

IN SPORTS: THE YANKEES, BEHIND ROGER CLEMENS, WIN THEIR SEASON OPENER BUT LOSE DEREK JETER TO INJURY

# The Day

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AMERICA AT WAR

## ALLIES REGAIN MOMENTUM ADVANCES MOUNTING IN DRIVE TO BAGHDAD

Republican Guard: Will it fight or fold?

By SALAH NASRAWI  
Associated Press Writer

Cairo, Egypt — Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard was beaten by the U.S. military in the 1991 Gulf War, bruised by sanctions ever since and battered by U.S. and British strikes in recent days.

But Saddam's best-equipped, best-trained and most trusted force was still expected to fiercely defend Baghdad — whether motivated by pride, fear or loyalty to the Iraqi leader.

Divisions of the Republican Guard, which is commanded by Saddam's son, Qusai, have been redeployed around Baghdad from camps in northern and southern Iraq to await a major ground offensive by American troops, analysts and Iraqi Kurdish opposition leaders said Monday.

Although much of the U.S.-led troops' attention thus far has focused on the Baath Party militia and Saddam's Fedayeen, irregular fighters who have clashed with coalition troops in ambushes and fake surrenders, the Western allies could soon confront the Republican Guard head-on. Most dangerous and most likely to fight to the death is the Special Republican Guard, comprising the guard's most loyal and best-trained units.

The Republican Guard's membership was once estimated as high as 80,000, but some experts believe the

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■ **Right**, Amanda Jordan of Enfield awaits the arrival of the flag-draped coffin of her husband, U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Philip Andrew Jordan, at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks on Monday. Jordan, 42, was killed in action last week in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

PATRICK RAYCRAFT, The Hartford Courant/AP



U.S. general says Iraqi forces lacking leadership as the fighting intensifies

By PATRICK E. TYLER  
New York Times News Service

Kuwait City, Kuwait — Allied forces leading the drive north to Baghdad battled their way Monday into a town 50 miles south of the capital, capturing elite Iraqi troops and regaining some momentum in a war that has proved more complex than expected.

An armored unit of the 3rd Infantry Division rolled into Hindiya, population 80,000, at dawn, firing from tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles as they crossed a bridge on the Euphrates River and confronted stiff Iraqi resistance. At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed, and some members of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard were captured.

At the same time, a Marine division, advancing more rapidly than in recent days, reached Hilla, 15 miles to the east. "We've made that clear: Where the regime is, we're coming," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the deputy di-

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Westerly dyeing plant aids war effort amid some mixed emotions

By ANDREW RYAN  
Day Staff Writer

Westerly — Unemployed just four months ago, Sara Gabriele now watches her handiwork on nightly newscasts from Iraq. There, U.S. soldiers and military equipment are wrapped in camouflage fabric that she helped make.

Last November, Gabriele was one of about 50 new employees hired by Bradford Dyeing Associates Inc. to fill an order placed by the U.S. military. Besides making material for helmets, canteens, pants and jackets, the company is the only authorized dyer of fabric for the outer shells of chemical weapons suits used by all branches of the armed forces.

"To me, it's job security," said Gabriele, 46, of Westerly, who had been looking for work for 10 months. "But there is pain and sadness all over the world."

Located in a century-old textile mill on the east bank of the Pawcatuck River, Bradford Dyeing has been printing

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## CREW OF USS SAN JUAN FINALLY ON THE HOME STRETCH

DISPATCHES AT SEA

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

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON  
Day Staff Writer

Aboard the USS San Juan — This submarine was scheduled to leave its operating area in the eastern Mediterranean Sea more than a month ago, but it still had a full load of missiles and the potential for conflict with Iraq was growing, so its return was put on hold.

A few weeks later, about the time the boat would have otherwise been pulling up to its pier in Groton, the San Juan was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, firing its missiles in brief but intense salvos.

It was a first for Cmdr. Edward L. Takasuye, who has served on five attack submarines and had never fired a missile.

"For me, the biggest pressure was the responsibility to

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■ **Steam venting from the USS Providence drifts across the deck of the USS San Juan as it arrives on station with the Providence and the USS Emory S. Land in the eastern Mediterranean Sea Monday.**

TIM COOK/The Day

### ADDITIONAL WAR COVERAGE

U.S. troops kill seven Iraqi women and children at a checkpoint when the Iraqis' van fails to stop as ordered, U.S. Central Command says. Two other civilians are wounded in the incident at a U.S. Army checkpoint on a highway near Najaf in southern Iraq, according to a Pentagon official and a Central Command statement. The military is investigating, the statement says. A4

Assessing the opening days of the war on Iraq, Rear Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, who commands U.S. Navy submarines in the Mediterranean, said the submarine contribution was "remarkable" and he is pleased to see subs and the whole Navy play "as important a role in this operation as they have." A5

Military officials have noted a marked increase in the number of people seeking information on how to sign up to serve their country, but the period from recruit to full-fledged member of the armed forces, trained to defend the nation, can run anywhere from four weeks to 13 months. C1

## After two years, state's sex-offender registry is back online

By IZASKUN E. LARRAÑETA  
Day Staff Writer

Middletown — After a two-year hiatus, Connecticut residents can again go online to see if sex offenders are living in their neighborhood.

The state's sex-offender registry had been offline since May 2001, when a federal judge ruled that the registry was unconstitutional. In early March, the

U.S. Supreme Court overturned that decision, and on Monday morning the registry went back online.

"It's a great day for public safety and for the public's right to know," said Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell at a press conference held at state police headquarters. "We are protecting our state's most vulnerable citizens — our children."

The Supreme Court, in a separate ruling involving a case from Connecti-

*'It's a great day for public safety and for the public's right to know.'*

Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell

cut, turned back a challenge from offenders who argued they deserved a chance to prove they aren't dangerous to avoid having their pictures and addresses placed on the Internet. The

court also ruled unanimously that Connecticut did not have to hold separate hearings to determine the risk posed by sex criminals who have completed their prison sentences before putting them on a registry.

"Let's not forget Megan," said state Rep. James Amman, D-Milford, author of the 1995 Connecticut law. "Let's not forget what the law is about."

Laws across the country are named

for Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl kidnapped, raped and killed in 1994 by a convicted sex criminal who lived in her neighborhood. She was 7 years old. State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal defended the state law before the high court.

"This case was so supremely important for the people of Connecticut and the nation," he said. "All the informa-

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■ Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell

INSIDE TODAY

### NEWS

Bill Rejected  
Legislation compensating people injured or killed by the smallpox vaccine is defeated in the House amid debate over the size of the payments. A2



Special 'Journey'  
Actors Brian Dennehy, left, and Vanessa Redgrave tour the Monte Cristo Cottage in New London for a very special reason. C1

### WEATHER

April Showers  
Today, cloudy with rain and snow likely late. High 39. Wednesday, partly sunny with a chance of rain late. High 57. D6

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