

★★★ WAR EXTRA ★★★

STARS AND STRIPES®

© EPSS 2003

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003

U.S. strikes at Saddam



U.S. NAVY, PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATE 2ND CLASS (AW) RICHARD MOORE/AP

The first Tomahawk missile to be fired into Iraq is launched from USS Bunker Hill on Thursday.

Tomahawks,
F-117As hit Iraq

Page 2

What's next
for U.S. troops
in Iraq

Page 5

Bush speaks
to nation

Page 3

U.S. military
families say
it's business
as usual at home

Page 6

This special edition is sponsored by AAFES

U.S. launches strike on Iraq

Opening round of war targets Saddam; Iraq fires at troops

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The opening salvos in the war to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein relied on tried-and-true cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs dropped by Air Force stealth fighter-bombers. The munitions were aimed directly at the country's leaders, including Saddam, U.S. officials said.

The attacks involved more than 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from Navy ships in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, as well as bombs dropped from two F-117A Nighthawk stealth jets, military officials said.

Later Thursday, Iraq fired a Scud missile toward U.S. troops in Kuwait, but it was intercepted by Patriot missiles, the U.S. military said.

U.S. Army troops at Camp New Jersey in the Kuwaiti desert donned gas masks in response to an alert caused by the missile but were given the all-clear a few minutes later.

"Our information was an Al-Samoud missile was launched against U.S. forces assembling in forward attack positions," said

For the latest on Iraq,
go to www.stripes.com

Col. Michael Linington, leading the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division.

He said the information they received was that three Patriot missiles were fired and knocked down the Iraqi missile.

He said it did not have a chemical warhead.

During the U.S. strikes, the Nighthawks each dropped two 2,000-pound bombs called Joint Direct Attack Munitions, which are guided by satellite signals.

Two officials knowledgeable about the operation said the Iraqi dictator was among the "leadership targets" that the strikes were aimed at.

The bombs dropped by the planes are each twice as big as the sea-launched cruise missiles also dropped Wednesday. The F-117s are based at Qatar's Al Udeid air base.

Military officials said the Tomahawks were fired by the destroyers USS Milius and USS Donald Cook; the cruisers USS Bunker

Hill and USS Cowpens; and the attack submarines USS Montpelier and USS Cheyenne. The Navy released still photos and video of the missiles being launched just hours after the attack.

Officials speaking on condition of anonymity said the attacks were not a sign that the main air offensive against Iraq had begun.

Rather, they were approved by President Bush in response to time-sensitive intelligence on the whereabouts of Iraqi leaders — presumably including Saddam.

Officials said it was possible that other limited attacks in various parts of Iraq could be launched over the next day, even before the main air assault begins.

Introduced during the war with Iraq a dozen years ago, the Tomahawk is still a technological wonder, able to fly at just under the speed of sound, hugging the ground to deliver a 1,000-pound warhead onto a preprogrammed target.

The F-117A Nighthawk, the distinctive fighter-bomber that looks like a bat, is the world's first operational aircraft designed to exploit stealth technology that makes it difficult to detect with radar.

In the Gulf War a dozen years ago, the Nighthawk was the only U.S. or coalition aircraft to strike targets in downtown Baghdad.

Before Wednesday night's strike, a senior Air Force planner said U.S. warplanes are likely to drop 10 times as many precision-guided bombs on the first day of a war against Iraq as they did to open the 1991 Gulf war.

"I don't think the potential adversary has any idea what's coming," said Col. Gary Crowder, the chief of strategy at Air Combat Command, which is responsible for all Air Force warplanes.

SEE WAR ON PAGE 4

Precision strike weapon

The U.S. Navy's Tomahawk cruise missile is the weapon of choice for precision strike missions against high value or heavily defended targets. First used in Operation Desert Storm, the Tomahawk has gone through numerous improvements in range and accuracy, including the addition of Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance ability.

Length: 18 feet, 3 inches

Wingspan: 8 feet, 9 inches

Weight: 2,650 pounds

Range*: 700-1000 miles

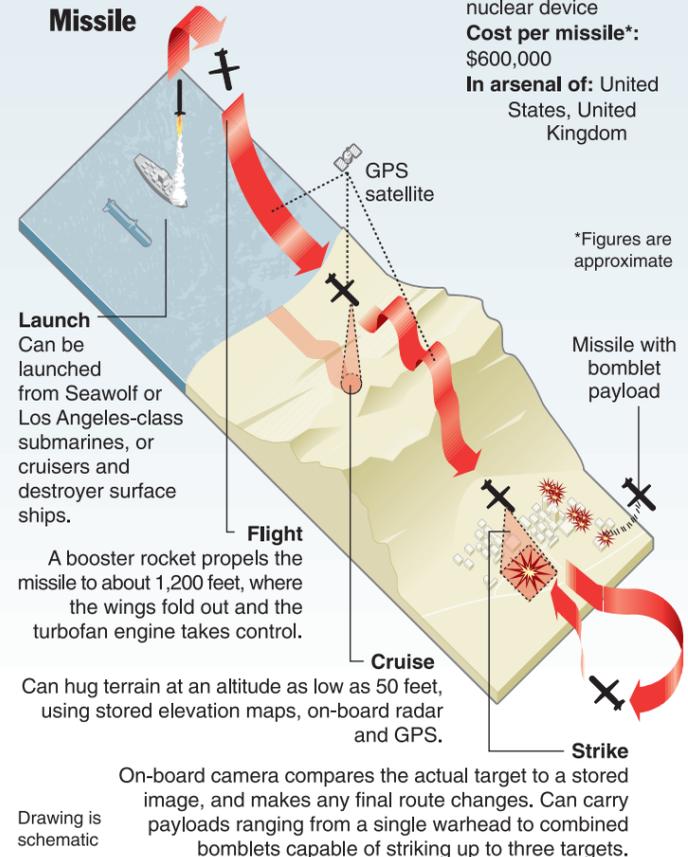
Speed*: 550 mph

Warhead: 1,000 pound conventional warhead; submunition dispenser with combined effect bomblets; 297 pound nuclear device

