

State Press

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Iraq plays POW card

Iraqi government uses prisoners as human weapons

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Baghdad government, bombed into bunkers by the sky-high technology of a superpower, turned people into weapons Monday, sending American and other POWs out to target areas as "human shields."

But one fallen American pilot got lucky, being plucked from the Iraqi desert by a daring Air Force rescue mission. Under the cover of two A-10 jets, an Air Force search-and-rescue helicopter picked up the navy A-6 Intruder pilot in an eight-hour mission, Air Force officers said. At one point, an A-10 fired on and destroyed an Iraqi truck driving toward the stranded pilot, they said.

Allied leaders condemned Iraq's treatment of captured pilots as a "war crime" violating the Geneva Convention. Asked whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would later be held accountable, President Bush replied: "You can count on it."

The International Red Cross expressed concern both about Iraq's handling of prisoners and about U.S. bombardment of nuclear installations in Iraq.

On the fifth day of Operation Desert Storm, the U.S.-led military campaign to oust Iraq from occupied Kuwait, allied pilots kept up day-and-night assaults, and a U.S. commander said the air war would last at least another two weeks. Iraq reported 14 raids late Sunday and early Monday.

"It was awesome and it was frightening," British television reporter Brent Sadler said after emerging from Iraq and reaching Amman, Jordan.

Without water and electricity, life in Baghdad was becoming primitive.

Baghdadis who have not fled their ancient riverside city are underground in air raid shelters, Sadler said. People emerge during the day to haul water from the Tigris River, said Peter Arnett of CNN, apparently the last Western correspondent in Baghdad.

Wildly varying and unsubstantiated claims were made on Iraqi casualties.

An anti-Saddam Kurdish resistance group with an established network in Iraq said the military suffered almost 4,000 casualties in the war's first three days. He did not distinguish between dead and wounded. An anti-Saddam Iraqi religious leader even spoke of 70,000 military and 30,000 civilian casualties. Neither offered evidence.

The Iraqi government itself reported Sunday that 40 civilians and 31 soldiers had been killed.

The U.S. command asserts repeatedly that its "smart" weapons are zeroing in on strategic targets and causing minimal civilian damage. Reporters in Baghdad, whose movements were generally limited, said they saw no heavy damage to civilian areas.



