

Bush hopes Hussein 'got the message'

WASHINGTON — President Bush declared the military strike on Iraq "a big success" Thursday and said he hoped Saddam Hussein "got the message."

The Pentagon said allied warplanes had damaged the four Iraqi air defense sites they targeted and destroyed one mobile missile battery.

The Pentagon said three other missile batteries were dismantled by the Iraqis after the attack.

Administration officials said the limited allied attack demonstrated to a defiant Saddam that the United States had the political will to strike and might do so again at any time.

President-elect Clinton said he would judge Saddam's behavior by his future conduct but could not imagine normalizing relations.

"The aggressive military tyrants achieved much less than what their sick minds had dreamed of," said an Iraqi military communique, which counted 19 dead and 15 wounded from Wednesday's strike at eight targets in Iraq's southern "no-fly zone." Iraq also said it would cease its incursions into Kuwait and let United Nations weapons inspectors resume their flights.

The Pentagon called the attack "a very small mission" with only 40 planes bombing Iraqi radar stations and surface-to-air missiles for just 15 minutes. An additional 70 U.S., British and French aircraft provided air cover, refueling and other support.

"This wasn't even the second cousin of all battles," said Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams.

He said the radar installations in southern Iraq were "seriously degraded" and the targeted mobile surface-to-air missile batteries were either hit by the allies or dismantled by the Iraqis. One was hit for sure, he said.

Williams declined to quantify the damage, saying, "I don't have a box score for you." But he ran videotapes from cameras mounted on the attack aircraft that showed two bombs striking targets, two missing and cloud cover obscuring

— 66 —
The skies are safer and the message is clearer today because of the courage of those young air crews that did the Lord's work yesterday.

--Bush

99 —

another target.

Allied aircraft resumed patrols Thursday over the "no-fly zone," taking photographs to verify the damage reports and searching for any sign that Saddam might strike back.

Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, provided the first indication that not all the targets were hit.

Scowcroft said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that the attack knocked out "in the neighborhood of half" the targets. He added, "we accomplished our objective." Bush said he thought the mission "was a big success."

"Let's just hope that Saddam Hussein got the message," he said. "I hope that he will now comply with these United Nations resolutions." Later, at a military salute to the outgoing president at Fort Myer, Va., Bush said, "we showed Saddam Hussein once again that he cannot violate international law with impunity." "The skies are safer and the message is clearer today because of the courage of those young air crews that did the Lord's work yesterday," said Bush in a voice cracking with emotion. "We are grateful to each and every one of them."

Clinton lent full backing to Bush's decision and said he would not rule out authorizing force himself if warranted.

In an interview published Thursday in the New York Times, Clinton said his message to Saddam was: "If you want a different relationship with me, you can begin by observing the U.N. requirements, and change your behavior."

WORLD WIRE

85 Bosnians reportedly dead from cold and hunger

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Hoping to stem a reported wave of deaths from cold and hunger, U.N. officials Thursday assembled a convoy for Zepa, the east Bosnian town cut off from aid since the nine-month old ethnic war began.

The convoy, scheduled to arrive Friday in the mountain town of Zepa, was in response to reports of new deaths in and around the Muslim enclave in Serb-held territory.

Amateur radio operators in Zepa, the only contact to the outside world, on Wednesday reported 85 deaths in the previous 24 hours, including 51 children in the mountain area about 35 miles east of Sarajevo.

In addition, Bosnian TV reported that 17 people, including nine children, froze to death or starved in Srebrenica, a town near the Serbian border.

Serb gunmen and mines have prevented U.N. convoys from crossing snowy roads to Zepa, where some people are living in caves.

U.N. officials say up to 400,000 Bosnians could die of starvation or cold this winter.

Colombian volcano erupts, kills at least 6

BOGOTA, Colombia — A volcano erupted in southern Colombia on Thursday, spewing a huge column of ash and killing at least six scientists taking gas samples on its side, according to the Colombian Red Cross.

Eight other scientists — three Americans and five Colombians — were injured and 10 were missing, the Red Cross said.

"I can hear people below in the crater screaming for help," said RCN radio re-

porter Jose Meneses. Rescue workers were turned back by showers of super-heated rocks and ash on the 14,109-foot-high Galeras volcano near Pasto, about 375 miles south of Bogota.

