Global Interventions From 1990
Overview

- The significance of stealth aircraft
- The role of air power in the Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm)
- The role of air power in Operation Enduring Freedom
- The role of air power in Operation Iraqi Freedom
- The role of air power in various other US military operations
Significance of Stealth Aircraft

- In 1988 the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber entered the arsenal of the US Air Force.
- Stealth aircraft are unique for one important reason: they can evade radar.
- This means they can fly nearly undetected.
- Stealth ability allows aircraft to run reconnaissance or bomb an enemy with little chance of being spotted.
The B-2

- Invisible due to its special materials (LO)
- Its paint can absorb and deflect electronic pulses from radar
- Its shape cloaks the aircraft as well
- Every part of the plane is designed to hide it from radar

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force
Among the other stealth aircraft the US Air Force flies are the F-117 Nighthawk and the F-22 Raptor fighters.

The F-35 stealth fighter is now joining the Air Force fleet.
The end of the Cold War did not bring the hoped-for peace.
Instead, it created new tensions.
The Soviet Union no longer had the might to spread communism.
Only the United States remained a superpower, a powerful, dominant country that has nuclear weapons.
Gulf War

**Air War**

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY RADAR-EVADING SUPersonic FIGHTER-BOMBER EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTERIZED LASER-GUIDED TARGET-SEEKING SMART BOMBS.

**Ground War**

BOB
Saddam Hussein, dictator of Iraq in the Middle East, saw opportunity in these changes. He wanted to grab the oil fields of Kuwait, a tiny country south of Iraq. He thought the Soviets and Americans wouldn’t take sides in conflicts outside their borders as they had in the past. On 2 August 1990 Iraqi forces marched into Kuwait.
Why the United States Got Involved in the Gulf War

- On 6 August, Saudi Arabia asked its allies to protect it from neighboring Iraq
- The United Nations responded with Resolution 660, which ordered Iraq to leave Kuwait
- The UN also passed Resolution 678, which permitted a coalition of UN troops to force Iraq out of Kuwait
- The stage was set for battle between Iraqi and UN forces
How the United States Used Air Power in the Gulf War

- The US Air Force worked out a plan to fight Operation Desert Storm
- They wanted to avoid another Vietnam
- They settled on three tactics:
  - Keep the air battle going
  - Conduct parallel air strikes
  - Coordinate air-strike efforts of the US Air Force, US Navy, and other coalition air forces
The United States and United Nations decided that their air strikes would aim for four kinds of Iraqi targets:

- Communication sites
- Air defenses
- Supply lines and enemy troops
- Threats to UN ground troops
On 17 January 1991 US air strikes on Iraq began. The first targets were communications links. Second, US aircraft went after Iraq’s air-defense systems, such as SAMs. The third target was supply lines and warehouses. US air power took the skies over Kuwait, and UN ground forces followed. Kuwait was at last free of Iraqi rule.
Chapter 6, Lesson 3

- F-117 NIGHTHAWK, USAF Stealth fighter, operational circa 1998, but existence not revealed until 1998. flew two percent of total attack sorties but struck 40 percent of the strategic targets. (USAF photo)

- HH-3E JOLLY GREEN GIANT, USAF rescue helicopter. (USAF photo/Sgt. Shae Moss)

- KC-10 EXTENDER, Dual role USAF cargo/tanker aircraft. (USAF photo)

- RC-135 WISE EAGLE, USAF electronic surveillance aircraft. "Ears of the Storm" located, identified, cataloged, and monitored enemy signal emitters. (USAF photo)

- F-18 HORNET, Multirole Navy and Marine Corps strike fighter. (Navy photo)

- KC-135 STRATOTanker, USAF's primary aerial refueling aircraft. (USAF photo)

- HH-60G PAVE HAWK, USAF rescue helicopter. (USAF photo/Tsgt. David W. Richards)

- RF-4, Unmanned USAF multirole reconnaissance aircraft. (USAF photo)

- E-8 JSTARS, Electronic battlefield management aircraft. (USAF photo/Staff Sgt. Joe Schmit)

- TR-1A-2, USAF high-altitude surveillance aircraft. Structurally identical but with some internal variations, mainly in electronics. (USAF photo/Sgt. Chris Antone)
Where the USAF was
## Air Strength Stats

