UNCLASSIFIED

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The following component part numbers comprise the compilation report:
ADP010797 thru ADP010815

UNCLASSIFIED
Special Operations in Desert
Shield / Desert Storm

BY: Col (Ret) Jim Kraus
Purpose of Briefing

To inform attendees on the unclassified activities of the Army Special Operations Task Force during Desert Shield/Desert Storm (DS/DS).
What Briefing is Not

- A detailed account of DS/DS
- An account of all Special Operations activities during DS/DS
ARSOTF Mission

• Deploy to Saudi Arabia with all personnel and equipment
• Provide liaison and conduct Foreign Internal Defense (FID) operations with the Saudi Arabian Land Forces and on order conduct FID with with Pan Arab forces in the Eastern Area Command …
Army Special Operations Task Force in DS/DS

• Formed Army Special Operations Task Force OPCON to CENTCOM
• First time USSF/SOF have been used in day to day direct support of MRC
• Conducted Coalition Support Activities
• Developed TTP for Coalition Support activities
Alerted on 6 August 90 at Ft Campbell, KY

- Admonished to bring everything
  - 24 hours
    - 1st Bn
  - 48 hrs
    - Group Battle Staff
  - 72 hours
    - Support Co (-)
    - Remainder less OPCON/attached units
- Planned and Prepared For
Deployment Sequence

- 1st 5th Special Forces Group and Special Forces Operational Base Battle Staff
- 5th Special Forces Group Hq (-)
- 2-5 Special Forces
- 3-5 Special Forces
- 5 SFG Support Center
Deployment

DEPLOYMENT A/C

- 33, C-141
- 19, C-5
- 1902 SHORT TONS
- 1147 PAX

GUIDANCE

- ALL EQUIPMENT
- BARE BASE
- 30 DAYS SUSTAINMENT
- UBL AMMO
- 5 DAYS RATIONS
ORGANIZATION IN THEATRE
CENTCOM Command Structure

USCENTCOM

CENTAF  MARCENT  SOCCENT  ARCENT  NAVCENT

NSWTG  AFSOC  ARSOTF

CMD

OPCON
CENTOM Mission Statement

- Neutralize Iraqi National Command Authority
- Eject Iraqi Armed Forces From Kuwait
- Destroy Iraq’s Ballistic Missile, NBC Capablility
- Assist in the Restoration of the Legitimate Government of Kuwait
3-16th Special Operations Aviation Bn

- CSAR
- DEEP PENETRATION
- SR
- DA
- MEDEVAC (EMER EXFIL / MEDEVAC)
- 8 x MH 60s
- 7 x MH 47s
112th Special Operations Signal Bn (Abn)

- Provided invaluable communications support to the ARSOTF
- NRI (1)
- SOCA (8)
- LDC (13) (PART OF HFMUX AND SOCAS)
- HFMUX (8)
- COMMAND AND CONTROL
- PLANS
528th Special Operations Support Bn (Abn)

- LINKAGE INTO SUPCOM (EAC)
- ALL CLASSES OF SUPPLY
- TRANSPORTATION
- MAINTENANCE
- PLANS / COORDINATION TO SUPPORT
- CINC DEFENSIVE / OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN
Desert Shield Activities
Incompatibility problems between US and PanArab Forces

- Language differences and cultural differences
- Communications, equipment and procedures
- Different tactics / doctrine
- Equipment
- Staffing procedures
- Combat Support and Combat Service Support
- Use of Threat equipment by Pan Arab forces (T-72, BMP, BTR, D-30, etc.)
Pan Arab Forces

Equivalent to seven divisions

NAC = Northern Area Command
EAC = Eastern Area Command
Initial Concept

- Train, coordinate, train
- Provide early warning of ground attack
- Attrit attacking forces
- Fall back to Saudi Brigades while continuing to attrit Iraqi forces
- Conduct passage of lines, under contact, thru XVIII Corps forces
- Move into assembly area prepare to continue attack
Border Surveillance

KUWAIT

IRAQ

Combined Special Operations Area Shannon

CSOA Cochise

SA

SAUDI ARABIA

USMC

XVIII
Initial Activities

- Patrolling along Kuwaiti/Iraqi Border
- Reconnaissance
- Assessing Pan Arab forces
- Training, training, training
- Begin reconstituting Kuwaiti Army
Training With Coalition Forces

