

# Mission: Care of a Dictator

## Operation Iraqi Freedom 2006

### COL Joseph Horam, MD (ret)



# Service, Security, Freedom







**“To Conserve Fighting Strength”**

US Army Medical Corp Motto

# Military Docs

- Training = Civilian Standards
- Assignments include Academic, Community, Installation and Deployment placements
- Substitute Policy: Medical/Surgical Cross Coverage for Full Utilization all Specialties
- Active Duty/Reserves: Hospital
- Army National Guard: Primary Care, Flight Medicine, Special Missions



# Path to Saddam Assignment

- Experience and Timing
- Commander of the WY ARNG Medical Detachment
- WY ARNG State Surgeon
- Executive Council of the State Surgeons of the United States
- Flight Surgeon Aviation Medicine
- Deployment experience with Persian Gulf War 1991 and Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004







1/1/00











Echelon IV, Kharj 50<sup>th</sup> General Hospital,  
Persian Gulf War, Riyadh Saudi Arabia



















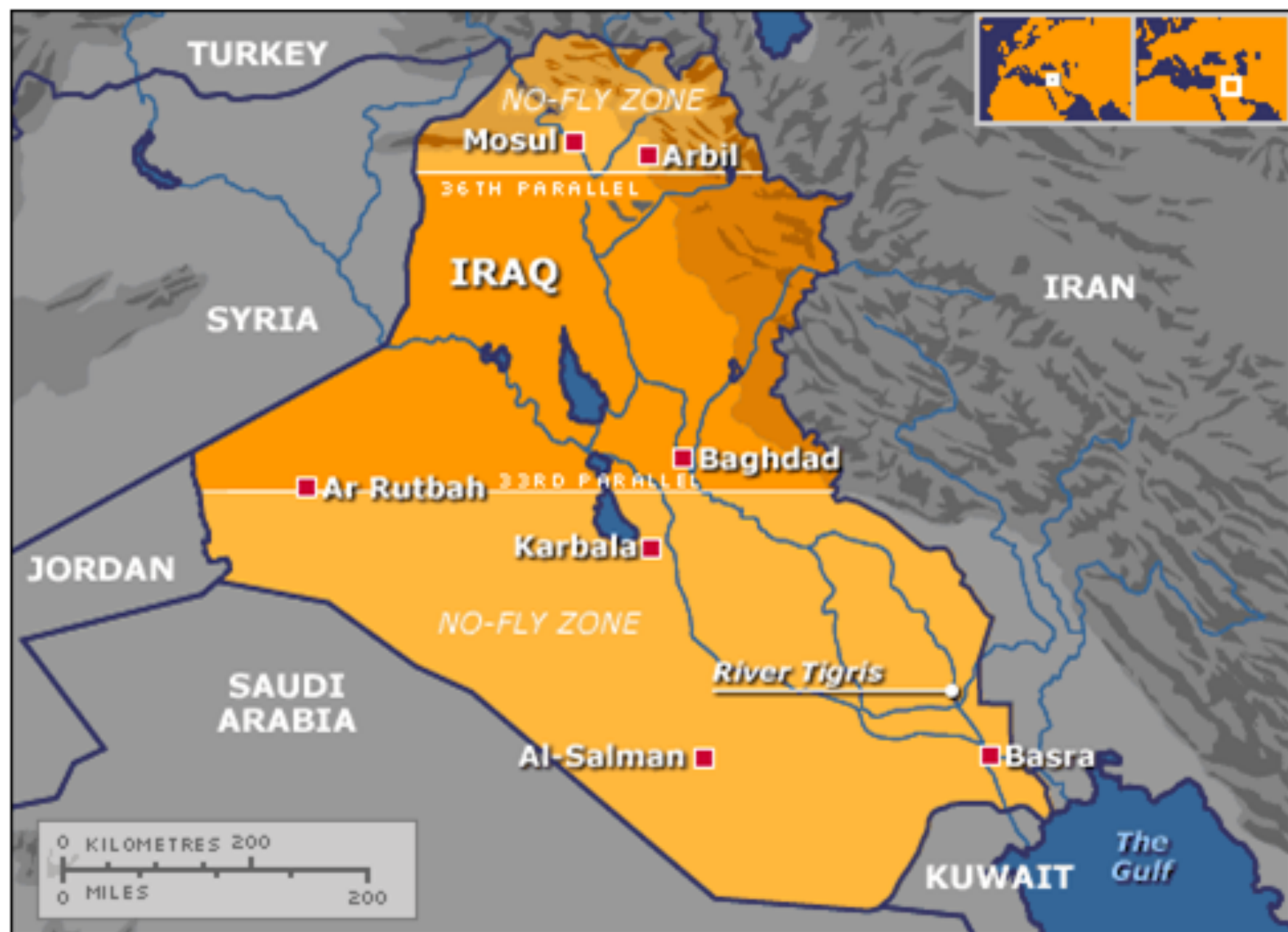


## Forrest Gump

- General Norman Schwarzkopf
  - President Mikhail Gorbachev
  - VP Richard Cheney
  - Governor Sarah Palin
  - President Hipolito Mejia of Dominican Republic
  - President Saddam Hussein
- which leads to.....









