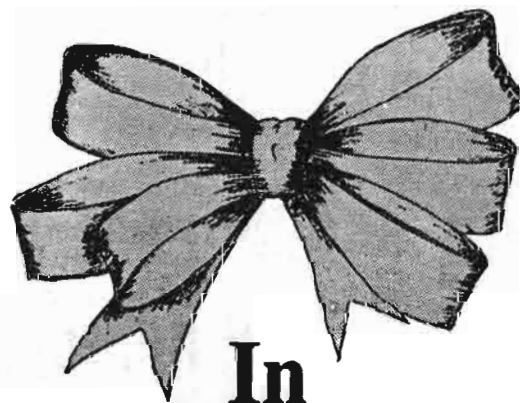


24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
120 Maple Street, Room 207  
Springfield MA 01103

VOL. XLIV - NO. 3 - 1990 - 1991

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**In  
our  
thoughts...  
in  
our  
prayers**

Shay, John R.  
1129 Shermer Rd.,  
Glenview IL 60025

# 'READY TO FIGHT'

By Lee Ewing  
Times staff writer

**EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA** — In the vast, flat reaches of the Arabian desert, M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) are churning through the hot sand.

Soldiers in forward elements of the Victory Division are tactically deployed, ready for war but still hoping for peace.

Their current mission is to deter aggression, specifically, to persuade Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein that the price he would pay for an attack on Saudi Arabia would be devastatingly high.

"They are in an operational posture to respond to any military threat," Maj. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the division commander, said Sept. 1.

The rest of the division's troops, armored vehicles and wheeled vehicles either are in marshaling areas at a port here or en route by sea from Fort Stewart, Ga. "Nothing's at Stewart," McCaffrey said. "It's gone. Closed up."

"Much of [the division] has closed into the objective area and is standing by for further instructions," he said. "Learning the terrain. Doing recon."

Live-fire training was conducted for two weeks, day and night, before the troops left Fort Stewart, McCaffrey said. "We are ready to fight. . . . They are in a fully operational status."

In the desert, Capt. Kurt Miller, commander of B Company, 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry, has arrayed his tanks and Bradleys in a defensive position.

He acknowledged he has a relatively broad sector for a company to defend, but points out that he is not here to defend a specific terrain feature. Instead, if the shooting starts, he will fight a fast, violent war of maneuver.

"Brigade would fight the battle in front of me," Miller said. He has had six rotations at the National Training Center, or NTC, Fort Irwin, Calif., and he draws heavily on that experience as he builds his defensive plan here.

After driving over the terrain in M1s and Bradleys with his platoon leaders to determine the enemy's most likely avenue of approach, he has plotted artillery concentrations and target reference points.

Already he has determined which vehicles from which platoons can cover various targets.

"Each one of them has a range card and each wingman has a specific sector. I use a quadrant system."

Such control measures, and others intended to help small unit leaders distinguish friendly forces from the enemy, are essential, Miller has learned.

"I'll give you a basic plug for the NTC," he said. "I tell you, that has given us a tremendous amount of confidence. We just learned so many things through gut-wrenching anxiety and whatnot. The mistakes you see yourself make out there — it's all recorded and played back in glorious detail. We've learned from many of our mistakes."

Inadequate coordination was one of them.

"I didn't think it was that big a deal until I found out the effects of poor coordination," he said.

Miller's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Raymond Barrett, has the battalion conducting nightly patrols and laying ambushes. During the day, his troops are rehearsing and continuing to prepare these defenses and doing some training.

But the heat limits operations during the day, Barrett said.

"There's not as much training up to this point to keep [the troops] energized as I would like. . . . We are doing the patrolling, we are building the defense."

"It's the maneuver training that we're not able to do right now, because, as you build up the logistics system, we have to take care to husband our vehicles," Barrett said.

That means not running his tanks and Bradleys in the heat of the day and not running them hard, at least until certain parts and supplies arrive.

"It's not a matter of shortages, it's a matter of distribution," he said. "The ships are flowing in. You can't get all your support base on one ship."

Currently, Barrett has a few tactical vehicles — tanks and Bradleys — down. They are waiting for replacement of fuel filters and correction of electrical problems. Still, his operational readiness rate is about the same as it was at Fort Stewart.

Col. Paul Kern commands the second brigade, which consists of two armored battalions, a mechanized infantry battalion and an artillery battalion. "So we've got a great deal of combat power here on the ground."

"We were alerted on the 7th of August," Kern said. "My first unit was on the ground here three weeks later."

"Right now, the entire brigade is assembled here, with all its supporting elements. Our other brigade is beginning to arrive and occupy its position. We are getting ready for future operations," Kern said Sept. 4.

"We've been on the ground here in this area for a week. We've done quite a bit of training."

## Desert challenges

Meanwhile, civil affairs teams from the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., are working with the 40 groups of nomadic Bedouin camel, goat and sheep herders that roam through the brigade's area of operations.

"We had to learn the ways of the camels and goats, how they marked off their districts, so that we didn't get in their way," Kern said.

"I know we kind of surprised a few of them when they woke up in the morning and found an M1 tank in their front yard," Kern said.

"They have greeted us very warmly."

Operating in the desert poses challenges. Kern said, but U.S. troops have learned how to cope.

"The dust storms to date have not been too bad. We had probably the worst one yesterday afternoon. I flew in it the whole time," Kern said.

"It has not degraded our ability to communicate."

Like Miller, Barrett and many other soldiers here, Kern credits the desert training at the NTC with preparing him and his unit for their current assignment here.

"We train in the desert fairly frequently, and I've seen much worse dust storms out in the Mojave [Desert, Calif.] than we've had here right now."

Kern said so far, there have been no heat casualties.

"This division has been training in the desert since 1982 when we opened up the National Training Center out at Fort Irwin. We are pretty comfortable in the desert — as comfortable as anybody ever gets."

"Yes, we get hot. Yes, we get thirsty. But we know how to take care of people in the desert. We have more than adequate medical coverage right here. I have a surgeon with each of the battalions and I've got five surgeons in my support area, the medical company," Kern said.

"Fort Stewart, if you don't know it, is pretty sandy. It's a funny combination of swamp and sand. So, we're pretty used to operating in this sort of dusty environment when it dries out down there."

But here, there are "a lot fewer bugs, not nearly as humid, if you get away from that port area. It's pretty comfortable out here at night," Kern said.

"It is hotter here in the day by about 10 degrees than at Fort Stewart. At Fort Stewart this time of year, we average about 95 degrees. We're about 110 right here, but it's much less humidity so it's quite bearable."

"We force-feed water. We have plenty of water here," Kern said.

Just as preventive medicine keeps the troops healthy, preventive maintenance keeps vehicles up and running.

"You lower tire pressure in wheeled vehicles. You change filters more frequently. But [there are] no major impacts on our ability to operate," Kern said.

Men and machines both will operate better when the fierce desert heat dissipates, but the main reason Kern, McCaffrey and others plan to stress night operations is that they feel they are good at it.

"We plan to operate at night, because we have better night capability than does the enemy. So we want to exploit our advantages. We're capable of operating either day or night; we just prefer the night," Kern said.

Although his troops conducted live-fire training just before they left home, Kern wants to keep their edge sharp.

"As soon as we have a piece of terrain out here we can [use] live fire on, we will. And units already are doing that in country. On this particular piece [of terrain] I'm sitting on right now, I would not do that, because, quite frankly, I would be shooting a lot of camels and Bedouins," Kern said.

In his brigade tactical operations center, which consists of three M577 tracked vehicles parked parallel beneath a camouflage net and a tent, Kern explained how he plans to fight if he is ordered.

The brigade's area of operations is about the size of Fort Stewart, he said.

While he could defend the terrain his brigade currently occupies, Kern said, he would not necessarily do so.

"I am not terrain-oriented right now in my defense, I

am oriented on the enemy. I can defend this piece of terrain or I can go to where he goes."

"We have three missions. The first one is to deter the Iraqis from invading. We will defend any place that the Iraqis come to in this country. You know, one of the advantages of a mechanized division, obviously, is that we can move rather rapidly across the terrain," Kern said.

"The second mission . . . is that if they attack, we're going to defeat them on the ground right here."

"Third mission, we're going to go home."

While Kern would welcome a peaceful resolution to the Persian Gulf crisis, he feels he is prepared for the alternative.

"We are ready to fight. We are ready to move to fight if we have to. We have fuel and ammunition on the ground. We are prepared to do that."

Does the terrain favor the offense or the defense?

"I'm a tanker; I favor the offense, no matter where I am. I'll put it to you that way," Kern said.

"It is very good terrain for maneuver warfare, which, in our case, in a defense, would not be [static]. We don't plan to dig in in deep lines and establish a Maginot Line across here. We plan to maneuver against anybody who attacks."

"Clearly, [as] an armored-mechanized force, our advantage is to go on the attack. But it is also terrain you can defend very well."

Does he have enough combat engineer equipment to fight an enemy such as Iraq, which historically has used extensive fortifications and static defense?

"Sure. I do. And there is more coming. We have all our full engineer support equipment with us here right now."

Kern is confident his unit has the best equipment and munitions in existence.

"Our mission is to deter an offensive by [Iraq]. So I'm not planning right now to run across the border and attack them. That's not the mission I've been given."

"But I'm not particularly concerned about the Iraqi defenses. We've studied them. We had a chance for eight years to watch how they fight."

"They are an experienced army, but I can tell you it doesn't take long to lose experience either. And the type of defenses that they've used are not that formidable."

"Our type of warfare is based on rapid movements, penetrations and if they want to sit in one place, that favors what we want to do," Kern said.

Even though about 20 percent of Iraq's 5,000 tanks are relatively modern Soviet-made T-72s with 120mm guns, and Kern's M1 (IP) Abrams tanks have only 105mm guns, he said he is not concerned.

"We can outgun them. The 105 we have with our ammunition is capable of defeating them outside their ranges."

Another advantage for the U.S. tankers is that their tanks have thermal sights, which enable a gunner to see through darkness, smoke and haze so well that some prefer to use them even in clear daylight. Most of the Iraqi tanks are Soviet-made and use less effective, image-intensifier sights.

The heat here does not hinder the use of thermal sights, he said, noting that the brigade trains in the Mojave Desert, using thermal sights against targets that closely resemble T-72s.

"It's about the same temperature [as] in the Mojave, in the 100-110 [degree] range. And we pick them out without much of a problem."

In contrast to his predecessors of the Vietnam era, who often commanded brigades or battalions for about six months before moving on, Kern has commanded his brigade for 14 months.

While he served two tours in Vietnam as a junior officer, only a "very small" proportion of his brigade has combat experience, perhaps 5 percent.

"I don't really honestly perceive that as a problem," he said. "I was a platoon leader in Vietnam without ever having been to a war before and managed to get through that."

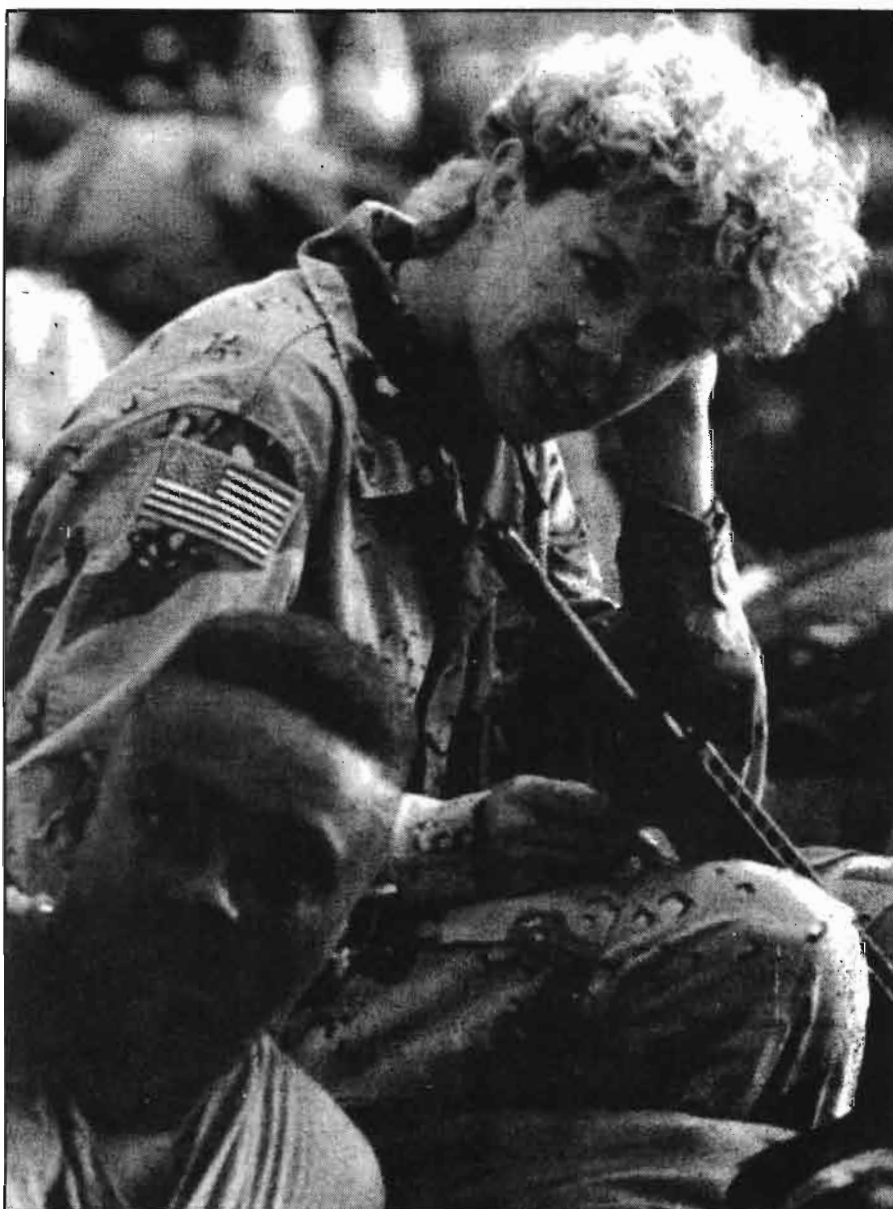
"The National Training Center, and the types of training that we do there, intentionally is about as close to the real thing as you can get. It stresses people, it stresses equipment."

His equipment was loaded on three ships. "All our ships have come in, all of them have been off-loaded."

The equipment arrived in good shape. However, not all the support equipment arrived at the same time. "Obviously, you've got to make choices of what's going to be there first," Kern said.



# TARO LEAF



Associated Press  
■ Never before in a major U.S. war have women been so close to the front lines as they are today serving with U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. Above, a woman soldier is part of the 24th Infantry Division in Saudi Arabia.

# TARO LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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Tel. 413-733-3194

FAX 413-733-3195

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1991 annual Convention  
will be in  
San Francisco, California,  
September 26 to 29.

\* \* \*

## President

Herbert C. Carlson  
(B 19th '48-'50)  
PO Box 66  
Pittsburg, NH 03592  
Tel. 603-538-7172

## Vice President

Albert J. McAdoo  
(E 5th RCT '52)  
108 Central St.  
Acton MA 01720  
Tel. 508-263-2573

## Vice President

Thomas C. Broderick, M.D.  
(B 24th Med. '42-'44)  
565 Broadway-Apt. 6A  
Hastings on Hudson NY 10706  
Tel. 914-478-2269

## Sec'y-Treas-Editor

Kenwood Ross  
(Div. Hq. '44-'47)  
120 Maple St.  
Springfield MA 01103  
Tel. 413-733-3194  
FAX 413-733-3195

## Directory Chairman

Joseph J. McKeon  
(19th '49-'51)  
12733 Muscatine St.  
Arleta CA 91331  
Tel. 818-768-1704

## Membership Chairman

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179 Nueva Ave.,  
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This year's reservation form doesn't have a back side to it, complete with the  
addressee's name and address. Told you that what we got was a flimsy carbon copy.  
We'll just hafta make do. Sorry!

Mail your reservation to: San Francisco Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame CA 94101.

Thurs. Sept. 26 - to - Sun. Sept. 29, 1991

# BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE...

Once over, lightly.

Past Prexy WARREN AVERY will go to Washington in July. One of his duties will be to make a presentation of the Association check to General Stillwell who chairs the Korean War Memorial Fund. Warren managed to extract a total of \$550 from among those who were present at Buffalo. We have that in safekeeping - and drawing interest. Meantime through a pitch in our last issue, we have received \$ more from sources as follows:

Roderick Owens	\$10	Wm.G.Roseboro	\$ 25
George P.King	17	Harry E.Brunelle	200
Jim Powers	15	John Jorgensen	10
		John Morrison	25

That brought it to \$852.00. We just deposited \$148.00 wherefor the Association is able, at the moment, to hand Warren a check for an even \$1000.00.

However, we'd like very much to double it. We'd like very much to send Warren off with a \$2000.00 check.

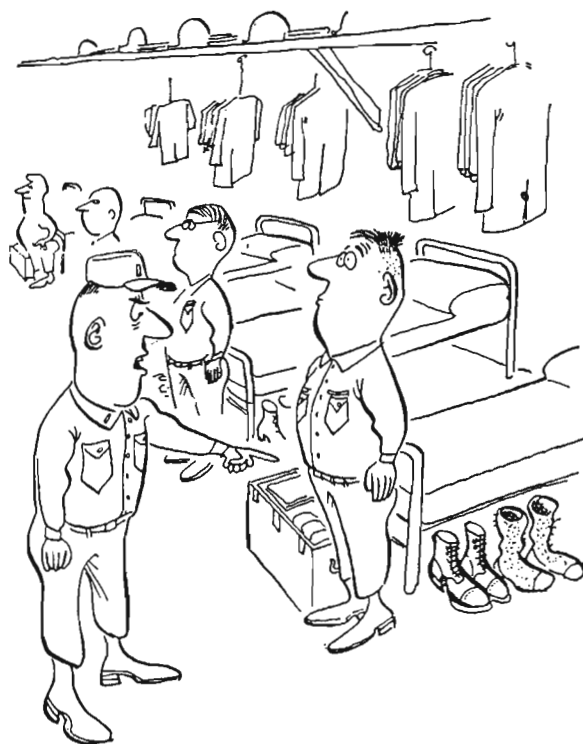
Figure it this way, please. We have 3273 members as of the moment of this writing. Were each member to send in a buck - a beautiful buck - we'd put the campaign way over the top. It'll present a heck of a bookkeeping situation - but that'll be out problem. We're up to it.

Send in your dollar - please - to

Kenwood Ross, Treas.  
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120 Maple St., Room 207  
Spfld. MA 01103-2278

Incidentally, we've raised a few dollars for the California Memorial too. We'll report on that one separately in another issue. Okay?

Anxious to make contacts: anyone recognizing ELLIS V. REED (19th - POW) of 336 Oakland, Ft.Walton Beach FL 32548, might write him and say "Hello". He's lonely and would love to hear from any Chick.



"IT ISN'T NECESSARY TO STAND  
YOUR SOX UP TOO, FARNSWORTH."

MARVIN TAYLOR (D26th AAA '55-'57), over there in Clearfield, Utah - 66 Villa Dr. - 84015 - is collecting crests. Tell us which ones you need, Marv - we may help.

Can't hate a two-timer - not our version of a two-timer. DON LENNON of 502 Olive, Pittsburgh PA was 24th Recn. 4/50-8/51 and B Co. 5/35th Armor 5/63-7/65 in Germany. Don is a supervisor on the state tax audit office. Keep your eye on 'em, Don.

Here's an interesting one - from ALFRED H. DICKINSON of 948 Sturgeon Pt., Derby NY:

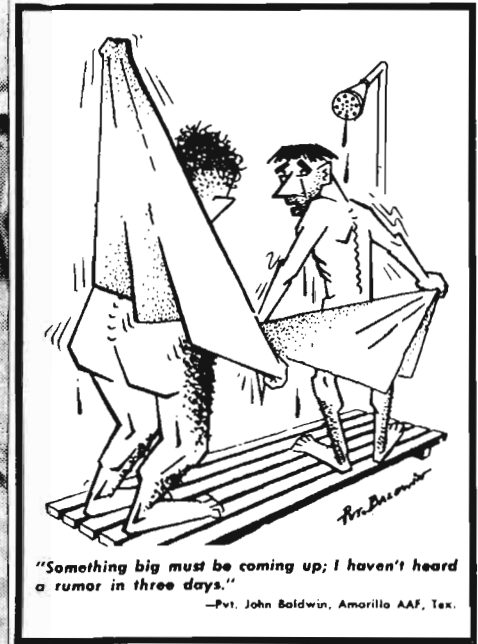
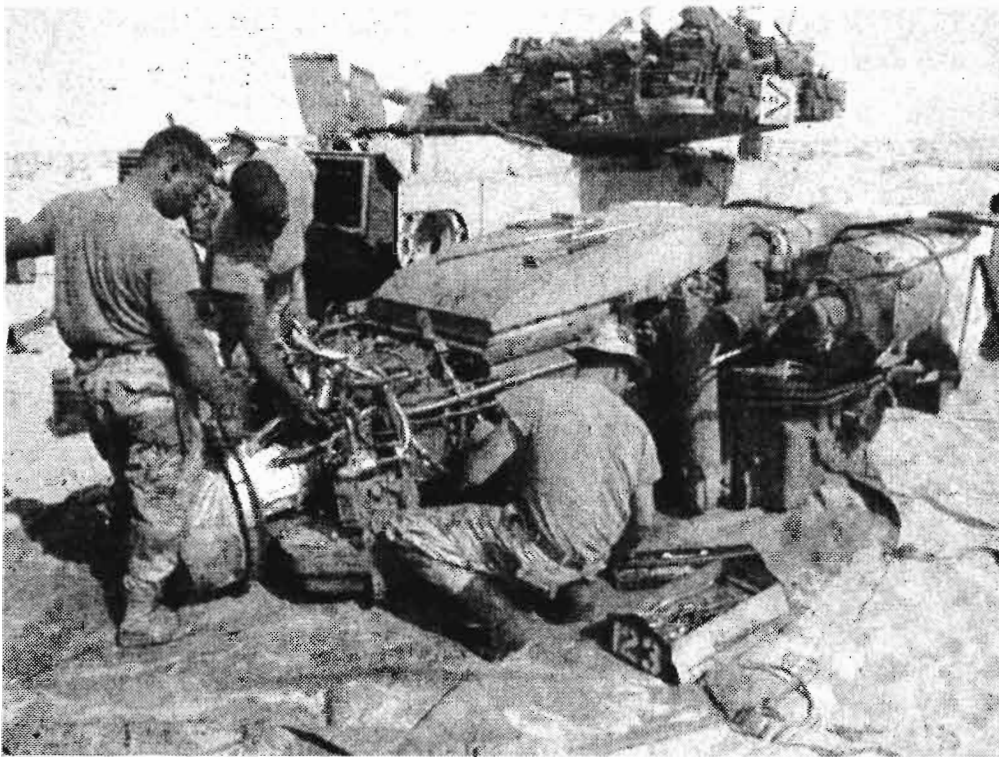
"I have your address from Col. FRANK D. MILLER, JR., Asst. Div. Commander-Rear Support 24th Inf. Division.

"It all started when I was searching for the Division shoulder patch and tried two sources. No luck at all so the next try was direct to Ft. Stewart. Col. Miller got back to me with the shoulder patch and Division decal and included your address.

"My tour of duty with the 24th started in Schofield Barracks in Oahu in Apr. '42 and rotated in Aug. '45 from PI back to the states."

P.S. Al is now a member, and so is Col. FRANK MILLER.





**ENGINE WORK** — U.S. Army mechanics from the 24th Infantry Division work on the engine of an M-1 Abrams tank in the Saudi Arabian desert yesterday.

WILBERT "Shorty" ESTABROOK (B 19th 6/48-7/50, POW 7/50-8/53) writes from 20702 El Toro Rd., El Toro CA:

"I am trying to help some folks find out more about their loved ones who were lost in the Korean War.

"These men were brothers, both were in Company A, 3rd Eng.

"PFC BURTON COZEL AWTREY, RA 18280068, Died 16 July 1950.

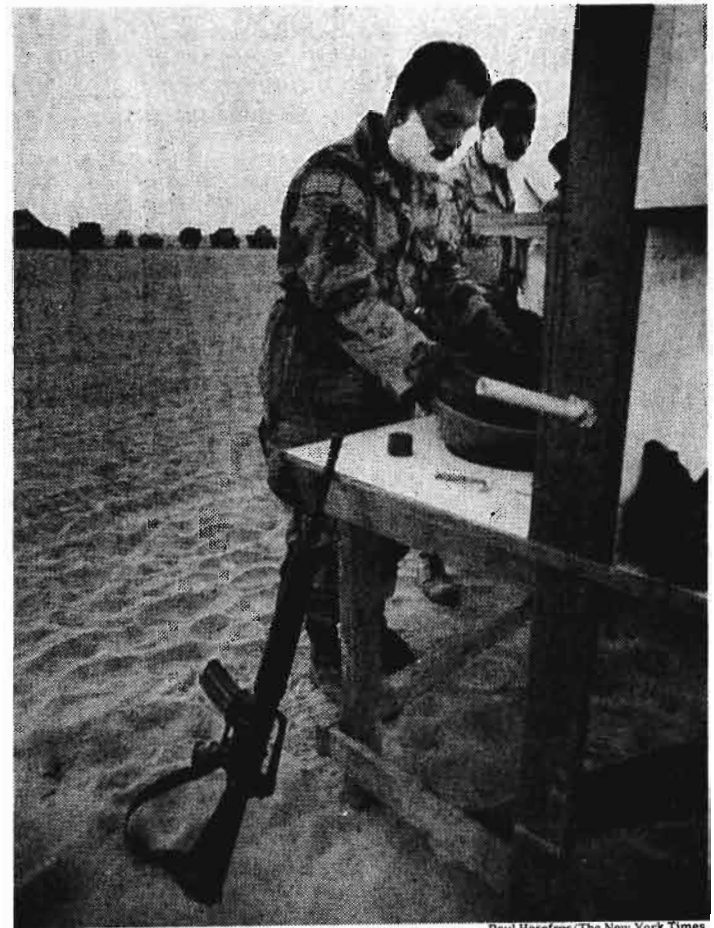
"PVT BILLY WAYNE AWTREY, RA 18280057, Died 2 August 1950.

"If you could put this in the Taro Leaf, I would appreciate it. Any information would be appreciated and can be sent to Mrs. Allen G. Smith, Rt. 1, Box 98, Diana TX 75640.

"I just returned from the Philippines and a three week vacation on the South China Sea. I am always looking for landmarks relative to the 2nd WW. On the trip from Manila to La Union, I spotted a sign on a building marking that building as the birth place of the Kamikaze. For those who are interested, I found the earthquake damage to be devastating. MacArthur Highway is a mess and detours are along river beds etc. Those people are really hurting."

Thank you, Shorty.

Wrote JIM and Mary CLOGER (724 Ord., L.M.Co. 9/45-12/45): After 75 years as a Bostonian, finally left. It's now Cape Cod - 9 Swallow, E.Falmouth MA 02530.



### In Saudi Arabia, a Regiment Digs In, and Waits

Members of the Second Squadron of the Fourth Cavalry Regiment, a unit of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division, geared up for another day of exercises in the Saudi desert with an outdoor shave.





Specialist Aaron Gonzalez (left), Spec. Matthew Wells (standing) and Cpl. Anthony Chavez (far right) from Company E, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry look on as Marine Lance Cpl. Rusty Johnston and Cpl. Newell Allen explain emplacement of their 60mm mortar.

## Soldiers, Marines learn teamwork

Story and photo by Sgt. D.R. Doss

SAUDI ARABIA — At Faysal Range's Multi Purpose Range Complex located in the northeastern Saudi Arabian desert. Soldiers from Task Force 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) recently had the opportunity to train with U.S. Marine Corps infantry and armor units.

Marines from Company B, 1st Platoon, 1st Tank Battalion; and Company K, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, joined their Army counterparts for live-fire exercises, and to practice combined arms operations in a mechanized division.

"We're used to different types of training. Being here with the Army, one of the things we get to do is to expose them to our combined arms tactics, and also observe theirs," said Marine Capt. Leon Pappa, commander, Company K.