- Individual, Collective and Leader Tasks
- Staffing organization and procedures
- Defensive and Offensive Operations
- Mobility / Counter Mobility
- Maintenance
- NBC warfare
- Logistics
Training With Coalition Forces (cont’d)

- Communications
- Battlefield Coordination
- Reconnaissance TTP
- Tank Gunnery
- Mission Planning
- MOUT
Training with Coalition Forces (Cont)

- Limited visibility operations
- Clearing obstacles (mine fields)/ Crossing trench lines
- Map reading and US/NATO graphics
- Integration of CAS
- Fire Support
Desert Storm Activities
SF LNO Teams
- USMC Divisions x 2
- US Corps X 2
- Br Div X 1
- 82nd Airborne Div
- French Foreign Legion

SAUDI ARABIA

NAC
- Egyptian Corps (-)
- Egyptian Ranger Rgt
- Syrian Div
- Syrian SF Bde
- Saudi Div (-)
- Kuwaiti Bdes x 3

EAC
- Saudi Bde x 3
- Kuwaiti Bde x 3
- Omani Bn
- Quatar Bn

NAC + EAC = APP 7 DIV
ARSOTF Command and Control

IRAQ

SAUDI ARABIA

3 SF 5 SF

BSA

SF 5

FWD

(KKMC)

BSA

• Med
• Food Water
• Ammunition
• Maintenance

NAC
• Egyptian Corps
• Egyptian Ranger Rgt
• Syrian Div
• Syrian SF Bde
• Saudi Div (-)
• Kuwaiti Bdes x 3

EAC
• Saudi Div (-)
• Kuwaiti Bde x 3

SF 5

Jump

SF 5

Rear

(King Fahd IAF)

27
Coalition Support

- Close Air Support
  - Active
  - Passive
- Navigation
- Command and Control
- Passage of lines
- CS/CSS
ARSOTF Activities Desert Storm

- REPORTING (Ground Truth)
  - LOCATION
  - ACTIVITIES
  - INTENTIONS
  - CAPABILITIES BY BOS
  - Coordination with Adjacent Units
  - Counter Revenge Measures

(109 Teams – down to battalion)
Obstacle Belts

Iraq

Kuwait

Major obstacles included wire, mines, fire trenches

Saudi Arabia
PanArab Forces

- Egyptian Corps
  - 2 x Div
  - RGR Rgt
- Syrian Div
  - 2 x Ar Bde
  - SF Rgt
PanArab Forces (Cont)

- Saudi Forces
  - 6 Bdes
- Kuwaiti Forces
  - 6 Bdes
- Other
  - Omani
  - Bangladeshi
  - UAE
Special Reconnaissance

- Deep into Iraq
- Supported 2 x US Corps
- Mission to let Corps Commanders know of enemy movements in/out of AO
Combat Search and Rescue

- 3 – 160 SOAR
- Placed SF Teams personnel on board to:
  - Provide local security at suspected pickup point
  - Search for downed aviator
  - Assist downed pilot to aircraft, if injured
- Picked up one AF pilot
Combating Terrorism

- Ad Hoc mission
- Prepared and launched to assist US Embassy in Somalia
Direct Action

- Planned Destruction of Train carrying Missiles
- Laser designation operations
- Building clearing operations
- Combat operations
Civil Affairs

- Kuwait City Clearing Operations: non-combatants
  - Established evacuation routes
  - Established collection points
  - Established assembly areas
- Established food/water distribution points in KC
- Distributed food/water to noncombatants
- 352 Civil Affairs Group handled majority of CA missions
Other Issues

- Emphasis on not taking revenge against real or suspected collaborators
- Counter fratricide measures
Psychological Operations

- Loudspeaker Operations
- Theme Development
- Leaflet Testing
- 4th POG handled the bulk of PsyOps
Other Special Operations

- SCUD Hunting
- Downed Pilot Recovery (N. Iraq)
Lessons Learned

- SF are ideally suited for this mission (competent, resourceful, professional)
- Reliable communications are critical
  - More/simpler/PTT radios (throw aways) need to be developed
  - Need to explore common communications systems
- Intelligence sharing requires a lot of imagination
- Maps are not available to all players
- Development of a set of basic individual and collective tasks for coalition partners are a must