

The battle for Baghdad

Iraqi forces

Republican Guards: T-72 tanks fire in "hull-down" positions from "tank scrapes" to give maximum cover from air and ground attack

Carpet bombing: B-52 bombers drop dozens of 2,000lb bombs to soften up defenders

Tank platoons: Units of three to five tanks are assembled into companies, battalions or brigades depending on objective and target

Mine Clearing Blade System: "Plough" on front of Abrams tank clears surface and buried mines up to 2 metres in front of tank's path

Armoured bridgelayers: Can span 15-metre trench of blazing oil in about 5 minutes

Mine fields
Anti-tank mines
4-5 metres apart.
Anti-personnel mines
planted about
1 metre apart

Flame trench

Sand berm

Approx 1km

Apache attack helicopters

T-72 tank: Upgraded with new fire control system, explosive reactive armour and anti-tank wire-guided missile fired from main gun

Gun system: 125mm smooth-bore. Laser rangefinder ensures high hit probability. Can penetrate U.S. tank armour at 1,000 metres

Sources: Ministry of Defence, GlobalSecurity.org, Jane's Information Group

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Tankbusters:
Each A-10 Thunderbolt can carry a devastating arsenal including heat-seeking missiles, 500lb-2,000lb bombs, laser-guided bombs and a VW Beetle-sized 30mm Gatling cannon that fires depleted uranium-tipped shells at a rate of 3,900 rounds a minute

Combat dozers: Dig paths through Iraqi berms – raised sand banks – ahead of tanks and infantry

American forces

Defending Baghdad: The Republican Guard has three armoured divisions around the Iraqi capital – the Medina, Hammurabi and Nida Divisions. Each is comprised of about 10,000 soldiers, 150-200 tanks, about 250 armoured personnel carriers and 50-60 artillery pieces

