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IN  
THE  
MIDDLE  
EAST  
SPECIAL

# WAR

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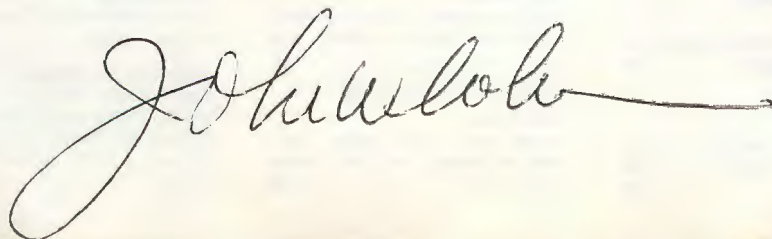
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# FROM THE EDITOR

IT'S WAR. These words have rung throughout history, in hundreds of different languages and thousands of different places — and for thousands of different reasons. Now they ring throughout the Middle East, with shockwaves quickly spreading around the world. Why? This special issue of **WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST** doesn't attempt to answer that question, because the "why" of this war doesn't really matter now. What matters is that the conflict has begun, and the world as we knew it prior to 17 January 1991, will never be the same again. What we've attempted to do in these pages is to give you an insight, an understanding of key players and events that have become part of this war. To do that we've broken this magazine into four major areas: a chronology of events; Beginnings, the start of the major U.S. and allied build-up in Saudi Arabia; Dateline Desert Shield, a series of dispatches from the Gulf region on the troops who're now fighting and supporting the war; and War in the Middle East — Desert Storm, a concise but wide-ranging series of reports on the war itself. Some of the early reports have appeared elsewhere in print, and due to our efforts to get this magazine to you in the shortest time possible, contain a few references which we were not able to change within our tight production schedule. Be assured, however, that the information we're presenting stands alone as first-rate and timely reporting — we wouldn't have printed it otherwise. Without doubt this conflict, due to rapid-fire technology, is the most widely covered and instantaneously available war we've ever had beamed into our living rooms. That's good, but it creates a major problem — the avalanche of data will almost certainly overwhelm our ability to fully comprehend events; and reporting, generally done by reporters without much understanding of the military, its strategies and tactics, will lack the accuracy so vital toward our understanding of this war. Therein is the purpose of **WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST**. What you'll read in these pages are accurate reports and informed assessments from correspondents and recognized experts whose careers have been spent covering military and related operations around the world for many decades — and in many cases, with primary emphasis on the Middle East theater of operations. Most are military veterans of different services and indeed, different armies. Many have experienced battle either as a participant or as a combat correspondent, in scores of different conflicts. Others are authorities to whom major media turn for their information on events. In essence, they know what they're talking about when it comes to war. We have also taken a different tack in our coverage of the war in the Middle East, by letting those at the operational level — the pilots, soldiers, Marines, doctors, and sailors — tell us what *they* feel. This is, after all, a war of people — not high-tech machinery. We hope by the time you read these words that the darkness of war — man's inhumanity to man — will have lifted, perhaps allowing the light of peace in its stead. Perhaps. More likely, Operation Desert Storm grinds on. To say it again: We dedicate this magazine to those on the front lines of Operation Desert Storm, and to those held POW. None of you will be forgotten.



**WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST** is dedicated to the men and women of the United States military and allied forces serving in Operation Desert Storm — and especially those held Prisoner of War.

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# WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Photo: AP/Wide World



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Photo: AP Wide World



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# COUNTDOWN TO WAR

by S. Max

## August 1

- Iraq pulls out of talks with Kuwait on Iraqi grievances over oil pricing. Kuwaiti loans to Iraq and Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti territory.

## August 2

- Iraqi troops and tanks storm into Kuwait before dawn, seizing oil fields and forcing royal family into exile in Saudi Arabia. Bush orders U.S. economic embargo against Iraq.

## August 3

- Kuwaiti forces mount futile last-ditch resistance. Iraqi troops push to within few miles of Saudi Arabian border.

## August 4

- Iraq announces new military government for Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. European Community imposes trade embargo on Iraq.

## August 6

- U.N. Security Council orders worldwide embargo on trade with Iraq.

## August 7

- Bush orders deployment of U.S. combat troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia. Fresh U.S. Navy task force sets sail for region. Troops in region total about 50,000.

## August 8

- Iraq declares Kuwait is part of Iraq. Britain joins multinational force in the Gulf.

## August 9

- Iraq closes borders, trapping thousands of Americans and other Westerners in Iraq and Kuwait. U.S. troop strength jumps to 200,000.



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Eric Micheletti

**August 10**

•12 of 20 Arab League states vote to send all-Arab military force to join Americans in defense of Saudi Arabia.

**August 13**

•Iraqi troops in Kuwait round up American and British visitors from two hotels in Kuwait for transport to Iraq.

**August 15**

•Saddam offers to withdraw from Iranian territories and release prisoners of war in bid to win favor with Tehran against U.S. Foreigners are ordered to assemble at hotels.

**August 20**

•Iraq announces it has moved Western hostages to vital military installations to use as human shields.

**August 24**

•Iraqi forces surround at least nine embassies in Kuwait with troops, including the U.S. mission.

**August 25**

•U.N. Security Council approves force to enforce embargo; 2,500 Americans remain in hiding in Kuwait.

**August 28**

•Iraq starts releasing women, children; Saddam Hussein says Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province.

**September 6**

•Saudi Arabia agrees to contribute billions toward Operation Desert Shield.

**September 9**

•Bush, Gorbachev meet in Finland; show solidarity, tough stand against Saddam. Bush emphasizes military commitment; Gorbachev emphasizes diplomatic approach.

**September 10**

•In televised statement, Saddam offers free oil to Third World countries.

**September 17**

•Air Force Maj. Gen. Dugan fired for mentioning potential attacks on Saddam and his consorts.

**September 23**

•Saddam says he will destroy Israel and destroy mideast oil fields in response to "strangling" embargo.

**September 24**

•French President Mitterrand offers four-stage plan in search of diplomatic solution.



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: DoD



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Eric Micheletti



**September 27**

•Iraq orders Kuwaitis to apply for Iraqi citizenship. Iraq threatens to hang diplomats sheltering Westerners in their embassy compounds. Emir of Kuwait delivers moving speech to U.N. on behalf of his occupied country.

**November 2**

•Iraq releases statement that "All-out war" will result if they're attacked and that its foes will "curse their destiny."

**November 19**

•Iraq sends 250,000 more troops to Kuwait.

**September 29**

•First of thousands of British ground forces head for Gulf.

**October 2**

•Senate backs Bush's deployment of troops to Gulf.

**October 13**

•U.N. Security Council unanimously denounces Israel for killing 19 Palestinians at Western Wall in Jerusalem.

**November 8**

•Bush announces he will increase U.S. forces by 200,000, to more than 400,000 troops. 1,200 M1A1 tanks are to be moved from Germany to Saudi Arabia, more than doubling the 800 M1s currently deployed there.

**November 16**

•Baker rejects Soviet envoy's suggestion that a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis be linked to problem of Israel's occupation of land claimed by Palestinians.

**November 22**

•Bush visits troops on Thanksgiving Day.

**November 23**

•Bush meets in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak and in Geneva with Syrian President Hafez Assad about Gulf crisis.

**November 28**

•Former joint chiefs of staff urge caution in Gulf to let sanctions take effect.



Photo: DoD

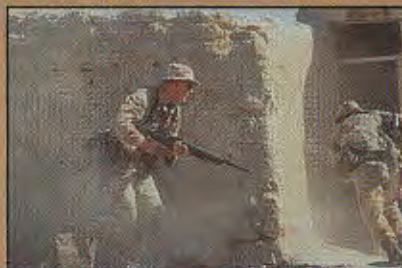


Photo: DoD



Photo: Eric Micheletti

**November 29**

•U.N. Security Council historic 12-2 vote authorizes use of force against Iraq; sets January 15 withdrawal deadline.

**December 7**

•Saddam says he'll release all hostages.

**December 8**

•U.S. evacuates embassy in Kuwait, but leaves the flag flying.

**December 15**

•Iraq insists it alone will set date for direct U.S.-Iraqi talks in Baghdad.

**December 19**

•Lt. Gen. Calvin Waller, deputy commander of U.S. forces in Gulf, says U.S. troops would not be ready to mount an offensive by Jan. 15 U.N. deadline.

**January 4**

•Iraq agrees to hold its first high-level talks with the United States since the start of the Gulf crisis.

**January 9**

•Geneva talks between U.S. and Iraq fail to break impasse. Asiz says if Iraq is attacked they will "absolutely" attack Israel.

**January 10**

•U.S. Congress begins debate on Gulf crisis.

**January 12**

•U.S. Congress adopts resolution authorizing Bush to wage war in Gulf. House: 250-183; Senate 52-47.

**January 13**

•U.N.'s Perez de Cuellar meets with Saddam and says afterward "God only knows" if there will be war. Saddam reiterates his country is ready to fight to keep conquered Kuwait.

**January 15**

•On day U.N. deadline expires, State Department rejects last-minute French peace plan because it links Kuwait and Palestinian issue. World-wide demonstrations for peace.

**January 16**

•After midnight in Kuwait, cruise missiles followed by attack aircraft are launched toward Iraq. At 2100 EST President Bush announces that the liberation of Kuwait has begun with Operation Desert Storm.



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Eric Micheletti

# DESERT SHIELD

*Saddam Hussein Gave a War and Everyone Came*



USA



SAUDI ARABIA



KUWAIT



FRANCE



EGYPT



MOROCCO



TURKEY



PAKISTAN



SPAIN



involved in covering them, or the simple lack of commercial value. There's not a big readership looking for stories out of Suriname or Laos, for example.

But now we're involved in a major conflict, one that everyone is covering. SOF coverage of Operation Desert Shield actually began in last month's issue with Colonel Brown's Command Guidance, calling for unconditional surrender by Saddam Hussein. Colonel Brown is in the Mideast as this issue goes to press, initiating our firsthand coverage, and the following pages contain an intelligence analysis of

the Iraqi armed forces, a look at the role of U.S. Special Operations Forces in the conflict, and a map that's actually useful.

As a monthly magazine we can't be as timely as the daily newspapers or the broadcast media, but we are a hell of lot more accurate. You won't find SOF referring to the 82nd as the "82nd Tank Division" or the A-10 as an "attack helicopter," a couple of examples of the horrendous reporting coming from the major media. And you'll get analysis and behind-the-scenes insight from SOF that you won't see anywhere else.

One story that we're involved with is the formation of the Kuwaiti resistance — the "Kuwait National Liberation Army." Confidentiality and operational constraints preclude getting into the specifics right now, but when we're able, you'll get the details in these pages.

SOF is proud to be considered a "friendly" by the U.S. military community, partly because most of us served there

at one time and we know that lives have been lost because of irresponsible journalism. So we will not publish anything that jeopardizes the lives of U.S. and allied soldiers or the success of their missions. Bear with us if we leave some details out of our stories — those who have been there will understand why.

**A**MERICAN forces continue to deploy to the Middle East in our bid to end the latest overstep by Saddam Hussein. The situation grows more complex daily, consequently more confused — so, too, does the press analysis of the confrontation's military aspects.

The average American reader would be hard pressed to know whether U.S. troops are about to face the Middle East equivalent of Rommel's Afrika Korps or those of his bumbling Italian allies. Thus far, the commentary, with a few notable exceptions, has leaned toward the alarmist. A sample, from *U.S. News & World Report*, is typical: "Iraq's huge tank army, operat-

# SHOWDOWN

by Tom Marks



UK



NETHERLANDS



WEST GERMANY



AUSTRALIA



USSR



GREECE



SYRIA



ITALY



BELGIUM



Photo: courtesy DoD

ing in open desert ideally suited to tank warfare, is a match for a superpower." Other sources speak in wide-eyed awe of a million "battle-hardened troops," supported by a massive chemical weapons inventory, advancing under the protection of planes flown by, according to the *New York Times*, "pilots whose skill and experience makes them the most feared

flyers in the Middle East."

They've gotta be kidding. The need for caution is commendable, but the prose appears to have been borrowed from descriptions of the Israelis. Tel Aviv fields an army which might warrant such analysis — Baghdad fields a competent but limited extension of its mechanisms of internal repression.

This fact is critical when analyzing future conflict scenarios. We do, after all, have a "wealth of data from which to draw, because this month (August) marks only the second anniversary of the formal end to the Iran-Iraq War.

## Feet of Clay

True, the Iraqis have amassed a



ABOVE: Soldier from 24th Mech. Div. sports Desert Shield tattoo. Photo: SIPA/Delahaye



A pickup game of poker always helps pass the time, even if it's 110 degrees in the shade. Photo: SIPA/Delahaye

significant military machine. But it is a giant with feet of clay. Let us examine briefly the force components mentioned above:

- **Armor.** Despite improvements in antitank weaponry, armor forces remain the main battle system for land warfare. Iraq has indeed "amassed 5,500 tanks, more than Hitler had on the eve of the Nazi invasion of Poland (*USN&WR*)," but at least 4,000 of those, according to the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), are outmoded Soviet-made T-54/55s and its Chinese version, the Type 59/69. Another 1,000 are Soviet T-62s, a better tank but one the Israelis handled quite easily during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Only the remaining 500 T-72's can be classed as modern types.

- **Troops.** The term "battle-hardened" implies a level of combat effectiveness belied by the facts. Nearly half of Iraq's one million men are mobilized reservists. These and their regular counterparts had their hands full countering the poorly trained and equipped yet highly motivated human wave tactics of the Iranians. The Iraqis' own motivation stiffened when the Iranians drove them back and moved into Baghdad's territory. This, though, did not stop Iraqi troops from surrendering in relatively large numbers when the need (or opportunity) arose. Refugee reports from Kuwait have not indicated a dramatic improvement in troop morale or



ABOVE: C-130 Hercules practices dropping supplies to troops in the desert. Airfields are ample at this point but it may not always be that way. Photo: DoD



Heat prostration casualties are not uncommon when the mercury hits 120 degrees at noon and the only shade is where you build it. Photo: SIPA/Delahaye

competence (though looting and rape have apparently raised more than a few spirits).

- **Chemicals.** Iraq's substantial chemical inventory has been used in battle principally against unprepared troops and unprotected civilians such as Iraq's own Kurdish population. It is a defensive weapon of limited utility against a well-prepared, mobile foe. The Iranians were able to counter it using standard techniques. "Human factor considerations" such as the debilitating impact of wearing protective clothing in the blistering heat, should be given as much attention as the chemical threat itself.

- **Airpower.** Ground forces operating in the absence of proper air cover are sitting ducks, yet the Iraqi air arm turned in a decidedly lackluster performance during the Iran-Iraq War. In dogfighting they were not a match for the Iranians, and their close air support was largely ineffective. With respect to the latter, David Evans and Richard Company, active duty officers writing in a 1984 issue of *Atlantic*, put the matter succinctly: "... Iraqi pilots have dropped most of their bombs from 25,000 feet — 24,000 feet too high for the pinpoint accuracy needed to destroy tanks and artillery batteries." Iraqi pilots were to improve — but not by much — as the war went on and the Iranians proved unable to overcome their spare parts shortages.

Such assessments should not be interpreted as shrugging off the Iraqi threat.



ABOVE: Soldier standing guard with M16 and non-regulation towel headgear belongs to unit not yet equipped with desert BDUs. Photo: DoD



Military hardware being offloaded at Saudi ports including gun tractors and M109 self propelled artillery. Photo: SIPA/Delahaye

Any force equipped with the sheer weight of armament the Iraqis have bought can inflict considerable damage on a foe, especially one which employs his own forces improperly. Yet the fact remains that quantitative assessments mean little if not paired with qualitative judgments.

Assessed in this fashion, the Iraqi forces are deficient. In the Iran-Iraq War, they demonstrated the ability to coordinate a limited advance against a weak, unprepared foe. They halted due to command and control deficiencies. Time and again during the conflict, Baghdad displayed shortcomings in military leadership that crippled its forces. In leadership, the over-centralized chain of command — Saddam Hussein holds all reins — proved incapable of making even the most routine tactical decisions in a timely and advantageous manner. Interservice and interarms coordination was rudimentary, at best. When success was achieved — in one notable engagement, the Iraqis were able to decimate a poorly deployed Iranian armor division in a massive ambush conducted from defensive positions — the officers responsible were not rewarded but shunted to the side (often liquidated outright).

This is not simply politicization of the officer corps in the manner, say, of the political commissar system in communist armies. To Hussein, his military is a tool of repression and threat. Military competence, then, if allowed to go too far, would



F-15 Eagle fighter ready for action. Sun heats skin of F-15 expanding metal and creating fuel leaks. Dust and fog often shroud potential battlefields, reducing visibility to below 10 clicks. Windy cold fronts, starting in November, pick up huge quantities of dust and can reduce visibility to below 1,000 meters. Photo: DoD

threaten his own position. Thus, it is snuffed out. This is emasculation carried out for no purpose save to secure the position of Hussein and can be compared to Stalin's decimating his own officer corps prior to World War II. Only gradually, using time and space, was Moscow able to rebuild a functioning military machine. For Baghdad, there will be no such opportunity.

#### Necessity for Action

There will be no opportunity, that is, unless the American strategic direction of the war is as grossly incompetent as that of Hussein. For the Iraqi armed forces have been placed in a position that should lead to their complete defeat, and thus far the United States has played its cards remarkably well.

In this they have been aided by Iraq's failure to sustain the momentum of its advance. Any reasonable intelligence assessment prior to the attack on Kuwait could have predicted the general form of Western, especially American, response. Yet Hussein repeated his costliest error of the Iran-Iraq War. Then, in the initial weeks of conflict, Iraqi forces — moving against the ill-prepared Iranians — easily reached their objectives. Then, acting upon orders from Hussein, they sat. This allowed the Iranians to regroup and insured that the war would become a costly, drawn out version of World War I trench warfare.

That the fighting stalemated was not surprising because the forces involved were strategically and tactically capable of little else.

American military power is altogether a different story. Strategically, Hussein picked the most inappropriate time for an attack, because there are no strategic constraints upon U.S. courses of action. American forces, at loose ends since the demise of the Soviet threat, are well-trained, well-equipped and at full-strength. Their leadership, down through brigade level, is composed of Vietnam War era veterans. Operationally, the Iraqi halt after grabbing Kuwait has provided the critical time needed for reinforcement. Tactically, shortcomings in heavy assets and equipment (particularly armor) requiring sea lift are being made good by Egyptian and Syrian participation in the allied effort. This effort itself, the largest such joint venture since the United Nations command of the Korean War, will be a difficult, but not insurmountable exercise in command and control that should be more than worth the trouble.

Egyptian and Syrian forces, in particular, could prove useful for "fixing" the Iraqis in place while U.S. forces engage in envelopment. It is here that the weaknesses of Iraqi forces play to American strengths. Far more than is appreciated by the general public, the U.S. military has succeeded in rebuilding from

its low point in the waning days of the Vietnam War. It has been specifically constructed for a campaign such as is unfolding. Difficulties will abound as it is found that lift and other logistics assets have been shortchanged in recent budget negotiations, but the force on the ground can be as powerful and flexible as Washington dictates.

It is a force constructed for a war of movement. Its capabilities will be magnified by the complete control of the air and seas it can expect to enjoy once Iraqi capabilities in these areas are neutralized (which they would be fairly early in the campaign). Speculation concerning the need to break through Iraqi defenses (at heavy cost) is misplaced. A glance at the map makes clear that Kuwait will not be liberated by slugging our way through that oil-rich hunk of land itself but rather by using U.S. mobility, particularly its capabilities for vertical envelopment, to strike across the Iraqi lines of communication.

Iraq's long border with Saudi Arabia makes this the most logical course of action, to include a direct push toward the only strategic target of consequence in the dictatorship — Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

#### War Looms

For the moment, Washington is

*Continued on page 73*

# DATELINE: SOMEWHERE IN THE GULF OF OMAN

by Robert K. Brown



**A**NOTHER pointless adventure. No, it was worse than that. It looked like there would be no adventure, period. I was in my hotel in Dubai, a seaport in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf, waiting

who has a contact with the Saudi ambassador. No turn down this time. The son of a bitch just wouldn't return my phone calls.

A couple of hours later I was in a congressman's office making a courtesy call. My contact was on the phone talking to the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates requesting a visa for a reporter from the congressman's district. I started

for a phone call from the military press liaison. He was supposed to tell me when and where I could go to do or see anything that resembled action, or even troops.

Saddam Insane had invaded Kuwait while I was with an SOF team crossing the t's and dotting the i's on a coup in Trinidad. When we got back to the SOF offices the question was "How the hell do we get someone to the Middle East in time?"

Shouldn't be too hard, I thought. First we called the Department of Defense Public Affairs Office in the Pentagon, who told us, "Nobody's going nowhere — not even the Pentagon press pool."

OK, Jose, we'll find another way. If we couldn't get in directly we'd have to sneak in the back door. Undaunted, I started working on getting a visa into Saudi. First step, as always, was to tap into the Special Forces old boy network. I called a retired SF colonel who heads up the U.S. office of an American firm which has had a sensitive contract with the Saudis for the last 15 years. Certainly he would be able to pull the strings to get something so simple as a visa.

"No way, Jose. Hell, it takes us three months to get a business visa and we've had a contract with them for 15 years. A visa for a journalist. Ha Ha Ha. No such thing. You just don't get into Saudi country. In fact, if you go to a tourist agency you'll find out there is no such critter as a tour of Saudi and there never has been. Sorry about that."

Never say die. I had a contact in D.C.

waving my arms, jumping up and down, saying, "Me too, me too." The aide finally

noticed me and rolled his eyes — this wasn't the first time I'd prevailed on him for a favor — and asked for a visa for me too.

So that's how I got on the Road to Dubai — straight from JFK with stops in Paris, Geneva, and Zurich in between. Getting there was definitely not half the fun, but being there wasn't much fun either. I had checked into the ultra-modern Hyatt Regency — a huge, glass faced hotel with hundreds of rooms, and was waiting for a phone call. Twenty years ago Dubai was nothing more than a small village of 400 mud huts. Now it has a population of several hundred thousand and enough wealth to dump a million gallons of water a day on the 18 hole golf course. This is typical of the changes that have swept over the oil-laden Persian Gulf in the last few decades.

I figured sooner or later the U.S. would respond to pressure from the press to pressure the Saudis to open up. And I would be right next door when it happened. My Pentagon contacts had told me that DoD was running regional press pools out of Dubai. Pay your own way over, sucker, and get on the "I will go anywhere, do anything, photograph anybody, anytime" list.

I contacted Major Olin Saunders, the local military press liaison rep. Saunders is really a chopper pilot and I knew he'd rather be whump whump whumping around the desert than telling 2,500,000 journalists why they can't go where they want to go. He graciously allowed me to become number 2,500,001 on The List. Sitting in my hotel room I scanned the press list and noticed the name of a reporter for one of the major news weeklies. I scribbled on the back of one of my business cards, "Any interest in/knowledge of the Kuwaiti resistance?"

He looked me up at coffee the next morning, very interested in hearing what I knew about any Kuwaiti resistance — which wasn't much. While we were talking he got



ABOVE: LCpl. Eric Toth, from Niantic, Conn., armed with M16A2/M203, typifies 70-man Marine detachment on USS *Independence*. On page 1 he appears flanked on his right by his CO, Cpt. Mike Dunnagan; on his left, 1st Sgt Daniel Lopez. Photo: Robert K. Brown



F-14 catapults off USS *Independence*. Carrier is one of few if not the only military system ready for combat 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Photo: Robert K. Brown



F-14 lands on *Independence*. Flight deck of carrier is considered one of the most dangerous environments in the world. Photo: Robert K. Brown

a phone call from Major Saunders, asking if he wanted to go on a photo opportunity on the USS *Independence*. I went into my hand waving and hopping routine and it almost worked, but the good major said there was only one seat available on the C-2 Greyhound carrier transport plane. Luckily for me, the trip was postponed for two days, just long enough for the newsweekly reporter's visa to expire (tough shit). He left and I was next on the list.

We were finally wheels up from the airfield at 1030 hours, after an unexplicable delay of several hours. After a gutsucking landing on the *Independence* somewhere in the Gulf of Oman about an hour later we were shepherded into a wardroom for a U.S. Navy dog and pony show. One of the briefing officers looked up from the press list and said, "I notice we have someone from Soldier of Fortune on board ... I'll have to talk to you about a job." I got nasty looks from some of the press. Screw 'em.

Captain Jay (Spook) Yakeley, Commander Carrier Air Wing 14, who had a combat tour in 'Nam and commanded the Navy Fighter Weapons school, "Top Gun," observed, "Saddam messed with the wrong people, 'cause he messed up our port of call schedule ... we were supposed to be heading to Hong Kong."

I asked Yakeley if John Milius, director of the film "Flight of the Intruder," which was partially filmed on the *Independence*, was right when he observed that a carrier was the only military system that was ready for war 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ("Flight of the Intruder" is, as we go to press, scheduled for release in mid-January 1990).

He agreed with the comment, adding "The only thing we did when we arrived on station that was different [because of the Mideast crisis] was to load bombs and missiles onto the planes... We're ready, we know our capabilities. In fact, we hope they know our capabilities.

"In '72 flying over North Vietnam we weren't allowed to hit dikes. When the NVA found out through the press that we weren't allowed to bomb the dikes they moved all their anti-air ... so we don't want to talk about rules of engagement or what tactics we will use."

When questioned regarding what type of

threat they might anticipate from the Iraqis, Captain Ellis, CO of the *Independence*, indicated he wasn't overly worried. "They have to find us, target us and launch. We have weapons to take care of any problems."

Captain Yakeley added, "We have layered defenses, back-ups and back-ups to back-ups." When questioned about the attitude of the pilots regarding possible



A-6 Intruders ready for launch to be followed by F-14. Portions of the movie "Flight of the Intruder," which is now scheduled to be released in January 1991 (see SOF, August '90), were shot on the USS *Independence*. Photo: Robert K. Brown

hostilities he answered, "More than a few pilots would smile if they came out."

When questioned about the Navy boarding suspect ships, Rear Admiral Jerry Unruh, Commander of Carrier Group One responded, "We'll not go into operational specifics regarding boarding of ships, such as number of boarding party, boarding techniques, etc. Boarding crews do include U.S. Coast Guard personnel."

Captain Robert Ellis added, "We're prepared for a long, drawn out tour. Most senior officers have been over here before ... we know what we're doing. Morale is good. Tapes are flown in from Diego Garcia. The crew understands what we're here for, that the stakes are high."

Admiral Unruh went on to say "... if you

have good communication you have good morale."

Captain Yakeley observed "The crew are young 18-20 year olds ... they understand the press ... like to know what's going on. Captain Ellis frequently goes on the PA system and updates crew on significant developments."

After the press conference, I asked to see the CO of the Marine Detachment on

board. I was introduced to Captain Mike Dunnagan, CO and 11-year vet of the Corps. He escorted me down into the bowels of the ship where the Marines were quartered. The entrance was covered with chain link fencing painted red and topped off with a sign that said something like "Marine Detachment. No Entry Without Permission." The steel framed door was accessed only by punching the proper code on the door lock. I thought it diplomatic of me not to question whether this security measure was to keep the Navy out or the Marines in.

I told Dunnagan I'd like him to select one of his men as I wanted to shoot for a SOF cover. He made a quick decision and while the young troop got his gear on, introduced me to his First Sergeant, Daniel Lopez from Chula Vista, California, who has 17 years in the Corps.

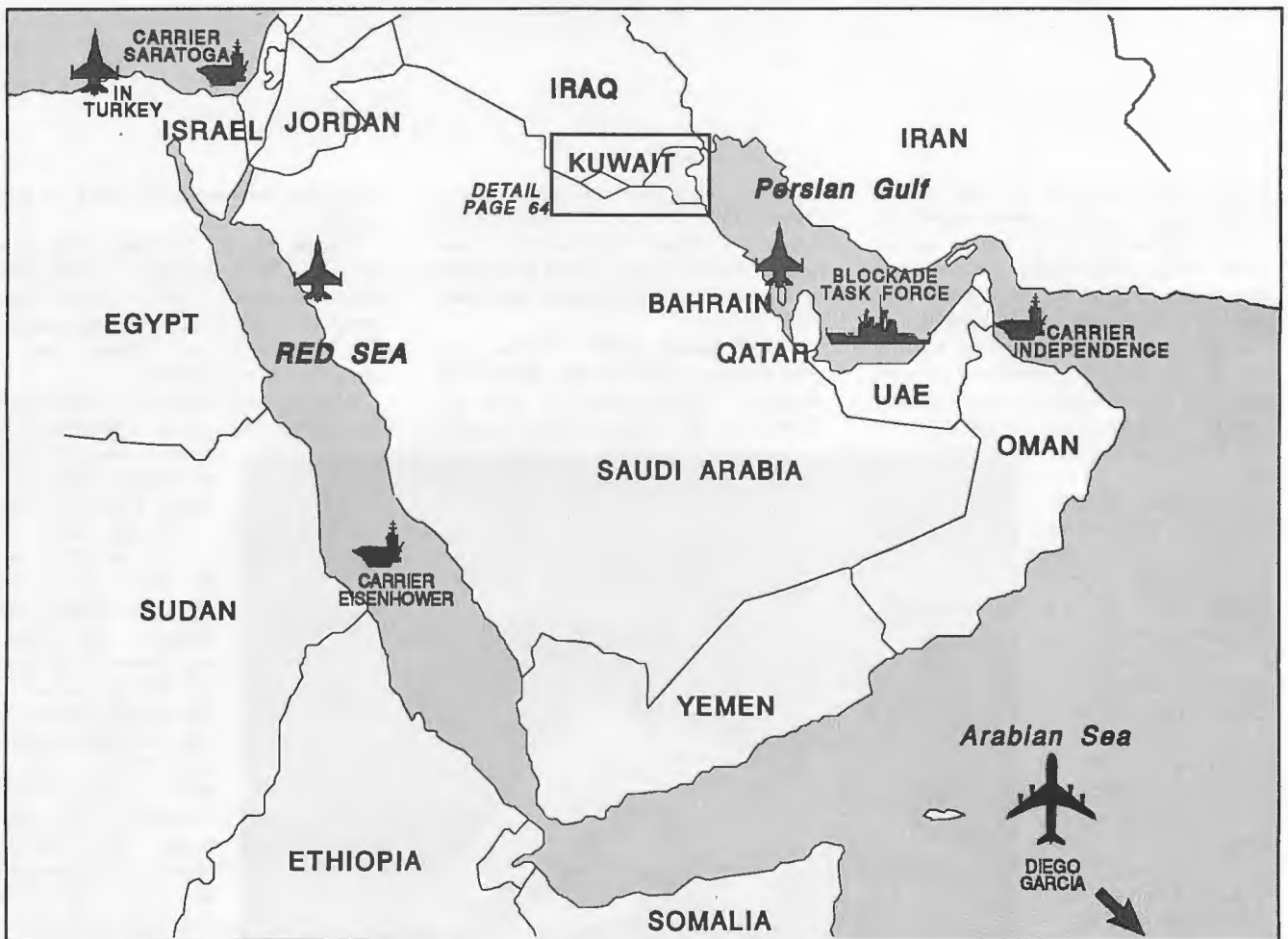
Over coffee, Dunnagan and Lopez explained that they were on a two-year sea tour with the *Independence*. The troops volunteer for the assignment after 10 weeks of boot camp. Volunteers are thoroughly screened and those accepted attend the Marine Corps two-week School of Infantry followed by a four-week Basic Security Guard School, where they spend a large

Continued on page 87

### USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)

Overall Length .....	1,070 feet
Height from keel to mast top .....	equals a 25-story building
Flight deck area .....	4.1 acres
Telephones on board .....	2,300
Horsepower .....	300,000 shaft horsepower
Top Speed .....	over 33 knots
Fuel consumption at full power .....	150,000 gallons per day
Propellers (4) .....	21 feet in diameter
Anchors (2) .....	30 tons each
Rudders (2) .....	45 tons each
Fresh water plant .....	380,000 gallons daily
Electrical power .....	equivalent to a city of 40,000 people





## ESCAPE FROM KUWAIT

by Alan Malcher



As I write this, I sit in the first class cabin of a Saudi Airways 747 en route to London. I am using a portable word processor on loan from a German banker, a fellow passenger on the same flight. My word processor, along with three Olympus cameras, lenses, film and all my belongings, are in the hands of an Iraqi soldier — a soldier who put the muzzle of his AK-47 to my head and demanded that I hand him all my belongings.

At the time I recognized this soldier — if you can call him that — for what he was: a skinny little man who thought he was tough because he had a gun in his hand. Oh, how I wish that we had been on equal terms; I would have torn that bastard apart with my bare hands. There was an American journalist with me at the time. He obviously read my thoughts and saw the danger signs, because he whispered to me, “Cool it, man.” I took his advice; he probably saved my life. I never got his name, all I know is like me he is an ex-serviceman who earns a living traveling around the hot spots of the world as a freelance journalist, and like me

he came to Kuwait for a little R&R before returning to Beirut. The only other thing I know is that he was a chopper pilot in the Vietnam War.

I managed to escape from Kuwait as the Iraqis raped, looted and killed innocent civilians. I hope that he escaped too. The last time I saw him was three days ago, when he was being made to kneel in the middle of a road as an Iraqi soldier pushed the barrel of an AK-47 in his mouth, while other soldiers chanted, “American. Not so big now.” I do so hope that he made it out; I owe him a few beers.

