

REGION: The Eastern Pequots dump Donald Trump, pick a new casino backer. **D1** SPORTS: Jeff Maggert leads the Masters, but Tiger Woods is closing in. **B1**

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AMERICA AT WAR



TIM COOK / The Day

■ Cmdr. Jonathan Kan of the USS Providence, left, and MM3 Estevan Vargas man the Providence bridge during the arrival of the USS San Juan on station with the USS Emory S. Land during operations in the Eastern Mediterranean March 31.

U.S. hoping to restore order in Iraq

Marines to help curb looting, bring back power and water

By DEXTER FILKINS and JOHN KIFNER
New York Times News Service

Baghdad, Iraq — U.S. Marines said Saturday that they were shifting their focus from fighting to trying to put this shattered capital back in running order.

Their aim is to restore electricity, running water and other city services and, above all, to stop widespread looting and restore a sense of security.

"Civil affairs is our first priority now," Capt. Joseph Plenzler said Saturday describing an unfamiliar role for the Marines.

His declaration came as looting continued in many areas of Baghdad and after U.S. troops discovered evidence of plans for suicide attacks against them.

At the same time, a force of several thousand Marines prepared for further military action. Commanders said they were set to move north Saturday night toward the Iraqi city of Tikrit, the tribal home of Saddam Hussein and a suspected last-ditch holdout of several senior members of his government. The city is about 100 miles north of Baghdad, and commanders hoped to arrive there by this morning.

In the capital, scores of black leather vests stuffed with explosives and ball bearings were found by U.S. Marines at a Baghdad school and shown to reporters. And U.S. forces in western Iraq

See MARINES page A9

ADDITIONAL WAR COVERAGE

Military officials have found a town house they suspect was Saddam's "love shack," complete with a mirrored bedroom and risqué pictures. A4

A crowd of 300 at McCook's Point Park in East Lyme rallies in support of U.S. troops fighting in Iraq. D1

Pillagers strip Iraqi museum of treasures

By JOHN F. BURNS
New York Times News Service

Baghdad, Iraq — The National Museum of Iraq recorded a history of civilizations that began to flourish in the fertile plains of Mesopotamia more than 7,000 years ago. But once American troops entered Baghdad in sufficient force to topple Saddam Hussein's government this week, it took only 48 hours for the museum to be destroyed and at least 50,000 artifacts carried away by looters.

The full extent of the disaster that befell the museum only came to light on Saturday, as the frenzied looting that swept much of the capital over the previous three days began to ebb and museum officials reached foreign journalists with word of what is likely to be reckoned as one of the greatest cultural disasters in recent Middle Eastern history.

See PRICELESS page A8

SUBS: TOOLS OF THE NEW WAR

Reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook spent 24 days in the Middle East aboard submarines and surface ships covering the war

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON
Day Staff Writer

As the opening shots were fired in Operation Iraqi Freedom, a dozen nuclear attack submarines awaited orders in the Red Sea, easily the most impressive undersea armada ever assembled. The exact number of missiles they launched has not been released, but it was in the hundreds.

INSIDE

The launch of a Tomahawk missile is a precisely timed mechanical and electronic process. A7

Missile launch preparation includes developing a psychological mindset. A7

The captains, using boat-to-boat electronic "chat" capabilities, soon labeled themselves the "Red Sea Wolf Pack," in honor of the Wolf Packs that ravaged the Japanese fleet in World War II, and discussed assembling themselves for a group shot by a passing P-3 Orion patrol aircraft.

Though the group photo could not be arranged before the submarines headed their separate ways, the skippers were still in awe



■ Lt. j.g. Jeff Yackeren uses the periscope to check surface contacts as the USS Providence crew prepares to launch a Tomahawk cruise missile in the Red Sea.

of such a historic moment.

"It is a tremendous armada, and a tremendous amount of power we are capable of projecting ashore," said Cmdr. Jonathan H. Kan, captain of the Groton-based USS Providence. "Projecting power from the sea has really changed."

Indeed, more than any previous conflict, Operation Iraqi Freedom has demonstrated the dramatic transformation that has taken place in submarine warfare.

A dozen years ago only two submarines — Groton's USS

See TECHNOLOGY page A6

Claims of Corruption, Cronyism Come Full Circle

Tomasso, Downes firms in spotlight

By KENTON ROBINSON
Day Staff Writer

FOR PEOPLE WITH LONG memories, the current federal investigation into corruption in Gov. John

G. Rowland's administration may seem like déjà vu all over again.

Some of the names surfacing in the investigation are the same names that surfaced some 30 years ago when the administration of another Republican governor, Thomas J. Meskill, was on the hot seat for handing out lucrative contracts for leasing buildings to the state.

One of those names is Tomasso. Another is Downes.

As in the Tomasso Group, owned by the

Tomasso family of New Britain, which consists of TBI Construction Co., LLC, Tunxis Management Co., Tenery Water, LLC and the Tunxis Plantation Country Club.

As in the Downes Cos. of Frank E. Downes, also of New Britain, which consists of The Downes Group and the Frank E. Downes Construction Co. Inc.

Looking into allegations that Rowland aides Lawrence Alibozek and Peter N. Ellef steered state contracts to politically connected businesses, federal investigators have sub-

poenaed documents relating to two construction contracts awarded to the Tomasso Group and a third contract awarded to Tomasso and Downes:

■ The \$50 million Connecticut Juvenile Training School in Middletown, completed in August 2001.

■ The \$30 million Superior Court and Center for Juvenile Matters in Bridgeport, the construction of which has just begun.

■ The \$37 million Bradley International Airport Parking Garage in Windsor Locks,

completed in September 2001.

Investigators are also examining a half-dozen contracts under which Tomasso manages state properties, including the Mystic Education Center in Mystic and the Uncas-on-the-Thames campus in Norwich.

Documents subpoenaed from the state Department of Public Works, which handles property management, show that in 1996, the DPW awarded the contract for managing the

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Revealing the men behind the bars

A Hygienic art show founder is now an artist-in-residence at a Pittsburgh prison. Daybreak



Region: Norwich homicides could bring capital charges

Perspective: Unilateral Bush makes Iraq job harder

State: Paying for education mandates a problem

Travel: Costa Rica's wildlife is a main attraction

WEATHER TODAY

Mostly sunny and mild today, with temperatures in the mid-50s. A warming trend continues through Wednesday, with no rain expected until Thursday. **B8**

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