

Gulf forces ready for showdown

U.S. forces are on standby for action against Iraq following Baghdad's threat to attack U-2 reconnaissance planes, the banning of Americans from United Nations arms inspection teams and the movement of sensitive equipment out of range of UN surveillance cameras

Lockheed Martin U-2R

Operational height: over 70,000ft. Typical mission time: 9 hours

Senior Span: Satellite link enables data to be beamed globally as it is gathered

Senior Ruby Pod: Allows UN to eavesdrop on Iraqi military communications

Signal intelligence antenna farm

Photo-reconnaissance:

Four main cameras can take minutely detailed pictures of ground activities

Northern no-fly zone and Kurdish safe haven

Northern Watch: 1,100 U.S. personnel; 230 UK personnel
Patrols flown from Incirlik, Turkey

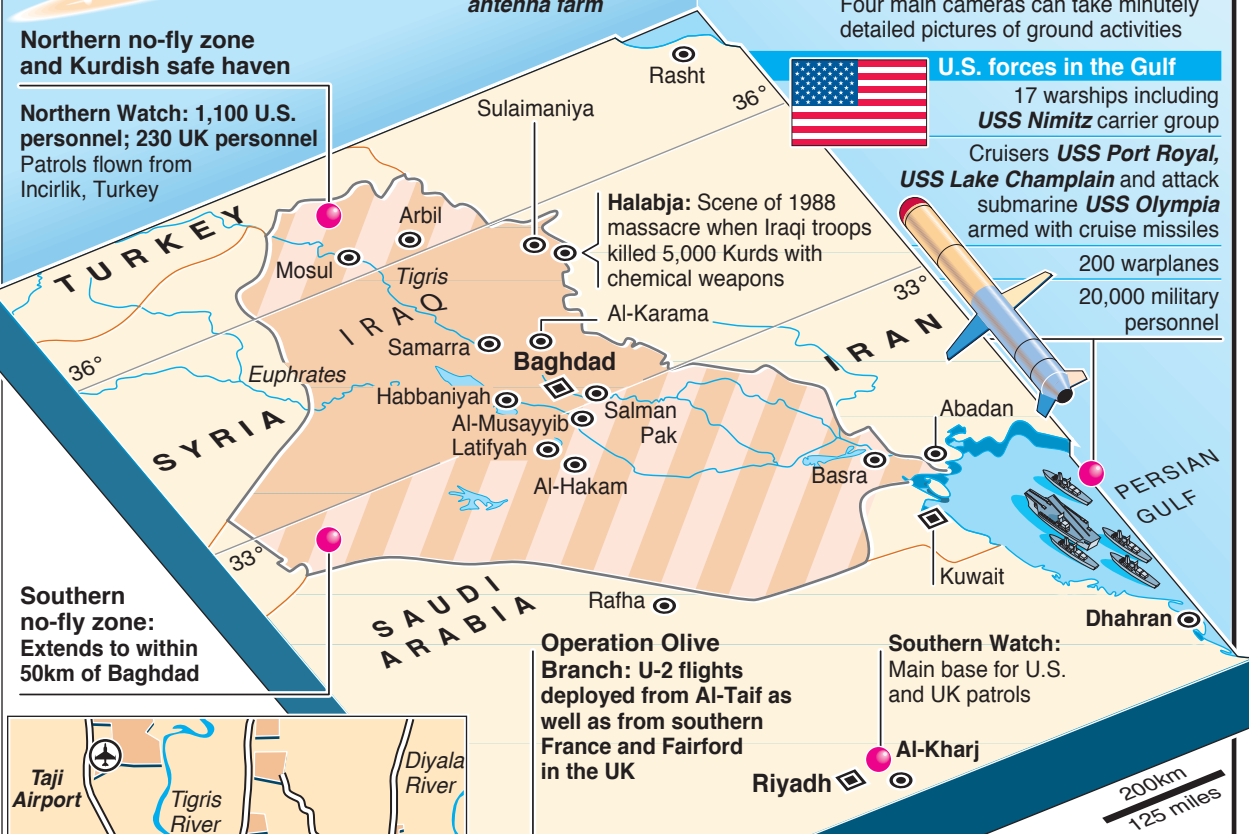
U.S. forces in the Gulf

17 warships including **USS Nimitz** carrier group

Cruisers **USS Port Royal**, **USS Lake Champlain** and attack submarine **USS Olympia** armed with cruise missiles

200 warplanes

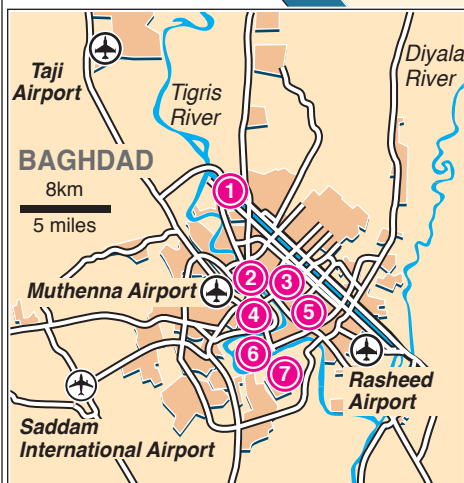
20,000 military personnel



Southern no-fly zone:
Extends to within 50km of Baghdad

Operation Olive Branch: U-2 flights deployed from Al-Taif as well as from southern France and Fairford in the UK

Southern Watch:
Main base for U.S. and UK patrols



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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Army Canal | 5. Sheraton Hotel |
| 2. City Railway Station | 6. University |
| 3. Communications Centre | 7. Oil Refinery |
| 4. Presidential Palace | |

Findings of UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) report, September 1997

BALLISTIC MISSILES: Iraq continues to conceal numbers of missile launchers, missile warheads and proscribed missile propellants.

Key locations: Al-Karama, Habbaniyah, Al-Musayyib, Latifyah

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS: Iraq's account of this programme studied by 15 experts from 13 countries. They all concluded it was 'incomplete and contains significant inaccuracies' and the extent of biological warfare agent production appeared to be 'vastly understated'.
Locations: Baghdad, Al-Hakam – destroyed by the UN inspectors 1996

CHEMICAL WEAPONS: Iraq fails to account for special missile warheads intended for filling with chemical or biological warfare agents, 155mm mustard gas shells and extent of its programme for producing deadly nerve agent – VX.

Locations: Baghdad, Samarra, Habbaniyah, Salman Pak and Latifyah