

**USAF has released additional information about the Persian Gulf War, which opened five years ago this month.**

# More Data From Desert

**O**PERATION Desert Storm began on January 17, 1991, led off by a ferocious USAF-led air campaign that would soon prove unprecedented in intensity, precision, and lethality. Rarely, if ever, had so many air forces and aircraft worked together so well and with such telling effect.

Success in the air came swiftly. After ten days, Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, theater commander, claimed "air supremacy" for the US-led multinational coalition. The coalition had averaged 2,500 sorties per day. They had eliminated Saddam Hussein's Iraqi Air Force as a combat entity. Relentless allied air attacks had destroyed or severely damaged most of Iraq's primary command, control, and communications facilities and air defense

systems. Much of the aggressor's military infrastructure was in shambles, and the Iraqi armed forces had sustained severe attrition. Coalition ground forces on February 24 launched a 100-hour assault that finished the job of ejecting Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

On February 27, 1991, President George Bush declared Kuwait liberated and ordered a cessation of hostilities on February 28.

The following data were derived from "The Persian Gulf War: An Air Staff Chronology of Desert Shield/Desert Storm." It was compiled by Capt. Steven B. Michael, USAF, for the Center for Air Force History (now the Air Force History Support Office) in Washington and was recently declassified.

# On the Eve of War—January 16, 1991

## USAF Aircraft Deployed in the Theater

Combat	Number	Support	Number
A/OA-10 .....	144	C-20 .....	1
AC-130 .....	4	C-21 .....	8
B-52 .....	20	C-130 .....	128
EC-130 (Compass Call) .....	5	E-3 AWACS .....	10
EC-130 (Volant Solo) .....	2	E-8 Joint STARS .....	2
EF-111 .....	18	EC-130E .....	6
F-4G .....	48	HC-130 .....	4
F-15 .....	96	KC-10 .....	30
F-15E .....	48	KC-135 .....	194
F-16 .....	210	MC-130 .....	4
F-111 .....	64	MH-53 .....	8
F-117 .....	36	MH-60 .....	8
		RC-135 .....	6
		RF-4C .....	18
		TR-1 .....	4
		U-2 .....	5
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>436</b>

# Storm

## Allied Aircraft Deployed in the Theater

Nation	Number	Combat Aircraft Types
Bahrain	24	F-5 (12), F-16 (12)
Britain	79	Tornado (68), Jaguar (11)
Canada	18	CF-18
Egypt	32	F-4
France	41	Mirage F1 (25), Mirage 2000 (8), Jaguar (8)
Italy	8	Tornado
Kuwait	40	A-4 (20), Mirage F1 (15), Hawk (5)
Oman	44	Jaguar (22), Strikemaster (12), Hunter (10)
Qatar	21	Mirage F1 (12), Alpha Jet (6), Hunter (3)
Saudi Arabia	278	F-5 (85), F-15 (82), Tornado (49), Strikemaster (32), Hawk (30)
United Arab Emirates	53	Mirage 2000 (25), Mirage III (14), Mirage 5 (14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>638</b>	

*The US, Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands deployed additional aircraft to Turkey after the war was under way. The US Navy and Marine Corps maintained considerable aviation forces at sea.*

# The First Day

## USAF Sorties, January 17

Mission Type	Number
Offensive counterair .....	337
Defensive counterair .....	116
Interdiction .....	381
Close air support .....	47
Tanker refueling .....	286
Intratheater airlift .....	36
Other support .....	188
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,391</b>

## Other US and Coalition

Component	Number
US Navy .....	415
US Marine Corps .....	169
US Allies .....	413
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>997</b>

# January 17–February 28, 1991

## Iraqi Air Order of Battle

	Fixed-Wing Combat	Helicopters, Misc.	Total Aircraft
Starting Air Order of Battle	831	484	1,315
Confirmed combat losses	106	52	158
Confirmed fled to Iran	112	26	138
Estimated losses in shelters	141	0	141
Estimated aircraft remaining	472	406	878
Percent of initial AOB remaining	56	83	66

## Iraqi Ground Warfare Equipment and Combat Losses in the Theater

	Original Inventory	Destroyed, Captured	Percent Remaining
Tanks	4,550	3,956	13
Armored vehicles	2,880	2,166	25
Artillery pieces	3,257	3,092	5

