

## Patriot missiles destroy Iraqi air assaults on Saudi Arabia

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia - U.S. forces fired what appeared to be several Patriot ground-to-air missiles during an alert Sunday night, and a Saudi official said they destroyed two incoming Iraqi missiles.

The Saudi official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi missiles were shot down as they approached Dhahran from the north. He did not identify the type of missile, or give its altitude when destroyed.

Dhahran, site of a major allied military base, is 200 miles south of Kuwait and about 240 miles south of Iraq's southernmost border.

Air raid sirens also briefly sounded in Riyadh, the Saudi capital 225 miles southwest of Dhahran and home of U.S. and Saudi command headquarters. Iraq's modified Scud missiles can reach both cities.

Warning sirens also sounded in Bahrain, an island emirate about

14 miles east of Dhahran. Witnesses said they heard anti-aircraft gunfire.

In Dhahran, an Associated Press reporter saw two and heard four Patriot missiles fired from the base northward toward Kuwait. Just as the fiery tails of the missiles disappeared from sight, there was a small flash in the sky.

At a hotel just off the air base, dozens of journalists and spokesmen for the Saudi and U.S. military ran to a bomb shelter as the air raid sirens sounded. Many donned gas masks and chemical weapon suits. It appeared that civil defense authorities were notified of a possible missile attack just seconds before the first Patriot missile was fired.

At the Dhahran air base early Friday morning, a Patriot missile recorded its first successful combat firing, blowing up an incoming Iraqi Scud missile.



## Soviet troops occupy Latvian police building

RIGA, U.S.S.R. - Soviet "black beret" commandos attacked Latvia's police headquarters Sunday night and occupied it temporarily, killing five people and wounding nine in the assault, Latvian government officials said.

All Latvian police were ordered to take up arms and defend other government buildings, but the commandos left police headquarters about six hours after the assault began.

The elite forces of the Soviet Interior Ministry began the attack at about 9:06 p.m. (2:06 p.m. EST), as red and white tracer bullets lit up downtown Riga. An automobile burst into flames next to the Latvian Interior Ministry, which controls police in the republic and is loyal to the separatist government.

The raid came a week after Soviet tanks attacked the main broadcast center in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, killing 14 people and wounding more than 200.

The central government in Moscow has been pressuring the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

to nullify the independence declarations passed last year by their democratically elected parliaments. The three countries, independent states between the world wars, were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

In Washington, the White House called the Riga developments "deeply troubling." White House spokesman Bill Harlow reiterated the Bush administration's call for a peaceful resolution to the Baltic problem.

The Soviet military commander for the Baltic military district, Col. Gen. Fyodor Kuzmin, demanded on Jan. 14 that Latvian police turn in their arms. Black berets briefly occupied a Latvian precinct station and raided a police school for arms last week.

Subsequently, Latvian Interior Minister Alois Vanznis told the separatist parliament that the police were authorized to use their weapons to defend government buildings.

In all, five people were killed and nine wounded, according to the parliament's press office, quoting hospital officials.

## Pause would prolong war, Foley says

WASHINGTON - Congressional leaders called Sunday for continued vigorous prosecution of the air war against Iraq, and House Speaker Thomas Foley said any bombing pause would give Saddam Hussein an opening for "schemes and maneuvers" to prolong the conflict.

Foley spoke as an administration source said the United States was sending a seventh aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf region as part of a continuing move to bolster Israel's defenses against Iraqi attack.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the USS For-

restal, currently in Mayport, Fla., would be dispatched "in the near future" to the eastern Mediterranean.

Foley was one of two senior lawmakers to urge a continuation of the air bombardment which Operation Desert Storm officials said had produced more than 7,000 sorties in less than four days.

Iraqis "are being pounded very heavily and I think we ought to keep that pounding up and hope that we can prevail in the shortest time possible," Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters at the Pentagon af-

ter receiving a private briefing.

Nunn and Foley led the unsuccessful fight in Congress a week ago to deny Bush the authority to wage war, but since have stressed their support for the war effort.

Foley and other lawmakers spoke on Sunday morning interview programs as President Bush spent the day at his presidential retreat at Camp David.

The president spoke by telephone with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major and

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said a White House spokesman.

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., said in an NBC interview that if Iraq uses chemical or biological weapons "the American people will be so enraged that it will guarantee" long-term support for the war.

Foley, invited to Camp David for dinner with the president, rejected the idea of a bombing pause to encourage Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Saddam Hussein can request an opportunity to remove his troops if he

wishes to," the Washington state Democrat said in an interview with Cable News Network.

"But I think a pause would merely give him an opportunity to resupply the ground forces," said Foley.

"It would give him an opportunity to use various kinds of schemes and maneuvers to try and delay it further."

