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**Today's Stock Traders' and Investors' Free Wrap is based on
An EXTRACT from Edition 423 of our Mentoring style
'Investing & Online Trading' Newsletter**

New! Jim Berg's Upcoming Seminars



Markets do not go sideways forever. Ultimately they must continue up or fall. If they fall, we can elect to go to cash. If they rise, we need to be prepared to take best advantage of the next rising trend.

In his [3 new evening seminars](#), Jim Berg will show you, step-by-step, how he trades and invests in the market:

- **Sydney:** *Tuesday 22 October*
- **Brisbane:** *Tuesday 29 October*
- **Melbourne:** *Thursday 7 November*

At the end of each seminar, Jim will share his view on many stocks chosen by the audience and himself, then show how to produce a short list of stocks to watch. If you or your partner:

- Have like-minded friends who you feel would benefit by attending, or
- Would like to bring along your son(s) or daughter(s) or other family members

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9 Stock Market Reactions to Major Airstrikes

By Wallace Witkowski, MarketWatch

On Thursday 29 Aug. 2013, San Francisco based MarketWatch Editor Wallace Witkowski [wrote](#):

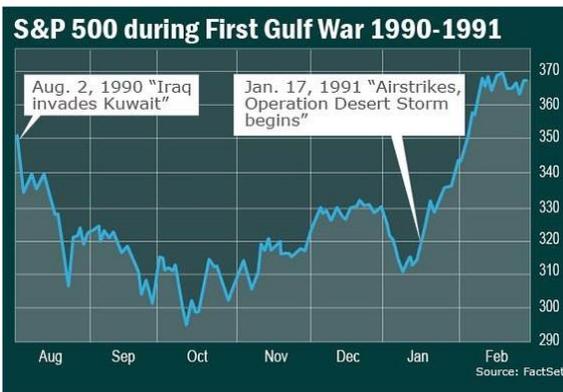


With the prospect of "limited" airstrikes on Syria rivalling concerns about Federal Reserve "tapering" and the debt ceiling, investors are focused on how to position their portfolios for the intervention. Generally speaking, there's been the tendency for stocks to rally after the missiles fly, making up for losses during the period of worry.

Tensions over Syria weighed on stocks Monday and Tuesday, with the market bouncing back on Wednesday, led by energy stocks.

In a recent note, Birinyi Associates showed that stocks on average gain back losses following "limited" airstrikes, but mission creep and unsecured stockpiles of chemical weapons in Syria are always possibilities that could wreak havoc in markets.

Here's how stocks performed during major airstrikes since 1991 where the U.S. played a part



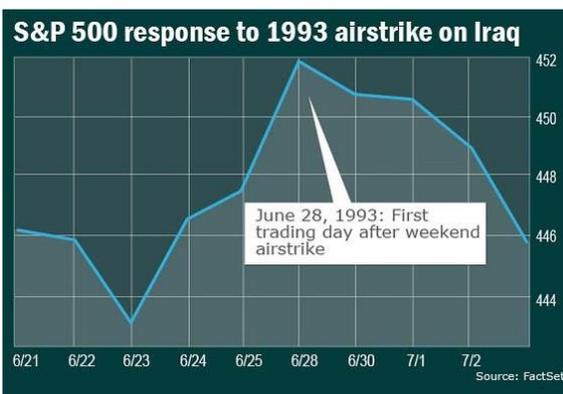
1. Jan. 17, 1991: Desert Storm

When Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August of 1990, stocks skidded, with the S&P 500 Index SPX +0.20% falling 16% and oil prices jumping nearly 70% by mid-October.

Stocks recovered about 7% as coalition forces built up in the Middle East as "Desert Shield."

When "Desert Shield" became "Desert Storm" with airstrikes beginning on Jan. 17, 1991, the S&P 500 had a one-day jump of 3.7%, and oil prices had retreated to 12% below their pre-Kuwait invasion levels.

With the introduction of ground forces on Feb. 24 and the liberation of Kuwait on Feb. 28, the S&P 500 had gained 16% following the initial airstrikes.



2. June 26-27, 1993: Iraq

Over the weekend of June 26-27, 1993, President Bill Clinton fired off 24 cruise missiles on Baghdad in retaliation for an assassination plot against former President George H. W. Bush as he visited Kuwait City earlier that year.

The S&P 500 jumped 1% that Monday but trailed off for a 0.4% loss on the week.

Also, oil prices, which received a 0.3% bump on the first trading day after the airstrike, finished the week down 4.7%.

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S&P 500: NATO airstrikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

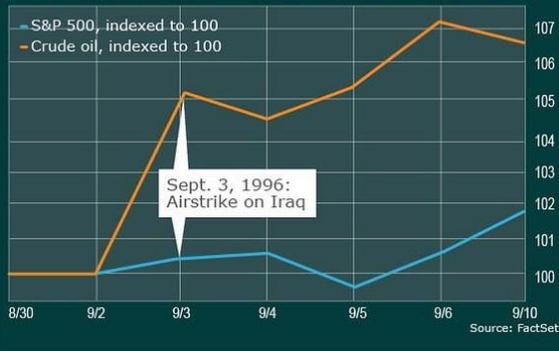


3. August 30, 1995: NATO airstrikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

After nearly three years of a no-fly zone above Bosnian airspace, resulting in a few minor airstrikes and some air-to-air combat, continued violence by Serbs prompted NATO to authorize a massive airstrike on Aug. 30, 1995, involving about 400 aircraft against more than 300 Bosnian Serb targets.

