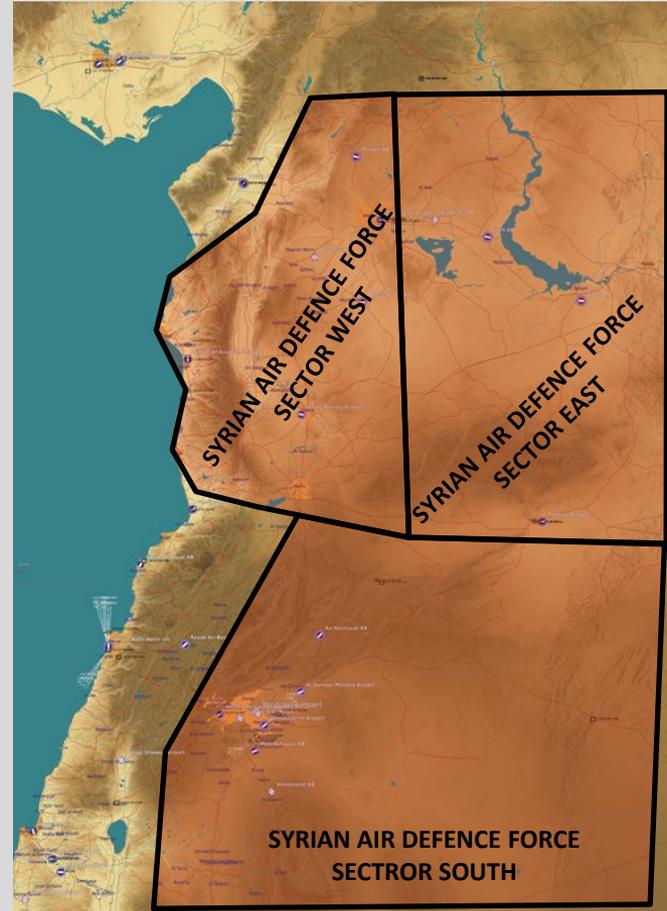
The Syrian IADS is organized in 3 separate sectors: Syrian Air Defense Force Sector West (SYR ADF S W), Syrian Air Defense Force Sector East (SYR ADF S N) and Syrian Air Defense Sector South (SYR ADF S S).

The Syrian IADS is split into three elements: First, Interceptor aircraft on QRA duty protect the entire Syrian airspace.

Second, large static SAMs such as SA-2 and SA-3 is used to protect key airfields and strategic locations such as Damascus.

The third element is mobile SAMs such as SA-6 and SA-11 which is used to fill gaps in the coverage. These systems are mobile to avoid being targeted by long range precision guided munitions.

The air force operated GCI (Ground Controlled Intercept) system forms the top tier of the IADS, supporting fighters with GCI vectors, but also datalink early warning information down to individual SAMs . GCI conducts control of interceptors from the sector command center. The interceptor aircraft can come from other sectors, as they will be scrambled from the Air Defense Command Center.



[Back](#)



# SYR ADF SECTOR SOUTH

Syrian ADF Sector South is the most defended sector in Syria as it protects Damascus.

In addition to the units listed on the right, Damascus is also the location where the Air Defense Command Center (ADCC) for the entire Syrian IADS network is placed.

Damascus also houses the Sector Command Center (SCC) for sector south (IVO Al Dumayr).

ADF Sector South's focus is to protect Damascus to keep the regime safe, as well as protect strategic important installations (airfields).

Additional SAM units from the Syrian Army and Republican Guard will likely also contribute to the defence of Damascus, but they are not a part of the IADS, and will protect on a more ad-hoc basis based on their activity, availability and alert posture.

## Sector South units:

### **800th SA-5 Regiment**

8000 EWR BN  
8001 SA-5BN  
8002 SA-3 BN  
8003 SA-3 BN  
8004A Air Defense Battery

### **801st SA-2 Regiment**

8010 EWR BN  
8011 SA-2 BN  
8012 SA-3 BN  
8013 SA-3 BN  
8014A Air Defense Battery

### **811th SA-2 Regiment**

8110 EWR BN  
8111 SA-2 BN  
8112 SA-3 BN  
8113 SA-3 BN  
8114A Air Defense Battery

### **821st SA-6 Regiment**

8210 EWR BN  
8211 SA-6 BN  
8212 SA-6 BN  
8213A Air Defense Battery

### **8220nd SA-11 Battalion**

8220A SA-11 Battery  
8221A SA-11 Battery



# SYR ADF SECTOR WEST

The Sector Command Center (SCC) for Region West is located IVO Abu Al Duhur Airbase.

ADF Sector West's focus is to be the first line of defense for attacks coming from the West. In addition focus is to protect strategic important installations especially key airfields.

Additional SAM units from the Syrian Army and Republican Guard may also contribute to the air defense in sector, but they are not a part of the IADS, and will protect on a more ad-hoc basis based on their activity, availability and alert posture.

## Sector West units:

### **831<sup>st</sup> SA-2 Regiment**

8310 EWR BN  
8311 SA-2 BN  
8312 SA-3 BN  
8313 SA-3 BN  
8314A Air Defense Battery

### **841<sup>th</sup> SA-2 Regiment**

8410 EWR BN  
8411 SA-2 BN  
8412 SA-3 BN  
8413 SA-3 BN  
8414A Air Defense Battery

### **851<sup>st</sup> SA-6 Regiment**

8510 EWR BN  
8511 SA-6 BN  
8512 SA-6 BN  
8513A Air Defense Battery

### **8520<sup>nd</sup> SA-11 Battalion**

8520A SA-11 Battery  
8521A SA-11 Battery



# SYR ADF SECTOR EAST

The Sector Command Center (SCC) for Region East is located IVO Tabqua Airbase.

ADF Sector East's focus is to protect strategic important installations, especially key airfields.

Sector East is assessed to be the second most important ADF sector due to likely chemical weapon research, production and storage sites.

Additional SAM units from the Syrian Army and Republican Guard may also contribute to the air defense in sector, but they are not a part of the IADS, and will protect on a more ad-hoc basis based on their activity, availability and alert posture.

## Sector East units:

### **861<sup>st</sup> SA-2 Regiment**

8610 EWR BN  
8611 SA-2 BN  
8612 SA-3 BN  
8613 SA-3 BN  
8614A Air Defense Battery

### **871<sup>th</sup> SA-2 Regiment**

8710 EWR BN  
8711 SA-2 BN  
8712 SA-3 BN  
8713 SA-3 BN  
8714A Air Defense Battery

### **881<sup>st</sup> SA-6 Regiment**

8810 EWR BN  
8811 SA-6 BN  
8812 SA-6 BN  
8813A Air Defense Battery

### **8820<sup>nd</sup> SA-11 Battalion**

8820A SA-11 Battery  
8821A SA-11 Battery



# Known Syrian static SAMs

Abu al-Duhur SA-2 BN  
N35 44.400 E037 07.400

Jirah SA-2 BN  
N36 06.200 E037 55.800

Tabqua SA-2 BN  
N35 47.400 E038 38.100

Al Qusayr SA-2 BN  
N34 33.900 E036 34.500

Al Dumayr SA-2 BN  
N33 38.500 E036 53.153

Damascus SA-2 BN  
N33 26.100 E036 30.900

Damascus SA-5 BN  
N33 36.400 E036 45.300

**NOTE:** All coordinates TLE CAT 5 coordinates and can not be used for targeting.