

## U.S. warplane downs Iraqi jet

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia - The United States vividly demonstrated its dominance over Iraq's airspace on Wednesday by shooting down an Iraqi warplane that took flight in violation of the gulf war cease-fire.

It was the first air engagement since fighting stopped three weeks ago after the U.S.-led coalition drove the defeated Iraqi army from Kuwait, and came as Saddam Hussein's forces tried to suppress Kurdish and Shiite Muslim insurgencies.

Iraq on Wednesday accused Iran of inciting the uprisings. Iran has denied involvement, although its president has urged Saddam to resign.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, Iraq's neighbors and the largest Persian Gulf states, announced Wednesday they were restoring diplomatic relations after a three-year rift. Tehran, which has been moving to mend relations with Arab states, also reopened its embassy in Amman, Jordan.

The U.S. Central Command said an Air Force F-15C shot down the Iraqi Su-22 jet fighter over Tikrit, Saddam's hometown. The fate of Iraqi pilot was not known.

President Bush said U.S. forces will not hesitate to shoot down any other Iraqi planes that fly, but added: "I don't think that will happen."

"We're not resuming hostilities. We're not re-engaging," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. "We're simply proceeding with the cease-fire as we outlined it to the Iraqis."

The air engagement occurred less than 100 miles from Kirkuk, a



key northern city that Kurdish rebels claimed was being bombarded by Iraqi aircraft Wednesday. Such rebel claims could not be verified independently.

The United States has told Iraq not to use its warplanes against the insurgents. It was not known whether the Su-22 shot down was moving against rebel positions.

It was the first time Iraqi fixed-wing combat aircraft have flown since the cease-fire, said Lt. Col. Virginia Pribyla, a Central Command spokeswoman in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

A second Iraqi warplane "landed on its own after the engagement," the Central Command reported.

The F-15C that shot down the Iraqi jet was one of two sent by an AWACS radar plane to visually identify the Iraqi Su-22s before engaging them.

"The Iraqi attempt to fly these two fighter aircraft is a violation of terms agreed with Iraqi military officials during military-to-military talks at Safwan, Iraq, on March 3,"

the Central Command said.

Pribyla would not say what fighter wing or unit the F15s belonged to.

She said the United States has been flying combat air patrols over Iraq since the cease-fire began, but refused to say how many planes were involved or what weapons they carry.

In a second round of cease-fire talks Sunday, allied military commanders warned Iraqi commanders not to move their warplanes for any reason.

U.S. Maj. Gen. Robert Johnston told the Iraqis using warplanes would be a clear violation of the temporary cease-fire conditions established at initial cease-fire talks by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. commander in the gulf.

"Schwarzkopf said during the cease-fire discussions they could not fly fixed-wing aircraft. They did. We shot it down," Fitzwater said.

Secretary of State James Baker has acknowledged the U.S. stance has a "collateral effect" of hindering Baghdad from fighting the rebels. Baker has insisted the United States' intent was not to help topple Saddam's government.

Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani has claimed Iraqi government troops used helicopters and warplanes to drop napalm and incendiary bombs on the northern cities of Karahanzeer and Shamshamal.

Another rebel spokesman, Hoshyar Zebari, said Wednesday in London that Iraqi helicopters and aircraft were bombarding Kirkuk, causing hundreds of casu-

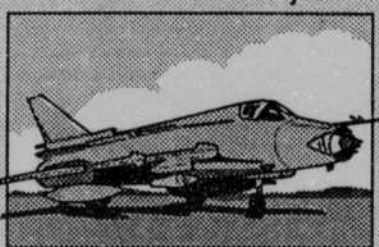
alties. Kurdish guerrillas claimed they had taken control of the city despite the Iraqi air attack, driving out the last army defenders in intensive street fighting.

In other developments:

●The U.S. Senate voted to cut off \$55 million in military and economic aid to Jordan because of King Hussein's pro-Iraqi stance during the gulf war. The measure is opposed by the President.

●Kuwait's 22-member Cabinet was dissolved by Crown Prince Saad Abdullah al-Sabah, the prime minister, on Tuesday night.