Cost per missile*: \$600,000

In arsenal of: United States, United Kingdom

Tomahawk Land Attack Missile



Sources: Program Executive Office Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aviation; Jane's Information Group; GlobalSecurity.org

AP

F-117 Nighthawk

Crew: One

Length: 66 ft. (20 m)

Wingspan: 43 ft. (13 m)

Armament: Carries variety of weapons internally including laser-guided bombs; has radar-evading "stealth" technology

Source: Jane's Information Group, U.S. Air Force

KRT

Latest developments in Iraqi crisis

■ The U.S. military opened its military campaign against Iraq, striking "targets of military opportunity" — sites near Baghdad where Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and top aides were believed to be — with cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs.

■ U.S. officials said the initial volleys did not mean the main air offensive against Iraq had begun.

■ Saddam gave his own televised speech, promising an Iraqi victory and calling the U.S. attack "a shameful crime." Baghdad echoed with the thud of explosions and the shrieks of air sirens; anti-aircraft tracers criss-crossed its skies.

■ Seventeen Iraqi soldiers surrendered to American soldiers; U.S. officials said they expect mass defections in the initial stages of fighting.

■ The State Department issued a warning to U.S.

citizens abroad that they face a heightened threat of terrorism and anti-American violence.

■ Across the United States, cities and towns batten down under security not seen since the Sept. 11 attacks. Authorities fanned out to power plants, bridges, state capitols and other facilities to shield them against possible retaliatory strikes.

■ A dust storm that buffeted U.S. troops grouped in Kuwait near the border with Iraq had largely dissipated, giving way to a relatively cool Thursday morning.

■ The Iraqi envoy to the United Nations, Mohammad Al-Douri, said he plans to submit a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan calling the start of U.S. military action against Iraq "a violation of international law."

— The Associated Press



U.S. NAVY, JOURNALIST 2ND CLASS PATRICK REILLY/AP

The guided missile destroyer USS Donald Cook launches one of its Tomahawk missiles at targets in Iraq on Thursday.

'The only way ... is to apply decisive force'

As war kicks off, Bush tells nation 'we will accept no outcome but victory'

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taking the nation to war, President Bush said the conflict in Iraq may be long and difficult but the U.S. troops will succeed at their mission "to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger."

"The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder," the president said in an Oval Office address a little more than two hours after his 8 p.m. EST ultimatum for Saddam Hussein to give up power.

He said U.S. forces launched airstrikes against "targets of military importance." A U.S. military official said about three dozen cruise missiles were fired from a small number of ships at "leadership targets."

"These are opening stages of what will be a broad and concerted campaign," the president said.

He spoke in vague but grim terms about the sacrifices ahead.

"A campaign on the harsh terrain of a nation as large as California could be longer and more difficult than some predict," he said.

"America faces an enemy who has no regard for conventions of war or rules of morality."

There was no indication whether the attack was successful.

"Now that the conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force," the president said. "And I assure you, this will not be a campaign of half measures and we will accept no outcome but victory."

Bush gave the attack go-ahead near the end of a hastily arranged three-and-a-half-hour meeting with his war council — including Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was the third meeting of the day between Bush and the group.

A senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity,



KRT

President Bush speaks to the nation on U.S. military action in Iraq late in the evening Wednesday.

ty, said that military advisers originally did not intend to begin the assault Wednesday. However, Bush was told in the third meeting that fresh intelligence had prompted military planners to change their recommendation.

Moments before his image was beamed to a worldwide audience, Bush was asked by an aide how he was doing. "I feel great," Bush said, clenching his fist.

He spoke as a U.S.-led force of 300,000 troops ringed Iraq, ready to launch a ferocious assault to topple the Iraqi dictator and capture any weapons of mass destruction.

The United States has initiated attacks in such places as Grenada and Panama, but war in Iraq would set a new standard for pre-emptive military action.

"On my order, coalition forces have begun targeting selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage war," the president said. "These are the opening stages of what will be a broad and concerted campaign."

As he has many times in the run-up to war, Bush declared that the United States has "no ambition in Iraq except to remove a threat. Our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer had announced Bush's plans to speak on short notice. Fleischer spoke as anti-aircraft fire and explosions were heard across Baghdad after air raid sirens went off at the capital at dawn.

President Bush's remarks

My fellow citizens, at this hour American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.

On my orders, coalition forces have begun striking selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage war. These are opening stages of what will be a broad and concerted campaign.

More than 35 countries are giving crucial support, from the use of naval and air bases, to help with intelligence and logistics, to the deployment of combat units. Every nation in this coalition has chosen to bear the duty and share the honor of serving in our common defense.

To all of the men and women of the United States armed forces now in the Middle East, the peace of a troubled world and the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you.

That trust is well placed.

The enemies you confront will come to know your skill and bravery. The people you liberate will witness the honorable and decent spirit of the American military.

