



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS.**

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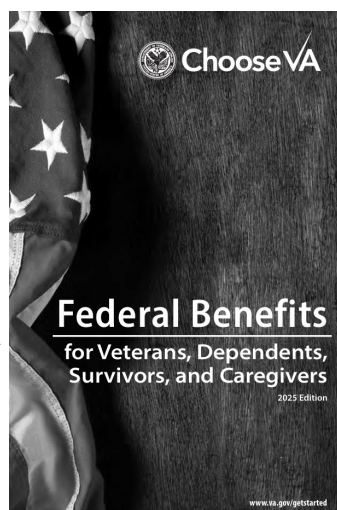
CELEBRATING THE **LEGACY**

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers

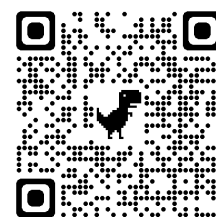
The handbook contains a comprehensive listing of VA programs, including phone numbers and web-sites for easy reference. The annual Federal Benefits Guide hosts a wealth of information on most VA benefits and services, including:

- Compensation.
- Life insurance.
- Pension and fiduciary services.
- Education benefits.
- Economic development and employment.
- Home loan guaranty programs and housing assistance.
- Mental health resources.

The handbook will help Veterans, service members and their families understand the full scope of VA resources available to them to help them make the most of life after service. It provides details on eligibility requirements for each benefit, and because VA serves different generations of Veterans, it also outlines the qualification guidelines for distinct periods of service to clarify eligibility for Veterans with service spanning both peace and wartime periods.



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Kosovo Air Campaign (March—June 1999)

Operation Allied Force

NATO launched an air campaign, Operation Allied Force, in March 1999 to halt the humanitarian catastrophe that was then unfolding in Kosovo. The decision to intervene followed more than a year of fighting within the province and the failure of international efforts to resolve the conflict by diplomatic means.

By the end of 1998 more than 300,000 Kosovars had already fled their homes, the various cease-fire agreements were systematically being flouted and negotiations were stalled.

Two rounds of internationally brokered talks in Rambouillet, France, in February and in Paris in March 1999 failed to break the deadlock and exhausted diplomatic avenues. At the time, autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, guaranteed by the presence of a NATO-led force, could have been assured. Accepted by the Albanian delegation, the proposal was rejected by Belgrade.

NATO announced the suspension of the air campaign on 10 June, once it had concluded a Military Technical Agreement with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The same day, UNSCR 1244 welcomed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's acceptance of the principles for a political solution, including an immediate end to violence and a rapid withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence, with substantial NATO participation.



- The 1989 imposition of direct rule from Belgrade of a predominantly Albanian province led to tension and waves of violence between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- President Milosovic's policy of ethnic cleansing produced flows of refugees and internally displaced people.
- In 1999, once all diplomatic avenues had failed, NATO launched an air campaign to halt the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Kosovo.
- Operation Allied Force started on 24 March 1999 and was suspended on 10 June, lasting a total of 78 days.
- On 10 June 1999, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted the withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence.

6 Things to Know About Operation Desert Storm

American Military History
Military.com

The Gulf War (1990-91) was a conflict involving coalition forces from 35 nations, led by the United States, against Iraq. It was sparked by Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The war unfolded in two key phases: Operation Desert Shield, which focused on troop deployment and defending Saudi Arabia, and Operation Desert Storm, the active combat phase.

Nowadays when people think of Iraq, they think of the war that began in 2003, ISIS and the long fight against terrorism. But the U.S. military's first major conflict with the country came more than a decade before that -- more than 25 years ago, in fact.

Operation Desert Storm began Jan. 17, 1991, after Iraqi forces who had invaded neighboring Kuwait refused to withdraw. The conflict is now commonly known as the Gulf War. Here are six important facts you should know about it.