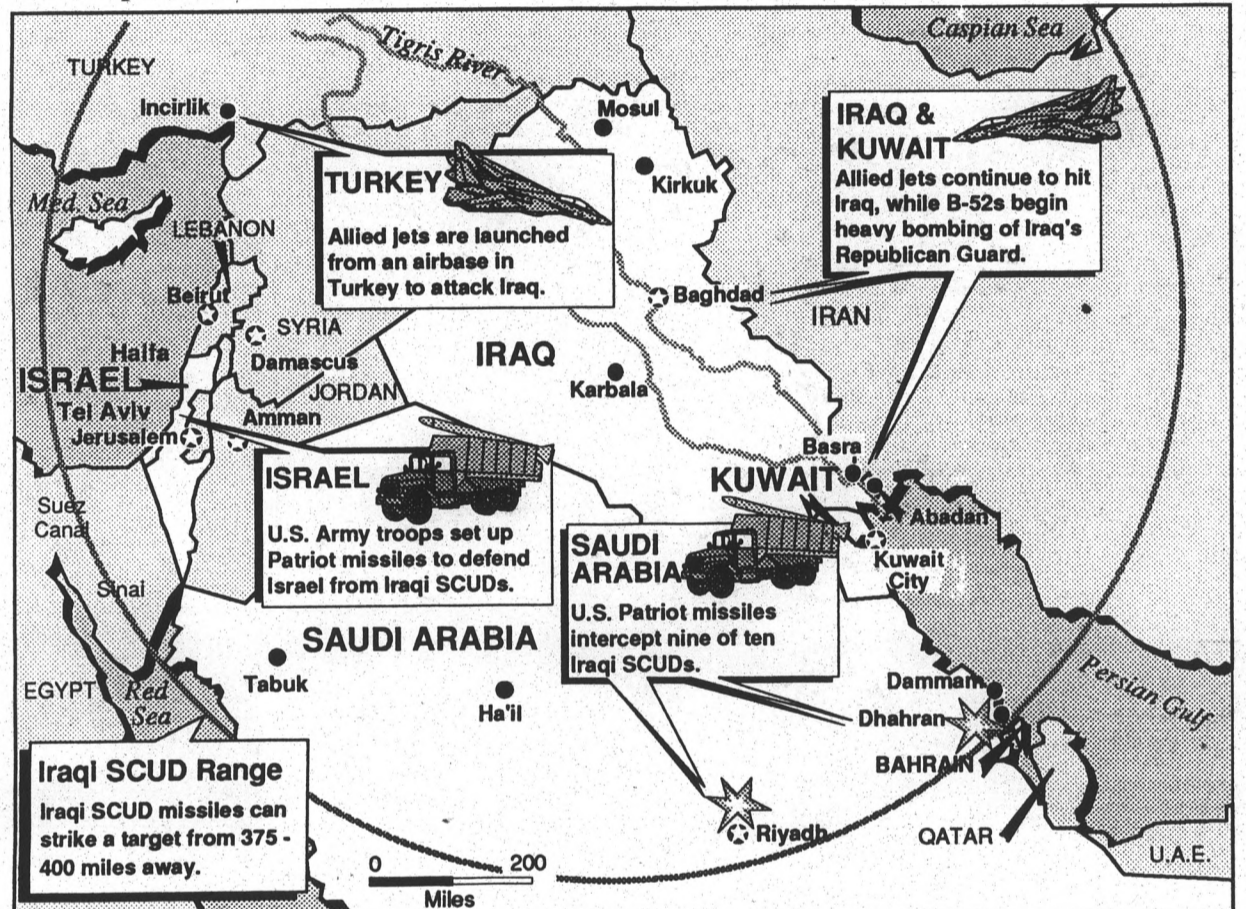
Associated Press photo

Lt. Col. Cliff Acree of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is shown delivering a statement on Iraqi television. Iraq said Monday that it is turning allied prisoners into 'human shields' to guard against what it called U.S. attacks on civilian targets.



WAR UPDATE

A recap of events that occurred over the holiday weekend.



Sources: KRTN, AP and News reports

Steven Kricun/State Press

But the Iraqis cited alleged attacks on civilian sites in announcing they were sending more than 20 captured allied airmen out to "civilian, economic, education and other targets" in an attempt to ward off allied bombardments.

Iraq found support for its claims from an unexpected source — its neighbor and former enemy Iran.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement said reports from target areas showed the "U.S. attacks have exceeded military goals. ... in some instances Iraqi cities and the innocent people of Iraq have been attacked."

Iraq similarly used Western civilian hostages as "human shields" at strategic sites late last year after the onset of the gulf crisis. Those hostages were eventually freed and left Iraq.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said the hostage-shield tactic would not affect U.S. strategy.

The United States lists 21 allied servicemen as missing in the war, 12 of them Americans. The Iraqis displayed three American and four allied POWs on Baghdad television on Sunday, and two of the Americans, clearly under duress, made anti-war statements. The videotape reached American TV screens by Monday.

"America is angry," Bush said Monday morning as he returned from his weekend retreat at Camp David, Md.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it was "making representations" about what it said were Iraqi actions incompatible with the Third Geneva Convention on treatment of prisoners of war, an agreement to which all Persian Gulf combatant nations are signatories.

Red Cross officials said the convention prohibits using prisoners for propaganda purposes and their presence to render areas immune to attack.

The committee's deputy legal chief, Francois Bugnon, also expressed concern about a U.S. announcement that it had damaged Iraqi nuclear facilities.

He noted that neither the United States nor Iraq are parties to convention protocols specifying that "installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dikes and

nuclear electrical generating stations, shall not be made the object of attack."

Bugnon stressed he had no specific information on what kind of installations had been attacked, but "it worries us because of the humanitarian consequence that could result."

Western strategists say Iraq's nuclear-weapons potential was targeted in the air war. It has at least two research reactors, and other nuclear research sites.

An official of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, said agency specialists believe bombardment of the two reactors is unlikely to produce a radiation hazard.

The anti-Saddam Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said Monday that allied bombing had destroyed nuclear, biological and chemical facilities, armament factories, at least six airbases, and four oil refineries.

The U.S. military command has issued little specific information on targets and results. In its daily briefing

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U.S. pilot rescued from Iraqi desert

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — In a daring dash into enemy territory, a U.S. Air Force rescue mission plucked a downed Navy pilot from the Iraqi desert Monday and flew him back to safety, military officials said.

An air force search-and-rescue helicopter picked up the A-6 "Intruder" pilot shortly after two A-10 ground support bombers strafed an Iraqi army truck headed straight toward the airman, air force officers said.

"We could not allow him (the truck) to be there," said Capt. Randy Goff, one of the A-10 "Warthog" pilots. "We couldn't take the risk."

Military officials did not release the identity of the rescued flyer.

They said he ejected into a featureless expanse of the desert after being hit by ground fire while taking part in the bombing of Iraq.

Goff, 26, from Jackson, Ohio, and Capt. Paul Johnson, 32, of Dresden, Tenn., members of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing from Myrtle Beach, S.C., spent over eight hours in the air, refueling four times as they located the Navy pilot around midday and talked to him over the radio.

A plan was formed to bring in the rescue helicopter.

"It is really exciting — the fact that you think the guy is going to get rescued," Goff said. "My mind was just rushing."

As the rescue helicopter neared the pre-arranged pickup spot, a large Iraqi truck drove into the area, apparently headed straight for the rescue site.

"Unfortunately, the truck was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Goff said.

The two A-10s raked the vehicle with 30mm machine guns. The truck was left smoking and in flames as the helicopter arrived. The downed pilot broke from cover and ran to safety. It was the only time the

two A-10 flyers saw him.