Like the 24th, the Marines were deployed in the Gulf region shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. While the primary mission for the U.S. led multinational force has been to defend against Iraqi aggression, Pappa said he's confident that if called upon, combined arms operations between the Army and Marines will be successful.

Soldiers and Marines agree the success of any operation depends heavily on coordination. Normally, coordination for any operation undertaken by either side begins with the unit receiving an operation order.

The "Op order" provides the who, what, when, where, how and why for everyone involved in the mission. Given this wealth of good information, the

soldier or Marine at the lowest level is ready to carry out his orders. That is, however, if he understands the language.

"The Army guys say some things that sound like they're speaking Latin," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Eric Miller.

It might sound like a serious enigma to overcome. According to Task Force 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. Commander, Lt. Col. Dave Jensen, the language barrier is a small one, and seems only to heighten the servicemember's curiosity about one another.

"Training with the Marines gives our guys the chance to exchange capabilities and limitations on both sides," said Jensen. "There's a lot of teaching and learning going on through their discussions, and I know we'll all come out for the better."

Having traveled several hours through the desert, the Marines rolled into position at the range complex, "like a little self-contained army," said Pappa.

Newly equipped with the LVTP (Light Vehicle Track Personnel), they also brought a wide range of weapons and small arms to include the MK-19 (called Mark-19, and best described as a machine gun that fires grenades), 50-caliber machine guns, 60mm mortars, TOW missiles and M60A1 battle tanks.

Pappa stressed that as Marines, they are trained to perform many jobs and tasks. "We're basically light infantry, but we'll take whatever we've got," he said.

Training with the Army means using their own

equipment, and incorporating it alongside the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the tracked ITV (Improved TOW Vehicle).

"Seeing a lighter system than our's is very interesting," said Spec. Matthew Wells, ITV loader and M1-60 gunner, Company E 3rd Bn., 7th Inf.

After watching a group of Marines perform 60mm mortar drills, Spec. Aaron Gonzalez, TOW gunner, also with Company E, said: "I've learned a lot about their training and some of their weapons systems. They seem to really know what they're doing."

Although they come from different parts of the desert, speak a different language, and carry different weapons, soldiers and Marines know the importance of teamwork. They openly joke about their interservice rivalry and names they've given each other over the years.

The Saudi Arabian desert isn't the National Training Center or 29-Palms. It's the real world with a real enemy. The realization of what they're practicing at the MPRC means that, if it comes to war, both services want to know they can depend on whoever's on their left or right flank.

Any and all differences aside, soldiers and Marines agree that neither one can work effectively without the other.

"Yeah, we're learning here. The rivalry stuff is only back in garrison," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard Barrios, 1st Plt., 1st Tank Bn. The bottom line is that we are all here fighting for one country ... our country."

★ STAND WITH OUR TROOPS ★

M1 Abrams to be updated with newer M1A1;

## Victory Division is among first to receive tanks

Photo and story by Sgt. D.R. Doss

SAUDI ARABIA — The Army's premier battle tank of Operation Desert Shield, the M1 Abrams, is currently being replaced by a newer version, the M1A1.

The 24th Infantry Division (Mech.), the most forward deployed heavy division, was among the first units to receive the new armor and test fire it on the range.

As the newest tank of the 24th, the M1A1 will give soldiers an increased edge in fire power and survivability should a conflict erupt in the Middle East.

The new A1, which replaces the M1IP, was first received by soldiers of Task Force 4th Battalion, 64th Armor a few days before Christmas.

Before receiving the A1 at their desert positions, soldiers of TF 4/64 were taken to port facilities to begin training and familiarization with the equipment.

According to Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. John Craddock, the training period allowed crews to train exclusively on the A1's advanced features.

Craddock said the training period was brief, mainly because half of the task force soldiers' had prior experience on the A1.

By outward appearance alone, the A1 looks much like the older M1. But, Craddock said: "The A1 has four to five years of improvements all rolled into one. Hidden inside the A1 are hundreds of improvements."

Among the biggest improvements is the 120mm smooth-bore main gun as opposed to the older M1's 105mm gun, and a Nuclear Biological Chemical protection over-pressurized system that will allow crews to operate inside the vehicle without donning their complete chemical suit.

"Getting the A1 has helped morale here," said Capt. Robert Roth, commander, Company A, 4th Bn., 64th Ar. "All of the improvements, like greater firing ranges and better survivability, are a big plus for us."

As the first A1 touched the ground, Roth officially christened it with a plastic bottle of drinking



With a plastic bottle of drinking water, Capt. Robert Roth christens the first M1A1 received by Task Force 4th Battalion, 64th Armor in Saudi Arabia.

See ARMOR page 3A

## ARMOR

water. Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), Brig. Gen. James T. Scott, who was present at the ceremony, said, "These soldiers are now armed with the very best tank in the world. This is a momentous day in the life of the 24th. The Army has given us the very best piece of equipment that it owns, to face down the Iraqis."

While it is still unknown for certain whether or not there will be a war with Iraq, live-fire training continues for all the division's weapons systems, including the A1, at Faysal Range Complex.

New Equipment Training instructors from Fort Knox, Ky. accompanied tank crews to the firing range to assist in boresighting procedures, and to give additional information about the A1.

Before any of the A1's were fired, crews were given a class on new boresighting procedures by the instructors. The head instructor stressed that boresighting is the single most important preparation before going into battle.

continued from page 1A

"Correct boresighting ensures the tank fires accurately. There are no short cuts," the instructor said.

"The time to find out is now, while you're on the range, if your gunner can hit what he's aiming at," he said. "Don't ask for nothing but the best from this tank today."

The A1's firing debut was an impressive sight as all tanks recorded direct target hits, with one target being completely uprooted from the ground.

Company A tank crews were pleased with the performance of the new A1 on the range, and openly expressed having more confidence with it.

"The old M1's were good tanks, but we've got heavier fire power now, and we feel more confident with that," said Sgt. 1st Class John Leno, Co. A platoon sergeant.

Asked if the A1 is a match for the Soviet-built T-72 Tank which the Iraqi's now possess, Craddock said, "The A1 is an over match ... it's absolutely devastating."

\*

# We Miss You. HURRY HOME!



#### Wants to locate:

CHET ANDERSON (B 3rd Eng. '43-'45) of Box 15, Plevna MT 59344 (Tel. 406-772-5707) wants to hear from any Third Engineer. Okay, you Beavers; there's a call.

Another problem - awaiting solution. BOB CHRISTIAN of 610 W. Rohda Dr., Waterford WI, is a brother-in-law of our good member, KEN FULMER. He collects military insignia - is looking for "a colored 24th patch with an olive drab border." The only border we believe we've seen has been black. At any rate; if you know what Bob is talking about, you might drop him a line. He's willing to buy it.

**AND YOU CAN  
QUOTE ME!**

#### To Locate:

CHARLES H. STEVENS (24th QM - Wahoo) of 5 Singleton Dr., New Hartford NY, looking for ROBERT MOONEY - of NJ, STANLEY KOCINSKI - of NY, and RIGGI SALVATORE - of Brooklyn NY, all of 13th Field & 24th QM.

Someone asked, "Why doncha list our new members?" We reply: "Cuz it would make dull reading - BUT - tell ya what we try to do; we try to bring each new member into our pages as soon as we've got a story." Now here's a new one - out in Schaumburg IL - and we'll bet MARTIN STANTON of 27 S. Andrew, Schaumburg, never knew that we met two years ago - almost in his backyard. Martin was H & H, 2nd BG, 28th Inf. in Germany. We thank DICK "Bud" NAPIER, also of Schaumburg, for this tipoff. Dick, by the way was 5th RCT '50-'52.

Another peek at an auto window. LOU SARDINA (G 5th RCT 9/51-7/52) of 7 Green Lawn, Wellesley MA has one. PAUL GUERRINI of 8 Danvers, Worcester MA saw it, stepped forward with the usuals - and bingo, Paul is in. He was with us in ETO. Welcome aboard, Paul.

JIM KEAGY (L 21st '43-'45) of 153 S. Spencer, Indianapolis IN 46219, has found two buddies for us: JIM MATUSE, 160 Lakewood, Florence SC and IRVING NESSEL, 5201-12th Av., Minneapolis MN.

Love they neighbor - but stay away from his wife.

Couple of professors at Wash. State U. are getting a federal grant - \$70,000/yr. for 3 years. They're to determine how much methane cows burp when they belch. Honest! Scout's honor! Can you believe it?

Here's a man whose name has never appeared in Taro Leaf - not by design or choice, but by pure accident. Well you are in this issue, PAUL S. PHILLIPS, (D 19th '51-'52). Paul and Margaret are at 7004 Nottingham, St. Louis MO. Writes Paul: "Keep Doughboy Red ahead, as always." Willco, Chum.

# GET READY.



It's GEORGE and Pat EMERY (24 Repl.Co. Korea '51-'52) of 1136 Paradise Way.N.#A, Greenwood IN 46143. This was taken at Schaumburg. Since then, it has been a heart attack, and a quadruple by-pass for George. Worse, he has diabetes. Even so, Pat writes: "We hope to be with you at S.F." A card or note will help these nice folks.

# GET SET, GO!

JIM KEAGY (L 21st '43-'45) of 153 S. Spencer, Indianapolis IN has zoomed in. Has sent in names of and dues for two buddies: JAMES MATUSE, 160 N.Lakewood, Florence SC 24501 and IRVING NESSEL, 5201-12th Av.S., Minneapolis MN 55417.

## LAST LAUGHS

JOSE LEYBA (L 34th and C and F 21st 6/50-6/51) of 9682 Sandbor, Salinas CA writes: "Here's my twenty for dues; if more is needed, feel free to bill me." Jose, you're kidding - but thanks.

Our terrific M.C., WALLY KUHNER, has found MORRIS G. YINGST, of 1894 Glendale, Kansas City KS - and Mo, who was Korea '53-'54, is now in the club.

"BUT HE'S GOT THE HIGHEST SCORE IN THE COMPANY, SARG."



## DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS

"I was a tanker in Europe in WW II but the 24th has always been the highlight of my career." And that's a genuine quote - from D.J. WAGNER, of 1712 E.Fourth Plain, Vancouver, WA. D.J. - no idea of what the full name is - maybe it is "D.J." - was 1st Bn. 19th, 8/50-9/51.

## The POWER of IDEAS

JOHN J. RAMIREZ (6th Tk.Bn. 4/54-3/55) of 3501 S.54th, Cicero IL has two quotes: 1 - "Proud to have worn the Taro Leaf patch" and 2 - "Interested in a 6th tank history - any ideas?"

The MEYER brothers, SIMON and STANLEY, have joined our ranks. Stan at 4005 Brendenwood, Rockford IL - was Cn.Co. 19th 8/44 to 1/46. Simon at 4744 Wolverton Ln., Unit B, Rockford IL 61109 was Cn.Co. 19th 8/44-1/46. Both same units and company.

# U.S. rolls in heavy armor

## Tanks seen as the key to winning desert war

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — U.S. tanks and other heavy armor rolled off ships and were deployed in Saudi Arabia yesterday, introducing a force that would be key to a ground war with Iraqi troops occupying neighboring Kuwait.

M-1 Abrams tanks, Bradley armored personnel carriers, 155mm self-propelled guns and a variety of tracked and wheeled support vehicles drove off two naval Fast Sealift ships after a two-week voyage from Savannah, Ga.

U.S. officials would not disclose how many main battle tanks would be unloaded at the port, which also could not be named for security reasons.

But sources in Washington have said the initial deployments would number about 300 M-1s, and there are indications the figure could double in subsequent shipments.

Six other vessels were to unload other war materiel during the next 10 days, but Col. John Le Moyne said the first two vessels had delivered the bulk of the vehicles required for his 24th Infantry (Mechanized) Division,



**TANKS A LOT:** One of an estimated 300 M-1 Abrams tanks is loaded on a trailer to be moved to the bases of the U.S. 24th Infantry (Mechanized) Division, after the armor arrived on ships in

Saudi Arabia yesterday. Armored personnel carriers, 155mm self-propelled guns and a variety of tracked and wheeled support vehicles also arrived in the country.

UPI photo

whose troops have been arriving by air.

"It gives the theater commander significant combat power," Le Moyne said when asked how the heavy armor may affect possible battle plans against Iraq.

Most experts believe the introduction of the M-1, con-

sidered by some to be the world's most powerful tank, would help give Washington the necessary ground forces to attack and hold territory if a decision were made to move against the estimated 265,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Although the American, Saudi and pan-Arab forces

are outnumbered by Iraq's overall million-strong military, analysts think the Iraqis would retreat if dealt assaults by U.S. naval and air power on both Iraq and Kuwait, with ground attacks concentrating only on retaking Kuwait.

Le Moyne predicted any combat would be "classic de-

sert warfare," involving great mobility.

Saddam has about 5,500 pieces of armor, much of it vintage Soviet equipment, but soldiers interviewed at random were confident of their chances against his top-of-the-range T-72s.

—UPI

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990-91 DUES?  
WE DO NOT BILL SEPARATELY!  
CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVOICE



"... in the ol' days, we had another name for that, and it wasn't 'Creamed Beef on Toast' ...."

# WAY TO GO JOE.



Joe Garagiola talks to Barbara Lehman, Pat Cooper-Thomas and Jeannie Relaford after he finished his interviews with them for the Today Show.

## Today Show returns to Fort Stewart

Photo and story by Spec. Karen Wright

Joe Garagiola and the Today Show, once again, began taping a show on Fort Stewart, Tuesday. This time, they moved indoors to the 124th Military Intelligence Battalion motor pool.

The last time Garagiola was here it was a few days before Thanksgiving. The show, which featured people involved in the Labor of Love

program, showed how supportive the families are toward each other.

Since his return to Fort Stewart, Garagiola said the supportiveness demonstrated by families for one another remains.

"If there is such a thing as 'love thy neighbor', it's here," he said.

"We're not perfect," said Barbara Lehman, one

of the people Garagiola interviewed. "We're just courageous enough to lean on each other."

The Today Show is trying to show the world, again, the support Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield families have for each other. This time, though, tension is higher.

See TODAY on page 3A

### TODAY

"There's more realism," said Garagiola. "Last time, we thought it (war) was going to happen. This time it definitely looks like it's (war) going to happen."

In the midst of heightened tensions here and in the Middle East, Garagiola admired the strength the families have shown in coping with their loved ones being in a volatile area of the world.

"It's strength — inner strength," he said. "I can't begin to tell you where I've seen it in any other place."

Garagiola said he was able to show this inner strength, through interviews with Jeannie Relaford, Pat Cooper-Thomas and Lehman.

"The feeling of strength that pours out from the women here ... their honesty, realism and coming to grips with the situation ... these women knew what they're up against," he said.

"It feels good to know that people care," said Relaford about having the Today Show here.

Thomas said she also felt comfortable with it. She also stressed the message that she wanted to convey to the televi-

sion audience.

"No matter what the situation holds, I am joining with my husband and other Army families in supporting our troops," she said. "I stand firm in supporting them."

What they showed was "more than patriotism," said Garagiola. "It's way beyond that."

In trying to show how families have been affected by Operation Desert Shield, Garagiola said he has gotten more involved here than anywhere else.

"It's one thing to interview a World Series hero, then it's another thing to interview these

continued from page 1A

women," he said.

"It's a cliché to say those guys should be proud of their wives but, I just hope we can bring some of this through the tube."

Garagiola and the crew from the Today Show also visited Diamond Elementary School where many students have parents in Saudi Arabia. In one special class he shared a personal story in order to help the sixth graders understand their feelings and that it was okay to cry.

"However this thing ends," he said, "Fort Stewart has become a part of my life."



# Everyone's doing it

How many many times do we learn of something like this. This time LEW AHNERT (B 13th F '43-'45) of Box 54, Lyons IN 47443 is talking: I stopped at a gas station for gas. My cap with my Taro Leaf emblem was laying in the back window. The manager of the station saw it and said he used to be in the 24th. We got to talking and I told him about the Association. He wants to join. Enclosed find \$10 for his first dues. He was G 19th from July '50 to Jan. '51. His name is RICHARD EBY, RR 5, Box 2A, Peru IN 46970.

"I would enjoy hearing from any of my old outfit, who went from Hawaii up to Japan between '43-'45," says Lew.

"PLEASE, SIMPSON,  
A SNAPPY SALUTE  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
QUITE SUFFICIENT."



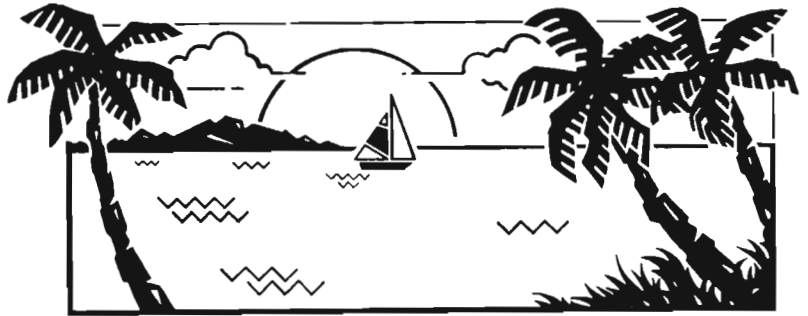
Great seeing ELMER and Margaret PETERSON at B. Pete was I 19 and C 21 '40-'42. He was buglar of the guard on that Day in Infamy. Pete today is enduring chemo treatments. Attitude is wonderful; in fact Pete convinced us that attitude at such a time is "90% of the war". Write them at 741 N. 96th, Seattle, WA. Tel. 206-789-7129.

Young man entered Harvard as a freshman. After he's been there about two months, he wrote home to his Mother that he'd grown another foot, so his mama knitted him another sock.

Read this — if you can spare the time

CHARLEY COLE has checked in. He's at 2005 Woodlawn, Baytown TX. How often we read something like what Charley wrote: "I was K 34th from '49 until they broke it up, then F 21st". A sad, sad story, wasn't it?

ED ARENDELL of RR 1, Box 7, Tamaroa IL was Hq. 3rd Bn. 34th and Hq. 2nd Bn. 21st, from 2/50 - 7/51. Then he floors us with this. I was with the 2nd Battle Group, 34th in the 7th Div. in '61. 7th Division? We don't doubt you, Ed; you sent us a special order to prove it. We are simply dumbfounded - and confused.



# Now's The Time To Get Your Vacation Plans Off The Ground.

Anyone who thinks marriage is always a 50-50 proposition doesn't understand one of two things - marriage or fractions.

George Burns advises: "Do what my father did when my mother nagged him to tell me about the birds and bees. He took me to Coney Island, pointed to a couple making love under the boardwalk and said, 'Your mother wants you to know that the birds and bees do the same thing.'"

Recently picked up a tape of hits from the 40's. Remember Mairzy Doats, Aba Daba Honeymoon, Chickery Chick, Bongo Bongo Bongo, Huggin' and Chalkin', I'm a Lonely Little Petunia, the Hut-Sut Song??? Maybe this present day music isn't so bad after all.

Army Times

## Galvin on security: 'It's a political responsibility'

### General promises an orderly withdrawal of U.S. Army from Europe

By J. Paul Scicchitano  
Times staff writer

As Supreme Allied Commander Europe for the past three years, Gen. John Galvin has presided over the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the thawing of East-West tensions. Now, Galvin is readying plans for the largest drawdown of U.S. troops since the Vietnam War.

At 61, Galvin, who also is commander in chief of U.S. European Command, is the Army's oldest senior commander. Before accepting his current assignment, Galvin headed U.S. Southern Command in Panama, and before that was commanding general of VII Corps in Germany.

Born in Wakefield, Mass., Galvin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and received a master's degree in English from Columbia University. He also attended the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

In Vietnam, Galvin commanded the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and before that he served as the division's assistant chief of staff for intelligence.

His decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and Soldier's Medal.

In a recent interview with the Army Times, Galvin discussed the pending base closures in Europe, support for Operation Desert Shield, and offered his vision of NATO by the year 2000.

**Q.** Will the base closings be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize the trauma for military families?

**A.** We're talking about seven or eight nations now where bases are going to close. We're talking about well over 100 bases... I would predict to you there won't be a lot of contention about this... We can make the closures and the reductions in a form that's not going to be a rat race. It's going to be an orderly execution of a very complex situation, and I think the reason is that we, right down to the communities over in Europe, and the small units, we've got a lot of good commanders, a lot of good leadership.

**Q.** Do you have a sense of how many military families will be forced to relocate within Europe because of the closings?

**A.** One of the things we tried not to do is get... a round robin going in which people at base A move to base B and people at base B move to C and D and E... Now there's going to be some of that because we're trying to keep the installations where the Congress (and the United States have) put a lot of money in the past decade.

**Q.** Was this the overriding concern?

**A.** That's one of them. That's a principle. There are a lot of them.

**Q.** Are there conflicting concerns?

**A.** What conflicts first of all is that you have to move people in order to make people comfortable. And so the move itself is difficult... I've been through that ever since I was a lieutenant. We do a lot of that kind of thing but we've held that down.

**Q.** How are you supporting Operation Desert Shield?

**A.** There are really two kinds of support for Desert Shield that U.S. forces in Europe are doing. One of those is that we are pulling forces out of the European mission. That is the NATO mission and (the) moving-them-to-the-Desert Shield mission. As I look at that from the other side as [Supreme Allied Commander Europe], I have to



In the field: Gen. John Galvin, second from left, discusses field operations with officers during V Corps exercise Caravan Guard 88.

say to myself, "How much does this hurt the mission?"

Given the size of the NATO force, what we've done so far doesn't make the kind of dent that would require you to really feel we had cause for alarm. But then again, when you start looking at what has moved... a significant force has moved. And the other point is the other assists we are giving, [such as] pumping a lot of fuel [and] working out the arrangements for a lot of NATO countries and indeed with other countries... The U.S. [European Command includes] well over 50 countries...

**Q.** What are the percentages of air power, ground forces and naval units that have been transferred to Desert Shield from Europe?

**A.** I haven't tried to figure it out as a percentage. But on the air side... amounts to several different kinds of squadrons, transports, fighters. And on the Navy side, we do a lot of shifting back and forth so you almost have to count on a day-to-day basis what belongs to me and what belongs to (Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander in chief of Central Command). There's quite a bit of coordination back and forth on that.

**Q.** Are you drawing from the [Prepositioned Materiel Configured in Unit Sets, or] POMCUS sites at all?

**A.** I think the answer probably is no. We're not drawing from POMCUS sites, although I don't rule that out. In fact, I don't rule out anything. By the way, we have good support of the rest of the... NATO countries on this... So there hasn't been any criticism of the drawdown of some of the U.S. capability for NATO to shift it over to [Central Command].

**Q.** As soldiers deploy to Saudi Arabia, will an attempt be made to allow them to [make a permanent change-of-station move from] their current duty stations so their families can move back to the United States?

**A.** I don't know the answer to that right now. I wouldn't want to try that one except I'm going to just try to make it work as best we can. I can't tell you for sure.

**Q.** Would it have been possible to support Desert Shield to the same extent, had the drawdown been further along?

**A.** Yes. And to follow that up as we look at that whole question: First, we're going to take a drawdown that I hope we take under arms control treaties... If we take the drawdown under arms control, it means we're taking the drawdown in order to get a much, much bigger drawdown by the Soviets. And that's really true, and I don't have to tell you all those figures. But if we take the drawdown to the extent that we leave a competent force deployed in Europe, of the size that would inspire the other nations to also leave a competent force, that's of a size that would show the leadership the United States still wishes to exercise in NATO and the commitment the United States is willing to pay for that leadership. Then, I think we're all right and I think it's a logical thing for us to be doing.

In fact, of course, we are also getting a lowering of the level of confrontation. And hopefully with the new approach to NATO strategy and what fell out of the London declaration, we'll have a protected peace for a long time to come. I think under those circumstances if something happened later, we would still be seen as leaders. We would still have a powerful influence among the other 15 NATO nations and there would be a willingness of those nations to be in with us, doing what they can do as we do what we can do.

Our forte is the ability to rapidly deploy forces, which we're proving right now. And their side of it can be a lot of different things. It's the ability to provide bases, to deploy certain amount of forces. They're not as big as we are. But they can do that. To provide a lot of other ways of showing support, consensus, solidarity. And I think that's what we get. I'm not saying I'm satisfied with it. I think in the case of many nations, not all by any means, there's more that could be done.

**Q.** Is it in our best interest for the unified Germany to be capable of projecting military power?

**A.** I think we really need to deal with that question and I would say we are not looking at the Germany of 1939. We ought not to say if a country has been aggressive against a neighbor country, it will thus be over. If that's so, then the Canadians ought to be pretty scared of us because we've been after them a couple of times in the past, though not recently... Not only have we shown our intentions, but

See GALVIN page 19

## Galvin's view: What's in store for NATO in 2000?

GALVIN from page 10

we've shown them over a period of time. The Germans have had 45 years of showing us their intentions, which are to be a democratic country and not a threat to anybody else. Now, the Soviets haven't had 45 years to show us their intentions. So I would say we have gone to the point of saying to the Soviets, "You are not our adversaries," but that's not the same as saying, "You are our best friends." Now we have to watch for a while and see what Soviet intentions are going to be. And when do you start to get a shift in here between intentions and capabilities? That's something we all have to reach some consensus about. I think we've reached that consensus with the Germans. The Germans are not the Nazis. The Germans are

the Germans. And they are our allies and our friends and they have been for many years... I don't see the logic of referring to questions of the rise of German military power. I think the Germans have said they want an armed force of 370,000. It's something they have agreed with the Soviets on... That's another message that says, "All right, if you don't want us to be too big, we agree. We won't be too big." Having spent a lot of my adult career watching the Germans, I would say we don't have anything to fear from the Germans.

Q. What will NATO look like, if you can assume the Conventional Forces in Europe II treaty by the turn of the century? See GALVIN page 83

## With a smaller army, 'size becomes more and more important'

GALVIN from page 19

century? Not only in terms of its physical structure, but in terms of its role?

A. I wouldn't be afraid to tell you what NATO 2000 will look like so long as you allow me to make some assumptions... The main assumption would be we stick with the fact that we've made arms control a part of our strategy. Now, that doesn't mean we believe that just because we sign our name on a piece of paper, no war will come. What it means is if you get a violation, it's also a violation of international law and your own allies will be on your side about it and come to some consensus that indeed it is a violation and it needs some action taken.

Q. Do you see that as a harder task than it would have been to mobilize NATO if you showed up with a bunch of satellite pictures that showed the Soviets coming down the Fulda Gap?

A. It would be easy to get consensus that you had a problem if you were invaded. But it's not easy to get consensus if you say the Soviets are beginning to build up the fleet or they're beginning to produce more airplanes and all that. But if you're able to go to the table and say, "Here are five major violations of the treaty, we've got to do something about this," then I think you're going to get consensus. The other way, if you just walk in with a photograph and say, "Look at this, the Soviets are building a new ship," I think you're going to have a hard time... That means in the immediate future, the treaty-limited equipment levels have got to serve not just as ceilings, but they've got to come close to serving as floors. In other words, if we don't stick to the level we're authorized to have under the treaty, then we undermine the treaty a lot.

Q. Is the corollary that if there is no treaty, then we don't withdraw at all?

A. To be realistic, if we don't get a treaty, budgets will cause forces to be drawn down anyway, not only in the United States, but in all countries. And [forces will be drawn down because] the Soviet threat is less than it was before. If we get the treaty, then we are able to draw down in a way that has a logic to it. We say, "Look, we're moving step by step in cadence with the Soviets." They're getting smaller and we're getting smaller. But we're going to come down to parity, which will be better than we ever were before.

Now, some people will probably say, "Well, wait a minute, if we get down to parity and they used to be three times as big as us, and we managed to keep them from attacking us for four decades, why do we have to stay at parity?" The answer is when you get smaller and smaller, the difference between the sides in size becomes more and more important to you, so you can't take such a big difference because the geography remains the same... and the troop strength and the fighting capability [are] going to be a lot smaller. So that means a lot of other things in the strategy, but basically if we can come pretty close to maintaining... treaty-limited equipment levels, then what we would look like by the year 2000? We would have parity in Europe, we would be about 15 to 20 percent smaller than we are today. We would probably not have as much of that force deployed forward as we do now. There would be a different mix of active and reserve in all the nations. And we would keep up a modernization of the force so we wouldn't have old equipment because the smaller unit still would be high quality... I could go on.

