



YEMEN ORDER OF BATTLE

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The Yemen Order of Battle (ORBAT) describes the structure and placement of the Yemeni Armed Forces down to the brigade level. It includes units of the Army, Air Force, and Republican Guard, an elite unit of the Army. It does not include Central Security Forces, Special Forces, Presidential Guard, Security, or Navy and Coastal Guard units, except for the 2nd Naval Infantry Brigade, which may be a navy unit. The Yemeni Armed Forces are not as rigidly structured as other more developed militaries. Its hierarchy is composed of five military districts – Central, Eastern, Middle, North-Western, and Southern. Within these districts the units are sometimes split into axes, which the Critical Threats Project has assessed to be roughly equivalent to a Task Force, each comprising a number of camps and brigades.

The information in this document is drawn in great part from the Yemeni state and Armed Forces media outlets, and uses the most recent data available for commanders and locations. A Yemeni “brigade” is much smaller than the U.S. equivalent and is estimated to include about 1,500 troops.¹ Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh declined to conduct audits of the military’s assets and personnel, and since brigade commanders were in charge of distributing salaries to their soldiers, brigade sizes were often exaggerated.²

Yemen Air Force: YAF

Yemen Army: YA

Yemen Republican Guard: YRG³

Yemen Special Forces

Commanders and units that announced support for the popular revolution over the course of 2011 have been marked with an asterisk. Commanders who were instated on April 6, 2012 are italicized.

Central Military District (Maj. Gen. Saif Mohsen Saleh)–Sana’a, Ibb⁴

Daylami Airbase, Sana’a

*2nd Aviation Brigade (YAF)–Daylami Airbase, Sana’a⁵

*4th Aviation Brigade (YAF)–Daylami Airbase, Sana’a⁶

*6th Aviation Brigade (YAF)–Daylami Airbase, Sana’a⁷

*8th Aviation Brigade (YAF)–Daylami Airbase, Sana’a⁸

*101st Air Defense Brigade (YAF)—Daylami Airbase, Sana'a⁹

*110th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)—Daylami Airbase, Sana'a¹⁰

Al Sami Axis (Brig. Gen. Murad al Awbali)—Arhab, Sana'a governorate¹¹

(We assess that the Yemeni Armed Forces use the term "axis" to describe a temporary ad hoc headquarters composed of several brigades and camps, similar to what the U.S. military would call a Task Force.)

Al Sami Camp, Arhab, Sana'a governorate

*160th Air Defense Brigade (Ali al Rawni, YAF)—al Sami Camp, Sana'a¹²

3rd Mountain Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdu Rabbu Abdulmalek Mabdi Mayad, YRG)—al Sami Camp, Sana'a¹³

61st Brigade (YRG)—al Sami Camp, Sana'a¹⁴

83rd Brigade (Mohammed al Radhi, YRG)—al Sami Camp, Sana'a¹⁵

Various camps in and around Sana'a

29th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hafezullah Ahmed Yahya al Sadmi, YA)—Tariq Bin Ziad Military Camp, Sana'a¹⁶

2nd Mountain Infantry Brigade (YRG)—Jabal Reed, Sana'a¹⁷

3rd Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahman Abdullah al Halili, YRG)—Sana'a¹⁸

*4th Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdulmalek al Arar, YRG)—al Sawad Camp, Sana'a¹⁹

7th Brigade (YRG)—Khawlan, Sana'a (probably an Infantry Brigade)²⁰

26th Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Ali Shabibi, YRG)—Furdath Nihm, Sana'a (probably a Mechanized Infantry Brigade)²¹

62nd Mountain Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Murad al Awbali, YRG)—Farijah Camp, Sana'a²²

63rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Col. Mohammed al Qara'a, YRG)—Bayt Dahrah, Sana'a²³

*101st Mountain Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hasan Faraj, YRG)—Thouma Camp, Sana'a²⁴

102nd Mountain Infantry Brigade (YRG)—Bani Hushaysh, Sana'a²⁵

*17th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)—Bani Hushaysh, Sana'a; combat development²⁶

*140th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)—Dilaa Shamlan, Sana'a²⁷

Yerim, Ibb governorate

55th Brigade (YRG)—Yerim, Ibb²⁸

Eastern Military District (*Maj. Gen. Ali Ali Mohammed al Jaifi*, YA)–Hadramawt²⁹**Ghaidah Axis (Brig. Gen. Abdullah Mansour)–Ghaidah, Hadramawt³⁰**

123rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdullah Mansour)–Ghaidah, Hadramawt³¹

Various locations in Hadramawt governorate

11th Border Guard Brigade (Brig. Gen. Saleh Timis, Border Guards)–al Bedayea, Hadramawt³²

23rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mabkhout Saleh al Tha'wani, YA)³³

27th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (*Maj. Gen. Ali Ali Mohammed al Jaifi*, YA)³⁴

37th Armored Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Tareq Mohammed Abdullah Saleh*, YA)³⁵

315th Armored Brigade (YA)³⁶

*190th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)³⁷

Middle Military District (*Brig. Gen. Ahmed Saif Mohsen Fadal al Yafi'i*)–Ma'rib, Shabwah³⁸**Ataq Axis (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hussein al Jamaa'i)–Ataq, Shabwah³⁹**

21st Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Hussein al Jamaa'i, YA)–Ataq, Shabwah⁴⁰

Various locations in Mar'ib governorate

107th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohsen Saleh Hantaf, YA)–al Wadi, Ma'rib⁴¹

13th Infantry Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Ahmed Saif Mohsen Fadal al Yafi'i*, YA)–Ma'rib⁴²

Various locations in Shabwah governorate

2nd Naval Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Qasem Rajeh Labouza)–Belhaf, Shabwah⁴³

19th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hamid al Somali, YA)–Shabwah⁴⁴

312th Infantry Brigade (Mohammed Qaid Said, YA)–Sirwah, Ma'rib⁴⁵

14th Armored Brigade (YRG)–Ma'rib⁴⁶

*180th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)–Ma'rib⁴⁷

North-Western Military District (*Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al Ahmar)–Amran, Sa’ada, Hajjah⁴⁸***1st Armored Division (*Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al Ahmar)⁴⁹**

(We have not been able to identify which units report to the 1st Armored Division headquarters apart from the unit listed below. It is not clear that the division is distinct from the military district, or that any of the units in the district do not report to the division.)