"The adrenalin was pumping for two hours after the pickup," Johnson said. "It's still pumping now."

When he returned to base there was a telephone message from the Navy pilot, Johnson said. "It's pretty much unprintable, but yes, he's real pleased," he said.

Further details on the mission — such as how long the pilot was on the ground, the amount of time the rescuers spent in enemy territory, and the location of the rescue — were not immediately available.

Iraq fires at Saudi Arabia, two missiles land in desert

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — At least one Iraqi SCUD missile was destroyed in the sky over Riyadh early Tuesday by a U.S. Patriot anti-missile missile, witnesses said, and two SCUDs landed in unpopulated stretches of desert, according to diplomatic sources.

There were no reported injuries.

Witnesses in Riyadh said that at least one Patriot missile was fired shortly after air raid sirens howled across the city at 3:45 a.m. (7:45 p.m. EST Monday.) It was not immediately possible to reach military officials for confirmation.

Deborah Wang, a National Public Radio reporter, said she reached the roof of the 11-story Hyatt Regency hotel just in time to see a white streak go up from the ground, followed by a white flash in the sky and "a yellow flash in the sky and two quick explosions" directly above city.

Hotel guests grabbed their gas masks and rushed into a basement shelter.

The hotel is near the Saudi Defense Ministry building.

Witnesses on the rooftop did not report

seeing any other missile interceptions.

Diplomatic sources, meanwhile, said that two missiles fell into the desert shortly after 4 a.m. (8 p.m. EST Monday.)

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they did not know whether the Patriot anti-missile system had been used to try to down the missiles.

One SCUD missile landed and exploded 60 miles north of Riyadh; the other fell and blew up 120 miles east of the capital, they said, reporting no damage.

The attack followed an early morning alert in Riyadh. After the missiles fell, the all-clear signal was sounded.

On Monday night, one SCUD fell into the Persian Gulf, off the coast of a major Saudi Arabian port, but no damage was reported.

Iraq fired 10 SCUD missiles into Saudi Arabia late Sunday and early Monday. U.S. Patriot air defense missiles destroyed nine and one fell harmlessly into the Persian Gulf, according to U.S. officials.

The attacks, the most concentrated by Iraq so far, were aimed at Riyadh and Dhahran in the Eastern province.

Saudis at Kuwaiti front pull back as war starts

IN SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — Saudi units assigned to the front line near Kuwait to demonstrate Arab resolve moved to positions behind U.S. forces the first night of the war, angering some American and British soldiers.

Saudi officials acknowledge the pullback but insist it was, in the words of an official military source, "a planned withdrawal."

American military sources said the U.S. command knew about it ahead of time, but they did not know how far in advance. The U.S. command has refused official comment.

A Saudi official quoted anonymously by the Saudi Press Agency said the withdrawal was planned well ahead of hostilities and designed to protect the Saudi infantry unit from Iraqi artillery and rocket fire during

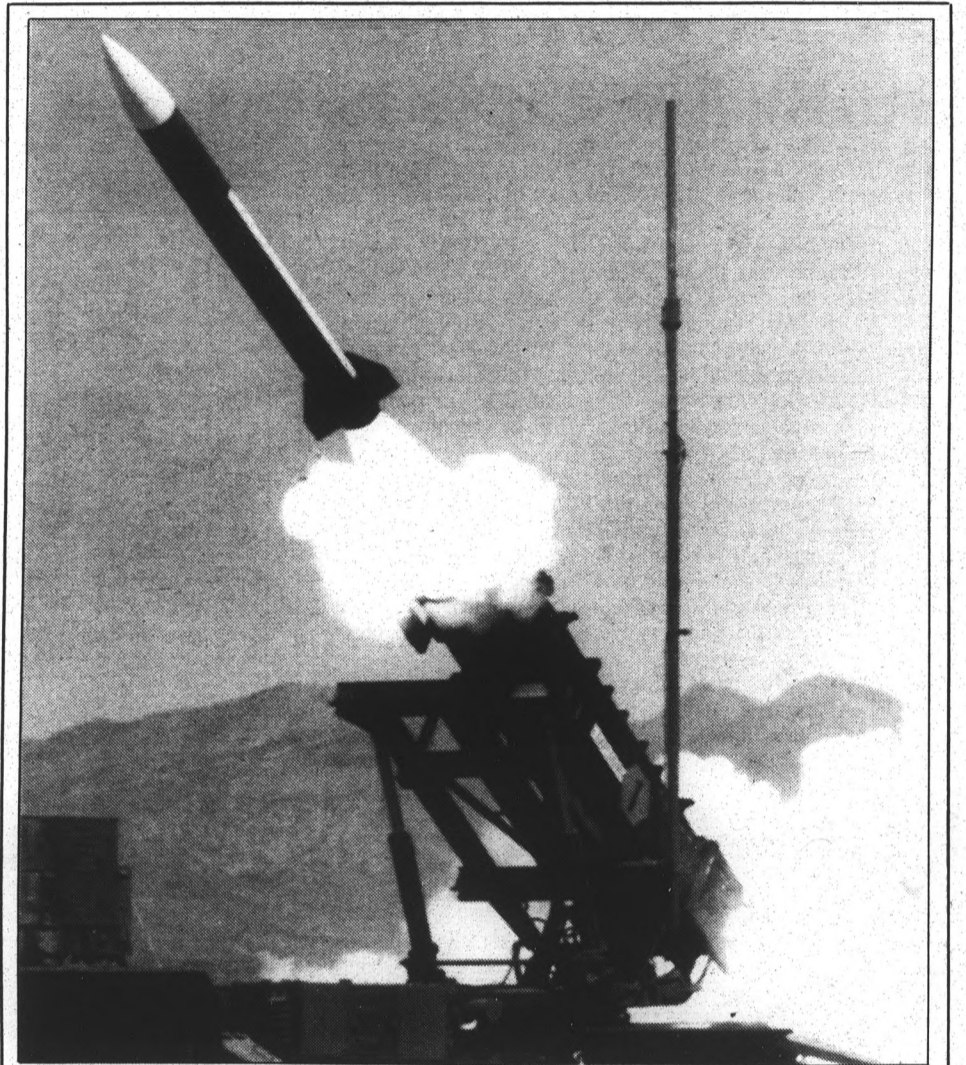
the air war. Military regulations do not allow the size of the unit to be revealed.

