

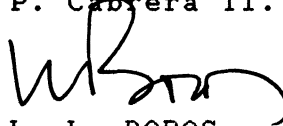
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion  
Marine Air Control Group 28  
FPO NY 09502-0750

5750  
S-3  
14 Mar 91

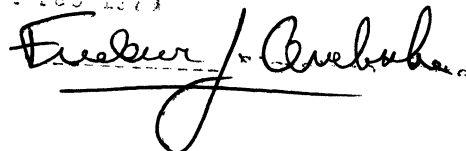
From: Commanding Officer, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile  
Battalion  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 38  
Subj: DESERT STORM HISTORICAL COLLECTION AND BATTLE ASSESSMENT  
Ref: (a) CG I MEF 021203ZMAR91  
Encl: (1) 3d LAAM Bn Desert Storm Historical Collection and  
Battle Assessment.  
(2) Supporting Documents.

1. In accordance with the provisions of the reference, the enclosure is submitted. Downgrade and declassification authority is granted to CMC (HD/INT).

2. Point of Contact: Capt W. P. Cabrera II.

  
L. L. BOROS

Declassified by the Director of  
Marine Corps History and Museums  
in accordance with the provisions  
of CMO 141.51R CODES/CS0095 of  
1 Feb 1979

 6/15/05

3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion  
Desert Storm Historical Collection and Battle Assessment

SECTION 1

ORGANIZATION DATA

Unit designation: Third Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion

a. Reporting Unit Code: 23960

b. Table of Organization numbers: 8681/8682/8683/8684

Period covered and locations: 16 August 1990 - 28 February 1991  
Saudi Arabia and Bahrain

Personnel Information:

a. Commanding Officer:	LtCol Louis L. Boros 25 Dec 90 -
b. Executive Officer:	Maj Thomas M. Adkins 04 Jan 91 -
c. Subordinate Commanders:	
Commanding Officer Alpha Battery	Capt Marlin F. Brown 25 Dec 90 -
Commanding Officer Bravo Battery	Capt Jack A. Maberry 15 Oct 91 -
Commanding Officer Headquarters and Service Battery	Capt Gordon E. Hartway II 11 Jan 91 -
d. Principal Staff Officers	
S-1 Officer	MSgt John W. Hamilton Jr. 04 Jan 91 -
S-2/3 Officer	Capt William P. Cabrera II 25 Dec 90 -
S-4 Officer	Capt Kenneth R. Chambers 25 Dec 90 -
e. Staff Historian	Capt Paul W. Meyer 10 Feb 91 -
f. Sergeant Major	SgtMaj David S. Nagorniak 11 Jan 91 -

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Combat Casualties: None.

Combat Losses:

a. Battle damage: None.

b. Non Battle damage:

(1). M927 5-ton truck, serial # 530860, sustained extensive front end damage estimated at \$19,000 in an accident with a SANG 2 and 1/2 ton truck on the MSR between Ras Al Mishab and Kibrit.

(2) M928 5-ton truck serial # 532284, sustained medium front end damage estimated at \$9,230.

(3) M192-E1 Zero Length Launcher, serial # 340063, sustained the following damages: The bottom skin of the trailer peeled back about 7" at the front roadside corner of the trailer down to about 1" at the front center of the trailer, the launcher footjack was broken, the outrigger support arms were bent and stripped, four 4 internal angle iron supports of the trailer body were cracked and bent, and the front of the trailer was structurally damaged during a movement to a new position.

Recommendations for Personal Awards for Gallantry: None.

Recommendations for Awards for Exceptional Service: Pending.

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SECTION II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY  
(ACCOMPLISHMENTS, DECISIONS, EVENTS, AND ISSUES)

The 3dLAAMBn arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield having been attached to MACG-38 as part of the II MEF reinforcement of units already deployed to Southwest Asia. The Battalion arrived with events proceeding rapidly toward the commencement of hostilities between the United Nation Coalition forces and the Revolutionary Republic of Iraq.

The advance party from the 3dLAAMBn arrived in Saudi Arabia on 25 Dec 90. Battery "B" (B3) from the Battalion had been sent out on 16 August 90 as part of MAG-40, 4th MEB. B3 had been landed in Saudi Arabia and assigned to the operational control of the 2dLAAMBn, MACG-38. Administrative control remained with MAG-40 afloat.

The arrival of the advance party coincided with a planning meeting chaired by MACG-38 to refine and revise command and control procedures for Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) units participating in Operation Desert Shield. The original role defined for the 3dLAAMBn was to provide defense of vital areas in the southern half of the Marine AOR, while the 2dLAAMBn would take responsibility in the north. This was to take place as the coalition forces moved out of defensive and into attack positions. Planning, however, was fluid and changes in the plan soon occurred.