Q. You described a CFE1 [Conventional Forces in Europe 1] level by the end of the century. Is that sufficient budgetary outcome given the peace dividend dynamics under way here? Is that a level you can hold to?

A. I don't think it is in the long run. And therefore, I think we need to move from a CFE1 to a CFE2.

Q. But you don't see it happening before the end of the century?

A. I didn't describe that, but I didn't give you a full description of things. I didn't talk about the nuclear side. We're going to get a [Short-range Nuclear Force, or SNF, agreement] in that period and we're going to draw down the nuclear stockpile in Europe to a much lower level than it is today if our aims in SNF as an alliance go along. We've said... in the alliance that we look toward an SNF in which one of our goals would be to get rid of nuclear artillery. If that happens as we in NATO intend it to happen in our negotiations with the Soviets, that will mean both sides will draw down a lot of nuclear warheads so you'll have that big difference in there. You'll have no chemical weapons, hopefully, in Europe and you may get a Strategic Arms Reduction Talks treaty. Of course, that's not going to affect much on our side, but it will affect quite a bit on the Soviet side.

And some other things are happening outside the treaty. The Soviets are going to deploy outside the Warsaw Pact nations and I think that's crystal clear. And the nations have cordially invited them to do so. So you will have the prospect of the *cordon sanitaire* [chain of buffer states] that exists where the previous threat was very close to you. And there will be other changes.

But I said that was if my assumptions were true. Now, suppose the assumptions are not true. Then I think the first problem will be the drawdowns don't have much to do with the arms control treaties, so the dependence on arms control as a part of your future strategy for the protection of peace starts to come apart. I hope that won't happen.

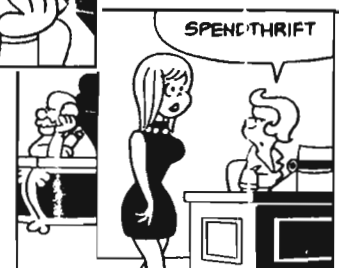
I don't mind the idea at all, in fact, I welcome the idea that we would have further treaties that would further lock in the balance of power. But I'd like to see it all signed on the dotted line. And I'd like to see good verification, and I'd like to see that we continue to recognize the requirement for security which is, after all, not a military thing. That's a political thing. The security of the nation or the security of the alliance, it's a political responsibility. We in the military are the agents of this. If something happens, then we can do a lot of advising and so forth. But those decisions are political decisions I hope we would seed and grow along the lines of my assumptions, and not some other way.



Another General Officer is in - and don't give us that stuff about buttering up the chaps who wear the stars. This time, we welcome in Brig.Gen. HARVEY R. FRASER, of 1229 Leisure World, Mesa AZ. Harvey was with us on our birthday - our real birthday - Oct. 1, 1941. He was with the 3rd Eng. And 50 years later, he's back with us - and are we proud?

Finally located - Col. GAYNOR W. HATHAWAY, Div. G-2 in Japan '46-'47. He's now at Box 8892, Honolulu. Only took 44 years for us to find him. Thanks JOHN FULLER for the good G-2 work on the G-2.

"Was not aware of the Assoc. until yesterday." We hear that about once a week. This time from a retired fireman, JOHN FREY, (H 21st 3/44-8/45) of Rt. 2, Box 154, down there in Eureka Springs AR.



# UPFRONT

The late Walter Wellesley "Red" Smith, wonderful longtime sports columnist for the New York Times, had a favorite story - also a favorite of ours. It went: There was a sportswriter in Cincinnati years ago named Bill Phelon. He was a bachelor and a lot of people considered him eccentric because he shared his apartment in Cincinnati with a five-foot alligator. And he had a pet squirrel that he carried around the National League circuit in his top-coat pocket.

Bill Phelon loved baseball, and he was kind to animals, and above all he loved Havana. As soon as the World Series was over, he would go to Havana, join up with his friend Pepe Conte, who was a sportswriter in Havana at the time, and spend as long a time there as his bankroll and the patience of his paper would allow.

And eventually the inevitable happened. Bill Phelon died. And in obedience to directions in his will, he was cremated and his ashes shipped to Pepe Conte. Pepe got a letter and a little package. And in the package was a small urn. The letter said, "Hello Pepe, this is Bill." Bill asked that Pepe rent a small plane and scatter his ashes over Morro Castle.

Pepe was deeply grieved by the loss of a friend and he took the little jug under his arm and went down to El Floridita, one of the places they had frequented, and there were a few hangers-on sitting around the joint, and Pepe put the urn up on the bar and he said to the guys, "Remember Bill Phelon?" Sure, they all remembered Bill Phelon. Pepe said, "This is to Bill Phelon. Have a drink on Bill Phelon." So they all had a drink on Bill Phelon, and Pepe tucked the jug under his arm and went on to Sloppy Joe's.

Went through the same routine. "You guys remember Bill Phelon?" "Sure." "Drink to Bill Phelon." He went on to the Plaza Bar, maybe the Angleterre, I don't know. All the spots that were favorites of Bill's and Pepe's. But somewhere on his appointed rounds, Pepe achieved a state of incandescence and he mislaid Bill Phelon.

Bill was undoubtedly swept out the next morning with the cigar butts and the empty bottles. And I tell this story to make it clear that sportswriters lead glamorous lives and come to unexpected ends.

Words we love to read: "I have always felt proud to have served in the Victory Division." So wrote BYRON MILLER (L 19th '44-'46) of 4210 Indian Hill, Livingston TX.



This division had better be it, buddy!

## PEOPLE ARE **TALKING** ABOUT

CARL HATMAKER has given us the name of a young man out of the Oklahoma City area who is with Division over there:

SSgt ABE McDONALD JR. 444-62-8777  
"B" Btry 1/5 AAA (Oper.Desert Storm)  
APO N.Y. 09315

It goes without saying that Abe has now joined our gang.

If you want someone to write to, try Abe.

Get ready, Abe - you may get flooded with cards, etc. We hope so.

Letters like this one we love. It's PAUL MCCONNELL (Div.Hq. 45-46) of 523 S. Hamilton, Monticello IL, who writes this one: "In a recent conversation I had with one of our service customers, the talk led to Army days. To make a long story short, I discovered that he had served with the Military Police from 4/44 to 12/45.

"The first name he mentioned was Gen.Cramer, and he also recalled Col. Clifford and Col. Verbeck. He wasn't aware that an association existed, so I gave him the last issue of Taro Leaf to read. He expressed a desire to join and gave me the dues to send in. He is ALFRED E. MUNDS, 303 E.Lincoln St., St.Joseph IL 61873."

Thanks so very much Paul. It's a small world, ain't it?

If you were a 19th Medic between 10/44 and 1/46, please call JIM LENDER at 412-872-7809. Jim's at Box 72A, West Newton PA.

## Colors proudly fly in desert during change of command

Story and photo by Spec. Martin Haywood

SAUDI ARABIA — The American colors were flown proudly next to the flag of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the colors of the 24th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, during a change of command ceremony held Dec. 15 in the Saudi desert.

After commanding the 1st Brigade, through three successful National Training Center rotations, Operation Bright Star in Egypt, preparing for the huge task of deploying his brigade to Saudi Arabia and through the first crucial months of Operation Desert Shield, Col. Walter E. Mather Jr. passed the 1st Brigade colors to Col. John M. LeMoyné.

"We are here today to say farewell to a first-rate soldier and welcome a first-rate infantry soldier to take his place," said Maj. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, commander, 24th Inf. Div. after the passing of the colors.

"When I came to Fort Stewart and the 24th

Infantry Division, I asked the personnel command to give me the names of the ten best combat arms officers, grade of colonel and above," McCaffrey said. "Colonel Mather's was one of those soldiers and he will go on to be a very good senior officer in the U.S. Army."

Welcoming LeMoyné as 1st Brigade commander, McCaffrey said he "is the finest infantry leader I know of to take command of this brigade. He is a highly-decorated combat veteran, a friend, a leader and he will prepare us to fight."

LeMoyné, whose assignments include airborne, ranger battalion and mechanized billets before joining the 24th as chief of staff, served his country in Vietnam.

During his farewell speech, Mather said: "The colors on this field represent more than 5,000 soldiers from seven battalions of what is the largest brigade task force assembled in our Army today."

See MATHER, page 5



Colonel Walter E. Mather and Col. John M. LeMoyné "trooping the line" with the commander of troops during 1st Brigade's change of command.

## Mather

continued from page 1

"As I depart, I think of the many highlights of the past 27 months, it has been two memorable, challenging years."

Mather said he wished his wife, Linda, could have been here to be recognized for her part of the 1st Brigade command team and for her many contributions to Fort Stewart and Liberty County.

"My final thought is a selfish one," Mather continued. "Today, I must take off the crossed rifles of the infantry after 23 years of proudly stating that I am an infantryman, and that isn't going

to be an easy thing to do."

Mather, who is to be promoted to brigadier general, will become the XVIII Airborne Corps Chief of Staff.

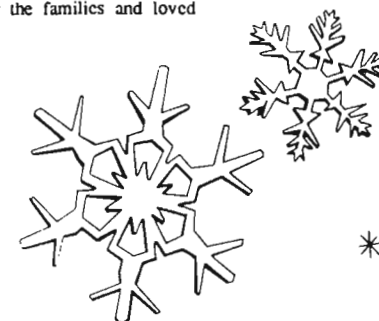
Addressing 1st Brigade's soldiers for the first time, LeMoyné told them: "This is a time of immense professional pride to stand here in front of so many excellent soldiers."

LeMoyné promised the soldiers "professional standards and absolute integrity in our words and deeds."

"For the families and loved

ones at home, I promise you that your loved ones will always be treated with care and the respect they fully deserve."

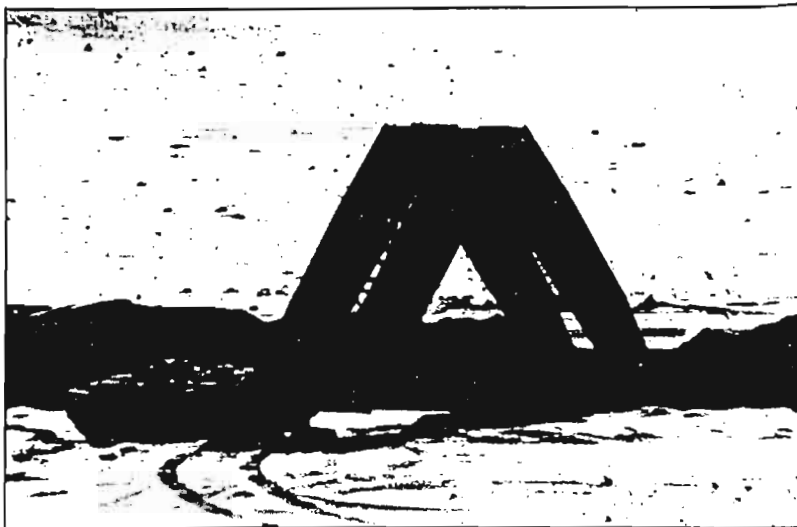
The change-of-command ceremony was attended by officers and guests throughout the XVIII Airborne Corps, along with local Saudi military and government officials.



# We're behind you all the way.







A 3rd Engineer Bn. vehicle lays its portable bridge across an anti-tank ditch.

## Engineers conduct battle drills

Photo and story by Spec. John C. Peavy

SAUDI ARABIA — Soldiers of the 3rd Engineer Battalion (Combat), 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) conducted obstacle-breaching battle drills in northeastern Saudi Arabia recently. The drills were designed to increase offensive capabilities and maintain unit readiness, according to a unit spokesman.

"There are extensive obstacles in place throughout Kuwait right now, especially along the border with Saudi Arabia," said Capt. Steve Morris, Head-

quarters and Headquarters Company. "Should we have to go on the offensive, we will initially require combat engineers to break through that obstacle belt."

"What we attempted during this exercise was to learn to do this quickly and efficiently, using as many mechanized means as possible. Basically, to move fast and maintain momentum; to blow our way through everything as quickly as we can."

"The obstacles that were set up gave the soldiers an idea of what they may be facing if they actually

have to go into combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Smith, an observer/controller for the exercise. "By getting the opportunity to practice breaching them now, it gives them the training and skills necessary to go forward and do it properly if that becomes necessary."

"The first objective of this training was to increase our emphasis on obstacle breaching as part of offensive operations," said Morris. "The second was to refamiliarize our soldiers with different equipment systems that we as engineers employ to breach obstacles, namely, the Mine Clearing Line Charge, the bangalore torpedo, and the 165mm demolition gun (part of the Combat Engineer Vehicle (CEV) weapon system)."

The engineers, who conducted platoon-level battle-run exercises, leveled eight-meter high sand berms, crossed anti-tank ditches and blew lanes through multiple rows of concertina wire.

"What we did was construct a series of obstacles along a task force axis of attack based on an objective," said Morris. The first row of obstacles contained two rows of sand berms approximately eight meters high followed by a tank ditch without a berm. The next obstacle was concertina wire six to 11 rows deep, and the third obstacle consisted of a tank ditch with berm, followed immediately by a minefield."

At each obstacle the engineers used different means to breach them, such as bulldozing berms with the CEV or removing concertina wire with explosive bangalore torpedoes.

While planners stressed safety during the training, they also strived to make the course as realistic as possible, preparing it so that quick thinking and coordination by soldiers made the difference between success and failure.

"We made this as difficult as possible for the soldiers," said Morris. "We try to do all of our training as if we are getting no support whatsoever. The run at night, for instance is very difficult. We picked a time for the night drills when the soldiers would be out during zero visibility and couldn't see more than fifty feet without night vision goggles. It makes coordination harder, the recognition signals are different from day operations and navigation is more difficult at night. But, by making it as hard as possible in peacetime and training to a little higher standard, we feel we are doing better training."

## 24th Infantry Division Band entertains soldiers in desert

Story and photo by Sgt. D.R. Doss

SAUDI ARABIA — A Christmas concert featuring the 24th Infantry Division Band was held recently at the division's desert headquarters.

The concert lasted more than an hour, as the band performed a variety of Christmas, traditional military, jazz and rock-and-roll music.

Since early December, the band has traveled throughout the eastern province of Saudi Arabia performing two shows daily for soldiers of the 24th, as well as other Army units.

According to the band director, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert W. Shoaf, their schedule has been somewhat fast paced over the past few weeks, but it hasn't affected their performance.

"That was a superb performance," said 24th Commander, Maj. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, talking to band members after the concert. Mentioning their previous concerts, McCaffrey went on to say: "I've had tremendous feedback from the entire division."

Since their deployment for Operation Desert Shield, the band had been performing their secondary mission as security force at the Division Main.

Having successfully completed the security mission, the band was anxious to begin playing once again, said Shoaf.

After watching the band's performance, 24th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Randolph, said: "This band by far surpasses any band I've seen in the Army, to include the Army Band. To compare the two, the 24th Band shines way above them."



Trombone players with the 24th Inf. Div. Band play a Christmas medley during the concert at the division's desert headquarters.

★★★★★★★★  
**SUPPORT  
 DESERT  
 STORM!**

★★★★★★★★



FLASH! These have been hectic, but thrilling, days. Two issues were devoted to Desert Shield, all whilst Desert Storm has "come and went". As to timeliness, we look foolish. Regretfully, we don't publish with the rapidity of a daily newspaper, or even a weekly. An issue with us represents weeks in point of time. We've inserted this 8 page report in a pale effort to keep us in the running, even though we are admittedly way behind in the pack.

# THE 100-HOUR WAR

Outgunned, outfought, outfoxed.

In Operation Desert Storm, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's army was beaten in every way imaginable. On the tactical, operational and strategic levels, the Iraqi dictator and his commanders fought the last war while the forces of the U.S.-led coalition arrayed against them waged a battle out of the 21st century.

How was such a stunning victory won?

After a month of fearsome pounding by allied air forces, the Iraqi army in Kuwait and southern Iraq was bloodied. More importantly, much of it was demoralized. And crucially for the land war that was to come, it was blind.

Whether the Iraqi air force was blasted in its bunkers or shot from the skies, and forced to hide in Iran or huddle among the suburbs of Baghdad, its army comrades were left with a picture of the allied forces preparing to smash into Kuwait.

It was a picture that did not age well.

Ten days before the beginning of the ground war on Feb. 24, Desert Storm commander Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf shifted and stretched his forces west, preparing a knockout blow for the Iraqi Republican Guard that they never knew was coming. Increased skirmishing along the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti border kept Iraqi commanders in the dark.

By mid-February, the allied armies were bunched in a deep corridor in northwestern Saudi Arabia, beginning 25 to 30 miles south of Kuwait's southernmost border and ranging inland from the Persian Gulf. On the extreme left flank, near the intersection of the Kuwaiti, Saudi and Iraqi borders, were Egyptian and Syrian heavy forces and the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. In the center were the U.S. Marine Corps' 1st and 2d Divisions, with Saudi, Qatari, Bahraini and other gulf forces along the coast.

Behind them was the bulk of the allied fighting power, in the form of the U.S. XVIII Airborne Corps and the U.S. VII Corps, with the British 1st Armoured Division.

As the great shift of the forces neared, engineers moved out

the Tapline Road along the Saudi border to prepare logistics bases to accommodate the huge armored forces. In the two weeks before the land campaign began, great caravans of tanks, trucks and trucks spread hundreds of miles to the west, completely flanking the Iraqi positions.

At the extreme left flank was the French 6th Light Armored Division, under the control of XVIII Airborne Corps, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. Attached to the French division was the 2d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division, also from Fort Bragg. Inside them was the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky. And at the corps' eastern boundary were the mechanized infantry of the 24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., with the 197th Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga., bringing the 24th Mech to full three-brigade strength. Screening for the corps' heavy forces was the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas.

In the center of the new allied positions was VII Corps, Schwarzkopf's Sunday punch. The corps, headquartered at Stuttgart, Germany, had sailed from Europe starting in November 1990 to give allied forces the offensive option demanded by President Bush. Two Germany-based U.S. divisions, the 1st Armored Division, Ansbach, and the 3d Armored Division, Frankfurt, were supplemented by the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Riley, Kan., and two brigades of the British 1st Armoured Division. Scouting for this massive armored armada would be the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Nuernberg, Germany. All told, the corps numbered nearly 100,000 soldiers and 1,500 of the world's most modern main battle tanks.

Saddam had no idea where these two corps were.

"They bought it," one intelligence officer said. "They were at the wrong place, wrong time."

To the east of VII Corps were the two brigades of the 1st Cav. They were aligned with Wadi al Batin, the broad valley that forms the eastern border of Kuwait. The Marines, too, were spread west slightly in the days before the ground attack. The 1st Marine Division moved west of the "elbow" of the southern Kuwaiti border, the 2d Division

swung around the 1st and took up positions north of them.

As the divisions moved west, 7,500 Marines from the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade came ashore at Saudi ports between Feb. 24 and 26. They formed a reserve that continued artillery raids along the southernmost border throughout the ground war to keep up the deception of a possible attack on that border. They reinforced the gulf forces on the coast.

On Feb. 23, hours after Saddam rejected Bush's final demand to comply with all U.N. resolutions imposed since his Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait, the fury of Desert Storm headed for its climax, as chronicled in the following accounts compiled from pool reports.

## DAY 1 Sunday, Feb. 24

To convince the Iraqis that the main thrusts of the attack were coming where they expected them to, the first attacks came in the east, with the gulf forces punching up the coast and the Marines spearing toward Kuwait City.

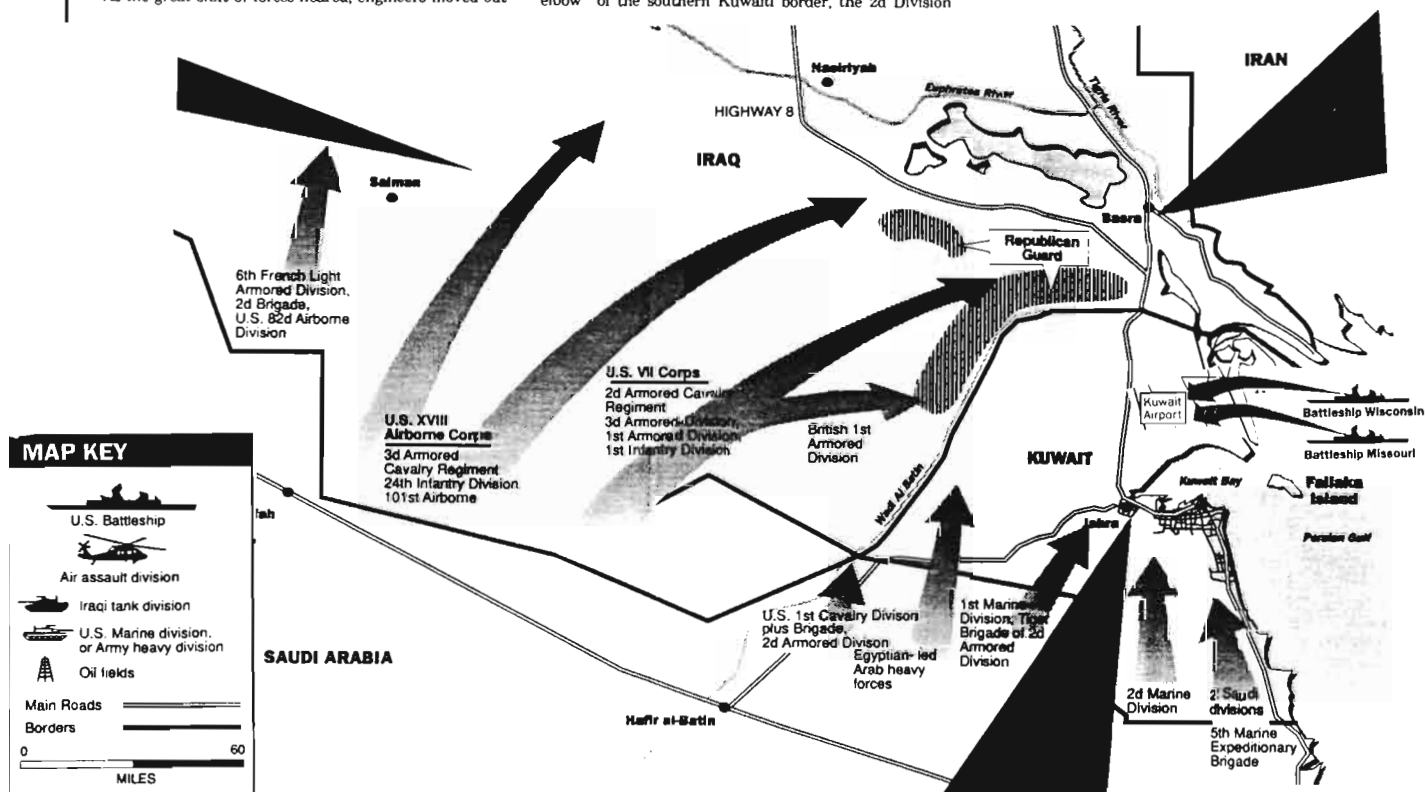
At 4 a.m., the 1st Marine Division advanced and encountered the first breach, a field of antitank, antipersonnel and chemical mines with two lines of single-strand barbed wire on either side.

Leading the division was Task Force Taro, the 3d Marine Regiment, and Task Force Grizzly, 4th Marines.

Other task forces in the division were Ripper, the 7th Marines; Troy, a compilation of units; Papa Bear, 1st Marines; and Shepherd, 1st Light Armored Infantry.

After crossing the row of mines and one row of concertina wire, M60A3 tanks and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, called Humvees, fitted with TOWs were engaged by T-55 and T-62 tanks dug in up to their turrets. The Iraqi tankers only fought for a few minutes before being hit with artillery and air fire and surrendering.

Task Force Taro destroyed two tanks and the division



**"He who is the author of a war lets loose the whole contagion of hell and opens a vein that bleeds a nation to death."**

**Thomas Paine**

took 3,000 Iraqi prisoners in the battle.

The 2d Marine Division kicked off its advance about 5:30 a.m. and a little later to its west, Egyptians and Syrians started. Attached to the 2d Division was the Army's Tiger Brigade, the 1st Brigade of the 2d Armored Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. The Army tankers had been with the Marines since Jan. 10, their M1A1 Abrams tanks adding superior firepower to the Marine task force. As the Marines moved forward, the Tiger Brigade was on its west flank.

The division advanced in six columns of tanks. The advance was slowed several times as vehicles bogged down in sand, but they worked their way 20 miles into Kuwait on Day 1.

By 11:30 a.m., the two divisions had crossed both breaches and stopped to regroup.

While the Marines drove toward Kuwait City, the 1st Cav headed up Wadi al Batin. The division repeatedly skirmished with Iraqi troops, including the weak reinforcements the Iraqis had moved to the front. The feat was the division's deepest yet into what was believed to be one of the heaviest concentrations of forces. Several companies of M1A1 tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles plunged about 20 kilometers into Iraq, but encountered only sporadic machine gun and distant artillery fire.

Some Iraqi troops ran up and ignited trenches filled with oil to create obstacles and smoke screens. Scores of others surrendered. A mine damaged one tank, but there were no casualties. A Bradley fired a round at what was believed to be an Iraqi truck, but turned out to be a paper bag blowing across the desert.

Some thought was given to continuing the push up the Wadi al Batin, but military commanders decided to send the 1st Cav west into central Iraq through a breach in the border already opened by the 1st Infantry Division, so the cavalry could head off a Republican Guard armored division.

As the various elements of the 1st Cav came together for the push north, at one point the entire 2d Brigade was speeding in concert across the flat desert plain, a vast arena filled with thousands of tanks, trucks, mobile missile launchers and other rolling weaponry pushing forward in tandem. It was a spectacle that stretched to all horizons, a thundering, roaring herd of grinding, smoke-spewing, gas-guzzling machinery that churned up clouds of dust even on a desert soaked and matted with two days of seasonal rain.

#### Just Cause to Desert Storm

As the eastern task forces drove north, XVIII Airborne Corps launched a simultaneous multidivision attack into southern Iraq. The corps, trained to move as rapidly as possible, leaptfrogged its units toward the Euphrates River, to seal off the Iraqis from reinforcements, and to corral them in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

While the ground forces moved, allied air forces ensured that the bridges across the Iraqi rivers stayed down. U.S. Navy battleships stood offshore in the gulf. The anvil was being tempered. The hammer was beginning to fall.

XVIII Airborne Corps was led into Iraq by the French 6th Light Armored Division, attached to the corps. Under cloudy skies and a light rain, the French crossed their line of departure near the Saudi town of Rafah and raced north toward "Objective Rochambeau," a small communications center defended by dug-in tanks and anti-aircraft guns several kilometers away.

Attached to the French unit was the 2d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division. The unit's first-day mission was to drive in the direction of the Iraqi airfield at As-Salman in the Euphrates River valley. It was to establish a supply base there, then provide a flank guard to the massive armored forces to the east.

The lead French units were followed quickly by the U.S. paratroopers, but other movements into Iraqi territory were delayed slightly by the weather. As daybreak lit the sky, the attack was in full swing, with helicopters from the 101st Airborne Division screening the northward-moving troops. Shortly after dawn, the 82d Airborne's divisional artillery opened up with 105mm howitzers and the corps artillery fired more than 100 rounds from its Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, or MLRSs, deep into Iraq.



**Surrender:** 101st Airborne Division soldiers lead Iraqi prisoners of war to a bus after processing Feb. 22. The prisoners were captured after division AH-64 Apache helicopters attacked their bunkers. Tens of thousands of other Iraqi soldiers surrendered during the ground war without a fight.

XVIII Airborne Corps, unique in its ability for rapid deployment, spearheaded the U.S. buildup in the Persian Gulf region and conducted Operation Just Cause in Panama on Dec. 20, 1989. The corps' effort was being directed and monitored from tiny tactical headquarters made up of tents and tracked vehicles huddled in a depression on the desert floor. The operations center and the quarters of corps commander Lt. Gen. Gary Luck were separated from the rest of the compound by three spirals of barbed wire.

