Operation Desert Shield
https://archives.nbclearn.com/portal/site/k-12/browse/?cuecard=1026

General Information

Source: NBC News
Resource Type: Video Documentary
Creator: Tom Brokaw
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date: 08/02/1990
Air/Publish Date: 08/02/1990
Copyright Date: 1998
Clip Length: 00:02:43

Description

NBC's Tom Brokaw documents the beginning of Operation Desert Storm as President orders the 82nd Airborne into the Persian Gulf.

Keywords

Gulf War, Overview, Operation Desert Shield, Countdown, UN Resolutions, Iraq, Invasion, Kuwait, Oil Fields, President George H.W.Bush, Saddam Hussein, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf, James Baker

Citation

© 2008-2017 NBCUniversal Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
Transcript

Operation Desert Shield

TOM BROKAW, anchor:

Operation Desert Storm officially began with a massive bombing raid on Baghdad one night in January, 1991. But the stage for this war was set five months before, in the desert, by Saddam Hussein. On August 2nd, 1990 Iraqi forces poured over the border into Kuwait, Iraq’s oil-rich neighbor to the south. More than 100,000 Iraqi troops took control of the tiny Arab nation. The invasion was brutally efficient.

Unidentified Iraqi ambassador: Iraq harbor no special objectives in Kuwait.

BROKAW: No one believes the Iraqi ambassador. The objectives are obvious: the Kuwaiti royal family’s holdings of cash and gold, Kuwait’s vast oil fields, and access to the Persian Gulf. Saddam had tricked the allies. The U.N. quickly approves a resolution on economic sanctions against Iraq, which has pronounced Kuwait its 19th province. Saddam Hussein has called upon the Arab world to rise up in a holy war against the western infidels. President Bush ordered the 82nd Airborne into the gulf.

President GEORGE H.W. BUSH: The mission of our troops is wholly defensive.

BROKAW: Operation Desert Shield is under way. The United States has no formal plan to fight a gulf war. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and General Norman Schwarzkopf have the enormous responsibility of mapping out a strategy and putting it immediately into effect.

Chairman COLIN POWELL: The mission that’s been given to us by the president as we have said time and again is to deter and to defend. And I think we are deterring now and with each passing day our defensive capability gets better and better.

BROKAW: November 29th, the U.N. Security Council approves a resolution authorizing military action if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait. Deadline: January 15th.

Off-screen voice: 12 votes in favor, 2 votes against…

BROKAW: The count on the war has begun. The new year brings one last chance for peace. Secretary Baker meets with Iraq’s foreign minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva to try to prevent war. The talks in Geneva
break down. Congress approves the use of force.
Unidentified man: May God bless us and guide us and help us in the fateful days that lie ahead.
BROKAW: Operation Desert Shield, the largest, fastest, and farthest military deployment ever, was history.