

For the Fahdee Lovers out there

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www.sptimes.com/2004/04/25/news_pf/Worldandnation/Saudi_Arabia_s_help_d.shtml

Saudi Arabia's help during war was more extensive, officials say

By Associated Press
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WASHINGTON - During the Iraq war, Saudi Arabia secretly has helped the United States far more than has been acknowledged, **allowing operations from at least three air bases, permitting special forces to stage attacks from Saudi soil and providing cheap fuel, U.S. and Saudi officials say.**

The American air campaign against Iraq was **essentially** managed from inside Saudi borders, where military commanders operated an air command center and launched refueling tankers, F-16 fighter jets and sophisticated intelligence gathering flights, according to the officials.

Much of the assistance has been kept quiet for more than a year by both countries for fear it would add to **instability** inside the kingdom. Many Saudis oppose the war, and U.S. presence on Saudi soil has been used by Osama bin Laden to build his terror movement.

But senior political and military officials from **both countries** told the Associated Press the Saudi royal family permitted widespread military operations to be staged from inside the kingdom during the coalition force's invasion of Iraq.

While the **heart of the ground attack came from Kuwait**, *thousands of special forces soldiers were permitted to stage their operations into Iraq from **inside** Saudi Arabia*, the officials said. **These staging areas became essential once Turkey declined to allow U.S. forces to operate from its soil.**

In addition, U.S. and coalition aircraft launched attacks, reconnaissance flights and intelligence missions from three Saudi air bases, not just the Prince Sultan Air Base, where U.S. officials have acknowledged activity.

Between **250 and 300** Air Force planes staged from Saudi Arabia, including AWACS, C-130s, refueling tankers and F-16 fighter jets during the height of the war, the officials said. **Air and military operations during the war were permitted** at the Tabuk air base and Arar regional airport near the Iraq border, the officials said.

Saudis also agreed to permit search and rescue missions to stage and take off from their soil, the officials said.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, a top Air Force general who was a key architect of the air campaign in Iraq, called the Saudis "wonderful partners," although he agreed to discuss their help only in general terms.

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"We operated the command center at Saudi Arabia. We operated airplanes out of Saudi Arabia, as well as sensors, and tankers," Moseley said. He said he treasured "their counsel, their mentoring, their leadership and their support."

U.S.-Saudi cooperation raised eyebrows last week after it was disclosed that **President Bush shared his Iraq war plans with Saudi ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan before the start of the war.**

Some lawmakers have demanded to know why a **foreigner** was brought in on private war planning.

When asked about the briefing, *Bandar played down the extent of Saudi help* "We were allies. And we helped our American friends in the way that was necessary for them. And that was the reality," he said.

U.S. and Saudi officials said *Bandar was briefed several times before the war as part of securing Saudi assistance*, and received regular updates as U.S. needs changed.

Preparations for U.S. operations inside Saudi Arabia started in 2002 when the Air Force awarded a contract to a Saudi company to provide jet fuel at four airfields or bases inside the kingdom, documents show.

When the war started, the Saudis allowed cruise missiles to be fired from Navy ships across their air space into Iraq. A few times missiles went off course and *landed inside the kingdom*, officials said.

The Saudis provided tens of millions of dollars in discounted oil, gas and fuel for American forces. During the war, a stream of oil delivery trucks at times stretched for miles outside the Prince Sultan air base, said a senior U.S. military planner.

The Saudis also were influential in keeping down world oil prices amid concern over what might happen to Iraqi oil fields. They increased production by 1.5-million barrels a day during the run-up to war and helped keep Jordan - which had relied on Iraqi oil - supplied.

Saudi officials said they provided significant military and intelligence help on everything from issues of Muslim culture to securing the Saudi-Iraqi border from fleeing Saddam Hussein supporters.

Sheikh Ibn Baz stated (Al-Fatawa 1/274): "There is a consensus amongst the scholars that whoever supports the disbelievers against the believers (Dhahar Al-Kuffar 'Ala Al-Muslimeen), and **assists them by any means of assistance**, then he is a disbeliever just like them (the disbelievers he supported)..."

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<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/prince-sultan-pixs.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/prince-sultan.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/dammam.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/jeddah.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/hofuf.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/khobar.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/taif.htm>

Below is how Saud helped the kuffar to kill Muslims:

The president's remark came immediately in the wake of reports here that US special forces had conducted operations in Afghanistan and news that Saudi Arabia had finally allowed use of its command centre at the modern Prince Sultan air base, southwest of Riyadh, for any possible action against Al Qaida.

<http://www.dawn.com/2001/09/29/top1.htm>

Saudi Arabia hosts about 4,500 U.S. military personnel and an undisclosed number of warplanes at Prince Sultan Air Base. U.S. warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone over southern Iraq take off from Saudi Arabia. /FoxNews

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,34928,00.html>

A Gulf diplomat told AFP Friday that Saudi Arabia had agreed to allow the United States to use state-of-the-art U.S.-built air command facilities at Prince Sultan Air Base to fight bin Laden and the Taliban.

"Saudi Arabia has no objection to the use of the facilities at Prince Sultan Air Base," 100 kilometers [60 miles] south of Riyadh, said the diplomat, who requested anonymity.

<http://www.islam-online.net/english/news/2001-10/01/article14.shtml>

The Pentagon announced last week that it was dispatching a top Air Force commander, Lt. Gen. Charles F. Wald, to Saudi Arabia to oversee air attacks against Afghanistan from a command post at the Prince Sultan Air Base at Al Kharj, about 70 miles outside Riyadh.

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/special/terror/response/1059310>

No wonder, then, that the Saudi government reacted with horror and confusion when American

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officials declared that they were using the same base as headquarters for any retaliation against Afghanistan. In the end, the Saudi regime probably will give American forces permission to use the base, as some reports suggested they had on September 27th—but it will keep very quiet about it. (Economist)

http://www.economist.com/agenda/displaystory.cfm?story_id=796255

The Saudis approved Pentagon use of the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC), a multibillion-dollar U.S.-built facility at the Prince Sultan base, to direct the air war against the Taliban... (CNN)

<http://archives.cnn.com/2002/ALLPOLITICS/07/29/time.saudis/index.html>

The nerve center of the air war, the Combined Air Operations Center at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, regularly availed itself of real-time television pictures of compounds and convoys provided by Predator cameras. New data systems aboard B-1 and B-52 bombers enabled them to receive targeting information en-route to Afghanistan, in a number of cases in real-time from Special Forces on the ground.

http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2002/Apr/Lessons_Can.htm