The Global War on Terrorism

- Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

- Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
“Almost every captain in the Air Force who flies airplanes has combat experience... virtually every engineer, security forces troop and medic in the Air Force has deployed... This is a veteran, hardened combat force... They have been shot at. They know what it’s like. And when we go, we’re going to be at the peak of our game.”

- General John Jumper, CSAF
Overview

**Operation ENDURING FREEDOM**

- Background
- Military Campaign
- Emerging Lessons Learned

**Operation IRAQI FREEDOM**

- Background
- Military Campaign
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Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
ENDURING FREEDOM

The beginning of a broader U.S. global war on terrorism

Background

- 1993 World Trade Center bombing killed six and injured over 1,000 people
- 1996 issuance of Osama bin Laden’s “Declaration of War Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places”
- 1998 bombings of U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar el Salaam, Tanzania
  - U.S. retaliated with strikes against Sudan and Afghanistan
- 2000 USS Cole attack in Yemen, killing 17 more Americans
Background (continued)

- 11 Sep 2001 attack was launched on the U.S. using four airliners as piloted missiles to kill Americans
  - Two airliners crashed into the World Trade Center
  - A third airliner crashed into the Pentagon
  - The fourth airliner crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania
  - 3,000 deaths, twin towers destroyed, Pentagon damaged

The attacks on 11 September motivated the U.S. to initiate the Global War on Terrorism

The first battle zone...Afghanistan
ENDURING FREEDOM

Military Campaign

- Oct 2001, U.S. began bombing targets and dropping humanitarian relief packages in Afghanistan

- Cruise missile attacks and air strikes hit key targets

- After approximately 2 weeks of bombing, focus shifted from air supremacy to ground support

- Full-spectrum application of airpower, in conjunction with ground forces, removed Taliban from power and forced Al Qaeda to flee
ENDURING FREEDOM

Emerging Lessons Learned

- Successes
  - Joint and Combined Operations
  - Technology
  - Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)
  - Command and Control (net-centric warfare)

- Areas needing improvement
  - Airlift and Air Refueling were stretched too thin
  - Need more bandwidth for communications
IRAQI FREEDOM
IRAQI FREEDOM

After major combat operations in Afghanistan ended, the U.S. shifted its focus to Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq

Background

- The Cease Fire Agreement for the Gulf War was codified in UN Resolution 687
- 12 September 2002: President Bush addressed the UN General Assembly
- 16 October 2002: President bush signed the Iraq War Resolution
- 8 November 2002: The U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 1441
IRAQI FREEDOM

Background (continued)
- 16 March 2003: President Bush demands senior leaders leave Iraq within 48 hours
- 19 March 2003: President Bush addressed the nation stating that military operations had begun in Iraq

War began with the launch of “decapitation”
IRAQI FREEDOM

Military Campaign
- On 21 March, Special Operations Forces took control of two airfields in Iraq
- B-52 aircraft interdict Republican Guard positions South of Baghdad on 24 March
- On 26 March, U.S. warplanes interdict two Iraqi convoys south of Baghdad
- Counterair and interdiction missions were conducted
Military Campaign (continued)

- On 5 April, a Strategic Attack operation was conducted on General Ali Hassan Majid’s (“Chemical Ali”) home
- Strategic Attack operations continue on 7 April when U.S. planes attack a building where Saddam and his sons were meeting
- Baghdad falls on 9 April
- 1 May, President Bush declares end of major battle operations
IRAQI FREEDOM

Emerging Lessons Learned

- Successes
  - Joint Operations

- Areas needing improvement
  - Fratricide prevention
  - Cumbersome deployment planning and execution processes
  - Information sharing at all levels
  - Human intelligence capabilities
Recap

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