

Operation Desert Storm

Overview of the Gulf War



Lesson Objectives

- Understand how the military conduct of the Gulf War supported the strategic objectives of the conflict.
- Be able to discuss the impact of western troops in the “Holy Land”

Allow students the chance to ask questions of a Veteran of the Gulf War.





Timeline of Events

- Iraq invades Kuwait, **Aug. 2, 1990**
- Operation Desert Shield begins, **Aug. 7**
- First call-up of Selected Reservists to active duty for 90 days, by executive order, Aug. 22
- NSD 54, Responding to Iraqi Aggression in the Gulf, authorized the use of military force, Jan. 15
- **Operation Desert Storm air war phase begins, 3 a.m., Jan. 17, 1991 (Jan. 16, 7 p.m. EST)**

Saddam Hussein



1937 - 2006

*The great duel, the **mother of all battles** has begun.... The dawn of victory nears as this great showdown begins!*

January 17, 1991⁵

Who Fired the First Shot?



B-52 & ALCM?

(Air-Launched Cruise Missile)



USS Wisconsin & Tomahawk?



Who Had the First Impact?

U. S. Army



TF Normandy

- Combined Army – Air Force helicopter operation
 - Destroy key Iraqi radar site
 - Punch a hole in the Iraqi warning line

Air War Phase

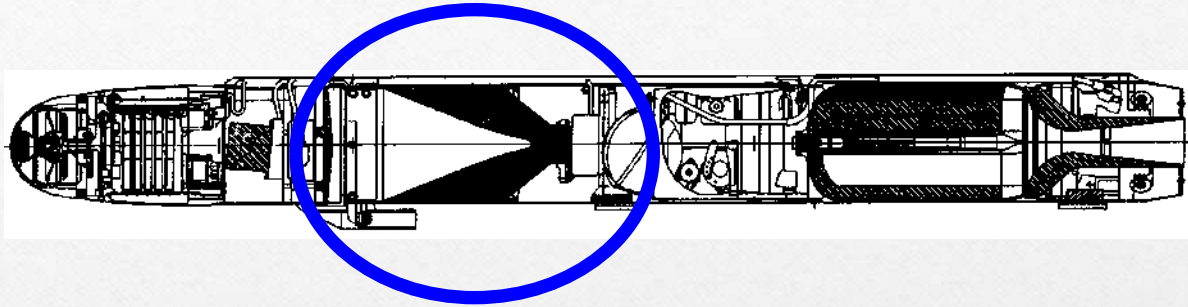


TF Normandy



AH-64 *Apache* helicopter and Hellfire missile

TF Normandy



Shaped Charge Warhead



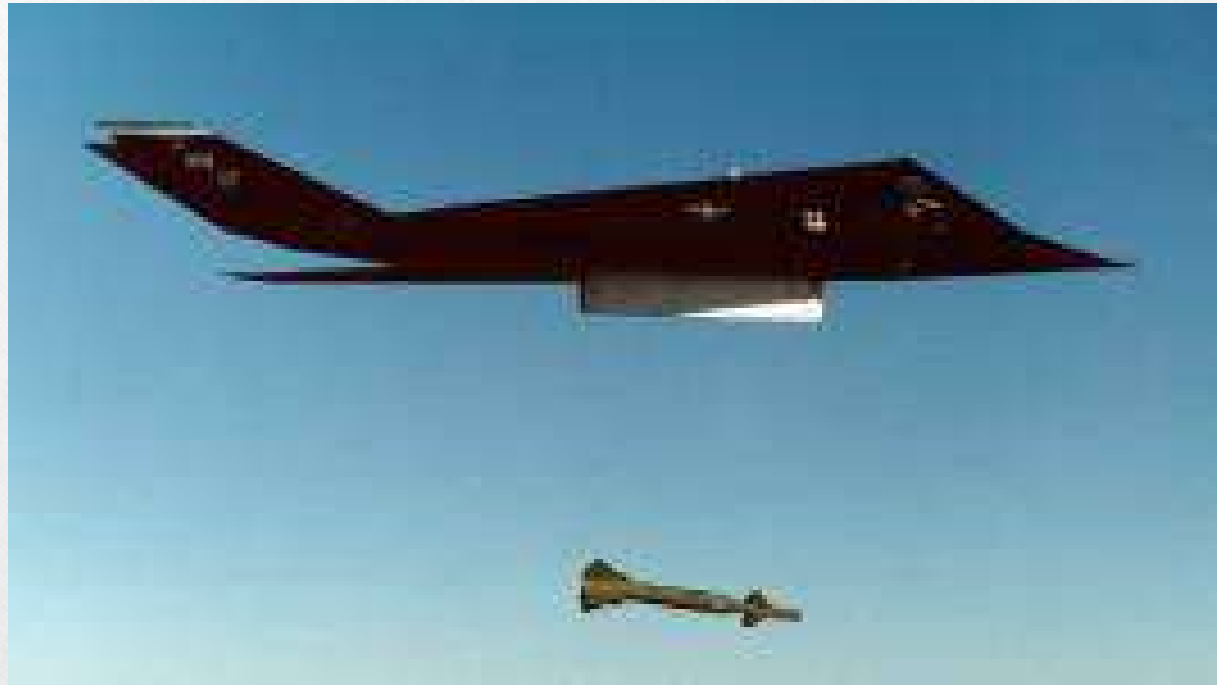
Hellfire missile

TF Normandy



MH-53 Pave Low III

Precision Guided Munitions (PGM)



