

Officials to seek advice on ground war

WASHINGTON - The nation's top military officials, heading for the war front, said Thursday they would seek battlefield advice on whether the time is right to begin a ground attack against Iraq's powerful army.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said the administration is "not eager to do something foolish but there are a whole series of considerations."

Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Friday for three days of discussions with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces, and other military leaders on the next stage of the Persian Gulf war.

"Our hope is that we can wrap it up as soon as possible, to minimize the loss of life on all



3-D war Battle plan fine-tuned in gulf

WASHINGTON - When and if the land battle begins, it will be three-dimensional: close combat, deep operations and rear-area security.

The three-dimensional approach is central to the U.S. Army's war-fighting doctrine, known as AirLand Battle. Developed in the early 1980s and even now being fine-tuned, the doctrine has never been tested in a major conflict.

But this is how it might work in the Persian Gulf war, according to Pentagon planners:

- An Army task force of infantrymen, combat engineers and tanks opens a pre-dawn assault on Iraq's fortified defenses at the Saudi-Kuwait border.

- An airborne division drops deep behind the Iraqi front line, supported by helicopter gunships and allied ground attack planes whose fire is guided by surveillance aircraft operating miles back of the Saudi border.

- Far to the rear of the U.S. attacking forces, a tank battalion patrols for signs that Iraqi air assault teams have infiltrated to strike at allied supply lines.

These scenes may not precisely fit an actual U.S.-led ground offensive against Iraq. But they do describe the three elements that almost certainly are key features of the American plan for conducting a land battle.

Dick Cheney, the secretary of defense, and Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were

sides," the defense secretary told the House Armed Services Committee before he left. "The war can end tomorrow, if Saddam Hussein will get out of Kuwait."

Cheney and Powell are to return Sunday to brief President Bush, who will make the final decision on a ground war.

As allied bombing and artillery attacks continued, the United States held out the prospect of postwar reconstruction aid for Iraq, particularly if Saddam Hussein is gone.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III said the Middle East deserves "the same spirit of multilateral commitment to reconstruction and development" that the world's developed nations have shown in such areas as Europe and Latin America.

However, Baker said, "There is no suggestion on our part that the rebuilding of Iraq could proceed, if the current leadership of Iraq remained in power, to the same extent and degree

that it could otherwise."

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the secretary said that if Saddam remained in power, "we might very well be adopting different measures" regarding economic embargoes and weapons controls than if the Iraqi president were gone.

Baker said, "The time of reconstruction and recovery should not be the occasion for vengeful actions against a nation forced to war by a dictator's ambition. The secure and prosperous future everyone hopes to see in the gulf must include Iraq."

Across the Capitol, Cheney and Powell explained their fact-finding mission to Saudi Arabia to the House Armed Services Committee.

"Our mission... is specifically to go spend time with General Schwarzkopf, our commander, and his staff, to review the overall course of the war, to see what steps should come next and to

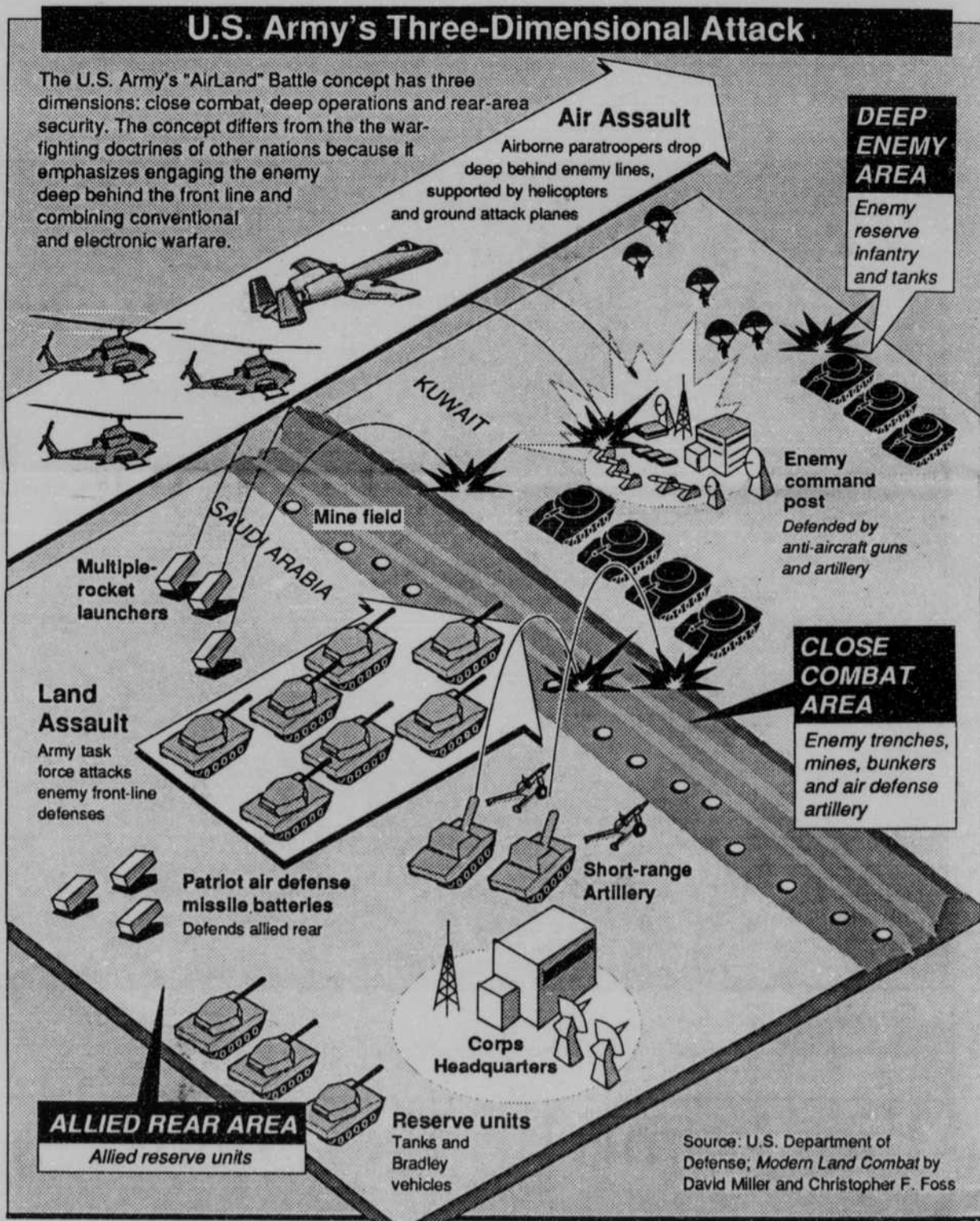
report back to the president," Cheney said.