A U.S. Marine officer in the area said the Saudis pulled back just before allied forces, including Saudi pilots, began a bombing campaign against Iraqi positions in Iraq and southern Kuwait, including some within 50 miles of the Saudi-Kuwait border.

"We're essentially the front now," said the Marine officer, who would not let his name be used.

If the Saudi troops "had come by here" when they were pulling back, said a British officer in the border area, "I'd have turned my bloody guns on them and sent them back."

Saudi troops also are stationed to the west, in the Hafir al Batin area about 60 miles south of the Kuwait-Iraq border.



Associated Press photo

Patriot launch

This undated handout photograph shows the launching of a Patriot missile, which is produced by the Raytheon Company based in Lexington, Mass. The missiles are now on station in Israel and Saudi Arabia to protect against incoming SCUD missiles launched by Iraq.

Another Saudi official said, also anonymously, that the withdrawal "was according to the plan." He said "civilians had already been evacuated from the area and this was a plan to evacuate the area."

U.S. Marines remain, however, and have inched north, harassed every day by artillery and rocket fire from Iraqi forces just across the Kuwaiti border. Several Marines have been reported slightly wounded.

Two American airmen captured by Iraq were the pilot and observer in a Marine scout plane that was directing return fire by the Marines just south of the frontier.

"Our guys are up there getting shot at, jumping into NBC (chemical protective) suits three, four times a day," the Marine officer said.

The British officer said the Saudis left small items of equipment and some personal items behind.

War

Continued from page 1.

Monday at Riyadh headquarters, the command said more than 8,000 air sorties had been flown thus far, and nine U.S. and five allied aircraft have been lost to hostile fire.

But Air Force Maj. Gen. Burton Moore said "we are nowhere near" achieving a prime objective of the campaign — to wreck Iraq's ability to launch Scud missiles into Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The biggest barrage yet of Scuds rained down on Saudi Arabia Sunday night and early Monday. All were intercepted and destroyed by U.S. Patriot defense missiles — except for one that fell harmlessly into the gulf.

Meanwhile, out aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kennedy in the Red Sea, task force commander Rear Adm. Riley Mixson told reporters the air war will last at least two more weeks before a decisive ground offensive could begin against Iraq's dug-in troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

The allies have not let up in the pounding of those Iraqi forces, particularly the Republican Guards, the elite core of the defense of Kuwait.

Refugees crossing into Jordan from Iraq said Monday they saw heavy bombardment of Guard positions in the southern

Iraqi port city of Basra. The official news agency in Iran, across the Shatt al-Arab waterway from Basra, said three waves of allied bombers struck Basra on Sunday afternoon.

One military official in Washington cautioned, however, that the Republican Guards — an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 men — "are not sitting ducks." They are probably well dispersed in deep, camouflaged bunkers, with their armored vehicles protected.

More than 300,000 American, British and other allied armored, infantry and airborne units have been taking up position on Saudi Arabia's northern desert frontier for an expected onslaught against the half-million Iraqi troops in Kuwait and Iraq.

Bush ordered the attack on Iraq last Thursday, one day after the expiration of a U.N. Security Council deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, after which the council authorized military action.

The Iraqis invaded the small, oil-rich emirate Aug. 2 after the collapse of negotiations over Iraqi grievances relating to territory, oil and Iraqi debts to Kuwait.

Even before the war broke out, American commanders

had said they would probably not be ready for a ground offensive until February at the earliest. The U.S. force in Operation Desert Storm continues to grow — the Pentagon said Monday it numbers 472,000.

Peace efforts continued. The Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said Iran, India, Yugoslavia and Algeria were prime backers of a renewed peace initiative by the non-aligned movement of Third World nations.

