

Thursday, January 24, 1991

Allies gain air superiority; Iraqis 'ineffective'

top military official expressed satisfaction with the results of the first week of the Persian Gulf war Wednesday, but said Iraq is "an enemy that is ingenious" whose air force may yet "choose to come out and chal-

For now, said Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Iraqi air power has been "totally ineffective," leaving the United States and its allies with significant air superiority in the opening phase of the Gulf war.

In a Pentagon briefing that marked the one-week mark of the war to liberate Ku-wait from Iraq, Powell said more than 10,000 allied sorties had destroyed 41 Iraqi aircraft, either in air-to-air combat or on the ground. The Iraqis have an estimated

Defense Secretary Richard Cheney pre-ceded Powell to the lecturn and told reporters that "there may well be surprises ahead for us," including possible Iraqi air strikes, terrorist attacks and additional missile at-

Cheney acknowledged that Iraq's mobile Scud missile launchers were proving more difficult than expected.

Powell said the United States has lost at

U.S. Air Power In the Gulf Region

AIR SUPERIORITY The F-15 is a singleseat, long-range air-combat fighter. Each F-15 C Eagle interceptor is armed with eight air-to-air missiles, including four AIM-7F Sparrows which can be fired at up to 30 miles' range.

F-15 C/D Eagle 42 ft. 9 3/4 in. 63 ft. 9 in. 921 mph 2,878 miles U.S. air-superiority fighters in the Gulf include: F-15B/C, F-14

AP/Ross Toro, Karl Tate

nost one plane in air-to-air combat. Total U.S. losses in the first week amount to 10,

Cheney cautioned against expectations of a quick end to the war, saying, "A mili-

plexity cannot be scored every evening like a college track meet or basketball game," he

Powell and Cheney both urged the pub-

lic, and the media, to understand that it was not possible to know how badly the furious air campaign had damaged Iraq's military capability

Powell said the one-week mark was time

to "take stock and dampen the oscillations between euphoria and distress." He spoke about the mood around Washington, perhaps around the country, when the early air successes did not lead to a one-week victory

He said Marine forces are assembled off-shore, adding, "We are really just starting in earnest" to force Iraq from Kuwait. He described an enemy that is well dug in, with complex communications and a sophisticated supply system.

"Our strategy for dealing with this army is very simple: first we're going to cut it off, then we're going to kill it." The Iraqi army is "sitting there dug in, waiting to be attacked, and attacked it will be," he said. He said allied forces were "Assembling a fairly sizeable ground force that can finish the job if necessary."

the job if necessary. Armed with charts, maps and graphs Powell said allied forces have achieved air superiority in the war, but said "there still will be losses" in the days ahead. Even so, he said, air attacks can begin to concentrate in

Iraq has massed tens of thousands of Yet, he added, "We're dealing with an enemy that is resourceful, an enemy that knows how to work around problems."

southern Iraq and around Kuwait, where

Defensive missiles continue success rate

Dhahran, Riyadh sustain Scud attacks

fired from a major air base here on news conference at the Pentagon, Wednesday, and witnesses saw at briefing reporters on the progress of least one explosion to the north, inthe week-old Gulf war. dicating an incoming Iraqi Scud missile had been destroyed.

Air raid sirens also sounded in the

Saudi capital, Riyadh, 275 miles to the southwest, and witnesses said it appeared two Patriot missiles had

The firings came just as Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen.

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint shook Dhahran International Hotel, A barrage of Patriot missiles was Chiefs of Staff, were finishing a

> Witnesses in Riyadh said it appeared that a Patriot missile hit something over a hotel where many reporters are staying. They saw what appeared to be another Patriot fired, but apparently it did not strike any-

In Dhahran, one of the explosions throughout the base area.

just off the allied air base from which the Patriots were fired.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing two Patriots intercept an incoming missile at a low altitude not far from the end of a base runway.

After a flash in the air at the moment of interception, the witnesses said a large object fell to the ground and exploded, sending smoke and dust into the air and tremors

onds later speeding off the base and toward the area where the explosion

Of all the attacks on Dhahran, this was the first one to cause any kind of a ground tremor near the base.

On Tuesday night, debris from a Patriot-Scud interception rained down on a compound housing Americans who work at the Saudiowned Aramco oil company.