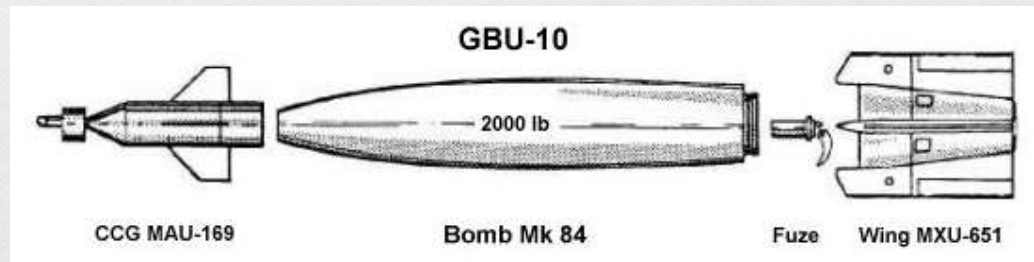
F-117 Nighthawk

Precision Guided Munitions

Two Types Used: Laser Guided TV Guided



GBU-10 (Mk-84 2,000 lb. bomb)

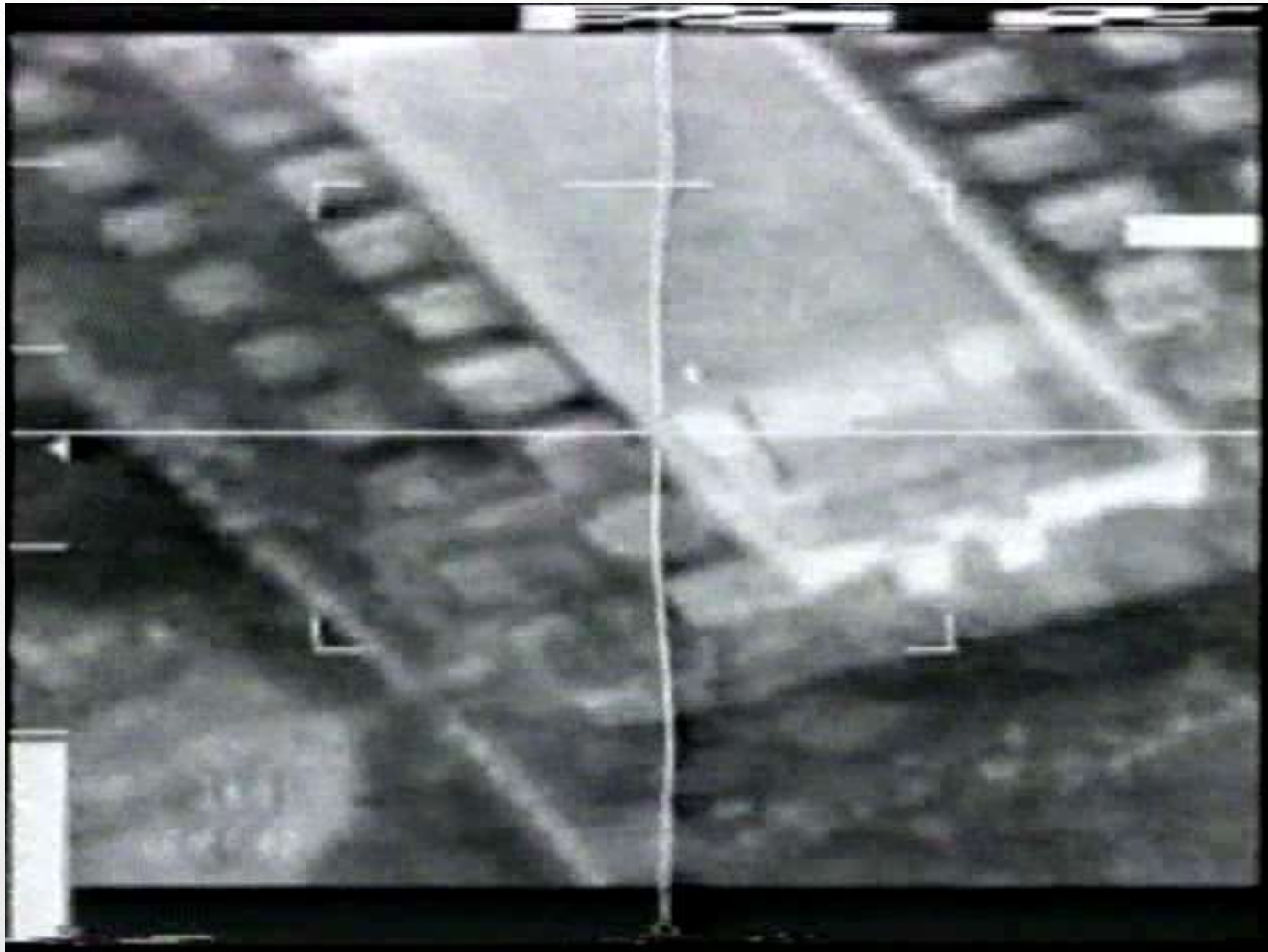


Precision Guided Munitions

TV Guided



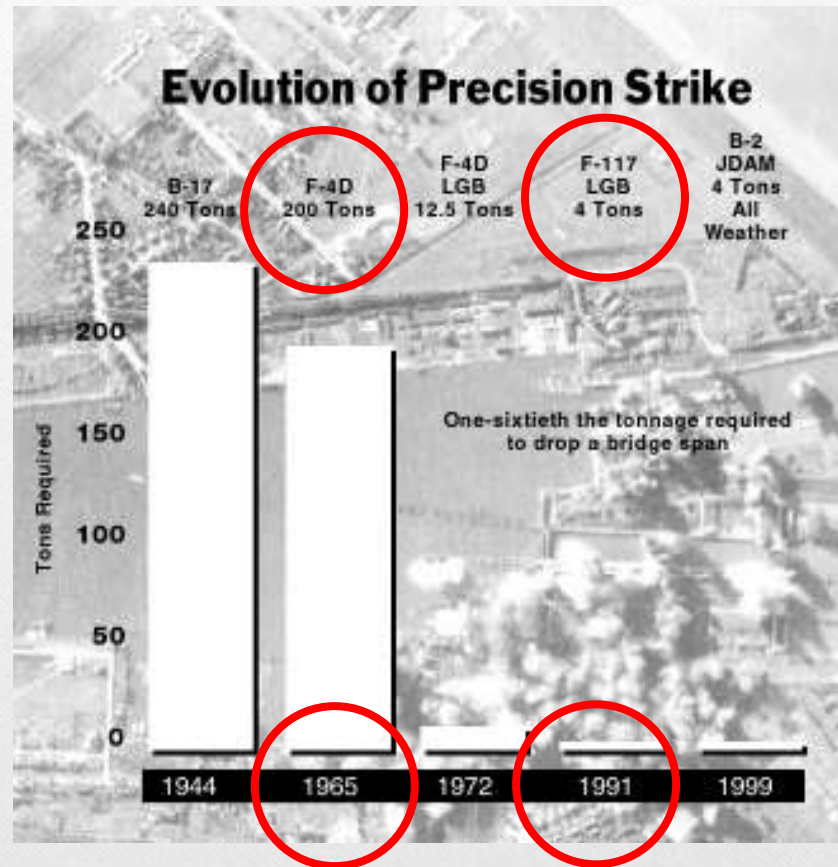
TV Guided Bomb



(Not available online)

