

# J.S. 'STORM' RAGES

CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — The United States and its allies pounded Iraq with two waves of air strikes today in a furious bid to drive Saddam Hussein's armies from Kuwait and break his military might.

"We will not fail," a somber President Bush told the nation.

Saddam apparently survived a night of fire that rained down on his capital. As Baghdad, he spat defiance at the allied armies in a radio message from an undisclosed location.

"The mother of all battles is under

way!" the Iraqi president proclaimed.

The first strike came before dawn and a second wave followed about seven hours later.

Baghdad radio later today claimed Iraqi anti-aircraft units shot down 14 attacking warplanes, but the report could not be independently confirmed. U.S. officials did not immediately report any casualties.

The second-wave attack scored direct hits on the Iraqi Defense Ministry and the post office headquarters, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported. U.S. military officials said the targets were strategic sites, but an Iraqi communique said

densely populated residential areas had been hit.

Japan's Arabian Oil Co. said Iraqi artillery shelled oil installations at the Saudi town of Khafji near the Kuwait frontier, blowing up an oil storage tank. No injuries were reported.

A Western diplomat in the gulf state of Bahrain also said Iraq fired surface-to-surface missiles toward Saudi Arabia, but said they were either destroyed in the air or fell short of their targets.

U.S. television correspondents in Baghdad said there was little sign of damage in some sections of downtown Bagh-

dad this morning. There was light traffic, and even the trash collectors made their rounds, they said.

Amid reports the raids were successful and drew little Iraqi resistance, oil prices fell back to \$25 a barrel in London after spiking up to \$33 shortly after war broke out. The price of gold plummeted in London, opening down nearly \$20 from Wednesday's close, and Tokyo stock prices surged nearly 4.5 percent.

Bush ordered the release of crude oil from U.S. strategic petroleum reserves to

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## Texas A&M The Battalion

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### A&M students ride with Bush in Iraqi attack

KATHERINE COFFEY  
The Battalion Staff

Several Texas A&M students reacted favorably Wednesday night to President Bush's decision to launch the first attack on Iraq.

Corps Commander Jonathan Whittles, a senior biomedical science major, said 2,000 Corps of Cadets members had a "silent chow" at Duncan Dining Hall to show respect for troops in Saudi Arabia.

Whittles said the Corps had two flight commanders sent to Saudi Arabia and numerous other cadets in the reserves.

"I think we should have a supportive and good attitude about the whole thing and not approach it as a jumbo III," Whittles said. "This is something our generation has never seen before and it takes you back."

Whittles said he is pleased with Bush's policy of setting Tuesday's deadline and not backing down.

"Pray that the war will be over quickly," Whittles said.

April Hoss, whose family and fiancé are in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, said when she visited her parents during Christmas, they were in high spirits. She said her family believed the U.S. Armed Forces and American consulate were protecting them.

Hoss, whose parents and fiancé work for ARAMCO, said her family lives in a camp with about 14,000 Americans.

"The consulate is not going to help them (American civilians) there. The consulate thinks there is danger," said Hoss, a freshman business administration major.

People who do not know much about the Middle East are more scared, she said.

"Most people think Saudi Arabians are terrorists, but they are not," she said. "Our presence there is greatly appreciated, and I would say about 98 percent of the Saudi's support Americans. You can tell a difference because people are behind the troops and wave at them when they march by."

"We have soldiers come to our house twice a week, and we also have come 50 miles past the border to meet the soldiers," Hoss said. "The soldiers seemed so positive and said they would lay their lives down for us."

"It is sad some won't be making it back home, but if we were not there, there is no doubt Saddam would have marched straight into Saudi Arabia," Hoss said. "The soldiers chose to go over there. No one forced them. We should just support what they decide."

Jason Dohnalik, a freshman environmental design major, said he is supporting the war, but thinks the United States should have invaded

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JAY JANNER/The Battalion

April Hoss (left), a sophomore from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, cries Wednesday night in her room in Mosher Hall as she listens to news coverage of the U.S. attack in the Middle East. Hoss' best

friend Stephanie Collins (right) tries to comfort her. Hoss' fiancé and parents still live in Dhahran, but she said they had called her to let her know they were all right.

### Texans pray for safe return of loved ones

Associated Press

War broke out in Iraq Wednesday, and Texans prayed for peace and the safe return of their loved ones.

Twyla Beseda, whose son David is a member of the Air Force stationed in Saudi Arabia, wept tears of fear after learning the United States had launched an attack on Iraq.

"I am very scared and disappointed," Beseda said, as tears rolled down her face. "I was so hoping it would go the other way. I just got home from work and turned on the television and heard the news. This is devastating."

Beseda, a resident of Whiteface, said she feared for her son's life.

"David is stationed at the air base where the Stealth bombers are located," she said. "He loads bombs onto those planes. I just pray to God that he is going to be OK."

"It's such a helpless feeling. I guess all we can do is pray."

The attack, promised unless Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein withdrew from Kuwait by midnight Jan. 15, began about 3:50 p.m. CST (12:50 a.m. in Saudi Arabia and Iraq) as the United States launched air attacks.

"The liberation of Kuwait has begun," President Bush declared in Washington and the name of the campaign changed from Operation Desert Shield to Operation Desert Storm.

"I'm praying for our pilots, they're being shot at," U.S. Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, said. "I hope they all make it back. I hope they get their targets."

Gov. Ann Richards said, "It is a very sad time. My hope is that it will be completed quickly so that our men and women can come back home safely."

