

the Iraqis have been setting ordered F-15E all-weather fighter-bombers to search Iraq both day and night.
the mobile launchers.

Saudi units retreat from Kuwait front

Jan 21 or 22 1991

By John King

Associated Press Writer

IN SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi units assigned to the front line near Kuwait to demonstrate Arab resolve moved to positions behind U.S. forces the first night of the war, angering some American and British soldiers.

Saudi officials acknowledge the pullback but insist it was, in the words of an official military source, "a planned withdrawal."

American military sources said the U.S. command knew about it ahead of time, but they did not know how far in advance.

The U.S. command has refused official comment.

A Saudi official quoted anonymously by the Saudi Press Agency said the withdrawal was planned well ahead of hostilities and designed to protect the Saudi infantry unit from Iraqi artillery and rocket fire during the air war.

Military regulations do not allow the size of the unit to be revealed.

A U.S. Marine officer in the area

said the Saudis pulled back just before allied forces, including Saudi pilots, began a bombing campaign against Iraqi positions in Iraq and southern Kuwait, including some within 50 miles of the Saudi-Kuwait border.

"We're essentially the front now," said the Marine officer, who would not let his name be used.

If the Saudi troops "had come by here" when they were pulling back, said a British officer in the border area, "I'd have turned my bloody guns on them and sent them back."

Saudi troops also are stationed to the west, in the Hafr al Batin area about 60 miles south of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Another Saudi official said, also anonymously, that the withdrawal "was according to the plan."

The British officer said the Saudis left small items of equipment and some personal items behind, which indicated to him the decision to move out had not been planned.

"They bugged out," he said.

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A young lady called in & mentioned "this", and
someone had brought me the clipping.

Personally, I try not to believe too many
things without hearing several sources -
AND adding TIME to that! Ha

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ocala, Fl.

cc: S. Trahern ✓

FEB 5 ANS'D

[REDACTED]
Ocala, FL 32678



Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 N. Capitol St. N.W. Suite
Washington, D.C. 20001 155

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