I had considered Kuwait a good place to spend my R&R after covering events as a freelance photojournalist for the past two months in the hell holes of the Lebanon. I had already arranged to meet up with other British journalists with whom I had also served in the paras and was looking forward to just relaxing before sorting out the pictures I had taken during my time in Beirut and typing up the text for the various publishers who were waiting for my stories.

There were rumors that Iraq was threatening to attack Kuwait, but very few took this seriously, and quite frankly I was here to enjoy myself not to chase stories which would probably turn out to be false. It was

the early hours of the morning when I was awakened by the deafening sounds of large caliber automatic fire followed by the loud thud of mortars and heavy shells exploding nearby. This was quickly accompanied by semiautomatic as well as small caliber fire very close to my hotel. Being violently awakened from a deep and peaceful sleep by the battle which now surrounded me, I thought I was still in Beirut. I tried to reason with my confused mind. “I’m not in Beirut, I’m in Kuwait — what the hell’s going on,” I thought loudly to myself. Then it dawned on me, shit! The Iraqis have invaded!

I hurried to the window which overlooked the main streets. My room was on the seventh floor so I had a good view over a large area. The sight was one of confusion: figures running in every direction in the dark, muzzle flashes coming from every conceivable direction, the sky full of tracer, intense fires scattered around the street as cars, buses, and trucks burst into flames, and huge bangs followed by a ball of bright orange flames as yet another mortar round fell.

Picking up my tape recorder and camera equipment I rushed down the fire escape

*Continued on page 73*



ABOVE: First American troops began deploying to Saudi Arabia in the middle of August. Photo: DoD

LEFT INSET: Marines check their NBC gear for proper fit. Much has been said about Iraq's chemical arsenal but U.S. troops are prepared to meet the threat. Photo: SIPA/Delahaye

RIGHT INSET: Sidewinder air-to-air missiles are being stockpiled in case of an air war. Photo: DoD



M1 Abrams tanks are not air transportable and have been shipped to Saudi Arabia on cargo ships. Photo: DoD



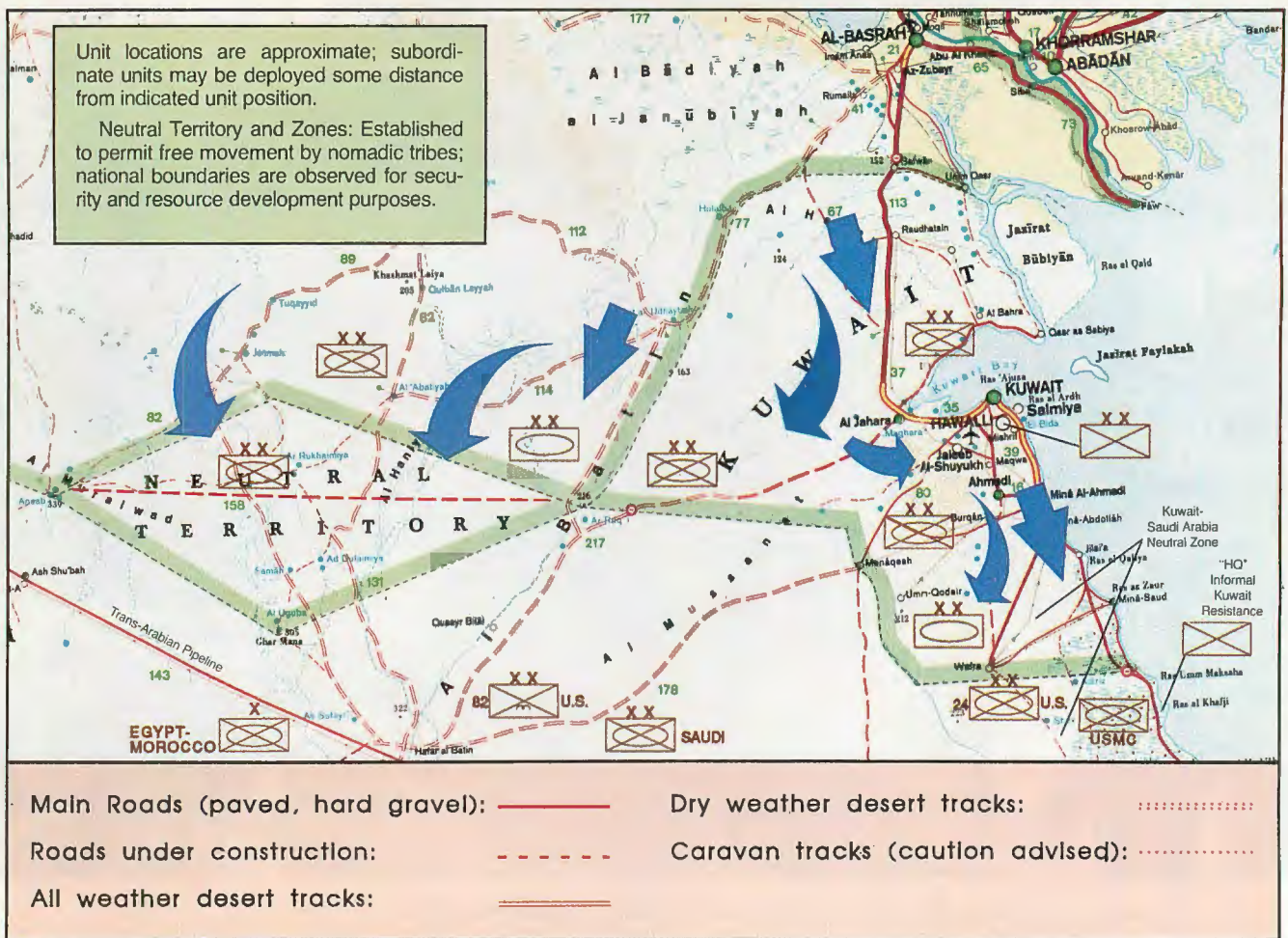
M60 machine gun crew on Humvee guard airfield perimeter. Photo: DoD



F-4G Wild Weasel electronic warfare aircraft takes off from base in Saudi Arabia. Photo: DoD



The pace is hectic at airfields all over as Air Force F-16 and other needed aircraft begin to deploy. Photo: DoD



## WORLD RALLIES TO KUWAIT

by Bob Poos



And the reason is simple: The world feels more threatened by unfriendly domination of Middle Eastern oil fields than it did by communist aggression.

The only major troop commitment by a foreign nation in Vietnam came from South Korea, which contributed two infantry divisions and a brigade to the fight against communism, supplemented by token but very good troops from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and the Philippines.

South Korea, of course, had itself been invaded by a communist neighbor, North Korea, in 1950.

Otherwise, the U.S. was abandoned by its traditional allies in its effort to stop the spread of communism. The British maintained trade relations with North Vietnam and the French even gave at least tacit

The United States has a lot more allies in its efforts to assist friendly nations in the Middle East threatened by a fanatical Arab military dictator than it did when it sought to turn back the invasion of South Vietnam and Laos by Communist North Vietnam.

support to North Vietnam, some of it subtle, some not.

But such is not the case in the Persian Gulf crisis. At least 13 European and Asian nations have either committed military forces or promised them in the endeavor to prevent Saddam Hussein from becoming the Hitler of the 1990s. Some frightened Arab neighbors of Saudi Arabia have also joined the multinational effort.

Following is a breakdown of foreign military assistance promised as SOF went to press:

Great Britain — Four major warships and three minesweepers. Also will send 12 Tornado fighter/bombers to Bahrain supplementing 12 already in Saudi Arabia and 12 tank-busting Jaguar jets in Oman.

France — Some 3,500 men on four warships and the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* enroute. Plans to send reconnaissance units to the United Arab Emirates and military instructors to Saudi Arabia. Combat planes, warships and Foreign Legion troops from Djibouti and the Indian Ocean make up a total force of 8,500 men.

Italy — Two frigates.  
 The Netherlands — Two frigates.  
 Spain — A frigate and two corvettes.  
 West Germany — Seven anti-mine vessels will be sent to the Mediterranean to

replace U.S. ships positioned in the Persian Gulf. Will also provide U.S. forces with 10 *Fuchs* (Fox) vehicles which test the air for chemical warfare agents. The German parliament is trying to change its constitution, imposed by the Allied powers after World War II, so it can lend more direct military aid.

Belgium and Greece — Each have promised warships.

Australia — Two warships.  
 Soviet Union (yes, it's true) — Two warships.

Bangladesh — Sending 5,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan — Promises to send troops.

Turkey — Has moved 10,000 men to reinforce its second army defending Turkey's southern borders, bringing total strength in the area to 70,000 men. U.S. tactical bombers and F-16s based in Turkey are within striking distance of Iraq.

Regional forces opposing Iraq include these:

Arab forces — 2,000 men from Egypt, 1,000 from Morocco and 1,200 from Syria.  
 United Arab Emirates — A 40,000 strong army with more than 200 tanks, an air force of 1,500 men and 80 planes plus a

*Continued on page 79*



USS *Independence*, ready for war. On board is Carrier A-Wing 14, consisting of F-14A Tomcats, F/A-18 Hornets, A-6E Intruders, 6A-6B Prowlers, E-2C Hawkeyes, S-3A Vikings and SH-3 Kings. CO is Captain Jay "Spook" Yakeley. Photo: DoD

## SPEC OPS IN THE GULF WAR

by Chuck Fremont



**U**.S. Special Operations Forces — Army Rangers and Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Air Force Special Operations commandos, Marine Force Recon units, and other elite forces are already deployed in

the Persian Gulf Area of Operations (AO). What role can we expect these forces to play in resolving this conflict? Following is a quick and dirty look at the Special Operations Forces — SOFs — of each branch, along with some speculation of how they might be employed in the present conflict.

### ARMY:

**Special Forces:** Look for SF Operational Detachments "Alpha" (SFODAs, or "A-Teams,") to be used against targets deep within Iraqi territory. Command, Control, Communication and Intelligence ("C3I") installations as well as military, industrial and infrastructure targets such as power stations, chemical weapons plants, missile launch systems, etc., are likely SF targets. These "Direct Action" teams might also have follow-on missions such as assisting downed allied aviators.

Specially trained A-Teams and SFOD "Delta," sometimes known as "Delta Force," would be instrumental in any rescue of U.S. hostages held in Iraq or Kuwait.

**Special Forces A-Teams** could also infiltrate prior to a planned or possible U.S. attack against Iraqi forces to provide special reconnaissance for conventional units; to assist with targeting air strikes, and other special warfare missions. Of all SOF units, Army SF would probably go in earliest and deepest.

**Rangers:** Airborne Rangers are at their best in operations like Urgent Fury, where they jump in to seize airfields or secure landing zones in advance of a major force. Rangers go in light, making up in shock power what they may lack in heavy firepower. A possible Ranger mission in Kuwait: seizing Kuwait's international airport in support of a hostage rescue.

**Pathfinders:** Army Pathfinder teams jump in to mark drop zones, direct helicopters landing air assault forces, and prevent snafus such as occurred at Desert One. That screw-up in the Iranian desert occurred in large part because Pathfinder personnel weren't included to coordinate movements of aircraft on the landing zone. The U.S. learned a lesson on that one, and Pathfind-

ers will be along on any mission involving airborne or airmobile operations.

### AIR FORCE:

Less well known than Army SOFs, USAF Special Operations teams are becoming increasingly critical for successful Special Ops missions.

**Combat Control Teams:** CCTs parachute in along with Army Pathfinders in advance of major paratroop drops, or they may go in alone. But CCTs do a lot more than just mark a DZ: They may work with Special Operations aircraft in surgical strikes against high-payoff targets, for instance.

**Special Operations Wing:** Flying the latest version of the MC-130 Combat Talon, or "Blackbird" (not to be confused with the SR-71 spy plane), specially trained air crews can infiltrate SOF units deep behind enemy lines. MC-130s carry electronic warfare equipment, remote sensing systems and may also have a variety of sophisticated weapons systems on board.

**Special Operations weather analysts:** Airborne qualified and sometimes specially trained in SOF tactics, these "Grey Beret" weather wizards are now assigned to each SF Group. They make sure the Army doesn't do anything really stupid concern-

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Troopers of the 82nd Airborne board C-141  
for deployment to Saudi Arabia. Photo:  
Spec. Michael Hixson, 49th Public Affairs  
Det. U.S. Army

# TERRORISTS BACK HUSSEIN

by Neil Livingstone



During a recent demonstration in the United Arab Emirates — the largest in memory — one of the demonstrators carried a placard saying, “Down with the terrorist Saddam.” It was an apt description of Iraqi

strongman Saddam Hussein.

In recent months Iraq has become the “capital” of international terrorism, perhaps in anticipation of the current conflict in the Persian Gulf. Today there is widespread fear that Hussein will use his terrorist proxies as a weapon against the United States and the alliance that has been assembled in opposition to his invasion of Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein’s government has long been involved in supporting terrorism, although Iraq was removed from the U.S. State Department’s list of state sponsors to facilitate the American tilt toward Iraq during its eight-year-long war with Iran. However, in recent months a variety of new terrorist organizations have appeared in Iraq, in addition to those already based there.

The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) faction headed by Mohammed Abbas, which is part of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), always has been Baghdad-based, and has served as the main PLO conduit to the Iraqi government. It was the PLF that carried out the recent seaborne raid on Israel, and the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro*. During the *Achille Lauro* incident, Abbas’s men murdered an elderly American confined to a wheelchair, Leon Klinghoffer, and dumped his body over the side of the vessel. Abbas and his apologists later tried to shift the blame to Klinghoffer’s wife, who was being held at gunpoint in the ship’s lounge, saying that she killed her husband in order to get his insurance money.

The Arab Liberation Front (ALF), another constituent member of the PLO, also is headquartered in Baghdad, although it is not as active as the PLF. Created by the Iraqi Ba’ath Party in 1969, it has approximately 400 members and is headed by Abed el-Rahim Ahmed.

Sometime around 1 April 1990, the notorious Palestinian terrorist, Abu Nidal, moved his headquarters and operations to Baghdad. This reportedly occurred after a falling out between Abu Nidal and one of his principal patrons, Libyan dictator Muammar el Khadafi. Major elements of Abu Nidal’s Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), also known as “Black June,” had been based in Libya for several years. In addition, the collapse of one communist

government after another in Eastern Europe, which had long provided Abu Nidal and his killers with sanctuary and freedom of movement, forced the terrorist chieftain to circumscribe his operations and pull back to the Middle East in search of a more hospitable political environment. Although the FRC is not affiliated with the PLO, there are reports of a recent rapprochement between Abu Nidal and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat.

During the last several months, Arafat has transferred some of the most feared and ruthless covert units of the PLO to Iraq, including elements of Force 17, his praetorian guard, which has carried out a number of terrorist operations at Arafat’s behest. In addition, the PLO’s Special Operations Group (SOG), also known as the Colonel Hawari Force, has shifted some of its operations to Baghdad. The SOG earlier absorbed much of the dreaded May 15th Organization, which had perfected the art of building nearly impossible-to-find aviation bombs. Abu Ibrahim, the master bomb-maker of May 15th, currently resides in Baghdad, and several of his proteges are thought to have been responsible for constructing the bomb that blew Pan Am 103 out of the sky.

Arafat’s overt alliance with Saddam Hussein is one of the most interesting aspects of the present crisis. In addition to shifting some of the PLO’s terrorist elements to Baghdad, there are reports that at least one brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) was involved in the invasion and looting of Kuwait. Palestinians living in Kuwait were said to have served as a kind of fifth column, preparing the way for Saddam Hussein’s invasion by collecting intelligence for Iraq and possibly even carrying out acts of sabotage. In addition, Palestinians form the backbone of those forces collaborating with the Iraqis in Kuwait to keep the infrastructure going.

Arafat is nothing if not a survivor. However, many Western observers speculate that he finally may be finished, even if war doesn’t break out in the Middle East. By casting his lot with Saddam Hussein, Arafat has split the PLO and made his organization a pariah in many Arab capitals, especially those in the oil-rich Gulf states that have bank-rolled his revolution over the years. It is hard, if not impossible, to imagine Arafat ever again being embraced by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia or the Emir of Kuwait, not to mention president

Mubarak of Egypt.

By supporting Saddam Hussein, Arafat has once again demonstrated that he is no friend of the United States or its allies. As a result, it is inconceivable that the United States could ever again enter into a dialogue with the PLO so long as Arafat remains chairman. Washington must make Arafat’s removal a precondition to any resumption of the talks, along with a repudiation of Mohammed Abbas and the PLF.

Whatever the outcome of the crisis, there

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**By supporting Saddam Hussein, Arafat has once again demonstrated that he is no friend of the United States or its allies.**

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is one certainty: we will see a dramatic upsurge in international terrorism in the months and years ahead. Prior to the onset of open hostilities, it is unlikely that the United States and Western Europe will be the principal targets of Baghdad’s surrogates. Instead, Hussein is likely to employ terrorism against Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Mo-

rocco, Turkey, and the other states in the region who have joined forces with the United States to oppose the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It will be used to destabilize those countries and demonstrate that there is a price to be paid for opposing Saddam Hussein’s designs in the region. It also will be employed against other countries to discourage them from joining the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

A significant increase in terrorism directed against the United States and Western Europe is likely to occur only after the outbreak of war, in an attempt by Iraq to open a “second front.” However, it will be after Iraq is defeated on the battlefield that we will have to brace ourselves for a truly major wave of terrorism. Until that time, most Arab radicals will invest their hopes in Iraq’s army and its ability to hold its own against the coalition of forces arrayed against it. This is not unlike the situation prior to Israel’s smashing victory over the Arabs in the 1967 Six-Day War. Only then did the Palestinians realize that the Arab armies were not going to defeat Israel and that they would have to take their destiny into their own hands. The only weapon left to them was terrorism.

In this same respect, if war breaks out and Iraq ultimately is defeated and Saddam Hussein toppled, the Palestinians and other Arab radicals throughout the region can be expected to launch a major terrorist offensive against the United States and its allies. And if we are not prepared, this terrorist war eventually may be more costly than any potential “hot” war in the Persian Gulf.



# GOIN' MOBILE

by Bob Poos



Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and ruthless effort to dominate the world's oil supply has already proved two things. George Bush has the courage and resolve to mobilize the U.S. military reserve forces to meet Iraqi aggression that Lyndon Baines Johnson lacked in confronting communist aggression — one of the key reasons communism prevailed in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia — and that the reserve forces no longer are a haven for those who would avoid danger while at the same time making a token gesture toward serving their country.

For with the Middle East crisis only a little over two weeks old, Bush told almost 50,000 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and even Coast Guard reservists they are subject to immediate call-up — with indications of more to come.

On 25 August, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney authorized the call-up of 49,703 reservists, to be specific. He has the authority to summon 200,000 men and women in the Army and Air Force National Guards and all service reserves, and contemplated putting 80,000 of them on immediate active duty.

But, said a Pentagon source, the White House wanted to keep as low a profile as possible on the initial call to colors in order to maintain a measured response to the deepening crisis and avoid alarmism.

The numbers called up would more than double if hostilities break out between allied forces and the 160,000 Iraqi invaders of Kuwait who are positioned along the border of Saudi Arabia. There, regulars of the 82nd Airborne Division and 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade face them.

As details of the reserve activation were being described to reporters, including this one, at a Pentagon briefing, General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he had some advice for Hussein.

"Don't try to scare us or threaten us. Won't work, never has," Powell said in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Baltimore. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said 9,827 reservists in jobs critical to sustain the buildup in Saudi Arabia would be notified beginning the next day, 26 August, and another 36,876 by the end of September.

The Marine Corps received authority to mobilize 3,000 troopers but indicated that it wouldn't need very many of them for the time being. The Marines depend much less than the other services on reserves for combat support and maintenance chores.

Marine call-ups would at first be limited to specific people in special slots.

And the first 50,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen will be mostly in roles not directly related to combat but particularly suited to the environment and demands of this deployment. Water purification and transportation units for the Army, for example; medical personnel in the Navy, about half of whom are doctors, nurses and corpsmen; and airlift specialists of the Air Force rather than fighter or bomber crews.

"Air Force transport pilots have been flying back-to-back flights between the East Coast and the Arabian peninsula," a 14,000-mile round trip, said Williams. "The problem is, they were simply flying so many flights that the pilots reached the maximum number of hours recommended for safety measures."

This call to colors is the first of reserves to military duty since 1968 and the largest since the Berlin crisis of 1961.

Most of the conventional news media has been comparing this mobilization to the 1968 call-up and referring to the latter as being a reaction to the Tet offensive of that year in Vietnam. It was not a response to Tet. It was caused by the communist North Korean seizure of the U.S. Navy intelligence ship *Pueblo* and most reservists at that time were positioned in Korea with some others in Europe. Only a minuscule number of reservists went to Vietnam.

As far as the time element is concerned, President Bush can keep the reservists on active duty for 90 days under his own authority and extend that for another three months upon notifying Congress of his intent to do so.

"We have the authority to use their services for 180 days," Pentagon spokesman Williams said. "Beyond that, I just can't make any time commitment." Congress imposed these limitations upon the Commander in Chief after the Vietnam War but whether it had the authority to do that under the Constitution's separation of powers language remains an unresolved question.

Although thus far Congress has reflected national support for Presidential handling of the crisis — polls show Bush enjoys

support of more than 76% of the electorate — there are already hints of Congressional cowardice for which that body has become noted in the last couple of decades.

Besides ordering reserve component mobilization, Bush took a step similar to that of President Truman at the Korean War's outbreak. He issued a "stop loss" order on active duty personnel to prevent losing key people due for discharge or routine transfer.

Bush may have gained insight from the failure of Lyndon Johnson to institute a "stop loss" order in Vietnam. Veterans of the Army's 7th Cavalry from Vietnam days

remembered at their recent 25th reunion that it was threatened with an immediate drain of critical manpower even as the savage Ia Drang Valley battle of 1965 was being fought. Many troopers volunteered to stay with their units, and their comrades, rather than take the opportunity to DEROS in the face of enemy fire — which they could legally have done.

This call-up is the first test of how well

the Pentagon's "Total Force" concept will work.

Under Total Force, which the Army depends upon considerably more than other services, regular formations are filled by units from reserve components, either National Guard or "selected Reserve" outfits and individuals. In some cases this means regular combat units — infantry, artillery, armor, combat engineers — are being sent to the theater in an "all teeth" status of purely combat personnel, support and service functions later being filled by reservists. But the concept goes beyond that of "rounding out" active combat forces with reserve combat formations.

For example, the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division, one of the units deployed to the Middle East, has two brigades of regulars with a third "round out" brigade of reservists.

Former Secretary of Defense Mel Laird was the original architect of this idea in the mid-1970s. He was inspired by outrage at the reserve forces being used by summer-time patriots who knew they would escape Vietnam duty through reserve service.

Congress subsequently modified Laird's idea, largely because it is cheaper to maintain reserve forces than full-time regu-

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**"Don't try to scare us or threaten us. Won't work, never has."**

**— General Colin L. Powell**

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lars, for obvious reasons. Congress shrugged off reservations by the professionally military about placing too much emphasis on reserves. Regular officers pointed to poor performances by National Guard divisions during the Korean War and to the fact that some of those few reservists summoned to duty during the Pueblo/Tet era actually went to court, claiming that the call-up was illegal and that they were too poorly trained to do their jobs.

Congress dismissed those reservations with the contention that the examples were due to poor equipment and inadequate training afforded the reserves under previous policy. First-rate equipment and improved training techniques would bring raised performance and improved attitude to nearly equal that of regular troops, Congress declared.

No one with even rudimentary knowledge of military realities really believes that. All other considerations aside, it simply is impossible to imbue the same spirit and install the same expertise in 30 days a year of training as can be done in 365. Hopefully, however, reserve performance will be vastly improved over that of previous crisis.

For that matter, no military unit is at peak performance until it has been tested in the heat of armed conflict. And at least one of the units committed to the Middle East has a poor record to erase. While the 82nd Airborne and the Marine regiments on duty over there have splendid histories, the 24th Mech's predecessor, the 24th Infantry Division, does not. An out-of-shape, ill-trained 24th Division sent to Korea when that war erupted, suffered the ultimate disgrace of seeing its Commanding Officer, Major General William F. Dean, taken prisoner when his troops left him behind. Individual soldiers of the 24th performed heroically during those early days of Korea, but many of its units broke and ran upon encountering a tough, motivated enemy.

Reserve performance in this crisis will determine to a large extent, shooting war or not, how much reliance will be placed on reserve elements in the future and on the basic Total Force concept.

"It's a real test for the whole future of the reserves," says Martine Binkin, analyst on military manpower issues at the liberal Brookings Institution in Washington. "It will determine whether this unprecedented dependence on reserves is a reasonable option for our national security."

As mentioned, the Marines are the most self-contained of all services and expect to call up the fewest number of reserves. Most initial Navy call-ups will be of reservists filling in slots in stateside locations vacated by full-time personnel assigned to the

Middle East or duty with the fleet. Some 400 Navy reservists, for example, were ordered to duty at Bethesda Navy Hospital near Washington, D.C., to replace a like number of doctors, nurses and medics assigned to the hospital ship U.S. *Comfort*, deployed to the

Mideast. Many Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard pilots, navigators and flight engineers hold similar positions in civilian life as do the aerial ground crews. In any case, most flight crews of the Air Guard and reserve spend considerably more time training than do Army reservists and guardsmen.

Also undergoing its first test is the Defense Department's concept of computers and other high tech equipment serving as a "Force Multiplier," making fighting units vastly more effective through automation.

Although the Pentagon has been spending billions on this idea, it has never been seriously tested. The theory is so attractive as a method of cutting military budgets while theoretically not reducing national security, few in Congress have challenged or expressed reservations about it.

This writer has been covering the military/high technology scene for more than a year and his advice is: don't bet the rent money that computers are going to come any place close to performing the miracles expected of them. My prediction is that computers and allied high technology will one day be a useful military tool but no more so than any other device in the inventory. And all of it will require a lot of improvement before it reaches that stage of development.

Although computers and other tools of automation have been tested to some extent and some of them "ruggedized" to meet military specifications, none has been subjected to anything like the hostile environment of a Middle Eastern desert.

Computers are subject to malfunctions from static electricity, dust particles, tobacco smoke, extreme humidity and heat. In the Middle East temperatures reach 130 degrees Fahrenheit, dust and sand storms are the rule rather than the exception and as in any extremely dry climate, static electricity is ever present. The dust in this area

is so bad that sailors in the U.S. fleet far out to sea must constantly spray water on antennas and other electrical gear to keep it clean.

No computer ever made has ever been exposed to anything remotely resembling the conditions prevalent in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait — or Iraq.

At least one group of men greeted the Middle East crisis and even duty in the area with unrestrained enthusiasm — the deckhands and gang crews who man U.S. merchant ships. America's merchant marine has been in a state of decline for many years due to competition from Third World ship lines and U.S. companies whose ships sail under foreign flags

like Panama, Liberia, Honduras and other nations whose crew pay, insurance and safety standards are below those of U.S. Coast Guard licensing requirements.

Merchant sailors reacted with unrestrained glee to the recall of 40 ships from the civilian Ready Reserves Fleet maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT). And DOT Secretary Samuel K. Skinner says more vessels will be activated and put to sea as the situation demands.

These ships will carry weapons, supplies, aircraft, vehicles and other military related cargo to Middle Eastern ports supplementing military transport vessels already pressed into service.

It is the first time the Ready Reserves fleet has been activated since it was created in 1976.

DOT's Maritime Administration acquires and maintains the fleet by purchasing at scrap value ships which have become surplus or are considered obsolete for commercial purposes. As newer vessels are bought, older ones are retired — although a few of the venerable World War II and Korean War Liberty Ships so familiar to veterans of those conflicts are still on hand.

Maritime Administration maintains the craft in three categories of time required to activate them — five days, 10 or 20. The fleet is a familiar sight to boaters and sightseers at the three principal sites of storage: the James River in Tidewater, Virginia; Beaumont, Texas; and Suisun

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## No military unit is at peak performance until it has been tested in the heat of armed conflict.

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*Continued on page 73*



# DESERT SHIELD: ON THE FRONT LINE

Photo: Bouvet/Liaison

**Sheridans  
and  
Abrams,  
M16s and  
CBR gear ...**

Photo: Durand/Sygma



# A

S we said in an earlier issue, by the time you read this U.S. forces may be at war in the Middle East. We hope so —and we hope not. Saddam Hussein must be met with and stopped by force, and right now we're the primary force in the theater capable of doing just that. What happens now in the Middle East will shape the world to come in the next decades, and the United States must reassert its place as the key player in controlling events — or we'll continue to face other Saddam Husseins, in other places, at other times.

But for those of us who have trod the bloody paths of combat, the thought of our young men and women scattered dead across the sands of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq make us pause and think back to our own experiences in war. There's no glory in dying; no parades for those who come home in body bags.

We hope and pray it doesn't have to come to that. There may be another solution that pulls us back from the abyss of war. But if war does come, then these are the people who will fight it. They're good, the best this country's ever fielded. We're proud to print their pictures in this magazine. No matter what you think of the situation in the Middle East, you should be proud of them too. They are, after all, yours. ✕



Photo: Langevin/Sygma

Photo: PAQ/DePietris

Photo: Langevin/Sygma





Photos: PAO/DeFries

**Dragons  
and  
Mortars,  
Kevlar  
and  
M9s ...**



Photo: PAO/DeFries



Photo: Ferry/Liaison



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Langevin/Sygma



**Mark 19s and HE  
... are only as  
good as the men  
who use them.**

# COBRAS OVER KUWAIT

## Marine Attack Helicopters Poised to Dust Saddam's Armor

by Ross Simpson



Veteran SOF correspondent Ross Simpson is with the troops in Saudi Arabia, and files this three-part report on those who wait for the balloon to go up: USMC chopper jocks, Kuwait's air force-in-exile, and American hospital

ships sailing off the coast.

**I**F fighting breaks out in the Persian Gulf, as most American fighting men expect it will, SuperCobra gunship pilots like Marine Captain Ken Loy of Carson City, Nevada, will have a ringside seat.

Loy, a member of HMLA-367, the infamous Scarface Squadron, the first Marine aviation unit to get its hands on the Cobra during the Vietnam War, likes being out front going "eyeball to eyeball with the bad guys."

Anticipating close air-support missions for Marines strung out along a defensive line south of the Saudi-Kuwait border, Loy chuckled, "There's not a better seat on the battlefield than the one I'm sitting in."

Scarface is one of three SuperCobra gunship squadrons stationed at an air base in eastern Saudi Arabia that is principal home to Marine Air Group 16. Lined up alongside the SuperCobras are CH-53 Sea Stallions, CH-46s, Hueys and some British Puma helicopters. A handful of French-built Aerospatiale Gazelles with Kuwaiti markings are to be seen at the far end of

Not yet in desert camo, early-arriving Marine SuperCobra patrols near Saudi border with Kuwait. Photo: Capt. Ken Loy, USMC



Nest of Cobras at Saudi airfield in Eastern Province, where two squadrons share space with Hueys, Sea Stallions, British Pumas, and Free Kuwaiti Gazelles. Photo: Ross Simpson

the tarmac.

Together with the Gunrunners (HMLA-269) and the Gunfighters (HMLA-369), Scarface will be tasked with destroying thousands of tanks and armored vehicles Saddam Hussein has dug-in up to their turrets in southern Kuwait. Marine Capt. Carl Frost of Richfield, Connecticut, says Scarface is more than up to that task.

### Pop Up ... Fire and Forget

"The Cobra is a mobile SAM platform that hugs the terrain and hides behind sand dunes — popping up just long enough to launch a Hellfire or TOW missile at an Iraqi tank, and then disappearing," noted Frost as he and his rear-seater climbed into their camouflaged SuperCobra (AH1W).

"That's why we call Hellfires the fire-and-forget missile," added Frost as he strapped into the front seat and prepared for liftoff.

Hellfire is a third-generation airborne antiarmor weapon that homes in on a laser spot that can be projected from ground observers, other aircraft or the Cobra itself.

The TOW (Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided) missile is the most powerful antiarmor weapon used by infantry. It weighs some 38 pounds less than the 99-pound Hellfire missile.

When a TOW is fired, a

sensor in the launcher tracks a beacon in the tail of the missile. Frost and other front-seaters in Whiskey model SuperCobras (the type Scarface flies) need only keep their crosshairs on the target. A computer in the launcher corrects any deviation of the missile from the crosshair aim point and sends corrections to the missile via two extremely thin wires that deploy in flight. But don't think that the SuperCobra is only a tank killer.

Captain Frost pointed out that "we can also defend against enemy fixed-wing aircraft." With AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, the SuperCobra can shoot down an Iraqi MiG fighter should he choose to come down on the deck and dance.

"The choice is up to him whether he wants to press the fight, or butt out," chuckled Frost. But if any Iraqi pilot feels the urge to get up close and personal with Scarface, he's going to get snake bitten.

The SuperCobra is a high-performance attack helicopter. Like the AH-64A Apache, the Army's primary attack helicopter, the SuperCobra is highly maneuverable on the battlefield and capable of flying at 150 knots, or sneaking up on enemy armor at less than 40 knots.

