

Operation Desert Fox – the first wave

U.S. forces launched more than 200 cruise missiles as Operation Desert Fox got underway. The air strikes are aimed 'to degrade Iraq's ability to make and use weapons of mass destruction' following the continuing dispute over UN weapons inspections. The attacks are expected to last up to four days

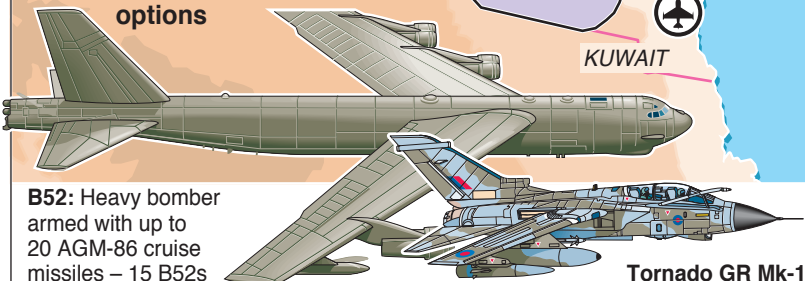
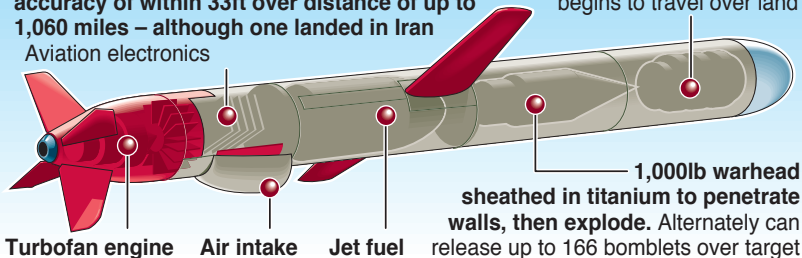
Tomahawk cruise missile

First strike weapons target sites around Baghdad and southern Iraq. Claimed accuracy of within 33ft over distance of up to 1,060 miles – although one landed in Iran

Aviation electronics

Terrain-matching TERCOM guidance and global positioning system – used once the missile begins to travel over land

1,000lb warhead sheathed in titanium to penetrate walls, then explode. Alternately can release up to 166 bomblets over target



B52: Heavy bomber armed with up to 20 AGM-86 cruise missiles – 15 B52s based at Diego Garcia
Expected to attack night of December 17

Tornado GR Mk-1
18% of the air strikes will be carried out by British bombers based in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia