

Chapter 10

Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia



On June 25, 1996, a terrorist truck bomb exploded outside the northern perimeter of Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, a facility housing U.S. and allied forces supporting the coalition air operation over Iraq, Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

This was a brutal and cowardly terrorist attack on a multi-national peacekeeping force leaving 19 dead and hundreds injured. These peacekeepers were enforcing United

Nations sanctions and the dead and injured represent citizens from several nations. Peace in our time can only be assured in a world free from terrorism and the loss of innocent lives.

Estimates of the size of the bomb range from the equivalent of 3,000 to more than 30,000 pounds of TNT. The Task Force estimated that the bomb was between 3,000 and 8,000 pounds, most likely about 5,000 pounds. While U.S. Air Force Security Police observers on the roof of the building overlooking the perimeter identified the attack in progress and alerted many occupants to the threat, evacuation was incomplete when the bomb exploded. Nineteen fatalities and approximately 500 U.S. wounded resulted from the attack.



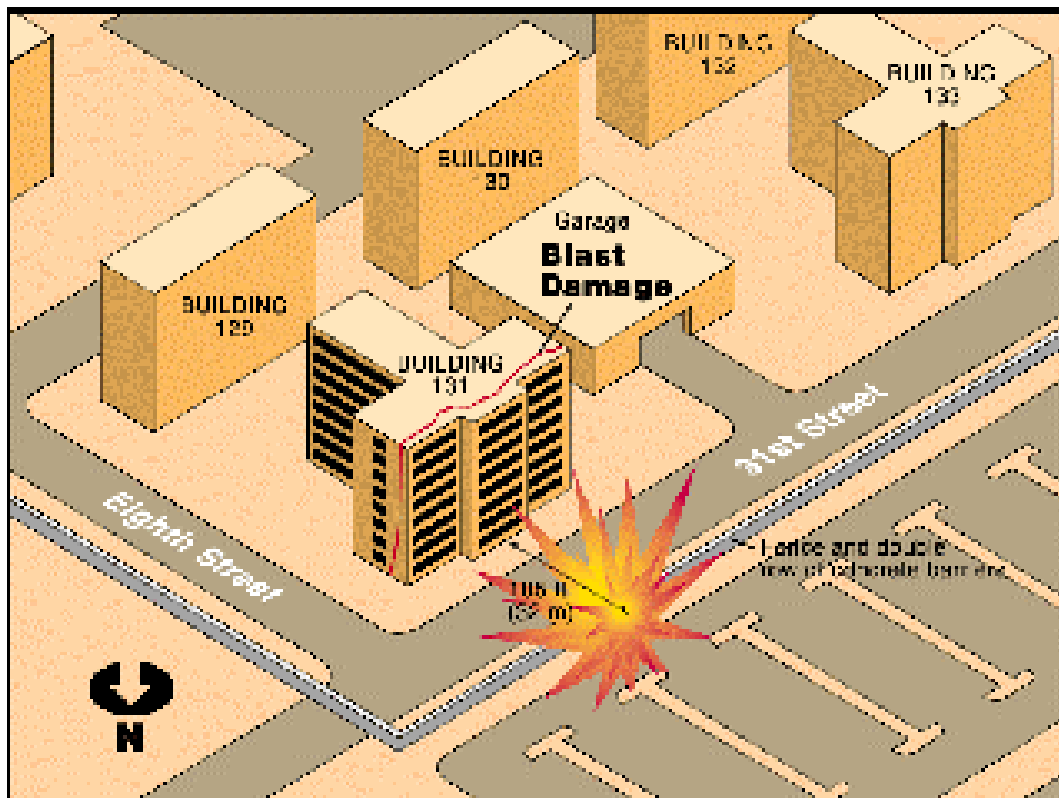
85-foot deep blast crater

The perpetrators escaped.





Aerial view of the Khobar Towers Complex



Khobar Towers Complex – Building 131