In New York, India has begun discussions in the Security Council about a possible 48-to-72-hour cease-fire. But a U.S. diplomat rejected the idea, saying privately, "When Iraq obeys the council resolutions and pulls out of Kuwait, then the Security Council can meet on the Persian Gulf again."

Iraqi radio said Saddam rejected a peace proposal by Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who sent a letter saying he would intercede with Bush to suspend hostilities if Saddam agreed to announce plans to withdraw from Kuwait.

The radio quoted Saddam as telling Gorbachev that Bush "has committed aggression" and "therefore your letter should have been addressed to him and not to Saddam Hussein and his aggrieved people."

Families see video of captured airmen

By The Associated Press

The agony for the families of U.S. servicemen Iraq captured deepened Monday as Iraq said it would disperse the prisoners to places that could be military targets.

Mary Hunter, wife of Chief Warrant Officer Guy Hunter, learned Friday he was missing. "I felt like somebody stuck a dagger into my heart," she said.

Then Sunday, Iraq claimed he was a prisoner of war. Until the military confirms the report, she said, "I can't get my hopes up real high, even though I have."

And Monday, more: Iraq said it had more than 20 U.S. and allied airmen and would scatter them among "civilian, economic, education and other targets."

"We all feel very scared, but with this news of him being a POW, we all feel somewhat relieved to know that he is alive," Mrs. Hunter said in a statement released through Camp Pendleton in Southern California. "I will hope and pray each minute and day for his release to us."

"I've been a Marine wife for 14 years and I am very proud of my husband and all that he has done," she said. "This is his choice in life to be the best Marine he can be and I support him all the way."

Hunter, 46, and Lt. Col. Clifford Acree, 39, from Camp Pendleton, and Navy Lt. Jeffrey N. Zaun, 28, from the USS Saratoga, went down in combat with Iraqi forces last week.

Iraq on Sunday broadcast televised interviews with them and four other men it

said it had captured. Audio tape was heard in the United States the same day; videotape was played Monday. Several of the airmen had swollen faces, two had bruises, one had cuts on his forehead and eyes. It was unclear how the injuries occurred.

Zaun's father, Calvin, was asked in Cherry Hill, N.J., if he had seen his son. "Yes, but because he's a prisoner, the government has asked us not to say anything to the papers," he said before hanging up.

The Pentagon didn't comment on the interviews, but the U.S. State Department sent a strong protest to Iraq, noting that mistreatment of prisoners is a war crime.

There has been much speculation about the how the captured servicemen are being treated. Several prisoners of war during Vietnam say the tapes indicate the men were coerced into making comments such as this one by Zaun: "I think our leaders and our people have wrongly attacked the peaceful people of Iraq."

U.S. Rep. Pete Peterson, held nearly seven years by the Vietnamese, said that if the captives were not being tortured, "it's probably the first time in warfare that it hasn't been done."

"I think already we can assume these men are being mistreated," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was held prisoner in Vietnam for 5½ years.

Acree's wife, Cindy, and the couple's 11-year-old daughter were away from their



Associated Press photo
British Flight Lt. John Peters appears on Iraqi television in a photograph that became available in Paris Monday. Peters is alleged to be a POW captured by the Iraqi army.

Oceanside, Calif., home Sunday in an effort to avoid reporters. She has not commented on the Iraqi videotape.

"He has the support of many family and friends and we are all praying for him," she said earlier. "Wherever he is, he knows that I love him more than anything in this world and I always will."

Hunter and Acree were flying a Marine OV-10 Bronco, a turboprop observation plane that supports other combat aircraft, when they were shot down in southern Kuwait.

"I don't want to think about him being tortured. I don't want him to die a slow death," Mrs. Hunter said.

Stocks down, oil prices up worldwide as war continues

By The Associated Press

Stocks declined and oil prices strengthened around the world Monday on sober reassessments about the possible duration of the Persian Gulf war.

Much of the euphoria over stunning allied successes in the opening salvos against Iraq had diffused, and investors had second thoughts about how brief and painless the war actually will be.

As the week began, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein raised the stakes further by launching more SCUD missiles at Saudi Arabia and announcing American POWs would be used as human shields.

Activity was relatively thin on world financial markets and some observers said it indicated investors are still jittery.

But Ralph Acampora, an analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. in New York, interpreted light trading as a sign "investors are not panicking out. Some are taking profits, but there's no change of heart."

Some investment strategists said trading also was slower because of the federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Although the stock market was open, many banks were closed.

On Wall Street, stock prices dropped at the opening bell and held at depressed levels. But the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial issues was lifted from its lows in the final half hour of trading to end the day at 2,629.21, down 17.57 points.

"There is a shakeout of euphoria following last week's successful air attacks by the U.S.," said Eugene Peroni, an analyst with Janney Montgomery Scott Inc., a Philadelphia investment firm. "Now investors are digging in ... assessing their positions."

Although losses were widespread, technology and defense-related stocks got a big boost from what the military has called the impressive performance of high-tech weaponry, used for the first time in the Gulf war.

