

These snapshots from the albums of Air Force Association members recall faces and places from the Gulf War.

# Desert Storm Scrapbook

Compiled by Juliette Kelsey Chagnon



On Jan. 17, 1991, Capt. (now Lt. Col.) William T. LeMenager (back row, second from right) and this MH-53J Pave Low combat aircrew (pictured here at Al Jawf airfield, Saudi Arabia) from the 20th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Wing, led one of two direct assaults by Apaches and Pave Lows on Iraqi ground radar sites. The Air Force special operations helicopters, followed by Army AH-64 Apache gunships, arrived at their target at 2:38 a.m. local time, a full 22 minutes before the official start of Operation Desert Storm. They had flown their route entirely on instruments and in formation. The Apaches unleashed their Hellfire missiles, demolishing the radars and blinding the Iraqi air defense system at critical points. Soon afterward, low flying US fighter-bomber aircraft rushed through the breaches on their way to first-night targets in Iraq.





**SSgt. Jack Driggers (top, third from left) and tentmates from the Aerospace Ground Equipment Branch, 4th Equipment Squadron, 4th Tactical Fighter Wing (Provisional), pose shortly after arrival in January 1991 at Al Kharj AB (now Prince Sultan AB), Saudi Arabia. Construction of a sandbag barrier, built by the group pictured, had started only one day earlier. Driggers retired from the Air Force in 2000. Also pictured is AFA member John Seroogy. From left to right, SrA. Rico McIlwain, unknown airman, Driggers, SSgt. Sami Kenty (kneeling), unknown, Seroogy, Sgt. Paul Jones, and SSgt. Chris Morrissey.**

**Lt. Col. (now Brig. Gen.) Richard Lewis and Brig. Gen. (now retired Lt. Gen.) Buster Glosson, the chief air war planner during Desert Storm, pull the "night shift" in Glosson's office in the Royal Saudi Air Force headquarters. As special assistant to Glosson, Lewis spent many nights going over targets hit during the day and what remained to be hit the next day to prepare Glosson for the nightly staff briefing to Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander in chief of US Central Command. Lewis now serves as deputy director in the Developing Aerospace Leaders Program Office.**





**Capt. (now Air Force Reserve Command Maj.) Thomas E. Kittler** was assigned to the 32nd Air Refueling Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La., when Operation Desert Shield took him to Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Lajes Field in the Azores. This photo shows the 12-man tents that served as “home” in Muscat, Oman, during Desert Storm. Kittler and his crew flew KC-10s out of “Camp Nacirema” (American spelled backwards). He now is in the 95th Airlift Squadron, 440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell IAP/ARS, Wis.

**SSgt. Tom Vaselopoulos** was an Air National Guard security police supervisor with the 240th Combat Communications Squadron from McEntire ANGB, S.C. He was attached to the 4th TFW (Provisional) from December 1990 through June 1991, stationed at Al Kharj. Vaselopoulos is pictured outside of his tent, wearing a kaffiyeh (traditional headdress) during spring 1991. The colorful headgear became a popular souvenir for many American servicemen. Vaselopoulos retired from the 169th Security Forces Squadron, South Carolina ANG.



**Capt. (now Lt. Col.) William A. Kobren** was an aircraft maintenance officer attached to the 53rd TFS, an F-15 outfit from Bitburg AB, West Germany. The squadron was deployed to Al Kharj in December 1990 and returned to Germany in May 1991. As demonstrated by the “Swim at own risk” sign at a drainage ditch, the Arabian heat and desert provided grist for many jokes and pranks. Today, Kobren serves as a logistician working on the Joint Strike Fighter Program.

**Maj. (now AFRC Col.) David B. Casey, an RF-4C aircraft commander, is pictured here on the flight line at Sheik Isa AB, Bahrain. He stands next to a 500-pound conventional bomb, which he had "addressed" to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Casey was deployed to Bahrain with the 192nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Nevada ANG, from December 1990 to April 1991. He led the first RF-4C reconnaissance sortie over Kuwait on the morning of Jan. 17, 1991. Casey received a Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his service during the Gulf War. He is currently assigned to Headquarters Air Force.**



**This photo of Col. (now retired) Michael R. Gallagher and his son Marine Cpl. Robert J. Gallagher was taken in December 1990 at Jubail airfield, Saudi Arabia. Another son, Army Pvt. Peter T. Gallagher, also was deployed to the Gulf region. Gallagher, who was vice commander of the 63rd Military Airlift Wing, Norton AFB, Calif., regularly flew C-141s into the Gulf region and thus was able to stage several brief reunions with his sons. (The Gallagher family may have been unique—three members all serving in the Gulf War, but in three different services.) During his many trips into the theater, Gallagher collected names and phone numbers of troops he encountered so he could call their parents and loved ones on his return to the states.**

**Capt. (now Lt. Col.) Craig A. Hughes poses with his F-15C fighter at Dhahran AB, Saudi Arabia, the principal location of USAF's air superiority aircraft during Desert Storm. At the time that he deployed to the desert, Hughes served with the 27th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1st TFW, Langley AFB, Va. He flew 32 combat missions, earning three Air Medals. Hughes currently is assigned as director of operations, 493rd Fighter Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, UK. He is headed back to the desert next month as part of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 4.**



**MSgt. (now retired SMSgt.) Dennis C. Jenkins** completes an aircraft inspection at King Khalid IAP, just outside the Saudi capital of Riyadh, sometime in February 1991. His airplane is an F-16C fighter from the 69th TFS, 347th TFW, Moody AFB, Ga. During Desert Storm, the 69th was attached to the 388th TFW, Hill AFB, Utah. Jenkins (and many others assigned to desert duty) always took the time to write personal messages to Saddam or the names of loved ones on munitions to be dropped during an upcoming sortie.