### USMC Sticks With The Snake

Although the Apache is more heavily armed with its 30mm chain gun in a chin turret instead of the SuperCobra's 20mm cannon, and is all-weather rated, the Marine Corps is apparently going to "stick with the snake," stated USMC SuperCobra pilot Capt. Randy Hammond of Temecula, California, whose father is a retired Marine Corps fighter pilot.

The Apache was designed as an antitank aircraft, whereas Cobras can perform a variety of missions, including escort duty from ship to shore. But it's not the Hellfires, TOWs, 20mm cannon, AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, or an assortment of 2.75- and 5-inch Zuni rockets that make the SuperCobra the "baddest boy on the block." It's the night vision goggles



**ABOVE:** Business end of Marine SuperCobra sports three-barreled 20mm cannon, but craft is primarily a mobile missile launcher, carrying Hellfire, TOW and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles for whatever it meets on land or in air. Photo: Ross Simpson

**ABOVE LEFT:** Hot, dusty, featureless environs of Saudi Arabia require chopper jocks to keep off the deck as much as possible to help save equipment for the main event. Photo: Ross Simpson

**LEFT:** "Here's looking at *you*, Saddam," grins Captain Randy Hammond through third-generation night vision goggles. Photo: Capt. Ken Loy, USMC

(NVGs) the pilots wear.

The Marine Corps began issuing night vision goggles (AN/AVS6) to its air squadrons in 1982, because on today's sophisticated battlefield, night vision goggles are critical to operations after dark.

"With the plethora of hand-held systems used by Iraq, night seems to be the only

time we want to fly," stressed Capt. Keith Sweeney, a weapons and tactics officer with MAG-16.

"The Iraqis have limited night-fighting capability at best," confirmed Capt. Hammond.

### War Will Begin After Sundown

Conventional wisdom among military observers in the Middle East is that war with Iraq, if it comes, will begin after sundown.

The United States began its highly successful invasion of Panama in the middle of the night on 19 December 1989, and given the distinct advantage over Iraqi forces in night-fighting capability, bets are that the balloon will go up after dark in Kuwait.

The U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia plans to exploit that weakness to the maximum. That's why Hammond and other Scarfaces spend 25 hours a month in the saddle at night.

"I've flown so many night missions the past couple of years," Hammond said, "that switching from day to night ops is like switching on the lights in my living room back home."

The new night vision goggles that were handed out recently to helicopter crews in the Persian Gulf have improved visual acuity, or sharpness, and are less susceptible to failure.

Depth of field, a major complaint among pilots, especially "runnin' and gunnin'" Cobra crews, is limited because of technology. Pilots are still peering through a monochromatic television system. Peripheral vision, however, has been improved by cutting the frame that connects the night vision goggles to the pilot's helmet.

Before Hammond headed for the flight line, he took me into the head and handed me his helmet. In total darkness, I could read his leather nametag at 10 feet as clearly as if someone had turned on the lights.

Light is magnified through 1.5 million microscopic glass tubes inside the goggles and can transform the murky black desert terrain into an almost daytime beachlike glow. Tiny points of light on the horizon become large spotlights through the goggles. The image is a bit grainy and greenish, but provides a distinct advantage for the high-tech warrior of today.

Don't let anyone kid you, though. NVGs can be harmful to your health if you're not careful. When you're operating with night vision goggles, you have to slow down and give yourself a little more room between the aircraft and the ground.

### Biggest Problem is Dust

In the desert, the biggest problem is dust. It's so bad you can't see a helicopter land at a distance. It disappears in a cloud of dust. Just imagine how spooky it can be from inside the cockpit.

Marine Brigadier General Granville

Amos, assistant commander of the Marine Air Wing, told SOF that early in October MAG-16 adopted an "absolute minimum" 200-foot altitude requirement for Marine helicopters using night vision goggles in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations. Without NVGs, the minimum altitude is 500 feet.

Amos said the principal reason for the restriction was to "get up out of the dust" at low altitudes, which causes erosion of helicopter blades and engines, adding that safety was "also a factor."

Amos noted that Marine helicopters are flying fewer missions now than earlier in their deployment. Asked why, Amos declared, "We don't want to burn up everything and not be ready on game day."

## Flying in the desert is different from any other kind of flying.

Flying in the desert is different from any other kind of flying. The featureless terrain gives pilots fewer reference points than other terrain. But there are some advantages. While tall grass reflects 18% of the light that strikes it, sand reflects about 40%, making the image through the NVG lens brighter and sharper.

However, the field of view through night vision goggles is limited to about 40% of the eye's natural field of vision, requiring pilots to keep their heads in constant motion.

The goggles also distort vision, making distant objects look much larger and the ground much nearer than they actually are, a potentially dangerous situation for landings.

Another nuisance is that a bright light on the horizon, such as a gas or oil fire, or even bright landing lights at a desert airfield can temporarily "wipe out" a pilot's night vision, leaving him unable to see anything through his goggles.

### USMC - No Crashes with NVGs

Overall, however, pilots such as Randy Hammond discount concerns over the safety of goggles and say they feel far safer using them at night than flying without them, and it is worthy of note that the Marine Corps has had none of the land-based helicopter crashes with pilots using night vision goggles experienced by the Army.

"NVGs have gotten a lot of bad press in the past due to a number of fatal accidents involving pilots wearing night vision goggles," agreed Hammond as he adjusted his helmet and stared at me through the evil-looking hi-tech eyes. They were a

cross between Darth Vader and RoboCop as the glass lens in the NVGs caught a shard of sunshine that turned the lens an icy blue. The sinister sight sent a shiver up my spine. You can imagine how an Iraqi tanker will feel when a Cobra suddenly rises from behind a hummock in front of him.

In addition to slowing down and flying higher, helicopter units are also returning to the buddy system. In the United States, Cobra crewmen, both of whom are pilots and have controls in their tandem cockpit, rarely fly together. There's a lot of "seat swapping" in the States, but in Saudi Arabia the Marine Corps has adopted a "combat crew concept" where front-seaters and rear-seaters fly exclusively together. This enables them to develop more coordination. In a sense, they become like Siamese twins.

The "guy in the back" flies the ship and flips all of the switches for the weapons system while the "guy in the front" navigates and fires a mix of four Hellfire and four TOW missiles that hang from racks on both sides of the bird. The reason is simple for this so-called "division of labor" when you look at the front seat. The guy up front has a field of view that extends 110 degrees on either side of the reference line of the aircraft.

A chin-mounted, triple-barrelled 20mm cannon is point-and-shoot technology. A little rail on top of the pilot's helmet slaves the gun to port and starboard as the man up front turns his head side to side looking for targets of opportunity on the ground or in the air.

### SuperCobras Survive

SuperCobras that are flying in Saudi Arabia have a more powerful engine pack than previous models, which allows the "Whiskeys" to pack more punch. That's what sold the Marine Corps commandants, past and present, on the souped-up Cobra. They felt Judgement Day was coming in the Middle East and they wanted a helicopter gunship that could not only dish out more than it would receive, but also survive a hostile environment where searing heat and blowing sand can do as much damage as enemy ground fire.

Marine Corporal Eugene Eddy, an aviation technician from Orr, Minnesota, judged that the SuperCobra weapons systems have tolerated the desert heat pretty well, but some black boxes have overheated, "screwing up the avionics."

SuperCobras are not heavily armored. The only protection pilots have is the armored seat they sit in, and chicken plates (chest protectors) they wear. Their survivability depends on their maneuverability. Captain Loy hopes to use the desert terrain to his advantage in the event of hostilities.

"We'll stay down low as long as we can," grinned the young pilot, "...before we pop up and shoot."

So ... Saddam, here's looking at you.

# KUWAIT'S TOP GUNS

## Air Force-in-Exile Waiting to Strike Back

by Ross Simpson



**C**OMPARED to the Americans with their F-15s, the British with their Tornados and the Royal Saudi air force with a mix of both, the Kuwaiti air force, with its aging fleet of 24 A-4 Skyhawks and 36 fighters

(before the invasion), looks like a flea on an elephant's behind. But according to an American and a Canadian working the flight line in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where Kuwaiti pilots sought refuge after Iraq invaded their country on 2 August, "the Kuwaiti air force may be small, but it's not just size that counts."

"Pilot for pilot," said Michael Barclay, of Sidney, British Columbia, "they're probably as good as any pilots in the international force. The Kuwaitis also know the terrain well."

Barclay and Mark O'Connor, of Troy, New York, are part of a team keeping a squadron of Kuwaiti A-4 attack planes ready for action. The New Yorker considers himself an "American Kuwaiti," having spent five years working with the Kuwaiti squadron.

As O'Connor gave an A-4 pilot the go sign on the line, the first thing my eyes caught were the words "Free Kuwait" stenciled on the engine cowling. I saluted and the pilot returned my salute with a thumbs up.

If war comes to the Persian Gulf, how will the Kuwaiti pilots perform in combat, I asked O'Connor. "They'll hold their own against the Iraqis if any of them get airborne," he said flatly.

"I've been in aviation for 25 years and these pilots are no different than American pilots," he added. "They have the fighter jock ego, are mentally sharp and very professional."

When Saddam Hussein rolled into Ku-

wait more than three months ago, the Kuwait squadron scrambled. Since the invasion it's had to operate without its sophisticated computerized maintenance system. This has forced O'Connor and his crew to revert to paperwork. So far that's gone well. They've kept their birds in the air.

O'Connor has about 70 maintenance and administrative personnel under his wing. A typical U.S. fighter squadron has about three times that number. But O'Connor says his people are motivated and more people would only cause him headaches.

Barclay, who along with his wife and three children were among the first Canadians to escape into the desert from Kuwait, is responsible for overall administration.

Before "bugging out" for sanctuary in Saudi Arabia, Barclay says the Kuwait air force did a number on Iraqi tanks rolling into Kuwait.

Kuwaiti pilots couldn't use the runway. Iraqi jets had cratered it with bombs, so they taxied onto a nearby road and flew to meet the enemy.

"These guys are good," Barclay said. "All of our planes landed safely in Saudi Arabia. None were shot down by the Iraqis."

Every member of the Kuwaiti squadron lives on base in barracks at Dhahran, so they are close to their planes. "If something happens," said O'Connor, "we want to be ready."

O'Connor, who served with the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, added, "I don't see a big

threat from a rocket, ground or air attack this deep in Saudi territory; we're about 200 kilometers south of the Kuwait border."

Having flown over Dhahran and the port of Jubail to the north, Saddam would be insane to send his air force this deep. Trying to get through the maelstrom waiting in the form of Patriot and Hawk anti-aircraft



Kuwaiti jet gets the go from American ground crew members at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where Kuwaiti squadron is temporarily based. Photo: Ross Simpson

missiles would be like trying to go "downtown" over Hanoi at the height of the air offensive against the North Vietnamese capital.

"Suicide, absolutely suicide," said a Patriot technician. "They can run, but they can't hide from these mothers." Their battery was set up on a parking lot near the seaport.

Barclay began his second tour in Kuwait five months before the invasion. Both he and O'Connor came to Kuwait the first time for the money, but fell in love with the country. They are both anxious to see Kuwait liberated.

Until then, they're working 12 hours a day, seven days a week to keep the Free Kuwait air force flying.



# CASEVAC COMFORT

## U.S. Hospital Ships Stand By to Save Lives

by Ross Simpson



**A**SK any soldier or Marine who has ever stormed a beachhead and they'll tell you how comforting it is to go into battle knowing that if they get hit, they're only a hop, skip and jump from a hospital ship.

USNS *Comfort* and her sister ship, USNS *Mercy*, are on station in the Persian Gulf, standing by to minister to thousands of American servicemen who may get hurt in the event of war in the Persian Gulf. According to Navy officers, the ships rank as the ninth largest hospitals in the world.

British experts estimate the U.S.-led multinational force could suffer 20,000 casualties in a 60-day campaign against Iraq, but a spokesman for U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia says any war with Iraq "ain't gonna last that long." On the other hand, a command spokesman who requested anonymity told me, "It's going to be bloody."

Since the *Comfort* and *Mercy* arrived in the gulf in mid-September, the mammoth white ships (both converted supertankers that used to haul crude oil in these troubled waters) have been tested only once.

In October, a steam pipe ruptured on the helicopter carrier USS *Iwo Jima*, burning 10 sailors. Six of the seamen were DOA, dead on arrival at *Comfort*. Four others died within eight hours.

"It was horrible," said a Navy nurse who responded to the mass casualty call, the civilian equivalent of a Code Blue.

"The young men were grotesque when they were carried on stretchers from the helipad to the mass casualty receiving bay below deck," reported Lieutenant JG Denise Villemarie of Burlington, Vermont, who is still visibly shaken by the experience.

"There was really nothing we could do for them," added a colleague, who told of watching surgeons relieve the swelling by making incisions from wrists to armpits and crotch to ankles on one sailor.

Captain Chester McLaughlin, an orthopedic surgeon from Bethesda Naval Hospi-

tal in Washington, D.C., says one of the young men he treated was burned over 90% of his body.

"Only his genitalia were untouched." But McLaughlin says none of the sailors medevaced to *Comfort* suffered. "They were anesthetized, and simply slipped away in a deep drug-induced sleep," said McLaughlin.

There was nothing that could be done to save *Iwo Jima* victims. "Unfortunately, their burns were so severe, it was impossible to have the outcome turn out any differently," said McLaughlin. "Most of the burns were 90% and above. Statistically, these individuals have no chance to survive."

As sad as it was for the *Comfort* crew to watch the men die in the ship's ICU, it prepared them for what might lie ahead.

### Bloody Practice

Although *Comfort* and *Mercy* have yet to be "bloodied by battle," their respective crews of 900 each have been working around the clock to prepare for their wartime mission of treating mass casualties. Since arriving in the Persian Gulf, both of the 894-foot-long floating hospital ships have been conducting mass casualty drills. I was asked to participate in one of them.

The white paper tag taped to my chest read STOMACH WOUND. LOWER LEFT ABDOMEN. SEVERE BLOOD LOSS.

As the Army helicopter approached the helipad at *Comfort*, a public address announcement blared on deck.

"Flight Quarters, Flight Quarters. This is a drill. We've got a Black Hawk inbound with six litter patients from the field. Two minutes out."

Thanks to some red cake coloring to simulate blood, black carbon dust from a copier machine to simulate the grime of battle and some surgi-lube to give us that sweaty look, the six volunteers, including myself, looked like runaways from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

One of the crew members aboard *Comfort* who volunteered to play the part of patient had been horribly burned like the *Iwo Jima* victims, another had both arms blown off at the elbows, another was shot in the neck, and yet another had fallen on a grenade to save his buddy.

"I don't think I could deal with losing both arms," said the young woman who volunteered to have her arms taped to her chest and elbows painted with cake coloring to look like bloody stumps.

In the event of war in the Persian Gulf, patients would be brought to *Comfort* and *Mercy* by helicopter or small boat. Nobody can predict the kind of casualties these ships will see. The injuries could be medical as well as traumatic in nature.

Initial triage is performed by the flight deck chief as soon as medevac

choppers land on the helipad. Once at the elevator, another triage officer decides which patients are taken to the morgue, which are "walking wounded" and can be cared for by Navy corpsmen, and which are to be hustled downstairs for immediate care.

On our way down to mass receiving in the elevator, Commander Gage Ochsner, a former medical officer with the Marine Corps 2nd Tank Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the physician who wrote the protocol for handling mass casualties in the Gulf, instructed us to add a sense of realism to the drill by screaming



Hospital ship *Comfort* at anchor in Persian Gulf. Photo: courtesy Ross Simpson

and yelling when the elevator door opened.

"In a real life situation, few victims are silent. Only those who are unconscious," said Dr. Ochsner who patterned some of the syllabus he wrote after procedures he observed during a two-year stint at MED-STAR, a shock trauma center just east of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

"A 9mm gunshot wound in D.C. isn't as bad as an AK-47 wound or shrapnel from a grenade, mortar or artillery round," confessed Ochsner, "but the same principles of treatment hold true."

### Speed is Everything

Speed is everything in trauma cases. It often spells the difference between life and death. Concerned about the shortage of combat-experienced doctors in the 20 years that have passed since Vietnam, the military recently began lending doctors like Ochsner to urban hospitals hard hit by the drug wars.

The program offered military doctors training in treating bullet wounds and other warlike traumas, while helping short-staffed urban emergency rooms. The Washington Hospital Center was among the first civilian hospitals to participate.

In order to expedite treatment of the injured brought from the battle, Dr. Ochsner instituted several measures in the mass casualty receiving bay. Medical forms, bracelets and vials for blood are pre-packaged in a plastic bag by number so that patients can be tracked from the time they arrive on board until they are taken to the morgue or one of 16 wards aboard *Comfort*.

Ochsner also borrowed a management technique from aircraft carriers which call for deck crews to wear different colored T-shirts to differentiate between ordnancemen (red) and refuelers (purple) by requiring hospital personnel to wear different colored baseball caps.

Since it's so noisy in the bay during a mass casualty call, Ochsner has equipped each treatment area with equipment to provide continuous monitoring of a patient's vital signs, blood pressure, etc. With this equipment, there's no need for a nurse to "cuff" the patient and check his blood pressure. With a selector switch, the attending physician can dial up BP and heart imaging at one, two or three minute intervals. No need to add to the confusion by shouting, "Patient's BP 120 over 90." Vital signs are displayed digitally on monitor screens.

In the event *Comfort* and *Mercy* were swamped with battlefield casualties, there would not be enough doctors to go around. As in past wars, hospital corpsmen would perform tasks some thought impossible. Doctors would be left to treat life-threatening cases.

Seeing the need to rotate doctors from workstation to workstation where expertise was urgently needed, Dr. Ochsner, a trauma surgeon at Bethesda Naval Hospital, developed yet another color coding scheme.

Ochsner wrapped orange arm bands around posts at work stations. In the event a doctor is urgently needed, a corpsman would simply slide up the armband; much like a red flag being raised. A senior nurse stationed on the floor is charged solely with keeping track of the orange armbands and dispatching physicians to calls for help.

### Chemical Warfare

Saddam Hussein's threats of using chemical warfare are being taken seriously by *Comfort's* crew. Extra time is spent each week on training to handle patients contaminated by poisonous gas.

The ship is using a process invented by Lieutenant Commander Alison Mueller several years ago that allows a medical team to quickly decontaminate injured service personnel exposed to poisonous gas. The goal is to decontaminate patients in 15 minutes, but the number one goal is not to contaminate the ship.

When contaminated patients enter the hospital ship, they are taken to one of five decontamination units where crew members wearing protective gear cut away contaminated clothing. Next the patients are taken to a second room where they are washed down with a bleach solution and a soft sponge and brush. Air inside this room is changed six times a minute to keep it as clean as possible. From there, patients are sent on for further medical care.

### Range of Services

*Comfort's* wide range of services makes it comparable to a big city medical center. Among other things, the hospital ship features:

- 12 operating rooms and up to 1,000 beds, including four intensive care wards with 80 beds.

- A Navy staff which is 30% female, that consists of 500 physicians, dentists, nurses, health care administrators, medical and dental technicians. Another 400 non-medical personnel handle other duties such as administration, supply and personnel services.

- A range of specialized care services such as two dental surgery rooms, four dental examining rooms, prosthetics, testing laboratories, four complete radiology suites, blood banks containing 3,000 units of frozen blood, a brain scanner and a pharmacy.

The staff of both *Comfort* and *Mercy* were assembled in less than a week, mostly from military medical and dental clinics on the East and West coasts. The staff also includes a nine-member surgical team from the Canadian forces.

"In Canada, we don't have a hospital ship like this, so this is a brand new experience for me," said Lieutenant Red Hamel, a nurse from the National Defense Medical Center in Ottawa, and member of the Canadian Navy. "I'm used to working under canvas in field hospitals."

Like U.S. ground-based forces in the Persian Gulf, the *Comfort's* crew seems

less concerned about the possibility of war than by the tedium and uncertainty of the future.

Captain Paul Berry, the *Mercy's* skipper, said jokingly, "Surgeons pace the passageways looking to take out each other's appendix."

The biggest treat of the day comes after dinner when officers carry the beach chairs they bought in Rota, Spain, on the way across the Atlantic Ocean to the mass casualty receiving bay and watch movies, compliments of a video outlet in Washington, D.C.

### Get a Real Job

As I lay flat on my back and was prepped for "simulated surgery" to remove a slug from my stomach, I thought how real this exercise was. Especially when I closed my eyes and listened to the litany of orders being given by doctors such as Perry Stafford, a former Marine Corps pilot who flew more than 500 combat missions in an A-4 Skyhawk.

Why did Stafford give up a glamorous job as a jet jock and become a pediatric surgeon?

"I had to grow up and get a real job," laughed the guy who nurses in the surgical suite call the "Quack."

The director of nursing services aboard *Comfort* is a Vietnam veteran. Captain Jewel Lockney honed her skills on hospital ship *Sanctuary*. Lockney says it's rare to see both of the Navy's hospital ships side-by-side in the Persian Gulf; perhaps an omen of what's to come.

USNS *Comfort* and USNS *Mercy* fly the flags of both the Red Cross and its Arabic equivalent, the Red Crescent. If war does come to this region of the world, Gage Ochsner says it is possible an American Marine and an Iraqi soldier might be treated in the same bay.

"No one," says Cmdr. Ochsner, "will be refused medical treatment, not even our enemy." Navy policy.

Healed of my make-believe wounds, I joked with the staff about looking like Clarabelle the Clown who had been run over by a Mack truck. But this drill was no joke. Those who participated in it were deadly serious. The trauma they suffered when 10 sailors from USS *Iwo Jima* were brought aboard a week ago was too fresh. The shock had not worn off yet.

Walking to the helipad for a flight back to the mainland on a CH-53, a helicopter from Desert Duck Airlines, a Navy squadron, I heard the *Comfort's* skipper come on the ship's PA system and compliment his crew on their performance.

"Our experience with the *Iwo Jima* incident only solidifies the importance of these drills," Captain Roger Pentzien said. "When the real thing feels like a drill ... only then are we truly ready. That is all."

*Comfort* and *Mercy* are ready to live up to their names.



Ever-present Saudi sand is more than an annoyance. Here a Sea Stallion sent to pick up author and band members disappears into its own dust storm at the LZ, and has an uncomfortably near miss with a sister ship.



I WAS looking, but I couldn't see him. It wasn't until I got inside 50 yards that I could barely discern his left shoulder sticking out of the thistle bush he'd been using for cover. By that time

it was too late — I had stumbled into a Marine sniper position, and the man with his finger on the trigger was an “up and rising star” among that tight fraternity of trained killers.

Had Sergeant Thomas E. Ryan been wearing his full desert camo, a suit of garnish known in the sniper business as a “Ghillie suit,” (named after a suit Scottish

game keepers wore in the 1700s), I would have passed by without seeing him in the prone position, caressing the trigger of his sniper rifle as if it were a Stradivarius.

Even in today's hi-tech world of war, the most feared and most respected warrior on the battlefield is still the sniper.

Ryan shrugged. “Reducing the enemy's capability is what war is all about, so why all the fuss about snipers?” he said.

“Does it really make any difference whether you're killed with artillery as opposed to a sniper? We're talking about reducing the same thing, reducing the enemy. Perhaps it's the fear of someone putting you in his cross hairs that shakes up troops on both sides so much,” Ryan said as he scanned the featureless terrain around his position.

However, cleverly concealed, a sniper can strike fear into units with a single round.

“One Shot, One Kill — that's our motto,” noted this 27-year-old Marine from Kansas City, Kansas, who had never picked up a weapon, much less fired one

DATELINE: SOMEWHERE IN SAUDI ARABIA

# CROSS HAIRS ON BAGHDAD

## USMC Scout Snipers Wait to Reach Out and Touch Someone

Text & Photos by Ross Simpson

before shipping off to boot camp 10 years ago.

Today, Ryan is "chief sniper," of 1/7, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Saudi Arabia.

With his M40A1, the 7.62x51mm sniper rifle custom-made for U.S. Marines and Navy SEALs, Ryan can take a target down at 1,000 yards with one shot.

Like his rifle, Ryan's ammo is also handmade: precision loaded 7.62 match brass topped with 173-grain Sierra boat tail bullets.

Fully loaded with five rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber, this sniper rifle with its 10-power scope and 24-inch heavy varmint barrel weighs 14 1/2 pounds.

"When we squeeze off a shot," Ryan said, "we want to hold a 1-inch group for every 100 yards we shoot. For instance, if the target is 300 yards, I want to be able to hold my rounds in a 3-inch group."

### Ryan Re-Ups in Saudi Land

As 1,000 comrades-in-arms stood at attention in the Saudi desert, Tom raised

his right hand and took the oath of allegiance for a second tour from his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Mattis of Richland, Washington. It was the 215th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

The TL (tactical limit) for a sniper platoon is 10 shooters. Ryan, the platoon leader, has nine counting himself. And he's the "Top Gun."

After boot camp, Ryan was selected to attend the 1st Marine Division Sniper School at Camp Pendleton, California. Later, he was chosen to attend the Sniper Instructor School at Quantico, Virginia, where he picked up some finer points of shooting from the No. 1 Marine sniper, White Feather — aka Carlos Hathcock — who established the Marine Corps' Sniper School.

Hathcock, who had 98 confirmed kills in Vietnam before retiring on medical disability and becoming a consultant to the Corps and police SWAT teams in major cities across the country, preaches patience to young snipers. Ryan learned that lesson from the master himself.

Ryan recounts, "If you don't have the

patience sniping requires, you'll force the issue, force the shot, and could get yourself and your scout killed. Patience is the key. You may never get the shot, but the longer you wait and the more preparation you put into a mission, the greater the chances you'll live and your target will die."

Carlos Hathcock devised a formula for computing range and bullet drift so that he could drop NVA at incredible distances. One NVA officer met his maker when Hathcock hit him at more than 2,500 yards with a single shot from a .50 caliber machine gun that sported an 8x rifle scope.

With Hathcock, nothing was impossible. Hathcock could watch heat rising from a rice paddy and calculate in his mind how much elevation and windage he had to "crank in" before squeezing off a round. Nothing fancy. Just a simple formula.

Ryan and other Marine Corps snipers are taught in school to use those theories. However, because of the "one shot — one kill" demands of the job, today's sniper takes along calculators to figure the wind drift and range.

"We also tape little cheat sheets, range

## PARTY TIME IN THE DESERT

No matter where Leathernecks happen to be on the Marine Corps' birthday, they always take time to celebrate — even in the desert of Saudi Arabia, where they are training to shove Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait if President Bush determines a military solution is the only way to resolve the Persian Gulf Crisis.

Hopping aboard a CH-53 Sea Stallion from HMH-463, I flew north to where 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines were preparing to P-A-R-T-Y by firing up charcoal grills and breaking out non-alcoholic beverages, barbecued beans, and birthday cakes.

The terrain was barren as we headed northwest from the port of Jubail to 3-11's forward artillery position. Not much to see; only an occasional set of tracks in the sand below as we flew in formation with our sister ship. Although there were no unfriendlies in the region, the crew chief and 1st Mech manned their

machine guns, scanning the landscape that rushed below us. As a welcoming committee of two grunts popped smoke below us, the crew chief yelled in our ears to pull our goggles down. Good thing. The Stallion stirred up quite a sandstorm when the giant helo landed. Sand was sucked in both gun ports in front of the cargo compartment, covering everyone with a fine layer of grit. As we jumped off the rear ramp and ran for the top of a sand dune, we were sandblasted. I am still washing sand out of my ears.

Third Battalion, Chesty Puller's old unit, really threw quite a party. In keeping with Marine Corps tradition the guest of honor, in this case Brigadier General Thomas V. Draude, assistant commander of the 1st Marine Division, got the first piece of birthday cake. The next two slices went to the oldest grunt present at the party — Gunnery Sergeant George Colvin — and the youngest Leatherneck in the outfit — Private First Class Robert Leslie, Jr., a field radio operator from North Valley Station, New York.

After birthday messages from Marine Corps Commandant General A.M. Gray, and Lieutenant General W.E. Boomer, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Brig. Gen. Draude noted that this was the third Marine Corps Birthday he had celebrated with Lt. Gen. Boomer either at war or preparing for war. He further noted to the men of the 3-11 that he couldn't think of any place he'd rather be than about to enter Harm's Way with Marines on the 215th anniversary of the Corps. Does the brass know something we don't know?

After the speeches were delivered and the cake cut with a K-Bar knife, since none of the battalion's officers brought his ceremonial sword with him, the party

began.

"Are you sure those aren't camel burgers?" one Marine groused as he pointed to some patties sizzling on a grill.

"Man, these are 100% pure beef patties I'm cooking," the Marine behind the grill replied. "Tried 'em myself."

After lunch, there were baseball games, football games, frisbee and mail call.



Birthday party for the Corps starts for real as a leatherneck digs into the cake.

Corporal Mitchell Owens from Payson, Arizona, got 14 letters from kids at Glendale Elementary School in Phoenix where his sister-in-law teaches seventh grade.

The young boys and girls wanted to know all about him. How tall are you? What color is your hair? How did you get to be a corporal? However, some kids just wanted to tell him about their cat or dog.

Unlike some of the guys who read letters simply addressed "Service Member," and discard

them, Cpl. Owens answers every letter he receives — 30 so far.

From 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, we rode to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in the back of a 5 1/2-ton truck for another party where the guest of honor was someone special.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Mattis invited his grunts of 1-7 to give Brig. Patrick Cordingly, commander of the British 7th Armoured Brigade — the Desert Rats of WWII fame — "a hearty devil dog welcome." "My goodness," Cordingly responded, "that scared me. I wonder what it would do to the chaps on the other side."

As Cordingly stood in the midst of a semi-circle of Marines, he said their unit's bravery in battle was legendary, and he was proud to be on their flank, and, "If this conflict gets nasty there is no one I'd rather be next door to in a scrap than 1-7."

Brigadier Cordingly promised, "We've brought some fine armor with us [120 Challenger main battle tanks], and we won't let you Yanks down."

Asked if he thinks war is inevitable, Cordingly replied, "Yes! The stage is set."

The cake that Cordingly partook of was carried by a team of stretcher bearers, in keeping with Marine Corps tradition of never leaving its dead or wounded behind.

Unlike 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, there was no barbecue and no ball game at 1-7, as they were scheduled for a night training exercise at sunset. But the grunts did enjoy the birthday cake and collectively said this would be one birthday they probably will never forget.

— R.S.

cards and wind calculation cards to the stocks of our rifles in order to help us do our job," Ryan says. The scout, who covers the "back door" so he and the shooter don't have any unexpected guests, talks to the sniper much like a caddy talks to a PGA golfer who's trying to make the best of a bad lie on a difficult green.

### Not Best by Lucky Shots

Snipers can't rely totally on "cheat sheets." They must be able to recall the information they need from the darkest recesses of their brain in a flash. And although Tom Ryan is not, and may never be, in his mentor's league, he didn't become the best in his battalion with lucky shots.

"Some members of my platoon might disagree that I'm the best," Ryan laughed as he checked his gear before returning to his sniper position on the battalion's perimeter. "But I've had the best training of any shooter in my platoon, and as their leader, I have to know more than my junior riflemen."

Before he went back to work, SOF asked Ryan why he became a sniper. "They work independently of their regular rifle platoon," Ryan said as he sat on a sand dune cradling his camouflaged rifle. "Grunts usually work in a 35-man platoon, whereas a two-man sniper team, shooter and scout, work alone. I like that."

"You also have to have a little higher level of maturity, initiative and leadership to become a sniper, and because you're dealing with battalion commanders on special projects. You have to have a higher level of professionalism than the average Marine."

I asked him if his sniper mission made him feel like an assassin. "In a way, yes, because we are tasked to eliminate selected targets. We are also scouts. We go out and find the most secure route of travel for the battalion. That's why we are called Scout Snipers. Shooting is the most rewarding part of our mission, but it's only half of what we are called upon to do."

"Have you ever shot anyone?"

"No, I haven't."

"If you have to pull the trigger in Kuwait, could you kill an Iraqi soldier?"

### Nothing Personal

"That's a question most of us in my platoon have played over in our minds. And, yes, I could. I'd rather not, however my training would enable me to reduce key targets that down the road could inflict casualties upon my battalion and other allied forces in the area. So if the need ever arises, I could take him out."

"Nothing personal?"

"Not at all. Just business. The enemy is trying his best to take me out, and I'm doing my best to take him out, and I feel we're better at what we do than he is."

Grunts in 3rd Battalion have had a lot of time since landing in Saudi Arabia to think about what could happen in Kuwait, and

RIGHT: Sgt. Ryan is sworn in for another hitch by Lt. Col. Jim Mattis as his battalion stands at attention. Lt. Col. Mattis notes re-enlistments in his unit are double a year ago — no Marine wants to miss out on some possible action.

how long they may be here. An informal poll of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines found March or April 1991 as the earliest they expect to come home, and only after they have kicked Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait north of here.

Some of the younger men say they can “smell death in the air.” Most are eager to fight. One said, “The sooner, the better, because then we can go home.”

A young Marine from Michigan said flatly, “Let’s do it. We’re tired of sitting out here in the desert eating sand and swatting flies.”

“It’s time we rolled into Kuwait and kicked some ass,” added a buddy.

Older and wiser grunts like Gunnery Sergeant George Colvin, a 47-year-old Vietnam veteran from Rustin, Louisiana, is a little more reserved and thoughtful in his comments. “I hope we can settle this dispute with Saddam peacefully, because I have seen how horrible war can be.”

