

# Official satisfied with first week of war

WASHINGTON - The nation's top military official today expressed satisfaction with the results of the first week of the Persian Gulf war, but said Iraq is "an enemy that is ingenious" whose air force may yet "choose to come out and challenge us."

For now, said Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Iraqi air power has been "totally ineffective," leaving the United States and its allies with significant air superiority in the opening phase of the gulf war.



In a Pentagon briefing that marked

the one-week mark of the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraq, Powell said more than 10,000 allied sorties had destroyed 41 Iraqi aircraft, either in air-to-air combat or on the ground. The Iraqis have an estimated 700 aircraft.

Defense Secretary Richard Cheney preceded Powell to the lectern and told reporters that "there may well be surprises ahead for us," including possible Iraqi air strikes, terrorist attacks and additional missile attacks.

Cheney acknowledged that Iraq's mobile Scud missile launchers were proving more difficult than expected.

Powell said the United States has lost at most one plane in air-to-air combat. Total U.S. losses in the first week amount to 10, he said.

“There may well be surprises ahead for us.”

Cheney U.S. Defense Secretary

Cheney cautioned against expectations of a quick end to the war, saying, "A military operation of this intensity and complexity cannot be scored every evening like a college track meet or basketball game," he said.

Powell and Cheney both urged the public, and the media, to understand that it was not possible to know how

badly the furious air campaign had damaged Iraq's military capability.

Powell said the one-week mark was time to "take stock and dampen the oscillations between euphoria and distress." He spoke about the mood around Washington, perhaps around the country, when the early air successes did not lead to a one-week victory.

He said Marine forces are assembled offshore, adding, "We are really just starting in earnest" to force Iraq from Kuwait. He described an enemy that is well dug in, with complex communications and a sophisticated supply system.

"Our strategy for dealing with this army is very simple: First we're going to cut it off, then we're going to kill

it." The Iraqi army is "sitting there dug in, waiting to be attacked, and attacked it will be," he said.

He said allied forces were "assembling a fairly sizeable ground force that can finish the job if necessary."

Armed with charts, maps and graphs, Powell said allied forces have achieved air superiority in the war, but said "there still will be losses" in the days ahead. Even so, he said, air attacks can begin to concentrate in southern Iraq and around Kuwait, where Iraq has massed tens of thousands of troops.

Yet, he added, "We're dealing with an enemy that is resourceful, an enemy that knows how to work around problems, an enemy that is ingenious. We are not getting complacent."

## Northern front troops anticipate ground war

NEAR THE IRAQI BORDER, Saudi Arabia - In a gas line such as this desert has never seen, assault helicopters swarm in like black death, filling up for a ground war their crews expect any day.

At a highway cloverleaf, American MPs hunker down behind a concrete block barrier painted, "Pink Floyd, The Wall," waiting for their piece of the war.

In a truckstop curry joint, two British artillerymen, "Desert Rats," shake their heads in grim anticipation of a weeks-long onslaught they predict will be far worse than is widely believed.

By a roadside phone booth, Omani soldiers in faded combat turbans wait cheerfully to ring up their families, hopeful that their next call - if Allah wishes - will be made from liberated Kuwait City.

Desert Storm is getting ready to break, and all concerned are convinced that a hard rain is going to fall.

On the surface, the mood is mostly positive, even relaxed.

Full alert conditions did not stop a Bedouin from threading his pickup load of confused sheep beneath the revolving blades of U.S. Army helicopters awaiting fuel on an abandoned stretch of tarmac.

Capt. Robert Belletier of the U.S. First Cavalry Division climbed out of a Blackhawk helicopter as it settled down to a rumbling idle, in line with 12 Cobras, Apaches and little Bell choppers.

"We're all set," said Belletier, a southerner from Atlanta with an easy laugh. "We hear about all those Scuds in Dhahran, and we're happy to be up north where it's safe."

But when pressed to reflect on what might lie ahead in the next few weeks, his face took on that half-somber, half-quizzical look so com-

mon among allied troops on the northern frontier.

"It's gonna take longer than we thought," said Cpl. Dave Hoernle, of Harrisburg, Pa., who ended up in the desert from his former base in Stuttgart, Germany, where his wife is also an MP.

Two British artillerymen preferred to speak frankly rather than give their names. One, a veteran non-commissioned officer who had learned lessons the hard way, had no illusions.

"It will take five weeks at the least, from the word 'go,' and it will be bloody difficult," he said. "A bloke's dug in with his artillery, he's going to fight you, isn't he?"

He described U.S. land forces as hampered by too many overconfident young troops who had little idea of what they faced.

"I don't mean to be impolite about the Americans, but they're not ready," he said. "Too many aren't serious."

Neither British nor other allied troops were ready either, he added. "We will be soon, but I hope we don't have to go too fast."

He warned that Iraqi heavy artillery was well-sheltered, with underground stocks of conventional and chemical warfare shells. Oil-filled trenches and tank traps would be hard to breach. Meanwhile, allied ground forces and materiel were within range of the long guns.

Asked how he thought the campaign would go, the officer looked up and answered with a long, worried frown.