Stocks also fell in major foreign markets. Tokyo's Nikkei average of 225 selected issues lost about 456 points, or nearly 2 percent, to finish at the 23,352 level. In

London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index was down almost 19 points at 2,084.

Crude oil prices, which fell below \$20-a-barrel to a six-month low on Friday, climbed higher worldwide in what analysts said was a predictable rebound.

"This is just correcting what was overdone last week," said James Fiedler, a vice president with E.D.F. & Man International Inc., in reference to last week's \$8 drop in crude prices.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, crude oil for next-month delivery gained \$2.05 to settle at \$21.30 a barrel. That's still only about half the value of oil reached in mid-October, when it traded above \$40 a barrel.

Volume was light, which "goes to show you how uncertain we are about the progress of war," said Nauman Barakat, an analyst with Merrill Lynch Energy Futures in New York. He said trading is still "very sensitive to headline news."

Indeed, the price of crude spiked up temporarily over a report that Saudi Arabia was under air-raid alert.

In overseas energy markets, the March contract for North Sea Brent Blend, an important grade of crude oil traded in Europe, stood at \$19.25 a barrel in London, up \$1.05 from Friday. In late Tokyo trading, Brent reached a high of \$19.20 per barrel before falling back to \$18.75.

In other financial markets, interest rates rose and bond prices declined, though trading of U.S. Treasuries was thin because markets closed early in observance of the King holiday.

Gold prices advanced. The metal was up more than \$2 an ounce in London and more than \$4 an ounce in New York.

The dollar fell worldwide in thin trading.



Associated Press photo
Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange keep an eye on their monitors during trading Monday morning. Stock prices moved downward worldwide and oil prices advanced as concern increased over the war in the Persian Gulf lasting longer than expected.

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Unit's spirits 'real good'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A member of an Indiana-based U. S. Air Force Reserve unit serving in Operation Desert Storm said Monday the spirits of people in the unit are "real good."

Some members of the unit are working 12-hour shifts at an air base and spend the rest of their time sleeping, playing cards and watching Cable News Network, Staff Sgt. Joe Brown said from Saudi Arabia. Brown, 29, an aircraft mechanic with the 434th Air Refueling Wing out of Grissom Air Force Base, is from Wheeling, Ind.

"We need beer," he said. U. S. servicemen are forbidden from drinking alcohol there because it is not allowed under Islam.

When asked how they were reacting to the initial stages of the war against Iraq, Brown said, "Real good. It was more or less, 'It's about time, so let's do it and get it done.'"

"I think for the most part they expect it to be fairly short," he said.

Of the television accounts of anti-war protests at home, Brown said, the unit members "knew there was a chance something like this could happen when they signed up. No one was forced into the military by the draft, so no one should be complaining."

However, the members of the 434th feel they are receiving good support from the American public as a whole, he said.

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — A Muslim and Islamic support group here is helping young Arab-Americans deal with racial taunts from classmates and a sense of confusion resulting from the war in the Persian Gulf.

Several young people of Arab ancestry met Sunday at the Colorado Muslim Society and Islamic Center in Aurora.

Many said they have endured sarcasm and stereotypical comments about their religion, heritage and homeland.

Tariq, a 10-year-old whose parents are Palestinian, said classmates have taunted him.

