

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: IRAN  
2. SUBJECT: (U) BIO-GEN Gholam Ali OVEISI, Commanding General, Imperial Iranian Ground Forces  
3. ISC NUMBER:  
8. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424  
9. DATE OF REPORT: 13 May 1975  
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424  
PREPARED: (b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)(6)  
APPROVED:

## 15. SUMMARY:

(U) This report forwards biographic information as it pertains to GEN Gholam Ali OVEISI, Commanding General, Imperial Iranian Ground Forces.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

Rec (b)(3):10 USC 424 23 MAY 75

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THE CAVEAT NO FOREIGN DISSEM HAS BEEN UTILIZED DUE TO THE ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE DD FORM 1396-1s AND COMMENTS THEREIN

## 16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

## 17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B 1, 2, 3 and 4

DECLASSIFY ON: CANNOT BE DETERMINED

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DD FORM 1 SEP 62 1396

(Classification and Control Markings)

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIOGRAPHIC REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION			
1. COUNTRY IRAN		2. DATE OF INFORMATION (Yr, mo, day) Current	
		3. DATE OF REPORT (Yr, mo, day) 75-05-13	
4. NAME a. FULL NAME (Give full name in Roman letters, in natural order, and with natural capitalization. Underline surname, or, if known by name(s) other than surname, underline same. Give phonetic pronunciation of name as appropriate). Gholam Ali <u>OVEISI</u> (OH-VAY-SEE)			
b. NAME OR NAMES BY WHICH INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES TO BE ADDRESSED (1) IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: General Gholam Ali <u>OVEISI</u> (2) ORALLY AT OFFICIAL GATHERINGS: General <u>OVEISI</u>			
5. FULL NAME IN NATIVE ALPHABET علام علی اوبسی			
6. VARIANTS, ALIASES, OR NICKNAMES None			
7. POSITION a. PRESENT POSITION Commanding General, Imperial Iranian Ground Forces. NOTE: Care should be taken to refer to subject's position as indicated here. (See Continuation Sheet)		b. DATE ASSUMED POSITION (Year, month, day) 72-11-16	
c. RANK/TITLE (In English and Native language) General (Arteshbod (ارتشبد		d. DATE OF RANK (Yr, mo, day) 69-06-24	
e. SERVICE Imperial Iranian Ground Forces		f. BRANCH OF SERVICE Infantry	
8. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (Town, State, Province, Country) 1918 - Qom (Central Province) Iran			9. SEX Male
10. PRESENT ADDRESS (Including unit location if applicable) Headquarters, Imperial Iranian Ground Forces Lavizan, Tehran (See Continuation Sheet)		TELEPHONE NO 885001	
11. NATIONALITY Iranian	12. RACE Caucasian	13. PHOTO SUBMITTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
14. CITIZENSHIP (Indicate dual citizenship where applicable) Iranian		15. (b)(6)	
16. TITLES AND HONORIFICS (Prince, Doctor, Pandit, etc.) Adjutant to His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah. This position, largely honorific (See Continuation Sheet)		17. MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED	
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION			
18. AGE 57	19. BEARD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	MUSTACHE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	20. TEETH (Natural) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
21. PROMINENT OR UNUSUAL FEATURES (Moles, scars, birthmarks, etc.) None apparent			
22. COLOR EYES Brown	23. COLOR HAIR Gray	24. BALD <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	25. HEIGHT 67"
26. WEIGHT 145lbs			
27. BUILD (Small, medium, large) Small	28. POSTURE Erect	29. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RIGHT HANDED <input type="checkbox"/> LEFT HANDED	
30. PHYSICAL DEFECTS None apparent		31. GENERAL STATE OF HEALTH Good	
32. HARD OF HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		33. GLASSES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO For Reading	
PERSONAL BACKGROUND			
34. CIVIL EDUCATION (List schools, location(s), major course, degree(s), honors, and inclusive dates (Year, month, day). Civilian education through 12th grade. Location and dates unknown.			
35. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (Include dialects, degree of fluency, and ability to act as translator/interpreter). Persian - Native English - Good French - Good			
36. TRAVEL (List countries, dates, and purpose). 1959: USA - Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. (?): Pakistan - Attended Command and Staff College Course. 10-19 JUN 1975 - Has accepted invitation for official visit to the USA.			