First-day engagements in the corps' sector varied widely and involved infantry, armor, air and artillery. Four hours into the operation, Luck reported, "At this point, things are going extremely well. We kicked it off in this sector."

#### Ground-pounding paratroopers

Keeping to the ground in a technique uncommon to paratroopers, the 82d Airborne's 2d Brigade pushed miles into Iraq, securing a two-lane highway in southern Iraq so thousands of coalition forces could follow. The brigade was among the first ground forces in the gulf region, landing in Saudi Arabia less than a week after the Aug. 2 invasion.

As the attack began, 2d Brigade troops whooped and yelled. They were clearly happy to be doing something about getting home.

"Saddam raped and pillaged Kuwait; now, it's payback time," said Sgt. Dan Supranovich, a medic. "We gave the eviction order. Now the sheriffs are here to kick them out."

Once the foothold was secure, thousands of vehicles stretching to the horizon streamed north as part of the drive on the western flank to liberate Kuwait.

The brigade actually crossed the border Feb. 23, establishing a foothold in southern Iraq. The unit had been camped for a month in the desert near a Saudi frontier village 300 miles west of Kuwait.

At the beginning of Day 1, the 2d Brigade was expecting to do battle with some 2,500 Iraqi soldiers. By the end of the day, at least 2,000 had surrendered, almost every one without firing a round.

"It's the most incredible thing I've ever seen," said brigade commander Col. Ron Rokosz. "Every soldier I saw surrendered. We could have gone a lot farther except we had so many POWs."

Despite the massive surrenders, clearing the Iraqi positions remained hard work. The division's combat engi-

neers scooted from bunker to bunker, collecting items the Army finds valuable such as documents, AK47 rifles and small-arms ammunition and blowing up the rest. Soviet-made antitank weapons are considered too finicky and unsafe for U.S. soldiers to use, so the engineers regularly blow them up.

#### Making helicopter history

Perhaps the most ambitious of the corps' actions on Day 1 was the air assault by the 101st Airborne Division. More than 2,000 air assault troops plunged more than 50 miles behind Iraqi lines in the largest helicopter-borne operation in military history.

The division struck scattered opposition as it hit Objective Gold, then established a forward operating base 20 miles in diameter — essentially a fortified fueling station to refuel attack and transport helicopters operating in the Euphrates River valley. "This is a way station for future operations," said Col. Tom Hill, commander of the division's 1st Brigade, which carried out the assault. "That's why we're here."

Rain delayed the operation about two hours. But by midafternoon, the Screaming Eagles not only had made up the delay, but were ahead of schedule, an operations officer said.

One UH-60A Black Hawk assault helicopter was hit in the 101st's attack. The chopper was forced to set down in the desert for emergency repairs, but the crew was able to get the chopper back into the air and fly it home. It did succeed in knocking out the air defense installation that shot it.

The installation established by the 101st, called Forward Base Cobra, was to serve helicopters used in assaults to sever the main highway between Basra and Baghdad, both in Iraq. A 700-truck convoy miles long and a constant stream of helicopters ferried infantrymen, equipment, fuel and weapons to the sandy outpost, including two full batteries of 105mm howitzers and eight dirt-bike motorcycles for the division's scouts.

#### A big surprise

By midday, a makeshift command post sprouted radio antennas, medevac helicopters were parked in rows and soldiers were digging in the rock-strewn sand to fill sandbags.



## OPERATION DESERT STORM

AH-1 Cobra and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters were fueling up for missions deeper into Iraq by midafternoon as the giant round black rubber bladders that make up a Forward Arming and Refueling Point, or FARP, were lowered into place from huge CH-47 Chinook helicopters that brought 100,000 gallons of aviation fuel.

The operation was massive. Long files of helicopters, some dangling vehicles, crates of ammunition and howitzers, would suddenly appear on the horizon, then veer off to drop their load to one of the four infantry battalions manning the circular defense perimeters.

"What we hope is we got him by surprise. He doesn't know we are coming in," Maj. Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, said earlier. Peay was to be right.

As the swarm of helicopters swept north, a single Iraqi soldier emerging from a hut in the distance stared slack-jawed.

Around him, the 3d Battalion's mortar platoon was digging in to protect the northeast perimeter of the base.

Col. Robert Seigle, commander of the 18th Aviation Brigade, corps asset of the 82d Airborne, said one of the Army's proudest accomplishments was moving the airborne divisions of the XVIII Airborne Corps into position without Baghdad knowing exactly where they were or the extent of the corps' commitment of soldiers and materiel.

The shallowness of Iraqi defenses facing the corps seemed to confirm Seigle's contention.

By the end of the day, the Screaming Eagles had two of their three brigades established in Iraq, with one pushing forward to Objective Eagle north and west of the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah on the Euphrates.

### Heavy-metal thunder

The success of the French and U.S. airborne troopers secured the way for corps commander Luck's most powerful forces, which had a long way to travel. In the afternoon, the M1A1 Abrams tanks and M2/3 Bradley fighting vehicles of the 24th Infantry Division and the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment joined the fray, rumbling northward across the departure line.

The 24th began its move north in a driving sandstorm, with high winds from the south that reduced visibility to a few hundred meters. Despite the miserable weather, 24th members used bulldozers to breach the double sand berms that separated Saudi Arabia from Iraq within a few hours of the start of the ground war.

Maj. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the 24th's commander, sent the following message to his troops on the eve of their move into Iraq:

"Soldiers of the Victory Division — we now begin a great battle to destroy an aggressor army and free 2 million Kuwaiti people. We will fight under the American flag and with the authority of the United Nations. By force of arms we will make the Iraqi war machine surrender the country they hold prisoner."

### Fear of chemicals

Although chemical weapons never were used against allied troops during Desert Storm, Army commanders assumed the worst. During the initial phases of the ground offensive, soldiers from the 24th went into battle wearing their heavy, charcoal-lined chemical-protection jackets and pants, keeping their gas masks, rubber gloves and rubber boots within easy reach.

McCaffrey insisted his soldiers wear the cumbersome suits since they moved from training positions in northeastern Saudi Arabia to their attack positions just south of the Iraqi border on Jan. 23.

The division was spread out along a broad front west of the town of Hafar al Batin, Saudi Arabia, and used screening patrols along the border to mask its movements from Iraqi forces.

Divisional reconnaissance units began to scout across the border about a week before the ground campaign was launched to assess the strength of Iraqi troops deployed against them.

What they found surprised them.

"Not only is there nothing there, there is absolutely nothing there," said 1st Lt. Tom Mathers, an AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot, after flying a deep reconnaissance mission into Iraq.

On Feb. 23, the day before the attack, portions of a battalion of the 197th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), Fort Benning, Ga., attached to the 24th, pushed nearly 20 miles into Iraq. Elements of that reconnaissance patrol, led by Lt. Col. Bill Chamberlain, remained in Iraq at the end of the mission and pushed north on Feb. 24, ahead of the advancing brigade.

By the end of the day, the bulk of XVII Airborne Corps was well into Iraq.

### Massive force advances

Massive as the movement of XVIII Airborne Corps was, it was dwarfed by the maneuvers of the task force under Lt. Gen. Frederick Franks, commander of VII Corps. Franks led the most powerful armored corps in the history of warfare in what would be a decisive and crushing defeat of the vaunted Republican Guard.

As Luck's troops began their attacks to the west early Feb. 24, seemingly endless convoys of armored and supply vehicles began rumbling through the breaches into the berms, wire and tank ditches of the "Saddam Line" on the Iraqi border. The core of the tank armada was the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Nuernberg, Germany; the 1st Armored Division, Ansbach, Germany; and the 3d Armored Division, Frankfurt, Germany. Those units, among the best-equipped and best-trained heavy forces in the Army, were supplemented by the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Riley, Kansas; and the British 1st Armoured Division, including the famous "Desert Rats" of the 7th Armoured Brigade.

### Into the breach

As they penetrated into Iraq on their end-run maneuver, the stream of vehicles filed out in parallel columns. The harrowing job of breaching the Iraqi fortifications fell to the 7th Engineer Brigade.

Backed by attack helicopters and tank-killing aircraft, the division crossed the Iraqi border about 60 miles west of where the Saudi-Kuwaiti border begins. The invasion began as tanks fitted with scoops plowed over minefields and trenches filled with chemical explosives.

The plan was to overwhelm the Iraqi defenses so quickly that soldiers would surrender immediately or be buried alive as tanks and armored bulldozers plowed over their trenches and bunkers.

"What we want to do is go through quick and fast and kill as much as we can," said Col. Samuel Raines, commander of the 7th Engineer Brigade. "But the faster we can go through, the better the speed and the shock, the more Iraqi lives we're going to save, as well as the lives of our own soldiers."

For the brigade, the immediate objective was to breach and destroy defenses held by an Iraqi brigade of some 3,000 infantrymen backed by another 1,500 troops in 45 Soviet T-55 tanks and 50 armored personnel carriers. The brigade had to destroy an Iraqi minefield more than 1 mile deep and then breach trenches likely to be filled with barrels of napalm wired with explosives.

Combat engineers using armored combat earthmovers, or ACEs, cut 12 100-yard lanes into the barricade, in gaps wide enough to allow M1s and Bradleys to enter three and four at a time for the invasion. Altogether, VII Corps cut 24 lanes in the breaching operation.

The operation was done at night and under Iraqi artillery barrages, an engineers' nightmare. But the Iraqi artillery was answered rapidly and silenced by MLRS counter-battery salvos. After opening the first gaps in the lines, a small square of tanks and Bradleys went some 3 miles into Iraq to set up defensive positions to defend the engineers against ground attacks.

### 'I was soaked in sweat'

For young men seeing combat for the first time, it was a frightening experience.

Sgt. Douglas Plaisted kept looking down at the wedding band on his finger as he plowed away at the berm.

"I looked at this gold band every chance I got — it just kept me going," he said. "I thought about the letters I didn't write, things maybe I shouldn't have said. I was scared to death during the entire operation."

"I'd take the bulldozer up the berm and I had no idea if I was going to get blown away or not. Each time I got up on the crest, I reversed as fast as I could. I was soaked in

sweat after about two minutes.

"I got the whole thing done in about two hours, but it seemed like a lifetime. That next morning I said to myself, I have to make peace with somebody, with myself, with everybody I ever did anything wrong to."

Capt Scott Bickell worried most about getting hit by friendly fire.

"We had tanks up in front of us in Iraq and tanks behind us — we were right in the middle," Bickell said. "There was some real strange stuff going on. We had Iraqis moving all over the place in recon missions or something. They hide in barrels — there's barrels scattered all over the desert that they've been hiding in and shooting at us from."

"At one point, I heard this Bradley crew talking about four strange vehicles on the berm and I got on the radio to them and said that we're over here," Bickell said. "There's so much confusion out there. Fratricide worries me a lot — people are just shooting in the dark."

### The hunt is on

After the engineers breached the Iraqi line, VII Corps roared through.

First came two brigades of the 1st Infantry Division, the infantrymen securing a foothold to pass the armored divisions through on their hunt for the Republican Guard. They began crossing into Iraq at 5:38 a.m. Feb. 24, just hours after the engineers began their breach. The advance units met almost no resistance while moving up to a line a dozen kilometers inside Iraq.

As the lead companies of armored vehicles poured into Iraq, passing bomb craters, dead camels and hundreds of propaganda leaflets urging Iraqis to surrender, division officers were deciding whether to make the risky assault on the main Iraqi lines Feb. 24, rather than Feb. 25 as planned.

Col. Lon Maggart, commanding officer of the 1st Brigade, said the division had the option to breach the Iraqi lines on G-day rather than G-plus-one if resistance was exceptionally light.

By noon, the Big Red One had taken hundreds of prisoners and its soldiers were enjoying the euphoria of easy victory. "This is the boringest war I've ever seen," Sgt. Addison Wembley said. "They just keep dropping their gear and raising their hands. I've seen hundreds of them."

The advantage would be to speed the passage through the gap of other U.S. and British armored and cavalry units; the potential disadvantage would be an attack made without full benefit of reconnaissance and pre-assault bombardments.

But with light resistance, there was no delay; the decision was: Go. By late morning, the word reached division artillery trains to rush forward and begin a 30-minute bombardment of Iraqi lines to prepare them for the armored onslaught.

From 2:30 p.m., the sky was streaked with trails from hundreds of MLRS rockets, while the deep drum rolls of 155mm howitzer rounds pounding Iraqi bunkers continued almost unbroken. During nearly five hours, the division's 42d Field Artillery Brigade based in Giessen, Germany, fired 2,500 rounds and 215 rockets.

Even before the artillery barrage finished, tanks from the 1st and 2d brigades began rolling toward the Iraqi lines. The lead tanks carried protruding teeth on their fronts for plowing up mines. Engineering vehicles followed to clear the mines out of attack lanes and gather them in piles.

As the tanks rolled by heading for battle, the tankers gave thumbs up signs and the artillery troops waved and cheered. "The tankers don't like us so much in peacetime, but they love us now because we're the folks that can reach out and touch someone," 1st Sgt. Lee Kane said.

The assault coordinated the movement of the armor with the artillery barrage so Iraqi troops would crawl from their bunkers after the last shell exploded to see heavy tanks bearing down on them. From a rise a few kilometers from the Iraqi lines, the tanks could be seen approaching the bermed position, which still was obscured by the smoke from artillery shells.

Over the radio, Maj. Gen. Thomas Rhame and other division senior officers could be heard struggling to keep the massive attack under control.

# WAR IS HELL

# OPERATION



# DESERT STORM

"We're attacking now, moving to the breach," one brigade commander said. "Let's get the guns [artillery] under control before we move," Rhame answered.

## 'Good news'

The lead tanks soon discovered that expected minefields did not exist. "Breaching, plows down, trenches appear to be empty," a tank commander said over the radio. "That is good news," Rhame said.

A column from the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment drew a few Iraqi artillery rounds, and an air strike was called. The enemy artillery ceased and the pilot radioed that trucks were seen leaving the scene, heading north.

Otherwise, resistance from the Iraqi lines was light. The adrenaline pumping through their veins discernible in their voices, tank commanders raced up their attack lanes and into the Iraqi lines. "Slow yourself down, you're going to cause a road jam," Maggart told one tank.

By shortly after 5 p.m., the enemy lines had been penetrated and the tanks were in the Iraqi rear. There were no U.S. casualties and few Iraqis killed or wounded. It appeared that part of the Iraqi force surrendered and the rest faded north along a series of trails. They were simply bypassed.

## 'It's awesome'

VII Corps now was racing toward the Euphrates River valley, rumbling into the cradle of civilization. Leading the tank army was the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, followed by the 1st and 3d Armored Divisions. The British 1st Armoured Division moved north on a flank of the U.S. forces.

"When you see a moving armored division, it's awesome. It takes 30 minutes for it to go by. There are moving vehicles as far as you can see in both directions," said Lt. Col. James Gleisberg, spokesman for VII Corps.

Convoys behind the main division brought all the logistical materiel — communications trucks, ammunition, fuel, food, water, medical supplies, mobile bridges, ambulances, buses for Iraqi POWs and a few civilian fire trucks, their lime-green paint draped with camouflage netting. Viewed from a helicopter 100 feet above the ground, the convoy stretched beyond sight in both directions.

Two hours after the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment crossed the Saudi border, soldiers were digging in and preparing for the dangerous mission of tracking the enemy.

Regimental scouts in Bradleys felt out ahead of the corps, searching for the Iraqis, staying out of enemy firing range and guiding heavy armor in for the kill. The regiment moved so deeply into Iraq that it was forced to halt to give the heavy armored units time to catch up.

Behind them, the 3d Armored Division moved nearly 50 miles into southern Iraq the first day and suffered no combat losses. A division cavalry unit, the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, based in Buedingen, Germany, took 70 Iraqi prisoners of war, according to operations officers. Every resistance encountered by the division during the first 24 hours of the ground assault against Iraqi forces surrendered, officers said.

For VII Corps, the question was when and where it would encounter the Republican Guard.

## The trap is sprung

By the end of the day, allied forces had taken about 15,000 prisoners of war. Hundreds of tanks and artillery pieces were knocked out of action.

The gulf forces and Marines were through the Iraqi front lines, closing on Kuwait City. The Saudi and Egyptian heavy forces were through their obstacles. The 1st Cav was 15 miles up Wadi al Batin. The Iraqis had taken the bait completely.

Their commanders must have felt some relief. After weeks of unanswered bombing, they thought they were going to fight the battle they had planned for. They had begun to shift one Republican Guard armored division south to meet the attack by the 1st Cav.

As the Iraqi armored battalions began to move, a U.S. Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, picked them up.

The 1st Cav was about to turn around and back out of the wadi, and swing in behind VII Corps.



Going in: Members of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) run from a UH-60A Black Hawk as another touches down inside Iraqi territory Feb. 24.

The Iraqis still had no idea of the tremendous forces rampaging northward into Iraq toward the Euphrates.

## DAY 2 Monday, Feb. 25

As Day 2 of the land campaign broke, the door on Saddam's army was slamming shut.

Along the coast, Saudi and Kuwaiti troops plowed their way into the city of Al Zour, Kuwait, stretching 15 miles north of the Saudi border. The gas station was blown to bits. Hidden mines still were a deadly menace and the six-lane highway was torn into chunks.

But for the Saudis and Kuwaitis, the destruction was less important than the fact that they were there and the town was in allied hands.

The retaking of Kuwait was not that difficult, said Saudi Col. Belal al Jihani, who was among the first to enter Kuwait early on Day 1. His troops met no resistance from the Iraqi troops who had occupied the area since August, he said.

The Kuwaitis, whose 5,000-strong army is one of the smallest in the coalition, were integrated with the Saudi forces.

As al Jihani spoke, Saudi artillery pounded Iraqi positions north and west of the main highway in what al Jihani called a "protective" mode. The Iraqis were responding with some of their own artillery and U.S. Marines, who accompanied the Arabs into Kuwait, still were on the scene, calling in F/A-18 Hornet fighters for air strikes on Iraqi positions.

"We didn't see any bad guys," Marine Maj. Robert Schoenwetter said about what the first allied troops into Kuwait encountered. "I thought we'd see a lot more. We keep waiting for the other shoe to fall."

To the Marines' surprise, Day 2 brought thousands of Iraqi surrenders, which sometimes slowed the advance. Some Iraqis were pointed to the rear and told to walk because there were not enough trucks to carry them all.

Both Marine divisions faced isolated battles, resulting mostly in surrenders of Iraqi troops, but some were fierce.

As the 1st Division neared its first goal, Jaber airfield in central Kuwait, it fought one of the biggest tank battles of the war for the corps.

## 'Hell on Wheels'

Day 2 was a smashing victory for the tankers of the Tiger Brigade, the 1st Brigade of the 2d Armored Division, nicknamed "Hell on Wheels."

Six months earlier, the Fort Hood, Texas-based brigade was on the budget chopping block, and still is slated to be deactivated as the Army draws down at the end of the

Cold War. Many 2d Armored Division soldiers looked forward to deploying to the Persian Gulf in hopes of saving their unit.

As the Marine attack on Kuwait City slowed, the Army brigade was passed forward to assume the spearhead of the attack. Deploying into a wedge formation stretching 2 miles wide and 1 mile deep, the brigade blasted its way toward an Iraqi armored division defending the Kuwait City airport. In short order, 20 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and eight were intimidated into surrender, and 2,200 prisoners were captured.

The engagement began at 7 a.m., when a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle popped the turret of a Soviet-made Iraqi T-55 tank with a TOW missile. The tank had been dug in, turret-deep, in a fortified fighting position.

As it advanced, the Tiger Brigade picked off other dug-in T-55s and T-62s until about 7:30 p.m., when an M1A1 made the final kill with its 120mm main gun. In other engagements, the Abrams tanks struck such fear into the Iraqis that eight tanks surrendered rather than fight. Several times, the surrender of Iraqi tanks came after the Tigers killed one of several in a formation. Iraqi crews leaped out of their tanks and walked with hands held high toward the advancing American armor.

Brigade commander Col. John Sylvester twice accepted the surrender of Iraqi majors, brigade commanders who surrendered their entire units. "They've got no fight left in them. They have lost the will and spirit and we don't want to kill them unless we have to," Sylvester said.

One Iraqi officer told Sylvester, "[This fight] is not our cause. We only want peace."

For Sylvester's men, working with the Marines took some getting used to. Marines, by their training and mission, are not used to moving hundreds of kilometers per day. In their operations together, the Tiger Brigade moved and attacked as necessary, while Marines, accustomed to storming beaches and fortifications, then moved to attack bunkers regularly. With their long-range guns and the sophisticated targeting systems on the M1, the Tigers stood off several thousand meters when engaging Iraqi positions.

## Feigning with success

Though pulling out after feigning a major attack, the advance of the 1st Cavalry Division was meeting with success.

Scouting up Wadi al Batin on the border between Iraq and Kuwait, Capt. Dave Francavilla, commander of C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, part of the division's 2d Brigade, looked down the deepening hole his armored unit was helping punch into Iraq and saw empty bunkers and abandoned positions.



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Lead armor units of the brigade rolled north behind a line of heavy U.S. artillery fire. They encountered only sporadic return artillery fire and scores of Iraqi prisoners.

"I don't know if they deserted or if they're destroyed or what, but we're being very careful," Francavilla said of the empty bunkers and abandoned positions.

The 1st Cavalry initially had several routes of advance to consider, but the apparent lack of Iraqi resistance prompted military commanders to attack north into Kuwait.

One danger of such a fast plunge into opposing positions was the chance that ground units would get ahead of air and artillery cover, causing friendly fire casualties. The company radio network was filled with warnings about the artillery fire thundering behind them. "Our biggest concern is friendly fire," Francavilla said.

Black billows of smoke drifted into overcast skies from burning trenches filled with oil, the much-publicized Iraqi defense against an allied armored invasion. Francavilla said Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft had fired tracer rounds into the oil the night before so it would catch fire and burn out.

"This is more like an exercise than a war," Francavilla said.

Still, he worried about blundering into an Iraqi kill sack: "[The Iraqis] liked to sucker the Iraqis [during the Iran-Iraq War] by lying back," he said. "But we keep passing trench line after trench line."

### Line-crossers

Advancing north on a number of routes, the 1st Cavalry was penetrating the Iraqi lines all along the front. The division's 3d Battalion, 2d Armored Regiment, saw the total number of Iraqis it had captured rise to 102.

Among the early line-crossers were two captains and two lieutenants, including a member of the Republican Guard.

"This is more than I expected," battalion commander Lt. Col. Steven Main said of the influx of Iraqis. Main's battalion was conducting screening operations along the sand berm that marks the border.

If the war continued this way, said Capt. Robert Blewins, the battalion intelligence officer, he would have no regrets. "If we don't have to fire a single shot in anger, that's fine with me," he said. "We will have done our job."

### Success in the west

Spirits were high in XVIII Airborne Corps as Day 2 of Operation Desert Storm began. The ease with which U.S. and French forces swept into Iraq was astonishing.

Lead corps units were even closing in on a key Iraqi air base south of Baghdad as they continued wheeling northeast.

Six months ago, the airfield was a busy hub for Iraqi fighter bombers, but since the air war began Jan. 17, it has been hit repeatedly and knocked out of service. Some troops were said to be holding out in bunkers, but hundreds of other troops on the main access road to the base could be seen sitting cross-legged behind barbed-wire barricades in makeshift allied POW camps.

As the corps moved deep into Iraq, there was intense curiosity about the growing number of enemy soldiers who were surrendering.

"I wanted to look at my adversary in the face after 20 years in the Army," said Lt. Col. Bob Perrich. He rode the jump seat in a Chinook during one mission called to pick up this "opportunity cargo."

"It wasn't what I expected. I expected to see soldiers who had been defeated, drawn and gaunt looks on their faces. I did not see that. I did not see a defeated enemy — I saw a group of people who did not want to be soldiers."

On the left flank, the French 6th Light Armored Division and the 2d Brigade of the U.S. 82d Airborne Division continued to push north into Iraq, sweeping the desert free of what Iraqi opposition remained.

In battles with small Iraqi armored units, the flank guards destroyed at least eight tanks, calling in Air Force A-10 strikes to supplement their TOW missiles. One tank, black as charcoal, still was burning and popping off exploding ammunition as the American paratroopers pushed through.

"It's a lot easier than we thought it would be," said Col.

Ron Rokosz, the 2d Brigade's commander. "They can't hide, that's what's killing them. This terrain is not to their advantage. We've not had one man even scratched today or lost even one piece of equipment."

The allies achieved surprising success by prepping Iraqi positions with a barrage of artillery shells and aircraft cannons before moving forward.

Before dawn, barrages from MLRSs and A-10 cannons softened suspected Iraqi positions as the allies moved north on a highway toward "Objective White."

### 'I love to blow it up'

Clearing Iraqi bunkers and fighting positions proved the toughest tasks. Paratroopers from the 307th Engineer Battalion did much of the dirty work, using grappling hooks to open doors that might have been booby trapped.

"It's as exciting as sex because you don't know what's in the bunker until you get there," said Spec. Scott Key. "Then I love to blow it up. Where in civilian life could I get a job where I could go up and down the highway blowing things up?"

Meanwhile, thousands of infantry trucks, tanks, bulldozers and other equipment flowed into Iraq. A two-lane highway that served as the key artery into Iraq was jammed with military gear.

The French and the paratroopers' mission was to cut supplies to Iraq's troops in Kuwait. "Our intent was to catch them completely by surprise, much deeper than they expected us to come. I think we accomplished that," said Maj. Robert Pinson, the 2d Brigade's executive officer.

"If you can't feed the soldiers and provide fuel for soldiers, they come to a grinding halt," Pinson said. "So far, we're overpowering them with speed and surprise."

### 'A klick closer to home'

Attacking just east of the French and the 82d, elements of the 24th Infantry Division continued to knife deep into south-central Iraq, racing north across rocky terrain and encountering no opposition from Iraqi forces.

The bulk of the division, supplemented by the 197th Infantry Brigade, had pushed more than 100 miles into enemy territory and was proceeding north rapidly. The unit apparently was maneuvering along the lightly defended western flank of the main bulk of the Iraqi defensive lines. It was closing on the Euphrates River valley deep inside Iraq, choking off Saddam's supply line to Kuwait.

"It is surprising," said Col. Ted Reid, 197th Brigade commander, as he inspected his road-weary but unscathed troops. "So far, this has been a cakewalk."

In the early morning hours, the biggest foe was a fierce sandstorm kicked up by the convoy of hundreds of tanks, fighting vehicles, artillery pieces and support vehicles. During one 10-minute break from the drive north, Sgt. Ralph Vore stood atop his armored personnel carrier, wiped off his goggles and screamed: "Saddam Hussein: Where are all your damn soldiers?"

The convoy had an almost euphoric air at times. "Each klick farther we go into Iraq, is a klick closer to getting home," Vore said.

### Highway patrol

Engagement Area Yankee was clear. It was only the night before that the UH-60A Black Hawks had set down in the Euphrates River valley under a dark sky and in lashing rain to cut off the main highway between Baghdad and Basra.

By morning, it was done. Scores of Iraqi soldiers were being rounded up. Highway 8 was sealed off by roadblocks and wrecks of cars and trucks blown apart by antitank weapons. Many of the soldiers swapped their Kevlar helmets for black knit watch caps, a sign the area was secure.

The air assault operation put American troops well above Saddam's key Republican Guard divisions, effectively cutting off his army from the north, as Marines pressed at the gates of Kuwait City and columns of tanks charged up from the south.

"We've accomplished our mission," said Lt. Col. Andrew Berdy, commander of the division's 2d Battalion, 3d Brigade. "We go deep and fast. It's a combination of high technology and old-fashioned homespun soldiering."

In the afternoon, the division's 2d Brigade lifted off in yet another air assault to seize another objective farther southeast along the Euphrates River, an airport near An-

Nasiriyah.

The first wave of attackers was dropped between As Samawah and An-Nasiriyah by 66 Black Hawk helicopters skimming just off the ground and appearing suddenly. All told, helicopters made 815 runs to bring in troops and equipment, including artillery pieces.

Meanwhile, a ground convoy was dropped by Chinooks, including antitank weapons on trucks, two more batteries of artillery and explosives to blow up bridges and overpasses along the highway.

