

# The Day

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## AMERICA AT WAR

*'The regime is starting to lose control of their country.'*

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld

# BAGHDAD SHATTERED

## KEY TARGETS BLASTED; GROUND FORCES ADVANCE



GORAN TOMASEVIC/Reuters

Following devastating airstrikes by allied forces Friday, fires raged in and around President Saddam Hussein's main palace complex in Baghdad. The presidential compound, which is located on the west bank of the Tigris River, is the official center of the Iraqi state, and home to the offices of the prime minister's staff, the Cabinet and a Republican Guard camp.

### Two U.S. Marines Killed In Fighting



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld

#### Thousands of Iraqis surrender to allied troops

By PATRICK E. TYLER  
New York Times News Service

Kuwait City — In a blaze of heavy bombing, American air power devastated parts of Baghdad on Friday night, including several government buildings and palaces built by Saddam Hussein, as waves of fresh ground forces swarmed into Iraq from the south.

The troops crossing the border from Kuwait to Iraq followed rapidly advancing

units whose vanguard of tanks had penetrated as much as 100 miles northward, about a third of the way to the capital, Baghdad.

Troops fanned out across southern Iraq to seize a port, strategic oil fields and refineries on an eastern flank near the city of Basra. To the west, Army and Marine units took control of air fields and cleared a wide path through the desert for the expected assault on Baghdad.

Two Marines were killed in fighting on Friday, one in a night of skirmishing to take the port of Umm Qasr and the other during a firefight at the Rumaila oil field. Their deaths

See 'SHOCK AND AWE' page A2

### Family Members Just Wait And Hope

#### With their loved ones in harm's way, it's about all they can do

By GLADYS ALCEDO and PATRICIA DADDONA  
Day Staff Writers

It's been a harrowing week for the families of military personnel.

On Monday, President Bush ordered Saddam Hussein to get out of Iraq in 48 hours. Less than two hours after that deadline passed Wednesday night, the United States launched "surgical" air strikes against Baghdad.

American and British forces began a ground attack Thursday, and on Friday massive bombing lit up the

Baghdad skyline.

As those scenes played out on television screens, family members did what they could to cope as they went about their daily lives. And always, they kept their loved ones in their thoughts.

Here are the stories of four of them:

#### Kitty Currier

For 21 days, she can hear his voice and the words, "I'm safe."

Every time Kitty Currier of Groton finishes listening to the voice-mail message from her son, Damian Michael Currier, 25, she saves it and notes the time limit set by her cell phone provider. After three weeks, the message

See FAMILIES page A7

### 'Way To Go, Men': USS Providence Joins The Fray

#### DISPATCHES AT SEA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook are aboard a Navy submarine covering the war.

#### Groton-based sub launches missiles against Saddam

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON  
Day Staff Writer

Aboard the USS Providence

A SLIGHT SHUDDER RAN through the submarine USS Providence as the sun set over

the Red Sea on Thursday, the only hint that one of its Tomahawk missiles had left a torpedo tube and was speeding toward a target in Iraq.

A few minutes later, Cmdr. Jonathan H. Kan came on the ship's public address system: "This is the captain. Well done to get us to this point. The missiles transitioned to cruise, so they're on their way."

News reports have said other submarines fired the opening salvo of the war earlier in the day. But

crewmen note with pride that the Providence, which fired missiles against Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan during its deployment in 2001, is the first submarine to fire missiles on consecutive deployments.

The Department of Defense has asked that the number of missiles fired from each ship, and the names of other ships taking part in the operation, not be disclosed for security considerations.

See PROVIDENCE page A3



The periscope video view of a Tomahawk cruise missile as it breaks the surface of the Red Sea following its launch from the USS Providence Thursday.

U.S. NAVY/The Day

### INSIDE

**Hordes of Iraqi soldiers**, underfed and overwhelmed, surrendered Friday in the face of a state-of-the-art air assault. "I kind of felt sorry for them," one U.S. military official said of the rag-tag soldiers, many of them draftees. A4

**Big charities** ready to roll into Iraq with food, blankets and medicine plan to refuse the protection of U.S.-led military forces, fearing that being spotted with an invading superpower would be more dangerous than going it alone. A4

**U.S. and British troops** have captured many key facilities in Iraq's southern oil fields, saving them from possible sabotage and ensuring their use for the country's postwar reconstruction, senior military officials said Friday. A4

**U.S. intelligence** struggled with fragmentary evidence on the fate of Saddam Hussein Friday, though agreeing that he and not a look-alike had appeared in a video recording aired after an attack on his compound. A5

**Undeterred by mass arrests**, raucous bands of demonstrators marched through the streets of San Francisco on Friday in the largest of anti-war protests around the country. Elsewhere, smaller groups demonstrated in support of U.S. troops. A5

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NEWS

**Suspect Identified**  
Investigators identify a young African Islamic teacher they believe was connected to recent terror attacks and the 1998 embassy bombing in Kenya. A2



**Defense Rests**  
Testimony in the trial of former Waterbury Mayor Philip Giordano, left, switches unexpectedly from alleged sexual abuse to municipal corruption. B5

#### WEATHER

**A Few Clouds, Mild**  
Today, partly cloudy and warmer. High 58. Sunday, continued partly cloudy and mild. High 52. D8

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COMING SUNDAY: COMPLETE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE OF THE WAR IN IRAQ