Mapping September 11, 2001: Cartographic Narrative in the Print Media

Figure 7: "Osama's World", Time, 24 September 2001. ©TIME, Inc. Reprinted by permission.
The Options for Battle

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FACES TWO FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES IN ANY military operation in Afghanistan: the sheer inaccessibility of the country and the complicated Arab political terrain. War planners are hard at work figuring out ways to overcome both. *Newsweek* John Barry lays out a few theoretical possibilities for following up on Sunday’s bombing campaign.

**UZBEKISTAN** Forward base for about 1,000 infantry soldiers dispatched by the U.S. Army last week. Has agreed to use of air base as station for U.S. transport planes, helicopters and ground troops, but not as launching pad for attacks.

**SAUDI ARABIA** and **EGYPT** Essential rear bases. The U.S. command and control center is on Saudi soil. Egypt airspace and bases are critical to any operation originating from the south.

**OMAN** Host to a handful of U.S. aircraft at Thumrait air base in the south. Will allow use of Masirah Island to launch missions over the Gulf of Oman to the Pakistan coast and into Afghanistan.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**TAJIKISTAN** An ideal staging area for special operations. Its Afghan border runs 10 times longer than Uzbekistan’s. Air base outside Khatlon is less than 100 miles from the border.

**PAKISTAN** Key to any southern assault. The U.S. would like to use two bases near the Afghan border: Rajapun and Kohat. Opened airspace to U.S. but political unrest puts pressure on Gen. Musharraf to deny use of air bases.

**U.S. CARRIERS** Stationed in the northern Arabian Sea, at least 500 miles from Afghanistan. Make ideal floating bases for Special Forces helicopters. But may not be effective in a strike campaign lasting several days. Strike aircraft would require midflight refueling.

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