

Ten Years After The Storm...

(NAPSA)—This year marks the 10-year anniversary of one of the American military's most decisive victories, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Of the 696,628 American soldiers deployed to the region, 65,000 were members of the United States Army Reserve.

Reservists traded their business suits for camouflage, leaving their jobs and families to support the U.S. Army's mission in Kuwait.

The ground war itself lasted only 100 hours, but these citizen-soldiers were ready to lay the foundation that enabled the U.S. to drive Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait with minimal costs and casualties.

These men and women Reservists continue to be the key element that determines success for today's Army around the world.

"We have an average of 2,200 Army Reserve soldiers engaged daily around the world in support of the Army and the nation," said Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC. "From the creation of the Medical Reserve Corps in 1908, to World War I and II to U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, the Army Reserve has been instrumental in the success of all military operations."

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq led to the largest call-up of Reservists since the Korean War. They were among the first personnel called to active duty, and were among the last to leave the desert.

From August 1990 to October 1991, these citizen-soldiers coordinated crucial troop and equipment transportation; provided water purification and distribution; conducted public affairs operations and law enforcement support throughout the Gulf region.

Other participating Army reserve units included chemical



decontamination, transportation, military police, military history, public affairs, maintenance and engineering.

The Reserve's efforts ensured that all of the necessary systems and infrastructure were in place to enable the other forces to be ready to fight as quickly, as safely and as effectively as possible.

"The Gulf War was really a watershed event for the Reserve. Today, Reservists are no longer viewed as 'Weekend Warriors,' but as a vital part of the Army's starting line-up," Brig. Gen. Beasley said.

"The support they are able to provide—and the skill and acumen of our Reservists—continue to reinforce the reputation of the Reserve and solidify our role as the force that makes the Army succeed."

The Army Reserve of the 21st Century, with its core competency firmly planted in combat service support, continues to be a cornerstone of the nation's defense.

Whether they are called to fight fires in the United States or provide disaster relief to El Salvador, the citizen-soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve play a significant, but quiet, role in maintaining our interests both at home and abroad.

For additional information on the U.S. Army Reserve, visit www.goarmyreserve.com.