

Dust in the Wind



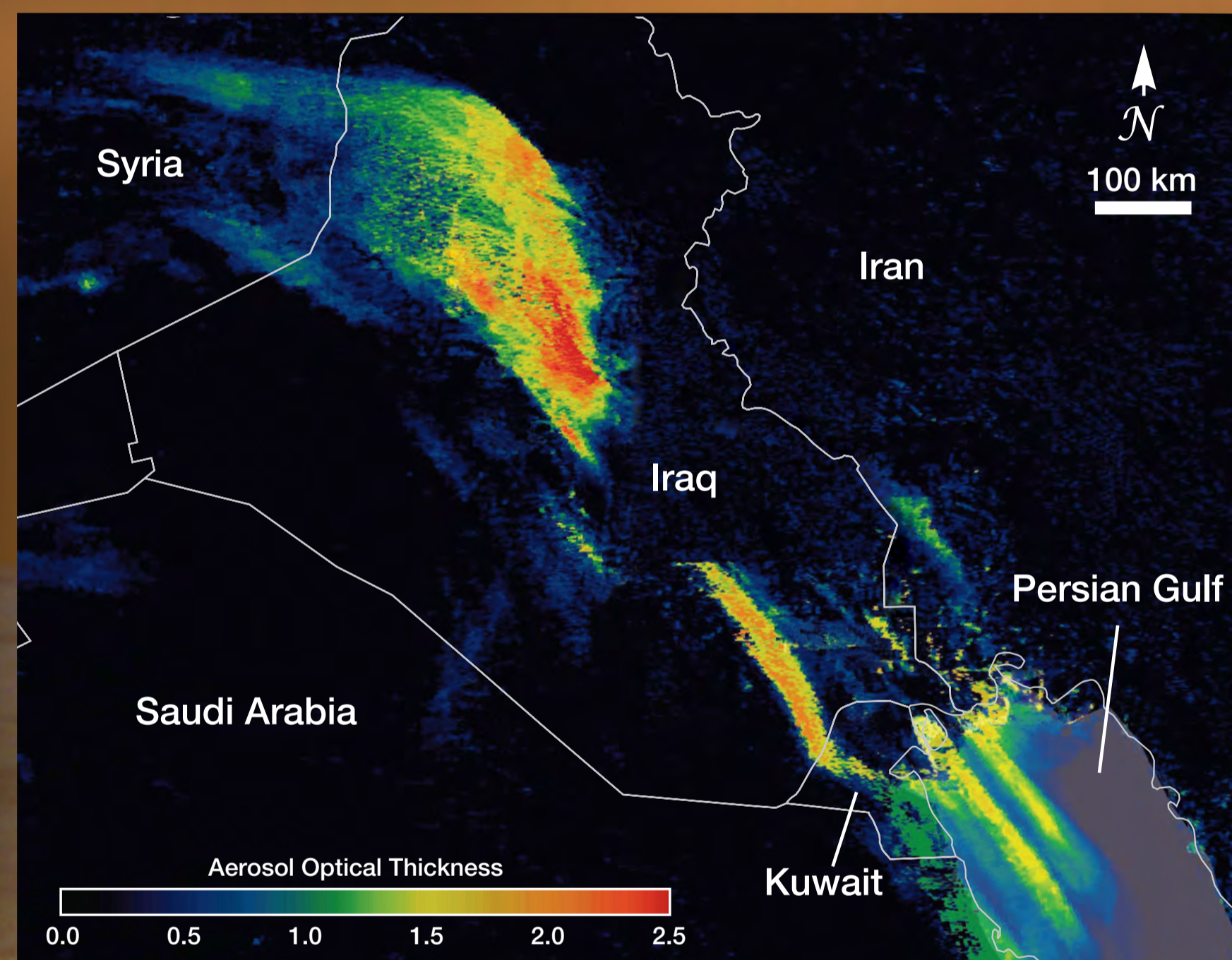
Photograph courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

A massive dust storm passes over the military air base in Al Asad in the western desert of Iraq on April 26, 2005.

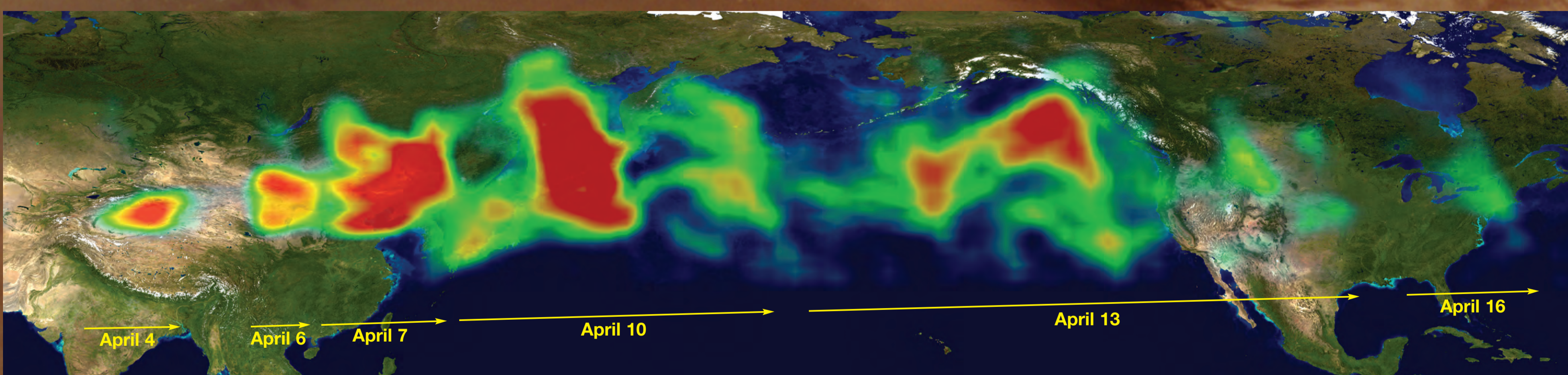
- Dust storms happen when wind picks up loosely held particles of soil or sand and, as these particles move and strike the ground, they break up and stir up even more particles.
- Dust storms impact ecosystems and interact with the Earth's climate system.



An extensive dust storm observed from space over Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the Persian Gulf on August 7, 2005.



The corresponding intensity of the storm on the left as depicted using 'optical thickness.' (MODIS instrument on the Aqua satellite).



Dust from storms in China moving across the Pacific Ocean. This composite of data from the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) shows the aerosol index—a measure of the amount of particles.

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