A Unified Gulf Military Command in Kuwait:

Its Motivations and Objectives

(Translated)

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The defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states convened on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, in the city of Manama under the chairmanship of Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Bahrain's Minister of Defense Affairs—the current session's president—and announced the launch of an advanced command for the Unified Military Command in the State of Kuwait, allocating appropriate forces to it. This was among the decisions taken during the 23rd session of the Joint Defense Council of the GCC states.

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassim Al-Budaiwi, emphasized that joint military action receives the full attention, care, and support from the leaders of the GCC states. He touched upon the rapid developments witnessed in the region, which he described as "heinous Iranian aggressions" that have targeted GCC states and caused damage to numerous civilian assets and infrastructure. He also condemned the Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, using the strongest terms of condemnation and denunciation, describing them as "treacherous attacks targeting holy sites in a blatant violation of their sanctity and status among Muslims, constituting a flagrant assault on the security and sovereignty of the Kingdom." He added: "We affirm that the GCC states stand united alongside the Kingdom, in full solidarity with it, and support all measures it takes to protect its security, stability, territorial integrity, and safeguard its holy sites, stemming from the unity of Gulf destiny and the firm stance that the security of the Kingdom is an indivisible part of the security of all Council states."

The Saudi Defense Minister stated: "The convening of the 23rd session of the Joint Defense Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Bahrain confirms our shared aspiration to continue coordination, cooperation, and integration among our states. This contributes to enhancing our military and defensive capabilities to confront all challenges and threats in order to preserve our security and stability."

The words that were delivered all defend Saudi Arabia and condemn Iran and the Houthis, and it is understood from this that this action is backed by Saudi Arabia and, behind it, America.

As for the selection of Kuwait as the location for this unified military command, it is due to its geographical position in the northern Gulf, its proximity to Iraq and Iran, in addition to its direct connection to the Gulf's land expanse, and because it hosts a large American land base with over 13,000 American soldiers from the infantry and Marines. Selecting Kuwait for this forward command could provide an additional location for managing military coordination and monitoring developments on the northern front of the Gulf, and it facilitates America's control over the imported forces

and directing them. The unified military command of the Gulf Cooperation Council is not a new military institution, nor is it a new distinct army, as it was established in 2013. Its main headquarters is located in Riyadh and aims to coordinate joint military operations and enhance the defensive capabilities of member states—or so they claim. Therefore, the specific decision to choose Kuwait as a center for unified military activities is what is new in this matter. However, in any case, this does not amount to establishing a unified Gulf army.

This decision comes amid the atmosphere and repercussions of the war on Iran and the subsequent escalation of regional tensions affecting the countries of the region, which necessitates undertaking a new military action that aligns with these tensions. This new defensive role for the Gulf Cooperation Council states comes primarily as a response to America's strategy of giving regional countries a role in the security protection of the region under its supervision, in order to reduce the burdens on its forces and cut costs for its war ministry's budget.

Thus, this unified command was established in Kuwait primarily to be close to the U.S. Army, which maintains its largest ground forces there, in addition to having a long history of military presence with all the Gulf states, including the existence of U.S. military bases in all those countries.

It is also known that the U.S. base in Kuwait is not only the largest base for U.S. infantry and ground forces, but it also possesses advanced surveillance and early warning systems, which aligns with the deployment of Gulf ground forces there to be directly under U.S. supervision.

It is also known that all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE—are under the administration of the U.S. Central Command.

Thus, the motives involve aligning with the demands of America in its new strategy, which entails involving regional states in the costs and burdens of protecting the regional area under American supervision.

As for the objectives, they are to tighten America's military grip on the Gulf states and prevent them from aligning with other major competing powers, given the Gulf's immense oil and strategic importance, which America cannot do without.

As for the expected outcomes of establishing this command, they will undoubtedly be feeble because these states do not possess real armies for combat; they are essentially protectorates with small, mercenary-based forces that are unfit for self-defense. The radical solution for these manufactured mini-states is to dissolve them and incorporate them into the body of the Khilafah (Caliphate) state.