Cheney said, "There may well be

surprises ahead for us," including

possible Iraqi air strikes, terrorist attacks and additional missile firings.
White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said, "This is not going to be wrapped up in a week. We're not going to have this done in time for weekend talks shows and the evening news. This is going to gone le's

ning news. This is going to go on. It's going to be day after day just like

The administration promised "full consideration" to a request from Israel for an additional \$13 bil-

lion in economic aid over five years.



Iraqi airfields, given the United States air superiority and "put Saddam out of the nuclear bomb-building business for a long time to Bush, speaking to an audience of retired military officers, said, "I am pleased to report that Operation Desert Storm is right on

Military officials warned, however, that Iraq's military machine remains strong despite intense allied attacks. "We're dealing with an enemy that is resourceful, an enemy that knows how to work around

problems, an enemy that is ingenious," said Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Saddam "cannot change the basic course" of the war. "He will be defeated."

"There can be no doubt: Operation Desert Storm is working.

There can be no pause now that Saddam has forced the world into war. We will stay the course," he said. Bush added, "No one should weep for this tyrant when he is

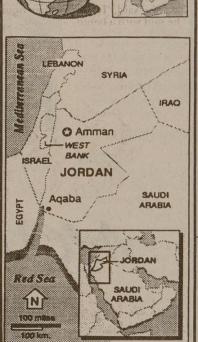
brought to justice. No one, anywhere in the world.

Lawmakers began to question how much the war will cost, and how to pay for it. House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., said there were no plans now to raise taxes but that "it would be a mistake to put this entire cost on the next generation. ... It's going to be a great

cost, we know that. Very, very large cost."

House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-III., said that if a tax increase became necessary, it probably would be a temporary income tax surcharge. However, he added, "Taxes are never temporary. They're usually permanent."





U.S. leaders warn of surprises Saddam Hussein called 'one misguided man'

WASHINGTON (AP) - The ence Wednesday night. Bush administration, declaring satisfaction with the first week of war, promised defeat for Iraq's Saddam Hussein but cautioned Wednesday there may be "surprises ahead for

President Bush denounced Saddam as "one misguided man" darkening the future of mankind.

Military leaders said allied bombing had destroyed Iraq's two nuclear research reactors and seriously damaged factories believed to produce chemical and biological weapons.

Saddam "doesn't know how badly he's been hit," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said, pointing to disruption of Iraq's communication sys-

Military officials warned, however, that Iraq's military machine remains strong despite intense allied

"We're dealing with an enemy that is resourceful, an enemy that knows how to work around problems, an enemy that is ingenious," said Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bush prepared to make a speech on the war before a military audi-

Vice President Dan Quayle visited military bases in three states, consoling families of U.S. airmen held in

Iraq.
He pledged that the United States
"will hold Saddam Hussein and his
henchmen personally accountable"
for mistreatment of POWs. The House, by a vote of 418-0,

condemned Iraq for parading POWs before cameras to make obviously coerced statements. At a Pentagon briefing, Powell

and Cheney faced a barrage of questions about the extent of damage inflicted on Iraq by unrelenting bombing attacks.

Powell said allied forces have

seized air superiority and now intend to focus attacks on Iraqi ground forces entrenched in and around Kuwait. He said the Iraqi army is sitting there dug in, waiting to be attacked and attacked it will be

"Our strategy for dealing with this army is very simple: First we're going to cut it off, then we're going to kill it."

Cheney said that Saddam "cannot change the basic course" of the war. "He will be defeated."

The administration rejected a broadcast report from Baghdad that allied attacks had destroyed a baby milk factory in Iraq

. The plant actually was used to produce biological weapons, Fitzwa-

"Any reports coming out of Baghdad are, in effect, coming from the Iraqi government," Fitzwater said.

Iraq has "used a lot of disguises in a lot of different ways," Fitzwater said. The plant in question "has been heavily guarded and has barbed wire," he said.



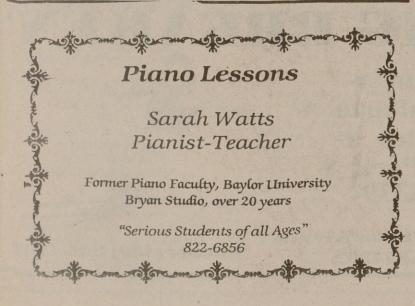
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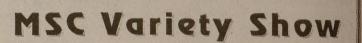
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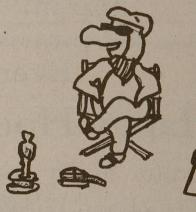
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