Brigadier General Thomas Draude, assistant commander of the 1st Marine Division agrees with Gunny Colvin. “I served three tours in Vietnam, and I have to say I would be the happiest man in the world if this conflict could be resolved without a shot being fired in anger.”

Draude, who hails from Annandale, Virginia, hopes the latest U.S. troop deployments to the Persian Gulf will convince Saddam Hussein it’s in his best interest to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

#### Saddam: Get the Hell Out of Dodge

“Yeah,” a young leatherneck from New Jersey agreed as he waved his K-Bar to make his point. “It’s a signal to Saddam that he oughta *get the hell out of Dodge!*”

Sergeant Ryan can also smell war in the wind. It fills his nostrils every time he turns his head to see which way the wind is blowing. “By his very actions, Saddam Hussein has said to the world he is not going to leave Kuwait, and we cannot allow him to stay there,” Ryan said as he put a pinch of Skoal under his lip.

“I feel we’re going to see some action before we go home,” Ryan added as he ran his fingers over his sniper rifle. “And if the word is given, we’re going to give Hussein a taste of his own medicine.”

Although the Gulf Crisis has been running hot and cold for months and could simmer until the spring of ’91, Sgt. Thomas Ryan believes the pot is going to boil over. “We feel we’re going to do it.”

Correspondent Ross Simpson, a frequent contributor, is covering the Persian Gulf crisis for SOF. ✕



Marine Scout Sniper Sgt. Thomas E. Ryan of Kansas City, Kansas, draws a bead from behind scant cover of a thistle bush in Saudi Arabian desert.

# THE FRENCH



**I**N the vast expanses of the Saudi Arabian desert, the best defense available to large military formations is constant, far-reaching reconnaissance. Forward reconnaissance, what the French call "investigation," is the mission of the 4th Squadron of the 1st Regiment de Hussards Parachutistes (RHP). Since their deployment to Saudi Arabia in early October, the RHP has been training to accomplish its mission in the harsh climate and difficult conditions of the Arabian peninsula.

The RHP was originally raised in France in 1740 by a Hungarian immigrant, Count Bercheny, and the regimental crest still carries his name. The RAP still displays many of the traditions and attitudes of an old cavalry regiment and performs traditional cavalry functions such as screening and reconnaissance, but its character is more that of an airborne than an armor formation. Discipline is by no means lax, but saluting and the traditional French slap on the thigh are given more as greetings to a fellow soldier than

as an act of military courtesy.

As a regiment of the 11th Parachute Division, a key element in France's Force D'Action Rapide, or FAR (see "French Far and Legion"), all the soldiers in the RHP are parachute-qualified. Their most frequent role is providing forward reconnaissance and additional firepower when the 11th deploys. Originally mounted in jeeps, the regiment converted to ERC 90 light armored vehicles to provide the 11th with an armor capability. The present



Captain Galy-Dejean, commanding officer for whom the 4th Squadron is named, 1st RHP.

French contingent in Saudi Arabia consists of a variety of armor and infantry units from the French army and Foreign Legion. The 4th Squadron provides reconnaissance for the entire force, but works most often with the Legion's 1st Cavalry Regiment.

First RHP, based in Tarbes in the southwest of France, consists of three reconnaissance squadrons, one antitank squadron (equipped with the combat-proven Milan antitank missile) and a headquarters and support squadron. Each of these squadrons is made up of four combat platoons, each equipped with ERC 90s and one headquarters platoon. In addition to the ERCs, the squadron also contains some two dozen other vehicles ranging from heavy trucks to the venerable

Renault jeep. The jeeps carry forward-mounted 7.62mm light machine guns while the light trucks carry top-mounted .50 cal. heavy machine guns. Although the machine guns are meant mostly for self-defense, they can provide additional offensive firepower when required.

The chief weapon of the squadron is the ERC 90, with its 90mm gun. Known as the "lance," it is the lightest armored vehicle in the French inventory. The crews operate with the hatches open, exposing themselves to the possibility of enemy fire, but allowing greater visibility. Additionally, the open hatches help keep the heat down and, most importantly, allow the vehicle commander to maintain visual contact with the squadron commander. Most of the signals used are given in the form of hand and arm signals, reducing the reliability on radio transmissions and providing extra security from enemy electronic countermeasures.

## Captain Galy-Dejean

Command when operating in the field comes from the squadron's commander, Captain Galy-Dejean. Galy-Dejean is a career officer who began his 14 years of service as an enlisted man in the 1st RHP. French cavalry squadrons are not known by numeric designators, but rather by the surname of their commander. So the 4th squadron is officially the Escadron Galy-Dejean. Galy-Dejean has given more than his name to the squadron, seeking to impose on his men something of his own character. As a parachutist and former

# CONNECTION

## SOF in the Sand With the French Cav

Text & Photos by John McDonald



The ERC 90, the heaviest weapon of the 4th Squadron, 1st RHP, provides armor capability for a highly mobile force.

pathfinder, his values are those recognized by airborne units the world over. Whether in the field on operations or in physical training the captain leads from the front, and by example.

When operating in the desert, the ERCs and other vehicles move on-line or in a "V" formation. The blowing sand and dust generated by the fast-moving vehicles precludes moving in column. While underway, the captain speeds from one end of the formation to the other, giving signals to his vehicle commanders to change formation or shift direction. Working as much as 15 kilometers forward of the main body and as far as 40 kilometers to the side, the squadron functions very much as light cavalry did 100 years ago.

### When Big Guns Are Small

The 90mm guns don't offer much in the way of offensive power for engaging tanks, but it is the squadron's mission to avoid contact. The soldiers of the RHP are quick to correct anyone who refers to their ERCs as tanks. Engaging the enemy results in loss of surprise and quickly dates whatever intelligence the squadron is providing for the larger formations behind them. Except when called on to join in an attack or when required for self-defense, the 90mm guns are almost superfluous.

Training in the desert is meant to get the squadron used to operating in the vast empty spaces, familiarize them with navigating here and maintain operational readiness. All of these seem to have been

accomplished. The squadron is comfortable in its new home and troops seem confident of their ability to execute

their mission. All weapons are fired regularly, from each soldier's FA MAS to the 90mm guns. When not outside their perimeter or on guard duty, the FA MAS rifles are kept in heavy cotton bags to reduce exposure to the elements and the sand. They are fired completely dry as any lubricant acts as a magnet for the fine sand and dust of the Saudi desert. There have been no weapons failures or maintenance problems resulting from the hostile conditions.

When not operating, the squadron occupies a basecamp near the other French units. Covering some 15 acres, the camp consists of tents for the troops, areas to park their vehicles and damn little else. Except for their meals, the French army is not long on creature comforts. Electric power for lights and cooking is provided by 10,000kw generators.

The desert can be extremely cold at night. Whether the temperature is actually that low or if it is just that the wide range between daily highs and lows makes it seem so cold, I can't say. But even in a sweatshirt, sweater and French army parka, I was as cold as I've ever been.

The cold doesn't seem to bother the troops. They rise at 0630 and after coffee and a light breakfast, fall out in PT gear for

morning formation. After a few brief words from the boss they work out, frequently playing volleyball. Following that, they begin the day's work. The daily routine, morning PT, training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment, doesn't differ much from their routine in France. One noticeable difference is

the lack of wine and beer in the mess. The Holy Koran's ban on alcohol extends to the visiting forces, even the French. Despite the lack of wine, the evening mess is still the center of the unit's existence. The comradeship and friendly arguments of the evening mess are an important factor in the high morale.

Morale is high for several reasons. Confidence in their weapons, equipment and themselves is perhaps the principal strength of the squadron. The high morale doesn't take the form of bragging or making dire predictions about the fate of the Iraqis, but is displayed in the calm professionalism of the squadron's officers and men. A full-strength squadron would have 114 men (five officers, 19 NCOs and



French light trucks mount .50 cal. machine guns, primarily for self-defense.

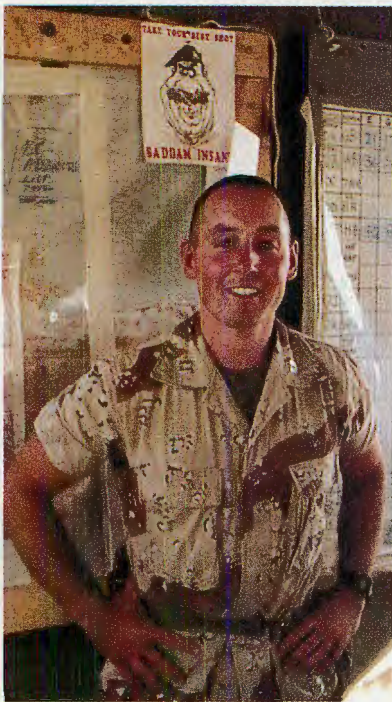
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# TARGET SADDAM

## Marine Arty Takes Aim at Iraq

Text & Photos by Ross Simpson



FDC officer Capt. John Ambrosia in front of Saddam target, courtesy of SOF.



**W**HEN I raised the camouflage netting and walked into the fire direction center (FDC) for 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, I knew they had a purpose in life.

Tacked to a map of their area of responsibility is a target with Saddam Hussein's mug on it — courtesy of SOF.

"I didn't know where it came from," Lieutenant Colonel Mark Adams, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, admits as he shows Colonel Shaalah Al-Haraby from the Saudi Army National

Guard (SANG), how FDC functions in a battalion mass fire mission.

Neither did anyone else in FDC, but no one, including the fire direction officer, wants to take down the target.

Captain John Ambrosia from Rochester, New York, adds, grinning like the cat who ate the canary, "You know who likes it? The Saudis over there."

When Ambrosia tells Col. Shaalah that his eight-gun battery is going to shoot some "fire for effect" missions, the Saudi officer cries, "No! No! We shoot to kill HIM," as he points toward Saddam's poster on the bulkhead of the FDC.

"Stand by to fire," radios the operations chief, Staff Sergeant Arthur Arechiga from Brownsville, Texas. "FIRE!"

The Saudi and his aide de camp smile from ear to ear as the big guns open up. "Yes, I like it too much," Col. Shaalah says as a salvo of 155mm HE leaves the tubes.

### Saudis Will Fight

As opposed to some observers who think the Saudis will skeddadle when the first shots are fired, Col. Shaalah believes his men will stand and fight. "They won't run, because we want to return Kuwait to our brothers."

When Golf Battery fires in support of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, a nearby infantry regiment, FDC is hopping. It's very, very confusing, very loud and very exciting in the fire direction center during a fire mission. To the uninformed it looks like a Chinese fire drill. Radios are crackling, people running around, shouting. But everyone knows what they've got to do, and they do it.

"If they're not, you've got people bumping heads, and the rounds don't go downrange where they're supposed to," Ambrosia adds, chatting with me and at the same time orchestrating a fire mission.

Behind SSgt. Arechiga sits Lance

Corporal Daniel Raab from Phoenix. Raab is operating a prototype piece of electronics that is not yet a part of official Marine Corps gear. This battlefield communications terminal controls and coordinates tactical fire on a target at the battalion level.



Golf Battery in action.

Raab would prefer not to process fire missions, but says he's ready to do what has to be done.

"Target Alpha Charley, zero-zero-zero-one, two-four rounds (24)," went the word from FDC to eight guns in Golf Battery.

### RAP Music

One-Niner-Eights, as the 155s are affectionately called by their crews, are capable of firing standard projectiles about 15km, up to 30km with rocket assisted projectiles (RAPs).

The RAP rounds are spectacular. Seven to 10 seconds after leaving the tube, you hear the rocket kick in as the round leaves a beautiful white streak across the sky. In a flash, they're gone.

Golf Battery is a direct support arm of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in Saudi Arabia. Golf's commanding officer, Capt. Cal Swain from Chicago, says the One-Niner-Eights in his battery are the weapon of choice for direct support of the infantry. The

howitzers are augmented by self-propelled 8-inch artillery.

"We can fire Copperhead (laser-guided rounds), smoke, illum, WP (white phosphorous) or high explosive ammunition."

If Swain's battery has to pick up and move on short notice, it can be in position to put "steel on target" within 30 minutes. However, there are problems associated with moving fast across the desert.

"You have to be careful of the terrain," Swain explains, "because it's easy to get the howitzers stuck." But the past three months have given Golf Battery invaluable training in reading terrain. Time has taught Swain where he can and can't go in the desert.

### Shooting Boosts Morale

Golf was the first Marine Corps artillery battery to deploy to Saudi Arabia. Captain Swain says his men are getting "antsy" waiting to get the show on the road, but their morale is high.

The motto of Golf Battery is "Run, Shoot and Communicate," and the whole crew is happiest when they're shooting. "It's a real morale booster," battalion commander Adams explains, adding that his people are ready to do whatever the commander-in-chief decides to do about Saddam's army of occupation in neighboring Kuwait.

In artillery outfits like Golf Battery, the FDC is its eyes and ears, the very heart and soul of the battalion. When everyone is pulling together and putting rounds on target, Cpt. Ambrosia says it's "like an orchestra."

Captain Ambrosia asks his operations chief if the target is in the open or dug in.

"In the open," SSgt. Arechiga replies.

"Fuse time," Ambrosia snaps when he learns the simulated target is a personnel vehicle.

The term "fuse time," means the shell will burst 20 meters above the ground, spraying everything within its range with deadly shrapnel. By calling for "fuse variable time," Ambrosia can lower the airburst to 7 meters.

"We don't want to shoot point detonate (PD) round at a personnel target," Ambrosia says, "because the PD will dig into the sand and have limited effect."

That's why Ambrosia has ordered the pace-setters on No. 6 gun in the battery to "fuse time."

As LCpl. Paul Heyland from Arlington, Texas, sets the fuse on a round and lugs the 100-pound projectile to the ammo tray, he comments, "Bursting one of these babies in the air is like hurling 80 hand grenades onto the battlefield."

Even though I have sponge plugs in my ears, I turn away from the howitzer and cup my ears when it belches fire and smoke, ramming the trails deeper into the sand.

From behind the gun all I can see are asses and elbows as the crew services the

gun, then fires three rounds as fast as they can open the breech, swab the barrel and ram another round into the field piece.

After the guns fall silent, there isn't a soul in this 10-man crew, from section chief, Cpl. Cory Calkins from Mesa, Arizona, to the powder man, LCpl. George T. Alcaraz from San Francisco, who claims he isn't frightened about the prospect of having to pack up their howitzer and head north to duel with Iraqi artillery.

### Scared but Ready

"I'm scared, but if it has to be done, we need to go in there [Kuwait] and do it, instead of standing around here watching our gear rust away," insists Calkins.

If war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, Golf Battery will move up to within 7 miles of the front lines so its guns can fire in support of advancing infantry.



Author files report for NBC Radio near Golf Battery.

Since the 155s can fire about 15km, this means Golf Battery will be about 5km behind the action — almost too close for comfort.

There are no John Waynes in Golf Battery, just a bunch of boys who want to go home in one piece. They speak openly about their thoughts.

"I'm afraid of dying," Calkins admits, "and I don't want anybody in my section to die. We've trained hard and I want to get everybody back home safely." This young corporal has been in the Marine Corps for seven years.

"Nobody wants to die," LCpl. Michael Tate from Birmingham adds as he pulls the lanyard and sends the rounds downrange. "But you gotta do whatcha gotta do."

"There's some fear in everybody," LCpl. Diaz Rosendo from 29 Palms, California, where the battery is home-based, states. "Yes, there is some fear in me, but I'm here to do a job."

"Anybody who tells you he ain't scared is full of shit," Paul Heyland says. He hopes fellows in front of him don't "fuck-up," and let Iraqis break through

the lines.

"If we got mechs (mechanized infantry) with us, it's OK," the slow-talking Texan adds, "but if we've got tanks coming down our throats and we're firing at 'em with a howitzer, that's going to be scary."

In the case of a human-wave assault, the standing order is "Expend All Remaining," as Calkins and company face the Iraqi armor face on.

Heyland's buddies laugh when I ask him what he would do if his crew expends its combat load of 15 rounds and the ammo truck can't get to them.

"I'll just pick up my rifle, and hide 'til they roll over us," Heyland claims.

### Willy Peter Falls Like Fiery Rain

But before that happens, the Pace-Setters plan to take a lot of Iraqis down with a "mix of misery" including white phosphorous smoke (WPS).

"You oughta see what that stuff does to you," someone from the gun crew comments, as he cleans up after firing three rounds downrange.

"I saw a four-round burst of Willy Peter at 29 Palms," Weyland remembers, "and it was awesome as the phosphorous fell like fiery rain. What a wicked way to die."

"Even if you're underground in a covered hole it eats up the oxygen and suffocates you," section chief Calkins adds.

"And if the smoke doesn't get you, the phosphorous will," A-gunner LCpl. Travis Homes from Portland, Oregon, says as he cranks in the elevation on the 155.

"Yeah, Willy Peter is definitely the big dick," Weyland chuckles as he prepares to set fuses for another fire mission.

"But don't forget," Holmes reminds them, "they have the same stuff we got."

Most of the men in Golf Battery are young, in their late teens or early twenties. But their commanding officer feels they are ready for what lies ahead.

Lieutenant Colonel Adams, who stands about 2 feet taller than his Saudi counterpart explains, "It's good for morale to get to shoot like we've done for the past three days. It gives the men confidence in themselves."

However, the uncertainty of the future has taken its toll among younger members of Golf Battery. One young man, LCpl. George T. Alcaraz from San Francisco jumps like he's been shot when one of the guns in his battery fires, catching him off guard.

Alcaraz and I have been talking about how hard it is on his mother and little sister back home to have him away for the holidays, and how much he misses them.

"Ah, what were we talking about?" laughs Alcaraz after the round left the tube next door. Although he insists he is OK, it's clear the unexpected round rattled his cage.

But like others I've talked to, Alcaraz

*Continued on page 78*





ALLIED SHIPS	
U.S.: Over 100	Canada: 3
Britain: At least 15	Netherlands: 3
France: 14	Argentina: 2
Italy: 10	Turkey: 2
Belgium: 6	Denmark: 1
Germany (Minesweepers): 5	Greece: 1
Spain: 4	Norway: 1
U.S.S.R.: 4	Portugal: 1
Australia: 3	Gulf: 36

Deployed Divisions (approx. 15,000 men each):
MAR: Marines
GU: Gulf Forces & U.N. allies
EGY: Egyptian
SA: Saudi Arabian
TU: Turkish
US: United States
FR: French
BR: British
SYR: Syrian

Carriers:
AMR: America (CV 66)
MID: Midway (CV 41)
SAR: Saratoga (CV 60)
ROR: T. Roosevelt (CVN 71)
RGR: Ranger (CV 61)
JFK: J.F. Kennedy (CV 67)

Republican Guards Div.:
AF: Al Faw
AD: Adnan
NEB: Nebuchadnezzar
SAL: Saladin
MED: Medina
HAM: Hammurabi
TAW: Tawakalna

	= Armor/Mech
	= Infantry
	= Critical Installations
	= Airfield

Relative positions of major units/locations of airbases prior to beginning of ground war in Kuwait. Our intent is for this to serve as a locator map to give readers the big picture and allow them to plot locations of friends and relatives. The sheer number of support units made it impossible to include them.

# MAKING TRACKS TO IRAQ

## 24th Division Roaring to Go

Text & Photos by Ross Simpson



**W**ILLIAM Guyan's crew was soaking up some Saudi sunshine when I walked up the rock-strewn trail behind their tank. Parked just below the crest of a ridge looking north toward Kuwait, their

M1 tank in its desert camo looked like a hawk ready to swoop down on some unsuspecting prey. What a magnificent view the "Studs From Hell" had.

"Best seat in the house!" yelled the suntanned second lieutenant from Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

As I climbed aboard the M1 I asked, "Where'd you get the nickname?"

Guyan, a political science major from the University of Arizona in Tucson, replied, "The guys in my platoon chose it before we left Fort Stewart."

Although his platoon has a "handle," Guyan's four-man crew has been unable to come up with a suitable name for their tank.

Carey Sutterfield, the driver, who hails from Woodward, Oklahoma, said,

"The lieutenant wants to call it, DEAR SADDAM. But we wanna call it DAMN YANKEE because Guyan is from New England."

The crew has been arguing over a name since it arrived in Saudi Arabia on 27 August 1990, but nobody's taken it upon himself to cut a stencil and do the deed.

Steve Karlock pulls a 105mm round from storage rack, prepares to slam it home.



Guyan's platoon is part of D Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, the first "heavy mech" unit sent to Saudi Arabia to halt Saddam Hussein's march south toward Saudi Arabia. Now that they've accomplished that mission, the men of the Victory Division want to know when they can kick Saddam's army out of Kuwait and go home.

Times were tough in the desert when 3-7 first arrived. The base camp is still primitive by REMF standards, with no PX and no females.

The "Cottonbalers," as the 3rd Bn is called in honor of Andrew Jackson's men who fought from behind cotton bales at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, are beginning to get a few creature comforts like hot chow and cold showers.

But "Cottonbalers" are still sleeping on the cold ground beside their armored vehicles, despite talk of being provided some tents before the rainy season sets in.

### Desert Not Always Hot

It does rain in the desert, as much as 4 inches at a whack and there is nowhere for it to go. You just have to wait for it to soak in to the sand.

Cold? Yeah! It gets cold out here too. The temperature drops to about 50 degrees in the desert at night.

"Cold enough to freeze your ass off," observed Sutterfield who has done his share of shaking and shivering. "Guess they don't want us to get too comfortable," the okie said as he showed me the beast he drives.

Although Specialist Sutterfield says the M1 is better than anything the Iraqis have



Lt. Col. Dave Jensen, commander of the "Cottonbalers," with CSM Robles.



ABOVE: Lt. Guyan (at left) and his crew, Carey Sutterfield (standing rear), Sgt. Earnest Ross (right), Scott Karlock (front).

RIGHT: Here's looking at you Saddam, through the M1's thermal sight at 1,200 meters.

break point where he's got to make a decision," Guyan said as he plugged his headset into the intercom system in the command cupola where he rides. "He's gotta stop bluffing, because we've just called his bluff."

Guyan points to 150,000 more U.S. troops heading to Saudi Arabia to give the U.S.-led multinational force an offensive capability. "I think Saddam is in for a shock if he thinks he can hold his own against us," Guyan said. He thinks Saddam is getting some bad advice from his generals. "Hussein doesn't understand the ferocity of modern warfare."

"Saddam bases his tactics on Iraq's eight-year-old war with Iran, a war where both sides used human wave tactics, but there won't be any human waves this time, and that's why I think Saddam is going to



be hurtin' fast," Guyan said. And if war comes to Kuwait, Lt. William J. Guyan doesn't believe it's going to be a very long battle. Neither does his commanding officer.

#### Command Interview

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Jensen from

Wilmington, Delaware, discussed a likely battle scenario as we ate dinner together at his rest camp in the Saudi desert. Following is a transcript of our exclusive interview with the 40-year-old commanding officer of 3rd Bn, 7th

*Continued on page 76*



Lt. Guyan and Sutterfield atop the M1 in the Saudi Desert at Assembly Point Cotton.

on the battlefield, including several thousand T-64s and the T-72 with its improved armor, Lieutenant Guyan will feel a lot better about going “beak to beak with Baghdad’s best” when he gets his hands on the much improved M1A1, hundreds of which arrived in mid-November at a Saudi seaport.

The M1A1 sports a 120mm main gun, instead of a 105mm that’s mounted on older model M1s like Guyan’s.

Ammunition for the German-made smooth-bore M256 cannon is composed of four cartridges — a kinetic energy Armor Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) round, a chemical energy High Explosive Anti-Tank Multi-Purpose with Tracer (HEAT-MP/T) round and training counterparts for each.

The M829/A1, or sabot round, features a one-piece depleted uranium penetrator. The M830, or antitank round, contains a shaped warhead charge. The M865 and M831 are training counterparts for each of the previously mentioned rounds.

The M1A1’s special armor, compartmentalization of fuel and ammunition storage, automatic fire detection and suppression system, and

high mobility provide the four-man crew with the greatest level of protection — protection levels which exceed those of any other tank in the world.

The M1A1s also have a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) microclimatic cooling system that allows tank crews to fight without wearing bulky chemical and biological warfare suits.

Add to all of this a thermal sight, laser rangefinder, and a four-speed auto-

matic transmission, 1500-horsepower gas-turbine engine, and you’ve got what the infantry calls, “Whispering Death.”

#### Desert is Different

It was quiet in Guyan’s sector as I sat on the turret of his 67-ton tank (combat loaded) and talked to him and his crew about what lies over the horizon. Each had just been to the local barber. They looked like sheep that had just been sheared.

“The new look,” laughed



2nd Lt. Bill Guyan, platoon leader and track commander.

Sgt. Earnest Ross shows off his new haircut.



Sergeant Earnest Ross, a 26-year-old career soldier from Magnolia, Arkansas, who claims the other three members of the crew were jealous of his hairdo and copied his “do.”

All fun aside, tankers are faced with a couple of problems in the Saudi desert. The biggest problem is the same one that plagued Columbus — accurately judging distance.

I judged some tanks on a distant ridge to be about 5,000 meters away. “More like 8,000,” Ross said as he squinted through the laser rangefinder. “Distance out here is deceiving.”

It’s also difficult to navigate in the desert, because maps don’t show all of the things that are out here.

Maps are in short supply throughout the entire AO. Usually maps are divvied up, one per platoon. Instead of five-color topographical maps which are a must for any tank commander, maps are often photocopies of aviation charts. Sometimes, a Michelin map from a local car rental agency is the only map tankers have. But Army map makers are working

overtime to meet the demand.

Lack of maps is not uncommon in military ventures like Operation Desert Shield. Historian Cornelius Ryan wrote that U.S. scouts entering Germany during World War II sometimes had to thumb their way through tourist guides to get their bearings.

Folklore in the 82nd Airborne Division, which is also here in Saudi Arabia, holds that maps guiding many paratroopers in the 1983 Grenada invasion were based on a road atlas.

Times have changed. A lot of units in Saudi Arabia are using a Global Positioning System, a high-tech black box that uses satellites to pinpoint within a meter their exact position anywhere on the planet. But the device is too expensive for everyone to have one.

### Moving in the Desert

William Guyan says most problems with navigation occur after the sun goes down. No problem in the daytime. "The enemy can see your dust from a long ways," Guyan said as his eyes swept across the featureless terrain below his tank.

"But we can see him before he can see us, especially at night," the 25-year-old shavetail said. "Even if we see each other at the same time, we'll still get the first shot in."

Sergeant Ross, who believes his tank has one of the best fire control systems on the market today said, "We can pump some rounds downrange pretty quickly."

Probably the biggest challenge in the desert is learning to drive from point A to point B without getting stuck or driving off a cliff like the one immediately in front of Guyan's tank.

Carey Sutterfield is used to driving his M1 through the forests of West Germany. but there are no trees where he's driving now. And that's comforting to the young soldier.

"There really ain't nothing you can hit out here," Sutterfield said as he slid into the forward hatch and wiggled down into his reclining couch like the sand viper that hides in the rocks near his tank.

"You could fall asleep and drive for miles, 'cause there's nothing out there," he laughed.

Visibility is limited on moonless nights, even with night-vision viewers up front, but on moonlit nights, driving an M1 tank across the desert is like driving down the Santa Monica Freeway in California at 40 mph.

However, drivers like Sutterfield have to be constantly on the lookout for dark spots in the sand, a sign of salt marshes where heavy tanks could bog down and become stranded.

Sutterfield worries most about throwing a track in battle and being left behind. "I know my platoon wouldn't do that, but the thought of being left out there on the battlefield still scares me," he said.

The desert takes on a totally different look after dark. Shadows and the way the moon bathes the hills around the 3rd Bn make the landscape look surreal.

"During the daytime, it's easier to navigate, because we can see the sun and tell which way we're headed," Guyan said as he wiped the sweat off his skinhead. "But at night, we have to dismount and use a hand-held compass, and tankers don't like to get off their tanks — too dangerous."

Navigating unfamiliar, featureless terrain at night is where guys like Guyan have an edge over the Iraqi tankers.

"We have night vision devices the Iraqis don't have. We can see through smoke they can't see through, so we own the night," the young lieutenant said as he told his crew to saddle up.

Although Guyan feels he has superior equipment, he fears being outflanked. "Having a tank come up from behind us



could be fatal," Guyan said, "because the rear of any tank is its weakest point."

"We can take almost anything head on and keep on trucking, but if something gets to our rear, even infantry, we could get hurt," he observed.

That's why tanks maneuver in such a way as to be able to "swat flies" off their turrets with bursts of machine-gun fire from one .50 cal. or two 7.62mm machine guns.

As Guyan's crew prepared to leave the ridge and move to another position for the night, we talked about when war might break out in the Persian Gulf.

### When Will It Hit the Fan?

Guyan thinks the "shit will hit the fan in the middle of the night" for a couple of reasons.

"It has to, because that's where we have an edge," Guyan said, "and that's when we'll achieve our biggest shock effect."

If there is an offensive in Kuwait, whoever gets the jump on the other guy will most likely win.

"Guards that are supposed to be awake, sometimes are sleeping," Guyan said, "and it's easier to surprise an enemy force

after dark."

Unlike the Iraqi armored units they may face, none of Guyan's crew has any combat experience. All of them are "cherries." And many still have that basic training look.

William Guyan graduated from the Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in June 1990 and spent one month at Fort Stewart, Georgia, home of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), before Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August.

Guyan's loader, 21-year-old Scott Karlock, came straight to Saudi Arabia out of Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Knox. While the New Yorker was happy about coming to the "Kingdom," he's not happy about the possibility of having to fight.

"I'm not afraid to fight," Karlock said as he reached into the ammo rack behind him in the turret and pulled out a 105mm round and slammed it into the breach. "I'll do what I have to do when the time comes."

Like Karlock who sits beside him inside the turret, Sgt. Ross isn't anxious to go into battle either. "But I'm confident my crew will go back home together after this thing is over."

"With our Air Force and Navy to back us up, Saddam's no match for us," Karlock said. "We can still take 'em. They don't have the air support we have, and no navy, so I figure we can beat 'em. All we gotta do is fight smart."

The M1 and its big brother the M1A1 can fire on the run. "run and gun," or "lase and blaze," as they say. The book calls for a loader like Karlock to be able to load a round every five seconds, but Karlock says he can "slam a new round home every three seconds."

Like Karlock, Sgt. Ross is also confident of victory.

### The Victory Division

After all, Ross said, "The 24th is the Victory Division." Officers in the 3rd Bn always shout, "Victory" when they return a salute.

"I'm just sorry the Iraqis have to be our opponents," Sgt. Ross said, "because we're not going up there to lose."

A couple of days before President Bush traveled to the Persian Gulf to have Thanksgiving Dinner with troops in the desert, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent another 250,000 soldiers into Kuwait. But that didn't cause tankers in Delta Company to lose any sleep.

Lieutenant Guyan, who feels few of the additional forces are front-line soldiers, said, "It reminds me a lot of what Hitler did in the waning days of World War II before he blew his brains out. Sounds to me like Saddam is scraping the bottom of the barrel like Hitler did when he fortified Berlin with young boys and old men."

Guyan's gunner said the more men Hussein sends to Kuwait the bigger the targets will be. "I think he's reaching a



# EAGLES FOR AN EMIRATE

## F-15 Fighter Jocks Ready to Rule the Skies

Text & Photos by Ross Simpson



**T**HERE was something sinister in the air as four F-15Cs began "spooling up" their engines inside a nest of concrete and steel. Four pairs of Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100 turbofan engines howled

like prehistoric beasts inside a cave as they sprang to life in the hardened revetment which protected the jets from sneak attack. The F-15 Eagle was designed to outperform and outfight any current or projected enemy aircraft, and to penetrate enemy defenses. The Eagle's air superiority is achieved through a combination of unprecedented maneuverability, range, weapons and avionics.

Its versatile pulse-Doppler radar system can look up at high-flying targets and look down at low-flying targets without being confused by ground clutter. Target infor-

ation is then fed into the jet's central computer for effective weapons delivery. For dogfights, the radar automatically acquires enemy aircraft. Information is projected on a heads-up display on the windscreen above the instrument panel at the pilot's eye level, so he doesn't have to look down at cockpit instruments.

The Eagle's superior maneuverability and acceleration are a product of high engine thrust-to-weight ratio and low-wing loading. Also, it was the first U.S. operational aircraft with engine thrust exceeding loaded weight, permitting it to accelerate even while standing on its tail in a vertical climb.

Low-wing loading, the ratio of aircraft weight to wing area, is a vital factor in maneuverability; combined with the high

thrust-to-weight ratio, the jet is able to make tight turns without losing airspeed. Six of the eight world time-to-height records set in 1975 by the F-15A, Project Streak Eagle, remain unbeaten. One of these records is a climb to 65,616 feet in 2 minutes, 2.94 seconds.

The 1st Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, was the first F-15 unit deployed to Saudi Arabia when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. Later, 1st TFW was joined by other units, including the 33rd, 36th and 54th TFWs. By the first of this year, there were almost 200 Eagles in Saudi Arabia.

Deployments also included two wings of F-15 Strike Eagles, a modified F-15 that can carry 24,500 pounds of ordnance and still retain its air-to-air combat edge over enemy aircraft such as the French-made F-1 Mirage. The Strike Eagle is a two-seater like the Navy's F-14 Tomcat, with a "wizzo," or weapons officer in the rear seat.

