

## MOHAWKS OVER THE DESERT

by  
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Our beloved Grumman Mohawks were a major participant in the recently completed Operation Desert Storm, but they have received nil in the press, and nil in ink. In order to set the record straight, I want to present to you some of the Grumman Mohawks activities in the KTO, Kuwait Theatre of Operations.

There were 42 Mohawks in the KTO, based mainly in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They were from the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion home based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion home based at Hunter Army Air Base near Savannah, Georgia, and finally the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion home based at Stuttgart, West Germany.

As soon as things "heated up" in and near Kuwait last year, Mohawks were, once again, called on for combat duty. Once they were in place in Saudi Arabia, they began their hard work. Before, during, and after Operation Desert Storm that began on January 16, 1991, there was a Mohawk in the air at any given time doing SIGINT and ELINT missions. Also during the 100 hour conflict, Mohawks did extensive SCUD hunting with their vast array of avionics and detectors, and they were very successful at that mission.

Of the 42 OV-1s and RV-1s in the KTO, they added a minimum of 500 hours to the airframe. The maximum number of flight hours added to an airframe was 800 plus. Therefore, Mohawks were very active in the entire operation. This was very similar to the "Looking Glass" operations run by SAC out of Offut AFB near Omaha, Nebraska where there was always a Boeing EC-135 in the air at any given time.

The Grumman Mohawk did all of the BDA (bomb damage assesment) in the country of Kuwait. All BDA in Iraq was done by RF-4Cs and satellites, mainly KH-12s.

Unfortunately, the U. S. Army lost two Mohawks in combat. OV-1D, 68-15962, was shot down on February 27, 1991. RV-1D, 64-14272 was shot down the following day, February 28, 1991. All four crew members ejected safely, and were rescued without a scratch.

The Mohawks of the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion returned to Fort Hood, Texas in April. The Mohawks of the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion returned to Hunter Army Air Base, also in April. However, the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion from Stuttgart, West Germany was deactivated in Saudi Arabia due to the decreasing threat of Soviet hostilities in Europe (Glasnos). These Mohawks returned to the States at Hunter Army Air Base.

Therefore, Grumman OV-1s and RV-1s played a major and significant role in the recently completed operations in the Middle East.