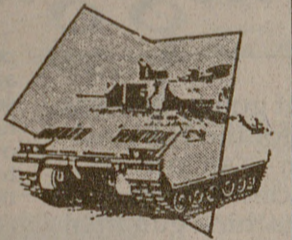
Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who was in combat during the Korean war, said, "Regardless of one's feeling before today about the possibility of war, there is no question but that we must now unite behind our troops, pray for divine guidance and hope this war is resolved as quickly as possible with as little loss to human life as possible."

In Houston, happy hour customers at a hotel bar were generally unaware the war had begun Wednesday evening.

"We were just talking now about how much time we would give them — two weeks or two days was what we were thinking," said Mark Burliss of Houston. "I think it's going to be over quickly."

"We should have given (Saddam Hussein) a way out," said Tom Ventruo of New York, sitting in the lobby of the downtown Hyatt Regency. "We never gave him a chance to save face."

Dale Garretson predicted the conflict would be "a couple-day air war."



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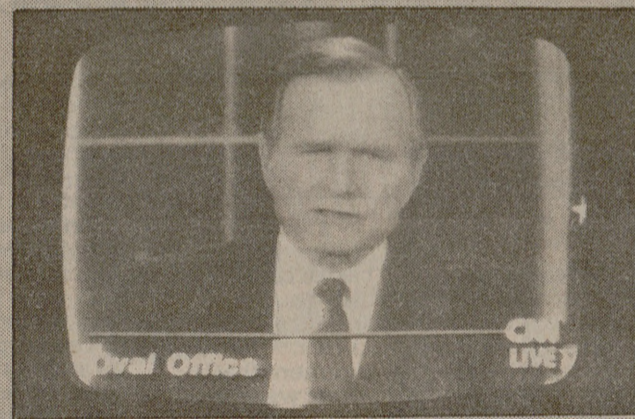
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"Tonight, the battle has been joined"

**Editor's note:** The following is a transcript of the speech President Bush made to the American public Wednesday night.

Just two hours ago, allied air forces began an attack on military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. These attacks continue as I speak. Ground forces are not engaged.

This conflict started Aug. 2 when the dictator of Iraq invaded a small and helpless neighbor, Kuwait — a member of the Arab league, a member of the United Nations — was



President Bush delivers his speech Wednesday night.

FREDERICK D. JOE/The Battalion

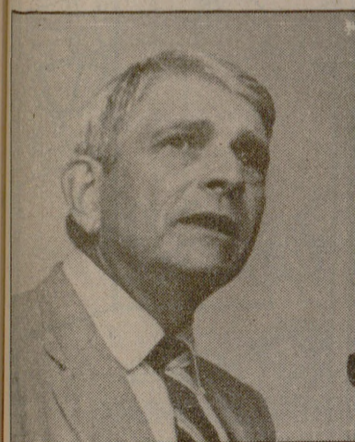
crushed, its people brutalized.

Five months ago, Saddam Hussein started this cruel war against Kuwait. Tonight, the battle has been joined.

Taken in accord with United Nations resolutions and with the consent of the United States Congress, follows months of constant and virtually endless diplomatic activity on the part of the United Nations, the United States, and many, many other countries.

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# Vandiver: Allied attacks 'bleeding the enemy'



Dr. Frank Vandiver

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Reports of the destruction of the Iraqi Air Force Wednesday night during the Desert Storm offensive might be premature, said the director of Texas A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense Studies.

Iraq hides some of its air force in revetments, sand caves without tops, that can partially protect planes unless hit directly, said Dr. Frank E. Vandiver. Vandiver is a distinguished University professor, military historian and former A&M president.

Two theories predict what underdogs will do in combat, Vandiver said.

"Either they launch a daring of-

## Mosher Institute director predicts outcome

fensive and maximize their equipment while they still have it, or they hunker down and hide and protect their stuff," Vandiver said.

Since many Iraqi aircraft cannot fly effectively at night, Vandiver said, Hussein might have decided to ride out an air attack.

Based on observations of network news reports, Vandiver said allied missiles were targeting the Iraqi Air Force on the ground, communications and command centers, and nuclear and chemical weapons labs or storage facilities.

Vandiver said the offensive would trigger the firing of Iraqi Scud missiles, which then could be destroyed

by allied missiles before hitting important cities like Amman, Jordan; Tel Aviv, Israel; Bahrain; Riyadh or Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Scud missiles can be equipped with warheads containing either chemical or biological agents.

Vandiver said two to three hours are needed to fuel Iraq's liquid-fuel missiles.

By eliminating the missiles fueled and ready to launch, Iraq would be at a severe disadvantage until replacement missiles could be refueled. By that time, the allies could have destroyed the missile sites.

The effects of the blockade now will be felt strongly by Iraq, Van-

diver said. They do not have access to any missiles once their original supply has run out.

If the Iraqi communications or command centers have been disabled, or if one-half of the Iraqi air force has been destroyed, the war will be shortened from months or weeks to days, Vandiver said.

Vandiver said he thinks those centers have been affected because Scud missiles reportedly launched by Iraq during the air strikes came close, but did not damage Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

"Military forces without command and communication centers are like ships without rudders," Vandiver

said.

Because the United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Kuwait had passed, Hussein should have been better prepared, he said. Vandiver attributes this lack of readiness to poor morale in the Iraqi forces.

"We are bleeding the enemy," Vandiver said.

After the allies bleed the enemy from the air, ground forces eventually will have to be used. Vandiver said there is no way to completely remove the Iraqi army from Kuwait without using ground forces.

But, nothing in war is predictable, Vandiver said.

"War is the most uncertain of all

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