VENOMOUS SNAKES of IRAQ and KUWAIT

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SOLDIER-SNAKE ENCOUNTERS

TIMING OF INITIAL PHASE

SLEEPING “UNDER THE STARS”

NIGHTFIGHTING FORCE

GROUND OPERATIONS

GARRISON DUTIES

DESERT HORNED VIPER

Cerastes cerastes gasperetti

LEVENTINE VIPER

Macrovipera lebetina obtusa

Macrovipera lebetina euphratica

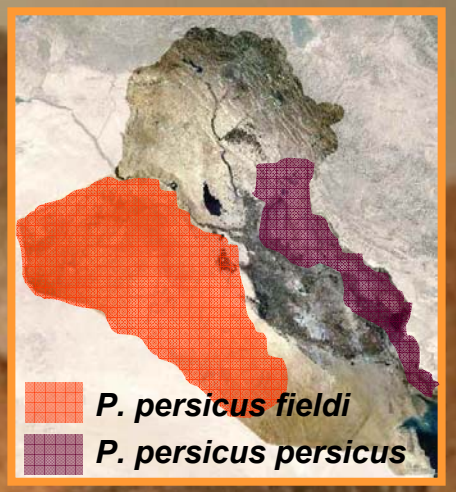
SAW-SCALED VIPER
Echis carinatus sochureki

FIELDS'S SAND VIPER

Pseudocerastes persicus fieldi

PERSIAN SAND VIPER

Pseudocerastes persicus persicus



DESERT BLACK SNAKE

Walterinnesia aegyptia

KURDISTAN VIPER

Vipera raddei kurdistanica

INCIDENCE OF SNAKEBITES

IRAQ/KUWAIT REGION

- Peak Incidence June and July
- Lower Limb Most Common Bite Site
- Inflicted Mostly at Night
- *Macrovipera lebetina* spp. Majority of Serious Cases

INCIDENCE OF SNAKEBITES

OPERATION DESERT STORM
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

- **Peak Incidence April Through October**
- **Hands Most Common Bite Site**
- **Most Likely Daytime Casualties**
- ***Cerastes cerastes gasperetti* Majority of Bites**

…biggest risk comes from soldiers turning to serpents for entertainment
…the cause of 85 percent of snakebites during Desert Storm

TROUBLE SPOTS

"BUILD IT…
…AND THEY WILL COME."

PLANNING AND SUPPORT

- SURVEILLANCE/THREAT ASSESSMENT
- CONTROL
- CARE OF BITE VICTIMS
- ANTIVENIN POLICY
- TROOP DISCIPLINE AND MORALE