Air Defense Brigade (*Sadeq Ali Sarhan)⁵⁰

Al Malahaidh Axis (*Ali Omar Said al Kazimi)–al Malahaidh, Sa’ada⁵¹***Sa’ada Axis (Brig. Gen. Adel al Qamiri)⁵²**

1st Mountain Infantry Brigade–Sa’ada, Sa’ada governorate⁵³

117th Infantry Brigade (YA)–Sa’ada, Sa’ada governorate⁵⁴

*1st Artillery Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Hasan Ziad Khiran, YRG)–Sa’ada, Sa’ada governorate⁵⁵

Various locations in Hajjah governorate

82nd Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Yousef Ali Mohammed al Sharaji, YA)–Abs, Hajjah⁵⁶

15th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hussein Saleh Abdullah, YA)–Ahim, Hajjah⁵⁷

Various locations in Amran governorate

103rd Infantry Brigade (YA)–Amran governorate⁵⁸

127th Brigade (*Jihad Ali Antar, YA)–al Qaflah, Amran⁵⁹

310th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hamid al Qushaibi, YA)–Amran⁶⁰

72nd Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdulhamid Mohammed Makwala, YRG)–Harf Sufyan, Amran⁶¹

Various locations in Sa’ada governorate

131st Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Fadel Hasan Mohammed, YA)–Sa’ada⁶²

133rd Infantry Brigade (Col. Ali Jazaa Ahmed Hydra, YA)–Sa’ada governorate⁶³

Unclear location

*314th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Ali Khalil, YA)–Sana’a⁶⁴

(units deployed in Sana’a and Ghaidah, Hadramawt in the Eastern Military District)⁶⁵

Southern Military District (Maj. Gen. Salem Ali Qatan)–Aden, Taiz, Abyan, Lahij, Dhaleh⁶⁶**Taiz Axis (Brig. Gen. Hussein Muhsen al Maqdad)–Taiz⁶⁷*****Tariq Airbase (Gen. Abdul Karim al Muhaya)–Taiz, Taiz governorate⁶⁸**

*170th Air Defense Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hussein Qasem Mohsen al Ansi, YAF)–
Tariq Airbase, Taiz⁶⁹

17th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdulaziz al Shahari, YA)–Dhubab, Taiz⁷⁰

22nd Armored Brigade (YRG)–al Taiziyya, Taiz⁷¹

33rd Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdullah Dhabaan, YRG)–Khaled Bin al Walid Camp,
Taiz⁷²

Abyan Axis (Brig. Gen. Haidra Lahatal)–Abyan⁷³

5th Brigade (YA)–Abyan governorate⁷⁴

25th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohamed Abdullah al Somali, YA)–Zinjibar,
Abyan⁷⁵

31st Armored Brigade (Maj. Gen. Saleh Ali Qatan, YA)–Dofes, Abyan⁷⁶

111th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdulqawwi al Masmari, YA)–Lawder, Abyan⁷⁷

115th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Abdu Rabbu al Israeli, YA)–Dofes, Abyan⁷⁸

119th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Faisal Rajjab, YA)–al Kud/Dofes, Abyan⁷⁹

201st Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Maj. Gen. Mahmoud al Subaihi, YA)–Dofes, Abyan⁸⁰

Anad Axis (Maj. Gen. Mahmoud al Subaihi)–Anad, Lahij⁸¹

Anad Base (Maj. Gen. Mahmoud al Subaihi)–Anad, Lahij⁸²

*90th Aviation Brigade (Col. Rashed Naser al Janad, YAF)–Anad Base, Lahij⁸³

Various locations in Dhaleh governorate

35th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Abdullah Haidar, YA)–Dhaleh governorate⁸⁴

135th Infantry Brigade (Brig. Gen. Yahya Ali Ahmed Masar, YA)–Dhaleh governorate⁸⁵

Camps around Aden

39th Armored Brigade (Brig. Gen. Mohammed Ghaleb al Jarabani, YA)–Badr Camp, Aden⁸⁶

*120th Air Defense Brigade (Brig. Gen. Fatah al Rahman al Doais, YAF)–Abu Harba Camp,
Aden⁸⁷

Unknown**Al Hudaydah Airbase (*Brig. Gen. Faisal Ahmed Saeed al Subaihi*, YAF)–al Hudaydah⁸⁸**

*67th Aviation Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Faisal Ahmed Saeed al Subaihi*, YAF)–al Hudaydah Airbase, al Hudaydah⁸⁹

*130th Air Defense Brigade (YAF)–al Hudaydah Airbase, al Hudaydah⁹⁰

*122nd Infantry Brigade (YA)⁹¹

*9th Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Ibrahim al Jaifi*, YRG)–Dhamar governorate (probably a Mechanized Infantry Brigade)⁹²

30th Brigade (YRG)–Dhamar governorate (probably an Armored Brigade)⁹³

89th Artillery Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Mohammed Ali Sanad*, YRG)⁹⁴

121st Infantry Brigade (*Brig. Gen. Nasser al Jahuri*, YA)–Abu Musa al Ashari Camp, al Khawkha, al Hudaydah⁹⁵

Notes

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