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HEALTH THREATS AND
ASSESSMENTS -- DESERT SHIELD
AREA OF OPERATION ~~(C/NF)~~

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**Health Threats and Assessments –
Desert Shield Area of Operation (C/NF)**

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PREFACE

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)



(U) Each classified paragraph, caption, and title in this report has been properly marked; those unmarked are unclassified.

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KEY JUDGMENTS

Health Threats and Assessments — Desert Shield Area of Operation (C/NF)

(U) The Arabian Peninsula is among the hottest regions in the world. Average summertime highs (April through October) can exceed 110°F, with temperatures of 140°F not uncommon. Even acclimatized personnel will experience difficulty performing sustained combat operations under these conditions. Commanders and medical planners should be prepared to implement countermeasures to preclude large numbers of heat related injuries.

(U) Water supplies are tenuous throughout the Arabian Peninsula. Water is obtained from wells, and increasingly, from the sea. Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries have an established desalination capability. Destruction or sabotage of desalination plants is a vulnerability. Exodus of the largely expatriate work force operating these plants is of grave concern.

(U) Cultural and religious sensitivities of Islamic patients and host nation health care providers may pose initial obstacles to effective management of casualties and patient care. Measures to educate US health care personnel to Islamic customs and culture should be implemented immediately.

(U) The overall threat of infectious diseases in southern Iraq, eastern Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf States is low and can be further reduced through preventive measures. The most immediate threats to force readiness are acute diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory diseases.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