In this conflict, America faces an enemy who has no regard for conventions of war or rules of morality. Saddam Hussein has placed Iraqi troops and equipment in civilian areas, attempting to use innocent men, women and children as shields for his own military — a final atrocity against his people.

I want Americans and all the world to know that coalition forces will make every effort to spare innocent civilians from harm. A campaign on the harsh terrain of a nation as large as California could be longer and more difficult than some predict. And helping Iraqis achieve a united, sta-

ble and free country will require our sustained commitment.

We come to Iraq with respect for its citizens, for their great civilization and for the religious faiths they practice. We have no ambition in Iraq, except to remove a threat and restore control of that country to its own people.

I know that the families of our military are praying that all those who serve will return safely and soon.

Millions of Americans are praying with you for the safety of your loved ones and for the protection of the innocent.

For your sacrifice, you have the gratitude and respect of the American people and you can know that our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done.

Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly, yet our purpose is sure. The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder.

We will meet that threat now with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of firefighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.

Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. And I assure you, this will not be a campaign of half measures and we will accept no outcome but victory.

My fellow citizens, the dangers to our country and the world will be overcome. We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of peace. We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others. And we will prevail.

May God bless our country and all who defend her.

— The Associated Press



AP

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein appears on television Thursday, a few hours after bombs fell on Baghdad.

Saddam: U.S. attack 'shameful crime'

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — President Saddam Hussein accused the United States of committing a "shameful crime" by attacking Iraq, urging his people in a nationally televised address Thursday to "go draw your sword" against the enemy.

About two hours after U.S. cruise missiles hit targets in and around Baghdad, Saddam appeared on television, wearing a military uniform and vowing that "Iraq will be victorious" against the U.S.-led campaign.

Saddam, who started appearing in uniform in the last two days, appeared drawn and subdued.

"We promise you that Iraq, its leadership and its people will stand up to the evil invaders, and we will take them to such limits that they will lose their pa-

tience in achieving their plans, which are pushed by criminal Zionism," Saddam said.

"They will face a bitter defeat, God willing," he said. "You will be able to achieve glory and your despicable infidel enemies will be defeated."

The pre-dawn strike was targeting leadership figures, including Saddam himself, U.S. officials said.

"This is added to the series of their shameful crime against Iraq and humanity," Saddam said, describing the U.S. president as "little, evil Bush."

"Draw your sword and be not afraid," he urged the Iraqi people, before ending the speech by chanting, "Allahu akbar" or God is great, and saying, "Long live jihad and long live Palestine."

Saddam also promised to defend the Iraqis. "We pledge to you in my name

and the name of the leadership and in the name of the struggling Iraqi people and its heroic army that we shall resist the invaders and, god willing, will frustrate them," he said.

"Iraq will be victorious and with Iraq our nation and humanity will also triumph and evil will be hit so hard that it will not be able to commit a crime like today's," he said.

Baghdad radio carried a message from the Iraqi leader's son, Odai Saddam Hussein, calling on the people to be steadfast and promised them victory.

After Saddam's speech, Iraqi Minister of Information Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf held a brief news conference.

Asked about Pentagon reports that the attack was aimed at killing Saddam, he said: "It's good proof that they are killers and criminals who still believe in assassination."

War: Many lessons learned from '91

WAR, from Page 2

At a Pentagon news conference, Crowder said 300 to 400 precision-guided weapons were dropped on the first day of the 1991 air war and suggested at least 3,000 would be used on the first day this time.

War planning also has become much more efficient, Crowder said.

In the first Gulf war, U.S. warplanes attacked each element of Iraq's air defenses in sequence — early warning radars, followed by air defense operations bunkers, followed by airfields and surface-to-air missile sites — before getting to the ultimate target: the Iraqi leadership.

This time, due to more accurate weapons and a fuller understanding of targets in Iraq, the leadership will be attacked at the same time that communications, transportation and air defense targets are bombed, Crowder said. Examples of leadership targets are palaces and command centers expected to be used by Saddam and his senior generals.

This more efficient approach is based in part on improved weapons technology and more advanced means of matching weapon types with the kinds of damage desired, Crowder said. For example, if the goal was paralysis of the Iraqi electrical grid, the war planners might single out a small number of power stations or transmission towers as targets rather than striking every power station in the grid.

Crowder also said that the experience gained from patrolling "no fly" zones over southern and northern Iraq since shortly after the first Gulf war gives American and British forces a big advantage.

"Having lived over the no fly zones for the last 12 years, it is a significantly less hostile place than it was in northern and southern Iraq on the opening night of the [1991] Gulf war," he said.

"That simple fact will make the jobs of our men and women aircrews out there doing this a whole lot easier," he added.

The routine of patrolling the zones also provides a form of cover for allied aircraft preparing to launch an all-out air war.