"We want to cut the logistics tail off this guy, so he can't get beans, he can't get bullets," Maj. Michell Howell said.

### 'Pretty risky business'

At the center of the attack, VII Corps was moving inexorably toward the Republican Guard.

The British 1st Armoured Division, including more than 2,500 armored vehicles, passed through the breach made earlier by the 1st Infantry Division and marched on an Iraqi force to the northeast.

Three hours ahead of schedule, the British troops drove north, outflanking their first objective, a 10,000-strong Iraqi mechanized division dug in to their east.

The 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, the division's armored reconnaissance regiment, armed with Scorpion and Scimitar tracked vehicles, probed the Iraqi defenses, identifying targets for the 4th Regiment Army Air Corps' Lynx attack helicopters. Firing TOW missiles, the helicopters destroyed four Iraqi tanks and seven armored vehicles.

The division overran its first objective before nightfall. It kept going and used its superior night-vision ability to destroy two companies of Iraqi tanks, two artillery batteries and an important communications site.

In the early afternoon, the "Desert Rats" of the 7th Armored Brigade advanced toward the northern half of the Iraqi position and engaged the Iraqis after sundown. Two Challenger tank regiments, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, took part in the battle, supporting the infantry of the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment.

The attack was a success, although both armored regiments came under fire: the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars from an artillery battery, and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards from an Iraqi tank company. Both the battery and the company were destroyed.

The 4th Brigade followed up the 7th's attack in the north, capturing an Iraqi brigade commander in the process, and then redeployed south, where a smaller enemy position had been spotted.

The 4th's tank regiment, the 14th/20th King's Hussars, made short work of a dug-in infantry unit, while the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, overran an Iraqi artillery battery.

By afternoon, VII Corps' chief scouts, the U.S. 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, had reached many miles north and east into Iraq.

Soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division, which had secured the initial positions in Iraq, conducted a nerve-racking search of dozens of bunkers, some interlocked in vast systems, but few Iraqis chose to fight.

Spec. Kevin Keller of the 9th Combat Engineers was part of a small group wiring charges in a bunker when two Iraqis suddenly emerged, one holding a sidearm over his head.

"Damn, this is crazy," Keller said. "We were ready to blow the thing, and the squad leader hears them talking inside."

### The high life

American troops who had heard accounts of starving, threadbare Iraqi soldiers before the ground war began were astonished at what they found in bunkers.

Perez said he cleared a bunker that held a large velvet sofa, a television powered by a generator, a small refrigerator and large amounts of food and weaponry. Palmer saw a command bunker with a shower stall complete with concrete floor, overstuffed chairs, fresh eggs and fruit, and a videocassette recorder holding the taped movie *Scraples*.

At the site where engineers were destroying Iraqi bunkers, soldiers also ruined hundreds of Soviet made AK47







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rifles and RPG-7 rocket launchers. One soldier pulled a large supply of new, unopened olive-green uniform shirts from a bunker. Large numbers of packs, canteens and helmets littered the field, most in good condition.

"They've been living pretty well," Palmer said.

Across the front where the Iraqi line was breached, dozens of trucks smoldered, some for many hours since they had been demolished in air strikes. At one location, three twin-barreled anti-aircraft guns had been twisted by bomb blasts.

The artillery and air strikes were effective. Ugly chunks of shrapnel littered hills where bunker complexes were arrayed. MLRS rocket tubes protruded from the earth like giant cigar stubs. One huge chunk of a 2,000-pound bomb lay just a few feet from a massive bunker.

But soldiers excavating the Iraqi lines found few dead or wounded. And most of the bunkers withstood the pounding without collapsing.

"The bombing didn't do as much as I expected," Palmer said. "Trucks, artillery, anything above ground, it got that, but the bunkers are unharmed."

### No way out

By the end of Day 2, Saddam Hussein was beginning to sense that something was wrong, but he still did not know how wrong and what precisely the problem was.

The winds had shifted, blowing from the south to the north: Any chemical strikes now would be blown back toward his own troops.

Seven Iraqi divisions had been destroyed.

More than 25,000 prisoners were taken.

The Iraqi commanders still had not picked up the movement of VII Corps, as allied intelligence officers knew from radio intercepts. To the Iraqis, the Egyptians and 1st Cavalry were the main threat. They could not read the battlefield to consolidate their artillery.

The Republican Guard was digging itself out of its protective positions, preparing to move, but move south. It was not oriented toward the west, from where the blow would come.

Nor was the Iraqi army moving well. All counterattacks were small company- and battalion-size actions. They were being defeated piecemeal.

Marine commanders reported the enemy in disarray. The French were trying to police up the small Iraqi units in their area of responsibility through psychological operations.

The hammer was ready to fall: The 24th Infantry Division had reached its northernmost objectives, dubbed "Red" and "Orange" on the Euphrates, and was preparing to turn eastward down the river valley. The allied air forces kept the river bridges down.

There was no way out.

Baghdad Radio broadcast an offer to withdraw from Kuwait, but Saddam remained defiant on other U.N. resolutions.

Bush said no.

## DAY 3 Tuesday, Feb. 26

By the end of Day 3, the Marines and the 2d Armored Division Tiger Brigade had sealed off Kuwait City. The liberation of that ransacked capital would be left for Arab forces.

Near Ras Al-Zour, along the coast, Saudi Arabian, Qatari and other gulf nation forces closed on Kuwait City.

Throughout the area, anything that could be burned was; anything that could not be burned was shot at. The dreaded gauntlet of flaming, oil-filled gorges and barbed-wire blockades was nothing like the troops anticipated, leading coalition forces to within 40 miles of Kuwait's capital just two days after the ground war began.

"Six hours, we clear this place," said Mohammed Baghdad, a captain in the Saudi army. "Six hours, we move from Saudi Arabia and reached here... We could be in Kuwait City tomorrow."

Saudi military officials took reporters into Kuwait to watch some Saudi tank forces continue their last 60 or so miles to the Kuwaiti capital.

The landscape was stark and the random violence to

buildings, roads and oil facilities was evident. Milling around ransacked border and inspection stations, Kuwaiti troops grinned and flashed the V-for-victory sign. The atmosphere was almost festive as allied warplanes swarmed overhead.

Amid smoky haze from burning oil wells, prisoners of war looked dazed but relatively cheerful, wheedling cigarettes from Saudi soldiers.

The 2d Marine Division reached its final objective, Jahra, a town northwest of Kuwait City that is a major intersection for roads heading all directions, including north into Iraq. The 8th Marine Regiment and the Tiger Brigade took on an attack there and Marines took over the town and secured the ridge that ran west from the tip of Kuwait Bay.

During a day-long, 50-mile advance from the Jaber air field to Kuwait City, 1st Division Marines destroyed more than 100 tanks.

The 1st Division reached the outskirts of Kuwait City, its final objective. By midnight, Marines under the command of Maj. Gen. J.M. Mike Myatt had cut off retreating Iraqi troops, liberated outer districts of the city and were fighting for control of the airport.

Two battalions of M60A3 tanks, totaling 110 tanks, faced Soviet-built tanks and fought for the airport overnight. Because of the dense black haze from burning oil fields, most of the battle was fought without aid from aircraft. Marines secured the airport the next day.

### Gridlock

The surprise, speed and strength of the XVIII Airborne Corps completely overwhelmed Iraqi troops in southwest Iraq.

The corps had seized several objectives sooner than military planners anticipated. Included were an airfield and control of the only paved roads in that section of Iraq.

The biggest obstacle slowing progress of several thousand coalition troops was a Los-Angeles-style gridlock on the only two-lane road from near the Saudi border north into Iraq, and a fearsome sandstorm that reduced visibility.

The French 6th Light Armored Division and the 2d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division had secured the western flank of the invading coalition. Ranging from the Saudi-Iraqi border to the Euphrates River valley, Saddam's armies were trapped and reinforcements were blocked out. The 82d's 37th Engineer Battalion, a main support unit, constructed the main routes leading up to the Iraqi-Saudi border. Once inside Iraq, the 37th had several missions.

"We're here to dig in the 82d Airborne in a blocking position against the Republican Guard so they can't get out — like rats in a trap," said Maj. Randy Riggins, the battalion's executive officer.

### Resupply a problem

While most of the combat power of XVIII Airborne Corps turned north and east to attack the Republican Guard, violent winds and swirling rains forced suspension of air resupply from the corps' rear areas.

The 18th Army Aviation Brigade, which supports the huge corps, was grounded when turbulent winds reached 30 knots and visibility dropped to a half-mile. The brigade had been ferrying men and supplies in a constant stream of helicopters to Lt. Gen. Gary Luck's troops. Their supply lines stretched all the way to the Euphrates River.

Military officials said the approaching weather system was sighted before commanders began the ground assault on Kuwait and Iraq on Day 1. But they apparently did not expect it to be this severe.

"Resupply by air is over until this lifts," said Maj. Ed Parrish, a brigade spokesman.

### 'The Euphrates, dude'

The Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division were at the far end of the supply line.

Before dawn, Cpl. Lawrence Cutno was pulling guard duty, protecting his comrades who had pushed more than 130 miles into Iraqi territory. Standing in a mud flat and wrapped in a scarf and gloves to escape the pre-dawn cold, Cutno's only company were howling dogs and a portrait of Saddam. But he didn't seem to mind.

"Hey, I'm in Iraq. I'm barging in on his party," he said of Saddam.

The 101st was launching brigade-sized raids all over Iraq, sending more than 2,000 men, riding assault helicopters and driving deep in a bold attempt to cut Iraqi army supply lines.

Packed into UH-60A Black Hawk helicopters like sardines, the light infantrymen were led by dozens of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. Equipped with more than 100 pounds of gear each, the soldiers lounged in the sand, waiting for the call.

The word went out to load up, and the infantrymen crowded into a cargo hold in the Black Hawk, squeezed together. The gunner smiled throughout the 90-minute flight. With a sharp thumb's up sign, he slapped a cartridge round into his machine gun as the chopper roared into Iraq.

A river shimmered in the distance.

"The Euphrates, dude," Sgt. Scott Stickney said. "I'd like to take a bath there."

The helicopters landed in a mud flat near the target of the mission, a series of buildings just south of the Euphrates. Driving rain soaked the soldiers, making their gear even heavier. Many fell in the thick mud, struggling to get up under the relentless weight.

"This is totally surreal," said Capt. Gary Schamburg, an operations officer. "What am I doing in Iraq?"

As his men secured the building, Lt. Col. Hank Kinnison stood outside the front door. "We really don't belong here," he said. "Good thing we should be going home soon."

### Surrender specialist

The air assault troops continued their buildup, pushing lead elements forward from the massive Forward Base Cobra in the desert.

When Spec. Michael Landolfi's battalion roared into Iraq on Day 3, he carried his main weapon at his side: a megaphone.

An Arabic-speaking specialist, Landolfi's key role in the war is to persuade the Iraqi troops to surrender — in their language. "Where these guys go," he said of the enemy troops, "I go."

Landolfi, who recently graduated from a 63-week training course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., convinced more than 450 soldiers to surrender just one week earlier. With his megaphone, he told the enemy troops to give up or be slaughtered.

"I just tell the Iraqis they have American firepower breathing down their necks. That gets their attention," he said.

That night, forward troops attacking an Iraqi installation just south of the Euphrates River thought they saw civilians inside.

"The linguist, send the linguist," a voice barked over the radio.

Accompanied by two speakers, Landolfi sneaked toward enemy lines.

"You're facing overwhelming force from the U.S. Army," he said over his megaphone. Silence was the reply. He repeated the call. Soldiers entered the building and determined it had been a false call. No civilians were present.

### Few casualties, many prisoners

To the east of the airborne, VIII Corps and the 24th Infantry Division were bearing down on the Republican Guard. Saddam had forecast "the mother of all battles." Lt. Gen. Frederick Franks was ready to oblige.

Franks' tanks and fighting vehicles swept ahead of long columns of supply military vehicles now heading eastward toward Basra, taking few casualties and many prisoners.

Watching over the advancing columns was the VII Corps artillery, the 42d Field Artillery Brigade. The brigade broke camp before sunrise in a steady drizzle that threatened to turn the desert into mud. Other units joined a large formation of vehicles.

Truckloads of exhausted and filthy Iraqi prisoners shuttled south toward Saudi Arabia. At one site marked by red and white candy-striped tape, military police, or MPs, guarded eight Iraqi officers who were kneeling in the sand wrapped in U.S. Army blankets.

Thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war had turned themselves in to VII Corps positions scattered across the desert.





## OPERATION DESERT STORM

Most prisoners were in a pathetic state — walking on blistered feet and starving, their weapons long since thrown away.

Four men trying to fix a wounded Bradley suddenly had to contend with 30 Iraqi prisoners. But the prisoners were eager to sit and wait for better treatment.

Chinook helicopters were used to move the prisoners more than 40 miles back from the front.

One MP unit had a picture of Saddam in a bull's eye taped to the window of its vehicle. A prisoner spit on it as he walked by.

The MPs said they were not sure they would have such docile prisoners when they started taking more Republican Guard troops.

### Friendly fire

At the eastern flank of VII Corps, the British 1st Armoured Division continued to engage Iraqi positions through the moonless night and overcast day. The Iraqis had been soundly defeated. The British had destroyed nearly 200 Iraqi tanks, 100 armored personnel carriers, or APCs, and 100 artillery pieces.

In addition, the British took approximately 5,000 prisoners and overran what British commander Lt. Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere described as an important communications site. B Company of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots captured 100 Iraqi troops in one attack with fixed bayonets.

In another incident during the battle, Challengers destroyed nine enemy APCs in quick succession as they tried to flee under cover of darkness.

Thirteen British soldiers were killed in the battle, nine of them victims of "friendly fire" when their two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles were attacked mistakenly by an American A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, which had been called in to provide close air support.

After the victory, the division halted briefly to rest and refuel, before it continued its advance north.

### First contact

First contact with the main body of the Republican Guard also came that night, from the corps' screening unit, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The regiment has had a tumultuous recent history. Eighteen months ago, its troopers were riding the German-Czechoslovak border, front-line sentries of the Cold War. One year ago, they were greeting tens of thousands of East Germans and Czechs streaming westward when the borders opened. Six months ago, they had retreated to their base camps, wondering if they were going to be deactivated.

The headquarters detachment had paused as the regiment's M1 tanks and Bradleys probed ahead. Advance scouts made contact with Iraqi tank units, with some skirmishing. Word in early afternoon was the Iraqis seemed to be trying to slip away and escape into northern Iraq. The regiment's scouting units kept them in sight, though.

As the morning passed into afternoon, skies began to darken and 70-mph winds whipped up sandstorms. Visibility was limited. Armored columns moving just a quarter-mile away were dark blurs.

It was unclear whether the Iraqis ahead were trying to escape or were simply shifting positions, with the aim of blocking the advancing Americans, and allowing other Iraqi units to slip to safety from Kuwait. Only one thing was clear: It was the Republican Guard.

More waiting. Then Capt. Bob Dobson, spokesman for the 2d, returned to his vehicle in a hurry. "We're about to jump," he said. "The Republican Guard is hauling ass. This could be it."

The regiment's assignment now was to catch the Republican Guard and engage it in battle until heavier American units could move up to finish it off.

The sky had cleared, but the wind still was blowing hard. The column moved at 15 mph in single file along a rutted path, across a desert that seemed as flat as the ocean.

At 5:35 p.m., after about 45 minutes on the move, the regiment's flying command center, a Black Hawk helicopter, landed.

The column halted.

Minutes later, the vehicles began making U-turns.



The waiting is over: A soldier with the 82d Airborne Division gets ready to move into a combat position for the ground campaign.

There was a report that Iraqi tanks were heading in their direction.

A column of tanks appeared in the distance, coming in their general direction. There was a tense moment until an inspection with binoculars showed they were American M1s.

After nightfall, word ran rampant that a major Republican Guard counterattack was building.

In the distance, the flash of artillery lit up the sky, the initial burst at ground level, then a second flash as the light bounced off the clouds. The regiment's combat elements were engaged in a battle with the Republican Guard along a 40-kilometer front.

Flares lit up the sky. Balls of flame from MLRS launchers shot skyward, bringing hundreds of bomblets down on the heads of the Iraqis. Flash followed flash.

### 'If it moves, it dies'

VII Corps officers wondered whether the three Guard divisions hunkered down north of Kuwait would remain in place, go on the offensive or make a run for central Iraq. The Air Force had told them much of the Guard was destroyed by the month-long coalition air force bombing campaign, but it was unclear how much was left to come out of the ground.

But there was no sign the elite Iraqi troops were ready to surrender and leave their top-of-the-line Soviet T-72 tanks and other weapons.

"They can either come out or get overrun. You can't just call someone to get out with a logistics trail in a short time," said Lt. Col. Michael Lustig, with the 2d Military Intelligence Battalion.

The air superiority of the allied forces over the preceding six weeks assured VII Corps' control of ground movements, Lustig said. "The way things are going, if it moves, it dies."

The battalion was putting surveillance planes in the air around the clock to help attract ground movements between 100 and 200 kilometers beyond the front lines of the U.S. forces.

Lustig said U.S. pilots were sickened by the destruction of oil wells, ports and storage facilities in Kuwait. "It looks like the Iraqis have just wasted the country of Kuwait in the past two weeks."

From a helicopter 100 feet above the ground, blackened Iraqi tanks, artillery, armored personnel carriers and trucks littered the dug-in positions. It appeared the VII Corps had picked off many of them from the air, as the sand piled high around each position was undisturbed.

The mood among VII Corps troops verged on jubilation; many were relieved their worst fears had not been realized.

### 'Antennas pinned back'

The 1st Cavalry Division was scooting to catch up to the action. Having suckered the Iraqis with their feint up Wadi al Batin, the division was pulled back and marched through the breach made by VII Corps. Brig. Gen. John Tili's troops "had their antennas pinned back" in an attempt to catch up to the battle, one officer said.

The 1st Cav knifed into central Iraq late at night after spending more than a week as a decoy. For days, troops had been pouring massive amounts of artillery and sending scout patrols into the area to give the impression that coalition forces were focusing on the area to clear a path for the spearhead of the invasion.

"I think it was a total success," Capt. David Francavilla said. "If the enemy thought anything was coming at all, they thought it was coming up the Wadi al Batin."

Francavilla, commander of a company in the 1st Cavalry's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, took part in the patrols, reconnaissance missions and feints behind Iraqi lines that were meant to deceive Iraqi troops, including a patrol on Feb. 20 that frightened and demoralized many 1st Cav troops.

Two companies came under heavy artillery and mortar fire and three men were killed and seven wounded behind Iraqi lines.

"I think mentally that really prepared us," Capt. Dana Milner said. "Coming back with the prisoners, the casualties... It made the war real for the first time."

### Checkmate

By the end of Day 3, the Republican Guard had been all but checkmated. They were beginning to tumble to that fact: one of its eight divisions, the Tawakalna ("Go with God") armored division already had been destroyed, caught with its gun tubes facing south, still expecting the direct attack up Wadi al Batin.

Iraqi command and control was entirely broken. All its corps-level communication nets either were jammed or destroyed.

Saddam still was hoping to sneak his best troops out of what the allies were beginning to call "the Basra pocket." Steaming down the Euphrates valley, the 24th Infantry Division ran into a convoy of T-72 tanks along Highway 8, loaded on heavy equipment trailers. The 24th Mechanized destroyed the lot, all 57 tanks. The Americans had marched 200 miles in two days, a feat that completely surprised the Iraqis.

The hammer's final blows were upon the Republican Guard. At midnight, the lead elements of the 1st and 3d Armored Divisions, the best VII Corps had to offer, were starting to engage the Guard's Medina Division.

## DAY 4 Wednesday, Feb. 27

In *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote: "He will win who, prepared himself, waits to take the enemy unprepared."

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf had waited and prepared himself and his troops for six months. In three days of maneuvering, his forces took Saddam Hussein's unprepared. On Day 4 of the land campaign, Schwarzkopf would win the war.

The telling effect of the air campaign was evident throughout the theater, but was nowhere more evident than in the east.

Throughout their advance on Kuwait City, Marines saw the results of the weeks of air bombing. It was rare to find an area without scorched black spots in the sand.

The freeing of Kuwait was a grand finale for the Marines. Late on Day 3, a reconnaissance unit had slipped into the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City.

As troops entered the city in triumph on Day 4, Kuwaitis poured joyfully into the streets to celebrate the end





## OPERATION DESERT STORM

of brutal Iraqi military rule, creating the biggest traffic jam in the 30-year history of the emirate.

The 10-mile-long military convoy, led by Saudi M60 tanks, included forces from all five other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council assembled in the U.S.-led coalition.

"It's all over. Kuwait is liberated in military terms," Saudi army Gen. Sultan al Mutairi said.

Mutairi said his troops' primary mission would be to ensure Kuwait City was free of mines and other booby traps.

Marines on armored vehicles were hugged and thanked. Women tossed candy. The welcome was reminiscent of the liberation of Paris in 1944 during World War II, some said, though the rattle of small-arms fire could be heard in parts of the city as troops mopped up.

"I have never seen people so happy," said Maj. Chris Weldon, watching the scene. "What a feeling of accomplishment."

Amid shouts of "Thank you" and "We love you," Lt. Gen. Walter Boomer, commander of Marine forces in the region, said he never expected such greetings.

"I thought, what a great thing America has done to see the joy on their faces. I'll keep that memory forever," he said.

Kuwaiti troops raised the emirate's flag in central Safat Square, which quickly became the focus of daylight celebrations just one day after Iraqi forces abandoned Kuwait.

The word, among Kuwaitis, was vengeance.

Engineering student Ahmen Nasser said he wanted Saddam Hussein killed. "If there is a wolf on the street, do you leave him or kill him? Saddam Hussein is a wolf," he said.

### Jalibah sacked

The end was near for the wolf's cubs, too.

The 24th Infantry Division attacked and secured a major airfield at Jalibah, north of Kuwait, destroying eight helicopters, 10 MiG fighters and two cargo planes on the ground with tanks. Columns of smoke wafted into the air, and the division's soldiers set about blowing up bunkers at the airfield and destroying anti-aircraft artillery. They had moved and fought all night.

"We're outrunning fuel, we're outrunning medevac," one major said as he rushed off on a mission.

Three battalions of the 24th overran and captured Jalibah airfield in a surprise dawn raid that lasted about 50 minutes. Two armored battalions and one mechanized infantry battalion from the division's 2d Brigade engaged in the fight.

"This was a significant airfield for them," said Lt. Col. Terry Stanger, commander of the 3d Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment. "We believe they used this airfield to fly some of their MiGs to Iran."

The 101st Airborne Division's air assault elements were streaming along both sides of the Euphrates River, working their way eastward to cut both Iraqi troops' supplies and their escape route.

### No letup

The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, eyes and ears of the 24th Infantry Division, was shoulder-to-shoulder with elements of the VII Corps.

"It went awfully well, awfully fast," a brigade general said. "I think it's pretty obvious when you see the situation of our enemy. He is pretty disorganized, pretty confused. The speed and scope of our maneuver has caught him totally by surprise."

The remainder of the Republican Guard, reduced from eight to about two divisions, scrambled to consolidate the Basra pocket.

The weather had turned foul. A driving rainstorm flooded hastily dug Iraqi foxholes. The citizens of Basra were fleeing the port city across makeshift pontoon bridges.

Franks was not about to let up. Through the rainstorm, in the middle of the night, he sent the 1st and 3d Armored Divisions against the Republican Guard Medina Division. Simultaneously, he sent his corps' AH-64 attack helicopters deep against the Hamurabi Division to the rear.

"[The Republican Guard divisions] are the center of gravity," said Capt. David Clark, an intelligence officer with the 11th Aviation Brigade.

The tank clash raged across dozens of miles of southern Iraqi desert and the Guard offered fierce resistance despite overwhelming odds. For 16 hours, the desert was filled with fire and thunder as American tanks, artillery, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft poured everything they had at the Iraqis.

Sgt. Alfredo Gonzales, a scout with the 1st Infantry Division, said allied forces were moving so quickly that it was becoming difficult to keep track of the location of allied units hour to hour.

Helicopter pilots, unable to keep up with the movement of armor and troops, landed at military camps to ask directions to the nearest makeshift fuel station.

### 'Death Dealer'

The climactic battle of the gulf war came on quickly, as the two U.S. armored divisions entered the killing ground prepared by Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guard for what the Iraqi leader had promised to be "the mother of all battles."

Although it had some scary moments for the lead element, the 3d Armored Division's 1st Brigade, the 42-hour series of running battles turned into a rout as Guard soldiers threw down their arms and abandoned their tanks.

Though some fought fiercely, their guns were pointed in the wrong direction. Captured Iraqi battle plans showed that Saddam was prepared for a U.S. strike from the south through Kuwait.

As the Americans closed on the Iraqi positions, the brigade's commander, Col. Bill Nash, assigned missions to his Apaches and the Air Force's tank-killing A-10 aircraft stacked up in the darkness overhead.

After tersely polling his units, making sure none was close to an enemy bunker, he called in an Apache helicopter codenamed "Death Dealer." The Apache turned an Iraqi tank into a huge ball of orange fire that soared over the battlefield and was visible 10 miles away.

Assigning such a central job to the pilots clearly frustrated Nash's junior officers, one of whom broke into the command network to blurt: "Get a company in there and shoot 'em up. Give them a freaking chance to die."

"If I can send them [aircraft] over the hill and kill people, why should I send over my guys to do it?" Nash countered.

### At close quarters

But the luxury of using so much air power ended late in the day when the brigade's armored column became so intermingled with fleeing Iraqi units that Nash found he no longer could safely call in the A-10s.

Then the sky darkened, lightning began to flash, and the lead tanks of the unit found themselves encountering a series of dug-in Iraqi T-62 tanks in bunkers. "At that point, I thought I was going to lose a whole bunch of guys," Maj. John Lough said.

The pace of the American onslaught meant that Nash's troops were intermingled with Iraqi units. He decided to surround his baggage train of 550 trucks and support vehicles with Bradleys to guard them from Iraqi stragglers.

However, the Iraqi tank gunners appeared to be confused, allowing precious seconds to pass before aiming their guns. That was just enough time for the brigade's M1A1s and the Bradleys to kill them. In the miserable weather, the sights of the Iraqi T-72s were no match for the thermal sights of the Americans.

Fighting went on all through the night. No one seemed to know who was fighting and who was giving up. Pockets of stragglers were all over, some shooting, some wanting to surrender.

Next to Nash's brigade was the division's 3d Brigade. Pushing ahead through the storm, the 3d Brigade called in a massive artillery and air strike on Guard defenses and pushed through a large sand dune honeycombed with tank bunkers and a series of prepared defenses.

Iraqi defenders appeared to be shocked from the bombardment. "As we passed through each layer of defenses, we saw guys just out standing around," said Capt. Richard Turner, whose tank company destroyed 40 armored vehicles. "At the next defense barrier, they just didn't know what was happening."

Despite close-range fighting that lasted through the day and into the early hours of the morning, the brigade lost two men killed and three wounded when their Bradley

was hit by a Iraqi T-72. Some Iraqi soldiers among the 300 captured during the battle said allied air strikes had stopped shipments of food and ammunition for five days before the battle.

The Republican Guard was beaten.

So was Iraq.

So was Saddam Hussein.

Just hours after the main engagements ended, in an address from the Oval Office of the White House, President Bush declared, "Kuwait is liberated. Iraq's army is defeated. Our military objectives are met."

Ordering a cease-fire, Bush invited Iraq's commanders to meet with coalition generals within 48 hours to "arrange for military aspects" of the cease-fire.

Desert Storm had nearly blown itself out.

### 'No pikers'

Despite the one-sided victory, the Americans gave grudging respect to some of the Republican Guard. "We had some very tough fights," said Maj. Gen. Paul Funk, 3d Armored Division commander. "These guys were fought were no pikers."

"We knew these guys would fight and they did," Funk said after the battle. "But they are a hell of a lot less capable than the Soviets."

Indeed, even among the elite units, Iraqi soldiers abandoned their tanks and surrendered after being fired on by the U.S. tanks.

Funk praised the performance of his soldiers as "magnificent, they never, never wavered. I was really proud," he said. "It made you want to cry."