"Do not go forward with this escalation," implored Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Calif. "Every single feeling I have in my body is frightening, ominous and foreboding. That to go forward with escalation may very well mean a cost in human terms that stagger the imagination."

Rep. Larry Hopkins, R-Ky., said "patience has been a great reward for us up until now," and he urged Cheney "not to ask America's children to walk across the sand."

In Saudi Arabia, the commander of British forces in the gulf, Lt. Gen. Peter de la Billiere, said, "I believe the land war is inevitable." But Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Neal, a U.S. command spokesman, said, "I don't think I would attach the word 'inevitable' to it."

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand said a ground war "promises to take place in coming days, in any case sometime this month."



Vietnam-style body count banned; armament 'kills' measure success

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - Facing an edict from their commander that there will be no Vietnam-style "body count" in a gulf ground war, U.S. officers will use wrecked tanks, guns and helicopters to measure the course of battle against the Iraqis.

Some officers question privately whether this impersonal approach, set forth in a new statement of policy, is appropriate. They believe the counting of enemy dead unavoidably will become common practice by units doing the actual fighting.

"It's all very well to talk about 'killing tanks' and 'killing APCs,' but if you're going to do that you might as well try to figure out how many people were also killed," said a headquarters officer, speaking on

condition of anonymity.

A recent query to the U.S. Central Command seeking a definition of "light, moderate and heavy" casualties elicited the response that this method of reporting losses, used in Vietnam, is no longer accepted by the military.

U.S. officers said Thursday they were still waiting for the Pentagon to say how U.S. battle casualties would be reported on a daily basis, by numbers or by some far less precise method, such as the effect of personnel losses on the unit involved.

In the only ground action so far to inflict U.S. casualties, the command gave a precise figure of 11 Marines killed, and went even further to say seven were killed by "friendly fire."

Soviet turmoil threat to peace

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Thursday that the inability of Kremlin leaders to control events within Soviet borders could pose a greater threat to world peace than "any conscious policy of seeking to expand their influence through military means."

The Pentagon chief also cast doubts on the prospects for U.S.-Soviet arms control treaties.

Cheney noted to the House Armed Services Committee that problems remain with the strategic arms reduction treaty, still under negotiation, and the conventional forces treaty signed last November, but not yet submitted for Senate ratification.

Talks between U.S. and Soviet

officials on cutting arsenals of strategic nuclear missiles, bombers and submarines resume this week in Geneva following an unsuccessful effort to conclude the pact in Washington.

The prospective treaty was to be the centerpiece for a U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow next week. The two superpowers postponed the meeting, officially citing needs to focus instead on the war in the Persian Gulf.

But unstated reasons for the delay were the snags in the arms talks and U.S. displeasure over the Soviet Union's deadly crackdown on demonstrators in the Baltic republics.

Cheney unveiled for members of Congress his fiscal 1992 defense

budget, calling for steep reductions in troop strength and acquisitions of aircraft, ships and other weapons in response to a diminishing Soviet threat to the West.

The budget is a response to the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union's continuing withdrawal from Eastern Europe and its lessening influence there, Cheney said.

"That means that the greatest threat to the neighbors of the Soviet Union in the future may well come more from the Soviet inability to control events inside the Soviet Union than it will from any conscious policy of seeking to expand their influence by military means," the Pentagon chief said.

Daily Nebraskan
 Editor Eric Pfanner 472-1766 Professional Adviser Don Walton 473-7301
 The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.
 Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 436-9993.
 Subscription price is \$45 for one year.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
 ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1990 DAILY NEBRASKAN