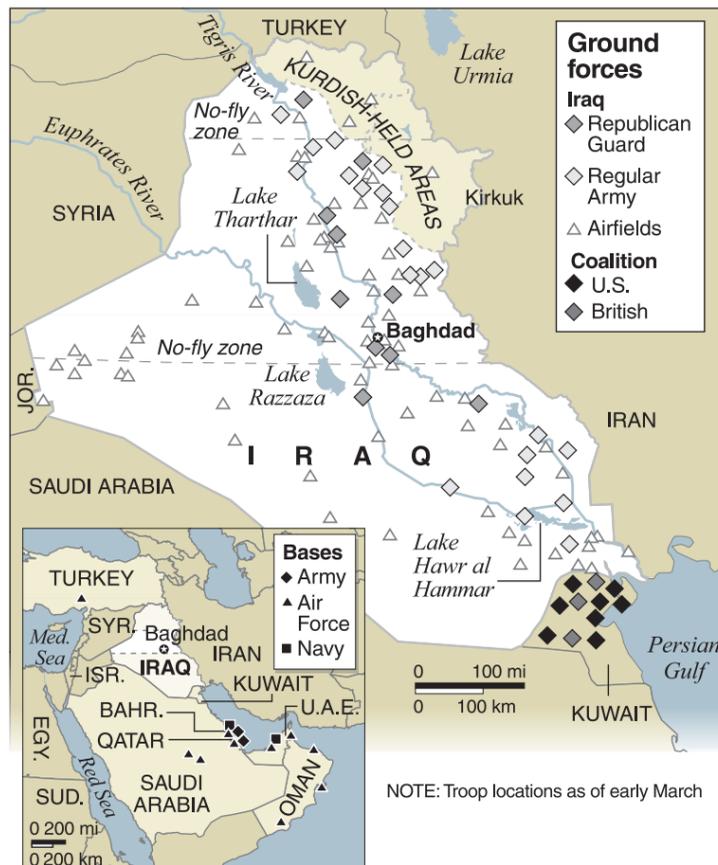
Earlier Wednesday, U.S. and British planes attacked nine military targets in southern Iraq. The headquarters for allied air forces in the Persian Gulf announced that the strikes were in response to Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery.

The targets included long-range artillery near the southern city of Basra and the nearby Al Faw peninsula near the Gulf coastline, plus three military communications sites. Also targeted was a mobile early-warning radar and an air defense command and control site at the H-3 airfield complex in western Iraq near the Jordanian border.

Forces ready for battle

About 300,000 troops — most of them from the United States and about 40,000 from Britain — were waiting Wednesday within striking distance of Iraq. Backing them were scores of attack helicopters and more than 1,000 airplanes.

On the ground in and around Iraq



Sources: ESRI; Center for Defense Information; Periscope; Council on Foreign Relations; Associated Press

Coalition forces around the region

- Turkey**
 About 1,700 Air Force personnel; 360 Dutch to operate Patriot missiles
- Mediterranean Sea**
 USS Harry S. Truman; USS Theodore Roosevelt
- Red Sea**
 About 12 ships from the Roosevelt and Truman battle groups
- Persian Gulf**
 USS Abraham Lincoln; USS Constellation; USS Kitty Hawk
- En route**
 USS Nimitz
- Diego Garcia (not shown)**
 1,000 civilian mariners for Military Sealift Command
- United Arab Emirates**
 4,000 troops backed by Apache attack helicopters, tanks, amphibious armored vehicles
- Ships include a missile boat and a frigate**
- Al Dhafra Air Base:** reconnaissance wing; air refueling squadrons
- Al Jaber Air Base:** F-15s; F-16s, C-130s
- Ali al Salem Air Base:** British Tornados
- Qatar**
 About 3,300 U.S. forces with F-15s, F-16s and F-117 stealth fighters; U.S. Central Command HQ at Camp As Sayliyah
- Base for B-2 stealth bombers and B-52s**
- In the region**
 22 amphibious task group ships carrying more than 10,000 Marines
- Bahrain**
 Navy 5th Fleet HQ; USNS Comfort hospital ship
- More than 25 ships off coast of Turkey; future of bases is unknown**
- Jordan**
 Several hundred U.S. troops with anti-missile batteries
- Saudi Arabia**
 Prince Sultan Air Base houses F-15s, F-16s and British Tornados
- Oman**
 Three air bases house a Special Operations Squadron, C-130s and B-1 bombers
- Djibouti**
 About 1,200 U.S. troops; 400 U.S. troops aboard Mount Whitney in Gulf of Aden

After long wait, GIs welcome start of war

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING
 The Associated Press

CAMP NEW JERSEY, Kuwait — After weeks on standby in the Kuwaiti desert, U.S. troops welcomed news that war was underway and said they were eager for orders to cross into Iraq.

"It's a relief we can finally go," said Spc. Robert McDougal, 21, of Paris, Texas, as the 101st Airborne broke camp Thursday.

"Standing by is the hardest thing to do," he said. "It is time to put our training to the test."

Scores of vehicles, including bulldozers, humvees and trucks full of equipment and supplies, lined up in Camp New Jersey, ready to move out. A dust storm that buffeted the troops on Wednesday had eased, giving way to a relatively cool morning — low 80s — with a few clouds.

Soldiers were up at dawn, cleaning tents and stuffing items into duffel bags. Some tried to slip out to the dining facility for one last hot meal before leaving.

Sgt. Brian McGough, 27, Philadelphia, sat by his automatic grenade launcher as he loaded rucksacks into storage containers.

"No one ever prays for war, but if it comes to that we are trained to do it," he said. "We all have high morale. We'll do fine. But there is always the unknown factor. You just have to be flexible and react to what happens."

Elsewhere in Kuwait, members of the 709th Military Police Battalion learned about the strikes on Baghdad from a reporter.



Third Division soldiers from Charlie Company 27, from left, Sgt Jason Grizzle of Illinois, Pvt Richard Krum of Pennsylvania, Pvt John Lewis of Vermont and Pfc Michael Nash of Ohio, clean their weapons Wednesday.