Precision Guided Munitions

Tons of Bombs to
Drop a Bridge Span

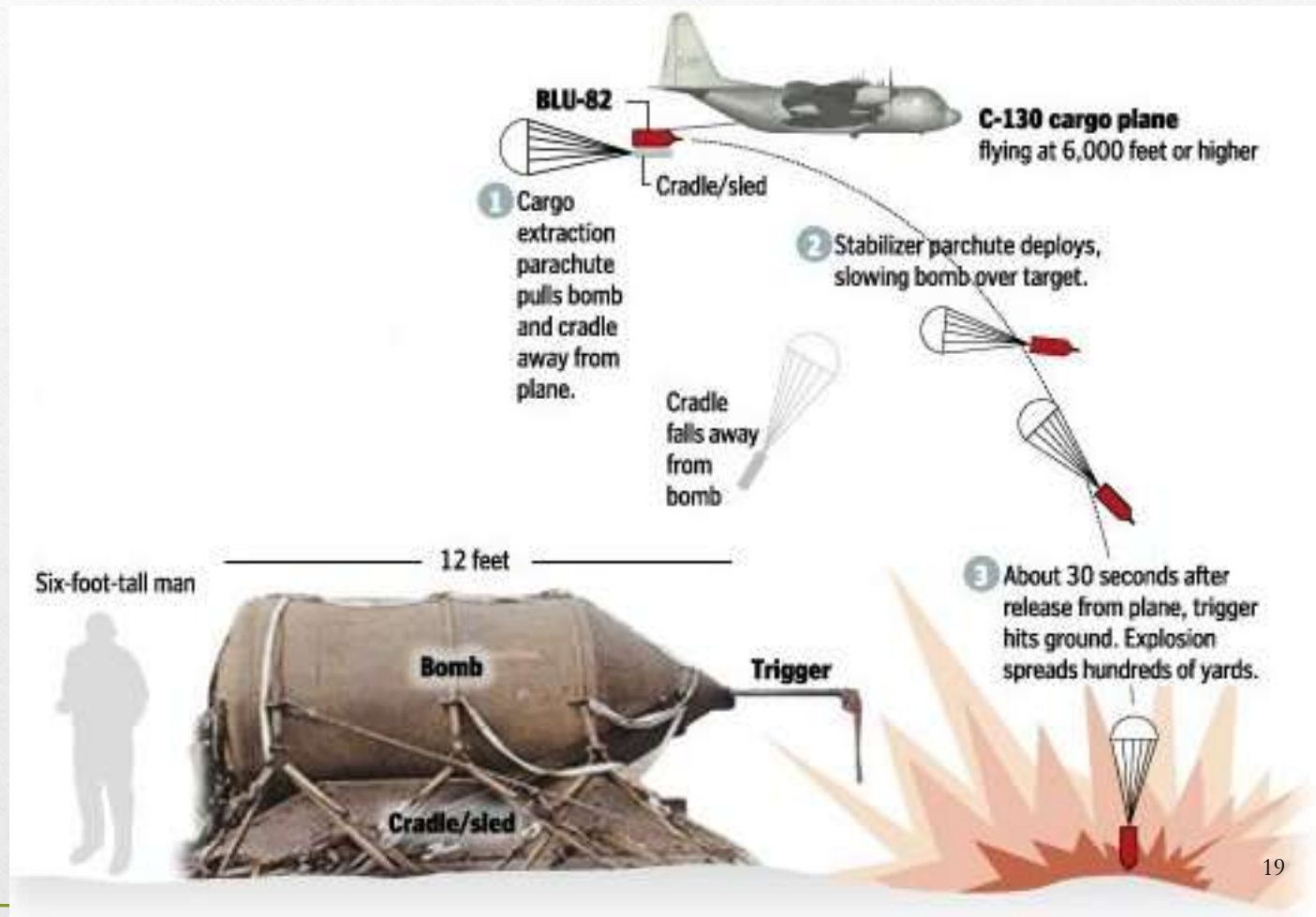


Precision Guided Munitions

Only 8.4% of the 88,500 tons of bombs were PGM

Big Dumb Bombs

BLU-82 "Daisy Cutter" 15,000 LB (6,800 KG)



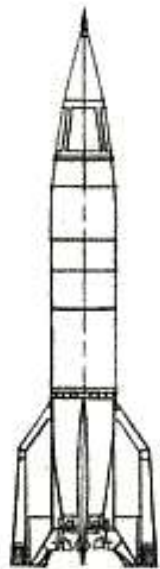
Timeline of Events

- Iraq invades Kuwait, **Aug. 2, 1990**
- Operation Desert Shield begins, **Aug. 7**
- First call-up of Selected Reservists to active duty for 90 days, by executive order, Aug. 22
- Operation Desert Storm and air war phase begins, 3 a.m., **Jan. 17, 1991** (Jan. 16, 7 p.m. EST)
- **Iraq attacks Israel with seven Scud missiles, Jan. 17**