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## 37. MILITARY SERVICE (a. List military career in chronological order. Include: Military schooling; promotions; demotions; foreign service; units served with and position held; location of school or unit; retired or reserve status.)

(a) (b. List awards and decorations together with circumstances surrounding any unusual award/decoration.)

- 1936 - Graduate, Mil High School, Tehran.
- 1938 - Graduate, Mil College, Tehran; Classmate of the SHAHANSHAH; Commissioned 2LT 23SEP38; Platoon Leader, 3rd Inf Regt, 1st Div.
- 1939 - Acting CO Cmdr, 13th Regt, 6th Div, Fars.
- 1941 - Cmdr, 7th Co, 10th Inf Regt, IV Corps.
- 1943 - Cmdr, 5th Co, Resapur Inf Regt, 2nd Div, Tehran; Dep Cmdr, Mil Police Bn, 2nd Div, Tehran.
- 1944 - Comdt, Inf NCO School, 2nd Div, Tehran.
- 1950 - Chief, Inspection Section, Mil Police Dept, Tehran.
- 1951 - Graduate, Comd Gen Staff College, Tehran.
- 1952 - Comdr, 52nd Regt, Mil Police Bde; Cmdr, 16th Inf Regt (Kazerun) 6th Inf Div.
- 1953 - 3rd Inf Regt, 1st Inf Div.
- 1954 - Member, Special Mil Appeals Court for trial of Communist Officers.
- 1955 - Chief of Staff, Imperial Guard, Tehran.
- 1958 - Promoted to Brigadier General.
- 1959 - Orientation-observer tng, Ft Myer, Virginia; graduate, U.S. Comd and Gen Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 1960 - CG, Imperial Guard.
- 1961 - Concurrently Honorary Adj to SHAHANSHAH.
- 1962 - Promoted to Major General 23 September.
- 1965 - Promoted to Lieutenant General, 20 September; Commanding General Imperial Iranian Gendarmerie.
- 1969 - Promoted to General 24JUN69
- 1972 - PRESENT - November, assumed Command of entire Imperial Iranian Ground Forces (IIGF)

(b)

1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Imperial (Homayoun) Decorations; 3rd Class Crown (Tadj) Decoration; 2nd and 3rd Class Merit (Liaghat) Decoration; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Honor (Eftekhar) Decoration; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Service (Khedmat) Decoration; 1st and 3rd Class Achievement (Koushesh) Decoration; 1st and 3rd Class Pas Decorations; 3rd Class Physical Training Decoration; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Firing Advance Decorations; 2nd Class Rashtakhiz Decoration; 1st Class Sepas Decoration; 1st Class Land Reform Decoration; CENTO Commemoration Decoration, Number 5; 28th Mordad Decoration; Police Three Star Service (Khedmat) Decoration; Coronation Ceremonies Decoration; 25th Year Anniversary Decoration for HIM's Reign; Commendation in Army General Order 6 times and Commendation in Section Order 40 times.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS: Knight Order with Ornamented Sword from Holland; Royal Victoria Honorary Command from U.K.; Command Cross, 1st Class from Denmark; Command Cross, with Star from Poland; National Republic Flag Decoration, 3rd Class from Hungary; Republic 1st Class Decoration from Tunisia; Saint Olaf Star from Norway; Teodor Vladimir Decoration, 2nd Class from Rumania; Lebanon Decoration and Italian Decoration.

## 38. EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN MILITARY SERVICE (List employers, positions, skills, locations, and inclusive dates (Year, month, day).)

Professional Military Officer

## 39. MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS (Professional, social, military, other; give inclusive dates (Year, month, day).)

- 1973 - Honored by U.S. Army as a member of Fort Leavenworth's Foreign Graduates Hall of Fame.

