

BATTLE DIGEST™

Lessons for Today's Leaders

Volume 2 ★ Issue 1

Modern Wars:

Desert Storm

DATE:

Feb. 24-28, 1991

LOCATION:

Southern Iraq and Kuwait

OPPOSING FORCES

United States and Coalition:

U.S. Forces: 540,000 troops (6 aircraft carriers, 2,000 tanks, 1,800 combat aircraft, 1,700 helicopters, and 100 warships) all under the command of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf (U.S. Central Command). Key subordinates were Lt. Gen. John Yeosock (Ground Forces), Lt. Gen. Charles Horner (Air Forces), Lt. Gen. Walt Boomer (Marine Forces), and Vice Adm. Stanley Arthur (Naval Forces).

Other Coalition Forces: Saudi Arabia (118,000 troops), Britain (43,000), Egypt (40,000), United Arab Emirates (40,000), Oman (25,500), France (18,000), Syria (17,000), and Kuwait (11,000), among others.

Large Coalition Combat Units:

XVIII Airborne Corps: 82nd Airborne Div., 101st Airborne Div., 24th Infantry (Mechanized) Div. (24th ID), French 6th Light Armored Div., 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3rd ACR), and the 12th and 18th Aviation Brigades.

VII Corps: 1st Cavalry Div. (1st CAV), 1st Infantry Div. (1st ID), 1st Armored Div. (1st AD), 3rd Armored Div. (3rd AD), British 1st Armored Div., 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2nd ACR), and 11th Aviation Brigade.

Joint Forces Command-North: Primarily 2 Saudi Mechanized Brigades, Egyptian 4th Armored Div., Egyptian 3rd Mechanized Infantry Div., and the Syrian 9th Div.

Marine Forces Central Command (MARCENT): 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (1st MEF), 2nd MEF, and the Army's "Tiger Brigade" (1st BDE/2nd Armored Div).

Joint Forces Command-East: 3 Saudi Mechanized Infantry Brigades, plus other gulf-state forces.

Iraqi Forces:

Approximately 200,000-300,000 troops, including 8 Republican Guard divisions, commanded by Saddam Hussein.



Saddam Hussein

Saddam's forces from his southern neighbor's borders. In less than 100 hours of joint air and ground combat, the U.S. and its allies would not only create one of the most lopsided victories in military history, but also demonstrate to the world the superiority of a new breed of weapons. Desert Storm represents a rare modern example of decisive, large-scale, maneuver warfare - and one of the largest envelopments in history. It accomplished its military and political objectives

by soundly defeating Iraqi forces and restoring the pre-war balance of power to the Middle East. The battle also had the unintended effect of renewing pride and confidence in the U.S. military after the long shadow of Vietnam.

STRATEGY & MANEUVER

Actions by Iraq - During the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), Saddam Hussein had expanded his army to 56 divisions and over 1,000,000 men, making it the fourth largest army in the world.¹ His elite Republican Guard grew to 8 divisions (28 combat brigades), many equipped with T-72M1s - the best Soviet tanks of the time. But after his eight-year war ended in a stalemate, Saddam was saddled with war debt and a struggling economy. Thinking that he had shouldered the burden for all Arabs in defending against their long-time Persian enemies, Saddam started to resent the debts he



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Just two years after the end of Iraq's war with Iran, an emboldened Iraq invaded Kuwait and was defeated. Egypt, the United States,