



# U.S. AIR FORCE FACT SHEET

## Talking Paper on the 386<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait

### **Ali Al Salem Air Base – Kuwait Air Force role**

Ali Al Salem Air Base, opened in 1977 as a staging area for helicopters and Mirages.

During the first day of the Gulf War, the Kuwaiti Air Forces at Ali Al Salem shot down 16 Iraqi helicopters. However, due to the overwhelming numbers of Iraqi forces, Col. Abdul Aziz, the base commander, was forced to surrender the base.

The Iraqi military used the Salem for air transportation of personnel and equipment and as an operations area during the Gulf War.

Allied Forces repatriated Ali Al Salem Feb. 26, 1991. Although repatriated, the base remained unoccupied for quite a while because there were too many mines.

Presently, the Kuwaiti Air Force uses the Salem to as a primary training base for aircraft and helicopter pilots. Assets here are also used for ground support and search and rescue missions.

### **386<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group**

The 386th Air Expeditionary Group (386 AEG), headquartered at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, was activated Feb. 12, 1998, as the 9th AEG. The 9th AEG was re-designated the 386th AEG Sept. 3, 2000. It's mission is to provide air surveillance support of air, ground, and other operations based at Salem, including theater ballistic missile and aerial defense. Mission enablers include force protection, and the ability to survive and operate in an austere environment.

Ali Al Salem is a true coalition force. There are approximately 600 U.S. Air Force and Army warfighters serving with British and Kuwaiti Air Force units to execute and enforce OSW No-Fly Zone.

USAF, USA, RAF, and Kuwaiti security forces patrol and man defensive fighting positions across the base. Their 24-hour operations ensure the safety and security of the Coalition forces and equipment at Ali Al Salem.

The 386th AEG has no organic aircraft; however, it is prepared to accommodate joint forces in exercise and contingency scenarios with bed-down, billeting, and operations facilities. Ali Al Salem personnel have recently supported the C-17, C-130, and C-141 aircraft operations.

Recent exercises and deployments include: Apache FARRP Operations, Navy P-3, EP-3, Marine TPS-59, Marine Expeditionary Unit, TAC Predator.

### **386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Control Squadron**

The 386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Control Squadron's (EACS) mission is to support the UN Sanctioned No-Fly Zone over Southern Iraq and the defense of Kuwait. The air control squadron's mission has been on going since August 1995. In order to conduct it's mission, the EACS provides to the Commander, Joint-Task Southwest Asia, surveillance, identification, data link management, and theater air defense including theater missile warning and defense, and air battle execution. The 728<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron, 33d Fighter Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. is currently deployed to Ali Al Salem AB, fulfilling the EACS mission.