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Across

- 1 Elite Iranian force within IRGC focused on countering Wahhabism in sphere of influence with ultimate end of permanent expulsion of crusader occupiers from region especially the holy places (hence the name) (commanded from 1998 until death in January 2020 by the blessed martyr Hajj Qasem Suleimani)
- 4 Bob Santamaria *or* *Bad Santa* (initials)
- 6 Iraqi city with famous ziggurat
- 7 Land where people are crazy
- 9 Latin for gold (literally shining dawn)
- 10 Digestive waste of living creatures
- 12 Australian colloquialism for alcohol with inference of immoderation
- 13 Andy Warhol masterwork of 1963 depicting multiple overlapping silk-screened images of Elvis Presley in cowboy hat with gun (whereabouts unknown since \$100,000,000 sale possibly to Qatari royal family) (initials)
- 14 Depleted uranium *or* Don Rickles (initials)
- 15 Italian for without (“... mamma, o bimbi, tu sei morto” *Suor Angelica* Giacomo Puccini (Google Translate: “Without mom, oh baby, you’re dead!”))

Down

- 1 Death
- 2 Mesopotamian home of patriarch Abraham in foundational myth about non-Canaanite identity and unique destiny of Judeans
- 3 Refreshing cold beverage drunk with special big straw necessary due to consistency
- 4 ... *und Boden* Nazi era slogan espousing ideology of the entitlement of a racial group to defined territories by immutable, mystical design irregardless of present-day inhabitants (deemed innately inferior Untermenschen)
- 5 Ancient city in Iraq associated with spiral minaret of 9th century mosque and spooky story of W. Somerset Maugham (narrated by Death) about unsettling encounter at market “Why did you make a threatening gesture to my servant when you saw him this morning? That was not a threatening gesture, it was only a start of surprise. I was astonished to see him in Bagdad, for I had an appointment with him tonight in ...”)
- 8 Greek god of war
- 9 Units of land based on Medieval calculation of size of field which could be ploughed by one peasant with a yoke of oxen in one day
- 11 Secret intelligence organization working on behalf of Allied powers in occupied Norway during WW2
- 14 Greatly loved John Travolta role (not Vinnie Barbarino, Tony Monero, Vincent Vega, Billy Nolan, Strip Harrison or Terl) (initials)