"Good. At least we know what we will be doing in the next three days," said Lt. Col. Richard Vanderlinden, the battalion commander.

He said his MPs would follow on the heels of advancing U.S. forces, coping with prisoners of war and displaced Iraqi civilians.

Some Iraqi soldiers have surrendered already. An officer with the 3rd infantry Division, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said entire Iraqi divisions are expected to surrender swiftly.

Aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk in the Persian Gulf, ordnance crews in protective headgear and red life vests

wheeled 500-pound, 1,000-pound and 2,000-pound bombs along the flight deck Thursday and fitted them under the wings of F-14 Tomcats and F/A-18 Hornets strike planes. The bombs, equipped with laser guidance systems, were marked with yellow stripes on their nose to indicate they were live munitions.

Military officials said the Tomhawk missiles fired at Baghdad in the opening salvo were launched from warships in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf — the destroyers USS Milius and USS Donald Cook; the cruisers USS Bunker Hill and USS Cowpens; and the attack submarines USS Montpelier and USS Cheyenne.

Introduced during the war with Iraq a dozen years ago, the Tomhawk is able to fly at just under the speed of sound, hugging the ground to deliver a 1,000-pound warhead onto a preprogrammed target.

Officials said it was possible that other limited attacks in various parts of Iraq could be launched over the next day, even before the main air assault begins.

When all-out bombing does begin, U.S. warplanes are likely to drop 10 times as many precision-guided bombs on the first day of all-out bombing of Iraq as they did to open the 1991 Gulf war, a senior Air Force planner said at a Pentagon briefing.

AP

Forces plan to shock with rapid strike

BY MICHAEL KILIAN
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and British assault now under way is designed to accomplish a few early objectives: attacking Iraqi leadership targets, seizing the key port city of Basra, securing the major highway leading from Basra to Baghdad and then surrounding the Iraqi capital.

Unlike the first Persian Gulf War, when weeks of bombing preceded the ground attack, the ground action is designed to begin within a day or two of the aerial assault, and possibly within hours — so that the attacks will have maximum shock value and Hussein can be prevented from organizing an effective defense.

“You’ll see a use of air power to soften the battlefield, but it won’t go on for months,” former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Michele Flournoy said. “It will go on for hours or days. You will see a much more rapid use of ground and amphibious forces to try to get to Baghdad and other centers of gravity before Hussein has time to react.”

Because of this lightning strategy, there is a danger that rapidly advancing American troops could inadvertently come under attack from U.S. warplanes, or that mechanized units might outrun their fuel, water and other supplies. But U.S. military planners believe the rapid-strike approach stands the best chance of bringing the war to a quick conclusion with relatively few casualties.

As part of this Basra-to-Baghdad strategy, coalition bombers at the outset are expected to target radar sites and air defense facilities, fiber-optic cable links and command-and-control centers throughout the

“You will see a much more rapid use of ground and amphibious forces to try to get to Baghdad and other centers of gravity before Hussein has time to react.”

Michele Flournoy
Former Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense



U.S. Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit take position in the Kuwait desert, near the Iraqi border, Wednesday. Ground attacks figure to occur much sooner than they did during the first Persian Gulf War, when they were preceded by weeks of bombing.

country, in the hopes of cutting off Hussein from his military and compelling his forces to surrender.

The elimination of Scud boxes, or launchers, is a top U.S. war aim, especially in the western part of the country, where Iraqi missiles could be launched against Israel. Some believe Hussein will try to draw Israel into the war in an effort to transform the conflict into a broader fight between the United States and Israel on the one hand and the Islamic world on the other, a sce-

nario the United States desperately wants to prevent.

Scud missiles also could be used in chemical or biological attacks against U.S. ground troops or Israel.

Hussein’s roughly 48 presidential palaces, which U.S. intelligence believes also function as command-and-control centers, are likely to be among the prime early targets. The aerial campaign against Baghdad will be designed in large part to deprive Hussein of the ability to communicate with

Main battle objectives

- Attack Iraqi leadership targets
- Seize port city of Basra
- Secure 300-mile major highway leading from Basra to Baghdad
- Surround and capture Baghdad and Saddam Hussein

Troops will focus on:

- Knocking out Scud missile launchers
- Seizing airfields
- Taking control of oil fields

his commanders or give orders for the use of chemical or biological weapons.

With U.S. heavy armor already positioned on the “start line” along the U.S.-Kuwaiti border, the main thrust from the south is expected to be made by the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Division, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and three British brigades — the 7th Armor, 16th Air Assault and 3rd Commando — under U.S. Marine Corps command.

Their immediate goal is likely to be the port of Basra, only about 30 miles from Kuwait’s border with Iraq.

Taking Basra will be key to the U.S. war effort. It is Iraq’s biggest port and second-largest city, as well as the gateway to the country’s southern oil fields.

Basra’s population of 1 million is largely Shiite Muslim and considered to be disposed against Hussein’s principally Sunni Muslim regime, meaning it could be relatively vulnerable to a U.S. assault.

The city’s seizure would cut Hussein’s forces off from the sea, and it would also be useful as a major base for the movement of coalition troops, equipment and supplies. Some U.S. commanders hope the capture of Basra will generate images of grateful Iraqis welcoming American troops, possibly boosting support for the war in the United States and around the world.

Coalition forces are likely to focus on seizing the Baghdad-Basra highway before Hussein’s forces can sabotage it. The road runs for 300 miles and has between 50 and 60 bridges, including a major span across the Euphrates River.