The airstrikes lasted until Sept. 14 with the S&P 500 gaining more than 4% over that period

S&P 500, oil: 1996 cruise missile strike on Iraq



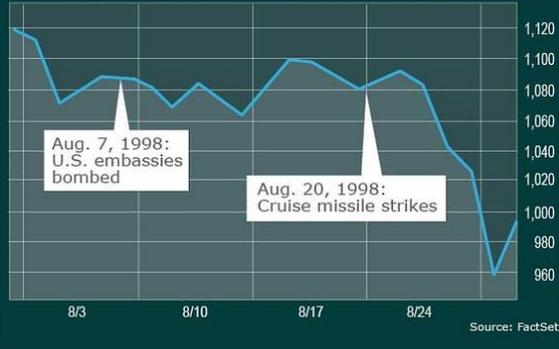
4. Sept. 3, 1996: Iraq

The U.S. launched more than 40 cruise missiles at Iraqi air defense facilities in the southern no-fly zone after the targeting of enforcement aircraft.

It also coincided with Saddam Hussein's military offensive against Iraqi Kurds in the north.

The S&P 500 was relatively quiet, gaining a fraction on the week. Oil prices, however, jumped 5.2% on the day of the strike and finished up 7.2% on the week.

1998 cruise missile strikes: Sudan, Afghanistan



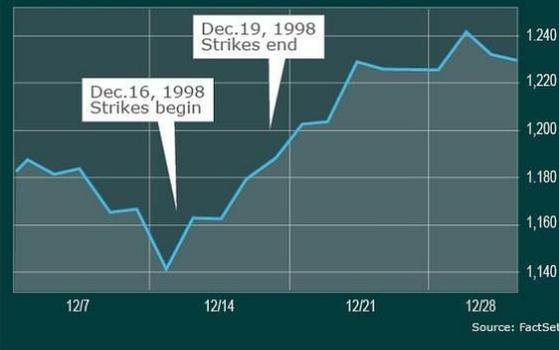
5. Aug. 20, 1998: Sudan, Afghanistan

Following the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, President Clinton ordered cruise missile strikes on a pharmaceuticals factory in Sudan on the belief chemical weapons were being manufactured there, and on four terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.

The strike against the Al-Shifa pharmaceuticals factory became controversial as the evidence of chemical weapons proved to be shaky.

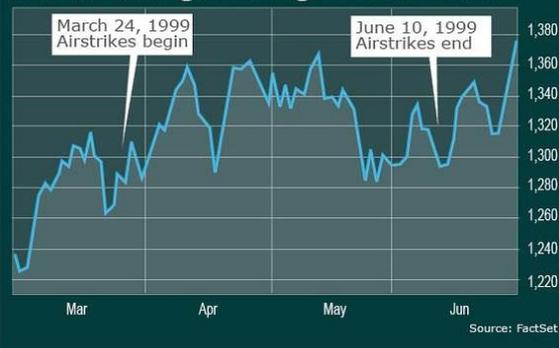
Following the airstrike, the S&P 500 shed 13% by the end of the month.

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S&P 500: 1998 strikes against Iraq**6. Dec. 16-19, 1998: Iraq**

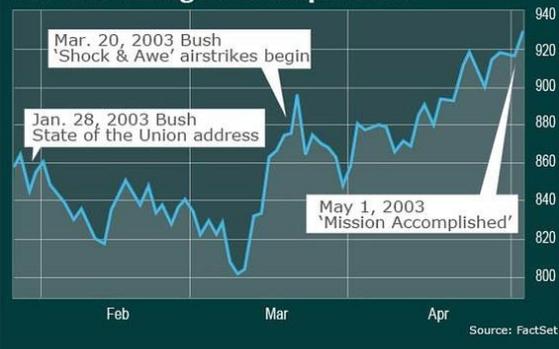
The U.S. and the U.K. launched four days of cruise missile strikes against Iraq in order to degrade the country's ability to manufacture weapons of mass destruction given the country's non-compliance with weapons inspectors.

From beginning to end, the S&P 500 ended up just under 3.5%.

S&P 500 during NATO Yugoslavia airstrikes**7. March 24-June 10, 1999: NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia**

NATO airstrikes in 1999 was the organization's second outing in the Balkans, prompted by Yugoslavian oppression of Kosovo Albanians.

Over the course of the 78-day campaign, stocks fluctuated but the S&P 500 still ended up 3.2%

S&P 500 during 2003 Iraq Invasion**8. March 20, 2003: Shock & Awe in Iraq**

From President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address in late January, the S&P 500 fell 7% by early March as the U.S. readied for war and the existence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was debated.

Then, the S&P 500 turned around with a nearly 12% run-up that peaked the day after the first wave of airstrikes against Iraq, what was known as "shock and awe."

After the index initially tapered off, the S&P 500 climbed another 7% by the time of Bush's "Mission Accomplished" speech on May 1, 2003.

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S&P 500 during early intervention in Libya 2011**9. March 19, 2011: Libya**

Most recently, the U.S. participated in a coalition to help oust Moammar Gadhafi's regime as the country slid into civil war.

Leading up to the eventual airstrikes, the S&P 500 slid about 2% over the first half of March.

From the time when the strikes started to when full command was placed under NATO authority, the S&P 500 had climbed nearly 4%. >>>

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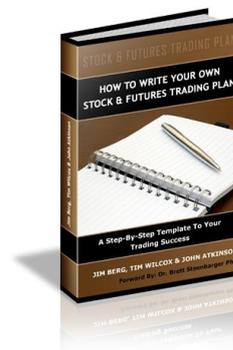
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