### Coalition Air Strength on the Eve of War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fighter/ Attack</th>
<th>Tanker</th>
<th>Airlift</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Force</th>
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<td>285</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>339</td>
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<td>Britain</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>312</strong></td>
<td><strong>234</strong></td>
<td><strong>230</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,614</strong></td>
<td><strong>99.9</strong></td>
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### US Air Order of Battle: Fighter, Attack, Bomber Aircraft
**As of Feb. 1, 1991**

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Fighter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F-16</td>
<td>Fighter/attack</td>
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<td>F-4G</td>
<td>Fighter/attack</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-10</td>
<td>Attack</td>
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<td>AC-130</td>
<td>Attack</td>
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<td>F-15E</td>
<td>Fighter/bomber</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>F-111F</td>
<td>Fighter/bomber</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F-117A</td>
<td>Fighter/bomber</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-52</td>
<td>Bomber</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total USAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>693</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>F-14</td>
<td>Fighter</td>
<td>109</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F/A-18</td>
<td>Fighter/attack</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-7E</td>
<td>Fighter/attack</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-6E</td>
<td>Fighter/bomber</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Navy</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>318</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>F/A-18</td>
<td>Fighter/attack</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AV-8B</td>
<td>Attack</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A-6</td>
<td>Fighter/bomber</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total USMC</strong></td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total US Combat Aircraft</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1,193</td>
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## Coalition Air Strikes by Target Categories

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<tr>
<th>Strikes</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Target Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>23,430</td>
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<td>Iraqi ground forces</td>
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<td>1,460</td>
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<td>Scuds</td>
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<td>1,370</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>SAMs</td>
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<td>1,170</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Lines of communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>970</td>
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<td>Military industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>970</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Nuclear/biological/chemical sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>630</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Kari integrated air defense system</td>
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<tr>
<td>580</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Telecommunications, C³</td>
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<td>540</td>
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<tr>
<td>370</td>
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<td>345</td>
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<td>Electric power</td>
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<td>260</td>
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<td>Iraqi leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>35,085</td>
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</table>
Lessons the USAF Learned From the Gulf War

- The US Air Force had two goals in the Gulf War: to protect Saudi Arabia and to free Kuwait.
- To achieve these aims, the US military drew up clear tactics and targets.
- Grabbing air superiority early on gave the US and UN forces an edge.
- Finally, US technology gave the UN effort the upper hand in the air.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNH-kCdtEaw&nohtml5=False
11 September 2001

- 9/11/01: 19 Islamic extremists hijacked four American commercial airliners
- They flew two of these planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center
- They crashed a third aircraft into the Pentagon
- Passengers on a fourth airliner fought the terrorists, who crashed the plane into a field in Pennsylvania
- More than 3,000 people died in the attacks

Chapter 6, Lesson 3

Taken from wikipedia.com
Less than a month later, the US military unleashed Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).
The goal was to destroy the terrorists’ organization and their bases in Afghanistan, a country in southwest Asia.
The terrorists were from a group called Al-Qaeda.
The Taliban regime of Afghanistan let Al-Qaeda forces train in its country.
OEF began on 7 October 2001, when US Air Force bombers struck terrorist training camps and bases.

Within 18 months, coalition air forces flew more than 85,000 sorties.

They dropped more than 9,650 tons of bombs.

The main US Air Force combat aircraft involved were the B-1, B-2, B-52, F-15E, F-16, A-10, and AC-130.
Chapter 6, Lesson 3

Precision Weapons in OEF

- Among the weapons the Air Force used in Afghanistan are precision weapons.
- **Precision weapons** are guided missiles and bombs.
- They are so accurate that they can be placed within feet of their target.
- The Hellfire missile is one of the precision weapons used in Afghanistan.
- The MQ-1 Predator delivers the Hellfire.

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courtesy of the U.S. Air Force
In addition to fighting terrorists overseas, Airmen have duties back home in Operation Noble Eagle (ONE).

- Its goal is to safeguard American soil.
- The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) runs ONE.
Another front in the war on terror is Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

The US military and its coalition partners launched OIF on 19 March 2003

Within 22 days, coalition forces reached Baghdad

The objective of OIF was to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power and to rid the country of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)
Among the aircraft the US Air Force has used in Iraq are stealth aircraft.

