

Iraq unleashes missile attacks

Bush condemns Iraqi aggression against Israel, Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush condemned Iraq's missile attack on Israel as "further aggression," and the White House said bombers from the Desert Storm alliance had been dispatched Thursday night for a fresh wave of air strikes against Iraqi targets.

Military officials said Iraq also had fired a single missile toward allied forces in Saudi Arabia. The missile was intercepted and destroyed, but even so the overnight Iraqi retaliation ended the eerie quiet from Baghdad that followed Wednesday

night's commencement of war.

Throughout much of the day, official Washington was expressing unbridled satisfaction with the war effort, and Bush vowed, "We will prevail."

But there was a sense that Iraq would eventually come out fighting, and the administration threatened to intensify the campaign against Baghdad if it used chemical or biological weapons.

The day's optimism was punctured by Iraq's missile attack on Israel. "It's what we've been worried about all along," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "The president is outraged at and condemns this further aggression by Iraq."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had vowed in advance to answer American hostilities with an attack

on Israel, a bid to widen the Persian Gulf war and tempt Arab nations — Syria and Egypt among them — to desert Desert Storm in favor of a holy war against the Jewish state.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III quickly phoned the ambassadors of several key nations, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Israel.

Israel did not retaliate, much to the administration's relief. Fitzwater

emphasized in his statement that the "coalition forces in the Gulf are attacking missile sites and other targets in Iraq."

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said his country reserved the right to retaliate, but answered with a non-committal smile when asked if it would do so. "So far the State of Israel has paid the dearest price of any other countries in the Middle East which

had faced Iraqi aggression, except Kuwait itself," he said, noting that the Jewish state is not part of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Iraqi President Saddam had threatened to strike Israel if he were attacked by the U.S.-led coalition massed in Saudi Arabia. It was not immediately known whether Israel was retaliating against Iraq.

The U.S. command expressed satisfaction with the air offensive against the Iraqis, but bad weather frustrated some strikes, and pilots said anti-aircraft fire was intense.

Relatives find support in group

By KAREN PRASLICKA
Of The Battalion Staff

While Desert Storm rages in the Middle East, family and friends of U.S. service people stationed in the war zone are getting help dealing with anxiety from a group formed by a Texas A&M Navy captain in the U.S. reserves.

Dr. Bruce Prevatt, director of the A&M Employee Assistance Program, says he is doing what he can to help families by leading a support group for those with family and friends stationed in Saudi Arabia.

About 35 people attended the first meeting Jan. 12, and another meeting was held Thursday night. The majority of the people were family members of soldiers in Saudi Arabia, but there were a few concerned students and citizens.

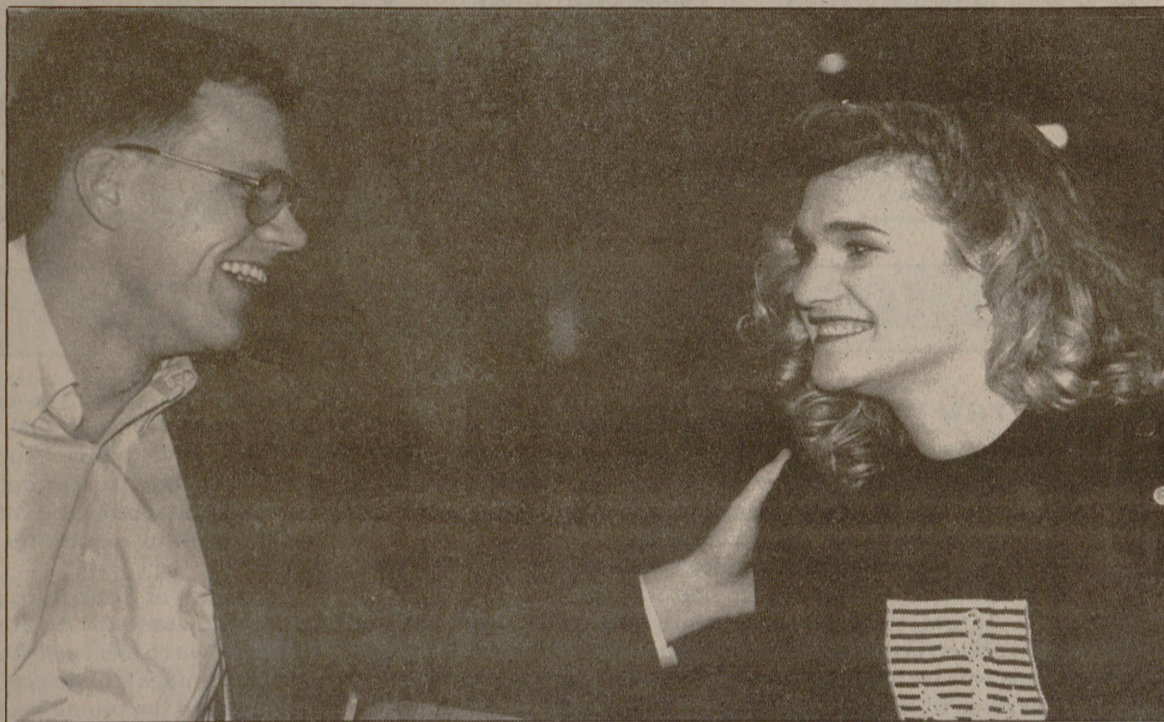
"The first meeting was more of an organizational meeting," Prevatt says. "It was supposed to let them know what our vision was but also to encourage them to share their vision. It's their group, not ours."