# OIF 2006 Context

- Detainee Operations s/p Abu Ghraib
- President Bush military surge campaign
- Building political resistance to occupation
- Questions regarding WMD threat
- Increasing National Guard presence
- Saddam Hussein captive since Dec 2003
- Trials begin for Saddam's regime and crimes against humanity







# Mission Defined

## April to August 2006

- Personal Physician to Saddam Hussein
- Dujail Trial Defendants (Elite 8)
- Courthouse Physician for defendants , legal teams and witnesses
- Medical care for US Army Security Force
- Golby Troop Medical Clinic



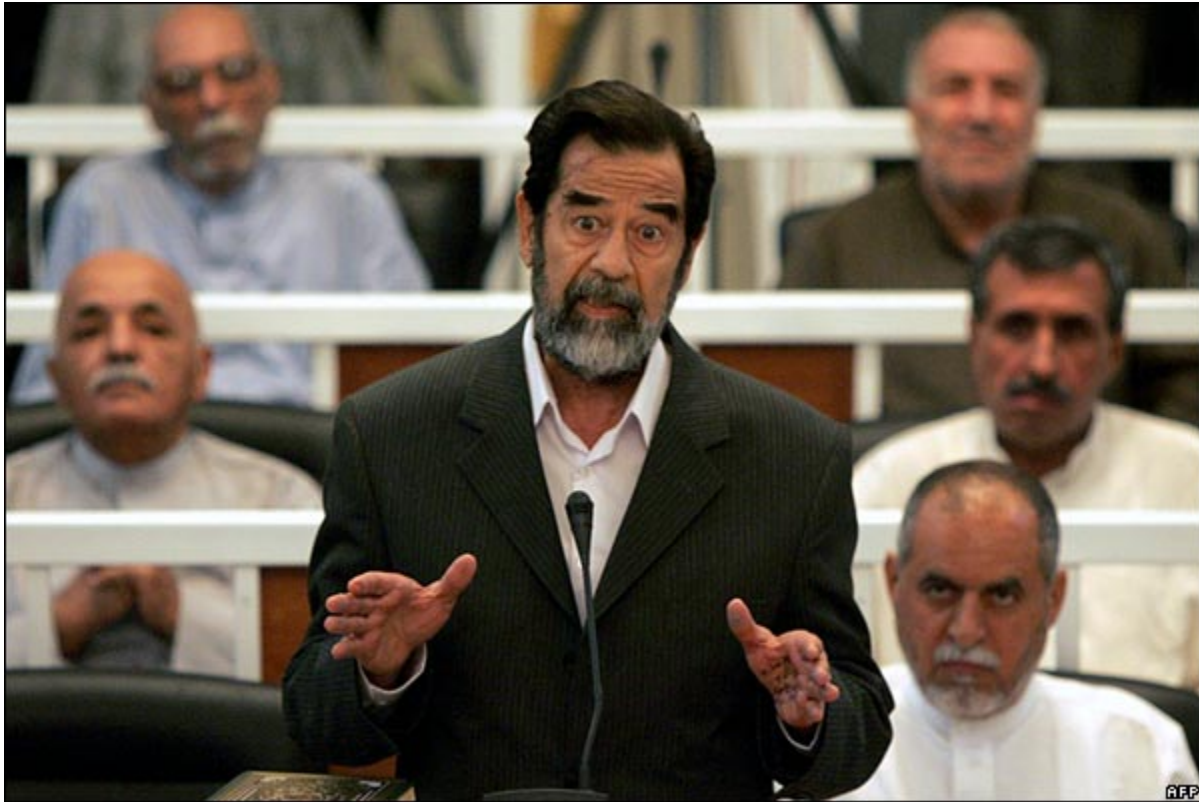
# Captured Fugitive

13 Dec 2003





Why does everyone blame me?  
(HVD #1, VIC, Ace of Spades, Saddam)



