

PERSIAN GULF WAR: 2003 (POSTSCRIPT)

At the present time, American, British, and various allied forces are still deployed in Iraq, maintaining a tense and difficult occupation. It is to be hoped that this occupation will end as soon as is humanly possible, bringing to a close over three decades of inhuman brutality and frightful carnage, punctuated by bestial atrocities, rape, and the exploitation of every resource Iraq and the Iraqi people possessed to satisfy the lusts and whims of the most rapacious pack of slaving jackals since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Even now, more than a year and a half after the cessation of formal combat and the collapse of the Ba'athist regime, it is too soon to make any definitive statements concerning either the conduct of the war or its long term consequences. Therefore, in this postscript, I will simply detail the composition and assets of the Iraqi armed forces as they existed shortly before the outbreak of hostilities, in the hope that this information will enable your understanding of the events that occurred in April of 2003 to be based on creditable information, provided by reliable sources without regard to any particular political agenda.

IRAQI ARSENAL

Vehicles:	250+T-72 1,600+(T-54/-55, T-62, T-59/-69), and a few "Chieftan" Tanks, 300x(EE-9 "Cascavel", AML-90, "Ferret", ERC-90, FUG-70) Armored Cars, 3000+ (BMP-1, BMP-2, M-113, BTR-50/-60/-152, OT-64, and M3 "Halftrack") APCs
AT Weapons:	3,000+ AT-3, AT-4, "Milan", VCT/HOT, SS-11, and "Swingfire" ATGM's
Artillery:	1,500+ (Towed 85mm, 100mm, 122mm, 130mm, and 152mm, 155mm GHN-45, 155mm G5 Pieces, 155mm (SP) GCT/AUF-1, 120mm and 160mm Mortars), 250x122mm BM-21, 18xASTROSII
SSMs:	500+Mobile SCUD-B/-C, 62x"Al Samoud-2"
Anti-Aircraft:	4,000+ (Towed (23mm, 35mm, 40mm, 57mm, 85mm) AA Guns, 100xSP ZSU-57/2, Some ZSU-23/4, I-HAWK, SA-7,
Combat Aircraft:	Fixed Wing: 6xTu22, 20xMiG-23/27, 45xMirage F-1, 15xSu-20/-22, 15xSu-25, 35xJ-7, 10xMiG-25/29, 40xMiG-21,
Helicopter:	50+(Mi-24, Gazelle (HOT), Alouette III, Super Frelon), 50xBO105, 30xMi-4, 25xMi-6, 100xMi-17, 50xMi-8
Small Arms:	7.62mm (AK47M, Qadis, and SKS) rifles, 9mm (Sterling and PPS-43) submachineguns, 7.62mm (M72B1, MG34, RPD, and SGM) machineguns, 12.7mm DShk heavy machineguns, and .303" "Bren" light machineguns.

- Notes:
- 1) All numbers are approximate. The Iraqi military suffers from chronic shortages of spare parts and trained technicians.
 - 2) Total Active Military Manpower: 450,000 (expandable to 1,000,000 on mobilization).
 - 3) Para-military Forces: 4,800 Internal Security and Border Guard Troops.
 - 4) Iraq People's Army AKA "Saddam's Fedayeen": 30,000 - 40,000
 - 5) "Al Quds" Liberation Army: (Numbers Unknown)
 - 6) the Iraqi Navy consisted of less than 600 personnel in late 2002. Total Air Force personnel numbered 40,000.
 - 7) Iraqi Land Forces were divided into four categories:

Republican Guards -	Two Armored Divisions, 2 Mechanized Divisions, Three Motorized Divisions
"Special" Republican Guards -	Three Infantry Brigades, One Mechanized Brigade
Regular Army -	Three Armored Divisions, Three Mechanized Divisions, Eleven Infantry Divisions
"Baghdad Brigades" -	Three Armored Brigades, Two Mechanized Brigades
 - 8) The Republican Guard was actually an army within the army. It was routinely equipped with the best equipment available and assigned nothing but volunteer personnel. These were carefully screened for political reliability and personal devotion to Saddam. Military prowess, combat experience, or previous criminal record were not considered important.
 - 9) Note increases in the number of Iraqi SSMs and Combat Aircraft despite a ten-year "Trade Embargo".
 - 10) The Iraqi Air Force made almost no contribution whatever to the 2003 war.