Scud Missile



Scud Missile

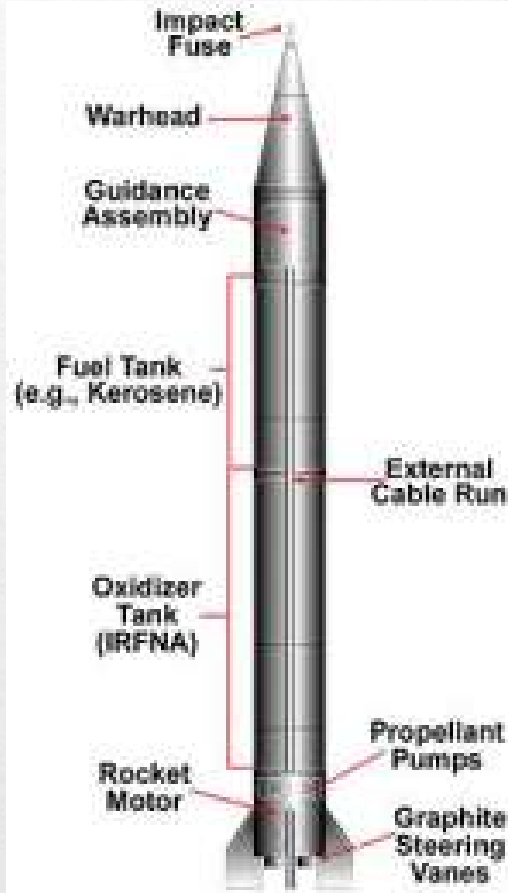


R-1
V-2/SS-1
SCUNNER



R-17/R-300
SCUD-BC
SS-1C
SS-1D

10 Feet



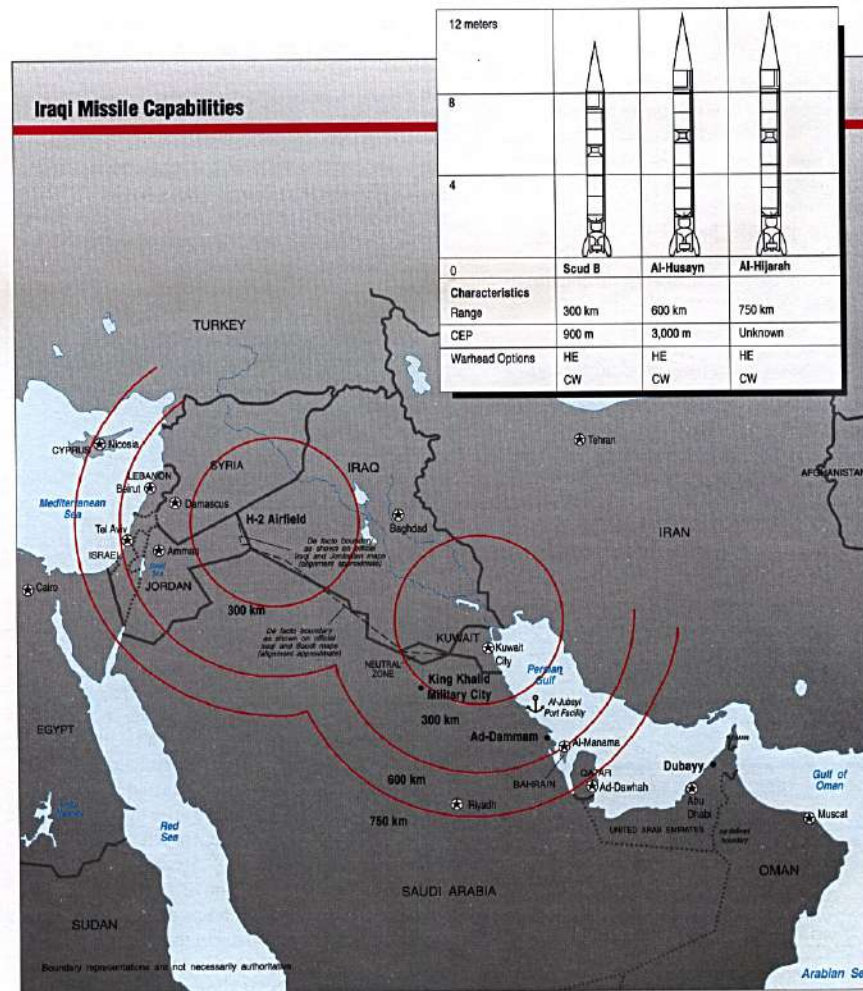
Scud & TEL

Length: 11.25 m

Range: ~ 600 km

CEP: 900 m

Scud Missile





Saddam's Scud Strategy

Hypothetical

- Iraq launched Scud missiles at Israel to provoke a response , hoping ...
- An Israeli attack on Iraq would galvanize Arab coalition members to withdraw

US response:

- Deployed Patriot missiles from Europe to Israel
- Major diversion of air assets to “Scud hunting”

Patriot Missile



Patriot vs. Scud

How effective?



Scuds fired: 40 at Israel 46 at Saudi Arabia

Direct Casualties:

Israel: 1 Saudi Arabia: 1 civilian, 28 US soldiers

Patriot vs. Scud

How effective?

We found no convincing evidence in the video that any Scud warhead was destroyed by a Patriot. We have strong evidence that Patriots hit Scuds on two occasions, but in both cases the videos also show that the Scud warheads fell to show that the Scud exploded. These clips provide strong evidence that even when Patriots could hit Scuds that were still in flight, they were not able to destroy Scud warheads.

Theodore A. Postol
Professor of Science, Technology, and National Security Policy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Letter to the House Armed services Committee September 8, 1992

INSIDE THE ARMY - October 5, 1992

Significance of Scud Campaign

- Diverted air assets from attacking Iraqi army
- Demonstrated effectiveness of a relatively cheap weapon to counter high-tech forces
- Demonstrated difficulty of destroying relocatable targets

Battle of Khafji

January 29 - February 1, 1991



Iraqi forces invaded Saudi Arabia

- Likely testing coalition strength

Coalition taken by surprise

Khafji captured by Iraqis

USMC recon teams trapped

- directed fire during counterattack

Khafji retaken by coalition forces (USMC, Saudi Arabia and Qatar) in intense, close-quarter fighting

Significance: Showed Iraqi forces not as vaunted as feared

Timeline of Events

- President Bush authorizes the call-up of up to 1 million National Guardsmen and Reservist for up to two years, Jan. 18.
- DoD announces deployment of Europe-based Patriot missiles and crews to Israel, Jan. 19.
- First successful intercept of Scud by Patriot missile claimed over Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 17.
- **Iraq creates massive oil slick in gulf, Jan. 25.**
- **Iraqis ignite estimate 700 oil wells in Kuwait, Feb. 23.**

Oil Well Fires

Iraqis ignite estimated 700 oil wells in Kuwait, Feb. 23.



Oil Well Fires

Iraqis ignite estimated 700 oil wells in Kuwait, Feb. 23.