Sgt. Abdul Hamid, 26, in the army of Oman since he was 15, did not have the concerned look. He seemed less worried about Saddam Hussein's army than about getting a phone line home.

## Battlefield Weapons

Here is a guide to the basic types of weapons that ordinary soldiers use to fight a modern war. Examples of common U.S. models of each type are shown, along with the typical firing trajectory and effective range.

**Rifle** Most soldiers carry a rifle, but they are useful only for shooting at enemy troops you can see, an infrequent event. **DIRECT FIRE** 1,300 ft. M16A2

**Rifle with grenade launcher** Adding a grenade launcher to a rifle gives a soldier more explosive punch at close range. **DIRECT FIRE** 800 ft. M16A2

**Machine gun** The main soldier-killer in World War I, useful against low-flying aircraft. **AREA FIRE** Up to 6,000 ft. M60

**Rocket launcher** Light shoulder-fired rockets are potent weapons against light tanks. **DIRECT FIRE** 1,000 ft. AT-4

**Mortar** By firing in a high arc, mortars can hit targets behind hills and obstacles, with closely spaced blasts. **INDIRECT FIRE** Range depends on ammunition. M19

**Howitzer** Howitzers' low arc firing can deliver powerful shells fairly accurately over long ranges. **DIRECT OR INDIRECT FIRE** Up to 9 miles. M114

**Guided missile** Guided weapons achieve accurate firing without wasting shots, but are very expensive. **GUIDED FIRE** 200-12,000 ft. TOW

AP/T. Dean Caple

## Chinese courts try student leader for 1989 protests

BEIJING - A Chinese people's court Wednesday put on trial Wang Dan, the most-wanted student leader of the 1989 pro-democracy movement that was crushed by Communist authorities.

Wang is at least the 25th activist to be tried or sentenced this month as the government seeks to wrap up such cases while the world is preoccupied with war in the Persian Gulf. Wang, 23, has been jailed 19 months.

His name topped a police list of the 21 most-wanted student leaders after the democracy movement was put down in an army assault across Beijing on June 4, 1989. Hundreds of people were killed.

Wang was arrested the next month while meeting with a Taiwanese reporter to ask for help in fleeing China.

A small notice announcing Wang's trial was posted outside the Beijing Intermediate People's Court. It said he was charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement," the charge most frequently used against political prisoners.

Court officials refused to say if Wang's family was allowed to attend the trial, which was closed to the public.

The trial recessed later Wednesday without any verdict being announced.

Wang, a history student at Beijing University, had organized campus discussions on political reform even before the democracy movement began. Inspired by Soviet glasnost, he wrote an article advocating China take the same path.

In April 1989, when college students put up posters to mourn the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, Wang was among the first to urge they channel their grief into efforts to change the system.

## No help from banks

# Soviet monetary change threatens savings

MOSCOW - Soviets have grumbled for years that shortages and inflation have made their rubles nearly worthless.

Their complaints became reality late Tuesday when President Mikhail Gorbachev announced he was pulling out of circulation the green 50-ruble and tan 100-ruble notes.

By dawn Wednesday, long lines had formed at banks in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities with Soviets anxious to cash in their high-denomination ruble notes so that they are not left with worthless pieces of paper.

"My friend called last night, and her 90-year-old mother was in tears," said a woman who stopped by a bank near the Kiev railroad station.

"She saved 2,000 rubles (\$3,224) in an envelope for her own funeral," said the woman.

Under government decree, any large-denomination bills not turned in by Saturday are worthless. Anybody who tries to turn in more than his monthly salary is to be questioned about where the money came from.

For millions of Soviets, it will be impossible to produce written records of legal transactions in new small businesses, or the source of a lifetime's savings.

Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov has said as much as one-third of the cash is in the form of big bills. The government's move apparently was intended to slash inflation by cutting the excess supply of rubles.

Professional black marketeers long ago switched from dealing in rubles to convertible currencies and are unlikely to be affected by the change.

But people temporarily holding large amounts of cash earned from

selling or buying cars, video recorders and other such consumer items faced financial disaster.

Meanwhile, the government restricted withdrawals from bank accounts to 500 rubles (\$806) monthly. That is almost twice the average monthly salary of 267 rubles (\$430), but only slightly more than it costs to buy a pair of fashionable sneakers at inflated prices in the unofficial economy.

The government said it would replace the bills with new ones later. But much about the program was unclear, and appeared unlikely to be cleared up before the deadline to turn in the old money.

"Some may challenge the social justice of the president's decree, but they cannot say that the Soviet leadership remains idle while the country stands on the brink of total economic

collapse," said Tass news agency analyst Andrei Orlov.

Ivan Silayev, prime minister of Boris Yeltsin's Russian republic, said parliament there would discuss the reform on Thursday. But despite Yeltsin's disagreements with Gorbachev on economic issues, Russia's position "will not be an explosive stand," said Silayev.

Bank employees were quoted by Tass as saying they were caught completely unaware by the government move.

Many elderly Soviets distrust banks because they have lived through previous such reforms, and prefer to keep their money in cash at home.

According to the decree, retirees can exchange 200 rubles (\$322) of big bills. Others can exchange a month's salary, up to 1,000 rubles (\$1,612).

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