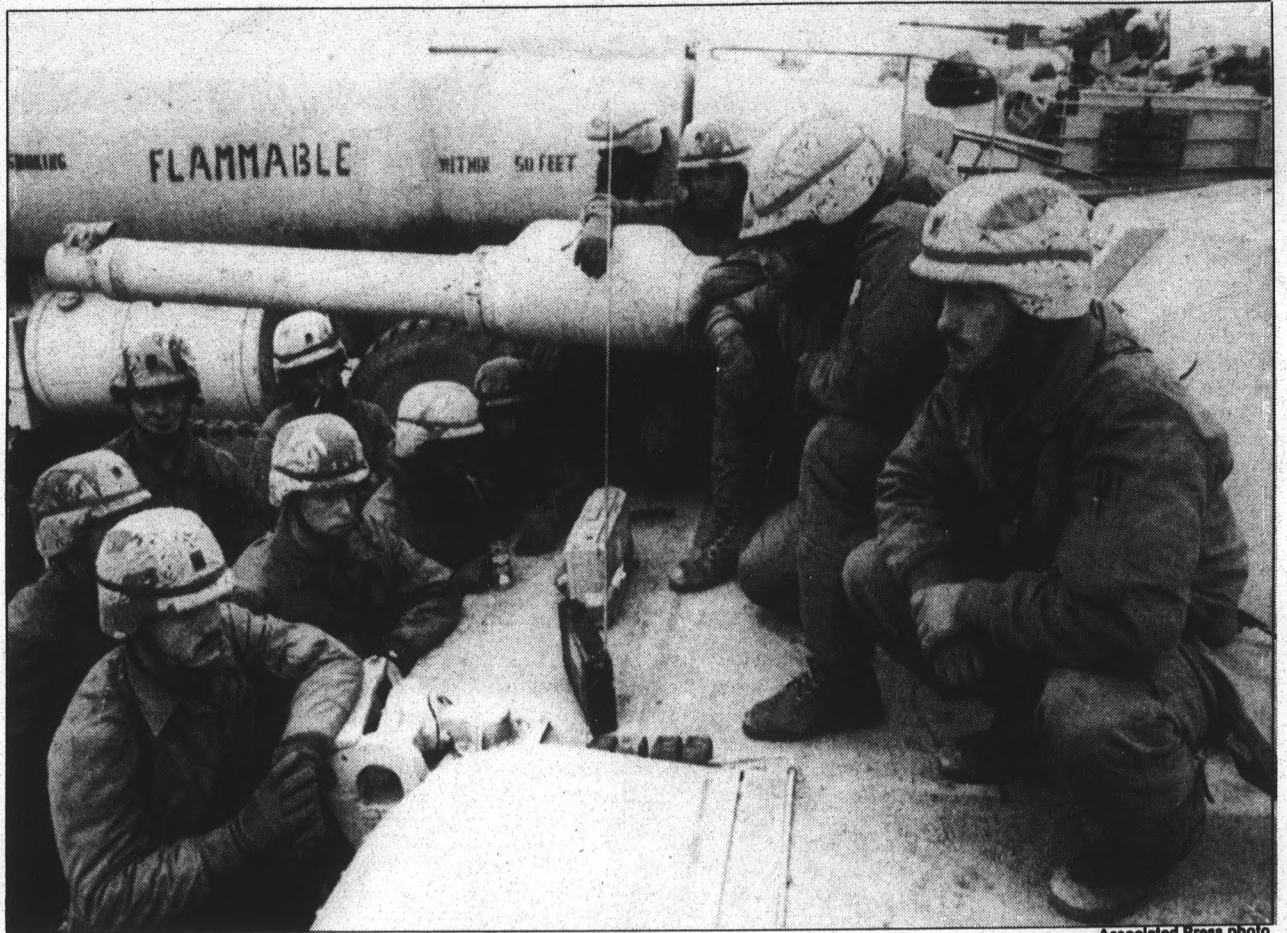
"It's hard to defend yourself when there's so many against you," he said.

Sultana, a 16-year-old Denver high school student, said she often feels outnumbered among American classmates. Sultana is a Muslim whose father is a native of Afghanistan.

"They call me a Communist, a terrorist," she said. "They say all Arabs are dirty."

Some youths said the war is forcing them to choose between their ancestral faith and their adopted country.

"I don't agree with everything that Saddam Hussein is doing," 13-year-old Jihan said. "But I don't agree with all that Bush is doing, either. I'm a Muslim. I'm in the middle."



American troops from the 3rd Battalion, 32nd Armored Regiment of the 1st Cavalry, based at Ft. Hood, Texas, listen to a radio news broadcast about the Gulf war around a M1A1 Abrams tank in the Saudi desert. The 1st Cavalry maintains positions near the Kuwaiti border.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Alongside the babies and children being baptized at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral was 21-year-old Roger Mendoza, a machine gunner in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserves.

As a rule, adult baptisms at the church are performed only at Easter.

But Mendoza's circumstances were extraordinary "danger of death," said the Rev. Michael J. Sis.

Mendoza's unit had been told to report for active duty at 6 a.m. Monday.

"We've been called up. We haven't been told officially that we're going to Saudi Arabia, but it's pretty obvious," Mendoza said.

Mendoza, who left college last year to join the reserves, just completed his training last month.

He said he hadn't been particularly active in the Catholic Church for some time, but during the rigors of basic training found comfort in it.

When he found out last week that he was being called up, Mendoza decided to be baptized Sunday.

"I just wanted to make sure, in case anything happens. I just wanted to make sure I made my peace with God," he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — In response to Iraq's \$32,000 bounty for captured allied pilots, a group on Monday offered 10 times that to anyone who saves a downed pilot and returns him to allied forces.

"This is a very good morale booster, and maybe there will be an organized effort to save them," said Leonid Roytman, who hastily organized Save American and Allied Pilots after hearing of the Iraqi offer.

Roytman, a professor of electrical engineering at City College, said he called two dozen colleagues, friends and neighbors on the affluent north shore of New York's Long Island on Saturday night and got pledges totaling \$1 million to back up the reward offer.

Saddam Hussein's government has announced rewards ranging up to \$32,000 for anyone who captures downed allied fliers.

Speaking of Saddam, Roytman said: "If this idiot offers \$32,000, we'll offer 10 times that. If money talks, let's do it."

SCUDs prime target for allied forces, but mission is difficult

IN CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — The day's mission for the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing Provisional was stated simply: "Kill SCUDs. Come Home!"

The message is repeated across the Persian Gulf, from dusty air bases to carrier ready rooms. The Iraqi missile, the terror weapon of the Iran-Iraq war, has become the prime target for allied pilots.