The main body of the Battalion arrived during 4-6 January 91. At this point, both the operational and administrative responsibilities for B3 reverted to the Battalion.

Late in December 90 the decision was made to move the MACS-2 Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC) to a position some 8 miles to the west of Ras Al Mishab and some 28 miles south of the border with Kuwait. This provided the TAOC with excellent coverage of the airspace over southern Kuwait all the way to Kuwait City. It was assumed, based on the then current ground combat element (GCE) plan that this would be the area of primary interest for USMC ground forces. As a result, MACCS agencies and units were oriented on this area.

With the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions moving into offensive positions in northern Saudi Arabia, adjustments in the dispositions of HAWK units followed suit. To support and protect the TAOC, 2d Platoon, Battery "A", 2dLAAMBn (2A2) was moved to a position just north of that facility. Additionally, 2d Platoon, Battery "B", 3dLAAMBn (2B3) was moved from near Jubail to a position just northwest of the port/airfield at Ras Al Mishab. This move was required to support the proposed buildup of a rotary wing group and a logistics base at the airfield. Somewhat unusually, these moves placed HAWK units and the TAOC in the unaccustomed role of being the forward line of troops (FLOT)

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ahead of GCE units.

A further movement of HAWK fire units north was necessitated by buildup of a larger logistics point at Kibrit, as well as the movement of the I MEF headquarters to Safaniya. 1B3 was moved from near Abu Hadryah to Kibrit on 15 Jan 91, while 1A2 moved from Bahrain to Safaniya. Since this exposed Bahrain, 2A3 was moved to take up a position near the Shaikh Isa Airfield on the southeast coast of the island. 1A3 moved to a position to the west of the Jubail airfield. Additionally, H&S Battery, 3dLAAMBn, moved almost in its entirety to a basecamp located on the Ras Al Mishab/Kibrit road near the TAOC. With the resultant wide dispersal of fire units, it was decided that 3dLAAMBn would assume support responsibility for the fire units located in the North, while 2dLAAMBn would fulfill the same role in the South. Thus, as the deadline for the beginning of offensive operations became imminent, all USMC active duty HAWK units were in place. To recoup, on 16 Jan 91, the 3dLAAMBn Headquarters and H&S Battery were located at 280400N 482700E, the Battery "A" headquarters and 2A3 were located in Bahrain at 255800N 503225E, with 1A3 near Jubail at 265724N 491930E. Battery "B" had its headquarters and 1B3 at Kibrit (280312N 480300E) with 2B3 near Ras Al Mishab at 280518N 483212E.

With the commencement of aerial bombardment of Iraq the TAOC and the HAWK fire units under its operational purview in the North remained under EMCON, receiving the air picture over the AOR via datalink from USAF AWACS aircraft. Various radiation conditions (RADCON) were established to allow selective use of HAWK radars to assist in surveillance of the airspace over Kuwait. At the direction of MACG-38, a joint Combat Operation Center was installed at the TAOC to assist in coordinating both HAWK and Stinger assets.

As the time for the commencement of ground attack operations began, GCE planning indicated a shift in emphasis from near the Al Wafra oilfield just north of the Kuwait border to an area in the west known as "the elbow." The description "elbow" referred to the area where the Kuwait/Saudi Arabian border turns north from its east-west orientation in from the coast. The decision was made to effect breaching operations in this area. Readjustment of the positioning of HAWK missile units followed.

Although earlier discussions had involved the provision of only two HAWK fire units for air defense coverage of the breach area, the final decision involved movement of an Early Warning Control (EWC) site complete with TPS-63 radar to 283800N 471800E. Four HAWK fire units were moved to the vicinity of the elbow. These included 1B3, 1A2, 2A2, and the movement of 1B2 from near Jubail in the South. 1A3 was moved into the space vacated by 1B2 to tighten defense of the Jubail vital areas. Additionally, a portion of 2dLAAMBn H&S Battery assets and the Battalion Headquarters also moved to the elbow.

It was agreed that upon commencement of ground combat operations, fire units 1A2, 2A2, and 1B2 were to move to

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advanced positions immediately adjacent to the breach points near the Kuwait border. 1B3 was to remain at Lonesome Dove (283257N 471620E) a major airhead and logistics point southwest of the elbow. When Achmed Al Jaber Airfield located inside Kuwait was cleared, the plan called for movement of the rotary wing airhead and 1B3 to the airfield.

