

OPA Pelabuka - General Idea

Background - Situation

The escalation of regional tensions with Olvanan has heightened, and Olvana has conducted a rapid deployment and occupation of Pelabuka Island, in the north west of the Puller Islands. Olvana used resource access disputes to the Panguna Mine on Pelabuka Island and Olvanan reported threats against Olvana expatriates to justify its' military occupation of Pelabuka. Olvana conducted the rapid deployment to Pelabuka, under the premise of conducting military exercises in the region and used allegations of Olvanan expatriate abuse to land forces via Kieta Port. Recent reporting indicates that Olvana has deployed a MECH BDE into Arawa. The MECH BDE have secured Arawa and Kieta and are transitioning from establishing their bridgehead to securing avenues of approach and key terrain.

Belesia maintained limited forces on Pelabuka with a Light INF BN based on the island. Due to the significant overmatch in forces from Olvana the Belesian forces have withdrawn from the Arawa region and were last reported to be, conducting delay operations along the southern avenues of advance from Arawa IOT facilitate reinforcement from allied forces in the southern port of Buin.

Further reporting indicates that additional forces may be advancing to Guadalcanal Island and Honiara in the South East of the Puller Islands, however no forces have landed IVO Honiara at this time and ISR is monitoring the situation (NFI).



Figure 1. AO Pelabuka Island

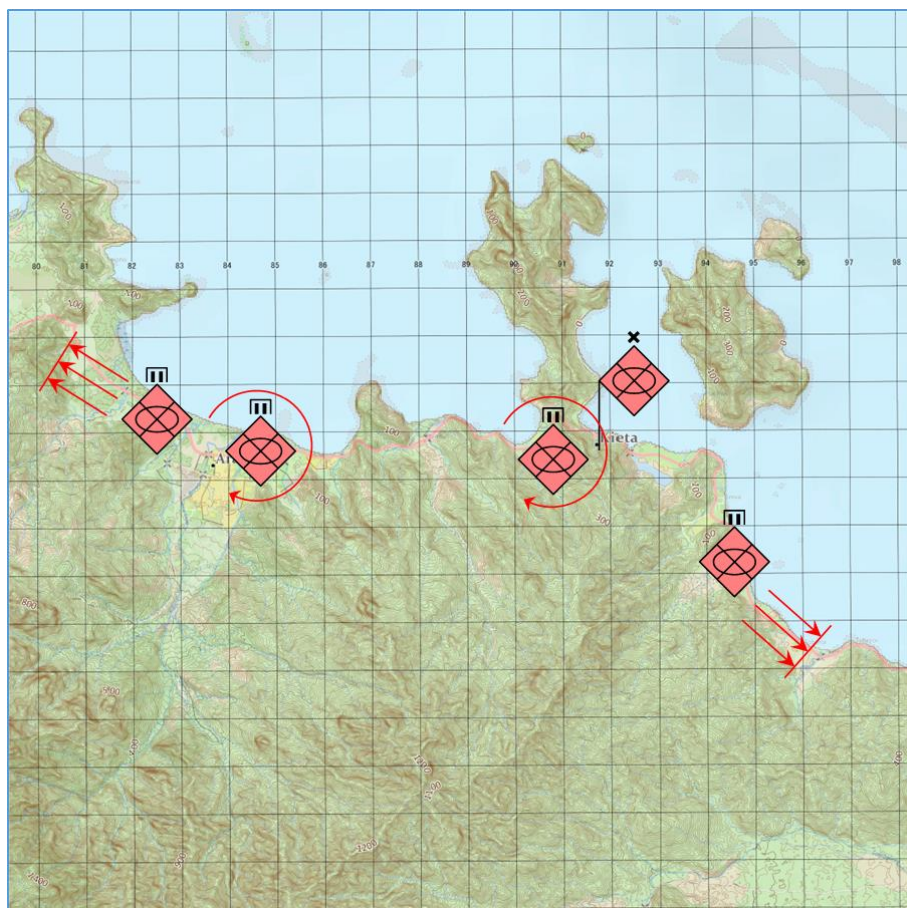


Figure 2. OPA Arawa Laydown in North East Pelabuka

Area of Operations (AO). The AO encompasses the entire landmass of Pelabuka Island, the surrounding waters out to 12NM, and the Solomon Sea. The largest population centre on Pelabuka is Arawa on the North Eastern coast, with other populous areas being Buin in the South and Buka in the North. Pelabuka is serviced by a major port in Keita, servicing the Arawa area and Panguna Mine in the central mountains south of Arawa. There are additional port facilities in the south via Buin and in the North at Buka, however, they have significantly less industrial capacity. The major Airport of Pelabuka is on the North East coast, primarily servicing the Arawa region and can accept international flights. There are additional smaller airstrips IVO Arawa, Buin and Buka, that generally service local domestic travel. Pelabuka Island is divided by a large mountainous area that runs through the centre of the island from north to south that restricts movement through the island. Pelabuka has very restricted terrain with dense jungles and mountains restricting vehicle movement to four MSR that cross the island. The four main MSR connect the Northern MSR from Buka to Arawa, the central MSR cutting through the southern central region passing Panguna Mine connecting to the Southern MSR to Buin, and the Eastern MSR providing a route from Arawa along the East Coast to connect with the south to Buin.

Puller Islands Response

The Puller Islands have been caught unprepared and with a limited standing army that suffered significant overmatch from the Olvanan forces. The Puller Islands Mobile Force (PIMF), is responsible for providing security and support to the national police force, maintained a small force in Pelabuka consisting of a light infantry BN and attachments, which were forced to withdraw from Arawa. The PIMF have withdrawn through the central MSR movement corridor to Panguna mine and are tasked

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to delay forward Olvanan forces and await reinforcement. The light infantry battalion has three companies spread across the island and mainly supports limited security tasks in support of the Puller Island Government (GoPI). The maritime component includes a Landing Craft Section and a Patrol Boat Section, each one consisting of two vessels of older design patrolling the region (NFI).

The Puller Islands have condemned the Olvanan aggression and occupation of Pelabuka and called for assistance from its' regional and international partners. A UN resolution has been put forward condemning the Olvanan offensive action in Pelabuka, and a coalition from the US, Australia and New Zealand have sanctioned Olvanan and committed to providing military aid to the Puller Islands. Small liaison Advisors from the coalition were already in place IVO the Puller Islands capital of Honiara.

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