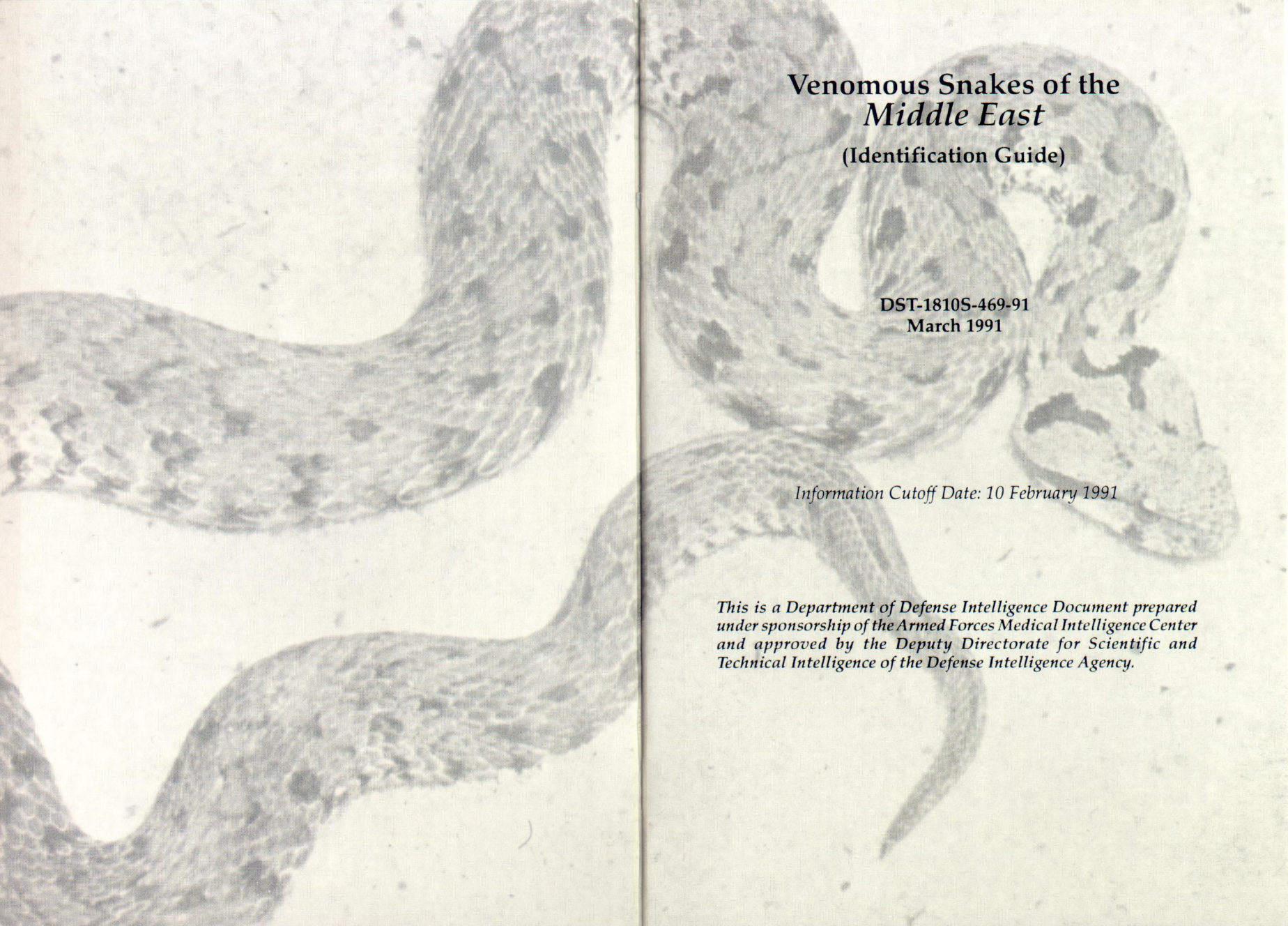


Venomous Snakes
of the
Middle East

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**Venomous Snakes of the
*Middle East***
(Identification Guide)

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PREFACE

US military personnel may be required to serve in areas of the world where environmental and cultural conditions (for example terrain, availability of prey, low human population density) favor proliferation of venomous snake populations. Under such conditions, the probability of encounters between man and snake is increased.

