

### **From the 688i Strategy Guide:**

Tensions in the Persian Gulf area have been escalating. There are threats of another Iran-Iraq War. Despite lingering resentment over the Gulf War of 1991, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council are clearly taking sides with Iraq. Iran has threatened to close the Persian Gulf to all traffic.

The US is in a tenuous diplomatic position with regard to the conflict but is nevertheless committed to maintaining the SLOC open through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf.

In addition to their own Kilo Class submarines, the Iranians have acquired technical assistance from Russia that has allowed for major upgrades to their naval combat systems.