### Sukhoi Su-22 Soviet-built attack jet



Specifications:	
Wing span (spread)	45 ft. 3 in.
Length overall	61 ft. 6 1/4 in.
Weight (empty)	22,046 lbs.
Performance:	
Maximum speed	1,380 mph
Combat radius (maximum)	425 miles

Source: Jane's All The World's Aircraft

## Bush warns Iraq: U.S. will down more warplanes

WASHINGTON - President Bush warned Iraq on Wednesday the United States will continue to shoot down its warplanes if any more take off, underscoring the hard-line stand the administration has adopted in the absence of a formal cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

He made his comment after an Iraqi Su-22, a Soviet-made, swept-wing bomber, was downed by an F-15 fighter jet near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in central Iraq.

U.S. forces continued to hold the southeastern portion of Iraq, keeping Iraqi troops out, destroying military equipment they find and retaining "a nice bargaining chip" to encourage progress toward an acceptable formal end to the war, a senior military officer said.

Even though 85,500 U.S. troops have left the gulf in the three weeks since hostilities were suspended, U.S. forces remain on alert for any change in Iraq's military posture that could be considered a threat, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

U.S. F-15 fighter jets are flying 24-hour patrols over Iraqi airspace, while AWACS early warning planes keep an eye out for any combat aircraft taking wing.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Wednesday's incident did not mean a broad resumption of hostilities.

"We're not re-engaging. We're simply proceeding with the cease-fire as we outlined it to the Iraqis," the spokesman said.

"One of the Iraqi planes violated the agreement" that put the current temporary cease-fire in place, Bush said. "And it was shot down."



## Court bans 'fetal protection'

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court said Wednesday that employers may not adopt "fetal protection" policies that bar women of child-bearing age from certain hazardous jobs, calling such rules illegal sex discrimination.

"Decisions about the welfare of future children must be left to the parents who conceive, bear, support and raise them rather than to the employers who hire those parents," the court said in the decision that will affect millions of working women nationwide.

The justices had been told that at least 15 major corporations have fetal

protection policies.

The court unanimously struck down a policy imposed since 1982 by the Milwaukee-based Johnson Controls Inc., the nation's largest manufacturer of automobile batteries. The policy banned women of child-bearing age who could not prove they were infertile from certain hazardous but top-paying jobs.

In the fetal-protection case, five of the court's nine members said Congress had banned all sex-specific fetal protection policies.

"Concern for a woman's existing or potential offspring historically has been the excuse for denying women

equal employment opportunities," Justice Harry Blackmun wrote for the majority.

Blackmun was joined by two fellow liberals, Justices Thurgood Marshall and John Paul Stevens; Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the court's only woman member; and Justice David Souter, the court's newest member.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Byron White and Anthony Kennedy voted to strike down the policy, but said the court went too far when it ruled that fetal protection policies never can be justified as a "bona fide occupational qualification."

### Police brutality

## The pressure's on

Pressure mounted Wednesday on Los Angeles' defiant police chief to resign because of the beating of a motorist.

In New York City, indictments of five police officers were announced Wednesday in the choking death of a car-theft suspect, prompting the police chief to issue new guidelines for handling certain suspects.

"A police officer cannot break the law in order to enforce it," Chief Lee Brown told reporters.

In Tennessee, jurors deliberated a case against three deputies charged in the beating death of a drug suspect. And in Washington, Congress joined the gathering debate by holding hearings on police brutality.

The latest uproar over police brutality began with the March 3 beating of motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles, captured blow-by-blow on videotape by a nearby resident trying out a new camera.

Four officers have been charged with assault in the case and many Los Angeles residents have called for Police

Chief Daryl Gates to resign.

In an appearance before the City Council, Gates defended his department and showed no intention of resigning. He did concede some failings and promised a "brick-by-brick" analysis of training procedures.

"We are devastated by this," Gates told the council. "We are devastated because this is a good department. It's a fine department." However, he added, "We do fail."

Several people spoke out during an open forum portion of the meeting to complain about brutal, racist police officers.

"He's the head Ku Klux Klan grand dragon of all grand dragons. I feel he is a racist," an unidentified black woman said of Gates. Others said, "Gates must go."

The American Civil Liberties Union said it would deliver thousands of letters demanding Gates' resignation. And black leaders scheduled a meeting to discuss ways to force the chief to step down.

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