"We continue to aggressively pursue

(Saddam's) fixed and mobile SCUD capability," Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Monday. "We are pursuing that objective as aggressively as is reasonably possible."

The redoubled efforts to destroy the Soviet-made missiles came after Sunday night's mini-blitz on the Saudi cities of Dhahran and Riyadh. Ten missiles were

fired from Iraq or Kuwait. Nine were destroyed by U.S. Patriot air defense missiles. A tenth fell harmlessly into the gulf.

Additional pressure to get the mobile missiles comes from Israel, hit last week by SCUDs. The attacks raised fears the Jewish state would retaliate and thereby rupture the allied coalition against Iraq.

But the hunt for the SCUDs is a difficult one, complicated by bad weather and the elusive tactics of the Iraqi military.

"SCUDs are a difficult target — it's a needle in a haystack. They're not very big. They're camouflaged," said Col. Hal Hornburg, commander of the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing Provisional.

And they move. Once a missile leaves the rail of its mobile launcher, the launcher is on the move to a new hiding place.

"It represents a difficult targeting dilemma, but one that we are on big time and one that we will stay on big time," Kelly said.

Kelly also noted that the Iraqis have been setting up vehicles to look like the mobile launchers.

"They do use decoys and they use them well," Kelly said.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the gulf, said he believes allied pilots have managed to "neutralize" all of Iraq's estimated 30 fixed SCUD launchers.

He estimated the Iraqis have another 20-plus mobile launchers that fire the 30-foot missiles, some with an estimated range of up to 600 miles.

Overcast skies over Iraq have turned

waves of fighter-bombers back home with bombs still under their wings.

"You do that one or two days and it's not too bad, but you do that day in and day out — you know, we're starting to mentally and physically feel the tension because we don't like to bring these bombs back," said Maj. Tim Rush, an F-16A fighter pilot with the South Carolina Air National Guard.

To counter the weather, the allied command has ordered F-15E all-weather fighter-bombers to search Iraq both day and night. The urgency was highlighted by the fact the F-15Es made their takeoffs in the fog.

"The capabilities of the aircraft to radar-map the SCUD are good and that gives us an enhanced opportunity to go out and find 'em and kill 'em," Hornburg said.

Rush said the F-15E and other allied aircraft equipped for night and bad weather bombing missions including the F-111 and the Tornado "are doing good work."

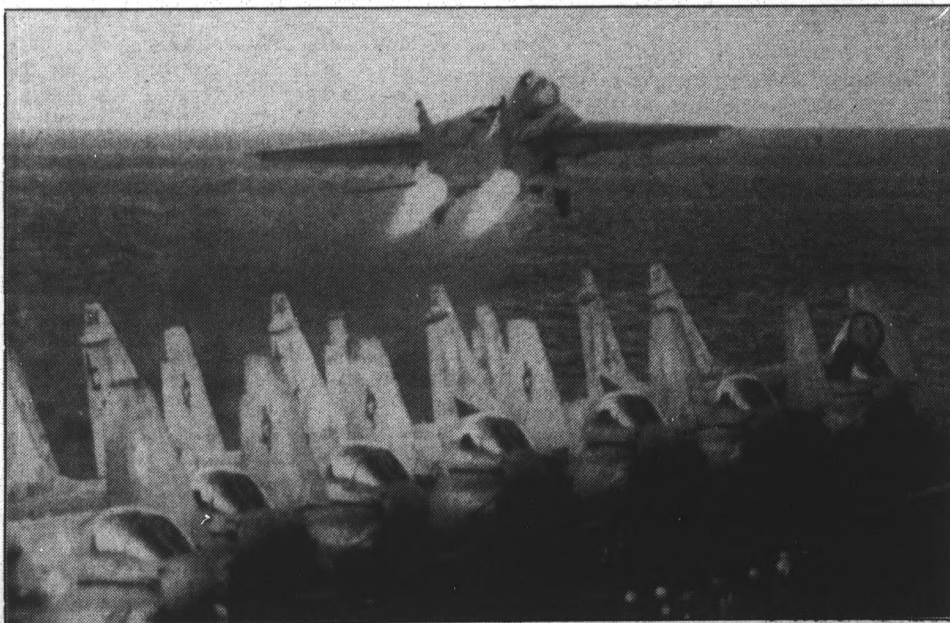
British pilots had some success over the weekend, pinpointing two key missile sites with low-flying reconnaissance missions.

"We are delighted that our missions have been so successful," said Brian Robinson, a Tornado pilot. "The SCUDs have to be found and that's it."

The urgency of the hunt is shared by pilots and their ground crews.

Col. Ray Davies, chief maintenance officer for the 4th Tactical Wing, watched F-15Es fly off Sunday night on SCUD searching missions.

"We had a beautiful takeoff — 24 planes all going after SCUDs," he said.



A U.S. Navy F-14 lifts off from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy above a row of A-7 Corsairs on its way to a bombing raid against Iraq late last week. Carrier based planes have been used extensively in such bombing raids.