Twelve F-117 fighters flew into Baghdad to hit command and control targets on 20 March 2003.

This attack weakened Hussein’s ability to communicate with his military.

As of June 2006, the B-2 stealth bomber had flown 49 sorties in OIF.
Precision Weapons in OIF

- Precision weapons have also played a large role in Iraq
- About 70 percent of all weapons used in OIF have been of precision type
- Two of the newer ones are the GBU-38 and GBU-39 (GBU stands for “guided-bomb unit”)
- This precision approach puts civilians at less risk

TSgt Mark Worley unloads a GBU-38 from an F-16 Fighting Falcon
US Airmen have flown in other missions since 1991 as well—some were combat missions, others were humanitarian, and some were both.

Following the 1991 Gulf War, the United States launched Operation Provide Comfort. Its purpose was to protect the Kurds, an ethnic minority in northern Iraq. Saddam Hussein was fighting a Kurdish rebellion.
Starting in August 1992 the United States enforced a no-fly zone in Iraq
This zone was in southern Iraq
Its purpose was to protect the Shiite Muslim population and Kuwait
Its name was Operation Southern Watch
This operation ended just before OIF kicked off
After US and UN troops subdued Iraqi forces operating against the Kurds, they still couldn’t go home.

They had to make sure Hussein didn’t send his troops and aircraft into hostile action again.

So the United Nations set up a second no-fly zone in the northern half of Iraq.

Between 1996 and 2003, 1,400 US, British, and Turkish fliers served in the mission with 50 aircraft.
When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, it split into 15 countries

Food and medical supply shortages followed

Many of the new countries were not stable because for 70 years they had relied on a central Communist government in Moscow

The United States provided supplies through Operation Provide Hope (February 1992 to May 1993)
Yugoslavia was formed from the southern Slav territories of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia after World War I.

The federation began to fracture in 1992.

In 1992 the Serbs cut off food and other supplies to Sarajevo, Bosnia’s capital.

In July 1992 the United States and 20 other countries launched a massive airlift, Operation Provide Promise.
Operations Deny Flight and Deliberate Force

- Combined with the Provide Promise effort, NATO opened Operation Deny Flight over Bosnia.
- It ran from April 1993 to December 1995: NATO forces created no-fly zones for Serbian aircraft.
- In retaliation, Serbs grabbed UN peacekeepers.
- So NATO launched a mission called Operation Deliberate Force.
Yugoslavia continued to be a center of conflict.

In 1999 Milosevic directed Serbian forces to attack ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

So NATO launched an air campaign called Operation Allied Force in March 1999.

US airlifts, as part of Operation Shining Hope, kept Albanian refugees from starving while NATO crushed the Serbian attack on Kosovo.
Somalia, an East African country, had a severe food shortage in 1992.

The United States airlifted food through Operation Provide Relief.

But Somali warlords often stole the food before it could reach the people.

The United States soon launched another mission, Operation Restore Hope, to distribute food and to go after the warlords and their gangs.
Operation Uphold Democracy

- Haiti is a small country on a Caribbean island
- In 1991 a military coup removed its elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, from office
- The new leaders suppressed the Haitian people’s rights
- Many Haitians fled to the United States and tried to enter the country illegally
- The United States drew up a plan to return Aristide to power
- It was called Operation Uphold Democracy
Sometimes natural disasters are reason enough for the US Air Force to step in and help.

Here’s an example: when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, the Air Force and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) helped Americans affected by the storm.

The Air Force has been involved in many such missions (flooding in Bangladesh, Hurricane Andrew, earthquake-damaged India).
Today it’s hard to imagine a world without flight

The US Air Force has grown from a tiny unit of the Army to an independent, equal military service

On the civilian front, each day millions of ordinary people board commercial aircraft

But there’s another part of the story of flight—the development of rockets and humans’ entry into space
Stealth aircraft are unique for one important reason: they can evade radar.

The end of the Cold War did not bring the hoped-for peace.

Saddam Hussein, dictator of Iraq in the Middle East, saw opportunity in the post-Cold War changes.

The US Air Force had two goals in the Gulf War: to protect Saudi Arabia and to free Kuwait.
Review

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