# 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

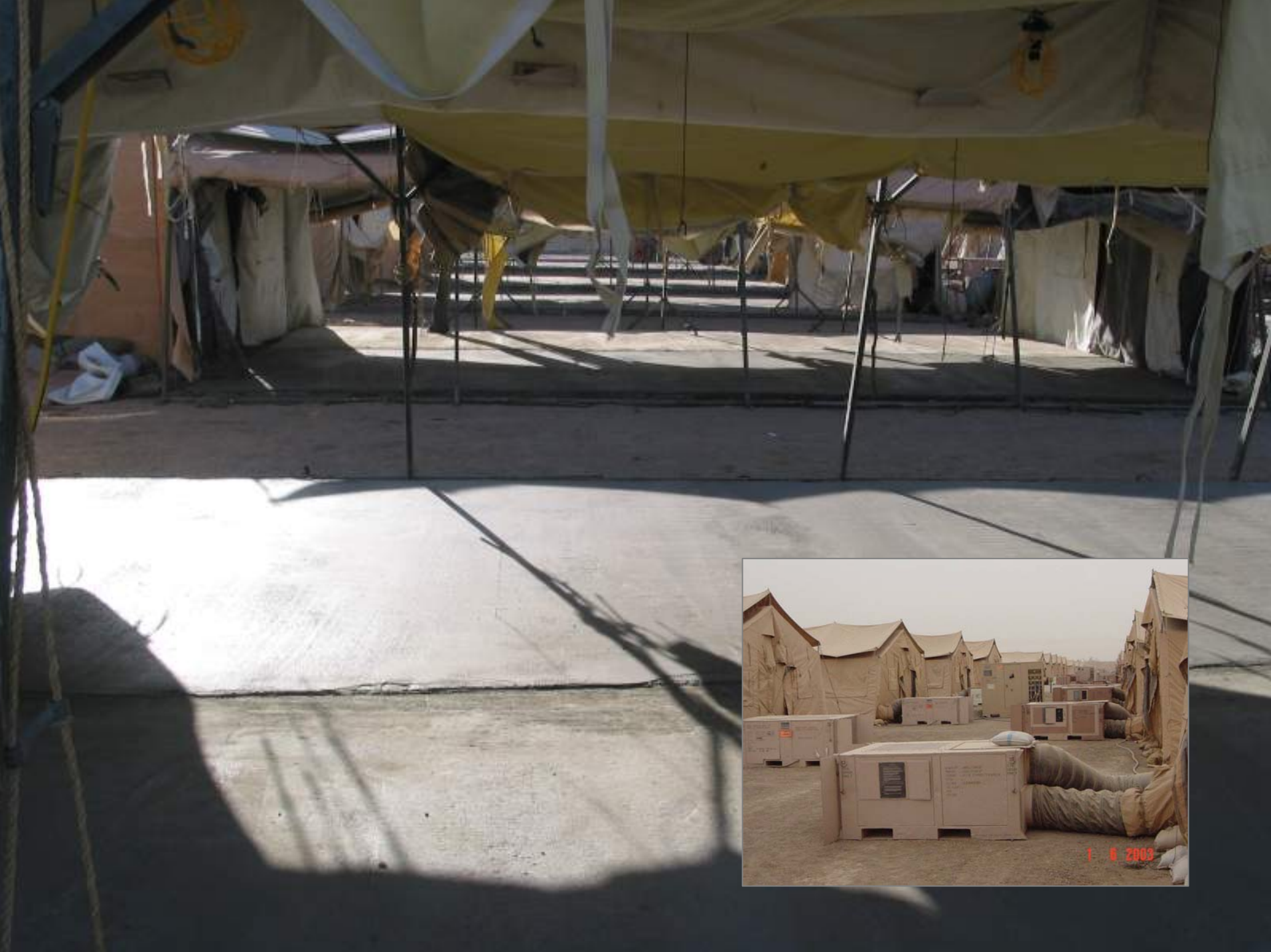
## OPERATION DESERT STORM
## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

- **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."***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# PLANNING AND SUPPORT

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