**MSgt. David Tarnowski** (top, reaching upward) and other members of the 328th Airlift Squadron, 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls IAP/ARS, N.Y., place a decal with the squadron insignia—“The Mushroom”—on one of the many gigantic pictures of Saddam Hussein found everywhere in war-era Iraq. This particular picture was at the flight line at Tallil AB in Iraq, which was captured by coalition forces. This photo doesn't show the extent of the damage, but Tarnowski said the Tallil runway was destroyed, and the airlift team had to land on and take off from a taxiway.



This snapshot pictures 1st Lt. Will Whiteman (left) and 1st Lt. (now Maj.) Robert Myers under the “Fort Apache” sign near the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron section of the flight line at Sheik Isa AB. The 12th TRS flew RF-4Cs. AFA member Myers spent a total of 18 months in the Gulf and is currently an instructor for joint undergraduate navigator training, NAS Pensacola, Fla.

***In this February 1991 photo from the "black hole," Desert Storm's air campaign command center, Lt. Col. (now Brig. Gen.) David A. Deptula (left) and Col. (now retired Brig. Gen.) Anthony J. Tolin shake hands in front of a map showing the last strategic target struck in the war. Deptula, who was director of the Iraq Target Planning Group, is now director of the Air Force's Quadrennial Defense Review. Tolin was chief, campaign plans, for US Central Air Forces in Saudi Arabia and later commander of the 37th TFW, flying F-117 stealth fighters.***



***Capt. (now Lt. Col.) David A. Huss, pictured here with his gas mask at the ready, went to war as an air surveillance officer on the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft. He was responsible for every sensor aboard, save the weather radar. His AWACS crew, stationed at Riyadh, flew a total of 54 sorties—650 flying hours—and provided data that led directly to the shutdown of three Iraqi fighters. Huss is currently assigned to the joint Single Integrated Air Picture System Engineering Task Force, located in Arlington, Va.***

***From left, Capt. Terry E. Hayes, 1st Lt. David A. Smithhart, and Capt. Dennis P. McDevitt Jr. adopt local headgear at Eskan Village, Riyadh, during February 1991. All were members of an AWACS crew flying 13–16 hour missions out of Riyadh and other nearby dispersal bases. These crews often would take off at night and not land until the middle of the next day.***



*The holidays are difficult for any service member stationed overseas, and with Desert Shield ongoing and Desert Storm on the horizon, the situation was no different for the troops deployed in the Gulf. Artificial fir trees were a common morale builder—but some of the local fauna found them confusing.*



*Col. (now retired) Claude H. Chan (seated) was commander of the 325th Tactical Hospital, a deployable air transportable hospital sent in August 1990 to King Abdul Aziz AB at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the Red Sea coast. Its mission was to provide medical care for the Air Force's 1701st Strategic Wing (Provisional) and the US Navy's Red Sea Battle Group. Originally a 50-bed field hospital, it was expanded to a 100-bed facility during Desert Shield. During the war, the hospital was the target of a terrorist attack in which gunmen ambushed a bus carrying troops. The attack resulted in several casualties but no fatalities.*

*SSgt. (now MSgt.) Sidney G. Cole (wearing hat and holding rolled up poster) spent seven months deployed to Al Minhad AB, United Arab Emirates, arriving in August 1990. There, Cole was an aircraft armament systems craftsman for F-16s. His unit flew 1,044 combat sorties in the war, and Cole's own crew loaded 119 aircraft for those sorties. He is now weapons section chief for the 34th Fighter Squadron at Hill AFB. In this photo, Cole and other members of the 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 388th TFW, return home to Hill in March 1991.*





**MSgt. (now retired SMSgt.) Andrew J. Miller served with Det. 2, 7th Weather Squadron, as chief of weather station operations. On Christmas Day 1990, the detachment deployed to Saudi Arabia, and when the air war started, the unit drove in a convoy all day and night from Dhahran to the US Army's 3rd Armored Division tactical assembly area near King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia. During Desert Storm, Miller's unit performed round-the-clock operations from KKMC for the division and its combat aviation brigade. Here, Miller is waiting for the "freedom bird" to take him and most of his unit back to Germany in mid-May 1991. He retired in December 1997.**



**Capt. (now AFRC Maj.) Mark Naumann, a C-130 navigator with the 374th TAW, Yokota AB, Japan, was deployed with the 1676th Tactical Airlift Squadron (Provisional) to Thumrait, Oman, and later to Dhahran. Here, he gets a haircut from Capt. (now Lt. Col.) William Changose. Short hair was easier and more comfortable in the desert climate, and most of the troops kept pretty closely shorn. In the background is Naumann's tent, to which was added a shaded "patio" as another way of fighting the heat. Naumann now is assigned to the 327th AS, Willow Grove ARS, Pa.**

**Members of the 914th AW deployed to Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, from October 1990 through April 1991—which gave the airmen plenty of time to make their tent city quarters more like home. Some doubled their living area by constructing a "Florida Room"—even building a screen door to combat the bugs. Benches and other furniture were all creatively manufactured from materials scrounged from around the base. Shown here on a homemade table is the local UAE newspaper and bottled water, plus Fanta soda, sunglasses to counter the desert glare, cards for endless Hearts games, and an "I Love You" mug. ■**



Photo from MSgt. David Tarnowski