

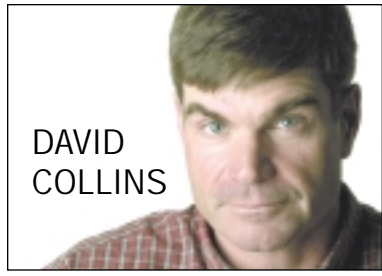
The Day
DAYBREAK

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SECTION C

**Only on
the surface
are we safer**



DAVID COLLINS

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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT the khaki-colored Connecticut National Guard Humvees parked lately at the boat ramp under the Gold Star Memorial Bridge in New London, meant to be reassuring, are strangely unsettling.

First of all, if you're going to use camouflage here, shouldn't it be discarded McDonald's bags and empty beer bottles? Even a civilian-colored Hummer might at least appear to be part of a drug deal under way.

But the Humvee's jungle camouflage on this dismal, trash-strewn urban landscape, in the shadows of the giant concrete piers of the bridge and a block from the city's garbage transfer station, seems incongruous. Ten lanes of Boston-to-New York traffic roars by overhead.

Inside the Humvee, on an afternoon I visited recently, were a Pfizer chemist and a truck driver for a liquor wholesaler, both called up recently from their one-weekend-a-month duty with the National Guard for the new 24-hour homeland security at the bridge. There are sentinels on the Groton side of the river, too,

under the bridge.

The pair was friendly enough when I approached, although friendly is a relative term, when the other person is dressed in combat fatigues and holding an M-16. It's a lot of gun, especially when it's cradled casually in someone's arms.

The two said they have not seen much out of the ordinary yet on their watch. Occasionally someone drives down and drinks a beer in their car at lunchtime. The Coast Guard goes by on the river from time to time.

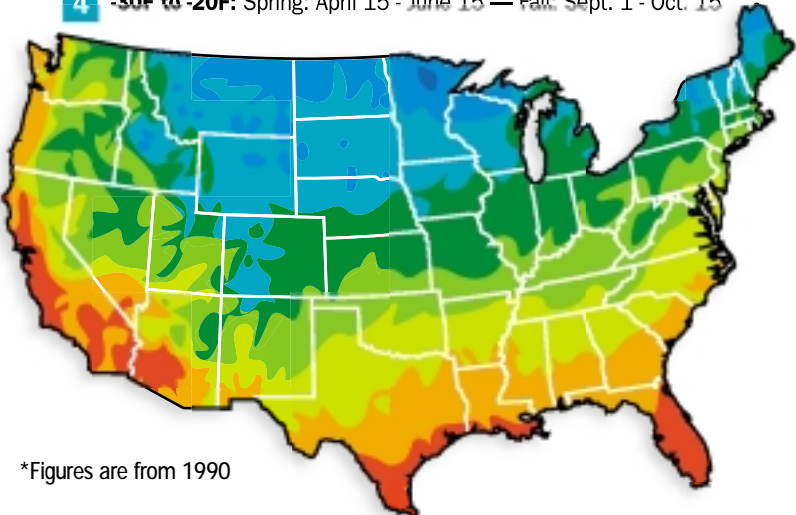
They get the idea that they might also be inhibiting some illegal activity in the parking lot, but probably only things that would concern New London police, not the FBI.

Gov. John G. Rowland has declared the Gold Star bridge one of the state's most vulnerable terrorist targets, the Millstone nuclear plants in Waterford being another in eastern Connecticut. The governor's spokesman, Chris Cooper, said protecting the bridge is important because, essentially, dropping it could bottle up the submarines in the river. Never mind the years of traffic shock.

See U.S. DEFENSE page C2

**The zones, they are
a changin'**

ZONE	TEMP.	WHEN TO SOW SEEDS
2	-50F to -40F:	Sow seed in early spring when soil can be worked
3	-40F to -30F:	Spring: April 15 - June 15 — Fall: Aug. 15 - Oct. 1
4	-30F to -20F:	Spring: April 15 - June 15 — Fall: Sept. 1 - Oct. 15



*Figures are from 1990

5	-20F to -10F:	Spring: April 15 - June 15 — Fall: Sept. 1 - Oct. 15
6	-10F to 0F:	Spring: March 15 - May 15 — Fall: Sept. 15 - Nov. 1
7	0F to 10F:	Spring: Feb. 15 - April 15 — Fall: Sept. 15 - Nov. 15
8	10F to 20F:	Spring: Jan. 15 - March 1 — Fall: Oct. 1 - Dec. 1
9	20F to 30F:	Spring: January 1 - March 1 — Fall: Oct. 1 - Dec. 1

Source: Texas A&M University

SEAN NOYCE / The Day

By DAVID COLLINS
Day Staff Writer

HERE'S FAIR WARNING TO THE SPOUSES OF SERIOUS GARDENERS: Don't be surprised if your household plant-buying budget spikes this year.

Next week, the American Horticultural Society is going to release a glimpse of its new plant hardiness map, which divides the country into meteorological zones. This is the official blueprint that tells gardeners what plants can be planted in which areas, and it hasn't changed since 1990.

The new version, which was created using climate data from 7,000 weather stations around the country, essentially moves most of the planting zones an average of 140 miles north, reflecting warmer weather patterns.

That means gardeners will find many more new plants at nurseries this year that are now certified safe for the first time to plant in their own back yards.

In some parts of southeastern Connecticut, for instance, where gardeners have always been restricted to plants rated for Zone 6, they will now have the option of using less hardy plants rated for Zone 7.

"We believe the winters for the last 16 years were, on average, 5 to 7 degrees

We believe the winters for the last 16 years were, on average, 5 to 7 degrees warmer.

March H. Cathey
President emeritus of the American Horticultural Society

See CHANGES page C2

Tomorrow

The Buzz: Ana Lazu, founder of Latinos Unidos Siempre, is dedicated to providing mental health services to Latinos.



You get accustomed to it, but you never get used to it. It's a partnership, and I do my job here so he can go to sea and do his job.

Tammara Horn
Wife of Navy submariner

Debbie Estes, wife of Navy submariner Todd Estes, sits next to a photo of the couple in their Groton home.

SEAN D. ELLIOT
The Day

Homefront
security *For the wives of Navy sailors, it's all in a day's work*

By ANN BALDELLI
Day Staff Writer

Making socks, changing light bulbs and taking out the trash.

They're the little things that Kelly Horn did to help his wife.

But Horn, a Navy sailor, is deployed on the USS Providence fighting the war in Iraq, and Tammara Horn is home in Groton with five children, aged 6 weeks to 10 years.

"You get accustomed to it, but you never get used to it," Tammara Horn says of the deployments. "It's a partnership, and I do my job here so he can go to sea and do his job."

They have been married for 11 years. Kelly Horn was away for the birth of two of his chil-

dren, and didn't meet his oldest daughter until she was nearly 3 months old. This time, he was deployed four days after his youngest daughter was born.

"This is not the first time this has happened, lots of other women have lived in this house while their men were gone," says Horn, who lives in Navy housing near the Naval Submarine Base in Groton. The newborn is asleep on her chest, and Horn is talking about filling the days while her husband is away.

"It's the little things," she says, that cause the biggest headaches. "Like you run out of

See NAVY COMMUNITY page C2