

# Operation Desert Storm

**As Allied Forces continued to bombard Iraqi fortifications, the soldiers of Operation Desert Storm prepared for offensive ground actions. Noncommissioned officers were there to ensure the troops were ready.**

War moves with remarkable speed when viewed through the limited eye of a quarterly publication. As the last of the copy for this issue was being prepared for shipment to the printer in January, allied forces had completed the first week of intensive bombing deep within Iraq, the first Americans had died during border skirmishes, and Saudi Arabian soldiers had retaken the coastal border town of Khafji from the invading Iraqis.

Judging from news reports and the comments of military leaders, a lot more will happen before this issue is in readers' hands in April. The allied air campaign will shift its focus to destroying Iraqi command lines and supply routes. Iraqi forces will remain entrenched while continuing their border attacks in an attempt to draw the allies into a premature ground offensive. And, as in any war, there will be some surprises from both sides.



What seems clear is that however long it takes to drive Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's military forces from Kuwait, it will be some time before conditions in the Persian Gulf have stabilized enough that the first American soldiers can come home.

So it's appropriate that our first issue is dedicated to the soldiers of Operation Desert Storm. But while the articles on the following pages follow a desert warfare theme, their focus is on the broader

issues of NCO leadership that are important to all of us. Issues such as knowing your enemy and environment, learning from history and the experiences of others, and applying leadership skills to maintain morale and discipline. We hope you find something in these articles that you can use or that will encourage you to learn more and share what you've learned with others. ■

MSG Gil High