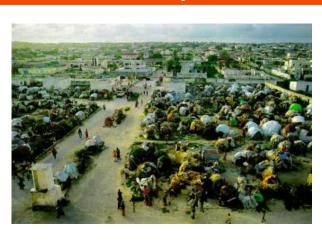
# AWESOME

## MISSION OBJECTIVE

- 0. MISSION OBJECTIVE Story Preface
- 1. SOMALIA IN TROUBLE
- 2. OPERATION RESTORE HOPE
- 3. MISSION OBJECTIVE
- 4. BLACK HAWKS IN SOMALIA
- 5. MOGADISHU
- 6. THE RAID
- 7. BLACK HAWK GOING DOWN!
- 8. DEATH
- 9. A HORNET'S NEST
- 10. MISGUIDED POLICIES?
- 11. OUTNUMBERED!
- 12. RESCUE
- 13. THE FIRST BIN LADEN BATTLE
- 14. THE REAL HEROES



The city of Mogadishu became overcrowded with refugees during the summer of 1993. This image, maintained by the Library of Congress, depicts a refugee scene during that year.

Operation Restore Hope was meant to help the Somali people get through the famine, anarchy and civil war in their country. Ever since the dictator <u>Siad Barre</u> fell from power in 1991, <u>Somalia</u> had no central government. It still doesn't.

But wheat and other UN-supplied food materials that were sent to the stricken country were used as bargaining chips by <u>rival clan leaders</u> (scroll down 50%) who cared more about fighting each other than feeding starving people. <u>Mohamed Farrah Aidid</u>, the most powerful and popular of the war lords, was Somalia's dominant political leader by 1993. His main base of support was in the southern part of the <u>country</u>, where the capital city of <u>Mogadishu</u> is located.

By the summer of 1993, four American soldiers, who were part of the UN's peacekeeping force, had also been killed by warring factions. Mogadishu, the city on the beautiful <u>Indian-Ocean coast</u>, had become a dangerous place, <u>overcrowded</u> with refugees from other parts of a war-torn country.

On August 22, seven months after <u>his inauguration</u>, President Clinton had enough. That day he received news of another attack on U.S. military personnel.

The President ordered a Special Operations force to go to Somalia as part of the military's *Operation Continue Hope*. And on that day, America's mission objective changed. It was no longer just about humanitarian aid.

Within hours, Delta Force commandos from <u>Ft. Bragg</u> and Army Rangers from <u>Ft. Benning</u> were on their way. So was a detachment of helicopters, with their crews, from <u>Ft. Campbell</u>.

The choppers were UH-60s - also called "Black Hawks."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MISSION-OBJECTIVE-Black-Hawk-Down

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MISSION-OBJECTIVE-Black-Hawk-Down

Media Stream



### Somalia and the Map of Africa

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Somalia-and-the-Map-of-Africa



#### Refugees Crowd into Mogadishu, Summer of 1993

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Refugees-Crowd-into-Mogadishu-Summer-of-1993



#### View of Mogadishu's Skyline

Photo by C.T. Snow. License: Creative Commons Attribution 2.0.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-Mogadishu-s-Skyline-



#### Indian Ocean Coastline

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Indian-Ocean-Coastline



#### Refugees Crowd into Mogadishu, Summer of 1993

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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#### General Mohamed Farrah Aidid

Photo, courtesy PBS - Ambush in Mogadishu.

Information, BBC Worldwide.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/General-Mohamed-Farrah-Aidid



#### **UH-60 Black Hawk**

U.S. Army photo.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/UH-60-Black-Hawk



<u>William J. Clinton - Inaugural Address</u> William J. Clinton - First Inaugural Address, 20 January 1993.

Video online, courtesy C-SPAN.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-J.-Clinton-Inaugural-Address