On an average day, Capt. Tom Gemmell (left) and Maj. Bruce Rember do what all other American forces in the Gulf do: prepare for an uncertain future. Saudi F-15 behind them is only a model at the air base they share with their hosts.

On an average day, Capt. Tom Gemmell (left) and Maj. Bruce Rember do what all other American forces in the Gulf do: prepare for an uncertain future. Saudi F-15 behind them is only a model at the air base they share with their hosts.



On an average day, Capt. Tom Gemmell (left) and Maj. Bruce Rember do what all other American forces in the Gulf do: prepare for an uncertain future. Saudi F-15 behind them is only a model at the air base they share with their hosts.



1st TFW patch. The five black stripes on green represent the five squadrons in the group, organized when the Air Service colors were black and green. The five crosses represent the five major engagements in which the group participated in World War I. The crest, a winged arrow in a blue sky, is indicative of the mission of pursuit, "Attack in the Skies." The colors of the crest, midnight blue and gold, were the Air Corps colors. The 1st TFW motto is *Aut Vincere Aut Mori*, "Either Conquer or Die."

In other words, the F-15 Eagle lives up to its namesake: swift and deadly.

To get an idea of what the F-15s would be up against in a war with Iraq, I conducted an hour-long, no-holds-barred interview with two pilots from the 1st

TFW, Major Bruce Rember and Captain Tom Gemmell. Rember is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and was a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. Gemmell is from Orchard Lake, Michigan, graduating from the University of Colorado in 1984 with a degree in Soviet studies. Rember had 850 hours in the F-15; Gemmell had 1,000.

**SOF: How different is flying in this part of the world compared to back home in Virginia?**

Rember: Our flying at home is 100% training. We train for any number of contingencies, whereas here we've got a real threat.

**SOF: How about a typical mission?**

Rember: A typical mission would be to come in a couple of hours before takeoff to get an update on the latest threat information, asking is this routine, or can we expect an increased threat. People then huddle to go over the "what ifs." An hour before takeoff, we go to the revetments and preflight the birds. A typical mission would mean flying for two to four hours on a combat air patrol where we're basically orbiting under control of an Airborne Warning and Control System, AWACS, or ground-based radar. We're on deck, in a holding pattern, just waiting for vectors to a target or intruder. I'm sure the Iraqis know we're up there; it's no secret.

**SOF: If they know you're there, do you know they're there?**

Rember: Occasionally we hear about other traffic that's airborne, or get a long-range contact on someone, but there hasn't been that much activity.

**SOF: Have you had any unfriendlies in your area?**

Rember: None I would consider close to the Kuwait-Saudi border, but on one occasion I had contact with an airliner up north of the border, which was apparently just coming into an airfield. I haven't come in contact with any of their fighter aircraft.

**SOF: How about you, Tom?**

Gemmell: A lot of things we see up there we don't talk about, but the Iraqis are doing the same type of thing we're doing. They're making reconnaissance runs along the border and we'll see them with our radar, but I haven't seen one eyeball to eyeball yet.

**SOF: Does the adrenaline get to pumping when you acquire a target?**

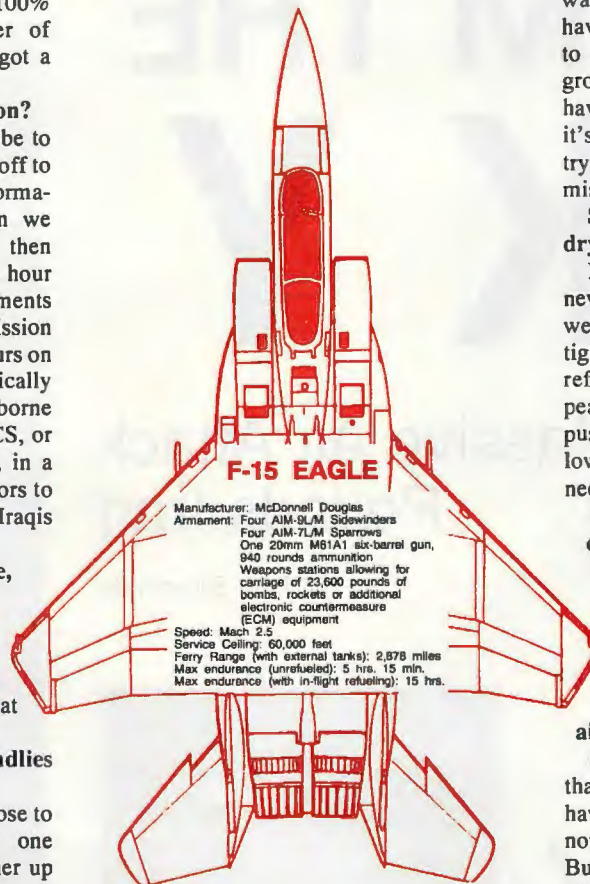
Gemmell: It sure does. The Iraqis don't put up as many aircraft as we do, and when they do send somebody up, we know about it as soon as they break rubber on the runway because of AWACS. We know when they're coming our way. It breaks the monotony of a four-hour combat patrol to get a "heads up." Generally, it doesn't amount to anything. I think they're crazy to start anything, because if they do, it'll be their unfortunate day.

**SOF: How does the Iraqi pilot fly his MiG-29 compared to the way you fly your F-15?**

Rember: Like any good fighter pilot, he flies it the best he can. Certainly, as we've seen in the Paris Air Show, the MiG-29 is a very capable aircraft. But, I think I fly the best aircraft in the world.

**SOF: How do you feel about combat?**

Rember: I think anybody who tells you he's eager to get into a combat situation is crazy, because there's a lot of people who have a lot to lose if it comes to combat. There are always a few doubts in the back of your mind, some inner fears, but I have



conquered my fears.

**SOF: How do you deal with your inner fears?**

Rember: I would say that my Christian faith has been my biggest source of strength.

**SOF: How about you, Tom? How do you deal with it?**

Gemmell: I believe God is the number one protector, and I believe He will help me survive any kind of war. I don't think God meant for me or any of my buddies to get shot down if we go to war. So whenever the balloon goes up, and we have to compete, I think the fears will fade when we go to burners and get airborne. We can't think about the losses we may incur; we have to concentrate on doing our job and getting back on deck.

**SOF: This country and terrain is entirely different from the landscape back home. What kind of problems have you encountered?**

Rember: We were able to train in the Nevada desert before this crisis came up, so we're accustomed to flying over desert

terrain. However, I'll admit the terrain we're flying over now is starker than most we've encountered. But there are roads and towns out there for references. When visibility is down due to sandstorms, flying is more of a challenge, but not impossible.

**SOF: How about the horizon? Does it disappear in the haze?**

Gemmell: That's a big problem. It's like flying over water. It's hard to determine at times where the horizon ends and the water, or in this case the sand, begins. We have to rely a lot more on our instruments to determine how high we are above the ground. And if war breaks out, we won't have the luxury of staying up high, where it's safe; we're going to be on the deck trying to evade anti-aircraft guns and missile batteries.

**SOF: But you prefer to stay high and dry as long as possible?**

Rember: Yes. I think because we're in a new location and have more adrenaline, we've all set our personal tolerances a bit tighter so that we're using all of the references available. We can't afford peacetime accidents, so it's not worth pushing the envelope right now and going low. We're well-trained, and we don't need to be hanging it out right now.

**SOF: The consensus among ground commanders is that the first three to five days will be all Air Force. They say you guys have got to take out Saddam's air force, missile sites, and knock out his communications before they advance on the ground. Are you guys up for such an air war?**

Gemmell: In terms of air superiority, that's not even a question. I think we'll have that right off the bat. We have it right now, as we talk. They know it. We know it. But in terms of an air battle, I don't think it's going to last that long. You don't win wars through the air, unless, of course, they decide they're going to give up after we take out their airfields, etcetera. There are always pockets of resistance on the ground that will have to be dealt with before the fighting ends.

**SOF: Do you think the Iraqi pilots will come up and fight, knowing they're going to lose?**

Gemmell: Yeah, I think they will, partly based on their fervor, their propaganda and their political beliefs. They have to fight. Saddam has given them no other alternative. However, based on the intelligence I've seen, I think that fervor will disappear when they see their flight leads blown up and people start dying around them. I think a lot of Iraqi pilots will drop their ordnance before they get to their targets. I also think a lot of them will shoot missiles at nobody, then go home and tell their buddies they faced an F-14, F-15, F-16 or F-18, when in reality, they didn't.

**SOF: How about you, Bruce?**

*Continued on page 79*

# FIRE

# FROM THE SKY

## Massive Air Attack Pounds Iraq

by Tom Slizewski



Marine AV-8B Harrier flown by 1st Lt. Mike Kenney returns from mission in the Gulf. Photo: Capt. S. Walsh

**“A**FTER three-and-a-half months, it’s personal.”

This message, scrawled on an F-4G “Wild Weasel’s” HARM missile, set the tone for the massive air war unleashed against Iraq on 17 January 1991.

F-15 driver Captain Steve Tate was credited with the first kill of Operation Desert Storm — the codename for the war in the Persian Gulf. Tate was flying cover



Looking for trouble, A-10 Thunderbolts prowl the skies. Photo: DoD

for aircraft making bombing runs into Baghdad when his radar picked up a launch. An Iraqi F-1 Mirage, the best plane in Iraq’s air arsenal, was closing on Tate’s wingman.

“We crossed the border high, with our escort a couple of miles behind us,” Tate said. “I could see the outlines of Baghdad, lit up like a huge Christmas tree; the entire city was just sparkling at us.”



A few minutes after the radar contact Tate locked up the Mirage. “My number three (another F-15) had just turned south, and I was headed northeast on a different pattern. I don’t know if the bogie was chasing him, but I locked him up, confirmed he was a hostile and fired a missile,” Tate said.

At a range of 12 miles the Sparrow air-to-air missile needed only seconds to reach its target.

“When the airplane blew, the whole sky lit up. It continued to burn all the way to the ground and then just blew up into a thousand pieces; it was pretty exciting,” Tate reported.

When asked how it felt to shoot down an enemy aircraft, Tate said, “You’re so busy you don’t have time for feelings.” But



All systems go! F-14 Tomcat launches from carrier *Saratoga*. Photo: DoD

back at his base in Saudi Arabia he added, "I feel good. I never experienced this before. It's unfortunate that we've had to go to war, but I guess there was no other way."

Lieutenant Colonel George Walton, leader of the 561st Tactical Fighter Squadron, agrees that Baghdad was lit up like a Christmas tree. His was among the first units in and out of Baghdad. "I saw one of the most fantastic fireworks demonstrations ever, just like the 4th of July," he said.

"What a doozy to go on the first time," said Capt. James Johnson, a pilot with the 35th Tac Fighter Wing. Though

Iraqi resistance has been downplayed, he said, "There's a lot more stuff up there than I thought there would be ... the noise of the enemy fire was like a freight train." Johnson (also a Wild Weasel pilot) added, "Baghdad looked damaged but should have been more on fire."

Colonel Merrill "Ron" Karp, commander of the 35th Tac Fighter Wing said, "The night flyers were most impressed with the vast amount of fire they saw being fired into the air as they approached downtown Baghdad."

The firestorm of flak over Baghdad looked ominous but was ineffective. The Iraqis were firing blindly into the sky. This may have boosted their morale but it accomplished little else.

"If somebody was coming into my

homeland, I would go after them a little harder than I feel he came after us," commented Major McBroom, a pilot who'd just returned from a mission over Iraq. "But maybe he couldn't come any harder than he did. Maybe we've done such an outstanding job that he does not have the capability."

#### Weasels Lead The Way

"I thought they would show more coordination, that they would be more violent and perhaps more successful. I think there was a great deal of surprise involved. I don't think they got a lot of planes off the ground," added Col. Neal Patton, deputy commander for operations from the 35th Tac Fighter Wing.

The Iraqis have been devastated by



TOP: F-4G Wild Weasel launches radar-seeking HARM missile used to good effect in early stages of Gulf war. Photo: DoD

ABOVE: French Jaguar from 11th Attack Squadron at Hufuf airbase. Photo: Eric Micheletti

night raids, something which they cannot counter. Pilots on daylight raids encountered stiffer resistance.

"The Weasels keep the SAMs (Surface-to-Air Missiles) off the guys," Col. Karp explained, which allows A-6s, F-16s,

F-111s and similar strike aircraft to do their jobs. The F-15 C/D models meanwhile fly air cover, shooting down any interceptors that may try to launch.

A group of varying aircraft models assembled to perform a mission is collectively known as a "strike package." The Weasels are packed with ECM (Electronic Counter-Measure equipment) and radar-seeking missiles and have only a limited self-defense capability. That's why any strike package containing Weasels will have air superiority fighters included. In this case that meant F-15s.

According to Major Bob "Muskrat" McNeese, a Weasel pilot, "The F-15s did their job. The enemy fighters were really out there in force today. There were engagements. I don't know the results, but they kept them off us." His squadron



F-15 Eagles being prepared for mission.  
Photo: Eric Micheletti



returned without loss or damage.

"Every airplane carried two HARM (High-speed Anti-Radar Missiles). All were well-targeted. All of them got where they were supposed to go," McNeese said. "But keep in mind that [damage] assessment is a long process. We may see our estimates go up or down; it could be they [Iraqi radars] are being turned off. That's what happens when your mission is to destroy enemy radar defenses. Sometimes they'll just turn their radar

off." Still, McNeese thinks they shot up a lot of radar and feels confident the ones they fired at were taken out.

How does it feel to go "downtown"

over Baghdad, something our aviators were never allowed to do during American involvement in Vietnam? "Scared is a good word," Capt. Johnson admitted. "You don't want your friends to know it. But think about it. Here you are. You've never been to war and they say you're going to Baghdad and it's during the day and everybody can see you."

The young pilot added, "It was probably the most exciting day of my life."

"Enemy air activity was higher than we expected," McNeese said of the daylight raids in Iraq. By Day 6 of the air offensive 19 Iraqi planes had gone down in air-to-air engagements, with the Coalition forces losing none to "dogfights."

#### Bombing Kuwait

Targets in Kuwait were also hit hard in anticipation of the ground assault.

"There was a lot of triple-A (antiaircraft artillery) fire coming out of Kuwait," said Lt. Col. Don Kline, commander of the 27th Tac Fighter Squadron. "It looked like a barrage. I don't think it was truly aimed. A couple of SAMs locked on to the fighters with their radar but I don't believe they launched. We saw extremely little fighter activity from their side in Kuwait. I don't know if they got airborne and dispersed but they didn't come toward us. All the enemy air activity was in Iraq, not Kuwait.

"It looked awesome. There were things going off all over the place. We saw the



# SADDAM'S WAR MACHINE

Inside the Middle East's Largest Army

by Don McLean



**S**ADDAM Hussein was in command of the largest individual, or even combined, military force in the Middle East. Dimensionally, it was world-class, fifth largest overall. He claimed over a million men under arms, over half deployed in or near Kuwait, plus a people's militia of 850,000. His military machine proved itself adequate to fight Iran to a Mexican standoff in a costly eight-year war of his initiation, and to chemwar his Kurdish

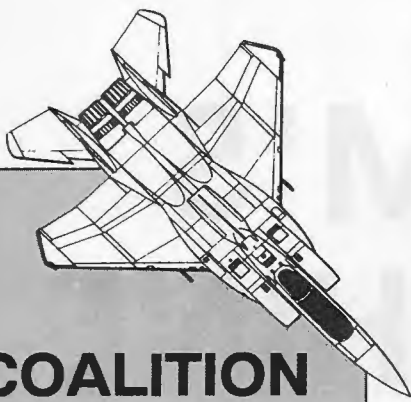
population into submission. His forces were entirely suited to invade and overwhelm his tiny neighbor, Kuwait.

After the first strikes of Operation Desert Storm, in an inadvertent cross-cultural pun, Saddam announced to his people that, "The Mother of all battles is now underway." With what was known about the weapons that Saddam had purchased on the international market or produced within Iraq itself, the Coalition

Iraqi forces spearheaded invasions of Kuwait with first-line equipment. Shown here are Soviet-built T-72 tanks and M1939 37mm AA batteries, at assembly area in Kuwait City. Photo: Kuwaiti Resistance, courtesy Ross Simpson

forces had every reason to expect a spirited reaction once the battle had begun for the liberation of Kuwait.

At the onset, his anticipated rejoinder



## COALITION

### BOMBERS

26 B-52G  
158 F-111  
104 F-15E  
106 A-6

### AIR-SUPERIORITY FIGHTERS

88 F-15C/D  
140 F-14  
20 Mirage F1 (Kuwait)  
56 F-15C (Saudi Arabia)  
24 Tornado ADV (Saudi Arabia)  
10 Mirage 2000 (France)

### ATTACK AND DUAL-ROLE AIRCRAFT

150 AV-8B Harrier  
44 F-117A  
120 A-10  
152 F/A-18  
320 F-16C/D  
48 A-7E  
36 F-4G Wild Weasel  
12 Jaguar (Britain)  
78 Tornado (Britain)  
24 CF-18 (Canada)  
54 Tornado (Saudi Arabia)  
8 Mirage F1-CR (France)  
14 F3 Jaguar (France)

Plus at least 1,000 non state-of-the-art aircraft including F-104 Starfighters, A-4 Skyhawks, F-5 Tiger IIs and Mirage 5s.

every day, and over 2,000 Air Force, Marine, Navy and Coalition aircraft in the AO, coordination becomes vital to success. That's where our Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) gives the United States a crucial edge.

F-15 squadron commander Lt. Col. Mike Hostage reported, "The AWACS talked to us all the way to the target and back. They were confirming what I was seeing on our radar."

Pilot Capt. John "Deuce" Doucetter added, "We were getting essential and timely information from the AWACS."

Though we hear a great deal about enemy aircraft and surface-to-air missiles, strikes of the scale launched on Iraq have numerous other inherent dangers — from the "controlled crash" landings on aircraft carriers and tricky night navigation to in-air refueling and accurate target identification. Kline confessed, "One of my worries was the tankers."

More than 100 KC-135 airborne refueling planes were on station around Iraq. "This time they were exactly where they were supposed to be. The overall plan has been executed very well," Col. Patton said.

Initial media reports gushed with optimism, but the guys doing the flying know better. "The threat is diminished, as opposed to being totally destroyed," Col.

Patton, 35th TAC Fighter Wing deputy commander of operations, warned. "The Iraqis have a sophisticated air defense and the lesson from the Iran-Iraq war is that the military fully supports the state."

### Targeting Iraq

According to Col. Karp, 35th TAC Fighter Wing commander, "We have to prioritize according to the highest threat to forces going in. We go for the nerve centers."

For Operation Desert Storm, highest threat strategic targets were identified as airfields capable of handling military aircraft, military bases, centers of communications, the much ballyhooed but minimally effective Scud missile sites and nuclear/biological/chemical (NBC) weapons sites. As these targets were neutralized the air force began concentrating on secondary operational targets such as the supposedly elite Republican Guard mechanized ground troops, power stations, oil and transportation facilities.

In addition to massive air sorties, Iraq was also on the receiving end of more than 200 cruise missiles. Cruise missiles were the first ordnance on target, followed closely by F-117 Stealth fighter-bombers.

Stealth planes proved particularly effective as tactical surprise and precision bombing neutralized key targets before Iraq could even think about reacting. According to Air Force Col. Alton Whitley, two squadrons of F117s flew 30 sorties against some 80 Iraqi targets during the initial assault.

Their so-called "smart" bombs have proven extremely accurate. "You pick precisely which target you want. You can get the men's room or the ladies' room," said Whitley.

Strike packages of F-4Gs (Wild Weasels) accompanied by F-111s and F-15s (Strike Eagles) followed close behind the cruise missile and Stealth attacks.

In the days following the launching of Operation Desert Storm, Baghdad continued to get the most attention. "It was bumper to bumper [traffic] leaving the city. I don't think they were going to the Saddam rally that night," Whitley laughed.

### Can You Say Arc Light?

Starting on Day 2 B-52G Stratofortress bombers got into the act by carpet bombing (saturating a relatively small area with explosives, hoping to eliminate everything there), Republican Guard troop concentrations along the Iraq-Kuwait border. Initial reports were optimistic and figures of 75,000 killed were thrown about. Experience has shown that infantry (particularly dug-in) can be tenacious under aerial bombardment. As we go to press no firm figures are available.

Most puzzling early in the air war was the lack of enemy aircraft encountered,

leading one pilot to comment that, "We knocked on the door but there was no one home." The following days saw an occasional Iraqi pilot venture forth, only to be returned to earth without benefit of aircraft. Of the estimated 700 aircraft in Iraq's inventory, less than 100 (Mirage F-1s and MiG-29s) can hold their own against Coalition planes.

Numbers don't tell the story, though. The Coalition's edge was not so much that they outnumbered the Iraqis by more than two to one, but that we have the best pilots in the world — and they proved it every day.

At press time we had lost 15 U.S. aircraft, three British Tornados, a Kuwaiti A-4 and an Italian Tornado.

Air power cannot win the war by itself but its contributions have already been substantial. In the desert there's no place to hide and soldiers feel particularly vulnerable to air power, as demonstrated when the Egyptians panicked in 1967 after the Israelis gained complete air superiority. And in 1973 the Egyptians held firm when Israel was unable to gain air superiority.

Air power will neutralize many of Iraq's assets before the order comes down for the queen of battle — the infantry — to move out.

A message written on a bomb loaded beneath an A-6 Intruder best summed up how Saddam must have felt after the first week of non-stop air raids: "RX One 2000 lb. Precision-Guided Enema."

*Tom Slizewski has spent the last five years as associate editor for a leading military publication. He's written extensively on military affairs and combat simulation.*



## IRAQ

### BOMBERS

8 Tu-22 (Soviet)  
4 Tu-16 (Soviet)  
4 H-6D (Chinese Tu-16)

### AIR-SUPERIORITY FIGHTERS

70 MiG-29 (Soviet)  
135 MiG-21/25 (Soviet)  
30 Mirage F-1EQ (French)  
40 CAC J-7B (Chinese MiG-21)

### ATTACK AND DUAL-ROLE AIRCRAFT

30 J-6 (Chinese MiG-19)  
90 MiG-23 (Soviet)  
64 Mirage 5EQ (French)  
30 Su-7 (Soviet)  
70 Su-20 (Soviet)  
16 Su-24 (Soviet)  
60 Su-25 (Soviet)





# SADDAM'S WAR MACHINE

## Inside the Middle East's Largest Army

by Don McLean



**S**ADDAM Hussein was in command of the largest individual, or even combined, military force in the Middle East. Dimensionally, it was world-class, fifth largest overall. He claimed over a million men under arms, over half deployed in or near Kuwait, plus a people's militia of 850,000. His military machine proved itself adequate to fight Iran to a Mexican standoff in a costly eight-year war of his initiation, and to chemwar his Kurdish

population into submission. His forces were entirely suited to invade and overwhelm his tiny neighbor, Kuwait.

After the first strikes of Operation Desert Storm, in an inadvertent cross-cultural pun, Saddam announced to his people that, "The Mother of all battles is now underway." With what was known about the weapons that Saddam had purchased on the international market or produced within Iraq itself, the Coalition

Iraqi forces spearheaded invasions of Kuwait with first-line equipment. Shown here are Soviet-built T-72 tanks and M1939 37mm AA batteries, at assembly area in Kuwait City. Photo: Kuwaiti Resistance, courtesy Ross Simpson

forces had every reason to expect a spirited reaction once the battle had begun for the liberation of Kuwait.

At the onset, his anticipated rejoinder

proved to be altogether flaccid — even eerily absent. Saddam had promised that American forces would “drown in their own blood” if they attacked, but two days after they did, his only response had been to launch conventional Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia, the preponderance of which were promptly shot down by American Patriot antimissile crews.

There was also the incidental shelling of a storage facility by the Iraqis at the Japanese-Saudi oil refinery at Khafji in northern Saudi Arabia. Even after the Coalition had flown more than 10,000 air sorties, the only Iraqi response other than Scuds was to set fire to some petroleum facilities in Kuwait. The only Americans bloodied by that time were half a dozen unarmed pilots shot down over Iraq, who were brutalized and set before the TV cameras.

The morning after the first air strikes, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole asked, “Where was this guy? He must have been on vacation or something, as there was no response.” Retired General Alexander Haig noted that the Coalition was “surprised at the paucity of his response.” Talking about Saddam’s men on the ground, Retired Marine General George Crist observed, “We’re not seeing the response we should.” Crist theorized that this may have been a reflection of the morale of Saddam’s troops, who had never before faced such an enemy.

Film taken of air defenses within Baghdad the night of the first strikes on Iraq showed the Iraqi defenses to be very active, but totally ineffective. They were also slow to respond. An ABC cameraman, who spent three hours hanging out a window of the Hotel Rashid filming the action, noted that the warning sirens came late, some time after the bombing had begun. A CBS correspondent in Baghdad, interviewed from Amman, Jordan, said his

Stolen commercial Kuwaiti truck rolls north to Iraq laden with booty from the rape of Kuwait. Photo: Kuwaiti Resistance, courtesy Ross Simpson



Invading Iraqis relied heavily on motor transport to deliver troops and materiel into conquered Kuwait — a luxury only afforded those who invade their tiny neighbors. Photo: Kuwaiti Resistance, courtesy Ross Simpson



Iraqi troops set up this battery of three ChiCom Type 59-1 (copy of Soviet M43) 130mm field guns in Kuwait City assembly area a few days after invasion. Angle of tarp put up for sun shield suggests they were facing north. Photo: Kuwaiti Resistance, courtesy Ross Simpson

impressions were that the gunnery crews and rocket installations were “firing at their own imaginations.”

The Iraqi ambassador to Belgium vowed the morning after the attacks that, “Iraq will fight to the last child.” [Saddam’s own family is reported to be safely ensconced in Gstaad, Switzerland.] Within hours, there were reports of thousands of Iraqi refugees fleeing across the border to Iran, and still no Iraqi military response. Official Iraqi sources claimed they shot down over 60 Coalition aircraft during the

first 24 hours. (Three days and thousands of sorties later, the combined Coalition forces had lost only a handful of craft.) This led to speculation that the wildly inflated Iraqi figures may have been in part predicated on cruise missiles that did indeed “crash” — with payload and right on target.

While the Coalition waited for a response greater than Iraq’s ineffective Scud attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia, war watchers speculated on what might happen next. Dr. Faoud Ajami, a CBS consultant

# ANALYSIS: THE IRAQI MILITARY

From the demeanor of their triumphant march through Kuwait City, to the rapine brutality they heaped upon the conquered Kuwaiti civil population, and from the numbers who had defected to the Coalition under the mere threat of imminent hostilities, one would have been hard pressed to assume Iraqi troops had a high level of discipline and motivation.

Many parallels have been drawn between Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler, and this writer is certain that one accomplished in the psychiatric disciplines would find many common denominators among not only these two bent heads, but among many other past and present malevolent aggressors as well, from Joe Stalin to Idi Amin.

The political scenario of a strong dictatorship wantonly attacking and absorbing its neighbors until it is stopped by force, is of course the obvious parallel.

## Strength or Weakness from the Top Down

There is another parallel which typifies a dichotomous strength/weakness that has ultimately led to the downfall of such aggressive dictators when it disrupted or handicapped the military machine they had assembled. This is the egocentric command structure, wherein virtually all command functions come from the very top.

In theory this can be a strength, as it is simpler. Given the support of adequate communications, it may appear to offer an advantage in a small theater. But the weakness is that the Maximum Leader must at all times know two things: what's going on, and what the hell he's doing.

Even with as good a communication net as was then available, and at the helm of one of the world's most competent and best-equipped military machines, Hitler blew operation after operation and ultimately theater after theater because he did not know what he was doing — only what he *wanted* to do — and he would not listen to his generals who did.

One could have expected that problem to be exacerbated in the case of Saddam Hussein, because even before the start of hostilities with the Coalition, deserters were bringing out stories of deadly purges among his general staff for those who did not agree with Saddam's invasion plans for Kuwait.

This created the scenario of a strategic leader surrounded by "yes men" with no counterpoint or restraint upon any incredibly obtuse strategic or tactical error he might plan.

Even if one assumed that Saddam Hussein was the military genius no one gave him credit for being, the fact is unavoidable that he was in singular command of a military machine that knew no direction but from the top, the

command effectiveness of which was absolutely predicated upon adequate communications and control.

In the Iran-Iraq War, communications appeared to be an Achilles heel for Iraq, and bear in mind that Iran did not have even a hint of the electronic countermeasures available to the Coalition for disrupting Saddam's C<sup>3</sup>.

## Limited Comparison

In comparing the situations of Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler, the parallel quickly breaks down once you leave the topic of territorial designs and egocentric leadership. There can be no comparison drawn between the respective competence of armies or individual soldiers, as there is none.

There can be no parallel made between the technological, industrial or logistical base of the Nazi war machine to Saddam Hussein at this point, because he was only beginning to develop industry that would be of logistical import in war. The industrial base of Iraq, although profitable, is based upon pumping oil and mining gypsum and phosphate deposits with the aid of Western technology.

Iraq has always been an arms consumer, not an arms producer. Now, with purchased technology, Saddam Hussein was in limited production of certain medium-range missiles, and appeared on the verge of producing nuclear weapons. He was in production of chemical and possibly biological weapons, but the technology for these is a generation old, and he had neither the industrial nor scientific resources upon which to base development nor protracted manufacture of very much more, although every effort was being made in Baghdad to change that.

Although there had been significant Iraqi production of weapons, ammunition and support equipment, it was almost entirely based upon licensed foreign developments. Maintenance of such production is largely predicated upon a materials, technology and even personnel supply that is very difficult to sustain during periods of international embargo or open hostility.

Thus, as in any combined force of its size, the Iraqi military establishment exhibited varying faces of weakness and strength. Its primary strength lay in its numbers — it was the fifth largest in the world — and that after years of warring with Iran, a good proportion of its troops were hardened to the terror and privation of combat.

Its primary weakness may well have been in a command structure that could not function in the fog of war, and in logistical support that had no chance of survival without a strong indigenous industrial and scientific base. That final speculative analysis remained to be made upon the field of battle by soldiers

under arms.

## The Iraqi Army

The army is the main element of the Iraqi armed forces. The "general chief of staff and commander of the army" is under the "minister of defense and commander-in-chief of the armed forces," who in turn is under the "president of the republic, prime minister and supreme commander of the armed forces," Saddam Hussein.

From 1976 to the end of the war with Iran, Iraq's army grew from roughly 150,000 to over 650,000 troops. Baghdad now *claims* over a million men under arms, plus a popular militia of over 850,000. Subject to fluctuation depending on circumstances, in ordinary times the army comprised seven corps headquarters and 44 divisions. There normally were five armored divisions, three mechanized divisions, and 36 infantry divisions including one coastal defense division.

The Republican Guard was an elite armored corps formed from the general reserves, with two armored divisions, three infantry divisions and one special forces division. At the end of the war with Iran, French intelligence sources estimated its strength at roughly 45,000; it was deemed probably the most loyal to Saddam, and the best equipped. Contemporary intelligence estimates gave the Republican Guard a deployed strength of approximately 100,000 in Kuwait and southern Iraq. Early in 1991 Baghdad announced it had added 130,000 reservists and conscripts, forming five new Republican Guard Divisions for a total of 11.

General reserve forces comprised two special divisions (one mountain, one airborne), seven special forces brigades (some of which were heliborne specialists), one Frog-7 surface-to-surface rocket brigade, one Scud-B surface-to-surface rocket brigade, and three Astros multiple rocket launcher regiments. It should be noted that "special forces" brigades do not necessarily denote "special operations" personnel, but rather secret police/political commissar units primarily detailed with controlling the other troops, preventing desertions and so forth, similar to Soviet NKVD units. In addition to the above army forces, approximately 10,000 Kurds loyal to the central government were assigned to maintain order in Kurdistan.

A typical armored division comprised 14,000 men, broken into three armored brigades, one mechanized brigade, one field artillery brigade, one surface-to-air (SAM) missile brigade, one multiple rocket launcher (MRL) battalion, and one engineering battalion. A typical mechanized division comprised 12,500 men, broken into three mechanized brigades, one tank brigade, one field artillery brigade, one surface-to-air artillery bri-

# ESTABLISHMENT

gade, one MRL battalion, one recon battalion, and one engineering battalion.

First-line units were issued T-62 and T-72 tanks, BMP-1 armored personnel carriers/infantry combat vehicles (APC/ICVs), plus self-propelled (SP) guns and rockets. Although there was commonality of equipment, the proportional issue varied between armored and mechanized units.

The army air corps was created in 1984 to provide coordination between ground troops and their air support. This corps maintained a fleet of attack, transport/multirole, and light/liasion helicopters primarily of Soviet, French and U.S. manufacture —thought to comprise approximately 500 craft of all types at the time Iraq invaded Kuwait. Various craft in this fleet were armed with antitank (AT) missiles, rockets, and heliborne mine distribution systems.

## The Iraqi Air Force

Iraq's air force and air defense commander was under the general chief of staff. Normal strength was some 35,000 including 10,000 detailed for air defense. There were two bomber squadrons, 13 fighter-bomber squadrons, 16 interceptor squadrons, two transport regiments, one recon squadron, and one helicopter squadron. These forces were stationed at nine major air bases and deployed at innumerable dispersal fields throughout Iraq, mostly in hardened bunkers.