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40. U.S. ACQUAINTANCES AND RELATIVES (Name, position or occupation of relatives, domicile, nature and duration of relationship. Include U.S. military or other U.S. official acquaintances/relatives under this item.)

No relatives of General OVEISI are known to be resident in the United States. During his military career he has become acquainted with a great number of U.S. Army officers who have served in Iran as advisors to the Imperial Iranian Ground Forces. He probably also has American friends among his class mates at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

41. PREFERENCES (Personal preference in food, drink, tobacco, entertainment, sports, hobbies.)

General OVEISI neither drinks nor smokes but does not object if others do.

(b)(6)

In lieu of alchoholic beverages,

he prefers soft drinks or fruit juice. He prefers tea to coffee, but will drink coffee if tea is not available.

(b)(6)

His preference in meat is lamb, but he will eat veal, beef, fowl or fish. He is fond of green salads and fresh fruit (including cucumbers, which Iranians consider to be a fruit rather than a vegetable which he eats with a knife and fork. He is fond of Iranian cheese (the closest approximation available in the U.S. is the Greek cheese Feta) (See Continuation Sheet)

42. PUBLISHED WORKS (Title of article or book; if article, name of publication appearing in, date published, publisher.)

None Known

SPOUSE - FAMILY

43. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE

44. MAIDEN NAME OF SPOUSE

(b)(6)

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CONTINUATION SHEET FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIO-  
GRAPHIC REPORT DD FORM 1396-1 DATED 13 MAY 1975

ITEM 7 a.: Continued: The terms Iranian Army should be avoided. In Iranian Military terminology "Army" is used to refer collectively to all three Iranian services, Ground Forces, Air Forces, and Naval Forces.

ITEM 10: Continued: General OVEISI occupies the official residence maintained for the Commander of the Imperial Iranian Ground Forces. This is located in the Shemiran area of northern Tehran on Pahlavi Avenue.

ITEM 16: Continued: and ceremonial is shared by many Iranian general officers. The honor is conferred by the Shahanshah himself and is denoted by an elaborate yellow or gold aigulette worn on the right shoulder.

ITEM 41: Continued: which he eats with his breakfast. His breakfast normally consists of cheese, eggs, tea, toast, and honey, jelly or jam along with fruit juice. He is reported to be an avid hunter and an excellent marksman, but the requirements of his office allow him little time for these pursuits.

ITEM 43: Continued: General OVEISI's first wife (Sherafat OVEISI) died of cancer in 1971. He subsequently (1973) married his present wife. The first three children listed in item 50 are by his first wife.

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1. COUNTRY IRAN	2. FULL NAME OF SUBJECT Gholam Ali OVEISI	3. DATE OF INFORMATION (Yr, mo, day) Current
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**GUIDANCE:** This supplementary information will be attached to DD Form 1396 - 1. This supplement has been designed to prevent the disclosure of sensitive information to foreign nationals and to provide for a collector's assessment of subject. Sensitive information of an operational nature which must be tightly controlled (paragraph 7b, DIAI 58 - 13) should not be included in this supplement. Where practicable, the following information will be furnished

51. POLICE RECORD (Other than minor violations).

None known

(b)(6)

53. ACQUAINTANCES AND RELATIVES - Apparent influence of acquaintances and relatives on subject's views or career.

General OVEISI is a member of a large and prominent Iranian family. He has several brothers who hold middle level governmental positions. Collectively, they probably exert a moderate influence on his political views. General OVEISI is a long time friend of General MINBASHIAN, his predecessor as CG of the IIGF. Presumably this friendship continues even though MINBASHIAN has been retired and it is probable that MINBASHIAN (See Continuation Sheet)

54. CHARACTER - Subject's character, strengths and weaknesses, intelligence, loyalty, judgment, ability to communicate, leadership ability, and influence. Significance of individual in shaping international policies of his country.