The move adds to the U.S. military protective umbrella over Israel, which has been given Patriot missiles with U.S. crews to prevent renewed attack by Iraqi SCUD missiles.

## The war at home Arab-Americans torn, worried

In the days after Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans were routinely fired, assaulted or accused of spying. Civil defense director Fiorello La Guardia confined Japanese to their homes and boasted to the president, "I am going to pep it up."

Fifty years later, as the United States has gone to war against Iraq, there have been virtually no serious attacks against Arab-Americans. But Arab-Americans themselves are torn by dual loyalties and nagged by the worry that if war drags on, Americans might look for scapegoats on the home front.

"We feel caught between a madman in Baghdad and a madman in Washington," said Dr. M.T. Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee, which claims about 20,000 members.

Mehdi, a longtime critic of U.S.

policy in the Mideast, said an informal telephone poll by his organization suggested that the vast majority of Arab-Americans opposed the attack on Iraq, even though many have no love for Saddam Hussein.

Although Arab-American organizations had been reporting a gradual increase in anti-Arab sentiment as the gulf crisis deepened, there was no particular surge following the beginning of hostilities last week.

Security at mosques across the country was increased, but Arab-American organizations said there were only a few reports of war-related arguments or insults. The Justice Department said its hate crimes telephone hot line had received no complaints of harassment of Arab-Americans.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young said dozens of the city's 45,000 Arab-

Americans had reported bomb threats and other harassment.

Police in Tulsa, Okla., said they would step up patrols around mosques and synagogues following a rock-throwing incident at the Islamic Society of Tulsa. Lt. Larry Merchant said vandals shattered the mosque's windows Friday night during a prayer service for peace in the Middle East.

A bomb exploded in an Arab-owned grocery Thursday morning in Cincinnati, but the FBI said it appeared unrelated to the war.

Some Arab students at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock said the war had caused ethnic tensions on campus.

"We're worried that something is going to happen," said Khalil Al-Kharaosi, a sophomore from Oman. He said he hoped his fellow students would keep in mind that "this is a problem with countries, not with people."

Earlier in the week, Arab-American leaders met with FBI officials in Washington to complain about the bureau's interviews with leaders of the community about potential terrorism.

Although the FBI declined to comment in detail on the talks, Arab-American leaders said they were told agents would continue to conduct interviews, but would stop asking certain political questions.

Mehdi said his office received only two abusive calls since the attack Wednesday night.

"Twenty years ago, we would have received 80 or 90 of these kind of calls," he said. "American society is more sophisticated, more educated, less emotional now."

## Polls: Americans confident, worried about war spreading

NEW YORK - Public opinion polls have found Americans upbeat about the progress of the gulf war, but two out of three remain worried the conflict will spread.

In a poll taken by the Gallup Organization for CNN Thursday and Friday, 29 percent said they were very worried and an additional 38 percent were somewhat worried war could spread throughout the region or other parts of the world.

At the same time, 73 percent said they thought the United States and its allies were winning the war. Virtually nobody thought Iraq was winning and 20 percent said neither side was winning.

Only 30 percent said the United States should stop fighting if Iraq

withdraws all its troops from Kuwait but Saddam Hussein remains in power. Two-thirds favored fighting until Saddam is removed. An ABC News poll Friday night had a similar finding.

A Los Angeles Times poll Thursday and Friday found that more than three-fourths of Americans said Israel has the right to retaliate for repeated missile attacks.

But raising the possibility that such an Israeli response could break up the U.S.-organized alliance changes the result. The ABC poll found that when respondents were told of Iraq's desire to draw Israel into the war, a 69-25 percent margin said Israel should leave the fighting to the United States.

## North Platte family among those evacuated from Incirlik, Turkey

NORTH PLATTE - Karen French held her sleeping 5-year-old daughter as she and her three other children arrived at the North Platte Airport, exhausted after a two-day journey from the Middle East.

The French family was among hundreds of American military dependents evacuated from the U.S. Air Force Base in Incirlik, Turkey, this week after tensions in the Persian Gulf erupted into war.

French's husband, Steve, is an Air Force sergeant stationed at Incirlik, a small village and military base located near the town of Adana in southern Turkey.

Their final night in Incirlik was a

tense one. Around 2 a.m., as she and friends sat in the living room watching news reports of the war, they could hear Air Force planes taking off overhead, apparently on bombing raids into Iraq, French said.

At about 2:45 a.m., air raid sirens sounded in Incirlik.

"We heard the sirens go off... we had gas masks because of the possibility of chemical warfare... I remember I was shivering," she said.

It was a false alarm, French said.

French and her children - Larissa, 5, Chris, 13, Anthony, 16, and Becky, 17 - finally took off around 6 a.m. Friday morning for the long trip.

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