



Inside Iran Regime's Covert Quds Force Unit 700

By Mostafa Aslani - 13th June 2023

Deep within the shadows of the Iran regime's notorious Quds Force lies a clandestine entity known as Unit 700.

This covert unit has long operated in secrecy, orchestrating the smuggling of supplies and providing unwavering support to the Quds Force, the formidable overseas arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Recent leaks have shed light on the puzzling operations of Unit 700, exposing its pivotal role in facilitating the transfer of military equipment and resources to the [regime's proxy forces](#) across the region.

Unit 700 operates as the secret lifeline of the Quds Force, carefully ensuring the finding and delivery of essential provisions to sustain the regime's militias. Its primary focus lies in arming and reinforcing various proxy groups across the region.

This secret unit has intricately woven networks of influence, forging extensive connections with high-ranking officials in Iran, Syria, and Lebanon, granting them unparalleled reach and authority.

By carefully exploiting these covert channels, the regime has managed to extend its influence beyond its borders, backing militias and proxy forces to further its own political agenda.

Amidst the turmoil caused by the Syrian earthquake that happened on 6 February 2023, alarming reports surfaced, revealing Unit 700's involvement in surreptitiously supplying weapons and military equipment to the IRGC and Hezbollah under the guise of humanitarian aid flights destined for earthquake victims.

Startling Eyewitness accounts confirm seeing cargoes concealed by Unit 700 at Aleppo Airport amidst the tumultuous aftermath of the earthquake.

Several other units are collaborating with Unit 700 in the [Quds Force's](#) extensive weapons and equipment smuggling operations. Notably, among these units is Unit 18000 of the Quds Force, an entity operating from Syrian soil.

Overseeing the coordination of illicit goods transportation is Commander Hassan Mahdavi, who plays a pivotal role in Unit 18000. Together, these clandestine entities form a formidable network orchestrated by the Quds Force, facilitating the covert transfer of contraband resources.

Unit 190, commonly known as the Quds Forces Transport Unit, assumes the responsibility of transporting crucial shipments. Agents from the military department of the regime commonly refer to their efforts in Syria under the guise of humanitarian aid.

Notably, Hamzeh Qalandari, the International Deputy of the regime's Ministry of Defense, acknowledged this during an interview with the Fars news agency in May. He stated, "We have openly and explicitly declared our support for our Syrian counterparts. Our objective is to enhance the country's air defense capabilities through various means."

Beyond Unit 700, there are several covert units advancing the military objectives of the regime in Syria. Among them is the clandestine Unit 18340, assigned with the development of highly precise missiles.

Background

Originally established by Ruhollah Khomeini to counterbalance the regime's political issues, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ([IRGC](#)) became a force directly accountable to the Ayatollah. Its primary objective is to prevent the overthrow of the regime.

Within this context, the IRGC's Quds Force, initially formed by merging four organizations, gradually emerged as a prominent entity. It operated covertly in Lebanon, building strong ties with Hezbollah, and engaged in significant operations, such as the bombings of the U.S. embassy and barracks in Beirut in 1983.

Over the past three decades, the Quds Force expanded its influence across the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria. It played a role in aiding the fight against ISIS through the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Iraq, which later transformed into a Tehran proxy.

The Quds Force supports various [regional militias](#), including Hezbollah, PMF, and African militant groups, by providing financial, military, and training aid. Furthermore, it has been involved in trafficking narcotics and utilizing diplomatic cover for operational activities.