Prevatt also says the group was not created to make a political statement.

"We are there to work with the families in doing what we could to help them," he says.

The group is dedicated to the

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KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Chris Conner and Kathryn Dentry, whose husband is in Saudi Arabia, talk during a support group meeting for family and friends of U.S. service people stationed in the war zone. Volunteers working with the group are trying to provide the same services that families in a military community would receive.



Clevenger selected to head student body presidents council

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M Student Body President Ty Clevenger was named chairman of the Texas Council of Student Body Presidents at the student committee's Austin conference this week.



Clevenger

The council, which presently consists of student body presidents from 11 Texas universities, was organized by Clevenger last fall. The council was given official recognition during this week's conference.

The council discussed legislative issues pertinent to university students and the possible reorganization of statewide student organizations.

"We wanted to get all the student body presidents together to talk about legislative issues," Clevenger said. "Secondly, we wanted to discuss what would be the most effective way to establish one state student association as opposed to a million smaller ones, which are all splintered and have been ineffective in establishing a student presence in the Texas Legislature."

As chairman of the council, Clevenger will keep members of the committee informed on legislative

bills pertinent to college students. Council members will coordinate efforts via the SGA Net, a computer system that allows student governments to communicate.

One of the legislative bills Clevenger has been working to help get passed concerns student representation on the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and other boards.

"This bill, for the first time in the 20 or so years it has been pursued, has a chance of finally getting through," Clevenger said.

Other issues the council discussed included:

- Opposing flexible tuition which would give the state's boards of regents authority to raise undergraduate tuition.
- Getting the student service fee cap to be set by campus referendum.
- Having the Texas Election Code change the term "permanent address" on voter registration cards to just say "address," so students will not be confused.
- Requiring student government approval for all fee increases such as the computer access fee.
- Increasing faculty and staff funding.

"Faculty and staff funding normally has not been considered a student issue," he said. "But we are making it a student issue because universities cannot attract quality, competent teachers without paying them."

Red Cross urges donors to give blood for soldiers

By LYNETTE CLARK
Of The Battalion Staff

The Red Cross in the Brazos Valley is asking residents to show support for U.S. soldiers in the Middle East by donating blood today at a blood drive in Bryan.

Bill Thomas, director of the local Red Cross, said the blood drive is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at Fannin Elementary School. Fannin is located at 1200 Baker St. near 29th Street in Bryan.

Thomas said the U.S. military requested more than 1,000 units of blood a week from the Red Cross. The military normally takes care of its own blood supplies.

Because of the conflict, however, the Red Cross has been called to assist, Thomas said.

"The blood donated will be to replace that being used today in Saudi Arabia," Thomas said.

Supplying units of blood is only one of the important services provided by the Red Cross to military families, he said.

Family emergencies at home, like deaths and illnesses, and events like births, are relayed to soldiers in the Middle East by the Red Cross.

The Red Cross also informs families in the United States of any events involving loved ones in the military.

The Red Cross also provides emergency loans for military families in need of assistance.

"For some, the Red Cross is their one contact with the military for emergency situations," he said.

Today's blood drive is expected to draw a large number of donors, Thomas said.

"I've received quite a few phone calls today," he said. "I encourage everyone to come out and help the Red Cross help our soldiers."

Students withdraw, join forces in gulf

Forty-seven called to action

University News Service

Texas A&M's count of students who have been called to active duty as a result of the Middle East crisis now stands at 47.