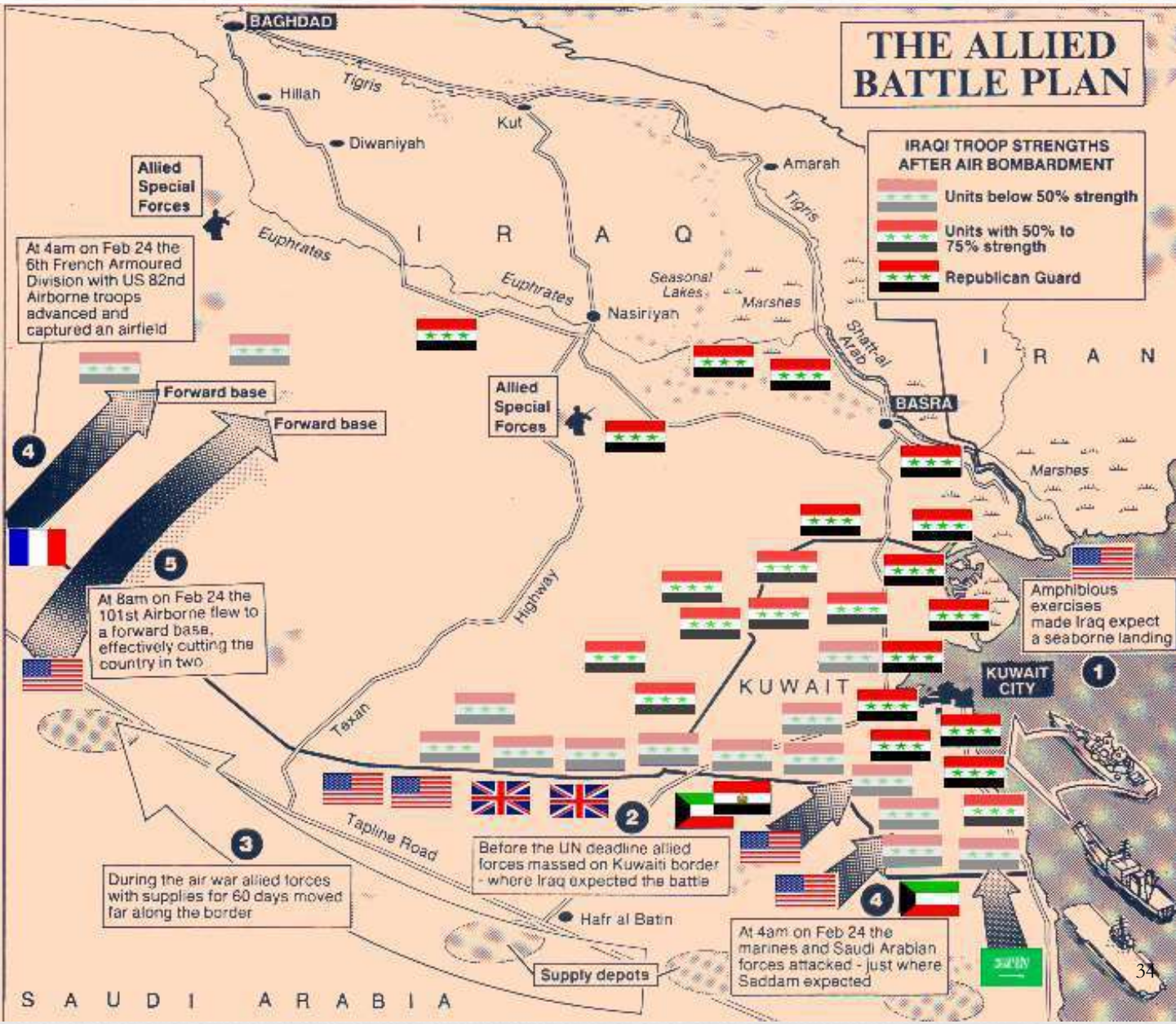
Timeline of Events

- President Bush authorizes the call-up of up to 1 million National Guardsmen and Reservist for up to two years, Jan. 18.
- DoD announces deployment of Europe-based Patriot missiles and crews to Israel, Jan. 19.
- Patriot missile first successful intercept of Scud claimed over Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 17.
- Iraq creates massive oil slick in gulf, Jan. 25.
- Iraqis ignite estimate 700 oil wells in Kuwait, Feb. 23.
- **Allied ground assault begins, 4 a.m., Feb 24
(Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Eastern time).**

THE ALLIED BATTLE PLAN

IRAQI TROOP STRENGTHS AFTER AIR BOMBARDMENT

- Units below 50% strength
- Units with 50% to 75% strength
- Republican Guard



At 4am on Feb 24 the 6th French Armoured Division with US 82nd Airborne troops advanced and captured an airfield

4

At 8am on Feb 24 the 101st Airborne flew to a forward base, effectively cutting the country in two

5

During the air war allied forces with supplies for 60 days moved far along the border