The ultimate goal of the war, of course, is the capture of Baghdad and Hussein. The first U.S. cruise missile and airstrike of the war early Thursday in Baghdad was aimed at elements of the Iraqi leadership.

U.S. hopes for a quick war with few casualties may depend on the willingness of the Iraqi military and Republican Guard to surrender once Hussein has been isolated.

“Urban warfare in Baghdad is something we’d like to avoid,” Flournoy said.

Surveillance provided unforseen ‘target of opportunity’

BY BARTON GELLMAN
AND DANA PRIEST
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Shortly before 4 p.m. EST Wednesday, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet offered President Bush the prospect — improbable to the point of fantasy, yet suddenly at hand — that the war against Iraq might be transformed with its opening shots. The CIA, Tenet said, believed it had a fix on President Saddam Hussein.

Saddam and others in “the most senior levels of the Iraqi leadership,” ordinarily among the most elusive of men, had fallen under U.S. surveillance. The intelligence was unforeseen and perishable, presenting what one administration official called “a target of opportunity” that might not come again. Not only did the

agency know where Saddam was, Tenet said, but it also believed with “a high probability” that it knew where he would be for hours to come — cloistered with advisers in a known private residence in southern Baghdad.

Bush listened calmly — as his aides portrayed the scene — as Tenet described the sources and limits of his information, the likelihood that it was true and the length of time Saddam could be expected to spend at the site before moving to his next refuge. The Iraqi president, a man of many palaces, avoids them at moments of maximum risk. There was no guarantee at all, Tenet said, that his whereabouts would be pinpointed again.

For the next three hours, Bush and his senior national security advisers tore up the carefully or-



Tenet

chestrated schedule of violence that the U.S. Central Command had honed for months. Those present in the Oval Office, officials said, included Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, White House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr. and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

When Bush signed the launch order at 6:30 p.m., it had a hastily

prepared insert. The first shots would strike through the roof and walls of an anonymous Baghdad home and deep beneath it in hopes of decapitating the Iraqi government in a single blow.

“If you’re going to take a shot like this, you’re going to take a shot at the top guy,” said a government official with knowledge of the sequence of events. “It was a fairly singular strike.”

Aboard Navy warships waiting in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea, operations officers reprogrammed Tomahawk cruise missiles on the fly with digital target data transmitted from CIA headquarters at Langley.

A squadron of stealthy F-117A strike fighters pulled pilots from their ready rooms and gave them new mission briefs. The aircraft and missiles each carried satel-

lite-guided warheads. The bombs aboard the F-117s were 2,000-pound “bunker busters” designed to penetrate layers of stone and steel.

Three hours after Bush gave the order, at 5:33 a.m. local time, southern Baghdad was rocked by a series of closely spaced explosions, witnesses in the city said. The results were unknown. Iraqi television, competing for air time with the newly American-flagged frequencies of Iraqi radio, reported within hours of the blasts that Saddam was alive and well and would shortly address the nation. The broadcast began about 12:30 a.m. Thursday Eastern time.

U.S. officials cautioned that it would be some time before intelligence could assess with certainty what the U.S. strike had hit, and who had been there.

Business as usual around local bases

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

Just hours after airstrikes on Iraq began early Thursday morning, it was business as usual for soldiers and Army civilians.

In Bamberg, most soldiers were engaged in their weekly sergeant's time training. Offices and Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities were fully staffed.

Delays at the gates in Bamberg, Germany, and Aviano, Italy, remained much the same as they were Tuesday when force protection levels across Europe rose to Charlie.



Keith

"We are still at condition Charlie, and it is business as usual," said Lt. Susan Henson, a Navy spokeswoman at Naples.

At Aviano Air Base, that meant waiting a little longer than normal to get in the gate and handing over more identification to the guards. It also meant showing an identification card at places around the base that normally don't ask for them.

Although the strikes were expected, some were surprised they came so soon after the deadline for President Bush's ultimatum passed.

"I figured the strikes would begin over the weekend," said Staff Sgt. Michael Keith, from the Bamberg Health Clinic. "President Bush is true to his word."

Keith didn't hesitate to show his support of the war on Iraq.

"It's about time," he said. "I think we should have done it right the first time. I was there [in the Persian Gulf] in '91, and I don't think we went far enough then. I hope it doesn't last long."

Mike Dulan Jr., a former Air Force member and current government employee who is stationed at Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, said he was glad to see the attack begin.

"It is about time. We let Saddam get away with not cooperating for too long. I hope we can get him out as soon as possible," he said.

His wife, Carmen, is active-duty Air Force.

Still, some were not hesitant to voice concerns.

"I don't like that we're doing this," said Miranda White, a family member from 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery in Bamberg. "I have a lot of German friends that I feel uncomfortable visiting because they oppose this war."

White said that she didn't think the strikes would begin.

"I really thought the president was just bluffing," she said.

Richard Baker's wife, LaRae, is stationed on the La Salle, the 6th fleet flagship out of Gaeta. The La-

State Dept. warns about retaliation

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department is warning U.S. citizens abroad that they face an increased threat from retaliatory terrorist actions and anti-American violence now that President George W. Bush has begun military strikes against Iraq.

In an advisory issued late Wednesday night, the department said the government is deeply concerned about the security of Americans overseas. Department officials advise people to maintain a high level of vigilance and take other steps to increase security awareness.

"As a result of military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world," the advisory said. "Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens, symbols associated with the United States or other U.S. and western interests."