After weeks of waiting for the ground offensive to begin, American soldiers were exhilarated by the apparent ease with which they overran Saddam's crack fighting force.

The American soldiers said they pitied the Iraqi soldiers, some of whom said they had not eaten or had any water to drink in four days.

Some soldiers expressed relief that the casualties were so low. Before the ground war, military officials predicted the number of casualties in the U.S. Army alone could go as high as 15,000.

"I was thinking about Vietnam, before we came over here," said Sgt. Jose Rosadiaz, "you know, dead bodies and all. I'm just glad we didn't have to experience any of that."

### 'Going fishing'

At war's end, the U.S. Army and ground allied forces were spread out across what had come to be called the KTO — for Kuwaiti Theater of Operations — north of Nasiriyah to the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. Offshore, Marines feigning an amphibious assault still were afloat in the gulf. They were victorious, but still a long way from home.

The 8,000 soldiers of the 101st Division holed up deep inside Iraq, along the banks of the Euphrates River, had greeted the president's cease-fire announcement with one eye on the calendar and another eye on the next flight home.

"This whole experience has taught me how important my family is to me," Capt. Fred Gallert said. "Now it looks like there could be light at the end of our tunnel. I just hope it comes soon."

Pvt. David Hochins envisioned a "large pepperoni pizza and a pack of Budweiser."

Ahead of him, however, lay another night in an armpit-deep foxhole with a sleeping bag and a first sergeant who snored so loudly that he was called "Tuba."

"That's OK," Hochins said, "because we're only getting 90 minutes of sleep every night anyway."

About a mile away, at another company encampment, the good news sparked fun and games. Some soldiers waded into a bog in a futile mission to catch what looked like marsh quail.

In a nearby foxhole, soaked by driving rain, 1st Sgt. Zeb Hill lit up a long cigar.

"Well, I came in with a bang and I'm going out with a bang," said the Vietnam War veteran, who is up for retirement.

To his right, Cpl. Todd Lindsay already was planning the next step in his young life.

"I'm going to Tulane [University] medical school," the medic said.

"And I'm going fishing," Hill said, smiling.

We are indebted to Army Times for this terrific report.

# Military, Saudi police forces team to serve troops, citizens

By Spec. Martin Haywood

SAUDI ARABIA — In a joint operation, the 24th Military Police Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), and the 211th MP Co., North Carolina National Guard, have joined the Saudi criminal and traffic police in an effort to protect the interests of Saudi citizens and U.S. soldiers.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of a sub-station, which will house the Military and Saudi Police and serve as a base for joint police operations.

"This office is the first of its kind out in the Kingdom," said Lt. Col. James D. Seagrove. "We realized that we needed to work with the local civilian authorities to protect Saudi citizens and U.S. soldiers."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Donald Brown, 24th I.D. noncommissioned officer in charge of the sub station, "U.S. and Saudi laws for driving are different in many ways. Because of the difference, most of the accidents that have taken place in our area have involved U.S. soldiers and Saudi civilians."

"During these accidents both the MPs and the Saudi police needed to be on site to look out for their interests. If we found the accident first, we would have to contact the Saudis and wait for them to arrive at the scene and they did the same for us."

"Being at the same location, we can go out to accident scenes together. This will help in clearing the accident, making sure everyone is treated fairly and should expedite the way we handle cases."

Currently, the MPs and Saudis are working together at two checkpoints.

"Working with the Saudis, we can learn how they operate," said Master Sgt. Phil Smathers, 211th MP NCOIC of the sub station. "It's a great opportunity for us to study their laws, understand their culture and learn about their country."

To work hand in hand with the Saudis, the MPs communicate through military interpreters.

Specialist Paul Ballard, linguist, works as a liaison between the Saudis and the MPs to help sort out the accidents.

"It's an interesting job," he said. "The Saudis are very

surprised that I can communicate with them in their language, and acting as a liaison helps intensify my training."

"I have made many friends among the Saudis, and together we have made special memories that I will never forget."

## 24th I.D.'s APO numbers changed January 10th

Effective Jan. 10 the Army Post Office (APO) number for soldiers assigned or attached to the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) have changed as follows:

Hqs. 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — APO NY 09315

First Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — APO NY 09789

Second Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — APO NY 09790

DISCOM, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — APO NY 09791

Aviation Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — APO NY 09873

197th Infantry Brigade — APO NY 09733



Photo by Sgt. D.R. Doss

Lieutenant Colonel James D. Seagrove presents local Saudi Police with 24th Infantry Division MP armbands that say police in Arabic.

## U.S. means business: *If Hussein does not leave Kuwait then he faces the consequences*

SAUDI ARABIA — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Carl E. Vuono said during a mid-morning visit with soldiers from the 24th Infantry Division, that the United States means business if Iraq doesn't withdraw from Kuwait.

"We don't move 3,000,000 soldiers over to Saudi Arabia, more than 40 percent of the Army, without meaning business," Vuono said.

"That business is ... Saddam Hussein has got to get out of Kuwait," he said. "And if he doesn't get out, he faces the consequences of military action against him."

The general, accompanied by the Sergeant Major of the Army, Julius Gates, said that he didn't want to leave Saudi Arabia without visiting soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division.

Speaking to a group of forward-deployed division soldiers, he said, "We wanted to come see you yesterday, but the weather got bad and grounded the flight. But the one thing we were going to do before we left Saudi Arabia was come out and visit the 24th Infantry Division."

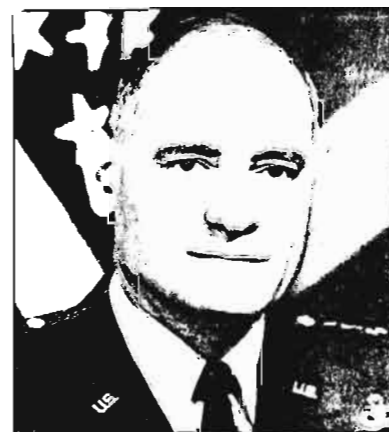
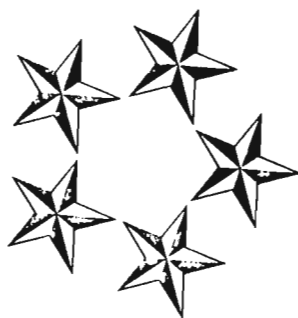
Stressing the possibility of conflict ahead Vuono reiterated remarks made by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell, earlier in the week: "We're going to be successful. We're going to be successful because we're going to hit them with everything we've got."

"I know you've been out here for a long time, but until we're able to finish this thing, until that time comes, I need you to go out and do your job," he said. "I need you to go out and give 'em hell."

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in an interview on Iraqi radio that there would be "no negotiations unless the PLO issue was settled first."

In his strongest statement so far concerning the possible talks between the United States and Iraq on settling the Gulf crisis, Hussein stood firm on demanding the Palestinian issue be a prerequisite for his withdrawal from Kuwait.

If the United States and Iraq do not meet and the crisis turns to war, Hussein said. "We will inflict the heaviest losses on the United States."



General Carl E. Vuono

# FOR THE RECORD



DEPT. OF DEFENSE POOL PHOTO VIA AP

Defense Secretary Richard Cheney (left) confers in Riyadh yesterday with Saudi Arabian defense official Utman Al Humalde, while Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with Desert Storm commander Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

# VICTORY

## TO THE

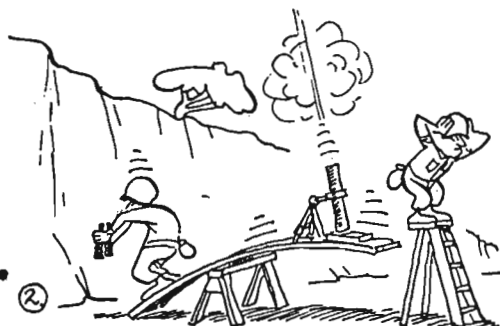
# 24<sup>th</sup> INVENTORY





Should we have a special page title "Sick Book" or some such? We could easily fill the page with the medical reports.

F'r instance, there's JIM LIVINGSTON down at 710 Joe Morse Drive, Copperas Cove, TX. Jim was HHC 3/34th and 3/32nd Munich (Henry and Will Kasern) during '61-'64. For poor Jim it was a heart attack. Slowly recovering.



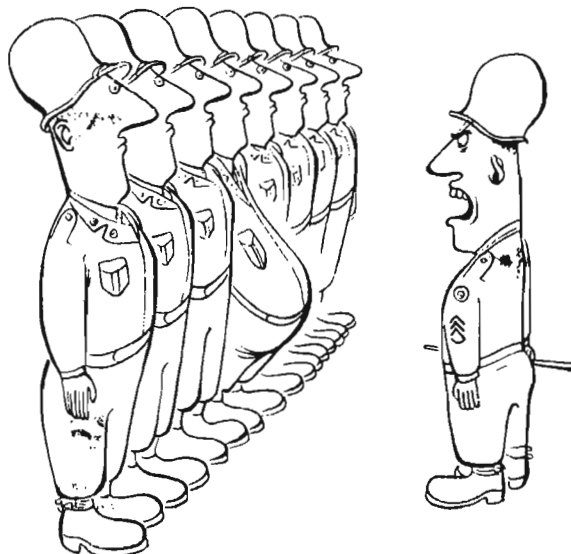
Note from JOHN MORRISON (D21st 3/41-10/44) 370 W. Broadway, Apt. #5A, Long Beach NY advises that LEO AGUILAR, Life Member #532 (D 21st '38-'44) (and also 21st Boxing Team '38-'39-'40 and one of the best) is having a rough time healthwise. Please card him at: 400 So. Canosa Ct., Denver CO 80219.

Retired after 30 years with Delta Air Lines - that's CHARLEY and Dorothy CARGILE (L 34th '46-'48) of 2045 Pinecrest, Morrow GA - now Life Member #1125.



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"Vogel, you'll just have to ask your mother to stop sending you such large packages"

New Life Member #1127 - That's BENJAMIN SADLER (D, Sv. and A 19th '48-'51) of 1503 Phyllis, Lakeland FL. Ben has had open heart surgery - 6 bypasses. Yes, 6. Ben would love to hear from anyone recognizing his name.

U.S. NEWS

# LINES IN THE SAND

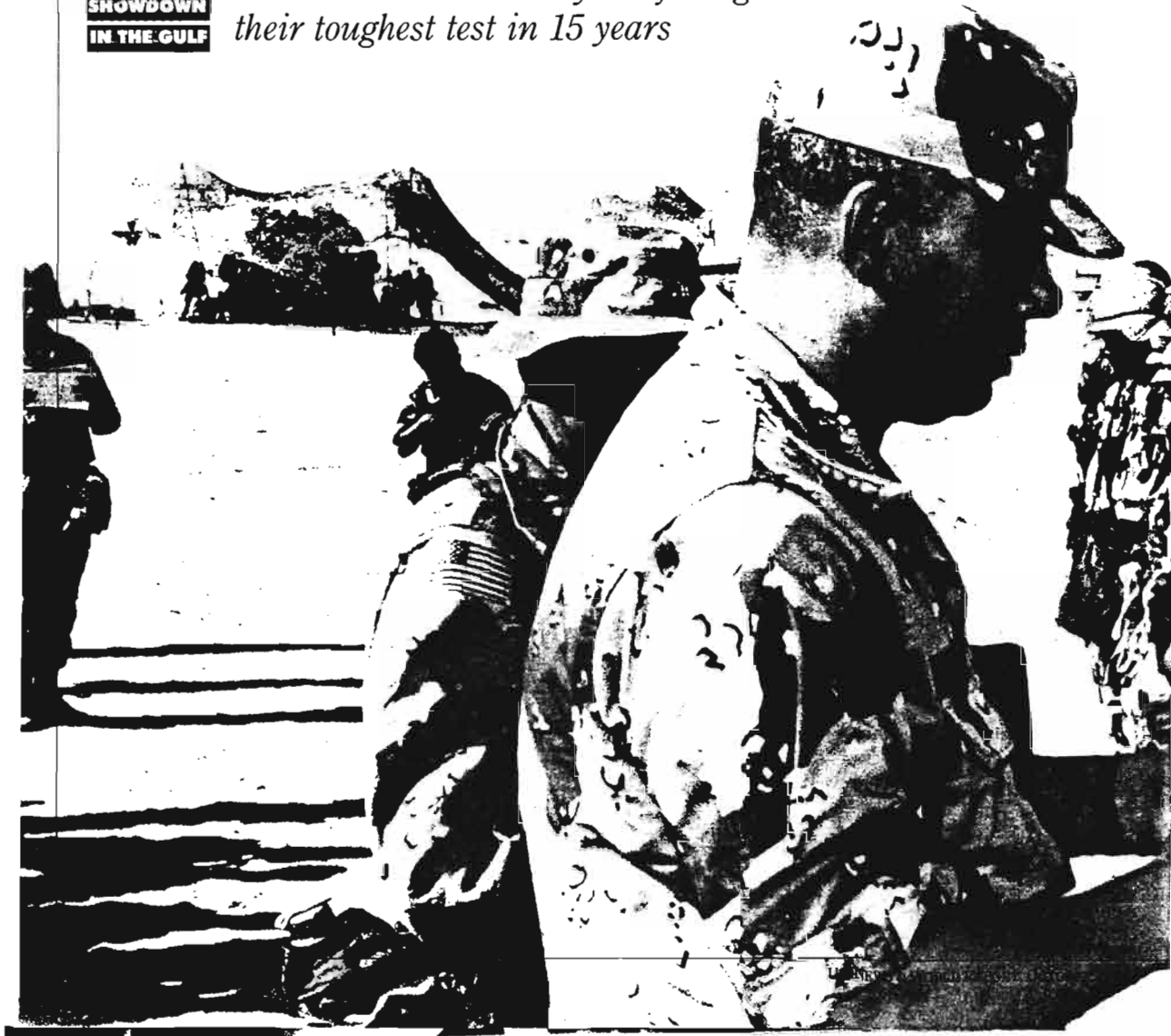


*America's top commanders have learned the hard lessons of Vietnam and Lebanon. Now they are facing their toughest test in 15 years*

**G**en. Alfred Gray does not need any lectures about the lessons of Vietnam. On April 29, 1975, then-Colonel Gray was commanding the last ground troops safeguarding the disorderly evacuation of Americans from the roof of the Saigon Embassy—sweeping up the last ashen remnants of more than a decade's worth of political and military mistakes. Now the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gray is one of the new generation of top American military commanders whose experience, judgment and political savvy are on the line in the first major deployment of American troops since that April day.

The nation's 36 four-star and 121 three-star generals and admirals, who have risen through the ranks of 185,000 commissioned officers, are the military's post-post-Vietnam generation.

Their confidence in America's bat-





tlefield prowess is tempered by realism born of their experience in America's first losing war. The current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Colin Powell, served two combat tours in Vietnam and won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Gen. Carl Vuono, the Army chief of staff, commanded two artillery battalions there, and Lt. Gen. Walter Boomer, the Marine commander in Saudi Arabia, was a company commander and returned as an adviser to a South Vietnamese battalion.

The experience molded by coming of age in a political war is abundantly apparent on the ground in Saudi Arabia. General Powell's predecessors, taking the post-Vietnam pulse of the nation and afraid of being hung out to dry again, had a habit of arguing strongly against any use of military force, doubting the political will to see a battle through. Powell heeds the same lesson, but draws a different conclusion: If you're going to go in, go in big and get it over with fast.

"Everyone who served in Vietnam swore 'never again,'" says retired

Marine Lt. Gen. Bernard Trainor. "If you're strong, use your strength."

The fixation with Vietnam is inescapable, but the analogy is hardly exact. In Vietnam, the U.S. was embroiled in a civil war; in the Gulf, it is acting in response to a clearcut external aggression that has sparked the condemnation of the world and caused a doubling of oil prices. Still, the massive deployment in Saudi Arabia clearly reflects one lesson of Vietnam. "When something starts . . . I'm not sure we'd want to deal a lot with measured escalation," says Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, head of operations for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. "If they start a war, we're going to go after them." That attitude is a far cry from the "show of force" mentality of recent years. After the Shah of Iran was overthrown in 1979, the U.S. sent forces to Saudi Arabia, too—a handful of unarmed jet fighters.

George Bush's line in the sand could still turn into a sand trap, however. For all of the political savvy that has shaped the planning of Desert Shield so far, the top brass are keenly aware that some political dimen-

sions of this military operation remain beyond their control. "When I hear [speculation that] we'll be out by Christmas, my hair stands straight up," says a veteran of Lebanon, where in 1982 Marines were sent to "establish a presence" and got dragged into a civil war. "Having responded brilliantly to the invasion of Kuwait, two things are at stake now: How to win and how to exit."

Although the military has moved swiftly and surely to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression—a political goal that translates unambiguously into a military mission—what constitutes ultimate victory remains undefined. To generals and admirals conditioned to thinking about the political as well as military consequences of their actions, the prospect of a long stalemate is unsettling. "Absent some provocation," says a senior administration official, "I don't see military action until the [economic] sanctions have a good chance to work." That could mean an indefinite stay in one of the most inhospitable climates on earth, combined with growing impatience at home—an all too familiar recipe for disaster. The political sand trap lies in the failure to translate into clear military terms the President's other stated objectives—driving 360,000 Iraqi soldiers with 2,800 tanks and 1,400 artillery pieces out of Kuwait, restoring the ruling al-Sabah family and safeguarding "security and stability" in the Gulf.

That may be made clearer if, as one senior official says, by November "everybody is still sitting around in coffeehouses in Baghdad and nothing is changing. We would have to rethink the sanctions approach."

**Monday-morning quarterbacks.** So far, there has been no Vietnam or Lebanon-style tug of war between civilian and military planners. But in time, Washington's diplomatic objectives of maintaining a broad anti-Iraqi coalition and forging a "new world order" could conflict with its military objective of defanging the Iraqi military. Says Harvard Prof. Joseph Nye, a national-security specialist: "The scale [of the Gulf operation] is enormously different from Panama, Libya or Grenada, which were short and sharp. There wasn't time for differences over civilian and military control to arise."

But there is another factor at work: The new generation of generals, for the most part, is well aware of the political dimension of their military planning and is taking politics into account at every turn. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Dugan was fired last week after he publicly outlined a plan for mas-

**Desert shield.**  
Powell checks out the troops



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## ■ COVER STORY

mean a continuing and relatively large U.S. presence," says General Butler.

So far, the new generals' political astuteness has guided Operation Desert Shield around some of the worst mistakes of the past. "You learn from every battle, and sometimes you learn more from negative leadership than positive leadership," says Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the straight-talking commander of all U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia. "Ninety percent of what I learned in the American military, I learned from screwing it up the first time."

By that standard, America's top military leaders have had plenty of opportunity to learn in the 15 years since the last U.S. forces departed ingloriously from Saigon. In Lebanon, the suicide-truck bomber who leveled the Marine barracks, killing 241 servicemen, was able to run past a guarded gate because officials were so worried about accidentally shooting a civilian that Marine sentries were ordered to keep their weapons unloaded. A recent visitor asked General Boomer, the Marine commander in Saudi Arabia, if the military's Rules of Engagement—which set forth the conditions under which Americans are allowed to shoot—are as restrictive. "If you'll go out here on your way out and check with the sentry, you'll find his weapon's loaded. And I think that probably answers your question," Boomer replied. "If an error is made, it's the other guy who's going to get killed, not our guy," says a top Pentagon official.

In Beirut, the absence of clear military objectives was confounded by a Byzantine chain of command: The Marine commander on the ground had to answer not only to the local American ambassador but to Special Ambassador Philip Habib, to National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, to NATO Commander Gen. Bernard Rogers and to the on-scene representative of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The chain of command in the Gulf today runs from Schwarzkopf to Powell, with the two connected by a satellite hot line.

**No ticket punching.** In Vietnam, says Marine General Boomer, the military's personnel policy "bordered on the immoral"; commanders were rotated every six months, a process that came to be called "getting your ticket punched." Boomer says bluntly that that isn't going to happen this time. "When you rotate commanders, I don't care if he's a genius, it takes him a while to get a feel for the enemy, a feel for the terrain, a feel for his men. Who suffers as he's learning? The troops. Every commander I have here will stay in command for the duration. And if somebody doesn't get a chance at

## Lessons of past conflicts

ROBERT ELLISON—EMPIRENEWS/BLACK STAR



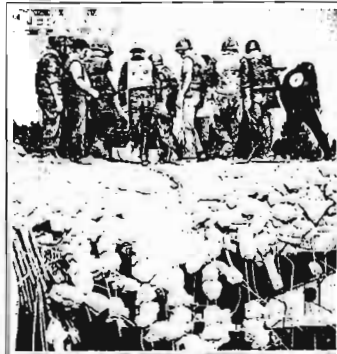
**Limits of power.** "Our enthusiasm was greater than our capability," says Lt. Gen. Gary Luck, now commander of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps. But Luck learned the hard way that even massive bombing could not dislodge a tenacious foe. Above all, the bloody and unpopular war taught America's commanders that political commitment counts as much as firepower

JEAN LOUIS ATLAN—SYGMA



**Desert One.** Political interference, inadequate training, unsuitable equipment and a sandstorm turned a hostage-rescue mission into a fiasco

STUART FRANKLIN—SYGMA



**Beirut bombing.** With no clear objectives, the Marines were put in a vulnerable position with their hands tied, and became terrorist targets

DAVID BURNETT—CONTACT PRESS IMAGES



**Bad teamwork.** During the invasion, troops from different services could not communicate because they didn't have the same equipment or codes. "We do now," says Brig. Gen. James Myatt of the First Marine Division

## ■ U.S. NEWS

command, well then I say tough shit."

Powell and other top commanders also deserve credit for disentangling themselves from some now irrelevant lessons of the past. Recently, the National Geographic completed a map of a united Germany and gave a copy to Powell. "You know," he said, "this just points up what I've been saying the past year to all my generals and admirals: 'Hey, remember the Fulda Gap, where Soviet tanks were going to come rolling through? Well it's not there any more.'"

Almost a year ago, just after Powell became JCS chairman, the Joint Staff reached the end of a long debate over whether to stop planning for a Soviet invasion of Iran and began concentrating on local threats. Powell's answer: "It's time." So for the past year, while State Department officials persisted in appeasing Saddam Hussein, the Joint Chiefs were devising ways to stop him. "We chose as the threat situation an Iraqi attempt to seize control of the oil assets on the peninsula," says General Butler, who headed the planning effort. In July, 1990, the officers put the final touches on the new plan to defend the Arabian Peninsula against an Iraqi invasion.

**Survival training.** Six years ago, the Army made what could be the most important adjustment of all, opening its National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California's Mojave Desert. Fourteen times a year, 4,000-to-5,000-man brigades arrive for 20-day sessions, including two straight weeks of constant simulated combat spread across a parched moonscape the size of Rhode Island. Soldiers learn discipline, but not the spit-and-polish barracks-inspection variety. They learn to keep their canteens filled at all times, drink 4 or 5 gallons of water a day, wear their flak jackets, clean their weapons and keep their tanks fueled.

In this "Super Bowl of training," kills are recorded on computers that monitor laser-encoded devices worn by soldiers and attached to tanks and other equipment. "Being humiliated by being 'killed' is more effective than any book, more effective than a sergeant chewing your tail," says 45-year-old Brig. Gen. Wesley Clark, Fort Irwin's commander.

The most important lesson of all is that political will matters even more than military skill. So far, both the White House and the Pentagon have moved confidently—but they have not defeated Saddam Hussein. ■

By STEPHEN BUDANSKY WITH CARLA ANNE ROBBINS AND RICHARD Z. CHESNOFF IN SAUDI ARABIA. BRUCE B. AUSTER AND PETER CARY IN WASHINGTON AND MIKE THARP AT FORT IRWIN, CALIF.



"Stormin' Norman." The commander at his Saudi headquarters

# How the top cop in the Gulf sees his job

*General Schwarzkopf on the use of force*



Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf is a hulking, tough, lifelong infantryman, a 56-year-old, 6-foot 3-inch Vietnam veteran known to his aides as "The Bear" and to others in the military as "Stormin' Norman." Now commander of all U.S. forces in the Middle East, he talks tough in the face of the Iraqi threat but exhibits an almost tender concern for the welfare of his troops. His colleagues call him smart and hard driving. "Go read something about William Tecumseh Sherman," says retired Army Col. Paul Winkle, a West Point classmate, "and you'll be reading something about Norm."

Schwarzkopf served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds received in action. He readily admits he has learned as much from his own mistakes as from those of others, and he has seen enough men die to know that the only way to fight a war is to fight hard and end it quickly.

Schwarzkopf understands that he is a

child of history: Past wars, his own war experiences, even his family heritage. His father, Norman Schwarzkopf, Sr., was an Army general who commanded the Shah's police in Iran from 1942 to 1948 and headed the New Jersey State Police during the time of the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby. He even hosted the old radio show "Gangbusters."

Today, Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr., is the top U.S. cop in the Middle East. In a wide-ranging interview with *U.S. News* Senior Correspondent Richard Z. Chesnoff, Schwarzkopf talked about the use of force, the risks involved, about world politics and the tinderbox of the Middle East. Excerpts:

"It's been apparent to me that we're not only in an evolutionary but in almost a revolutionary change in the way our military thinking has been driven for the past 40 years. I became convinced that we were coming to the point where the principal points of contention in the world were not going to be between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and that we ought to start thinking about doing things differently. When I became commander in chief [of the

## ■ COVER STORY

U.S. Central Command in November 1988), I sat down and asked myself what would be the most likely confrontation of forces that the United States could be involved in. At that time, I had over 13 regional shooting wars going on in the Middle East. From Libya all the way over to Pakistan and India, from civil war in the Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia to the Iraq-Iran confrontation ... not to mention the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"So I put all this together and came to the conclusion that from a strategic standpoint, the most likely way the U.S. would get involved in a conflict in the Mideast would involve just that, a regional conflict over-spilling its boundaries and threatening the interests of the U.S. Having come to that conclusion, I got Washington on board and [we] began to plan for the worst possible scenario. If you can handle the worst, then you can handle anything."

### On Vietnam and the strenuous rules of engagement at the Cambodian border.

"Your attitudes evolve as you mature, as you have greater understanding of all the forces that come to play. As a young military officer, my attitude was 'Let's go get 'em! ... Send me in there, coach! I'm ready to play!' The Vietnam experience left a lot of scars. I was on the Cambodian border at a time when the rules were kind of *he* could attack across the border and beat up on you and do anything he wanted. But when *you* started to get the upper hand, *he* could run back across the border and say 'allege, allege in-free' and you weren't allowed to chase him. That's not my favorite way to fight a war."

### On air power and close-in air support of ground troops.

"I was in Vietnam once as a young captain, three days short of being promoted major, advising the Vietnamese. We were getting ready to go into a military operation during the Ia Drang Valley Campaign in 1965 and had been given this wonderful operations order written in total Leavenworth style by the senior Vietnamese HQ. Then, suddenly, I discovered that (contrary to the

order) we had no fire support nor any advance air strikes. I'd been told we'd have a Ranger battalion as our reserve and I suddenly found out they were all on leave. So I went back and advised my Vietnamese counterpart not to go. Three or 4 hours later, I was hauled in before an array of colonels. 'Captain,' one of them said, 'how dare you say not go. Who are you to decide what adequate air support is?' 'Sir, in all due respect,' I answered, 'when I'm the senior man on the ground, and it's my ass hanging out, adequate air support is about 100 sorties of B-52s circling my head all in direct support of me. I may

folk and down to Grenada. The prevailing thinking was, 'We're going, but it's not going to happen.' I can remember sitting in the dining area on the U.S.S. *Guam* and all of a sudden the watch officer or someone came in and said, 'It's a go.' And we all said, 'a Go?' 'Yeah, tomorrow morning.' All of a sudden, everybody stopped eating and left the table to do what they had to do. I remember standing outside the command bridge in the dark of night saying 'Gee, we're going into Grenada. This is a military operation involving lethal force. Are we getting involved in another Vietnam? Is this something the American

people will or will not support?'

