



Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer Somalia 1992–1995

When the world demanded action as it saw the imminent starvation of hundreds of thousands of Somali citizens, the United States military responded to end the humanitarian crisis. We recently added a streamer to the U.S. Army flag to recognize the Soldiers who deployed to Somalia and to honor their heroism and service in a campaign that began as a humanitarian relief effort and devolved into combat operations.

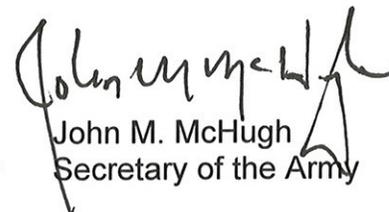
On 15 August 1992, the United States launched Operation PROVIDE RELIEF, an effort to airlift supplies from nearby Kenya to airfields throughout the interior of Somalia. Faced with armed gangs stealing relief supplies, on 8 December, the United States responded with Operation RESTORE HOPE. Heavily armed Soldiers, supported by Special Forces elements, deployed into Somalia by sea and air to confront the warring factions with overwhelming strength, a force that at its peak included 38,000 Soldiers from 23 nations. After a brief period of stability, regional warlords began reasserting their power and, in June 1993, armed gangs ambushed and killed 24 United Nations (U.N.) peacekeepers. U.S. and U.N. forces retaliated, and the United States deployed Task Force Ranger, culminating in a major engagement in the streets of Mogadishu on 3 – 4 October 1993.

The U.N. took unprecedented steps to confront massive famine and lawlessness in Somalia. The U.S. military led the way, completing major field irrigation projects, constructing dikes, building roads, repatriating refugees, providing medical treatment and delivering relief supplies. By the end of 1993, the U.S. and the U.N. began reducing their peacekeeping forces, finally withdrawing all their personnel in March 1995.

With this 188th streamer now added to our flag, we celebrate and honor our Army's long tradition of service and sacrifice. We thank our Soldiers and Veterans for their resolve, determination, bravery, sacrifice and heroism. Army Strong!


Raymond F. Chandler, III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army