In a separate advisory, the department alerted Americans traveling to or living in the Middle East and North Africa, including the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf region, to use added caution.

Both advisories cite risks of attacks by terrorist groups that might involve suicide operations, kidnappings or attacks with explosive devices or chemical or biological agents.

"Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets," the department said. Possible targets cited were residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events, resorts and beaches.

Salle has been deployed, and Baker is, naturally, worried about his wife.

"I'm more relieved that things are under way, rather than waiting for a decision."

Keith said he doubted that this will be a quick war, echoing the warning from President Bush's address to the nation early Thursday that the war could last longer than some people believe.

"In my opinion, it could last months," Keith said. "I think it will be slow until we can get into Baghdad."

Nonetheless, he said morale was high in his unit.

Reporters Kent Harris in Aviano, Italy, and Leah Bower in Naples, Italy, contributed to this report.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



REDDING RECORD SEARCHLIGHT/AP

A photograph of Marine Pfc. Curt Jenkins Jr., right, sits beside his father, Curt Jenkins, and his stepmom, Sharon Jenkins, at their home in Redding, Calif., on Wednesday as they watch television reports on the military attacks in Iraq. Jenkins is in the 1st Combat Engineers Battalion, 2nd Platoon, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was deployed to Kuwait on Feb. 3.

Americans have different opinions on need for war

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — As President Bush told the nation that the United States had launched a strike on Iraq, the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ in Nashville opened its doors to the community to watch on two big screens — and to pray.

About 15 people were on hand after Bush's speech Wednesday night to pray for the troops and the nation's leaders.

"I really hate that we had to do this," said church member Tom Hinton, 68, a former Marine. "It worries me. This chemical warfare is something different. ... I'm not as gung-ho as I was 50 years ago. But we've got to get rid of this dictator, there's no question about it."

In New York — the city where the Sept. 11, 2001, attack started the U.S. war on terror — people greeted the start of military action against Saddam Hussein with support and sadness.

"I'm all for it. You had to live

"I'm opposed to using that level of force. I recognize Saddam Hussein is a dictator, but I don't think the solution is violence."

Liz Wyruchowski
Olympia, Wash.

here to understand it. We lost everything you can imagine," said Vince Diamonde, 55, who was walking near the World Trade Center site with his wife and son. Not everyone agreed.

"It's a sad day in the history of the world. Our president is in violation of international principles," said the Rev. Lucius Walker Jr., pastor of Salvation Baptist Church in Brooklyn and executive director of New York-based Pastors for Peace.

In Olympia, Wash., hundreds of people flocked to a peace demonstration at the state Capitol as bombs began falling on Baghdad.

"It just was very shocking to realize we had really gone in," said Liz Wyruchowski, a 45-year-old school employee. "I'm opposed to using that level of force. I recognize Saddam Hussein is a dictator, but I don't think the solution is violence."

In downtown Seattle, 11 people participating in an anti-war protest were arrested when they refused to leave a mall at closing time. Police said they would face charges of criminal trespass.

In New Orleans, a basketball game between the New Orleans Hornets and the New York Knicks was stopped for a short period to allow the crowd to watch the president's address on big-screen TVs.

For veterans of the first Gulf War, the news brought back vivid memories. Jeff McGill of Louisville, Ky., remembers the Arabian night set aglow by the synchronized launching of missiles from U.S. warships. And David Worley, also of Louisville, recalls the hungry and haggard Iraqi soldiers, shellshocked by weeks of bombing, surrendering in droves.

"It doesn't surprise me that we've had to go back in," said

"I think Saddam has had plenty of time to disarm ... We're fighting for the freedom of everyone to stay away from nuts like that."

Jeff Davidson
Little Rock, Ark.

McGill, who was a seaman aboard the battleship USS Wisconsin in 1991. "I wish we could have taken care of it the first time and we wouldn't have to do all this again."

As Bush's speech came over the television Thursday night in Portland, Ore., a few patrons at Rialto, a downtown bar, jeered at the screen.

"How many people are going to die? What does this have to do with the Twin Towers in New York? It's a huge distraction that is going to cost thousands of lives," said patron Hank Lazenby.

But patrons at a bar in Little Rock, Ark., erupted into applause after Bush announced that the United States and its "coalition of the willing" had launched aerial attacks on Iraq early Thursday.

"I think Saddam has had plenty of time to disarm," said Jeff Davidson, who interrupted a game of pool at the West End Sports Bar. "I pray for everyone as far as our military is concerned."

"We're fighting for the freedom of everyone to stay away from nuts like that."

1,000 U.S. troops raid Afghanistan villages

BY JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

Hunt for al-Qaida one of biggest operations in over year

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — About 1,000 U.S. troops and attack helicopters swept into villages in southern Afghanistan on Thursday in a new military operation to flush out remaining al-Qaida terrorists and their allies, an Army spokesman said.

The operation, code-named "Valiant Strike," began with an early morning air assault assisted by a ground convoy in the remote, mountainous area of southern Kandahar province, Col. Roger King told reporters.

It was a coincidence that the operation began at the same time

as U.S. forces began a broad military operation in Iraq, King said.

"Operations in Afghanistan are conducted completely independent of any operations in other sectors," he said.

An operation of similar size took place in neighboring Helmand province about a month ago. Several suspected militants were killed and about 30 were captured.