The preponderance of these aircraft were Soviet, plus smaller numbers of various models of the French Mirage fighter. Guns, missiles, bombs, decoy systems and miscellaneous ordnance for these aircraft had been purchased from a number of countries. Repair and maintenance was done in Iraq, usually with the aid of foreign technicians. Pilot training was conducted in Iraq, with the aid of personnel from the USSR, France, England, Italy, East Germany and Egypt. Contract pilots had at times served from Australia, Belgium and East Germany.

The air defense commander was under the air force/air defense commander. For the purpose of air defense, Iraq was divided into four sectors. Iraq was in possession of more than 300 SA-2/SA-3 antiaircraft (AA) missile launchers, plus over 200 towed AA guns of Soviet manufacture. Surveillance/acquisition and fire control radars were mostly of Soviet manufacture, plus some French units.

## The Iraqi Navy

With essentially no coastline — until they overran Kuwait — the Iraqis had no reason to emphasize naval strength. The navy had fewer than 6,000 men and 80 vessels of all types in service. The fleet comprised four frigates, six corvettes, 11 missile patrol boats, 10 regular patrol boats, four fast attack craft,

eight mine sweepers, five amphibious craft, plus miscellaneous craft such as oilers, tugs, salvage boats, customs launches and so forth. Some of the first Iraqi vessels sunk in engagements with Coalition forces were mine-laying ships.

The Iraqi navy operated some 20 French helicopters in its own air arm, some carried the Exocet AM-39 missile.

## Intelligence Services

In a 1987 reorganization, all intelligence services were grouped into a special security committee, which reported directly to Saddam Hussein. The committee functions were broken into military intelligence, foreign intelligence, and internal security operations. In early 1991, Iraqi Military Intelligence Special Force Units and Special Patrols in Kurdistan were detached from military command and attached directly to the Directorate of General Security.

In addition, there were internal security forces under the minister of the interior, numbering approximately 4,500 men.

## Paramilitary Forces

The People's Army (PA) was created in 1970, and was in effect the militia of the ruling Ba'ath party. During the height of the war with Iran it numbered some 650,000. As noted above, Baghdad now claims over 850,000 members. In the beginning it was filled with volunteers ranging from 16 to 60 years old.

At times the PA has fought alongside the regular army, and some members were sent to Lebanon to fight. The PA's most common tasks have been maintaining internal security and searching for army deserters, as well as logistical support for regular forces. In October of 1988 a demobilization was begun. The strength of the PA was moot at the time of Coalition actions, as there was no effective deployment of it.

Border guards, some 25,000 strong, were organized into brigades. Although technically a civil branch, they functioned as a military force.

## In Sum

In their war with Iran, the Iraqis dispatched their foe at a favorable rate of five to three. They surprised and overran tiny Kuwait in short order. The military machine and the populace had been hardened to the privations of war. Iraq had a lot of men under arms, and a lot of modern — although not state-of-the-art — weaponry.

How would they fare against a multinational coalition that was fresher, better motivated, better equipped, better supported and not composed of 12-year-olds or unarmed civilians? Probably not well at all. But only the battle would tell.

— D.M.

on the Middle East, corroborated speculation that Saddam's Republican Guard, in effect his Praetorian guard, would be a logical early tactical target. He noted that we were approaching Saddam's "moment of truth" and that eliminating the Republican Guard would be the "Romanian solution."

That is to say, by eliminating the only forces loyal to a tyrant, you not only remove his base of support, you make him vulnerable to any hostile segments within his own population. And in so doing, make it possible for the less loyal elements within his military to speedily fall away. While Ajami spoke, Coalition armored units and their logistical support were reported moving north toward the Saudi borders with Kuwait and Iraq. And the Brits announced preparations were underway that would enable them to handle up to 200,000 Iraqi POWs at a site in Saudi Arabia.

Speculation on why Saddam was not actively joining in battle continued. Retired USAF Chief of Staff General Mike Dugan noted in a CBS interview that the Iraqi air force's refusal to "flush" and come up and fight might represent a strategy to preserve its rapidly waning air assets for a last-gasp mission that might provide some significant military or political impact. Pentagon sources noted that every hour Saddam delayed his reaction, the Coalition was jackhammering away at his means to eventually respond.

By day three, even discounting the euphoria caused by the striking success of the Coalition air attacks, conservative intelligence sources estimated Saddam's air assets had been cut in half, most of it on the ground without even fighting back. Was the Coalition strategic bombing so powerful it had actually stunned Saddam into a state where he was incapable of coherent response?

The massive terrorist attacks promised by Baghdad sputtered and died as little more than a handful of drive-by shootings and the bombing of an empty air terminal. Had Saddam's threats been merely the blustering of an ineffective and self-deluded megalomaniac, and was he starting to break? Or was he following his own dogmas of war, with his own plans, biding his time until the best moment to join the battle? Only time would tell. Saddam assured the world over Iraqi TV that his forces were essentially intact, and that he was withholding them until he chose to launch his campaign.

B-52s began strategic carpet bombing of Republican Guard positions in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Meanwhile, the joke in the halls of the Pentagon became, "Looks like Saddam won the toss, and he has elected to receive."

*Don McLean is a veteran of the 24th Infantry Division who has been writing on military topics for nearly 30 years. ✕*



# U.S. NAVY A

## First to Take on Sad

by Bob

U.S. Navy Aegis guided-missile cruiser *USS Ticonderoga* (CG-47). The ship carries eight Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles, two Mk 45 single-barrel guns, two 20mm Phalanx CIWS Mk 15 chain guns, has two triple 12.75-inch Mk 32 torpedo tubes, an ASROC eight-tube Mk 26 launcher, and four helicopters. Some CGs are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, as well.

Photo: DoD



U.S. Navy battleship firing the No. 3, Mk 7, 16-inch, fifty caliber gun. The turret is trained as far forward as possible on the starboard side, with guns elevated to the level of the Tomahawk missile armored box launchers. Photo: DoD

**M**ARINES of the 1st Division were the first to clash with Iraqi ground forces when the war erupted in mid-January. A Navy frigate coordinating with Army helicopters and Marines took the first Iraqi prisoners of war. A Navy F-18 Hornet fighter/bomber became the first U.S. plane shot down a Navy pilot was the first pilot to be rescued. Navy and Marine pilots flew thousands of sorties — 35-40% of the total — delivering ordnance with superb accuracy. A Navy medic attached to a Marine ground unit received the first Purple Heart of the conflict.

Once again, two of the Navy's World War II-era battleships, the *Wisconsin* and *Missouri*, prowling the Persian Gulf, proved their critics wrong. They proved they are among the world's finest, most accurate and least vulnerable gun platforms.

### Accurate Devastation

By the end of the first week of the war, the *Wisconsin* and *Missouri* had fired upwards of 200 Tomahawk cruise missiles. Deadly accurate and with devastating warheads, the Tomahawks allowed the Navy to reach out and touch Saddam in Baghdad from hundreds of miles away.

Battleship crews received congratulatory messages from government officials reacting to battle damage assessment reports. According to reports, all Tomahawk targets had been destroyed.

USS *Wisconsin* personnel wouldn't say exactly which targets they had aimed at, but upon hearing reports of massive and precise destruction of Iraqi military and strategic objectives, Commander Rod L. Sams, 40, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, said, "We had some of the finest targets you'd want to have."

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else in the Navy," Tomahawk firing team member Todd Brannan said. Guy Zant, another firing team member, added, "I enjoyed hearing those live news broadcasts from Baghdad. I understand they heard bombs exploding all over the place, but couldn't hear any planes. That's because there were no planes."

Stanley Williams, commenting on the effectiveness of the Tomahawk, said, "The whole idea is to avoid civilian casualties. A small, incredibly reliable missile is very good for that. My philosophy is that we are in the business of deterrence. People are deluding themselves when they forget that the military's duty is to fight when called

# 1ST DIVISION MARINES

## Desert Storm's War Machine

Poos

upon. The bottom line is to defend our national interests. Sure, you can get a good education, see the world, but when the horn sounds, you go. This ain't no Love Boat."

### Splendid Skill

In action at sea, the USS *Nichols*, a guided missile frigate, assisted by two Army helicopters and a patrol boat of the Free Kuwaiti force, attacked nine offshore oil rigs that were being used by the Iraqis as antiaircraft gun and missile platforms. The Coalition captured a dozen Iraqi soldiers manning the rigs and turned them over to U.S. Marines ashore.

The USS *Nichols*, commanded by Cmdr. Dennis G. Morral, disabled two Iraqi gunboats and sank one. Then they approached to board the platforms. The Iraqi troops fought the sailors and Marines for about three hours with rifles and machine guns. Five of the Iraqis were wounded before they surrendered. Marine medics gave first aid to the wounded, while Marine guards taught their prisoners how to eat GI MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).

"We took care not to give them anything that had ham in it," said one of the Marine guards, "because that would be against their religion." The USN and the USMC exhibited splendid skill and professionalism in the first phases of Operation Desert Storm.

The Marines were more than prepared when the balloon went up. "My planes subjected the Iraqi Republican Guard to constant, continual bombing with no letup," Marine Colonel Manfred Reitch, commander of a Marine F/A-18 wing, said. Once again, U.S. Marines lived up to their reputation.

Marines in the 1st Division's lead elements near the Kuwaiti border were the first ground forces to exchange shots with the Iraqi army. It was only a small encounter, but it gave the Marines a taste of being under fire — and they prevailed.

The encounters consisted of Iraqi shelling by artillery and missiles on the most advanced Marine positions. Marine forward observers spotted enemy positions, then called in support from Marine Cobra helicopter gunships and fixed-wing A-10 Thunderbolts. Marine AV8-B Harrier VSTOL (Vertical/Short Take-Off and Landing) jets were called in later. There were also unconfirmed reports of small arms exchanges between Marine and Iraqi patrols, but details are sketchy.

Captain Travis Allen, a 22-year-old Texan, was among the first of the Cobra

pilots to respond to a call for help from Marines under Iraqi fire. "We just ran up on it (an Iraqi fire-direction center) and hit it with a TOW (Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-Guided antitank missile), rockets and 20mm cannon. We were getting a little return fire from small arms and what may have been an antitank missile — there was just a flash and something zipped past.

"We continued to fire on it for five minutes. We used several TOWS, rockets and gunfire to make sure we took out anybody else who was hanging around the area. While it was first happening, we were concentrating on the attack, so it wasn't terribly frightening ... but it did make me more apprehensive about running in on the next target."

On a separate suppression mission, 1st Lieutenant Gregory Anderson found the action "exhilarating," and Major W.E. "Buzz" Mills said it was an especially satisfying experience because he was able to help out some ground Marines with whom he had become friendly while flying in supplies.

"The Iraqis were putting up a wall of lead, and my blood was really pumping," Anderson said, "but most of it was directed at the others" [Thunderbolts and Harriers]. The Cobras, however, did fly through small arms and heavier antiaircraft fire.

Navy Medic Clarence D. Conner, 19, of Hemet, California, serving with a 1st Marine Division patrol along the Kuwaiti border, received the first Purple Heart given to wounded warriors in Desert Storm.

Conner was accompanying a reconnaissance patrol which came under indirect fire of an undetermined kind, and took a jagged piece of shrapnel in one shoulder. Two or three Marines were hit as well, but Conner was the first, and worst, of the casualties.

Navy corpsmen and the Marines they accompany in combat have always had a special relationship, and Conner and his buddies are no exception. From a hospital bed, he begged not to be taken home, but to be returned to duty with his comrades. "I'm damned proud of him," Brigadier General Thomas Draude said.

Major General Mike Myatt, commanding officer of the 1st Division, said he wanted to pin the medal on Conner's chest right then and there — but the Pentagon hadn't sent any Purple Hearts to the area yet.

Young Conner proved he was more than



U.S. Marines from the 1st Division were the first to clash with Iraqi ground forces in Operation Desert Storm, living up to the words of the Marine hymn, "First to fight for right and freedom." Photo: Eric Micheletti

worthy of his medal, as have countless of his predecessors in Vietnam, Korea, World Wars I and II, and all the other conflicts where such men become a band of brothers.

### Marines Strike Back

Meanwhile, Marine Harrier pilots at an airbase in Saudi Arabia said they had destroyed an Iraqi radio communications center just north of the Saudi border in Kuwait — which may have been instrumental in directing artillery and rocket fire against Marines in the 1st Division.

"We obliterated it," Col. Dick White of Fort Smith, Arkansas, said. "We got the radio post and some other buildings." Given the low threat from ground fire and antiaircraft artillery, the Harriers were able to make two passes and drop 500-pound demolition bombs as well as cluster

*Continued on page 72*

# CHEMICAL

# SABER RATTLING

by S. Max



AS Iraq launches Soviet-made Scud missiles toward Israel and Saudi Arabia in response to Operation Desert Storm, a major concern is the likelihood that the missiles may be armed with chemical/biological warheads rather than conventional ones.

Iraq's willingness to use chemical weapons against combatants and noncombatants alike is well-documented. During the eight-year Iran-Iraq War, Iraq unleashed chemical attacks numerous times, and, on at least one occasion, used chemical weapons against its own Kurdish population.

The January issue of *Marine Corps Gazette* speculates that in addition to turning Kuwait into a no-man's-land fortified with thousands of mines, long ditches and miles of barbed wire, Iraq may have also planted biological and chemical mines.

Iraq today probably has more experience in chemical warfare than any nation on earth, in no small measure because it is the only country since such weapons were outlawed worldwide in 1925 that has openly used these weapons against other human beings.

According to *Jane's Soviet Intelligence Review*, Iraq has stockpiles of two kinds of chemical agents.

One is a refined form of distilled mustard (HD). This fine powder appears as an odorless dust, which is sometimes called "dusty mustard." Reaction takes place almost immediately after contact

— eyes become inflamed or ulcerated; rashes develop which later turn to severe blisters; and inhalation causes instant, severe inflammation of the lungs, which has a lethal effect, similar to phosgene used in World War I.

The second agent known to have been used by Iraq is Tabun (GA). The first of the nerve agents discovered by the Germans in

the 1930s, Tabun inhibits the nervous system. Lethal doses are very small and can kill within minutes either by inhalation or by skin contact. Even "light" doses cause blindness or blurred vision, severe headaches and disorientation.

Iraqi chemical attacks reportedly have used use both agents together in a deadly mixture.

Coalition troops are supplied with protective masks and, in some cases, protective suits.



Tanks such as the M1A1 have filtering systems so that troops don't have to wear protective gear inside the tank, as do some of the Soviet manufactured tanks in use by the Iraqis. But many more do not, which necessitates troops wearing hot, restrictive gear while fighting. In the mid-1920s, George Patton wrote that he saw the next worldwide conflict as being one where masses of tanks advanced through choking clouds of poison gas. His timing was off — chemical weapons were not used in World War II, but it is possible that his prediction could come true in the sands of the Middle East.

Iraq became expert in chemical warfare during its eight-year war with Iran. Faced in 1984 with human wave assaults by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, often children as young as 12 years old, sent to battle without weapons and ready to die as martyrs for the Ayatollah, Iraq resorted to chemical warfare agents. Iraq became more bold as the war went on, attacking not only troops, but areas in the rear. In 1986 Iran had 11,000 casualties attributed to chemicals, in 1987, 13,500 and in 1988, the figure was

## POISONOUS ROOTS

When Iraq's missiles landed on Israel on day two of Operation Desert Storm one of the reporters in Tel Aviv said as he put on his gas mask, "Is this what we've come to?" But, horrible as it is, chemical warfare isn't anything new.

Prehistoric cave sites in both North America and Europe show traces of the most primitive form of gas warfare — lighting a fire in front of the cave to drive out those hiding inside.

In the 7th Century BC, when Solon was besieging the city of Cirrha, he dammed up the Pleistus River, threw hellebore roots into the water, let them dissolve and then released the river into its original channel. The Cirrheans who drank the water developed uncontrollable diarrhea, and Solon seized the city.

During the Peloponnesian War of 431-404 BC the Spartans soaked wood with pitch and sulphur and burned the mixture, hoping to choke their enemies. They also reportedly melted pitch, charcoal and sulphur in cauldrons and blew the fumes into Plataea by means of a giant bellows.

Hannibal used a chemical attack during a sea battle with King Eumenes of Pergamum. He filled clay pots with poisonous snakes and tossed the pots onto the enemy ships' decks. The Pergamenes surrendered.

"Greek Fire," a combination of quicklime, petroleum, sulphur, pitch and resin, may be the best known of ancient chemical agents. Greek Fire was effective as a flame weapon and it also generated a blinding, asphyxiating smoke. In 672 AD the Byzantines attacked the Saracens with flaming Greek Fire and "delivered it against the enemy by means of fantastic syringes in the shape of dragons and other monsters with wide jaws."

"Toxic smokes" are mentioned by writers in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. In 1456 an Austrian, having watched poisonous smoke used against the Turks, said, "It was a sad business. Christians must never use so murderous a weapon against other Christians. Still, it is quite in place against Turks and other miscreants."

If chemical agents are more threatening today than ever before it is because of 20th Century advances in science and technology, not because man has changed. We've just gotten so good at killing our fellow men that there may be results we never imagined — except maybe in our nightmares.

— S. Max

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# ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE



## British Forces in the Middle East

by Peter Douglas

AT 0200 hours on Thursday, 17 January 1991, 45 Royal Air Force (RAF) Tornado GR-1s took off from several locations to join the largest Royal Air Force air raids since World War II. Their specialist task was to conduct low-level attacks against Iraqi military airfields.

United States air operations had already enforced a storm of "electronic snow," which would severely hamper Iraqi surveillance. However, the Tornados specialize in a low-level approach to slip under radar screening. As they closed with their targets, they flew lower than 100 feet. One wit in the pre-operation briefing reminded the air crews that camels could be as tall as 12 feet!

Supported by RAF Tornado F-3s (the fighter version of the GR-1) and U.S. F-15s, the first wave of Tornado GR-1s delivered ALARM antiradar missiles, the British equivalent of U.S. HARM missiles. On release these soar up to 40,000 feet, then deploy a drogue chute as the missile scans for radar signals. As soon as it detects one, the missile jettisons its drogue and glides down onto the detected radar source.

After the first wave had done their job, Wing Commander Jerry Witts, of 31 Squadron, led the first bombing run of the second wave. These Tornado GR-1s were armed with two JP223 "Runway Busters." Each bomb pod contains 30 SG357 bomblets designed to crater runways and 215 HB876 area denial munitions, which act as either antipersonnel or delay-action mines. The ideal height to release the JP223s is 50 feet.

### Run Like Hell

A flight lieutenant of 31 Squadron describing the approach said, "It was the most scary thing I have ever done. It was unbelievable. There was a lot of flak out to the right. As we approached the airfield boundary, we saw weapons go off just to our left-hand side and that was quite an amazing sight ... We went in low over the target, as low as we dared. We dropped the bomb, then ran like hell. It was absolutely terrifying, there is no other word for it. You are frightened of failure, and you are frightened of dying; you are flying as low as you dare and high enough to get the weapons off."

His navigator, 1st Lieutenant Jerry Gegg, added, "When we came off the target we were very low and it was very dark. I shouted 'height' to Ian and we

cleared away. About a minute later we came across a lot of flak and we just tried to avoid the bits." Having delivered their payloads, the Tornados beat a hasty retreat to rendezvous with air refueling tankers, which was essential if the Tornados were to reach their home bases.

"When we joined up with the tankers we were almost out of fuel. It was nice to see them — they were a very friendly sight," Gegg said.

Three-and-a-half hours after take off

### BRITISH ARMY UNITS IN OPERATION DESERT STORM

1st Armoured Division with approximately 27,000 troops, including: 4th Armoured Brigade, 7th Armoured Brigade "Desert Rats" and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Staffordshire Regiment.

British forces are under command of Lt. Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere, former commander of Special Air Service. He has previously served 15 years in the Middle East and speaks fluent Arabic.

they were safely home again. Incredibly, there had been no losses. The officer commanding RAF Murao in Bahrain commented that, "The worst job in the world today would be that of Saddam Hussein's briefing officer."

At a jubilant early-morning post-op briefing, Air Commodore Ian Macfadyen, RAF chief-of-staff in Riyadh, quoted from Shakespeare's King Henry V, "... And gentlemen in England now a-bed, shall think themselves accursed they were not here..."

### Spot of Tea, Please

Meanwhile, with the outbreak of hostilities, the British Royal Navy had hoisted its battle ensigns. Britain's navy supreme in the Middle East, Commodore Christopher Craig, on board his flagship *HMS London*, relayed a message to his fleet in which he said, "We are about to join in the greatest joint endeavor of our lives on behalf of most nations on earth."

The troops themselves reacted to the news with typical down-to-earth British aplomb. A soldier with the 7th Armoured Brigade described his troop's reaction on

hearing of the commencement of hostilities as, "Well, we were a bit surprised at first when we heard the news, but then we settled down and had a cup of tea."

Elsewhere on this first day of battle, the destroyer *HMS Gloucester* helped U.S. warships detonate 15 Iraqi mines spotted floating close to the Kuwaiti coast; in the Saudi desert, 1st Armoured Division ground forces continued their intensive training and conducted minor forward alignments to their defense line.

After dark, a second sortie of RAF Tornados set out to pound Iraqi targets. One minute after releasing its bombs, a Tornado GR-1 from 15 Squadron developed an engine fire from unknown causes, possibly Iraqi ground fire. Squadron Leader John Taylor described it thus: "As we came over Basra the refinery was burning, lighting up the target like daylight. We got 10 minutes of 'Triple A' going in and 10 minutes coming out. There were about 20 batteries firing at us from either side ... Your backside goes tight, you sweat and your mouth goes dry. We lost an aircraft about a minute off the target coming out. It just went missing. You don't know what happened."

The two-man crew was posted as missing.

By Day 2 the RAF jets were carrying out a night-bombing role, reminiscent of World War II. RAF Jaguars (tactical fighter bombers), designed for action in the forward area of battle, were in action for the first time. Their task was to attack bridges, supply lines and fuel dumps.

### More Missing Crews

During one air mission against an Iraqi airfield, a Tornado GR-1 crew reported that they had released their JP223 payload smack over an Iraqi Mirage taxiing down the runway. However, a second Tornado GR-1 from 15 Squadron was lost to enemy ground fire, crew again posted as missing.

On the ground, the 1st Armoured Division shuffled forward, some units to within 7 miles of the Kuwaiti border. As the men begin a course in anti-nerve gas treatment, morale remained high. One squaddie remarked, "We want to go home and the shortest route's through Baghdad."

After Scud attacks on Israel there was tremendous emphasis on locating the

*Continued on page 72*





# UNDER FIRE

## Dispatches From the War Zone

by Staff

Since the beginning of Operation Desert Storm our office has received continual dispatches from special correspondents in the Middle East. Veteran reporter Paul Danish is in Tel Aviv, freelance military correspondent Steve Elswick is in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and Soldier of Fortune Magazine Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Excerpts from their reports to our editors follow.

**DATELINE TEL AVIV, ISRAEL  
17 JANUARY  
PAUL DANISH REPORTING:**

*On Learning Operation Desert Storm Had Started*

I first learned of the attack from a Russian language broadcast on Radio Israel. I don't speak Russian, but you didn't really need to; the key phrase was *Americanski Attacki*.

When fighting broke out this morning the civil defense authority told Israelis to break the seals on their gas mask kits. The order was to break the seals on the kits, which are in cardboard cartons, but not to insert the filters in the masks and not to put them on yet. All Israeli citizens, Arab and Jew, have been given kits, although they have not given them out in the territories yet. They also advised that people stay home, near the gas shelters they were asked to install in their houses.

So far for Israel this is a spectator war and they like it just fine that way. The overwhelming concern here is the possibility of gas attacks by a missile. Civil defense has been broadcasting instructions periodically on the radio, and on TV in Hebrew, Russian and English on



Destruction in Tel Aviv. Photo: Wide World

how to respond if a warning is given, showing people how to put on their gas masks, showing them how to assemble a special gas protection kit for infants. You put infants in something that looks a little bit like an incubator and can also be used for your pets. There have also been instructions on how to seal up rooms.

I have a gas mask I've been hauling around the hotel. The military is now giving them to the press. The decision to base civil defense and organize it all around protecting against gas is an interesting one because it involves a trade-off. Gas is heavier than air, so gas shelters are set up in normal rooms of houses or on the upper floors of buildings,

rather than in the bomb shelters that you find in most homes or buildings around here. You know, now, that when conventional warheads are used in an attack, the population is vulnerable.

*On Flying Into Israel on the Eve of War*

Passengers on my plane when I flew in on 14 January were largely returning Israelis; many were orthodox Jews. In fact, as soon as the sun came up over the Atlantic, about 30 people stepped to the back of the plane, put on their prayer shawls and started praying. That went on for about an hour, which made it impossible for anyone to go to the restroom. I also noticed that there was

virtually no one under the age of 15. The people that I was sitting next to were Americans who had immigrated about a year before to Israel, and had been in New York for a visit. Now they were going back to Israel.

#### *On Jordan's King Hussein*

I haven't heard any statements from Hussein. I would imagine that he is shitting green bricks at this point.

#### *On Reported Iraqi Defections*

It's possible, but don't take it too seriously yet. Stuff coming out of Arab capitals tends to get exaggerated. The Iraqi ambassador to Algiers has said that 76 U.S. planes were shot down. During the '67 War, Radio Cairo was claiming that they had shot down more than 100 Israeli planes. In reality, there were about four losses at that point.

#### *On Soviet Immigrants*

When I got back to the hotel today, I heard that two flights of Soviet immigrants were coming in and that as soon as they landed, they would be issued gas masks. Think of it as your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

#### *On Atrocities*

So far the only atrocity I have seen is the Hilton charging \$2.00 for a cup of coffee.

#### **DATELINE TEL AVIV**

**17 JANUARY**

**PAUL DANISH REPORTING:**

#### *On Continuing State of Emergency*

The assessment tonight is that the probability is higher than it was that Iraq will try to hit Israel. The Iraqis are pissed off about being bombed all day and given the frustration that comes with that, they might try to lash out. We have to assume that they will use their air force against allied forces or against Israel. The result of this is that the state of emergency is still in effect.

#### *Gas Masks for the Palestinians*

Two days ago the Israeli Supreme Court ordered that the army start distributing gas masks to the people in the territories, which they hadn't been doing on the grounds that Saddam would not want to attack Arab populations.

#### **DATELINE TEL AVIV**

**18 JANUARY**

**PAUL DANISH REPORTING:**

#### *In the Midst of a Missile Attack*

##### *Conversation 1: 0200 hours*

Editor: Paul, I don't know where they are reporting from on this. They just had the CBS correspondent on the line with [CBS Anchor Dan] Rather and they said that Tel Aviv was under attack. They said that sirens went off, there was a massive explosion, and the correspondent went

away to put his gas mask on.

PD: I haven't heard anything here. I just turned off the lights about 10 minutes ago to go to sleep. Did you hear where this was happening? How long ago?

Editor: Now. It is on live. Check over the local media and see what you can get out of the Ministry of Defense. Keep your gas mask close by. There is the threat of the mobile Scuds, and he is saying that there is an explosion. It might be a terrorist attack, an incoming Scud, or it might be a big backfire. You don't know.

##### *Conversation 2: 0300 hours*

Editor: Can you get me room 508 please?

Hotel Clerk (speaking through gas



Robert K. Brown, reporting from Riyadh.

mask): He is in the shelter.

##### *Conversation 3: 0500 hours*

PD: Here's what happened since we talked. As soon as you called I turned on the radio and within a minute a broadcast came across that air raid sirens had sounded in Jerusalem. And then the siren went off in Tel Aviv. I dressed frantically and then I heard the first Scud go off. It was a good distance away. There was a big loud boom, but it didn't rattle the windows.

They were broadcasting by that time to go into the sealed rooms and put on your gas masks. I grabbed my gas mask, all my notebooks, my radio, two rolls of duct tape that I brought from the U.S. and a box of baking soda and headed for the gas room, which was right next to mine. I tore open the gas mask and sat there trying to figure out the instructions, written in Hebrew which I read at about a first-grade level.

My adrenaline was really pumping now — that was the closest I came to panic. I heard two other Scud explosions. Then I found English instructions and made myself calm down and read them. A practical problem came up immediately — I wear glasses and I am well past 20/400 without the prescription, which means I can see virtually nothing without them.

Finally I put the filters into the mask, put the thing on as best I could, pulled the straps as tight as I could. Then I put my glasses on over the mask and taped them to

it with duct tape. And then I grabbed the roll of duct tape and I sealed the door. And then I sat there alone in the mask, listening to the radio.

I re-read the gas mask instructions. They said you should check the mask's seal by putting your hand over the open end of the filter and sucking. If the mask collapsed toward your face the seal was good. I tried it and it worked. I also studied the pictures showing the right and wrong way the mask should fit. I went over to the mirror and looked. It seemed my mask was on wrong, riding too low on my face. I pulled it around some and got it a little higher and decided not to worry about it any more.

I hadn't heard anything about the hits being nerve gas. After about 45 minutes they said we could take off our gas masks, but to stay in the gas room. I started thinking about that. My first thought was OK, I'll take a chance and go out of the hotel. And then my thought was why would they ask you to remain in the room if there were no injuries? And then I thought maybe it was biological.

#### **DATELINE DHAHRAN,**

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**18 JANUARY**

**STEVE ELSWICK REPORTING:**

#### *On Scud Attack in Dhahran*

This morning, 18 January at 0340, I was sitting in the press room watching press reports of the rockets hitting Tel Aviv and Haifa when the air raid siren in the hotel went off. People began groping for equipment and running toward the shelter. The lights of the hotel went off and came back on two or three times and we heard a megaphone voice down on the first floor giving instructions to calmly move toward the shelter.

Once in the shelter, the instructor told everyone to sit down, remain calm, take a seat, not to move around in order to conserve oxygen, and to don their gas masks. At 0355 the order to remove protective masks was given and we were told that the gas threat level was low.

At 0420 hours we were still in the shelter monitoring the radio for news. We suspected that the air raid was sounded in Dhahran as a precautionary measure. At 0430 hours we had just returned upstairs to the press room when we heard a loud explosion just outside the hotel. This time there was no advance warning of an air raid siren. Then there was a second explosion and the CNN broadcast broke off on the monitor. The members of the press began looking at each other as if a light bulb went off in everybody's head simultaneously. We all began running back toward the shelter. On the way there we heard one more explosion outside the hotel.

Once in the shelter we were informed that the airfield adjacent to the hotel had been hit. At 0453 hours we were told to don protective clothing and masks. At

0530 hours we are still sitting around with protective masks and clothing and still unsure as to what the explosions outside the hotel really were. At 0530 hours a radio informed us that a U.S. Patriot missile had intercepted an Iraqi Scud missile on its way to Dhahran. The "all clear" signal was given at 0600 hours.

After this, security was beefed up around the hotel perimeter. Elements of the information bureau are now standing guard with M16 rifles, 9mm pistols and .38 caliber handguns in front of the hotel and are pulling constant roving perimeter checks. The Saudi army is now pulling perimeter checks on the outer perimeter of the hotel. The Navy Seabees and Air Force teams have brought in bulldozers and heavy equipment and started putting barricades to the loop that comes up to the front door of the hotel so that you can no longer drive a vehicle up.

**DATELINE TEL AVIV  
19 JANUARY  
PAUL DANISH REPORTING:**

*On Frazzled Nerves*

It was a nervous night because there were two false alerts and then another attack actually occurred this morning. One alert was at midnight and the second at about 0200 Saturday morning. The actual attack occurred just about dawn. I counted three impacts. We were surprised that the Iraqis could get Scuds up in daylight. But at any rate, as far as Scuds go, we seem to be getting used to the drill.

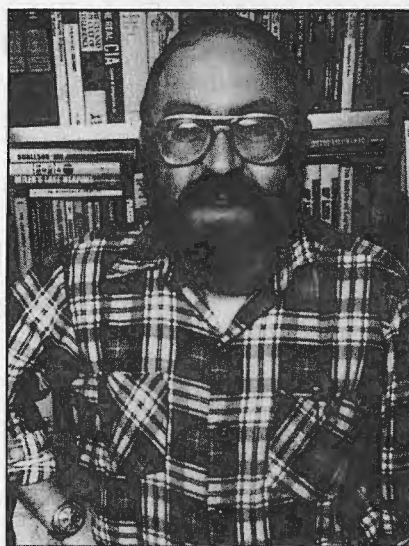
*On Retaliation*

Probably the best statement came from Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He said that there are two issues involved here. One is protecting Israel from further missile attacks and the second is retaliation in the sense of paybacks. And as far as retaliation and sense of payback is concerned, Israel has taken most of these attacks and has not forgotten them. But the main issue that we are concerned about now is keeping attacks away from us.

*On Censorship*

At the beginning of the briefing they urged the press, in the strongest possible terms, not to publish the precise locations of missile impacts because it would tell the Iraqis how accurate they were and would allow them to correct their fire. The Israeli Defense Force spokesman, Brigadier General Nachman Shai, who is usually just the model of circumspection, said, "I would like to say to the ladies and gentlemen of the press if there are any among you who are desiring committing suicide that you do it outside the country." I never thought that I would see the day when I would approve of press censorship, but I think that they are absolutely correct in this case.

