

IN SPORTS: THE NORWICH NAVIGATORS LOSE THEIR SEASON OPENER TO THE BINGHAMTON METS, 1-0

The Day

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AMERICA AT WAR

ALLIES POISED FOR STRIKE

AMERICAN FORCES SEIZE AIRPORT OUTSIDE BAGHDAD



Fires from secondary explosions of an Iraqi SA-6 surface-to-air missile burn on the outskirts of Karbala, Iraq, on Thursday as armored vehicles and troops with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, continue their push toward the center of the city.

DAVID LEESON, Dallas Morning News / AP

Approach called an 'illusion' by Iraqi government

By PATRICK E. TYLER
New York Times News Service

Kuwait City — U.S. armed forces rolled out of the desert to the western outskirts of Baghdad on Thursday as government officials in the city of 4.5 million insisted that the American approach was "an illusion."

The thud of artillery hailed the arrival near the city of the first foreign army since British forces occupied Iraq in 1941. Allied forces entered Saddam International Airport, 10 miles from the center of the city.

"Coalition forces are on the outskirts of Baghdad," Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced at the Pentagon Thursday afternoon.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld cautioned from Washington that while the Iraqi army — parts of which have been

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In Baghdad, fear increases as the noose grows tighter

By JOHN F. BURNS
New York Times News Service

Baghdad, Iraq — Since the war began two weeks ago, the people of Baghdad have been exposed to a reality so stark, so astonishing, so overwhelming, that those who have witnessed it have struggled to find words adequate to express what they have seen.

To have been in Berlin or Dresden or Hamburg in the last months of World War II would surely have been more ghastly, for the sheer numbers of casualties caused by the Allies' bombing. But American air power, as the 21st century begins, is a terrible swift sword that strikes with a suddenness, a devastation and a precision, in most cases, that moves even agnostics to reach for words associated with the power of gods.

Along with this, life under the bombing has continued to roll forward with an everyday nonchalance that, in its own way, has been as hard to adjust to as the bombing.

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TOLEDO CALLED UP TO THE BIG TIME

DISPATCHES AT SEA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook recently returned to the area after spending three weeks on submarines covering the war in Iraq.

Groton-based sub answered the call on short notice

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON
Day Staff Writer

Aboard the USS Toledo
T. J.G. HOWARD CRAIG LIKES to compare the USS Toledo's latest deployment to the game of football.

"We had just entered (pre-season practice) and got called up to play in the Super Bowl," Craig said as the

Toledo stopped for a small-boat replenishment in the eastern Mediterranean Sea this week.

In early February, the Toledo was in the Caribbean, just five months into an 18-month inter-deployment cycle in which it was supposed to stay close to home. It had not finished its tactical readiness evaluation or gone through its critical "pre-overseas movement" checklist to make sure the crew was trained in every potential mission.

"But we got told to come home real quick, pick up some paperwork, and get under way," Craig said. Most of the crew got only a few

hours off during the two days the Toledo was at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton before it left for the Red Sea, where it would launch its missiles against Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I knew right away this was the big game," Craig said. "You don't take a boat that's just returned from deployment and send it out on 48 hours notice unless it's serious. I gave my wife and kids the same hug I did last year, but it meant a little more this time because I was pretty sure we would be going into harm's way."

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TIM COOK/The Day

The USS Toledo prepares for supply replenishment in the Mediterranean Sea.

ADDITIONAL WAR COVERAGE

U.S. Marines duel with Republican Guard fighters and Baath Party irregulars in Kut, but many civilians welcome the troops. Some say they are grateful for the U.S. challenge to a regime they say was going door to door and giving young men a sinister choice: fight or die. A4

A teenage Iraqi boy in Nasiriyah, his legs horribly burned from accidentally spilling hot oil on himself, needs help. He gets it from U.S. forces. The teen smiles through his pain and the Americans provide his family with antibiotics. Another Marine runs off to bring the boy some hard candy. A5

The Iraqi man who tipped U.S. Marines to the location of American POW Jessica Lynch says he did so after he saw her Iraqi captor slap her twice as she lay wounded in a hospital. The 32-year-old lawyer, his wife and daughter are being treated as heroes and guests of honor by the Marines. A5

Local anti-war activists — including the Rev. Emmett Jarrett of St. Francis House in New London, a member of the Southeast Connecticut Peace & Justice Network who recently spent time in a Hartford jail for anti-war activities — may up the ante and perform acts of civil disobedience next Friday. B1

Sexual-Assault Case Points To Cracks In Arrest-Warrant System

By MATTHEW J. MALONE
Day Staff Writer

Norwich — In the late morning of Jan. 23, city police responded to a call about a knife-wielding man chasing another man down a Taftville street. At the scene, police arrested 23-year-old Tyree L. Davis and brought him to headquarters.

For Davis, it was familiar territory.

A little more than a year earlier, police had arrested Davis on first-degree sexual assault and other charges related to the rape of a 15-year-old girl.

In June 2002, Davis pleaded guilty to second-degree sexual assault as part of a plea bargain, according to court records. He was sentenced to five years in prison, suspended after one year, including time already served since his November arrest. Upon release, he

would be on probation for 10 years.

On Nov. 12, 2002, Davis was released from a Bridgeport prison and returned to Norwich a free man. Within five months, police said, he had raped again.

With his January arrest on South Second Avenue in Taftville, Davis was clearly in violation of his probation agreement. He faced criminal charges of second-degree breach of peace,

threatening and carrying a dangerous weapon for chasing the man after an argument. He also violated a special condition of his probation: Stay off South Second Avenue. The reason for the special condition could not be determined from court records available Thursday.

Despite the violations, Davis was released on bond and was scheduled to return to court March 14. At the time of

his release, he was listed in the state's sexual-offender registry, another condition of his probation.

The state Office of Adult Probation issued an arrest warrant for Davis on Feb. 4. A judge signed the order Feb. 10. City police said they received the warrant three days later.

Still, Davis remained on the streets of Norwich for another 25 days. On

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Tyree L. Davis

INSIDE TODAY

NEWS

Death In Gaza
Israeli troops looking for weapons-smuggling tunnels raid a Gaza refugee camp, killing four armed Palestinians in exchanges of gunfire. A2



Man On A Mission

With a \$1 investment, a computer-generated preview and a little help, Jeremy Andruskiewicz plans to turn a dilapidated Norwich house into a respectable home. C1

WEATHER

More Of The Same
Today, cloudy with scattered showers. High about 40. Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. D8

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