The War Was Pretty Short

From start to finish, Desert Storm only lasted 43 days, from Jan. 17 to Feb. 28, 1991. In fact, the land campaign is infamously known as the "100-hour ground war" for obvious reasons -- that's about as long as it lasted.

Why It Happened

After the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, Iraq was in debt to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which had financed its war efforts. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein insisted both countries cancel that debt, because he felt they owed him for protecting them against Iran. Both countries refused, however, so Hussein threatened Kuwait, its oil-rich, militarily weak neighbor, reigniting a decades-old border dispute over Kuwait itself.

In July 1990, Saddam claimed that Kuwait and the UAE were overproducing crude oil, driving down prices and depriving Iraq of critical oil revenues. He accused Kuwait of stealing from an oil field on the Iraq-Kuwait border, and he accused the U.S. and Israel of encouraging Kuwait to lower its oil prices.

Relations deteriorated with all parties, which led to Hussein invading and annexing Kuwait in August 1990. The United Nations Security Council placed an embargo and sanctions on Iraq, but months later, when Hussein refused to comply with a resolution requiring him to withdraw, Desert Storm began.

The 'Coalition of the Willing' Was an Extraordinary Partnership

Before the invasion, 40 countries quickly entered into a nonbinding alliance against Iraq. The "Coalition of the Willing" included NATO allies, several Arab nations and -- most importantly -- several former Cold War adversaries, including the Soviet Union. The Cold War had thawed the year before the invasion, which helped ease U.S. and United Kingdom security concerns and ensured near global unity in opposition to Iraqi aggression.

Also, for the first time, a U.S. Central Command commander, Army Gen. "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf, teamed with a regional ally, Saudi Arabia's Prince Khaled bin Sultan, to co-command the allied forces. Saudi Arabia was where U.S. land forces gathered during the buildup to Desert Storm, so the collaboration was an important dynamic and integral to the operation's overall success.

Classified 'Secret Squirrel' Mission Makes History

Desert Storm started as an air campaign with Operation Senior Surprise, which became known as "Secret Squirrel." Seven B-52G Stratofortresses left Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and flew 14,000 round-trip miles to, for the first time, launch 35 conventional air-launched cruise missiles at strategic Iraqi targets. It was the longest aircraft combat sortie of its time.

Iraq's Scud Missiles Were Meant to Split the Coalition

Hussein realized he couldn't defeat the military forces and international political will represented by the coalition, so his only option was to try to divide it. In retaliation for Secret Squirrel, Iraq launched Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Hussein's hope was that Israel would retaliate, as it historically had, with military force -- a move that would have transformed the fight into yet another Arab-Israeli conflict. But Israel resisted as the U.S. promised to help protect it. The MIM-104C Patriot missile detects, targets and detonates near incoming ballistic missiles to disable or destroy them. It had been under development since the 1960s, but its first successful use in combat was during Desert Storm.

The first Patriot missile intercepted a Scud launched over Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on Day 1 of the conflict. Two days later, President George H.W. Bush sent two Patriot air defense missile batteries to Israel, marking the first time U.S. Army crews had ever been sent to help with that country's defense (and, as stated above, helping to keep the coalition together).

The Patriot missile system intercepted many Scuds over the course of Desert Storm, making major contributions to the success of the operation. It's still a key defense platform for U.S. forces today.

The War's Enduring Impact

While Desert Storm has largely been overshadowed by the more recent Iraq War and the current crisis with ISIS, the impact and relevance remain. About 697,000 U.S. troops took part in the war; 299 lost their lives. The U.S. is still in good standing with many of the countries involved in the Coalition of the Willing today, and we can only hope those relationships -- however fragile -- continue to flourish into the future.



February 2025

March 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5 Food Distribution	6	7	8
9 Super Bowl Sunday	10 VFW Meeting	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Wilson County VSO Breakfast
16	17 Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 VPR Operation Desert Storm	1

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March 2025

April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Food Distribution	6	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Starts	10 VFW Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 VPR Kosovo Campaign	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 VPR Somalia	1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5

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