Then I remember saying to myself, 'Wait a minute. Schwarzkopf, you thought this through before, you've committed yourself to the idea that the defense of the nation is too important for you to question the rightness or wrongness of the action at the 11½ hour. Your duty as long as it's a legal order [is to go]. ...' If someone said, 'Go in and machine-gun 1,000 civilians,' I'd say, 'Absolutely not! Sorry, but I consider that illegal and immoral and I'm not going to do it.' But the orders for Grenada were very simple: We were supposed to absolutely minimize collateral damage, we were supposed to do everything to avoid hurting civilians. All the right rules were there. And the cause was a just one. The last minute is not the time to be second-guessing.

"I went through a long self-evaluation after Vietnam. We had some officers who said 'Hell no, I won't go.' I resented them for having garnered all of the privileges of being an officer in the United States Army — but all of a sudden, when they were asked to do what they were really paid to do, they said, 'I'm sorry, but morally I can't assume

that.' I decided that you've got to have faith in your government, in the decision makers of the country. The defense of the nation can't be left in the hands of someone who has an option to say, 'Well, I've evaluated [it], and I've decided that today I will not defend the nation.'

"It's too important to leave that option in the hand of the military. ... If you give the military an option not to go to war when the country goes to war, then conversely, aren't you almost giving it the option to decide when it wants to go to war even when the country doesn't want to go to war? And you certainly don't want to do that." ■



**Helping hand.** In 1965, as a young captain, Schwarzkopf served as an adviser to a South Vietnamese unit

be willing to accept something less, but that's just barely adequate when it's my butt on the line."

"Of course he got furious. But that's my approach to military operations. You're talking human lives, and my responsibility is to accomplish my objective with a minimum loss of the troops under my command. That's my job, not just accomplishing the mission."

### On command authority and Grenada, where Schwarzkopf served as deputy commander of the Joint Task Force.

"I will never forget flying out of Nor-

# Sands of time eroding morale

By Mort Rosenblum

IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — The 24th Division's "Battle Kings" man 155mm howitzers, but the only weapons used in anger are flyswatters. The enemy, for many, is a clock that moves too slowly.

"People keep telling lies that morale is high," said Spec. Chris Hernandez of San Antonio, Texas, playing cards with friends who nodded assent. "They're only fooling themselves. Morale is low."

A sampling of the 200,000 soldiers and Marines deployed under Operation Desert Shield suggests a classic military malaise: Troops, with no idea of when new orders might come, want to get back to their lives.

Some have been in the blistering northeastern Saudi desert for more than two months preparing for a battle that might never come.

The desert weather is cooling down, but the sand remains, fouling equipment, jamming weapons and fraying tempers.

But many are still anxious to fight. Marine Sgt. Marco Rodriguez, a 23-year-old aircraft mechanic from Santa Barbara, Calif., left no doubt.

"I'll come home in one of two ways, the big parade or in a body bag," he said. "I prefer the former, but I'll take the latter."

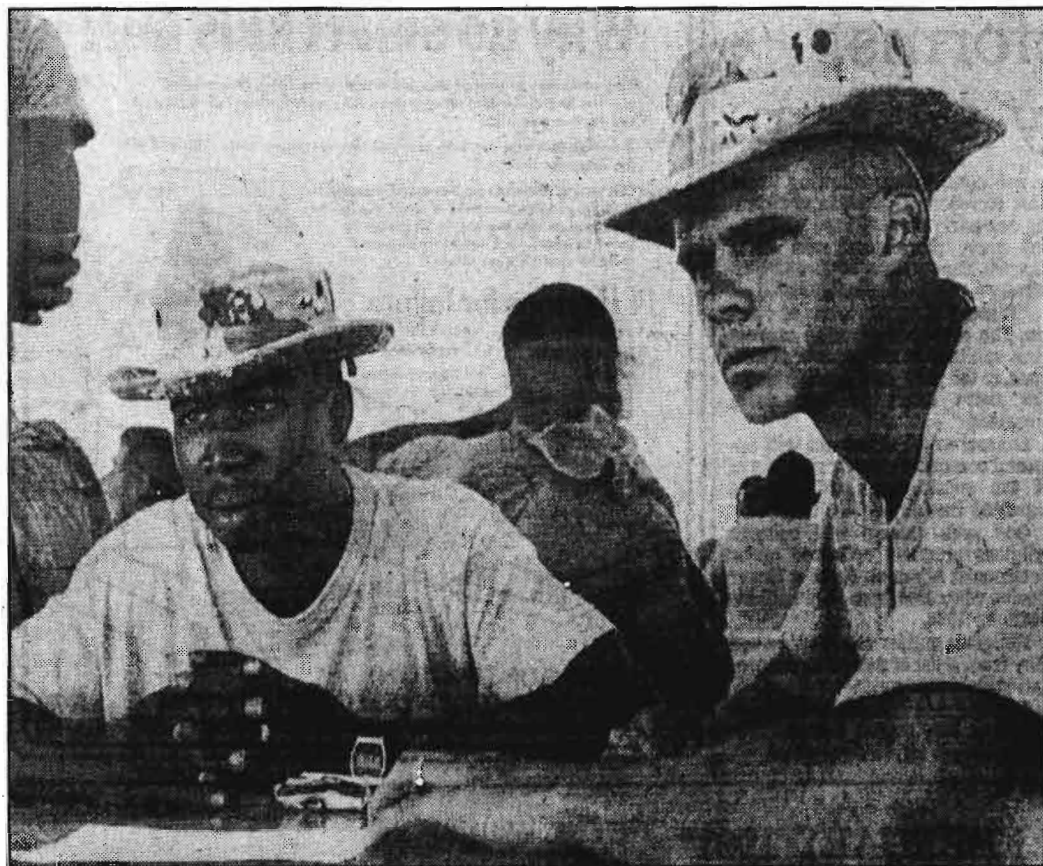
Lack of enthusiasm, however, seemed more common.

Field commanders like Lt. Col. Stephen Lutz, of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Field Artillery — the Battle Kings — scrounge videos, books, volleyball and games to help their troops get by.

"We're thinking about this every day," Lutz said of growing morale problems. "We try to provide some relief and outlet for the soldiers."

Sgts. Steve Coles, of Pittsburgh, and Ty McWhorter, of Wichita Falls, Texas, weren't convinced by the forts. They spent last Christmas in Panama on Operation Just Cause. This year, they figure, they'll miss it again.

"All the goodies, we don't want 'em," Coles said. "We only want one thing: to go home. And that's speaking on behalf of everyone."



Associated Press

Sgts. Steve Coles of Pittsburgh, left, and Ty McWhorter of Wichita Falls, Texas, spent last Christmas in Panama in Operation Just Cause and will probably spend this Christmas in Saudi Arabia.

Like most others, Coles and McWhorter acknowledged Desert Shield was made up of volunteer service people. Like many others, however, they said that if they weren't going to fight, they had no business sitting around in the desert.

Spec. Darnell Thompson of Akron, Ohio, said his daughter was born in early October, and the news — from the Red Cross — took 10 days to reach him. He had been due for discharge soon but emergency orders extended his stay for six months.

"We're not prisoners and shouldn't be held against our will," he said.

Four soldiers playing cards broke in to condemn the long, uncertain wait.

William Curtis, 22, of Kelso, Wash., was bareheaded against the heat, revealing a snarling tiger tattooed on his right shoulder. On the left was a heart with the names of his three children. A fourth child is due anytime.

"If my wife's going to read this, tell her I love her," he said.

"My question is why are we here?" said Spec. Anthony Zipperer of Ruskin, Fla. "Kuwait's such a

little country. It's not a democracy. If this isn't for oil, why are we fighting?"

He laughed and added: "I won't tell you what I really feel. I've only said what I can get away with."

Morale is a sensitive question. After grousing 24th Division soldiers were quoted in The New York Times, the commanding general restricted access to individual reporters.

"One man insulted the president," an information officer said on condition of anonymity. He referred to a remark that President Bush should come out and drink hot water with the troops to see things up close.

Such remarks, however, were common, not only in the 24th but also among the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and elsewhere among the U.S. forces.

Sgt. Christopher Paugh, 28, a Marine aircraft mechanic from Philadelphia, wondered why troops couldn't have a cold beer. Someone said U.S. forces had to be careful not to upset the Saudis, for whom alcohol is forbidden by Islam.

Paugh retorted: "Hey, if they don't want us on their side, they can

fight their own holy wars on their own land by themselves. We'll go home."

Some soldiers fault their comrades for grousing about a job they volunteered for, with risks they agreed to take.

"It's part of the Army," Lutz said. "I was away when my son was born, too. No one likes that part, but it is our job."

For the majority who grumble but do their best to adjust, small comforts appear by the day.

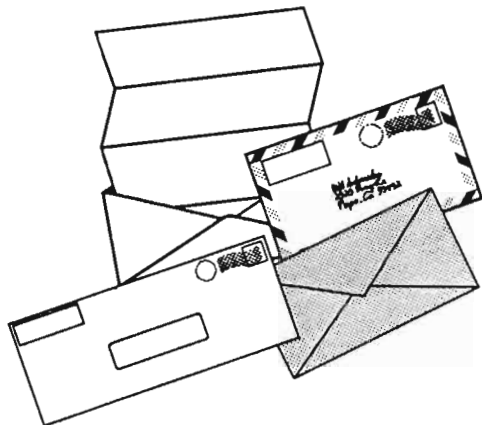
Marines of the 311 Combat Support Wing, based in Yuma, Ariz., built a weight room from scrap wood and iron. A poster pinned to the camouflage netting reads: "Body by Saudi."

Quiet plans are afoot for rest and recreation trips. Some men and women take two-day breaks at a resort camp run by Aramco, the giant U.S.-Saudi oil company.

At the Battle Kings' club, the small library is limited. Among the weighty tomes of military biographies and memoirs is a well-thumbed paperback change of pace: "Dante's Inferno."



# MAIL CALL.....



Meet the traveling STEELE's - JOEL and Dottie (I 19th '37-'42) of 580 Stadium, Provo Utah. This one was taken in Anchorage, Alaska, in August. Note the flowers. Write the Steele's: "Drop in if you're ever in our area." Now don't you guys all take off all at once for Provo, Utah. You may regret that invite, Joel.

C Btry Triple Nickel boys, sound off. GEORGE DERZIPILSKI wants to hear from you. He's at 174 Connie Park, McKees Rocks PA. George left Schofield with the 555 around 7/20/50, landing at Pusan. Stayed until 7/51.

Two merchants were discussing their businesses: One said, "What a September I had - not \$10 came in - October was nothing and November was worse." The other man said, "What are you complaining about? I just found out my son stole money from me, my wife is cheating on me, I owe a fortune to the I.R.S. and my partner ran away with my girl -- What could be worse?" The other guy answered: "December."

What d'ya know? - a PBX operator at Bally's Hotel/Casino in Reno. Meet ANDY - and let's squeeze Beth in here too - SIMPSON (Med.Pl., 2nd Bn., 298th Inf.) of 173 Crown Point, Carson City NV. Andy also was, for 23 years, Chief Purser, US Merchant Marine (Matson Navigation.)



CHARLEY CRAW (L 34th '41-'44) - who regretfully has gone to his reward, had this Hollandia memory and wrote of it thus: "I never think of General Eichelberger but what I am reminded of the day he made a very unexpected visit to Pim Jetty, where L 34th was doing guard duty. The area contained several Jap dumps with medical supplies, food supplies, etc. One of these dumps contained a mountain of new Jap jungle uniforms, much lighter than ours and quite comfortable. We were sick and tired of cleaning our own, so everyday we would go over to the dump and put on a new outfit, throwing away the one worn the previous day. It seemed like a great idea.

"When the good general saw L Co. walking around in Jap clothes, he almost had a stroke. Whether or not this was only a temporary manner of dress didn't make a particle of difference to him. When we heard Gen. Eichelberger was in the orderly room with his blood pressure out of sight, the uniforms went flying into the bushes.

"No one really blamed him, for there was a man we all admired, a great officer who liked to be up front where the fighting was going on. He certainly was a leader of men, who got the job done, a fighter who had few equals. The grapevine was "out to lunch" that day at Pim Jetty. I hated to see anyone so upset."

A favorite story of TOM UPTON:

A bag lady is wandering along 42nd St. when a couple of Nips, complete with pads and pencils and cameras approach her.

"Can you tell us how to get to Central Park?" asks one.

Replied the bag lady: "You didn't have any trouble finding Pearl Harbor. Find it yourselves!"

## CONVENTION, ANYONE?

We're looking for a Convention Chairman for our 1992 Fiesta. Common sense dictates that the right convention site is largely dependent upon a man at the scene who can lead the parade. So we're looking for a man to come forward with his own offer to run the show if it's held in his neighborhood. Additional to his nomination of himself, we will need to know the hotel which can handle our size of a crowd (about 700), the rates offered (\$65 - 80.00, best possible, of course), and a review of the transportation facilities enabling our 600-700 people to get in and out with relative ease.

While you're mulling this over, bear in mind, please, that we've been to some towns before, for instance:

- 7 times to Chicago
- 5 " " Louisville/Lexington
- 4 " " Savannah
- 3 " " St. Louis
- 3 " " New York City
- 2 " " Baltimore
- 2 " " Myrtle Beach

Please mail your nomination, if you have one to our President, HERB CARLSON at Box 66, Pittsburg NH 03592.

# PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT



"Now don't go gettin' any ideas—  
The good lookin' one is my date."

**THE GULF WAR**

# TIME

## Stalking Saddam

General  
"Stormin' Norman"  
Schwarzkopf,  
the brains behind  
allied strategy

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THE COMMANDER

# Stormin' Norman On Top

**Eight years ago, Schwarzkopf predicted war in the gulf; now the plans he made for fighting it are guiding allied strategy**

By JESSE BIRNBAUM



*When I peruse the conquered fame of heroes and the vic-tories of mighty generals, I do not envy the generals.*  
—Walt Whitman

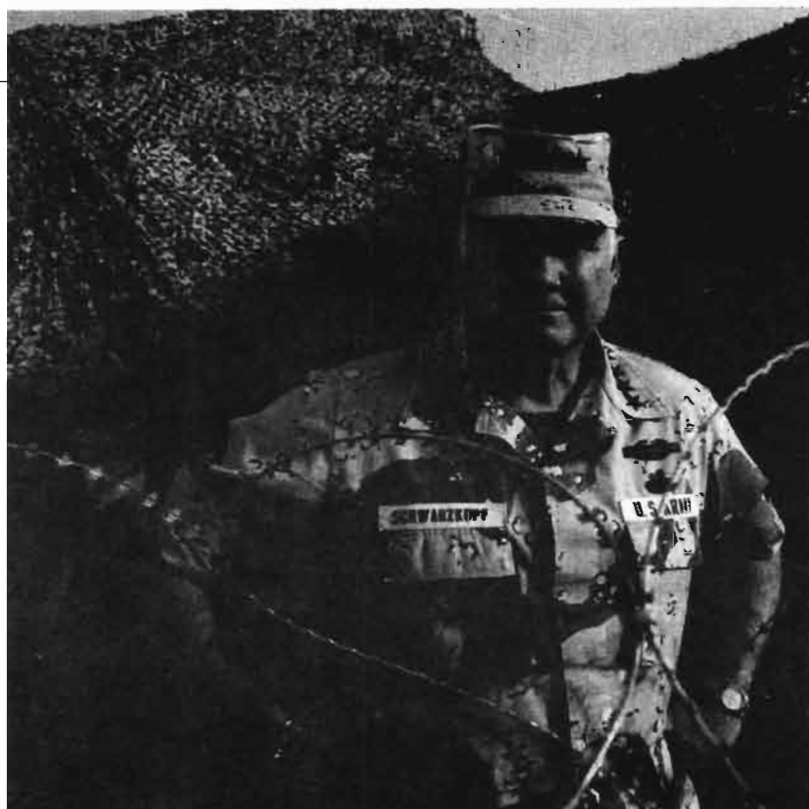
It may come to pass that when the story of the gulf war is sifted and studied, the achievements of four-star Army General H. (for nothing) Norman Schwarzkopf will rank with those of Montgomery and Eisen-

hower and Alexander the Great—or George McClellan and William Westmoreland. It is too early to predict how well or badly the war may go. Many battles are yet to be fought; many men are yet to die; thousands of innocent people are yet to suffer; a sure peace is yet to be forged.

What is known now is that the man who commands the vast military might of the allied coalition has prepared all his professional life for his role. Fortunately, he is by all accounts a passionately engaged leader of considerable talents and, what's more,

possessed of a startling, prophetic mind.

As long ago as 1983, Schwarzkopf foresaw the possibility that the U.S. might one day find itself at war in the Middle East if an unfriendly nation succeeded in taking over a neighbor. Two years ago, as boss of the U.S. Central Command (which covers some North African countries and areas farther east), Schwarzkopf set out on his own to design a contingency plan. "He always believed that the big eruption would come in the Middle East," says his sister Sally. "He took the job at Central Com-



## "We're Not Going to Lose"

By DEAN FISCHER RIYADH

**Q. Have you had any surprise at all in this first week of war?**

**A.** The biggest surprise, and it's a very pleasant one, is so far the exceptionally low number of casualties we have taken. Nobody expected the casualties to be this low.

**Q. Did the Iraqi response, or lack of response, surprise you?**

**A.** No, no, we had been told that they might do that. It is not the most desirable outcome, but it certainly doesn't come as a surprise.

**Q. Why do you say it isn't the most desirable outcome?**

**A.** Well, the fact that they have chosen not to fight us in the air is not the most desirable. The Air Force guys would tell you that if they had their druthers, they'd want those folks to come up and fight them so we could go ahead and eliminate them much quick-

er. But we had been told that Saddam Hussein decided a long time ago that he would weather our first strike, and then having done that, he would bring his forces to bear and defeat us.

**Q. Is it realistic to think he can do that?**

**A.** I don't think so. I don't think so at all. Again, I think this is another miscalculation. I think Saddam Hussein thought we were going to do things the way he does business. After one or two days the air campaign would be over, and then we would not be able to sustain a campaign against him. That is totally incorrect.

**Q. Can you sustain this campaign as long as you want?**

**A.** Absolutely. There's no end to it.

**Q. Is there anything you can think of that Iraq might do to give people a nasty shock?**

**A.** We know there is chemical capability. We know Saddam has



**A passionately engaged leader of considerable talents possessed of a startling, prophetic mind**

themselves cunning battlefield tacticians, liked to direct their generals hither and thither. George Bush, Dick Cheney and Colin Powell know better. Desert Storm, says Cheney, "is basically Norm's plan. It's fundamentally Norm's to execute."

And so he does. After directing—on perilously short notice—the biggest buildup of U.S. forces since Vietnam, Schwarzkopf is orchestrating a complex war machine comprising forces from 28 allied nations totaling 675,000 troops, hundreds of ships, and thousands of airplanes and tanks, all fully equipped and operating, says the Pentagon, right on schedule.

At the same time, Schwarzkopf has demonstrated the talents of a first-rate diplomat, achieving cohesion not only among the traditionally rivalrous U.S. military services but also among the Arab and Western allies with all their conflicting interests. He is especially careful in his dealings with the Saudis. Only last week King Fahd, worried about an attack on Riyadh, wanted reassurance from the top. Schwarzkopf went to the palace and advised Fahd that his main concern was the possibility that Saddam could fire Scud missiles with chemical warheads at the capital. That was not much in the way of reassurance, but at least the King got straight talk.

Most of the straight talk takes place daily in Schwarzkopf's war room in his Riyadh compound. Having designed his battle plans with the help of top alliance commanders, the general delegates day-to-day operations to his flag officers. He is not a micromanager but a resolute overseer, who runs his campaign 18 hours a day. "I started out with what I thought was going to be a very orderly schedule," he says. "A 7 a.m. staff briefing, a 10 a.m. coalition briefing, then a 7 p.m. briefing with the component commanders. Boy,

it looked like it was great. But I've got to tell you, more often than not the 7 a.m. meeting has not come off because everybody has been up so late at night."

His colleagues find it easy to forgive him. "Initially," says a British commander, "we were taken aback by his gung-ho appearance, but in a very short time we came to realize that here was a highly intelligent soldier—a skilled planner, administrator and battlefield commander."

That judgment comes as no surprise to Schwarzkopf's old friends, who regard him with unalloyed admiration if not outright idolatry. Retired Army General Ward LeHardy, who was Schwarzkopf's West Point roommate, insists that "Norm is this generation's Doug MacArthur. He's got the tactical brilliance of Patton, the strategic insight of Eisenhower and the modesty of Bradley."

Many people might quarrel with the modesty part. Schwarzkopf can be charming, but he also possesses the ego—and petulance—of a field marshal. He has been known to pore over his press clippings, underlining criticisms or perceived slights and flogging memos about them to his subordinates. He has epic temper tantrums. When these erupt, says a senior Joint Chiefs of Staff officer, he starts "yelling and cursing and throwing things." What is most striking about Schwarzkopf, however, is his abiding certitude, a bristling self-assurance, the kind that many Army brats acquire with their first pair of long pants.

Schwarzkopf's father H. Norman Sr. was also a West Pointer who became a general. At one stage in his career, Norm Sr. left the Army to enter civic life. As head of the New Jersey state police, he led the investigation of the sensational Lindbergh baby kidnapping. For a time, he was a radio star, narrating a shoot-'em-up crime series.

At the outbreak of World War II, he rejoined the Army. From 1942 to '48, he led a mission to Iran, where he organized the na-

mand with the idea that he might well have to fight." Five days before Saddam Hussein launched his invasion, Schwarzkopf and his staff happened to be running an exercise predicated on the possibility that Iraq might overrun Kuwait. All that was necessary after that was for Schwarzkopf to polish his plan. It became the model for Operation Desert Shield.

Now that the shield has become a storm, Schwarzkopf is running the show as commander of the allied forces. Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon Johnson, fancying

an aerial-delivery capability of those chemical weapons. He used them on his own people. So a nasty shock would be if he were somehow to launch a surprise attack against our forces, blanket them with chemical weapons and kill large numbers of Americans and our allies. So, of course, we've got a strategy to defeat that. One of the biggest errors a commander can make is to assume away the capabilities of his adversaries. I'm not going to make that mistake.

**Q. Do you envision a ground attack against our forces?**

**A.** The likelihood of him launching a ground attack of any magnitude and achieving an element of surprise is unlikely. Now he might mount a battalion-size attack and catch one sector of our forces by surprise. But the big question is, Does he have a chemical capability with his Scuds? If he were to start lofting these missiles into the populated areas of Saudi Arabia or Israel, that would be an undesirable development.

**Q. Is an allied ground offensive going to be necessary?**

**A.** We have an integrated campaign plan we are going to contin-

ue to execute until we have accomplished the objectives of the United Nations resolution. We're prepared to do whatever is necessary to accomplish that. The real question is what is going to be necessary before Saddam Hussein realizes, or his people realize, that they're going to lose this war, and it is to their advantage to terminate it on the grounds of the U.N. resolution. Saddam Hussein is literally destroying his own nation right now. Clearly we are doing everything we can to avoid killing innocent people, and that has given him a shield behind which he can hide. We're willing to do that to demonstrate to the world that this is not a war against the Iraqi people. I don't know how long we will continue to do that. I don't know what the limits of American tolerance would be before the rules of the game change. If he starts using chemical weapons and kills large numbers of innocent people, I'm not certain I'd be willing to sit back and say we're the guys with the white hats.

**Q. The stakes in this conflict are pretty high.**

**A.** Higher than in any conflict since World War II. But we're not going to lose. The only question is what we have to do to win. ■

tion's imperial police force. According to some historians, he returned to Tehran in 1953 to play a key role in the CIA operation that overthrew nationalist Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and installed the Shah of Iran.

Norm Jr., who was born in Trenton, began looking to his father's stars at an early age. When photos were taken for the yearbook at Bordentown Military Institute, near Trenton, 10-year-old cadet Norman posed for two pictures, one smiling, the other grim-faced. His mother preferred the smiling version, but little Norm hung tough. "Someday," he explained, "when I become a general, I want people to know that I'm serious." He wasn't kidding.

His first overseas posting, at 12, was to Tehran with his father, and the exposure to the exotic ways of the Middle East was to have a lasting impact on his sensibilities. After a year, he was packed off to European schools, where he learned German and French and dreamed all the while of a military career.

At West Point, the young plebe was known variously as Norm, Schwarzie, Bear and, in recognition of his notorious temper, Stormin' Norman. Nobody ever called him Herb; Norm's father, who detested the name Herbert, refused to inflict it on his son but gave him the H.

Looking back on the West Point years, Norm's old friends still marvel at his single-minded ambition. "He saw himself as a successor to Alexander the Great, and we didn't laugh when he said it," recalls retired General Leroy Suddath, another former roommate. "Norm's favorite battle was Cannae," says Suddath, in which Hannibal in 216 crushed the forces of Rome. "It was

the first real war of annihilation, the kind Norman wanted to fight." He desperately wanted to lead his country's forces into a major battle. "We'd talk about these things in the wee hours, and Norman would predict not only that he would lead a major American army into combat, but that it would be a battle decisive to the nation."

Suddath claims that Schwarzkopf, with a reported I.Q. of 170, could easily have graduated first in his class of 480, instead of 43rd, "but he did a lot of other things except study." He wrestled and played a bit of tennis and football. He sang tenor and conducted the chapel choir and loved listening to what Suddath calls the "uplifting" martial music of Wagner and Tchaikovsky's cannonading *1812 Overture*—"the sort that makes you feel on top of the world."

**A**fter graduating in 1956, Schwarzkopf took on various Army assignments and later served two tours in Vietnam, first as a paratrooper advising Vietnamese airborne troops, then as commander of an infantry battalion. Twice he was wounded in action; three times he won a Silver Star. On one occasion, he tiptoed into a minefield to rescue a wounded soldier; it scared him to death, he told a reporter later. Says his sister Sally: "He went off to Vietnam as the heroic captain. He came back having lost his youth."

What he gained was the conviction that the Vietnam debacle resulted from a failure of public and political support for the military. Bitterly, he determined that the U.S. should never again engage in a limited war with ill-defined aims.

He has no such reservations about the gulf war; he wants only to win it fast and suffer the fewest casualties possible. Apart from

that, Schwarzkopf is concerned that his long hours in the Riyadh war room prevent him from visiting his troops as often as he would like. When he does venture out, he is always accompanied by four military bodyguards in civilian clothes and armed with AR-15 rifles. On a recent tour, Schwarzkopf gazed across the Saudi border into Kuwait and declared that it was the most peaceful moment he had had in weeks. Then it was the general speaking: surveying the vast expanse of desert, he pronounced it perfect for tank warfare.

In the war room as in the field, noncoms and enlisted soldiers are as devoted to Schwarzkopf as his officers. None seem overly intimidated by his gruffness, his size (6 ft. 3 in., 240 lbs.) or even his flare-ups. He is, after all, the Bear, whom some describe as only part grizzly and the rest Teddy. His wife Brenda and their three children know him as a pussycat: an outdoorsman, an amateur magician, a cookie muncher, a fellow who lulls himself to sleep listening to tapes of Pavarotti or the sounds of honking geese and mountain streams. So what if he likes Charles Bronson movies?

The truth, says Schwarzkopf's executive officer, Colonel Burwell B. Bell, is that the general "has a full range of emotions. He can get very, very angry, but it's never personal. He's extremely tough on people when it's necessary to get them to do something, but the next minute he'll throw his arm around their shoulders and tell them what a great job they're doing." If it were at all physically possible, Norm Schwarzkopf's troops would probably do the same to him. The outcome of the gulf war will tell if history wraps him in a similar embrace.

—Reported by  
A. Engler Anderson/Tampa, Dean Fischer/Riyadh  
and Bruce van Voorst/Washington



The general and King Fahd: with the skills of a first-rate diplomat, he has fused an extraordinary coalition



By Colin Nickerson  
GLOBE STAFF

NORTHERN DESERT, Saudi Arabia — The several biographies of Dwight D. Eisenhower in the library of Battle King City go largely unthumbed, as does Karl von Clausewitz's military classic "On War."

But continuous video showings of "Death Wish II" and the Bruce Lee flick "Enter the Dragon" draw an enthusiastic audience. The flowing soldiers sit on folding chairs set in

the sand beneath an immense cotton canopy sipping Gatorade, munching Oreos and cheering the kung fu kicks.

