

Sub crew hears Bush loud and clear

From A1

chief petty officer. "You don't have to pretty it up. There's too much of that going on everywhere else."

"Adamant," one first-class petty officer said when asked to describe the speech.

In the wardroom, or officers' mess, there was discussion about the way Bush widened the circle of people he expects to leave Iraq — not only Saddam Hussein, but his two sons as well.

"It makes it seem less like he's trying to finish what his father started in the first Gulf War, and more about the need

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for a regime change," said one officer.

In the crew's mess, there was relief that Bush had warned the Iraqi military against using weapons of mass destruction because they could face war crimes trials later.

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At periscope depth, with the

submarine's High Data Rate antenna raised, the submarine can receive a television signal from the GBS, or Global Broadcast Service, back at the Commander of Naval Submarine Forces office in Norfolk, Va.

In 2001, when the Providence fired the opening shots in Operation Enduring Freedom against the Taliban in Afghanistan, it was unable to receive live broadcasts.

"Now we're watching CNN in the wardroom," one officer observed. "Makes you feel a lot more connected to what's going on back home."

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The nuclear submarine USS Providence is currently on station in the Red Sea southwest of Iraq. Its crew has been waiting to see what the boat's mission will be, but events of the past two days have solidified the crew's feelings that they will be going to war.

American stays in Baghdad in name of peace

By DARREN BARBEE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cliff Kindy wants people to know that the neighborhood outside his hotel room in Baghdad, Iraq, is a real place with real people.

Many of the Iraqis he has met since October will die if war comes this week, he says. And he is willing to stay and die with them, if need be.

Looking out of his window he can see furniture shops, a fish market and two churches in the south central part of the city where many expect that fighting may begin this week.

Kindy and the other members of a Christian Peacemaker Team still hope war can be averted — and lives saved — through prayer and living the example of Jesus' call to love your enemy.

The 53-year-old Indiana man is among four U.S. citizens and two Canadians who are set on remaining at the hotel Al Daar to model Christian ideals in a place where the potential for death looms large.

"When bad things are happening to people, maybe the place for Christians to be is there with them," Kindy said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Foreign nationals have been urged by President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to leave Iraq. In an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Sunday, Powell called it a dangerous time in Baghdad.

The State Department has warned that civilians could be kidnapped and used to protect military installations in Iraq.

"It's a judgment each of them will have to make, not just from the threat of potential military action, but from the threat of Saddam Hussein taking them as hostages," Powell said Sunday.

Unlike "human shields," volunteers who say they will attempt to protect innocents in Iraq by putting themselves in harm's way, the peacemakers work to build relationships between warring nations. The peacemaker team, which has included volunteers from North Texas and Austin, is an extension of Voices in the Wilderness, a Chicago-based independent grass-roots organization. Team members have visited facilities such as hospitals, schools and markets.

On Tuesday, Kindy and other team members asked themselves why they have chosen to stay.

Kindy found his answer in the Christian celebration of Lent, a season of fasting and sacrifice that started this month and leads up to Easter.

"I think the thing that drives me is the recognition that through the resurrection, death has been defeated. Life is stronger than death," he said. "My willingness to be in places of the impossible allows God to work a miracle."

But team members are still taking precautions. If a U.S. bombardment begins, they will take cover in a hotel bomb shelter where they have gathered food, water and medical supplies. But team members rate their chances of survival using "the Hemlock Factor." On Tuesday, one of the peacemakers grimly predicted their chances of survival are one in four.

Canadian Lisa Martens said she has a plane ticket for a departure in May. But she will stay through whatever comes.

"This might sound insane. I do understand the risk I'm taking. I realize that I could be in grave danger. However, I still have hope that because the majority of people in the world, millions upon millions, do not want this war, I still have hope it may not happen."

Martens, 25, from Winnipeg, Ontario, said the Iraqis she has met are "just like the people back home."

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