3

Before the UN deadline allied forces massed on Kuwaiti border - where Iraq expected the battle

2

At 4am on Feb 24 the marines and Saudi Arabian forces attacked - just where Saddam expected

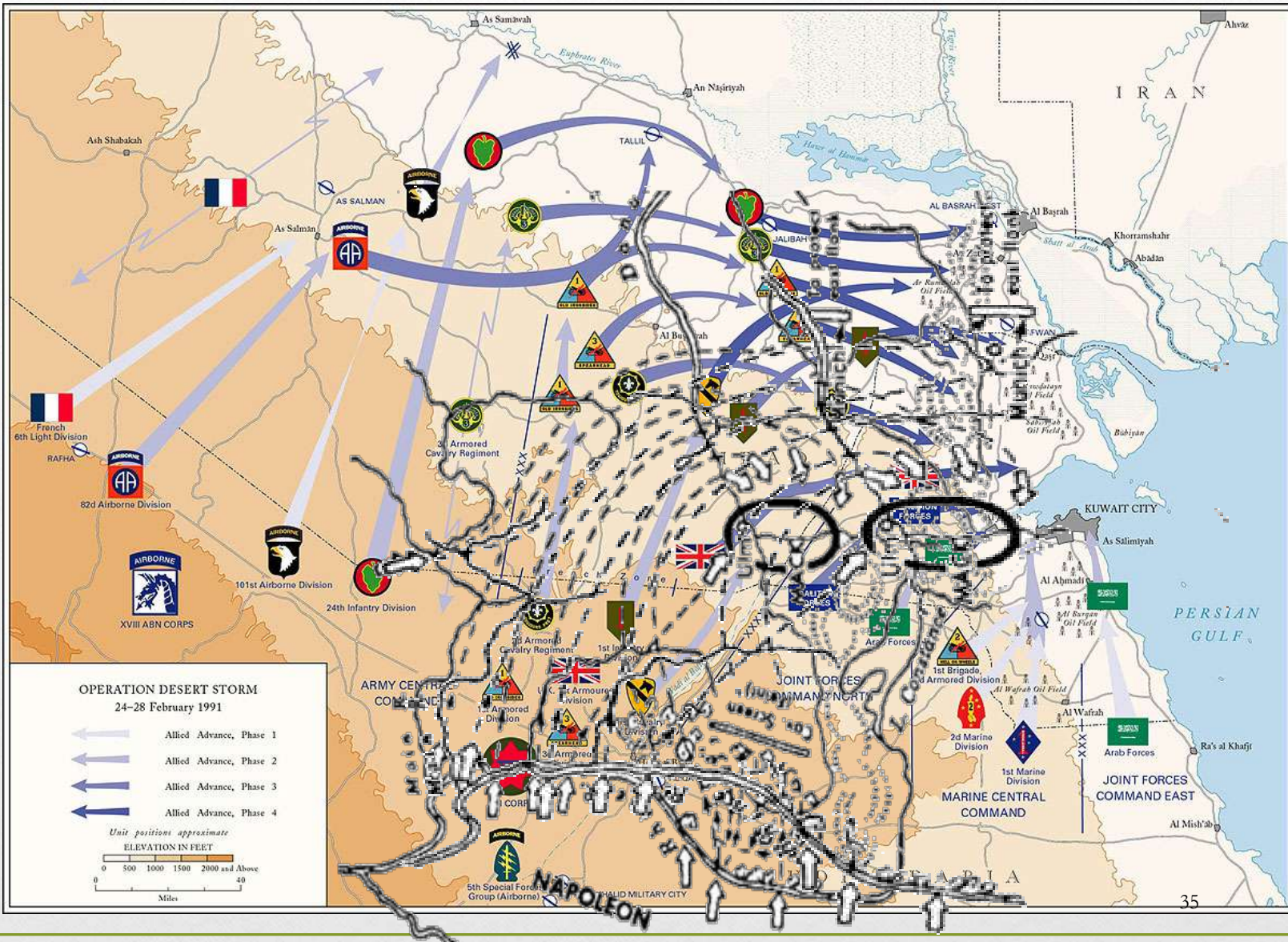
4

Amphibious exercises made Iraq expect a seaborne landing

1

S A U D I A R A B I A

34



General Norman Schwarzkopf



Briefing on the Conduct of the Gulf War

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

February 27, 1991

Highway From Kuwait



Timeline of Events

- **Iraqi Scud destroys U.S. barracks in Dhahran, killing 28 U.S. soldiers, Feb. 25.**
- **Cessation of hostilities declared, 8:01 a.m., Feb. 28 (12:01 a.m. Eastern).**
- **Cease-fire terms negotiated in Safwan, Iraq, March 1.**
- **DoD announces first troop redeployment home, March 17 (24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.)**

Timeline of Events

- **Iraqi Scud destroys U.S. barracks in Dhahran, killing 28 U.S. soldiers, Feb. 25.**
- **Cessation of hostilities declared, 8:01 a.m., Feb. 28 (12:01 a.m. Eastern).**
- **Cease-fire terms negotiated in Safwan, Iraq, March 1.**
- **DoD announces first troop redeployment home, March 17 (24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.)**