Officials here say that number may rank as the largest total for any college in the nation.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Texas A&M associate vice president for student services who heads the University's new Task Force on the Gulf Crisis, said 22 of those students have had to withdraw from classes this week.

The other 25 students withdrew prior to the start of the spring semester, which began Monday.

"We do not have any compar-

ative figures, but logic would indicate that Texas A&M is among the leading institutions — perhaps the leading institution — in having students withdraw as a result of serving in reserve units that have been called to active duty," Southerland said.

He said he based that observation on the fact that Texas A&M's enrollment of 41,171 students last fall ranked as the seventh largest in the nation.

He also noted the University's long military tradition.

However, an updated list of students was not immediately available, so the exact figure of A&M young men and women there was not known.

Research expenditures increase by \$22 million

By JULIE HEDDERMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M research expenditures for 1990 increased to \$272.8 million, \$22.1 million more than last year, which ranks A&M eighth in the nation in research spending.

Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate study at A&M, says the largest amount of money — \$103 million — was spent on life science research.

Life science research includes veterinary medicine, agriculture, the College of Medicine, bioengineering and biotechnology.

Life sciences also led in research expenditures in 1989.

"That's our strongest single area of research," Anderson says.

The second largest area of research in 1990 was biological sciences with \$64.4 million. Engineering, which spent \$52.5 million, and environmental sciences with \$52.2 million followed.

The Institute of Biotechnology in Houston and Texas A&M at Galveston also have enlarged research expenditures.

Anderson says most funding comes from federal and state agencies, private foundations and industries.

A&M ranks sixth in industrial funding, receiving \$21.2 million from private industries who support research.

Universities ranking ahead of A&M in research expenditures include Johns Hopkins University, MIT, Cornell, Stanford, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan and University of Minnesota.

The University of Texas at Austin is ranked 17th with spending at \$193.3 million.

Anderson says A&M's research has grown 8 percent over the last five years and he expects it to continue to grow.

He says there will continue to be an increase in spending of \$15 million to \$20 million each year.

Cheney says conflict remains 'far from over'

A&M officials agree draft to support crisis unlikely

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

Military and civilian Texas A&M officials agree a military draft to support the Persian Gulf war is unlikely, and most predict a negative public response should a draft be initiated.

Even so, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said Thursday the conflict is "far from over," and warned against optimism for a quick war.

Seventeen years have passed since the government's authority for a military draft expired. The Selective Service System, however, remains active and ready to go.

A new draft would require authorization

by the U.S. Congress and the president.

Selective Service representatives in Washington, D.C. said during a phone conversation they are doing nothing unusual in response to the Persian Gulf situation.

If a draft were enacted, Selective Service would use a lottery system and assign top priority to men about 20, a representative said.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, commandant of the Corps of Cadets, said he sees nothing to suggest a draft will be reinstated, and any mention of a draft is "very preliminary."

"I think we have adequate forces for now," Darling said. "If we get into a long-duration occupation where we need long-standing forces there for some time, the rotation back home may not be sufficient

without draftees."

Col. James Woodward, an A&M military science professor, stressed that reinstatement of the draft would be a political decision, not a military one.

"I have no idea if there will be a draft," he said. "I would not think so. But I can only respond by doing what our national leaders say."

Col. William Barba, A&M naval science professor, said military officials can request or recommend a draft in times of need.

He said everyone hopes the war will come to a swift end. Barba, however, said hostilities would have to drag on longer than expected before national leaders consider a draft.

Barba said public reaction to a draft probably would be negative, judging from recent anti-war demonstrations around the nation.

He said he was "irritated" to see A&M reservists complain about being sent to Saudi Arabia.

"They joined (ROTC) to get educational benefits, then something like this happens," Barba said. "What did they expect? It's just doing your duty."

Dr. James Burk, an A&M sociology professor and author of the forthcoming book "The Military Obligation of Citizenship," said a portion of the today's public does not see military service as a patriotic obligation. "As the group of people who call them-

selves citizens has become more diverse, we had to correspondingly broaden the idea of what citizens ought to be," he said.

"It's impossible to say now that just because you are a citizen, you have an obligation to perform."

Burk said this trend has been building since the end of World War II, and manifested with protests during the Vietnam War.

His theory holds that if the public believes war is inevitable, it will respond more favorably to a draft.

"If war is intentional, a deliberate policy adopted by political leaders, it's difficult to assert — on moral grounds at least — a general obligation to perform military service," he said.