"We are even starting to get a good feed of football scores now, although that's sometimes a mixed blessing," said Lt. Shawn Buck of Elgin, Ill. "When BC beat Army, everyone was pretty bummed out."

Battle King City is rather less grand than its name — a makeshift "recreational center" of volleyball nets, card tables be-

TROOPS, Page 6

## ■ TROOPS

Continued from Page 1

neath the quarter-acre canopy, about 100 books on shelves made of ammo crates and the video screen. The facility was set up last week in the desert near the forward howitzer batteries of the 3d Battalion, 41st Field Artillery of the 24th Infantry Division.

"Conditions are still pretty austere but bit by bit getting better," said Lt. Col. Stephen Lutz, commander of the 3d Battalion, nicknamed the Battle Kings, one of several forward-based units seeking ways to provide an occasional day of leisure for their dusty, sun-weary troops.

A rotation has been established that allows each artillery man of the unit a once-a-week, eight-hour respite at the recreation area located about a mile behind the battalion batteries.

"You want to keep the edge honed, but you don't want to grind it down," said Lutz of his troops. "Especially now that it looks like this might be a long one."

More than two months after American troops began deploying in force across the Saudi sands, the raw-nerve-edge feel of the forward post is beginning to dissipate somewhat as waiting for war becomes routine.

"We hit the ground all twitchy, really expecting to be immediately caught up in some very heavy-duty shooting stuff," said Spec. 4 Wilson McCrimmon of Southern Pines, S.C. "But you know, after a while even an unnatural life finds natural rhythm."

Some disgruntlement, too, is setting in as soldiers suddenly find time to ponder their situation. Gripes are aired openly to a reporter, and some go beyond the usual military grouching about lousy food, grueling phys-

ical conditions and delayed mail from the United States.

"I thought we were sent out here to run Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait," said an angry private. "Well, Saddam's still sitting pretty while President Bush waves the war flag from Kennebunkport. Seems to me this is just a way of distracting political attention while the economy back home goes mush."

Two of the enlisted man's comrades hotly disagreed, saying emphatically they felt they were serving an important mission by deterring further Iraqi aggression. But they also complained of feelings of isolation and uncertainty.

"We are kind of living in a vacuum," said one soldier. "A lot of the guys are starting to say, 'So here we are. Now what?' I'm not sure what scares us worse, the idea of going to war or the idea of an endless stalemate."

Still, morale generally seems high, especially among combat units like the 41st Artillery. Most complaints revolve around familiar themes of dreary diets, lack of contact with loved ones and a shortage of information on the geopolitical drama in which the 230,000 US troops hold center stage.

"We're the first to go, the last to know," joked an Army officer.

Most concede that living conditions, while still harsh, are starting to improve as the United States digs in for what may be a long haul.

Soldiers at the forward operating bases that constitute the American front line still spend hard, long hours at combat maneuvers in the heat and dust.

But also they rest.

The artillery men and tankers of the 24th Division still sleep beside their armored vehicles. But now they

# Troops in gulf seeing combat only on video



AP PHOTO

With time on their hands, two US soldiers try their luck yesterday fishing off a pier in Saudi Arabia.

have cots instead of mere troughs in the sand. Meals are still mostly cold hash spooned from a plastic bag. But now, once a week, there is hot steak and even field showers — a couple of minutes of blissful scrubbing beneath sun-heated water spouting from a metal container on wooden stilts.

"It is a little rough, but we are starting to enjoy a few basic comforts," said Master Sgt. John Adams, a 19-year veteran of the Army. "I may retire here when my 20 is up."

Other schemes involve rotating troops back to rear areas once every few weeks for a day of shopping and

fast-food gorging in Dhahran, a small urban center located several hours drive from the forward bases.

Many Western families employed by the giant Saudi-American oil company, Aramco, have opened their homes in the residential compound outside Dhahran to soldiers on 10-hour furlough.

Now, a quiet supper with a civilian family is not the sort of activity normally associated with soldiers on leave. But in this conservative Islamic theocracy, the possibilities for partying are slim. Liquor is illegal, nightclubs nonexistent. Even movie theaters are forbidden in the

kingdom as "corrupting to morals."

So troops on leave in Dhahran tend to gravitate to Pizza Sheikh outlets or American-style shopping malls. The big Safeway supermarket in nearby Al-Khobar is another favorite haunt.

For those interested in exploring Arab culture, Dhahran is something of a disappointment. Shops in the Souk, the traditional marketplace, are better stocked with Sony Walkmans and Nikon cameras than camel saddles or Bedouin jewelry. The souvenir stands sell "genuine Arab brassware manufactured in Pakistan."

## Mideast Tensions: Hot and Sandy, and Where's the Mail?

# G.I.'s in the Saudi Desert Are Harder Now, but Still Have Lessons to Learn

## An Armored Unit Shows No Signs of Going to War

By JAMES LeMOYNE

Special to The New York Times

IN SAUDI ARABIA, Oct. 17 — In the light of the setting desert sun, one of the United States Army's best armored units raced across the sand in a whine of engines and billowing outdrives of smoke and dust.

The Second Squadron of the Fourth Cavalry Regiment, a unit of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division, was on the move.

The scene was utterly martial. But its deeper message was less menacing. After more than two months in the Saudi desert there is little sign that American ground forces are preparing to attack Iraq anytime soon.

There is also evidence that American ground forces have not yet mastered the terrain and the tactics that would be demanded of them if war comes unexpectedly.

### 'No Offensive Plans'

The sunset display of tanks and armored personnel carriers here was in fact a shift to a less forward, more defensive position for the Second Squadron, which had been the United States Army's most forward deployed force.

"I have absolutely nothing on that," said the unit's commander, Lieut. Col. Glynn E. Pope, when asked if his men were preparing to attack. "We have absolutely no offensive plans at this time."

The colonel and his subordinate officers all said their mission remained to defend Saudi Arabia, not to attack Iraq or Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. They added that preparations for a ground attack on Iraqi positions across the border would take weeks and that so far they had not been involved in any such plans.

Their statements suggest either that American ground forces are not close to mounting an attack or that their ultimate mission will be to keep Iraqi forces from penetrating Saudi Arabia while American aircraft and cruise missiles decimate Iraq.

### 'Nothing but a Tripwire'

Evidence seen on a two-day visit with the squadron at its position deep in the eastern Saudi desert seemed to support the officers' assertions: the unit was not preparing to attack. Under military ground rules here the unit's exact size and location cannot be reported.

The dust-covered soldiers took a grim view of their recent work of holding a defensive line facing numerically far superior Iraqi forces just across the border.

"We knew we were nothing but a tripwire," said Christopher Dallas, a 22-year-old gunner from Sacramento, Calif. "We told ourselves we'd see the Iraqis coming by our vehicles exploding."

Two months in the sun and sand have hardened the men of this armored cavalry unit. They say they need only half the water they did before to tolerate the heat.

### Desert Is More Familiar

The desert remains hostile, but has become more familiar, and temperatures are falling to more bearable levels, the soldiers said. Over all, the men of the Second Squadron give the impression of an acclimating desert army that will fight better for having spent months surviving the Saudi sands.

But there are signs that the troops still have a way to go to master this harsh field of possible battle, especially in nighttime operations when one dune looks just like countless others and it is all too easy to get lost.

Some soldiers also complained that they were "being kept in the dark" about their increasingly prolonged mission and that the Army was doing too little to make desert living conditions more bearable.

If American forces are sent into Iraq, the tanks and other armored vehicles of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division are likely to be among the first wave of forces unleashed against Iraqi lines in what would most likely be a battle of heavy armor, rockets and



Members of the Second Squadron of the Fourth Cavalry Regiment, one of the Army units deployed in the Saudi Arabian desert, on maneuvers.

polison gas. As the advance guard of the entire division of more than 15,000 men, this scout unit would be on the cutting edge of the great blade of war the United States is honing in the desert here.

### A Platoon Becomes Lost

The Second Squadron's field base here is bare but efficient. A bevy of OH-58 scout helicopters flit over the sands, watching for enemy movements. They are backed by powerful Cobra helicopter gunships, looking like black wasps bearing pods of rockets and computerized Gatling guns.

Supply trucks and jeeps ferry fuel, ammunition and water from camouflaged dumps to waiting lines of gray tanks and armored fighting vehicles. The whole base can be broken down and moved within an hour, officers say.

But a visit indicated the need to more preparation before going to war against Iraq.

On a nighttime reconnaissance mis-

sion, a platoon of the Second Squadron's A Company got thoroughly lost despite using night-vision goggles that illuminated the desert to daylight brightness.

The platoon of tracked Bradley fighting vehicles, mounted with antitank missiles and 25-millimeter cannons, pulled out at 9:30 P.M. for what should have been a three-hour scouting trip. But because of missed turns in the trackless sand, the unit did not find its way home for more than five hours.

"The desert is deceptive, especially at night," said Sgt. Errol Thompson, the commander of a Bradley vehicle, as he steered over the sands trying to find the way home with the rest of the platoon.

### A Hazard of the Job

Asked what would happen if the unit ran into a minefield in the dark, Sgt. Thompson nonchalantly replied: "You hit a mine and that's it. You're through."

"It's one of the hazards of the job," he said, grinning as the armored vehi-

cle spun past a dune at 30 miles an hour.

Some soldiers were so exhausted from two months of front-line duty on three to four hours of sleep a day that they curled up on the bucking floor of a Bradley vehicle and slept soundly despite the pounding their bodies took as the unit careered over gullies and dunes.

The hazy expanse of the Milky Way filled the sky above, and the bright trails of shooting stars gave the scene a peaceful touch. But the grind of treads and creak of swinging gun turrets left no doubt that the business at hand was to be prepared to destroy other men waiting under the same stars, in their own killing machines.

Looking into the darkness through the Bradley's night scope gave an eerie red and black view of a world that was impenetrable to the naked eye. The high-tech night sights illuminated even the treads of jeep tracks far out in the sands.

### Hard Fighting Conditions

These American units are trained to fight at night and their commanders say they will use the cover of darkness if war comes. But the reconnaissance mission here indicated just how difficult combat could be under such conditions.

Distinguishing enemy from friendly vehicles through night-vision goggles in a world of exploding rockets, burning tanks and unfamiliar terrain would not be easy.

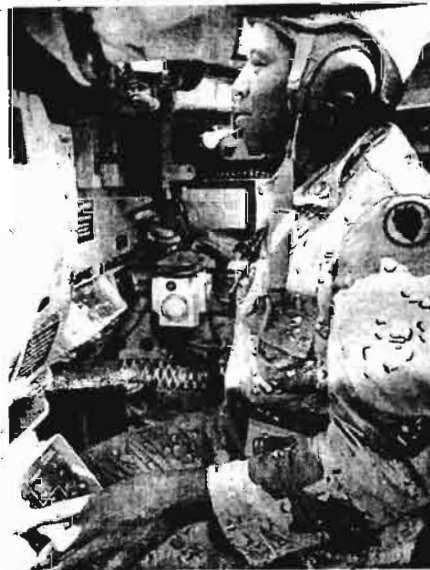
To go against dug-in Iraqi units, across a desert inside Iraq and Kuwait that no American unit has been able to scout on the ground, is a sobering prospect to these American soldiers.

"If there's a fight there's going to be heavy casualties on both sides," said a Second Squadron officer who spoke on the condition that he not be identified. "A ground attack is going to mean a lot of hard fighting."

After a few hours' sleep back at the base camp, the unit awoke to make a two-mile run across the desert for morning exercise. After more than a month in the desert, with almost no amenities, the men then settled down to such luxuries as a shower in a mobile stall with a barrel of water suspended above it.

### A Promise Is Given

Soldiers, stripped to their shorts, seemed to relish the chance to decompress, wash their grimy camouflage uniforms, read letters, eat a hot meal, talk about women they had not seen for 10 weeks and wonder if they would fight here sometime soon or go home.



Sgt. Errol Thompson at the controls of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

The few older men who are veterans of Vietnam and other combat seem to serve as sort of foster fathers for younger soldiers who have never heard a shot fired in anger.

"You're young, harsh and think that bullet is never going to find you, but that's not necessarily true," said Sgt. Victor D. Mustoe, a 47-year-old Vietnam veteran and Cobra pilot. "Some bullets will find you."

The commander of a nearby combat battalion who asked not to be identified said he had called his men together to tell them he had brought 500 body bags to Saudi Arabia. He said the men had answered by making him give them one promise: that if killed in battle, their bodies would be recovered and sent home for burial in the United States.

"It matters a lot to them," the officer

said. "They wanted to know the score and I tried to be straight and tell it to them."

His voice caught, then thickened a little when he added, "My one goal is to bring every one of my men home alive."

"We work for less pay than most American civilians," one private said, "and we have a job that starts at 4 the morning and doesn't end until 9 P.M."

## Disgusted G.I. Asks Bush to 'Drink Hot Water With Us'

By JAMES LeMOYNE

Special to The New York Times

IN SAUDI ARABIA, Oct. 17 — The men of the headquarters supply platoon of the Second Squadron of the Army's Fourth Cavalry Regiment had a few things they wanted to get off their chests.

"Tell George Bush to get off the golf course and out of his fishing boat and come out here in the desert to take a look at what we're doing and drink some hot water with us," declared Pvt. Brett Thompson, 21 years old. "We're tired of being kept in the dark like we don't have the intelligence to be told what's going on."

It was only one of many heated comments by the mostly young enlisted men of this unit, which has been working an average 18 to 20 hours a day for the last two months.

"I had to come out here to find out what the Army really thinks I'm worth — nothing," said an angry private who asked not to be identified. "Why is it that when the U.S. economy gets bad we always go to war?"

In shouted comments, more than a dozen soldiers in the unit complained of very slow mail, no news, no clear definition of their mission, few coins, no chance to telephone home, almost no recreational equipment and a feeling

## A volley of complaints to warm a soldier's heart.

that senior commanders either do not listen or do not want to hear their complaints.

Although some soldiers said mail delivery had improved, it still seems slow and erratic. Pvt. John Barnes, 20 years old, said he had received no mail in more than a month.

Commanders said there are plans to install phones at a nearby town and to ferry troops to a beach resort for a break, but nothing seems definite yet.

"The longer we just sit here like this, the worse morale is going to get," said Sgt. Roland Brooks, a veteran of Vietnam. "I don't think we came over here to fight for low oil prices. The attrition we came to stop are still going on in Kuwait and we're just sitting here."

"I think all the big people involved in this should come out to the desert, here in the sun," Sergeant Brooks added. "I think they'd make a decision real fast. I want to be able to go to church," said Pvt. Woodrow Campbell, 19.

A sergeant said a tent was being raised to serve as a chapel. Several men said the fact that their unit has a chaplain is very important to them.

Several soldiers complained they were taking a pay cut because they were sent to fight in Saudi Arabia. They said they lost a supplemental \$11 per month for off-base living expenses in the United States, and were given instead an extra \$110 hazardous duty pay — adding up to a loss of \$70 a month in risking their lives in the desert.

"We work for less pay than most American civilians," one private said, "and we have a job that starts at 4 the morning and doesn't end until 9 P.M."



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990-91 DUES?  
WE DO NOT BILL SEPARATELY!  
CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVOICE

# Infantrymen rely on skills, intuition

Story and photo by Sgt. D.R. Doss

SAUDI ARABIA — For infantrymen of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech.), the desert environment of the Middle East has presented several new challenges and obstacles, but the soldiers' mission remains the same no matter where they might be... to engage and destroy the enemy.

According to Spec. Joseph Robinson, a "dismounted" infantryman from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, soldiers of the 3rd Platoon are confident they'll be able to accomplish their mission in combat.

They'll not only rely on their own skills on the battlefield, but rely heavily on the skills of those who get them there — the Bradley crew.

Like many skills in today's Army, training evaluations are used to measure an individual's proficiency, and for a Bradley crew, proficiency is measured using Bradley Gunnery Skills Testing.

"I don't worry about facing a BMP (a Soviet armored personnel carrier) on the battlefield, as long as our guys are proficient in BGST," said Spec. Roger Acosta, an infantryman from 3rd Platoon.

The BGST is comprised of 14 separate tasks and is usually given twice a year.

"It covers all the gunnery skills that are necessary for firing, including uploading and misfire procedures," said Sgt. Winfred Longwith, Bradley gunner.

Attached to Task Force 3-69, Company A recently set up BGST stations in its desert position. Some of the tasks that receive special attention from gunners are: boresighting, acquiring and tracking targets, misfire procedures and the Bradley range

card.

Bradley Gunner, Sgt. Rick Cooper said, "Of all the tasks we test on, I think boresighting is the most important." Boreighting enables the crew to check the alignment of the weapons sights. "It makes sure all the weapon systems on the Bradley will fire accurately," he said.

The Bradley's 25mm gun is capable of sustaining a high rate of accurate fire, however, it is susceptible to an occasional misfire.

Another part of the BGST is practicing misfire

See MISSION page 2A



Sergeant Rick Cooper, Bradley gunner, looks through a bore scope to check the alignment of the Bradley's 25mm gun.



Sergeant Winfred Longwith, Bradley gunner, scans the desert terrain. With the aid of binoculars he can accurately construct a Bradley range card.

## Mission

procedures. According to Sgt. Cooper and Sgt. Longwith, incorrect misfire procedures will lock up the Bradley's computerized Turret Distribution Box until it can be reset manually. Although the computer can be brought back on line usually in less than 30 seconds, that's valuable time the crew may not have.

"In a combat situation you don't want to have to stop to reset the computer," said Sgt. Cooper. "If the misfire procedures are done wrong, that's the ultimate

sin in the turret."

Sergeant Cooper said that staying proficient in BGST means not having to give much thought to performing incorrect misfire procedures.

"In combat we want to keep the enemy pinned down with suppressive fire," added Sgt. Longwith. "If we have to stop firing for some reason, the enemy's going to come up and start firing. We don't want that to happen."

Sergeant Longwith went on to say that BGST also stresses

continued from 1A

acquiring and tracking targets.

"We practice spotting enemy targets a lot," he said. "You've got to know what you're looking for, especially at night. There isn't any room for mistakes in combat."

Alpha's Bradley crews agree that BGST means improving their overall proficiency.

"If a guy does good during BGST, you can bet he'll know what to do when the time comes," Sgt. Cooper concluded.



Sergeant Michael Carr, Bradley gunner, checks his 7.62mm Coax weapon before disassembling it as part of BGST.

# AFRTS fills Saudi airways with music, news

By F. Peter Wigginton

At 9:05 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, airwaves crackled with the greeting "Good Mornin', Saudi Arabia!" Then followed "Rock the Casbah," by the group Clash.

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, the world's largest network, serving 132 countries, brought a little bit of Americana to Operation Desert Shield troops encamped on more than 600 square miles of scalding, sandy terrain in the Middle East. From that moment, service members have been able to hear top-of-the-hour, up-to-the-minute radio newscasts direct from the United States and live sporting events, such as the World Series.

The on-site broadcasting operation also offers the local command a means of communicating with service personnel. The program may be a commander addressing his people or an announcer advising, "Don't forget to check for scorpions inside your shoes before putting them back on in the morning." Or a disc jockey may spin a complete spectrum of music: country and western, rock and roll, urban contemporary, easy listening, even a little classical.

The programing did not just drift over the oceans and continents. U.S. Central Command officials asked for it, and a radio operation went on the air because scores of specialists from around the world put in the sweat.

"From the time we received the request to provide service for Desert Shield, it took about a month to 'crack' the first microphone," said Air Force Lt. Col. Ray Shepherd, AFRTS operations officer. He and several staff specialists from around the world were responsible for determining provisions and supplies needed, obtaining Saudi Arabian government approval, selecting transmis-

*"We have to keep them informed as to how things are going, and it gives the commander a vehicle with which to talk to his people he otherwise wouldn't have." — Lt. Col. Ray Shepherd*

sion locations and coordinating and installing broadcast equipment.

American Forces Network Europe in Germany, Southern European Broadcasting Service in Italy and the Navy furnished equipment. Army, Navy and Air Force broadcasters were drafted from Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States.

The first stage of operation focused on quickly providing live news to troops via Armed Forces Satellite Transmitter Radio service, Lt. Col. Shepherd said. "With an amplifier and one-meter satellite dish mounted on a transmitter, we can transmit 24-hour-a-day programing directly from our broadcast center in Los Angeles to any spot we designate," he said.

The next stage was to set up four "contingency" broadcast shelters to facilitate local programing. Lieutenant Col. Shepherd said these 8-by-12 portable units contain complete radio and television studios. Three broadcasters and one technician man each shelter. One side of the van accommodates radio equipment, including two turntables, two compact disc players with three cartridge machines, a 50-watt transmitter and an audio board. The television side consists of three tape

playback units, film projectors, a transmitter and control panels.

The Navy maintains and delivers the shelters to locations specified according to immediate, short-term needs.

When full service is completed, the shelters will also televise round-the-clock news, sports and entertainment using AFRTS Satellite Network Programing out of Los Angeles. Until then, and thereafter to remote locations unable to receive television transmission, "mini-TV" service from the shelters will retransmit 40 hours of entertainment and 12 hours of news each week by means of videocassette recorders and playback units.

Although AFRTS has had similar contingency operations, as in Lebanon and Honduras, the Desert Shield setup presented new problems, said Lt. Col. Shepherd.

"To mount an antenna in one location, we had to build a makeshift crate and surround it with sandbags to stabilize it in the soft, shifting sand," he said.

Their ingenuity was also called upon when they lacked towers for some locations. The team improvised by using camouflaged tent poles to affix the antennae to them. "They worked great," said Lt.

Col. Shepherd. "They were exactly the right size, and we could strap them to the side of a building."

The 125-degree temperature and driving sand made it difficult to climb metal towers and added hours to travel time to set up the equipment. While the shelters were self-contained and designed to ordinarily beam signals 10 to 12 miles, this project required arranging nine transmitters to extend broadcast range over an area of 600 to 700 square miles. As a result, AFRTS is serving 85 percent of the U.S. forces there, Lt. Col. Shepherd noted.

Installation time varied from three or four hours to three or four days, depending upon whether the team had to wait for engineers to get power to them.

The civilian sector, too, has actively supported the AFRTS effort, said Lt. Col. Shepherd. "In addition to the 5,000 radios and the batteries we distributed, Sony Corp. contributed another 5,000 through the USO, the American Electricians Association gave 11,000 radios, and the National Association of Broadcasters has pledged 25,000 more," he noted. "Montgomery Ward has donated 350 videocassette recorders and televisions. Hundreds of radio stations from around the United States have produced local programs for playback to the troops."

Each program received had to be screened to adhere to Saudi government requirements and to verify no classified information was released. "But all the effort is worth it," said Lt. Col. Shepherd. "It's essential to communicate with our people. We have to keep them informed as to how things are going, and it gives the commander a vehicle with which to talk to his people he otherwise wouldn't have. That communication makes all the difference as to how well our people perform."



## Soldiers in the sand : Thoughts and ideas from those serving in Saudi Arabia



Pfc. Marcus Brown, Company D, 3/69th Armor, "We are the best tank crew in the division. We just finished the Tank Crew Proficiency Course and did pretty well. 'I'm ready to get this thing over with and come home.'"



Pfc. Jeffrey Carrizales, Company A, 3/15th Inf., "We have a pretty important job out here. We are helping to protect our economy and protect the Saudis. We are also trying to help build a better relationship with other countries."



Spec. James Mills, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4/64th Armor, "I especially enjoy our telephone runs, since I have a wife and two kids. I like to let them know that I am alive, doing good and getting plenty of water."



Sgt. James Binion, Company A, 3/15 Inf., "We looked at the rocks around and came up with the saying 'work around them.' It's part of the way we deal with things: when you have a mission to do, you do whatever you have to do to get it done."



Pfc. Richard Riley, Company A, 3/15th Inf., "I try to take up all the extra time by maintaining our vehicle. Whenever I get some time, I perform PMCS (preventative maintenance checks and services). I am responsible for this vehicle."



# Teamwork crucial for 'Glory Guns'

By Spec. Martin Haywood

SAUDI ARABIA — The "Glory Guns" of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, recently conducted a deliberate occupation exercise designed to help the battery work as a team to perfect its mission in support of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech.).

Sending up a cloud of dust, the self propelled howitzers barreled across the desert floor towards the occupation area to prepare to "dry" fire on an unseen enemy. A dry-fire mission is simulated and no rounds are actually fired down range.

"Everybody in our battery has a job to do and it's important that we train daily," said Pfc. Carlos Perez, 2nd Platoon, Battery B. "If we're called on to complete a combat fire mission we must work as a team. If one person doesn't pull his weight, then the mission could fail.

"Tough teamwork training like this will give us an edge over the Iraqi soldiers," Pfc. Perez added. "Because of our intense desert training, when the time comes, we won't make any mistakes."

Captain Todd Day, Battery B commander, explained how his guns move into position. "The advance party first moves into the designated area to prepare for the battery's arrival.

"Soldiers of the advance party then orient the azimuth of fire, prepare pre-fire checks, choose gun locations, and establish commo. They also check to make sure the rounds will clear the crest of the hill the battery is using as a shield against enemy fire."

Upon arrival, the howitzer crewmembers worked with the gunnery sergeant to align the guns on the same azimuth. When the guns were in position, they completed five dry firing missions, sending three simulated rounds down range for each mission.

The deliberate occupation and dry fire, which took only 15 minutes to complete, gave the soldiers the chance to put themselves and their equipment to the test.

"This kind of training gives us confidence in ourselves and our equipment and peace of mind knowing that we can perform successfully any

mission we may be asked to complete," said Spec. Fred Parker, 2nd Platoon, Battery B.

Although practice makes perfect, training isn't the only thing that helps soldiers work together as a team.

To keep his soldiers physically and mentally prepared for the possibility of combat, Staff Sgt. Samuel Serrano, Battery B section chief, holds open discussions with his soldiers.

"We talk openly about our feelings and discuss what we read in the paper," Staff Sgt. Serrano said. "These open discussions help keep up the soldiers' morale and prepares them for what they may have to do."

Staff Sgt. Serrano said that discussing the problems that arise as a group brings the soldiers closer as a team.

"We are going to enter combat as a team," he said, "and as a team, we will finish together."

Haven't we run into these fellows before?



**COMMANDING PRESENCE:** Members of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division Support Command color guard, dressed in 19th-century uniforms, present the colors during change of command ceremonies yesterday in the Saudi desert.

AP photo

If some of our pix come out poorly, please understand that we have resorted to newsprint in most cases - and when we do, we "take our chances".



Attack launched on soldiers

# Celebrity host visits soldiers in Saudi

Story and photo by Spec. J.W. Sternickie

SAUDI ARABIA — Armed only with a fly swatter and his particular brand of humor, Willard Scott of NBC television's Today Show recently launched an attack on the soldiers of Task Force 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 24th Infantry Division.

The battle was swift as Mr. Scott overran the unit's positions with laughter and good will.

"I've been here for almost a week and I've traveled all over eastern Saudi Arabia," said Mr. Scott, who was video taping segments for the Today Show. "Everywhere I've gone there's been incredible enthusiasm."

Mr. Scott joked with soldiers and talked about the level of support from the homefront between taping sessions. Video segments featured a Bradley Fighting Vehicle crew from 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry and an M1 tank crew from 4th Bn., 64th Armor.

Mr. Scott did not find much weather to report on, but he found plenty of soldiers whose spirits were up despite early morning temperatures that dipped into the mid 50s.

"Willard's visit was great," said Pfc. Thomas Duke, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. "It gave the troops a chance to loosen up and have some fun. We also got the chance to let everybody at home know we're alright."

"We're thankful Mr. Scott came out," added Staff Sgt. Paul Henry, 3rd Bn., 7th Infantry. "It was a real boost for the soldiers' morale. We really appreciated it."

Mr. Scott spent two years in the Navy and under-

stands about isolation and some of the difficulties of desert life.

"At first I had gotten to believe that most of these soldiers were probably bored because they've been here for three months. It's been hot and let's face it,

it's monotonous out here. But everywhere there's been instant on-the-spot spontaneity," explained Mr. Scott. "The fun, the enthusiasm, the friends that we've made have been terrific."

See SCOTT on page 8A



Willard Scott, of NBC's Today Show, brings a box of goodies and good cheer to a tank crew from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor during a series of interviews taped for Thanksgiving.