The attack was focused in the Maruf district of Kandahar province where the Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Moham-

med Omar has tribal links, according to Khalid Pashtun, a spokesman for the Kandahar provincial government. The U.S. forces and their Afghan allies were looking at least three different villages in the mountainous region.

King said the raids would focus on areas east of Kandahar. The province is the former spiritual headquarters of the ousted Taliban regime, which is allied with the al-Qaida network suspected of carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks.

King declined to say what the goal of the operation was or whether it targeted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The operation was likely to continue for two or three days, said Lt. Coryll Angel, a U.S. military spokesman in Kandahar.

The assault was one of the biggest in Afghanistan since Operation Anaconda just over a year ago, King said. That eight-day battle pitted hundreds of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters against thousands of American and allied Afghan troops.

Since then, the multinational, U.S.-led coalition headquartered at Bagram Air Base has carried out at least a dozen major offensives.

The latest assault involved Blackhawk, Apache and Chinook helicopters along with armored Humvee vehicles.

The military launched the operation after receiving "a mosaic of different intelligence inputs" of activity in the area, King said. Radio transmissions had been detected coming from caves above the villages, military officials in Washington said.



Mohamad Sanosni and his wife, Fatimah, read about the beginning of the war in Iraq during lunch hour Thursday at the central business district in Singapore.

Reaction mixed over attack on Iraq

BY ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — As Saddam Hussein's last chance to avoid invasion slipped away and explosions rocked Baghdad, Australia's leader prayed for the coalition forces but elsewhere protesters gathered outside U.S. diplomatic missions.

In Tokyo, riot police tightened security around the U.S. Embassy, where demonstrators staged a fast. Hundreds of activists surrounded the embassy in Manila, clanging pots and blasting anti-war slogans through bullhorns.

Broadcast live from Sydney to Beijing, the first salvos of the long-anticipated invasion of Iraq were met with a mixture of anger, fear and hope from a world deeply divided over the war ahead.

"I came here because I wanted to do something," said college student Hirochiro Oe, one of six demonstrators fasting outside the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo as riot police in heavy body armor stood nearby. "Ordinary people are going to be the victims of this

war," he said.

Just before the air raid sirens began to wail in Baghdad, one of President Bush's staunchest supporters, Australian Prime Minister Howard, went to church to pray for the safe return of the 2,000 troops he has committed to the U.S.-led coalition.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo also voiced solidarity with Bush.

"The Philippines is part of the coalition of the willing," she said in a speech at the Philippine Military Academy in northern Baguio city. "The war in Iraq is a reality that we expected. We expect it to be surgical, short and swift."

But many political leaders faced a public that remained strongly opposed to the war, which was launched without the mandate of the United Nations Security Council, where France, Russia and Germany led efforts to pursue diplomacy, not force.

"This war has broken out because of American leaders' will to dominate the region. It's a war of conquest," the French Communist Party said in a statement.

The Muslim Council of Britain,



Demonstrators shout slogans outside the U.S. Embassy in Athens during an anti-war rally early Thursday. Hundreds of people holding candles and waving banners condemned a U.S.-led war against Iraq.

which fears military action against Saddam will sour relations between Britain and Muslim countries, condemned the outbreak of war and said it was a "black day in our history."

"Our government should not have been a party to this conflict which has only undermined the United Nations, our own democracy and the rule of law," said its secretary general Iqbal Sacranie.

Officially, Japan is firmly behind Bush.

In a country where the memories of World War II are still painful, however, even senior officials expressed regret that force

couldn't be averted.

"I'm feeling mixed emotions," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told reporters shortly before the first blasts were heard in Baghdad.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a televised meeting with the media, stressed that though Japan supports the U.S. attack on Iraq, it would not take part in combat.

Meanwhile, South Korea's military went on heightened alert Thursday as concerns arose that North Korea could use the distraction of war in Iraq to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Iraq to submit complaint to United Nations

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday he planned to submit a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan branding the onset of U.S.-led military action against his nation "a violation of international law."

"It seems that the war of aggression against my country has started," Mohammed Al-Douri said outside the Iraqi mission.

Al-Douri said he would deliver the letter as early as Thursday.

He added he has not been in contact with leaders in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the most outspoken opponents of military action against Iraq — France, Russia and Germany — insisted the United States will be acting illegally if it attacks Iraq and overthrows Saddam Hussein.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told the U.N. Security Council that no U.N. resolution authorized military action or "the violent overthrow of the leadership of a sovereign state."

There are also "no indisputable facts" to demonstrate that Iraq threatens the United States, he said. If there were, the Bush administration could exercise its right under the U.N. Charter to respond in self-defense.

The foreign ministers of Russia, France and Germany attended an open council meeting held only hours before the clock ran out on a Wednesday evening deadline set by President Bush for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq or face war.

Though the Bush administration has said the time for diplomacy was over, the ministers made a point of attending to reaffirm their opposition to war and assert the primacy of the United Nations.

Declaring that military intervention "has no credibility," Germany's Joschka Fischer also stressed, "There is no basis in the U.N. Charter for a regime change with military means."



An American Oasis.

Some of our stores are in tents, some in trailers and a few are even mobile... but each one brings a bit of home to our troops far away, some in harm's way.

We go where you go!



Gary Tunnell, Oman/Qatar/UAE/Bahrain/Kuwait • Lisa Davis, Oman • Ralph Byerly, Uzbekistan • Debbie Byerly, Oman/UAE
Don Sydlík, Uzbekistan • Pat Walters, Oman • Joe Gray, Pakistan