## The Buildup—August 1990

*Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. On August 7, President Bush ordered US military forces to deploy to Saudi Arabia. Thirty-four hours after the order, on August 8, a squadron of twenty-four USAF F-15s from the 71st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va., landed in Dhahran and began combat air patrol. By month's end, USAF's force had swelled to 322 warplanes, and Saddam Hussein had lost his chance to seize Saudi Arabia's oil fields.*

### USAF's Rapid Deployment of Combat Aircraft

Combat Type	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 16	Aug. 20	Aug. 24	Aug. 28	Aug. 31
A-10					24	46	48	72
B-52				20	20	20	20	20
EC-130					3	3	5	8
EF-111							10	10
F-4G					20	20	24	24
F-15		24	45	46	48	48	48	58
F-15E			19	22	24	24	24	24
F-16			44	44	46	46	46	70
F-111							18	18
F-117							18	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>322</b>

### Support Aircraft Rush to the Gulf

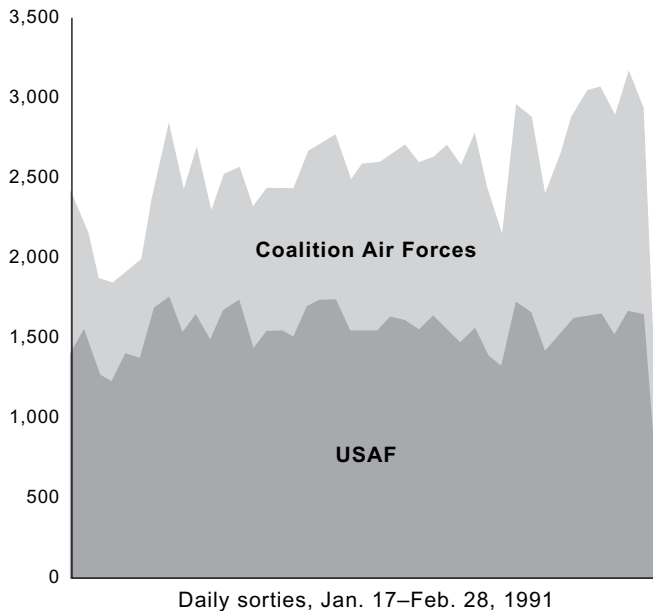
*In the critical first month of August 1990, the Air Force sent nearly 200 support aircraft to the Gulf, providing mobility, surveillance, reconnaissance, and communications for the growing combat force.*

Support Type	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 16	Aug. 20	Aug. 24	Aug. 28	Aug. 31
C-20							1	1
C-21						3	4	4
C-130			16	31	48	51	61	70
E-3 AWACS		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
EC-130E								6
HC-130						4	4	4
KC-10			10					
KC-135		2	16	54	57	68	78	79
MC-130						2	4	4
MH-53				4	4	4	4	4
RC-135			3	3	3	3	4	4
RF-4C							6	6
TR-1						2	2	2
U-2					2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>191</b>



# Desert Storm

## Wartime Sorties



### Total, Coalition Air Forces

Jan. 17 .....	2,388	Feb. 10 .....	2,695
Jan. 18 .....	2,200	Feb. 11 .....	2,583
Jan. 19 .....	1,875	Feb. 12 .....	2,621
Jan. 20 .....	1,842	Feb. 13 .....	2,702
Jan. 21 .....	1,907	Feb. 14 .....	2,576
Jan. 22 .....	1,982	Feb. 15 .....	2,769
Jan. 23 .....	2,424	Feb. 16 .....	2,378
Jan. 24 .....	2,811	Feb. 17 .....	2,143
Jan. 25 .....	2,407	Feb. 18 .....	2,957
Jan. 26 .....	2,672	Feb. 19 .....	2,882
Jan. 27 .....	2,263	Feb. 20 .....	2,385
Jan. 28 .....	2,523	Feb. 21 .....	2,627
Jan. 29 .....	2,555	Feb. 22 .....	2,906
Jan. 30 .....	2,312	Feb. 23 .....	3,041
Jan. 31 .....	2,406	Feb. 24 .....	3,062
Feb. 1 .....	2,431	Feb. 25 .....	2,881
Feb. 2 .....	2,417	Feb. 26 .....	3,159
Feb. 3 .....	2,635	Feb. 27 .....	2,940
Feb. 4 .....	2,705	Feb. 28 .....	992
Feb. 5 .....	2,760	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>108,082</b>
Feb. 6 .....	2,460	<i>USAF accounted for 65,581 sorties, or 60.7 percent of the coalition total.</i>	
Feb. 7 .....	2,584		
Feb. 8 .....	2,591		
Feb. 9 .....	2,633		