I have to learn to be careful. Last night



Paul Danish, reporting from Tel Aviv. Photo: *Colorado Daily*

I was talking to a friend and you know how I love to B.S. about military matters. She asked some questions and I went into an analysis based on some stuff that I read in *Aviation Week* last August and, son of a gun, the phone conversation was broken.

*On Possibility of Nukes*

Israel has been saying for 30 years that they would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

*On People's Reactions in Israel*

Netanyahu pointed out that there has not been a cascade of letters or telegrams or demonstrations from the Israeli population demanding retaliation. On the other hand, people in the hotel that I have talked to pretty clearly think that it ought to retaliate. One person at the press conference quoted a woman as saying that Israelis are reduced to cowering in their homes. That is clearly one element in the response.

One reason the state of Israel was founded was to ensure that Jews would stop being victims and would take control of their destinies — starting by relying on no outsiders for ensuring their own safety. But among the more sophisticated there is a feeling that the Coalition is beating the shit out of the Iraqis right now and it is in Israel's national interest that that continues to happen.

*On Aircraft vs. Missiles*

I personally am more concerned about aircraft than Scuds. We don't even know for sure whether Iraq has chemical warheads for Scuds, and so long as Scuds are confined to conventional explosives, this is like London and the Blitz. It is uncomfortable, but you can live with it.

A Scud that reaches Israel has a reduced warhead that weighs about 130 kilograms, which is about the size of your basic Beirut car bomb. It can knock the front off a couple of buildings, and if you are under it

tough shit, but if it is in the next block, you are going to survive it. But we know that they have chemical bombs for aircraft and they have used them in the past. The authorities are saying quite officially that they are still concerned about a gas attack coming from aircraft and that, coupled with the announcement that the Iraqi air force is largely intact, I find troubling.

*On Being Under Fire*

I'm doing pretty well, actually. I haven't been nearly as bothered by it as I thought I would be. It obviously does take a toll on you. This is the first time that I have been under fire and it is a fascinating experience. Today is the first day that I felt any real anxiety and it is about the aircraft thing. Except for that, when the sirens go off it is a hell of an adrenaline rush and by the time the second attack actually happened, we had already had two rehearsals. It is astonishing how quickly you get used to it.

**DATELINE DHAHRAN  
19 JANUARY  
STEVE ELSWICK REPORTING:**

*On Gas Masks*

Gas masks might even be called fashionable these days. It is rare to see anyone without one — from the doormen at the hotel to taxi drivers and waiters, from military men to international press members. There are many types from different countries, but the British version seems to be the most sought after. For those arriving in Saudi Arabia without one, there is a locally manufactured one which sells for about \$35.00 U.S.

**DATELINE RIYADH,  
SAUDI ARABIA  
21 JANUARY  
ROBERT K. BROWN REPORTING:**

*On Scuds in Riyadh*

The first time I heard the alarm I went down to the shelter; the second time, I said screw it, turned over and went back to sleep.

*On Press Conferences*

At least 99% of all these press conferences are B.S.

**DATELINE DHAHRAN  
21 JANUARY  
STEVE ELSWICK REPORTING:**

*On Trying to Get to the Border*

Today I started driving up to a town about 100km south of the Kuwaiti border. I made it through the first checkpoint, but at the second I was met by Saudi Arabian and American military and turned back. I went back down to another turn off and attempted to go up to the Kuwaiti border via a different route but was turned back again. I spoke briefly with a Saudi guard there who informed me that there had been

an exchange of some gunfire between the U.S. Marines and the Iraqi air force for the second or third day in a row now.

There wasn't a lot of traffic on the road today, but just a few days ago the road going north toward the Kuwaiti border was packed full of military vehicles from the multinational forces heading north. Lots of tracked vehicles, tanks, supply vehicles with troops and heavy equipment.

**DATELINE DHAHRAN  
22 JANUARY**

**STEVE ELSWICK REPORTING:**

*On "Three's Company" Reruns*

Over the last three days the local TV networks in Dhahran have discontinued the continual, around-the-clock news coverage of the war and started playing reruns of old American sitcoms. CNN, the prime source of news in this area, has been reduced to late night and early morning coverage. This may be due to reports that local merchants are having difficulty getting their employees to report to work. One Saudi firm opted to imprison several employees who refused to come to work. But it also may be that something is up.

*On the POW Situation*

At a briefing at the joint information bureau at the Dhahran International Hotel a member of the press asked about POWs' orders if they are captured. The answer was, at this point, all members of the U.S. military are expected to abide by the code of conduct to the very best of their ability. There are various rumors about hidden codes in downed pilots' "statements" on TV about peace-loving Iraq, but nothing definite.

*On Tensions Between Saudis and Foreigners*

There is growing tension between the Saudis and the Americans and the Saudis and the Kuwaitis. I heard that a member of the international press, an American TV man with camera, was supposedly knocked down, kicked and beaten by the Saudi police when he tried to film an accidental discharge incident in the hotel. I didn't see it, but the story is that the American military got over there right away and took him into the Joint Information Bureau office.

**DATELINE TEL AVIV  
22 JANUARY**

**PAUL DANISH REPORTING:**

*On Celebrity Missile Hit*

We had a Scud strike at 2046 tonight. At least one missile hit in a suburb east of Tel Aviv. Two U.S. Patriots were fired at it and it's not clear whether it was hit or not, but it collapsed a two-story building. They say injuries have been evacuated to hospitals. People will still be asked to go to work tomorrow, "because we must maintain in the state of Israel normal life."

This was the celebrity missile hit. At the time the sirens went off there was a reception for the English and American press going on at the Hilton that included the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Shlomo Lahat, the head of the New York Philharmonic, Zubin Mehta, and Jackie Mason, the comedian. At precisely the moment the siren went off, Mehta was being interviewed on TV, holding up his gas mask and saying that he hoped we would never have to put one on again.

**DATELINE RIYADH  
23 JANUARY**

**ROBERT K. BROWN REPORTING:**

*Kuwaiti Power Struggle*

There are reports here that a potentially damaging power struggle is underway for political control of Kuwait after the Iraqis are ejected.



Three groups are competing for power: Western-trained and educated Kuwaiti army officers who are pro-democratic; the Sabah clan, led by Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who wants a *status quo ante bellum*; and Kuwaiti resistance forces who remained in Kuwait, who want a more fundamentalist government.

The objective of the United States and the United Nations is to restore the pre-invasion government to power.

Last June, the Emir restructured Kuwait's National Assembly so that he retained absolute veto power over all legislation, reserving the right to personally appoint 50 members to the National Assembly.

The pro-democratic Kuwaiti officer clique expressed dissatisfaction with this arrangement. As a result, reports indicate that the Emir's government-in-exile is shuffling off the most capable Kuwaiti officers to positions of little power or influence. They are being replaced by

inept, uneducated "loyalists" who, for the most part, are relatives of the Sabah clan. They have been appointed as battalion and brigade commanders.

One high-level source, who for obvious reasons must remain anonymous, stated that the Emir's government prefers to leave the combat mission of clearing Kuwait to the Coalition. Therefore, the government-in-exile has been dragging its feet in reconstituting the Kuwaiti army. To date, only two battalions of the three-brigade force have been reconstituted, as they don't want the army to become too strong.

"All military sales contracts have been sitting, unsigned, in the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington, D.C., since September or October of last year," the source reported. "Only trickles of commercially purchased equipment have arrived, such as 2,000 M16s, 2,000,000 rounds of 5.56mm

ammunition, a quantity of 9mm pistols, and uniforms."

He went on to state that this will undoubtedly have "an adverse impact on the mission assigned to them by Central Command."

Furthermore, reports indicate that the bulk of the Kuwaiti Resistance that has remained inside Kuwait to actively carry on the fight against the Iraqi invaders desire a "more fundamentalist" type of government when Kuwait is finally freed. The internal Resistance has been doing the bulk of the fighting and dying during the last five months and, as is the case with most resistance movements, takes strong exception to being excluded from sharing power by the REMFs living in opulent luxury far from danger.

*As we go to press, special correspondents in the Middle East are continuing to call in field reports.*



# U.S. ARMY AT WAR

## Up Front with the Thunder and Lightning of Desert Storm

by Chuck Fremont

**I** have seen in your eyes a fire of determination — now you must be the thunder and lightning of Desert Storm,” General Norman Schwarzkopf told his troops as he announced the opening attack on Iraq.

United States doctrine for offensive operations emphasizes “AirLand Battle” — a coordinated assault on the enemy with all the forces available to the overall commander. General Norman (“The Bear”) Schwarzkopf is a believer in this battle concept and the importance of mobility and maneuver in the offensive.

“If we’re going to have to go to war, I want to get the damn thing over with ... I won’t hold anything back. I’m going to do everything I can to viciously destroy [Iraqi forces] as rapidly as possible,” Gen. Schwarzkopf said in an interview before Desert Storm aircraft began pummeling Iraq on 17 January. He compares his fighting style to that of a grizzly bear, attacking with force and fury.

The air and land war that Stormin’ Norman Schwarzkopf has launched against Iraq is unlike anything Saddam Hussein’s forces have ever experienced — or even imagined. Precision munitions that fly through the camouflaged doors of an ammo bunker; Hellfire antitank missiles fired from Apache attack helicopters; 750-pound bombs dropped from formations of B-52Gs flying beyond sight or



“Now we’re on our way home — we’re just taking a detour through Iraq,” was how one paratrooper from the 82nd described Operation Desert Storm. Photo: DoD

sound, miles above the killing ground, are only the first volleys fired by Gen. Schwarzkopf.

AirLand battle emphasizes speed in the attack, which is spearheaded by heavy

armor — M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks (MBTs). The M1A1 can sprint across the desert at 40+ mph while accurately firing antitank rounds from its 120mm gun. This “Dragon of Liberty” is arguably the most awesome fighting machine ever fielded.

Closely following the tanks is the mechanized infantry. Squads of riflemen join the battle in tracked Bradley infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs), a cross between a

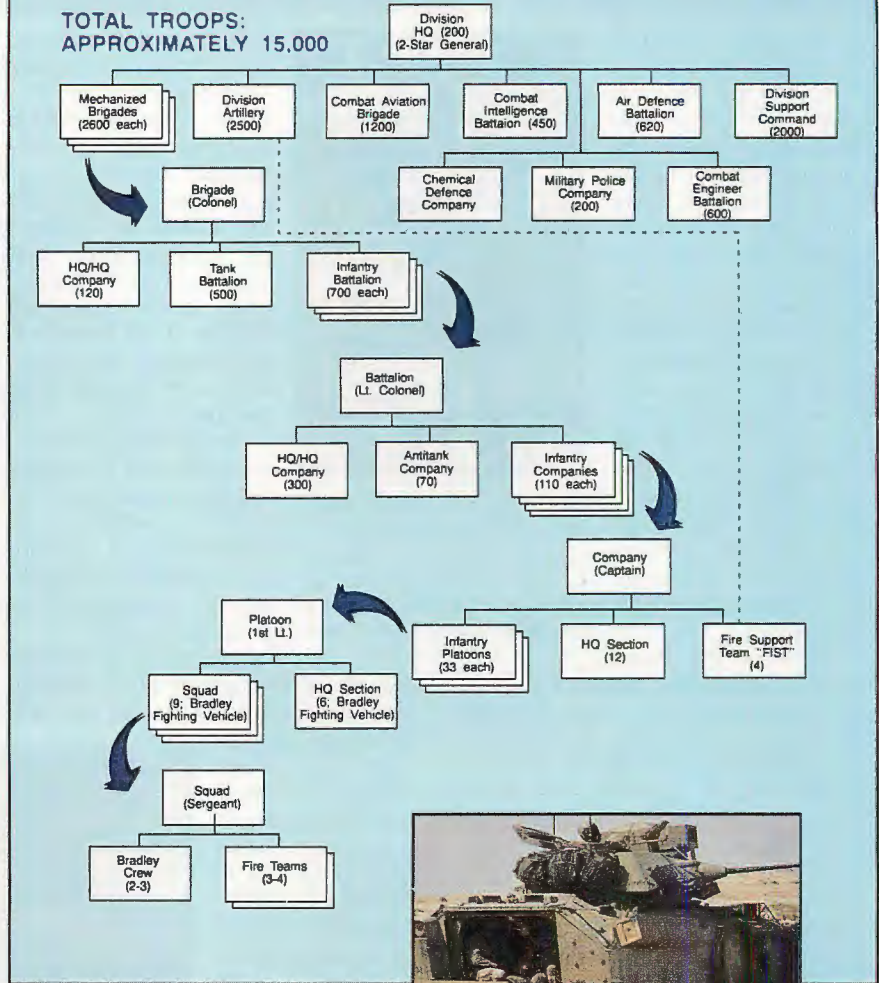
light tank and an armored personnel carrier. The troops can fire at enemy infantry through firing ports in the sides of the Bradleys, dismounting when necessary to fight on foot, while the turret cannon of the Bradley destroys enemy light armor.

Overhead, Army AH-1 Cobra and AH-64 Apache gunships, USAF A-10 "Hogs"

## MAJOR U.S. ARMY UNITS DEPLOYED IN DESERT STORM

- 1st Armored Division
- 1st Cavalry Division
- 1st Corps Support Command
- 1st Infantry Division
- 2nd Armored Division
- 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
- 2nd Corps Support Command
- 3rd Armored Division
- 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
- 3rd Infantry Division
- 5th Special Forces Group
- III Corps Artillery
- 7th Engineer Brigade
- 7th Medical Command
- 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
- 11th Aviation Brigade
- 12th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 13th Corps Support Command
- 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
- 30th Medical Group
- 82nd Airborne Division
- 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
- 197th Infantry Brigade
- HQ, III Corps
- HQ, VII Corps
- HQ, XVIII Airborne Corps
- HQ, U.S. Army Central Command

## TYPICAL U.S. MECHANIZED INFANTRY DIVISION



ABOVE: Sheridan airborne assault vehicles of the 82nd Airborne Division can be airdropped to support paratroop assaults on Iraqi targets. Photo: Eric Micheletti

RIGHT: Apache gunships, armed with tank-busting Hellfire missiles, were used in attack on offshore drilling platforms manned by Iraqi missile teams. Photo: Eric Micheletti

INSET: Bradley Fighting Vehicle of Co. B, 69th Bn., 24th Inf. Div. (Mech). Bradley carries nine-man squad to combat. Photo: Eric Micheletti



Special Operations — or Spec Ops — missions are the most secret actions of Desert Storm —and for good reason. These missions may require infiltration of Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps teams far behind Iraqi lines, and the guys on those teams don't need a lot of publicity on the evening news. Saddam Hussein watches CNN like everyone else. There will be a fascinating Spec Ops story coming out of Desert Storm, but don't hold your breath waiting for the details.



Army Spec Ops troops are training for possible close-contact fighting in Kuwait's oilfields. Climbing ironwork is an important skill for fighting in industrial terrain. Photo: DoD

At least one such mission, completed before the opening air raids of Desert Storm, involved British SAS (Special Air Service) commandos and Army Special Forces troops, according to a senior Pentagon official quoted by the London *Sunday Times*. The raid, launched in late December or early January, was aimed at snatching a Soviet Gecko SA-8 surface-to-air missile (SAM) with an Iraqi-modified radar-guidance system just deployed in Kuwait.

"It was a brilliant operation. Those guys flew in, took the Iraqis completely by surprise, interrogated the crew, took the missile and flew back," according to one official.

According to independent sources in the United Kingdom, the successful raid was flown with Soviet Mi-8 Hip helicopters provided by a third country (probably Egypt) and painted in Iraqi camouflage. The United Kingdom sold Iraq desert camo uniforms during the Iran-Iraq war, so the raiders wore sterile (no patches or identification) British uniforms.

Reports of defecting Iraqi helicopters, labeled erroneous by U.S. and Saudi authorities, were apparently prompted by sightings of the Soviet helos when they crossed back into Saudi airspace. The U.S.-Brit team brought the missile to Saudi Arabia for analysis by U.S. specialists, along with captured Iraqi war plans. Iraqi missile technicians were also captured, according to a British source.

### PsyOps

Also included in the category of Spec Ops is Psychological Warfare — PsyOps to its practitioners. The

U.S. Special Operations Command — SOCOM — is responsible for military PsyOps, and SOCOM may coordinate with the CIA under special authorization by the president. According to the *New York Times*, that authority has been granted through three classified presidential "findings" written in August and December.

These findings, which conclude that presidential authorization for the covert operations is legal under U.S. law and in the national interest, allowed three missions to be launched.

The first, a propaganda campaign aimed at getting information from the outside into Iraq

and occupied Kuwait, involved smuggling thousands of portable radios into those countries. VCR tapes and audio cassettes were also smuggled in, reportedly with the help of nomads who regularly cross through the neutral zones separating Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. The VCR tapes, which reportedly contained footage of U.S. firepower demonstrations, were aimed at giving Iraqi troops something to think about during the long cold desert nights. They apparently have plenty of stolen Kuwaiti VCRs.

The second mission involves training and support of the Kuwaiti Resistance, reportedly being provided by Army Special Forces (5th SFG) personnel based at King Khalid Military City, near Hafir Al-Batin, Saudi Arabia. Similar support may be given to Kurdish freedom fighters working out of southern Turkey. This is the classic SF mission, support of guerrilla resistance fighters. The military skills provided by Army Special Forces (Green Berets) combined with the motivation and local knowledge of the indigenous fighters is a powerful weapon.

Little is known about the third mission, which the *Times* says is aimed at destabilizing Saddam Hus-

sein's government. This could involve economic warfare, such as counterfeiting Iraqi currency to destroy confidence in that currency, clandestine support of opposition political factions, or similar operations.

### Downed Aviator Rescue

Downed aviator rescue is one of the most important Spec Ops missions, and the rescue on 21 January of a downed Navy pilot may have involved Spec Ops personnel. Details are sketchy, but the daring rescue began when the Navy aviator's distress call was picked up by two USAF A-10 "Warthog" pilots. The Hogdrivers coordinated with a USAF rescue helicopter that also heard the call, but since they were faster, the Hogs headed for their brother pilot, spotted him in the Iraqi desert, and circled while awaiting the Jolly Green. An Iraqi military truck approached just as the helo appeared and was immediately vapor-

ized by depleted uranium slugs fired by the Hogs' chain guns. The rescue involved eight hours of flying over Iraqi airspace and midair refueling.

Another operation that may have involved Spec Ops assets was the 19 January raid



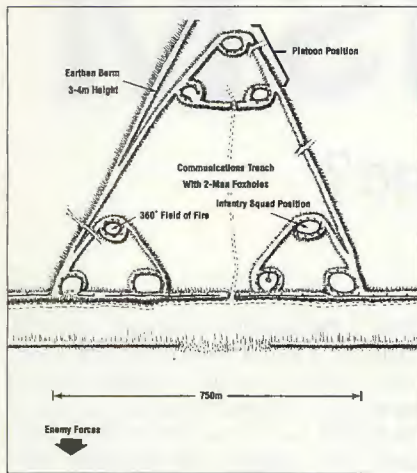
H-60 Blackhawk helicopters can infiltrate Army Special Forces teams deep inside Iraqi territory. Photo: Eric Micheletti

on Kuwaiti offshore drilling platforms. Iraqi forces on the structures were firing SAMs at U.S. aircraft from the structures. Because bombing of the platforms could have resulted in massive oil spills, a surgical strike was launched that used Army helicopters to attack the platforms. Kuwaiti patrol craft captured the Iraqi gunners who jumped to safety in the Persian Gulf.

Fighting a war in the middle of one of the world's greatest oilfields presents special challenges. Air power may not be advised in areas where oil storage and production facilities are concentrated. Defeating Iraqi forces in the midst of the Kuwaiti oilfields will likely be a Spec Ops mission, involving Army Special Forces and Rangers as well as USMC Force Recon and Navy SEALs. This will be a tough one. Of course, if the Iraqis carry out their threat of torching all of these facilities, then we can just let the B-52s do the job.

— C.F.

## IRAQI STRONGPOINT



Army troops have trained against full-size models of Iraqi strongpoints. Diagram shows details of a company-size earthen fortification typical of those making up the "Saddam Line" in southern Kuwait and Iraq. If any of these survive B-52 strikes, U.S. troops will defeat them through violent attacks of AirLand battle. Drawing: U.S. Army Intelligence.



Army Apache crew prep their gunship for attacks on Iraqi force. Photo: Eric Micheletti

and F-15 Eagles, USMC Harriers and FA-18 Hornets, Navy A-7 Corsairs and F-14 Tomcats control the skies. Airpower is the grunts' umbrella.

The attack is relentless. Pockets of resistance are rolled over, and survivors mopped up by follow-on forces. The old concept of "the Front" is no longer relevant to U.S. battle doctrine: the fight is carried throughout the "Battle Area." Nightfighting is a big part of the assault. UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilots, flying with night vision goggles, land squads of air assault forces at the "Forward Edge of the Battle Area," or FEBA in the jargon of AirLand battle.

Airfields are seized by Army paratroopers. USAF Combat Control Teams parachute into the battle with the Army Airborne forces to direct C-130 Hercules transports onto clear stretches of damaged runways. More troops and equipment are delivered to the fight. Army Special Forces teams, infiltrated before the main ground assault, destroy command, control, communications and intelligence facilities — "C<sup>3</sup>I" in military jargon.

## PATRIOT MISSILE SYSTEM

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 18 January, about 0400:

"I knew right away what it was. There's no way you can confuse it." "It" was an inbound Iraqi Scud surface-to-surface missile or, more accurately, the Scud's image on First Lieutenant Charles McMurtrey's radar screen. The 27-year-old Army air defense artillery officer from Montgomery, Alabama, and Sergeant Joe Oblinger, 26, from South Bend, Indiana, had seconds to react with the Patriot missiles they controlled before the Scud would impact near the giant allied airhead at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. And react they did.

"It was like a big, brilliant flare. It jumped off the ground, snaked back and forth a few times and then BOOM." That's how 1st Lt. Steve Kirik, a USAF F-15 fighter jock, described the Patriot's interception of the Scud.

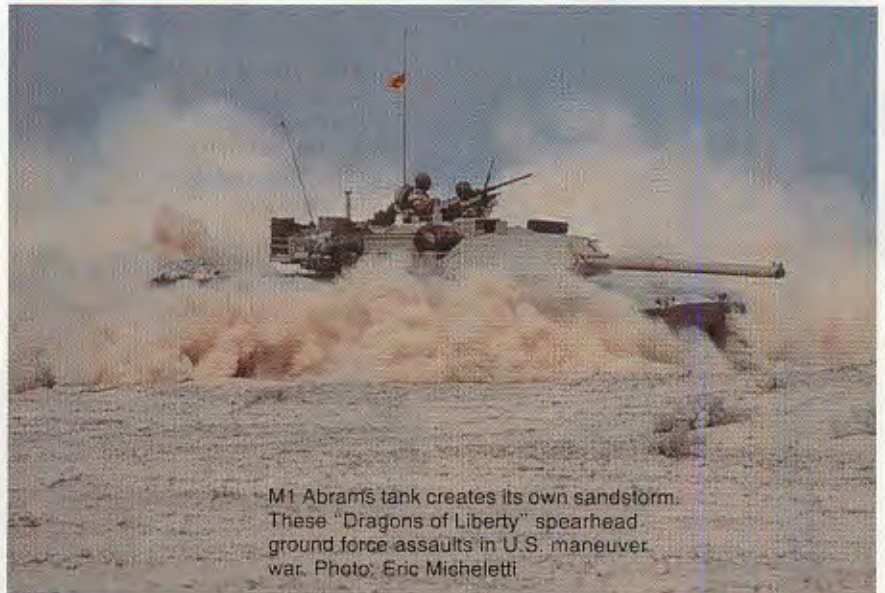
Lieutenant McMurtrey's battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Leroy Neel, from Houston, was a couple of kilometers away. "I saw the explosion but it didn't register right away..." Then it hit him. "My God, that's one of mine."

In the coming days, more of Saddam's Scuds were blown out of the desert skies of Saudi Arabia and Israel by Army Patriots, and the small (17.4 feet long) air defense missiles and their crews became early heroes of the Gulf war. In production since 1980, this was the first combat use of the Patriot, which was originally designed to intercept enemy aircraft — not faster missiles. The



(ART: PATRIOT PHOTO)PHOTO CUT: Patriot System is a mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) used by U.S. Army to defend against enemy aircraft and surface-to-surface missiles (SSMs). Patriots and their Army crews are proving capable of defeating Iraq's modified Soviet SCUD, Al-Abbas and Al-Hussein missiles.

fact that it worked so well exonerated the often criticized "high-tech" defense programs of the Reagan era. It also reminded us that the warriors of today's Army fight with the same leading-edge technology as that of an F-117 pilot. — C.F.



M1 Abrams tank creates its own sandstorm. These "Dragons of Liberty" spearhead ground force assaults in U.S. maneuver war. Photo: Eric Micheletti

Iraqi forces, dug-in in preparation for a World War I-style trench war, have no concept of what is happening to them — especially after the relentless bombing that led up to the ground assault. They surrender in waves — but the Coalition forces are ready, having planned on a quarter-million prisoners of war. POWs

are herded into transport trucks for the long ride south to the security of a Saudi-U.S. prisoner of war camp. For them, the war is over.

Chuck Fremont is an Army Reserve Special Forces NCO and intelligence analyst. ✍



# TERRORISM

## Saddam's Hidden Hand?

by Neil Livingstone

**W**ITH the onset of hostilities in the Middle East, there is great concern in the United States that Saddam Hussein will attempt to open a "second front," using terrorist proxies and Iraqi agents in the West. In the weeks leading up to war, Western authorities began beefing up security and tightening border controls.

Since the 2 August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the "screws have been turned" at all United States visa offices abroad, and travelers from suspect areas of the

world have found it all but impossible to obtain visas to the United States. A week before the outbreak of war, it was announced that anyone entering this country on an Iraqi or Kuwaiti passport would be photographed and fingerprinted upon their arrival. Concerns still remain, however, that terrorists or Iraqi agents could slip over the border from Canada or Mexico.

On 10 January 1991, reports surfaced that Canadian authorities were attempting to "track" up to a dozen suspected Iraqi agents in Toronto. The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) also is trying to locate approximately 3,000 Iraqis who have remained in this country after their visas expired.

The nation's airports are "at their highest level of security," according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Curbside check-in has been eliminated. Visible security has been enhanced, profiling of passengers stepped up, and concourses closed to anyone without a ticket. Undercover agents are roaming airports and countersurveillance teams are scanning surrounding areas for signs of terrorists casing potential targets. At Washington's Dulles International Airport, unattended cars at the terminal are immediately towed away.

Many major United States companies have imposed travel restric-

tions on their employees, including the 3M company, Fluor Corporation, and Lockheed. In most cases this has meant canceling all but emergency travel to Europe and the Middle East, but some companies have gone even further and grounded their employees for the duration of the conflict, both at home and abroad.

Streets have been closed in Washington, D.C., near critical facilities. White House tours have been canceled for the first time since World War II, and tours at other federal installations, such as the Pentagon and State Department, also have been suspended. New concrete barriers have been erected to protect various potential targets, and visible security has been upgraded nearly everywhere.

Guards at government parking lots have been checking cars entering garages for bombs, including cars driven by members of the U.S. Congress. Guards armed with shotguns openly patrol the grounds of the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Counter-surveillance teams prowl rooftops in Washington and other major cities, attempting to discern any sign of terrorists. Security measures at nuclear facilities and power generating plants are at the highest level of readiness.

Federal authorities say that a number of potential terrorist attacks have been preempted in the United States and abroad since the beginning of the crisis. Six of the pre-empted incidents were in the United States, including the arrest of a Kuwaiti-born American citizen on 29 November 1990, who allegedly was conspiring to kill President Bush and other top federal officials. In addition, an Iraqi citizen, allegedly with a cache of explosives, was arrested by the FBI in San Francisco on 17 January 1991. None of the incidents in the United States were believed to have been linked directly to Baghdad.

One of the surprises during the first days of the war was that there were no significant terrorist attacks against Western targets. Nor did Arab mobs storm United States Embassies in countries like Jordan and the Sudan. Only a few scattered acts of violence were reported.

Demonstrating the same prowess they are now showing on the battlefield, on 19 January 1991, two Iraqi terrorists in the Philippines blew themselves up on their way to bomb an American installation. On

*Continued on page 79*



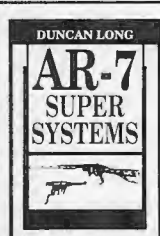
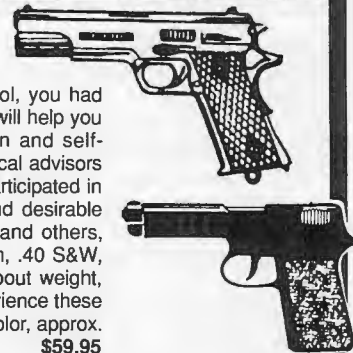
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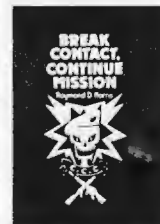
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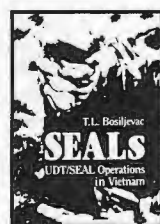


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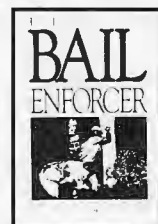


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# NAVY, MARINES

Continued from page 59

demolition bombs as well as cluster bombs. Cluster bombs contain hundreds of smaller bomblets described by a Harrier groundcrew armorer as "having the power of about 30 hand grenades each."

Harrier pilot Captain Thomas Chaney, 33, from Los Angeles, said he saw no people on the ground. "I saw the buildings, a few vehicles and some trucks," he said. Colonel White said Marines on the ground located the commo site and relayed its position to the air wing. Two Bronco spotter planes then went to the area and marked it with smoke; the Harriers finished it off.

Elsewhere near the Kuwaiti border, the Marines and the Army are going to try a new experiment. They are going to mate an Army heavy armored brigade with the two Marine divisions, the 1st and 2nd, which are located virtually side-by-side on the Kuwaiti border.

The large number of M1A1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and armored command vehicles will add weight to the Marines' light infantry makeup. Marine divisions do have tank units, one battalion to a division, but they are usually parceled out to infantry line battalions as needed.

"Mobile armored warfare is not a Marine specialty," Capt. Matthew Margotta, an Army spokesman, said, "but we can't breach a line without infantrymen." There is no doubt in the minds of either soldiers or Marines that a ground attack will be required to force Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

"The war isn't over until the enemy's territory is seized," Lt. Col. Michael T. Johnson, of Springfield, Massachusetts, said. Armored personnel carriers clanked into and alongside Marine positions after a hot, dusty, 48-hour, 200km route march. Soldiers dismounted and started digging in. "Even with all that steel, you still dig in when you stop," Johnson said. "The basic protection for troops is always that old hole in the ground."

The Army troops, like countless before them, discovered that Marines are generally strangers to creature comforts. "I mean, we live rough," one soldier said, "but I guess we aren't as used to living quite as rough as the Marines. We like a little canvas over our heads."

Nevertheless, they expressed a soldier's resignation to and confidence in what was to lie ahead. "War is whatever we've got to look forward to," Sergeant Gary Newcomb, 26, of Farmersville, Louisiana, said. "But that doesn't mean we're really looking forward to it. We just hope the air boys flatten Iraq so low that all we have to do is push through smoking wastes."

Jay R. Lopez, a loader on a Bradley weapons system, added, "We are combat ready and ready to fight because it looks

like that is the only way to get home."

Bob Poos was a Marine combat correspondent in Vietnam, and a former managing editor of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*. ☒

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## BRITS

Continued from page 61

mobile Scud launchers. Hampered by poor weather over Iraq, so far the RAF had attacked 36 airfields during 188 missions.

By Day 3, three RAF Tornado F-3s were scrambled to assist U.S. A-10s over Kuwait being harassed by Iraqi aircraft.

A third Tornado GR-1 from 15 Squadron was reported lost. This raised the casualty rate from this squadron to 25%. A grim 1st Lt. Mike Pailsey said, "Whatever your emotions, you still fly the aircraft. We went out as four crew, now we are three. Tomorrow we might be two or one. It gets harder. The first time you are dealing with the unknown. On the last sortie we lost somebody. The next time it's going to be harder because you're aware it could be you."

Tornado GR-1As (the reconnaissance version of the GR-1) were deployed to help in the search for mobile Scud launchers, but no Tornado missions were flown after dark on this day due to bad weather. Jaguars flew five missions on their first full day of operations. A cockney ground crewman "bombing-up" a fighter was laconic in describing his job during hostilities: "Easy, I put them on, they take 'em off. Er ... pass the spanner, Jack."

One Tornado pilot reported damage from ground fire and coaxed his aircraft back with as much caution as circumstances allowed, only to have ground crew pluck feathers from minor damage and report that he had hit a bird.

The 1st Armoured Division began fitting extra armor on their 60-ton Challenger tanks and Warrior armored personnel carriers (APCs), this in response to evidence of a new Iraqi mine.

On Day 4, Royal Navy Lynx helicopters from Her Majesty's Ships *Cardiff* and *Gloucester* with Sea Skua antiship missiles were scrambled for potential threat from Iraqi gunboats, but no contact was made. They also flew reconnaissance for a U.S. Navy and Marine assault on off-shore oil platforms being manned by Iraqi antiaircraft units.

### Landscape Gardeners

As of midday, RAF bombing missions resumed. For the first time, Jaguar missions included direct attacks against concentrations of Iraqi ground forces, using cluster bombs. The search also continued for Iraqi mobile Scud launchers and the heaviest RAF Jaguar raids were targeted against these.