Timeline of the War

- **Operation Desert Storm air war phase begins, 3 a.m., Jan. 17, 1991 (Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Eastern time)**
- **Allied ground assault begins, 4 a.m., Feb 24 (Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Eastern time).**
- **Cessation of hostilities declared, 8:01 a.m., Feb. 28 (12:01 a.m. Eastern).**

Initial Air Phase: 38 days

Ground Phase: 100 hours

Statistics of the War

Coalition of 34 nations (27 sent forces)

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Honduras, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, The Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Turkey, The United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

609,000 troops (540,000 U.S.)

Coalition Casualties

U.S. - 148 combat dead, 145 noncombat

Britain - 24 (9 by US fire)

France - 2

Allied Arab forces - 39

Fratricide

“Friendly fire isn’t”

Murphy’s Laws of War ●
—

Fratricide

Of 148 U.S. combat deaths

35 were caused by “friendly” fire

24% of deaths due to fratricide

Associated Press

March 18, 2003

Questions?



Gulf War Syndrome

Approximately 1% of Gulf War vets report symptoms of unknown cause

Possible Sources:

- Chemical weapon residue?
- Depleted uranium

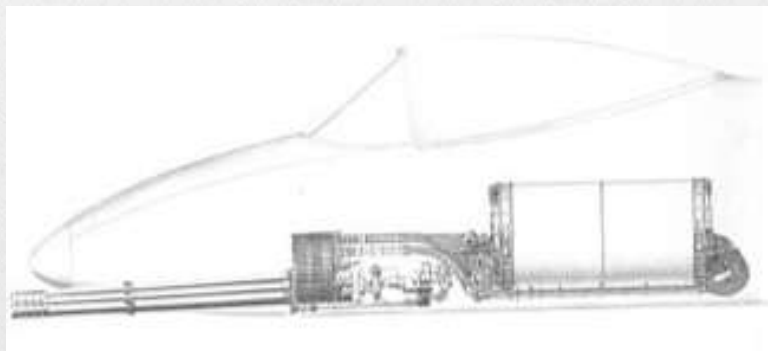


Gulf War Syndrome

Depleted uranium?

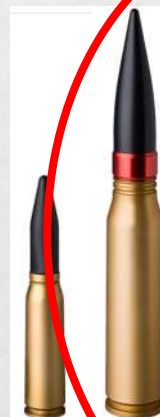


A-10 Thunderbolt II (a.k.a. The Warthog)



GAU-8 Avenger cannon

20 mm



30 mm DU

Gulf War Syndrome

Approximately 1% of Gulf War vets report symptoms of unknown cause

Possible Sources:

- Chemical weapon residue?
- Depleted uranium?
- Oil well fire residue?
- Other?



The 100 Hour War



The Perfect War?

Lessons Of Vietnam War Applied

The Weinberger Doctrine (1984)



Controversy

Why did we not go on to Baghdad?

Why did we not go on to Baghdad?

While we hoped that popular revolt or coup would topple Saddam, neither the U.S. nor the countries of the region wished to see the breakup of the Iraqi state. **We were concerned about the long-term balance of power at the head of the Gulf.**

Trying to eliminate Saddam, extending the ground war into an occupation of Iraq, would have **violated our guideline about not changing objectives in midstream**, engaging in "mission creep," and would have incurred incalculable human and political costs.

George H. W. Bush and Brent Scowcroft
A World Transformed, 1998 (Chapter 19)

Why did we not go on to Baghdad?

Apprehending him was probably impossible. We had been unable to find Noriega in Panama, which we knew intimately.

We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq. The coalition would instantly have collapsed, the Arabs deserting it in anger and other allies pulling out as well. Under the circumstances, **there was no viable "exit strategy"** we could see, violating another of our principles.

George H. W. Bush and Brent Scowcroft
A World Transformed 1998 (Chapter 19)

Why did we not go on to Baghdad?

Furthermore, we had been self-consciously trying to set a pattern for handling aggression in the post-Cold War world. Going in and occupying Iraq, thus **unilaterally exceeding the United Nations' mandate**, would have destroyed the precedent of international response to aggression that we hoped to establish.

Had we gone the invasion route, the United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land. It would have been a dramatically different -- perhaps barren -- outcome

George H. W. Bush and Brent Scowcroft
A World Transformed 1998 (Chapter 19)

Persian Gulf War

Lessons Learned

- International coalitions essential
- Support of American people vital
- Clear division of leadership responsibilities
- “Jointness” (interservice cooperation) key
- All-volunteer force works
- Total Force (active, reserve mix) important
 - Needs continuous attention

The Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) was the only war in U. S. history where we successfully implemented the lessons of the previous war from the beginning.

Happy Veteran's Day

If you can read this, thank a Teacher.

Because you are reading this in English, thank a
VETERAN!!