

Desert Shield/Desert Storm

A Register of Collections in the Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections



**Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections Branch
Library of the Marine Corps
Gray Research Center**

Quantico, VA

2010

Introduction

The Marine Corps Archives is located at 2040 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134.
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5:00pm.
Phone: 703-784-4685. Email: grcarchives@grc.usmcu.edu

The Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections supports the professional military education requirements of Marine Corps residential and distance learning programs. They are the chief repository for reporting units as well as for personal papers of current and veteran Marines. The Archives is open without appointment to both military and civilian patrons, and a professional archivist is always available for assistance. Patrons have access to computers, printers, scanners, and a book copier. Patrons may bring laptops, digital cameras, personal scanners, and copy stands for use.

Administrative Information

Restrictions: Collections are open to all researchers

Preferred citation: Researchers wishing to cite these collections should include the following information:

Name of Collection, Folder heading, Collection Number, Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections, Gray Research Center, Quantico, VA.

Historical Note

In early August 1990, President George H.W. Bush announced that the United States would launch a mission to prevent Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia under the codename Operation Desert Shield. On 8 August Iraq declared Kuwait to be the 19th province of Iraq to which the United States responded by quickly conducting a military buildup reaching 543,000 troops.

The Persian Gulf War started with an aerial bombing campaign with over 100,000 coalition sorties dropping thousands of tons of bombs on 17 January 1991. In one of the more decisive Marine Corps battles, on 29 January, Iraqi forces attacked and occupied the city of Khafji with tanks and infantry. The battle ended two days later when the Iraqis were driven back by the Saudi Arabian National Guard and the Marine Corps.

On 23 February, the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions and the 1st Light Armored Infantry crossed into Kuwait and headed toward Kuwait City. These troops encountered minimal resistance with many of the Iraqi troops surrendering. On 27 February, Saddam Hussein ordered a retreat from Kuwait. However, an Iraqi unit at Kuwait International Airport continued to fight and resisted the Marines for hours. They were eventually overrun and surrendered. The next day, President Bush declared a cease-fire and declared that Kuwait had been liberated.

Scope and Content Note

This finding aid highlights some of the collections related to the Marine Corps' participation in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, focusing on those that have notably unique content, are large in volume, or are regularly used by Branch patrons.

Included in this compilation are collections that contain official Marine Corps records, documents, and publications; and personal papers collections. The personal papers collections include those belonging to the Commanding General of I MEF as well as enlisted Marines letters and memoirs.

This finding aid does not cover every collection in the Branch's holdings related to Desert Shield/Desert Storm. It highlights select collections from which researchers may start to explore the materials that the Archives has available on the subject.

Reference Collections

Southwest Asia Operational Records, COLL/3971

Collection consists of 4 boxes of official records. Includes intelligence reports and other documents generated in conjunction with preparation for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; lessons learned files; battle assessment program reports; and logistics reports.

Command Chronologies

Paper copies of command chronologies from August 1990 through February 1991 area available for all units involved with Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Personal Papers Collections

General Walter E. Boomer Collection, COLL/1876

The Commanding General of I MEF during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Boomer Papers includes correspondence, diaries, official paperwork, and briefings related to the operations.

Braden M. Murphy Memoir, COLL/2610

This collection contains the wartime memoirs of Braden M. Murphy while he served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from 8 December 1990 to 8 August 1991. Lance Corporal Murphy was a member of the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines.

Michael C. Howard Papers, COLL/4137

This single folder collection contains a history written by Howard detailing the activities of the 6th Engineer Battalion in Desert Storm.

Kenneth Lissner Papers, COLL/4610

This collection consists of two notebooks kept by then Capt. Lissner during Desert Storm and maps of Kuwait and Iraq. Col. Lissner was the Amtrac Company

Commander attached to 3d Battalion, 9th Marines. Their final position in Kuwait was next to the Kuwait Airport.

Duane Blanck Letters, COLL/4866

This collection consists of copies of letters written by Duane Blanck a former Marine to Marines from his county serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and their responses in which they talk about their experiences.

James A. Brabham Collection, COLL/2334

This collection containing two photographs of Brabham in Saudi Arabia and one "Troop Information Handbook" issued by USCentCom during Desert Storm.