In RAF tradition, ground crews chalked irreverent messages on bombs before missions. One 1,000-pound bomb bore the legend, "41 Sqd, Landscape Gardeners."

By Day 5, a fourth Tornado GR-1 was lost shortly after take off in Saudi Arabia, crew ejecting safely. By the end of the day, the RAF had flown 300 missions. Crews were being rotated, whenever possible alternating crews between missions.

On Day 6, the fifth Tornado GR-1 was lost in action, crew missing. So far 37% of Coalition air losses had been Tornado GR-1s, even though they represented only 4% of the Coalition air force. This level of loss was attributed to the extremely hazardous low-level missions they had to perform, and is considered to be low, given the number of missions they had flown.

RAF pilots reacted with outrage at the degrading spectacle of their downed colleagues being paraded on Iraqi TV, somewhat the worse for wear. However, they were buoyant at the news that at least they were alive. The RAF analyzed their losses thus far and attempted to alter operational procedure. They stopped the "softening-up" 1,000-pound bomb attacks which had preceded the low-level delivery of JP223 "Runway Busters." Instead, the JP223s were delivered unannounced in a 50-foot flyover on unsuspecting targets.

Commenting on the high RAF losses, Group Captain David Henderson said, "The opposition has some extremely effective antiaircraft artillery defence on airfields. It does mean for those crew flying over airfields that they are going into what appears to be a wall of tracer. The bullets just keep coming up at them. There is no particular indication that they are being aimed. They are just being fired up in the air, as if there are a lot of soldiers on the ground firing their Kalashnikovs vertically upwards. However, RAF crews remain determined to press home their attacks."

By the end of the first week of this war, the British contribution had settled into a routine. Ground forces continue to prepare for the inevitable assault, in which the 1st Armoured Division will play a leading part. Royal Navy vessels remain on station alongside their more numerous American counterparts. The RAF, for the moment, bore the brunt of offensive action in night and daylight raids, using their specialist low-level attack skills.

The complex air war has seen a remarkably successful intermeshing of Coalition forces. The British remain confident that the ground war, with U.S. and British forces at the spearpoint of allied advances, will produce similar results.

Peter Douglas is an internationally known combat photojournalist and a former Royal Marine. ☒

## DESERT SHOWDOWN

*Continued from page 11*

following a strategy that fixes Iraqi forces in place while economic sanctions take effect. Such a course will become increasingly less tenable to the American public. For his part, faced with slow starvation at home (let us assume for the sake of argument that the blockade is relatively effective), Hussein is unlikely simply to accept his fate. When the situation becomes more clear to him, it is more reasonable to assume he will lash out. Thus, the United States must be prepared to fight.

Such a conflict, when it comes, will involve heavy casualties, particularly in the initial stages when the Iraqi armor columns are being halted. Thereafter, United States forces can go over to the offensive and cut off the Iraqi forces in Kuwait, then destroy the threat by moving against the remainder.

It is clear that for the present Washington is seeking a low-cost end to the conflict through blockade. Such hopes, however, are at odds with historical evidence and, therefore, must not be allowed to cloud military realities. The likelihood is that we will have to fight. We had best be prepared to employ our military in correct fashion. Such preparations do not include portraying the enemy as 10-foot tall. This he is not. ✕

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## ESCAPE FROM KUWAIT

*Continued from page 15*

toward the ground floor, pausing only to put on my shirt and pick up a roll of film that I had dropped in my haste. As soon as I entered the main lobby I saw several wounded civilians. Many were covered in blood, and some also had been badly burned. A large number of the hotel guests, mainly Brits and Americans, were already giving the injured what first aid they could, under the circumstances.

I wanted to get outside and take a closer look at what was happening, but stopped as I began to turn the idea over in my mind and decide whether going outside in the heat of battle would be suicidal. I would not be able to take any photographs until it got light anyway!

The hesitation was fortunate, because all of a sudden a shell exploded directly outside the main entrance, causing the large plate glass windows, doors and half the concrete structures to blow inward toward the main foyer. It was several minutes before the dust settled and an injured Kuwaiti soldier dragged his wounded mate through the gaping hole which was once the main entrance to the hotel. I rushed to his aid. His friend had had it — half his head was blown away and

most of his brain was hanging out of a huge hole which was once the base of his skull. Blood and bits of bone dripped onto the floor. His gallant friend, who had dragged him this far, was also in a bad way. He had been shot several times in the back. I could have gotten my clenched fist into one of the many holes. He died five minutes later.

I wanted to get a better look at what was happening so I raced up the stairs toward the roof of the hotel. On my arrival I found that one British and two American journalists were already there, and they moved to one side to give me enough room to lie beside them on the flat roof. We watched the battle for several hours and as the sun slowly came up it was possible to distinguish the Iraqis from the Kuwaiti soldiers.

Although greatly outnumbered, the tiny Kuwait army gave more than a good account of itself. Iraqi soldiers were pinned down on a beach for some two hours whilst the Iraqis, using British-built Saladin armor, bombarded the Kuwaiti barracks where most of the soldiers were dug in. There were many dead Iraqi soldiers lying in the streets, and tangled metal that had been military vehicles, along with at least two burnt-out helicopters which were so mangled that it was impossible to identify what type they were. There was thick black smoke rising high in the air from buildings and burnt-out vehicles; it had been a hell of a fight. The only visible resistance against the superior Iraqi forces with their armor, infantry and helicopters was now the accurate fire from the Kuwaiti snipers who were concealed among the rubble of the city.

It was obvious that things could only get worse and this was verified to us when several Europeans told us of atrocities carried out by the Iraqi soldiers. There were eyewitness accounts of captured Kuwaiti soldiers, many of whom had been wounded, being executed on the spot. And a German woman was allegedly raped before her husband's eyes. We had to get out of Kuwait and make for the safety of Saudi Arabia before we were also killed or taken as hostages. By this time we were aware that 35 British soldiers acting as military advisers to the Kuwait army had already been captured and flown to Baghdad.

At the time of this writing, the Iraqis are attempting to seal the borders and are on the lookout for American and British citizens. If you are a Brit or a Yank they want your blood; they don't care if you are a man, woman or child, they will either kill you or take you hostage, depending on what mood they are in. I cannot give any details on how we escaped across 200 miles of desert and bypassed Iraqi checkpoints and tank columns, because these routes are still being used and friendly Arabs are risking their lives attempting to set people free; in fact one passenger on this flight has just informed me that a

group of Brits in a convoy of cars crashed through one of these checkpoints, and one member of the party was killed. All I can say is that there are a lot of brave men over there risking their lives daily so innocent people will be free from the butcher of Baghdad.

The British Victoria Cross and the American Congressional Medal of Honor are the highest honors for valor in the face of the enemy that our two countries can award to our servicemen. I do not know whether the Kuwaitis have an equivalent, but I can tell you that I have seen deeds worthy of both. Kuwait's young men were showing the highest degree of bravery in the face of the enemy. Unfortunately most of these medals would have to be awarded posthumously.

There are rumors circulating that the Iraqis had an easy time — they did not. Although I cannot begin to estimate how many were killed, there are many bodies lying in the streets and inside burnt-out armor and trucks; perhaps that is why they carried out reprisals against the gallant Kuwaiti soldiers and civilians who courageously defended their country against the Hitler of the Middle East. As soon as I can raise the cash to replace my equipment I will be returning to the Gulf to report the facts and hopefully watch the U.S. and British airforce kicking their arses back to Baghdad. ✕

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## GOIN' MOBILE

*Continued from page 21*

Bay, near San Francisco.

In St. Louis, a resourceful DLA official bought every bottle of sun screen lotion from K-Mart and other cut-rate outlets in the area for shipment to the men and women of Saudi Arabia.

Besides the DOT's reserve fleet of ships, this mobilization is drawing on the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), another civilian/military reserve organization created in 1951. General Johnson got immediate authority to requisition 17 civilian passenger planes and 21 cargo aircraft to use in Desert Shield. There were no immediate cancellations of commercial airline schedules, said the Air Transport Association. Cargo Carriers were not immediately affected because this is a slack season for freight shipments, the association said.

However, that could change if Defense Secretary Cheney invokes CRAF 2. Under CRAF 2, the military could requisition 79 civilian passenger planes and 108 cargo ships. In the final stage, CRAF 3, which can only be called during a national emergency, the military fleet would be expanded by 258 passenger planes, 217 cargo craft, and 31 Boeing 767s which would be used for medical evacuation

purposes.

The U.S. commercial surface transportation system of railroads and truck fleets has "not even been challenged" by Desert Shield, said Gen. Johnson.

Railroads have a long history of switching practically overnight from peacetime to wartime status and commercial trucking, for all the money Congress spends on making highways strong enough to stand pounding from 18-wheelers, plays an insignificant role in national defense.

"Even in an all-out war," military requirements would take only 2% of the nation's trucking capacity," Johnson said.

Activated reservists will fare better upon their return to civilian life than did their brethren in previous conflicts. Some of them not a great deal better, to be sure, but at the very least all are assured of a return to the jobs they held when mobilized. There was no such policy in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

Otherwise, their status while on active duty depends on the employer. Nationally, employers are about evenly split on whether they will continue to pay reservists salaries while they are on duty in the Persian Gulf area.

In all cases, including Federal government employees, the employing agency has the right of decision.

A nationwide poll of 62 large employers reveals that 46% of them plan to continue reservists' full pay but usually for a limited time. Some will pay full salaries for periods ranging from three weeks to three months, while others pay compensation for up to four years with adjustment for consideration of military pay and with some periodic reductions. The other 54% of employers simply shut off pay when a reservist leaves the job.

But the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, which guarantees job preservation, does more than merely that. It, for example, limits interest rates on loans to reservists to 6%. And there are some other lesser benefits based on individual cases and needs.

## FREE ENTERPRISE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

In last month's Bulletin Board, we reported that the government-in-exile of Kuwait is recruiting mercs with solid military credentials for action in the Kuwaiti Resistance. From the initial reports we're getting on Kuwaiti Partisan operations, it looks like you should pack a basic load of U.S. \$100 bills if you plan to get involved.

Apparently the Kuwaitis, who are long on cash but short on antiarmor weapons, are destroying Iraqi tanks by the following tactic:

1. A white flag is displayed to the tank crews by the Kuwaiti guerrilla leader, along with a fistful of U.S. dollars, U.K. pounds, or Saudi Riyals, large denomination only please.

2. The tank commander and "G" leader negotiate a reasonable fee (approximately

U.S. \$1,000 cash or other hard currency equivalent, no plastic) for the tank crew to take a break outside of the tank.

3. Cash is exchanged; crew exits tank.

4. Kuwaiti guerrillas empty gas can down the turret hatch, followed by a match.

Everyone is happy. No one dies; the tank is destroyed for the approximate black-market cost of a cheap antitank weapon. The normal intermediate step of a weapons purchase is avoided, costing an arms middleman some profit. Think of the practical advantages if this antiarmor strategy catches on. Cash is a lot easier to carry (and jump — ever exit a C-130 with a Dragon pack?) than AT weapons. It's a lot quieter to employ, good for night and unconventional warfare operations. And it creates a new slot on a Special Forces team: CPA NCO.

— Chuck Fremont ✂

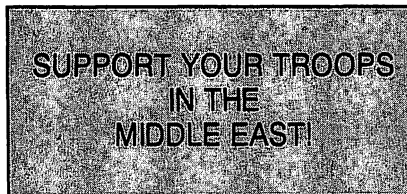
## FRENCH CONNECTION

*Continued from page 37*

90 other ranks), and in the Escadron Galy-Dejean they are all professional soldiers. There are no conscripts here. Many of the troops have seen service in Chad, Djibouti and the Central African Republic.

But perhaps the most important contributing factor to the high morale is the attitude of the professional elements of the French army. Conditions in France just aren't a lot better than they are here. That is not meant as a criticism, for as one Foreign Legion colonel explained, comfort is the enemy of the soldiers of France. They experience little enough comfort at home and the change from France to Saudi Arabia isn't as dramatic as it is for some of the other military organizations deployed here. France is by no means a poor nation, but the army has the attitude that poverty is a virtue. They don't have the largess of their American cousins, and they are better soldiers because of it.

The motto of the Escadron Galy-Dejean is "sans repit" (without rest). Watching them train in the desert, it seems that rest is just one of many things they do without. But for all they lack, they have an abundance of the virtues which produce success in combat. They are physically fit, confident, and display a high degree of professionalism and esprit de corps. While many in Washington and elsewhere question the behavior and motivation of the French, it would be a mistake for anyone, especially the Iraqis, to question the competence and resolve of France's soldiers in Saudi Arabia.



## FRENCH FAR AND LEGION

When the political leadership of France decides to exercise its military options, the instrument used is the Force D'Action Rapide. Known by its acronym FAR, the five combat divisions of the Force comprise the immediate reaction force of the French military. The regiments of FAR have responded to crises in Chad, the Central African Republic, Lebanon and, most recently, Saudi Arabia.

Five divisions, along with a logistics brigade and command elements belong to FAR. The divisions are organized by functions and include the 4th Airmobile Division, the 6th Light Armored Division, the 9th Marine Division, the 11th Airborne Division and the 27th Alpine Division. Most soldiers serving in the FAR are professionals, as opposed to conscripts. Among its components are four regiments from the French Foreign Legion.

**4e Division Aero Mobile:** The combat aviation element of the FAR, the 4th Division provides helicopters for transport, resupply, close air support, command and control and an effective antitank capability. Comprising of six regiments, the division contains roughly 7,000 men and 250 helicopters. Of the helicopters, 90 are antitank, 30 for reconnaissance and 30 for command and control, plus 70 Puma large transport aircraft, and 30 smaller Gazelles for troop movement and supply missions — used much as Hueys were used in Vietnam. The 4th is headquartered in Nancy in northwest France.

**6e Division Legere Blindée (Light armor):** Home to three Foreign Legion regiments (the 6th Engineer, the 1st Cavalry and the 2nd Infantry), the 6th Division is well-represented in Saudi Arabia. Elements of all three Legion regiments mentioned above are here, as are troops of the Spahis, cavalry regiments raised during the French presence in North Africa. The 6th consists of seven regiments containing 7,200 fighting vehicles and 36 artillery pieces. The 6th is headquartered in Nîmes.

**9e Division D'Infanterie de Marine:** Six marine regiments and one regiment of engineers make up the 9th. The marines provide an amphibious capability and are geared for air transport as well. Its regiments contain some 72 light armored reconnaissance vehicles and 30 artillery pieces. The 9th is headquartered in Nantes.

**11e Division Parachutiste:** With over 14,000 men the 11th is the largest of the FAR's divisions. Thirteen regiments belong to the 11th, including the Foreign Legion's 2nd Parachute Regiment. Among its elements are air delivery troops, marine parachutists, rucksacks with the ERC 90 armored reconnaissance vehicle and an airborne engineer regiment. The division is capable of commando and reconnaissance operations, antitank operations and antiair defense. The 11th is headquartered in Toulouse.

**27e Division Alpine:** France's specialist for mountain and arctic warfare, the 27th contains roughly 10,000 men, 1,100 antitank missile launchers and 36 light armored vehicles. The division is made up of nine regiments. In addition to operating in the mountains and in extreme weather, the division is also capable of fighting in an



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urban environment. The 27th is headquartered in Grenoble.

In addition to the above five divisions, the FAR also has a command element and a logistics brigade headquartered in Maisons-Lafitte, near Paris. The commander of the FAR is also the senior French officer present in Saudi Arabia, and commands all French forces operating there. The logistics brigade provides the division with units specializing in everything from field medicine to water purification.

Altogether the FAR numbers some 42,000 highly trained soldiers, able to perform a wide variety of combat and training missions. Charged with the defense of France as well as protecting her interests overseas, the FAR provides the French government with a credible and capable force when military intervention is the required response to a crisis. ✂

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## TRACKS TO IRAQ

*Continued from page 45*

*Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.*

**SOF: Are you guys ready to rock 'n' roll?**

*A: I honestly feel we're prepared to do whatever it is we're called upon to do. I was telling them [his men] just this morning before you got here that one of the biggest stress removers is knowing that you know how to deal with the things you've been given to deal with.*

*I mean just knowing if you're a tank gunner, you know how to gun. If you're an infantry soldier, you know how to move and shoot in these sand dunes. If you're under NBC [Nuclear, Biological or Chemical] attack, you know how to use your gear. And I really believe that my soldiers are ready.*

*We don't want to [fight], and of course nobody knows how we're going to react to what would probably be a tremendous bleeding should we have to fight, but I think they're ready.*

**SOF: Is it going to be a bloodbath?**

*A: Yeah, I think there will be serious casualties.*

**SOF: How much are field commanders like yourself counting on air power to chop up Iraqi armor and fortified positions?**

*A: A great deal. I think it would be a big mistake for us not to bring the full brunt of what we can airwise against the enemy, before we ever attempted anything on the ground. And I really think that's the key to our success.*

*We can soften up the underbelly with our air to the point that I think we can make a real fair fight even outnumbered. And I'm impressed. I've heard numbers of systems that are available, and I hope we don't fight, but I'll tell you, I think if we did, the air war will determine it even before we get committed. I just don't think they [Iraqis] appreciate*

*the capacity we have to target their systems and take 'em out before we get in harm's way. If we bring everything to bear at a certain place at a certain time, we will make an impact rather quickly, I think.*

### Strike in the Night

**SOF: Conventional wisdom says this whole thing will start at night. From a commander's viewpoint, what would it be like?**

*A: I think we're looking at about five days of air war where battalions like mine aren't involved. We're staging somewhere, but we're not really involved in a fight. We might be reacting to some artillery or Scud missiles or maybe even some chemicals if he [Saddam] is crazy enough to use them, but I see an air war of about 72 hours where it's pure air and I honestly, in my own mind and heart, think that in about 24 hours to 48 hours, we're going to win that war.*

*And then the air belongs to us, and that's when we can divert the effort...to take out antiair systems and their air force, and [then] use those assets and put 'em against command and control, artillery, and ground targets, and when we got those working in conjunction with the ground, that's when we would move. Personally, I see a very cold, dark night [when the shooting starts] and by the time the sun comes up the next morning, I think we will have made 20-30km. There's been some contact and some fighting, but not a whole lot from a ground maneuver point of view. When the sun comes up, the Iraqis will be looking for a place to hide. But we will keep pressure on them, maintain contact and wait for nightfall so we can go back at 'em.*

**SOF: So, they'll get no rest?**

*A: Right. They can't fight us like they fought Iran where they took a break and did logistics [resupplied] and then went back to the war. There aren't going to be any 12-hour breaks this time. It's going to be a continuous fight. But it's not going to be easy. I think it will be bloody. But I feel confident that we can do what we're supposed to do.*

**SOF: Where are we going to lose the troops if the air takes it to them first? Where's the blood letting going to be on our side?**

*A: They've got tremendous artillery capability and if we don't take that out before we commit to ground troops, we're going to take some tank hits. They've got a pretty good tank in the T-72. They have experience, but I think our guys will learn fast under combat conditions and will make up the deficit, their experience versus ours. We have an edge technologically. What we're lacking is combat experience, but I think it will come very quickly should we be called upon to fight.*

### Things To Watch

**SOF: What's your biggest concern?**

*A: I'm concerned about differentiating between friend and foe on the battlefield. The Syrians also use Soviet-built T-72s. And the only way we can tell friend from foe is their position on the battlefield. Somebody smarter than us, or a level higher than us, has got to put us in a position on the battlefield so we aren't going to be looking at Syrian T-72s at the same time we might be looking at Iraqi T-72's, or we're going to have a significant problem, cause as you know, through thermal sights the signature is the same. It doesn't distinguish patterns of paint or camouflage. I mean it's a concern. It really is. Our training has taught us that the guy who shoots first wins a tank engagement. If he's in range, you've gotta shoot. We can't be fooling around wondering whether it's a Syrian or an Iraqi. It's gonna have to be cleared up for us before we shoot. And I think it can be done simply by positioning on the battlefield.*

[Note: To avoid shooting Syrian tanks, the multinational force has placed Syrian armor on the far western or left flank — but battle lines change during the course of combat.]

**SOF: What about the young American tanker? He's not going to wait to pull the trigger on a tank in his sights is he?**

*A: You know I'm concerned about that very point. There will be a tendency to hesitate. I'm seeing this when I watch guys fire live bullets when they go downrange for the first time. There will be a tendency to hesitate. I don't know how we get over that.*

**SOF: If you hesitate, you're dead!**

*A: Exactly. What we've learned is that the guy who shoots first usually wins. But you've got to hit what you shoot at. And I'm a little concerned that the guys may hesitate. I hope that by shooting more live rounds, and talking to them, we can help them, but I think we'll have some foreknowledge of what's going to happen. I think we'll have five to seven days worth of knowledge if we're going to attack or defend. It'll take them that long to attack down to where we are, and it will probably take us that long to get up to where we can kick off an attack. And with that foreknowledge, I think we can talk through this problem of hesitation. In the meantime, tank commanders are eliminating much of the problem by giving their gunners "Fire Commands." If you're being told to shoot, maybe that will help young gunners click that round off.*

### What Will It Be Like?

**SOF: How much confusion is there going to be when this thing kicks off? Will people go absolutely crazy out there?**

*A: I'd like to tell [you] that it won't, but I'm sure it's going to be crazy for a while. At my level, I should have a pretty good understanding of what's happening. But*

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once you get above my level where a brigade commander has three battalions to deal with, or a division commander has eight or nine, I'm sure it's going to be pretty confusing.

**SOF: Are you concerned about the numbers of Iraqis you face?**

**A:** No. I'm not overly concerned about the numbers. I'm hearing every day different numbers, but I'm not overly concerned about them, because I just think that the capability we have in terms of technology, especially at night, and what air can do to strip out the multipliers, will really even things up. And probably give us an advantage.

They're not very good at putting everything they have together at one point, one place at one time to have an effect on the battlefield. They fight tanks pretty good, they fight infantry pretty good, they use artillery OK, but they don't fight tanks-infantry-artillery and all of the other assets they have very well together. I think we're going to hand them so much to deal with at one point and time on the battlefield, they're not going to be able to deal with that, and that'll open up the window for us.

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Jensen graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in elementary education, with emphasis on special education, handicapped and retarded children. But he knew from the time he was a junior in high school that he wanted to make the military a career.

Jensen entered the U.S. Army in August 1972, but never got any combat experience in Vietnam. That's why Jensen depends so heavily on his Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Miguel Robles, from St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Robles did three combat tours in Vietnam.

Colonel Jensen said, "[His] first tour was with the 2nd of the 18th, 1st Infantry Division in June 1966. Robles served with the 3/5 Cav with the 9th Infantry Division. Robles was wounded during each of those tours. His neck still bears scar tissue from burns he suffered when he had an APC blown out from under him.

"Miguel is the big brother I never had," Jensen said. He looks forward to coffee every morning with the CSM.

Robles believes his troops are ready to deal with Saddam's army. "These guys are better equipped and prepared than they were in Vietnam. They can give as well as receive," Robles told me as he dropped by our dinner table to talk to the CO. But he cautioned against drawing any further parallels with what happened in Vietnam.

"It's a different ball game out here," he said. "Just look around. Do you see any jungle? There's no place to hide out here." And unlike the poorly equipped Viet Cong he fought, the Iraqis are well armed.

Although it's difficult for Miguel Robles to tell a young soldier what he's going to face, just the fact they know he's been there is comforting.

"When they ask me what's the best thing they can do under fire," Robles said, "I tell them to go with their instincts, 'cause 99% of the time your initial reaction will be the right one. When bullets are flying, I won't have to tell a man to duck. He'll get down."

How does Robles feel about the possibility of going into combat one more time?

"Before we deployed to Saudi Arabia, my wife said a person shouldn't have to go through this twice in his lifetime." Robles says he thinks about it, "But you don't let it get to you."

As the sun sank below a sand dune to the west of Assembly Area Cotton, and a chill came over the night air, you could see the Cottonbalers begin to post sentries on the high ground they occupied. As one soldier walked out to his position, he talked to me about home, and asked, "When do you think this will end?"

Sorry kid. I don't know. ✖

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## TARGET SADDAM

*Continued from page 39*

feels the scary part of being this close to the front is not knowing what's going to happen.

"Like when we first got here on August 12th, if they would have said here's your ammo and you're heading up north, it would have been over with by now, but this waiting game is a killer," Alcaraz explains.

"The men upstairs know what's going on, but they don't tell us," Cpl. Christopher McNeely from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, says. "But I guess when they're ready to tell us, we go do whatever they want us to do."

McNeely thinks a move is in his immediate future. "I think we'll go north. I don't see us spending all this money to come over here, sit here and just go home. I see us doing something," he insists. McNeely confesses he's scared like everybody else on his crew, but he feels he's had the best training money can buy, and he's ready to "Do it." That's why he joined the Marine Corps.

To cope with stress, the Pace-Setters spend their spare time reading letters from home to each other. "Occasionally, we write each other's families," Alcaraz says.

Like others in the battery, Alcaraz is just waiting for the other shoe to drop in this standoff with Saddam — "Waiting for word to CSMO — Cut The Shit and Move Out."

### Which Way is Hell

You can tell a lot about a Marine by just reading inscriptions on his Kevlar cover. Things like, "Merry Christmas," "I Love You," and an occasional question like, "Which Way Is Hell?" on the helmet

Alcaraz wears.

Which way is Hell? "Up north in Kuwait," replies the young leatherneck. "That's where Hell is, and that's where we're headed." ✖

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## GULF OF OMAN

*Continued from page 13*

portion of their training, firing 870 Remington and 590 Mossberg shotguns; .45s and M16/M203s.

Dunnagan, when asked why Marines volunteer for sea duty, replied, "No better way to see the world and for the adventure."

We picked up LCpl Eric Toth, from Niantic, Connecticut, whom Dunnagan had selected for the photo session, and moved to a small isolated deck for the photo session. As expected, the Corps cooperation was superb, though I got the feeling toward the end that good LCpl Toth had no intention of considering a modeling career after he got out of the Corps. Unfortunately, by the time I got back the November cover had already been selected so Toth will have to settle for his photo in the story. Time was running out, so Dunnagan hustled me up to the Vulture's nest where I could observe carrier landings and take-offs. (By the way, Captain, I sincerely apologize for screwing up your workout schedule). Duly awed by the efficiency of the whole operation and especially the young flight deck crew, I snapped several rolls of film and climbed aboard the C2-Greyhound for the flight back to the air head.

I spent a couple of more days unsuccessfully trying to link up with the Kuwaiti resistance, and then headed back home for the SOF Convention.

I want to express, formally, my appreciation to all on the *Independence*. I'm sure I speak for all SOFers in wishing them good luck. Kick ass, guys! ✖

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## SPEC OPS

*Continued from page 65*

ing weather — especially if USAF aircraft are involved. They may also infiltrate with an A-Team on a recon mission to collect weather intelligence.

Para-rescue Commandos: These troops are usually SCUBA qualified so they can jump in anywhere to rescue downed aviators. In case immediate rescue isn't possible, they go in with a heavy load of ammo. An A-10 or F-15 squadron doesn't leave home without them.

USMC:

Force Reconnaissance: Force Recon teams go in in advance of a main Fleet Marine Amphibious Force, infiltrating by

air (static line at extreme low altitude or free-fall), small boat (Zodiacs or sea kayaks) or by swimming (SCUBA, LAR-5 or surface swimming). Their mission may go beyond recon, including raids against critical targets in support of the main Marine force. If the Marines land in Kuwait, Force Recon will be there waiting — and leading.

Besides Force Recon, the USMC has been actively training individual Marines in SOF tactics — the days of “Hey diddle diddle, straight up the middle,” are definitely gone for the USMC.

#### NAVY:

**SEALs: NAVSPECWAR** — Naval Special Warfare — units are made up of SEAL teams and special support personnel: highly trained air crews, small boat crews to handle the Sea Fox infiltration craft, communications and intelligence specialists, etc. SEAL teams have already deployed to the Gulf for blockade duty: They’ll form the raiding parties that will capture any blockade-running Iraqi tankers. Instead of sinking supertankers carrying tons of crude oil, the SEALs will deliver the big ships to safe ports in the southern Gulf.

SEAL teams are also likely to be used for raids and reconnaissance along the Kuwaiti and Iraqi coasts, and reports out of Britain are that SEALs landed in Iraq approximately 15 August on a recon mission. Sometimes criticized for lacking infantry skills, the SEALs “lack of commitment,” to put it politely, to standard infantry tactics gives them flexibility Army and Marine SOF units may lack. It also makes them quite unpredictable.

#### COAST GUARD:

Coasties have been getting a lot of live-ammo training lately, thanks to the drug war, and they know how to organize a boarding party. USCG ship and air crews are actively involved in small boat training with Army SF maritime operations teams. USCG personnel have already deployed to the Gulf to serve as “prize crews” tasked with piloting captured supertankers to friendly harbors. Also expect USCG rescue teams — HH-3 helos with CG rescue swimmers on board — to supplement USAF and Navy rescue teams in event of major air operations. ✕

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## WORLD RALLIES

*Continued from page 16*

1,500 man navy manning 15 small warships.

Qatar will open for the first time military facilities to U.S.-led multinational forces.

Saudi Arabia itself has an army of 38,000 plus a paramilitary National Guard of 56,000; a 7,000 strong navy; air force of 16,500. Weapons include 550 main battle tanks, 180 aircraft and eight frigates. ✕

## TERRORISM

*Continued from page 70*

the same day, the United States government warned American citizens of possible Iraqi terrorist attacks in Bangkok, Thailand. For the most part, however, the anticipated terrorist reaction to the onset of war had not materialized by the end of the third day of fighting.

Americans, however, remained nervous and concerned about the threat of terrorism. Bomb threats kept explosive ordnance disposal squads extremely busy in Washington, D.C., and other American cities, but no actual explosive devices were discovered. In some cities, military surplus stores sold all their gas masks, and there were reports of some Americans hoarding food and stockpiling weapons in anticipation of terrorist attacks. But ordinary citizens were not the only ones guilty of overreacting. The award for the most irresponsible act of any public official in the United States goes to Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

On 18 January 1991, reportedly without consulting the FBI or any other federal agency, or even the county sheriff or prosecutor, the mayor declared a state of emergency in Detroit. He went so far as to ask the governor to call up the National Guard to “assist in security activities.” Despite the lack of any real threat, the mayor announced that he was doing so, in large measure, to protect the city’s Arab population from reactive violence.

Then he had the gall to accuse the media of exacerbating tensions by “focusing attention on Detroiters of Middle Eastern descent who are the most vociferous in condemning President Bush and his actions in the Persian Gulf.” By overreacting and pointing out the opposition of some Arab-Americans to the war, Mayor Young was guilty of inflaming the very passions he allegedly was attempting to avert.

Despite the relative lack of terrorism in the early days of the war, many observers still believe that we are in the lull before the storm. As Iraq’s military capability is being pulverized, there is a growing concern that Saddam Hussein may be forced to turn to the only weapon left in his arsenal: terrorism.

*Neil Livingstone is a recognized expert on terrorism, and an adjunct professor at many institutions, including Georgetown University. ✕*

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## CHEMICAL

*Continued from page 60*

at 13,300 by mid-March. Experts estimate that chemical agents wiped out at least 40,000 Iranians in the last years of the conflict.

Where did Iraq get its chemical arsenal? Only after the United Nations issued a

report in 1984 concluding that mustard and Tabun had been used in the Iran-Iraq War did the United States, Britain, France, Japan and Australia ban export of chemicals to Iran or Iraq that could be used to make mustard or nerve agent. It has been widely reported that unauthorized technical assistance from German companies (both East and West) has helped Iraq in the development of chemical weapons in recent years.

But Iraq’s chemical warfare capabilities are not unique. At this time, the following countries have chemical weapons: United States, Soviet Union, China, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Israel, North Korea, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Vietnam and Libya. And most other industrialized nations could develop them in less than a year.

Early reports from Operation Desert Storm speculated that perhaps Iraq’s chemical weapons factories and stockpiles had been wiped out by coalition bombing. It is also possible that because of the modifications they have made to Scud missiles to allow them to travel longer distances, there may not be enough room for a chemical component on the warhead.

Since Saddam is desperately trying to bring Israel into the war to break the coalition against Iraq and turn this into an Arab-Israeli holy war, it seems clear that if he has not at the time of this writing used chemical weapons, they must be unavailable to him for some reason.

It clearly isn’t a matter of conscience for Saddam Hussein.

*S. Max has been a military affairs editor for nine years and has a Master’s Degree in History. ✕*

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## EAGLES

*Continued from page 47*

Rember: I think Saddam must realize that going one-on-one with us would be foolish. He may hold his best pilots in reserve for the defense of Baghdad.

**SOF: Is it going to be like the Boston Celtics playing the local basketball team?**

Gemmell: A total trouncing remains to be seen, but I don’t think the Iraqis will be celebrating very many victories, if any at all. It doesn’t make any difference to us if Saddam puts his best pilots up against us in the early going, or saves them until the end; either way, they’re going to die.

---

Having spent more than five years flying F-15s, Rember and Gemmell are qualified as flight leads who have more inexperienced pilots under their wings. Because of their experience, the chances are slim that these two will fly together in Kuwait or Iraq, even though they are both members of the 71st Tactical Fighter Squadron. ✕

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