General OVEISI is intelligent and possesses a quick sharp mind. He is well read and well informed on military matters, particularly as they pertain to the IIGF. Though he is of a generally quiet disposition and calm temperament, (b)(6) He is self-disciplined and maintains very high standards for himself and his subordinates. He is a tireless worker and has been described as a man who knows how, and likes, to use power. He is a strict disciplinarian and is unforgiving with those who cross him or fail to adhere to the standards of conduct or performance which he demands. (b)(6) politeness and charm which is characteristic of him.

55. POLITICAL ORIENTATION - Attitude towards United States and other countries. Remarks and actions of subject toward representatives of the United States and its allies, and to representatives of nonaligned nations and Communist bloc nationals. Political activities and attitudes, important political contacts, party affiliations, potential political influence in country in the event of a change in government.

He appears to be completely loyal to the SHAH and to the government of Iran. He is anti-communist and suspicious of Soviet designs in the Middle East. His attitude is, in part, a reflection of the attitude of the SHAHANSHAH and, in part, based on his own observations of the conduct of the USSR in Iran during and following the Second World War. His relationship with American military advisors has always been good. This and his training at Fort Leavenworth dispose him favorably toward the U.S. He is not so favorably disposed toward the UK. He is somewhat distrustful of their motives.

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GROUP-3  
DOWNGRADED 1 YEAR INTERVALS;  
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

56. PERSONAL APPEARANCE - Appraisal of subject's dress, personal habits, mannerisms, eccentricities, peculiarities of speech and gait, prominent or unusual physical features, e.g., teeth, eyes, shape of face, complexion, tendency toward balding, etc.

General OVEISI is in good physical condition and presents a neat well groomed appearance both in uniform and civilian clothing. He favors conservative clothing, is clean shaven and wears his hair short in a traditional military manner. He is of short stature but carries himself very erect.

57. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SPOUSE - Spouse's political views, appearance, personality, attitude toward United States and other countries, influence on husband, Spouse's family connections influencing the husband's

(b)(6)

58. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

a. Length of time collector has known subject and frequency of contact(s). Indicate how much of the information is based on the collector's own observation. Indicate other sources for information on subject.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c), (b)(3): 10 USC 424

b. Best ways of gaining subject's confidence and exerting influence on him.

1.4 (c), (b)(6), (b)(1)

c. Military reputation, competence, and significance. Include financial status, dependence on personal or political connections for military position. Reputation in own service, collector's own assessment of military competence, and military and/or political potential of subject.

General OVEISI enjoys a reputation as a hard working field soldier rather than as a "salon soldier." In his relationships with American military advisors he has been quick to accept and act on advice given. He understands modern command techniques and probably delegates authority better than most Iranian officers. He is training oriented and demands a considerable amount of field training. He is sometimes arbitrary and a strict disciplinarian.

(b)(1), 1.4  
(d) [redacted] He is generally regarded as having reached his position on the basis of his professional competence rather than on the basis of political favor or family connections. The fact that he has been able to hold his position through two scandals (in which he was not directly involved) which might have indicated the dismissal of lesser men is probably a direct indication of the esteem in which he is held by the SHAHANSHAH.

~~GROUP 1  
DOWNGRADING AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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CONTINUATION SHEET FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIO-  
GRAPHIC REPORT SUPPLEMENT DD FORM 1396-1s DATED  
13 MAY 1975

ITEM 53: Continued: exerts an influence on OVEISI's thinking and attitude on military and political matters. General OVEISI is a classmate of the SHAHANSHAH's when the latter attended the Military Academy at Tehran. While this relationship may tend to further strengthen OVEISI's loyalty to the SHAH, OVEISI probably owes his high position to his professional competence rather than to his relationship with the monarch. Approximately six month after the disgrace of his father-in-law (Refer to Item 57 of Form) General OVEISI's close friend and subordinate, LTG KIUMARS-SALEH, the Chief of the Logistics Command of the IIGF was arrested on charges of misappropriation of IIGF funds. He was reduced two ranks, dismissed from the service, fined and sentenced to prison. While there has never been a hint of suspicion that General OVEISI was himself knowledgeable or involved in any way, his association and friendship with these officers has probably served to limit his career.

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