

## After Action Report: Northern Banipal – February 2017

### Part Two

Turn 5 – Recovering its “nerve” the Ashurraq wardrone turned and fired at the enemy troops pushing forward. Hit in return by an infantry heavy laser rifle, the wardrone was knocked out. But the Mullahstan attack on the Ashurraq right flank lost momentum due to the loss of their corporal combined with ineffective fire against other enemy forces.



The Mullahstan advance has eliminated a Djinn wardrone and overrun the position of an Ashurraq fireteam. Then this drive stalls and is vulnerable to a counterattack.

Overall, the Mullahstan effort was hampered all across the field by the fact that all of its armored vehicles had had their weapon systems knocked out at this point. The crews were trying to make repairs using their damage control systems, but were frustratingly ineffective. In the only area where it was having any success, the second fireteam of the 3rd Squad moved out from concealment along the river and jetted forward to take up positions in the woods behind the first fireteam.

In the center, the Mullahstan 2nd Squad was in trouble. Having taken 40% losses the survivors were huddled for concealment in a small wooded area in front of the enemy positions. Beset by poor morale, the troops now had the added pressure of being spotted and targeted for indirect fire. The first 120mm mortar round landed relatively far off target, but the danger was obvious. Nearby, the crippled Dagger armored car began to pull back.



Unable to push forward and with morale flagging, the Mullahstan infantry in the center face incoming mortar fire and watch their armored support pull back.



With the retreat of the Mullahstan forces in the center, the Ashurraq Lancer light grav armored car pulls back to concentrate on its damage control procedures. The armored car is armed with a twin heavy ray rifle. The Stormer has a medium bolt rifle.

Turn 6 - The survivors of the Ashurraq 1st Squad 1st Fireteam counter-attacked on the right, killing two enemy troopers and capturing a third to eliminate the fireteam that had assaulted them earlier. They then fell back into the woods hoping to evade retribution. But the other enemy fireteam was close by and pursued them closely. One Ashurraq trooper was tracked down and



killed, but then a Mullahstan trooper was picked off by a long range shot from another Ashurraq fireteam to the south. The remaining Mullahstan troopers kept their focus and tracked down and eliminated the last enemy fireteam member in the woods – the Squad sergeant. Down to four men, the Mullahstan 3rd Squad was also without its armor support since the APC was still back in concealment on the opposite side of the river trying to make repairs. In the center, a second mortar round flew long missing the stalled Mullahstan 2nd Squad, but the survivors of one fireteam began to pull back.

END – Both players agreed to declare the game a victory for Ashurraq. Mullahstan had lost 36 points (41% losses) to Ashurraq's 20 (22% losses). Neither side had captured an objective in the enemy zones and neither side was close to doing so.

Post battle analysis concluded that Mullahstan's aggressive push to cross the open ground in the center had encouraged the opposing forces to stay in the concealment of the trees, forcing Mullahstan troops thereafter to take all of the risks of being picked off whenever they moved. The initial success of Mullahstan's forces on Ashurraq's right ran out of steam. On the opposite flank, Mullahstan's right wing held back to protect two baseline objectives and never really threatened the opposing Ashurraq forces.



The Mullahstan 1st Squad and Scimitar light wheeled tank. Although one fire team and the tank would move forward and skirmish with the enemy, for the most part the Mullahstan right flank played little role in the battle. The rock formations attest to the fact that this was once an arid, barren region.



The high water mark of the Mullahstan effort on their right flank. When it advanced, the Scimitar tank would not move further than the edge of the woods on the right side of the picture.

Scattered and in the open, Mullahstan's armored vehicles were ineffective, rapidly targeted and damaged. Scattered, but in concealment, Ashurraq's armor was less easy to target and was successful in an ambush role. Dense terrain made indirect fire support ineffective. Forward observers failed to find targets, inexperienced infantry and vehicle commanders failed to call in targets, and communication attempts frequently failed.

It was clear the struggle for Banipal was intensifying. Would the major stellar nations take notice and get involved?