## Dinner with Matt Boyle & Sharing Lane War rooms: How the cable news networks get real time on the air A FREE concert provided by

MSC Hospitality and MSC Town Hall By Stephen Battaglio KRT CAMPUS



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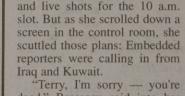
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"Terry, I'm sorry — you're dead," Brosseau said into her headset, informing business news correspondent Terry Keenan that her stock report wouldn't be coming up. Remotes from the White House were also dumped for live pictures from the front.

NEW YORK — Fox News.

It was midmorning last

Friday and she had already spent hours lining up segments

Channel producer Catherine Brosseau looked like an air-traf-

fic controller on speed.

Welcome to the fast-moving conveyor belt that brought the Iraq war to 76 million viewers over the first week of the war. To satisfy them, producers at Fox, CNN and MSNBC have been cranking it out 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And while the pictures from the front have been dazzling, getting them onscreen is not as easy as pointing a camera.

Here are some behind-thescenes glimpses at how it's all pulled together:

It's 11:30 on a morning last week, when several MSNBC producers, retired Army Gen. Bernard Trainor and anchor Lester Holt crowd into the office of Mark Effron, the executive in charge of MSNBC's live news coverage, at the One MSNBC Plaza complex in Secaucus, N.J. They're making plans for the next five hours on

Trainor, one of the many exgenerals becoming familiar to TV viewers, discusses how Iraqi paramilitary groups are causing problems for U.S. supply lines to Baghdad \_ a development that becomes a major part of the war story in the days

"Is there any parallel to make with the Viet Cong?" Effron



Phil Melito works in the satellite operations room at MSNBC headquarters in Secaucus, N.J., on March 26.

says. "The Iraqis studied warfare — disperse and deceive. Mislead. And they are doing that very successfully to maintain ironclad control of the population centers. So far they've been able to do that.'

Effron asks the general to write up those points and moves on to Holt, who has a sugges-

"I received an e-mail from a woman who made a really good point," he says. "She said sometimes you get going with your military-ese. I don't know what a brigade or a company is. Maybe we should keep that in

On to chief booker Mike Tanaka. His job is to line up the never-ending stream of talking heads who provide analysis when the live action lags. But with coverage not letting up for a moment, he's worried about burning out his military experts. "We need to give these guys

some time off," he says. "What, are they wusses?" Effron replies with mock anger. "Time off? I don't get time off!"

But war coverage strained the supply of TV-ready military analysts. Effron notes that reinforcements are on the way: MSNBC's parent, NBC News, had signed up a few more.

Later, Holt grabs a quick lunch with Trainor in the MSNBC commissary. The

for food since the war started (though employees note it hasn't made it any better).

Holt says he's been putting in 10- to 11-hour days anchoring which leaves little time for preparation. The advantage of being on

the air that long is you are absorbing information all along," he says. "When I talk to (NBC correspondent) David Bloom, I catalogue what he's told me about the weather." Since MSNBC headquarters

also serves much of NBC News, its satellite operations room looks like NASA's mission control. Just coming in that day was Peter Arnett's exclusive interview with Iraq's Tariq Aziz.

For the moment, Arnett's performance is a source of pride. But the war can shift fortunes quickly: Five days later, Arnett was fired from the network for giving an unapproved interview to Iraqi television.

Arnett sent the interview through his videophone. The technology has leveled the play ing field in covering the war. But the phones often have producers scrambling to put the uplinks on

"The embedded reporters come up when they come up," says Fox News executive producer Brian Gaffney. "We can't schedule someone at 10:41 and expect him to be there five minutes early and ready to go. We have to move stuff around."

## "Yes, very much so," Trainor channel has picked up the tab Attorneys say document in rubble of nightclub overstated capacity

By Brooke Donald THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Private attorneys say their investigators found a partly burned document in the rubble of a nightclub that suggests owners overstated the building's capacity for the concert being held when the club erupted in flames, killing 99 people.

The document, an unsigned contract between the band Great White and the owners of The Station, shows the owners promoted the club's capacity as 550 for the band's Feb. 20 concert, say the attorneys, who represent survivors and victims' families. West Warwick town officials have said the maximum capacity was 404, if all the furniture was removed.

Authorities have not determined how many people were in the building when the band's pyrotechnics started the fire, which also injured nearly 200 people. The blaze melted the hand clicker that kept track of patrons.

Jeffrey Pine, an attorney for club co-owner Jeffrey Derderian, said clubs often inflate capacity numbers to attract big-name bands.

But Kathleen Hagerty, attorney for the other co-owner, Michael Derderian, said neither of the brothers drew up the contract. She said the 550 number was generated by Pollstar Talent Buyer Directory, a national guide for booking agents.

My understanding is that the Derderians never supplied that number. More importantly, they never had 550 people at the club," she said.

Gary Bongiovanni, Pollstar's editor in chief, said clubs provide the information listed in the directory, but added that The Station's capacity had been listed as 550 since before the Derderians bought the club in 2000.

Bongiovanni said his researchers talked to someone at The Station in November to update the guide, but the only change made was the phone number.

Hagerty said it was unnerving that private investigators, not state investigators, found the

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