This identification guide is intended for the commander and his medical and operations officers. It provides specific information needed for planning anti-venom support for a mission, and general information needed to maintain troop discipline and morale while operating in snake infested areas. Specific information also is provided on the relative risk/ severity of bites by the various species of venomous snakes found in the Middle East and on their identification.

Written and graphic material describing/illustrating the physical characteristics of the snakes found in the Middle East is provided so that reasonably accurate identifications may be made. In addition, each species of snake is classified according to a category of risk based upon peacetime indigenous factors. (Disturbances and disruptions of snakes' habitats resulting from troop movements in time of hostilities may increase the frequency of encounters). These categories are:

I	MAJOR RISK	Frequency of envenomation high; venom highly toxic.
II	MODERATE RISK	Frequency of envenomation moderate; venom may be highly toxic to mildly toxic.
III	MINOR RISK	Frequency of envenomation low; venom may be moderately toxic to mildly toxic.
IV	LITTLE RISK	Frequency of envenomation low; venom only slightly toxic.

The geographic areas where the snakes presented in this identification guide may be encountered include:

Egypt	Syria
Lebanon	Israel
Jordan	Cyprus
Iraq	Iran
Afghanistan	Pakistan
Kuwait	Qatar
Oman	Yemen
Bahrain	United Arab Emirates
Saudi Arabia	Turkey
The Gulf of Aden	The Arabian Sea
The Gulf of Oman	The Persian Gulf

Request that any amplification of subject matter, constructive criticism, comments, or suggested changes be forwarded to Director, Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center, Building 1607, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5004.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
SECTION I. INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION II. ATRACTASPIDAE	
<i>Atractaspis</i> spp	7
SECTION III. VIPERIDAE	
<i>Bitis arietans</i>	13
<i>Cerastes cerastes</i>	17
<i>Cerastes vipera</i>	22
<i>Echis</i> spp.	26
<i>Eristicophis macmahoni</i>	34
<i>Pseudocerastes persicus</i>	38
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>	42
<i>Vipera barani</i>	46
<i>Vipera kaznakovi</i>	49
<i>Vipera lebetina</i>	52
<i>Vipera palaestinae</i>	56
<i>Vipera russelli</i>	60
<i>Vipera ursinii</i>	64
<i>Vipera xanthina</i> complex	67
SECTION IV. CROTALIDAE	
Agkistridon complex	83
SECTION V. ELAPIDAE	
<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	89
<i>Naja haje</i>	92
<i>Naja mossambica</i>	97
<i>Naja naja</i> — Related Species	101
<i>Naja nigricollis</i>	106
<i>Walterinnesia aegyptia</i>	110
Clinical Symptoms of <i>Elapidae</i> Envenomation	113
SECTION VI. HYDROPHIDAE	
<i>Astrotia stokesi</i>	115
<i>Enhydrina schistosa</i>	118
<i>Hydrophis</i> spp	122

<i>Lapemus curtus</i>	132
<i>Pelamis platurus</i>	135
<i>Praescutata viperina (Lapemis viperina)</i>	138
Clinical Symptoms of <i>Hydrophidae</i> Envenomation	141
TABLE I: Quick-Reference Guide to the Geographic Distribution of Venomous Snakes in the Middle East	2
APPENDIX A: Antivenoms Available for Use Against Snakes of The Middle East	143
APPENDIX B: Antivenom Producers/Distributors	149
APPENDIX C: Selected LD50s in Humans	151
GLOSSARY	153
BIBLIOGRAPHY	159

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