



CASE STUDY: KUWAIT

TIMELY DEPLOYMENT OF TCOM AEROSTAT SYSTEM SAVES LIVES IN KUWAIT



THE CHALLENGE

During the months preceding the first Gulf War, Kuwaiti security forces were faced with unique surveillance challenges. Forces needed to maintain awareness of activities along the interior border with Iraq, along the coast of the Persian Gulf, as well as in the surrounding airspace. Without total domain awareness, the nation was particularly vulnerable to attack.

THE SOLUTION

The Kuwaiti government turned to TCOM, the leader in persistent airborne surveillance, to solve the border surveillance issues using an aerostat system. Just two months after becoming operational, a TCOM LASS (Low Altitude Surveillance System) provided vital early warning of the Iraqi invasion that allowed the Kuwaiti Royal Family to escape. The TCOM 71M Aerostat system had been operating continuously at high altitude for 6 days when, in the very early hours after midnight, its radar payload provided the first alert of Iraqi helicopter activity and mass crossing of Iraqi tanks across the Kuwaiti air and land borders.

A radar operator at the site was credited with alerting the Kuwaiti Air Force Officers of the impending invasion. This early warning allowed security forces to arrange the safe departure of the Emir and his family from Kuwait. TCOM employees at the LASS site continued to operate the system for four more hours during the invasion before safely fleeing the site.

THE RESULT

Since the initial detection of invading Iraqi forces, TCOM aerostat surveillance systems have been an integral component to Kuwaiti border security programs. Currently, a TCOM 71M Aerostat system provides persistent surveillance along the Kuwaiti borders, simultaneously detecting and tracking low flying aircraft, surface vessels and ground movers. Ultimately, the Kuwaiti borders – and Kuwaiti citizens – are safer thanks to TCOM persistent surveillance systems.

QUICK FACTS:

- ▶ Kuwaiti borders vulnerable to attack
- ▶ Government needed total surveillance solution to monitor air, land and sea
- ▶ TCOM 71M LASS System deployed
- ▶ Timely deployment enabled rapid detection of invasion forces
- ▶ Radar Operator at LASS site alerted Kuwaiti Forces
- ▶ Enabled safe departure of Kuwaiti Royal Family
- ▶ TCOM aerostats remain critical component of Kuwaiti border security strategy
- ▶ Kuwaiti citizens are safer thanks to TCOM persistent surveillance systems