# Saddam Hussein the Dictator

- Ba'ath Party military coup takeover 1968
- 5<sup>th</sup> President of Iraq July 1979 to April 2003
- Ordered execution/imprisonment of prior regime leadership
- Estimated genocide of over 250,000 Iraqi's
- Modernization of Iraq with oil economy and infrastructure for government/education/health care
- Nuclear enrichment, reactor destroyed by Israel in June 1981
- Iraq-Iran 8 year war to 1988, financial ruin
- Invasion of Kuwait 2 Aug 1990 with Desert Storm defeat by February 1991 with International Coalition
- Operation Iraqi Freedom US Occupation March 2003: No fly zone/United Nations WMD Investigations/Terrorist Camps/9-11 Aftermath and "Unfinished Business" of Desert Storm



## What Was Saddam Like?

- Regime Centric Dictator
- Proud Leader of Iraq
- Arrogant Ego
- Demanding and Dismissive
- Denials: UN,WMD, Terroristic Training
- Trust Relationship for medical profession
- Spoke English/Arabic
- Generosity and Gifting
- Prison Interlude
- America vs Government





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# Accountability

- Geneva Convention Rules of Engagement
- International Red Cross
- 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade/ 43<sup>rd</sup> MP Brigade
- MNF-1 General Casey/ CENTCOM
- US Secretary of Defense
- White House





# Medical Team

- Doc, 2 medics and a translator @ 24/7
- Daily rounds and progress notes
- Provide lab tests, medications, consults
- All site and transportation direct support
- Life support medications and equipment
- Hospitalization team management
- Command communications



# Problem List

- Conn's Syndrome (Adrenal Adenoma) with HTN managed B blockade, diuretic, ACE, ARB
- Constellation of PVD, PSA elevation, DDD, OA, GERD, neuropathy
- Preventive Care:  
dental, exercise, diet, immunizations
- Hunger Strikes/Mental Health
- Conflict management: daily events





# HEAT INDEX BOARD



EASY WORK		MODERATE WORK		HARD WORK	
WORK/REST	WATER INTAKE (Qt./H)	WORK/REST	WATER INTAKE (Qt./H)	WORK/REST	WATER INTAKE (Qt./H)
NL	1/2	NL	3/4	40/20 MIN	3/4
NL	1/2	50/10 MIN	3/4	30/30 MIN	1
NL	3/4	40/20 MIN	3/4	30/30 MIN	1
NL	3/4	30/30 MIN	3/4	20/40 MIN	1
50/10 MIN	1	20/40 MIN	1	10/50 MIN	1
Non-physical activity in direct sunlight Walking hard surface at 2.5 mph, <30lb load		Walking loose sand at 2.5 mph, no load Walking hard surface at 3.5 mph, <40lb load		Walking hard surface at 3.5 mph, <40lb load Walking loose sand at 2.5 mph, no load	

# Dujail Trial

- Assassination attempt of Saddam Hussein resulting in massacre of 148 Shiites from Dujail
- Elite 8 defendants: Hussein, Barzan (Intel), Ramadan (VP), Bardu (Chief Judge) and 4 Ba'ath party officials
- Tariq Aziz (Foreign Minister)
- Trial process under tremendous scrutiny
- 12 trials to follow (Kurds chemical genocide)
- Many defense attorneys murdered, Judge Tribunal confrontational, witness integrity issues





















gettyimages®  
Pool

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# Hunger Strikes

- Personal demands and protest platform
- Suicidal gestures were made
- Determined hunger striker but not to the death
- Agreement to intervene if health compromised
- Several strikes, 19 days became significant
- Delayed court proceedings
- Inpatient management to restore vigor, avoid re-feeding syndrome



























# Social Time

- Not actionable intelligence
- Develop trust and communication
- Dinner and Cigars!
- No sympathy, this is a brutal dictator
- Topics:
  - Iraq infrastructure
  - Politics
  - WMD/UN investigations
  - Family
  - Religion
  - U.S. Policy and Culture





















# Day of Reckoning

- Saddam Captured 13 Dec 2003
- Executed 30 Dec 2006
- Barzan, Ramadan and Bardu executed 2007
- Ba'ath party defendants sentenced
- Tariq Aziz sentenced, died of Myocardial Infarction June 2015
- All other subsequent trial charges dropped





# US Embassy

- Greater diplomatic presence in Iraq (15,000)
- Mortar resistant, self sufficient compound
- Contingency Force (Iraq's call)
- Outcome: Iraq is a sovereign democratic nation, Mosul battleground, tribunal leadership
- So... Afghanistan maintain 10,000 force, Syria/ISIS needs a solution, confronting large geopolitical inequities is tremendously complex
- Personal opinion: continue to oppose government tyranny, human rights violations and assure interest of national security, intervention based on the best judgment of our political and military leadership