Again, plans were fluid. At G-Hour, the 1st Marine Division drove into Kuwait with spectacular results. The three 2dLAAMBn fire units had moved to positions near the border prior to G-Hour, but remained in EMCON. On G+1, all of the HAWK fire units were mobile loaded and prepared to move into Kuwait on order. During the early hours of G+4 the EWC, the three firing units, the 2dLAAMBn H&S Battery element and the Battalion Headquarters all moved into Kuwait. The war with Iraq ended in short order so these units never became operational inside Kuwait.

Beginning on 11 Mar 91, the 3dLAAMBn began preparations for retrograde to the States by reassembling the Battalion at Ras Al Ghar and starting equipment cleaning operations.

Throughout Operations Desert Shield/Storm the 3dLAAMBn found itself in the unaccustomed role of being reactive and rarely proactive. Having arrived at a somewhat late date, the Battalion responded to plans already in being.

The tactical employment of HAWK missile units was consolidated under the Tactical Air Operations Center, under the auspices of the USAF AWACS. This did provide an overview of the air war. The HAWK missile units initially emplaced as part of the FLOT were kept in an EMCON status during most of the operation. This was done to prevent enemy direction finding equipment from targeting the fire units prior to the commencement of ground attack operations. In effect, however, there was no radar picture of the airspace block from ground level to approximately 4000 feet. This surveillance deficiency was a calculated risk. Other problems included reluctance by many aviation units to comply with published procedural control measures. This significantly reduced the effectiveness of all ground based air defense units. As an example, lack of effective and timely coordination of Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) missions within I MEF did not afford HAWK/Stinger units the friendly information necessary to employ their weapon systems against enemy RPVs. Indeed, confusion concerning the status of RPVs, reported after visual sighting by Stinger Teams, required hours of clarification. As well, with no low level surveillance available, the automated link between HAWK and Stinger, provided by the Weapons Director Unit was largely ineffective.

On the other hand, the Marines of this Battalion worked hard and performed their assigned tasks in an exemplary and professional manner. The Phase III HAWK equipment worked much better than anticipated. Employment of officers from LAAM Battalion in the Sector Antiair Warfare Coordinator role at the TAOC (teamed with 7210 officers) was a very positive and helpful

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step which should be pursued and embodied in doctrine. The Battalion was also tasked to support other units both in and out of MACG-38 with motor transport assets on frequent occasions. This enhanced flexibility of employment. In summary we did the job that was required of us.

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SECTION III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

16 Aug 90 Bravo Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, Detachment Alpha, Marine Air Control Group 28, departs from Morehead City, North Carolina, as part of 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

15 Oct 90 Bravo Battery lands at Jubail, Saudi Arabia, OPCON to 2d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 38.

23 Oct 90 Bravo Battery Firing Platoons take up initial positions in the Triangle, north of 1st Marine Division. 3/B/1 271600N 490240E. 3/B/2 271930N 485120E.

25 Dec 90 Advance Party, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, arrives Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and proceeds to King Abdul Aziz Naval Air Facility.

04 Jan 91 Main Body, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, arrives Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and proceeds to King Abdul Aziz Naval Air Facility.

06 Jan 91 2d Platoon, Bravo Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, moves to Ras Al Mishab. 280518N 483212E.

08 Jan 91 Bravo Battery, OPCON to 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion.

09 Jan 91 Commercial shipping carrying Headquarters and Service Battery and Alpha Battery equipment off loads at Jubail Port Facility.

11 Jan 91 2d Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, deploys to Bahrain and takes over air defense mission at Shaikh Isa from 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion. 255800N 503225E. 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, deployed near Jubail. 265724N 491930E.

12 Jan 91 Headquarters and Service Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, begins echeloning support elements forward to position eight miles west of Ras Al Mishab. 280400N 482700E. H&S Battery has mission of supporting four firing platoons spread between Ras Al Safaniya and Al



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Kibrit.

- 15 Jan 91 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, completes move to Al Kibrit and takes on air defense mission. 280312N 480300E.
- 16 Jan 91 United Nations deadline for Iraqi withdrawal.
- 17 Jan 91 Commencement of hostilities as Allied Air Forces begin intense bombing campaign.
- 13 Feb 91 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, moves to Hill 306, Jubail, and continues air defense mission. 265500N 493800E.
- 17 Feb 91 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, takes on air defense mission for Lonesome Dove/MAG-26. 283257N 471620E.
- 24 Feb 91 1st and 2d Marine Divisions establish Breach Point and begin offensive operations against Iraqi forces in Kuwait.
- 28 Feb 91 Cease fire proposed by Allied Forces.
- 02 Mar 91 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 3d Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, terminates operations in support of MAG-26 and begins retrograde to Ras Al Mishab. 2d Platoon, Bravo Battery, terminates operations at Ras Al Mishab.
- 07 Mar 91 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, Hill 306, Jubail, and 2d Platoon, Alpha Battery, Shaikh Isa, Bahrain, terminate operations.