



■ Crew members of the USS Providence watch a video of a Tomahawk cruise missile launch from the crew mess area during a second round of missile strikes against Iraq while operating in the Red Sea on Friday.

TIM COOK
The Day

Sub launches more of its Tomahawks as part of the 'shock and awe' campaign

From A10

Thompson was beaming as he described a visit earlier in the evening. "The captain came down and congratulated us and told us only the fastest (reloading) ships out here get the salvos," Thompson said. When the captain took the time to come congratulate them personally, he said, it made him proud to be part of the reloading team.

Chief Torpedoman Kent R. Hope set up a five-gallon purple Thermos in the torpedo room to save his men a trip to the water cooler. The mess division sends down food when the workload gets tough.

Hope keeps going with the help of coffee in a blue plastic insulated cup, inscribed with a picture of a Tomahawk, a submariner's dolphins, and a "battle crab" hoisting a Mark 48 torpedo — a tribute to a baby crab that survived being sucked back into a torpedo tube after the firing of a simulated torpedo. "It's been a never-ending cup. It gets to a certain point, and I just get it topped off," Hope said.

Chief of the Boat Russ Neal said crewmen could be cycled through short shifts, so everyone could get a chance to sleep.

"For now, I think the guys are handling it well," he said. "The adrenaline kicks in and keeps you going. You just

keep going until the tasking is complete."

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Iraq war entrenches policy of pre-emption

New York Times News Service

Washington — In January 1998, a lineup of conservative policy advocates warned President Clinton in a letter that the "containment" of Iraq was a failure and that removing Saddam Hussein from power "now needs to become the aim of American foreign policy."

Among the 18 signers were Donald H. Rumsfeld, Paul D. Wolfowitz, Richard L. Armitage and Richard N. Perle, all former officials in Republican administrations. At the time, the men were affiliated with academic and policy institutes, with no expectation that they would, within five years, be in a position to shape policy.

It also reflects the ascendance under President Bush of the conservatives' idea that chemical, biological and nuclear threats from "rogue states" must be confronted with pre-emptive action.

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"Before children come to the Hospital for their procedure, we invite them to join us for a 'pretend' surgical tour," explains Lisa Foster, RN, BSN, CPAN and member of the "Sail through Surgery" crew. "Two days per month, care providers and children can meet the friendly nurses from Same Day Surgery, like Vicki, and are given tours of the operating room and recovery room — or as kids call it — the 'wake-up room'." In addition to this pre-surgical information session, children receive their own "sailing sack" to bring with them the day of surgery. Children participate in packing the sack for their surgery by bringing comforting items from home such as a favorite blanket, toy or stuffed animal. These familiar items are kept with the child before, during and after surgery.

In addition to the tour, parents are given a helpful guide on what to pack, special services available and frequently called numbers if they have any questions or concerns. "We do everything we can to assure smooth sailing for the entire family," concludes another crew member, Joan Fagan, RN.

For more information regarding the "Sail through Surgery" program at Backus, call 860.823.6376, weekdays, 8 a.m - 5:30 p.m., or visit www.backushospital.org.



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