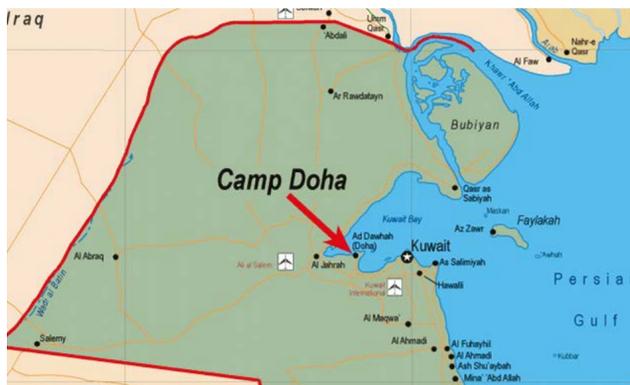


Camp Doha, Kuwait – 12 Jul 1991



In June 1991, four months after the end of Operation Desert Storm, the US 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR) deployed from Germany to occupy Camp Doha (near Kuwait City) to serve as a deterrent and rapid response force.

By July 1991, the 11th ACR was the only US ground combat unit remaining in the Gulf Theatre. Due to the threat of renewed hostilities, they kept their vehicles "combat loaded" with ammunition, even in garrison, to reduce their response time in case of renewed hostilities with Iraq. The regiment stored an equal amount of ammunition in shipping containers located in the North Compound motor pool complex near the combat vehicle parking ramps.

On the morning of 11th July 1991, two of the ACR's three squadrons deployed to the field leaving behind a single squadron plus support elements to serve as a guard force.

At approximately 1020 hrs, a defective heater in an M992 ammunition carrier loaded with 155 mm artillery shells caught on fire. Troops unsuccessfully tried to extinguish the fire before being ordered to evacuate the North Compound. At approximately 1100 hrs while the evacuation was still under way, the vehicle exploded scattering artillery sub-munitions over nearby combat-loaded vehicles and ammunition stocks.

This set off a series of explosions and fires that devastated the vehicles and equipment in the North Compound and scattered unexploded ordnance and debris over much of the remainder of the camp.

While no one was killed at the time of the accident, 49 personnel were injured and 3 personnel died while clearing the area of unexploded ordnance in the weeks that followed.

The fire and explosions damaged or destroyed 161 vehicles, including four M1A1 Abrams tanks; approximately two dozen buildings sustained damage and approximately US\$15 million of ammunition was damaged or destroyed including 660 120 mm Depleted Uranium rounds.

Total losses were US\$40.3 million (US\$23.3 million in vehicles, US\$14.7 million in munitions and US\$2.3 million in facilities).

3 Fatalities

56 Injuries

US\$40 Million Damages (1991)