# Buildup and Drawdown of US Forces

1990–91

Date	All Services	USAF
Aug. 10, 1990 .....	25,317	6,143
Aug. 21, 1990 .....	52,836	12,284
Sept. 3, 1990 .....	103,446	23,489
Sept. 13, 1990 .....	153,113	29,900
Oct. 10, 1990 .....	200,079	32,333
Nov. 9, 1990 .....	235,904	30,991
Dec. 5, 1990 .....	252,131	32,043
Dec. 22, 1990 .....	300,264	35,724
Jan. 6, 1991 .....	358,326	41,995
Jan. 17, 1991 .....	454,128	48,679
Jan. 30, 1991 .....	501,600	51,876
Feb. 24, 1991 .....	536,687	54,615
Mar. 2, 1991 .....	540,748	54,706
Mar. 13, 1991 .....	503,380	48,296
Mar. 20, 1991 .....	452,195	39,463
Mar. 27, 1991 .....	403,063	28,006
Apr. 4, 1991 .....	350,352	23,078
Apr. 12, 1991 .....	300,113	18,928
Apr. 21, 1991 .....	256,370	16,212
Apr. 30, 1991 .....	197,315	14,877
May 10, 1991 .....	148,669	14,054
May 20, 1991 .....	92,159	10,552
May 28, 1991 .....	75,463	8,875
June 6, 1991 .....	64,913	7,441

# USAF Airlift

## Strategic Airlift Missions by Aircraft Type

Month	C-5	C-141	KC-10	CRAF	C-9	Total
Aug. 1990	415	1,041	17	195	0	1,668
Sept. 1990	510	952	89	322	0	1,873
Oct. 1990	440	676	57	246	0	1,419
Nov. 1990	426	729	48	269	0	1,472
Dec. 1990	567	1,391	118	606	0	2,682
Jan. 1991	699	1,666	50	720	73	3,208
Feb. 1991	552	1,560	0	757	126	2,995
Mar. 1991	161	294	0	194	10	659
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>8,309</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>15,976</b>

**USAF military and Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) commercial long-range airlifters transported 500,720 passengers, or ninety-nine percent of total transported personnel. These aircraft hauled 542,759 short tons of cargo, or fourteen percent of the total.**

## Tactical Airlift

### Role of C-130s, 1990-91

Operational Measure	Quantity
Cargo tons carried .....	174,000+
Flying hours completed .....	76,000+
Missions flown .....	13,900+
Passengers carried .....	242,000+
Sorties flown .....	47,600+



## Coalition Fixed-Wing Aircraft Losses Combat Only

Type	USAF	USN	USMC	Allies	Total
A-4 .....				1	1
A-6 .....		3			3
A/OA-10 .....	6				6
AC-130 .....	1				1
AV-8 .....			5		5
EF-111 .....	1				1
F-4G .....	1				1
F-5 .....				1	1
F-14 .....		1			1
F-15E .....	2				2
F-16 .....	3				3
F/A-18 .....		2			2
OV-10 .....			2		2
Tornado .....				9	9
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>

**The Air Force apparently lost no aircraft in air-to-air combat.**

**Figures for this table were supplied by the Air Force History Support Office from an unclassified version of the USAF Gulf War Airpower Survey.**

## Iraqi Fixed-Wing Aircraft Losses Air Combat Only

Aircraft	Air-to-Air	On Ground	In Shelters	Total
An-2 .....		1	—	1
Il-76 .....		3	—	3
MiG-21 .....	4	9	—	13
MiG-23 .....	9	8	—	17
MiG-25 .....	2	5	—	7
MiG-29 .....	6	3	—	9
Mirage F1 .....	9	1	—	10
Su-17/22 .....	3	11	—	14
Su-25 .....	2	2	—	4
Tu-16 .....	6	—	—	6
Tu-22 .....	1	—	—	1
Unidentified .....	6	—	—	6
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>232</b>

**“In Shelters” total is an estimate. Totals do not include Iraqi aircraft captured or destroyed by ground forces, noncombat losses, or those flown to Iran.**