The scientists were in Colombia for a conference attended by about 100 volcanologists and scientists from around the world.

Letterman draws laughs on his way out of NBC

NEW YORK — David Letterman told his audiences on Wednesday and Thursday that he's leaving NBC for CBS and a \$14 to \$16 million-a-year salary.

And, you can be sure, he's laughing the whole way out.

Letterman, during the Wednesday afternoon taping of his show, tipped his hand by

starting with a joke about how he would be visiting outgoing President Bush to pick up any extra moving boxes.

Letterman then announced that his last show on NBC would be June 25.

"Shortly thereafter we'll be taking this program to another network, taking it over there to CBS," he said.

Marines finding frustrating line between constraint and attack

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A U.S. Marine patrol runs into gunfire. The Somali bandits drop their weapons and insolently raise their hands as the troops close in on them.

A young punk pulls a long knife on a soldier and refuses to drop it for several moments.

"In Vietnam we would have blown him away," said veteran Sgt. Maj. Robert Sexton, of Marianna, Fla.

In these and other confrontations, troops would probably have been justified in pulling their triggers. But they did not — risking their own lives to save civilians and stay within bounds of the current rules of engagement.

Such restraint bespeaks of highly disciplined, well-trained troops, which the Americans in Operation Hope have so far proved to be.

But as they scour the blighted, sprawling capital of one million people for snipers, some Marines are getting frustrated. Just before the first fatal shooting of a Marine, the Marine commander issued an "attitude adjustment" memo noting some troops had "lost sight of the

humanitarian nature of their mission."

"If we are not careful," said the memo from Maj. Gen. Charles Wilhelm, "we will start thinking that we're at war and we may forget that our mission here is one of peace and humanitarian assistance."

Wilhelm admonished those who didn't wave to Somali children, blow their horns in traffic jams and push crowds aside while on patrols.

But where it counts, Marine behavior generally has been exemplary.

On Thursday, for example, the same Marine unit that a day earlier killed a Somali who confronted them with a machine gun went to apologize to the man's widow.

The shooting was regarded as justified by the U.S. command, but an order to apologize was issued anyway.

Commanders are aware that more American deaths in situations where soldiers feel they're confronting an enemy with one hand tied behind their back could fray morale and spark aggression against Somalis.

Homosexual seaman's brutal death sparks controversy over military ban

SAN DIEGO — A month after he informed the Navy he was gay, 22-year-old Seaman Allen Schindler was beaten to death.

Now, he has become a martyr for gay activists in their crusade to end the military's ban on homosexuals.

"The death of Allen Schindler is the gay version of Rodney King," said Mike Petrelis, national spokesman for Queer Nation.

"We know that lots of gays are harassed and treated brutally by the military," Petrelis said from Washington. "In the case of Schindler, just like the case of Rodney King, the difference is this time we found out about it."

The Navy has released few details of Schindler's death. He was killed the night of Oct. 27 in a public restroom near the port of his ship, the Belleau Wood, in Sasebo, Japan, officials say.

He had disclosed that he was gay to his captain and asked for a discharge in September, the Navy said. Friends say he wanted out because shipmates had harassed him.

Airman Apprentice Charles A. Vins of

Sturgis, Mich., was convicted at a court-martial Nov. 23 of concealing a crime and resisting arrest. Vins, 20, was sentenced to one year in custody and given a bad conduct discharge.

A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday in Yokosuka, Japan, to determine whether another airman apprentice — Terry M. Helvey, 20, of Eloise, Mich. — should face court-martial on a murder charge. Navy officials won't discuss details of the case.

Petrelis accuses the Navy of trying to cover up a hate crime.

Gay activists have joined forces with Schindler's mother, who might normally be an unlikely ally. She didn't believe her son was gay and is uncertain about allowing gays into the military, an idea supported by President-elect Clinton. "It doesn't make any difference whether he was gay, they didn't have the right to kill him," Dorothy Hajdys said.

Ms. Hajdys, 46, will travel to San Diego, her son's hometown before his amphibious assault ship was moved to Japan, for a memorial service Sunday.

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