



4 DEAD IN WAKE OF MASSIVE STORM

EXTENSIVE COVERAGE INSIDE — PAGES 16-20A

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THE DENVER POST

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

Strike on Iraq

Cruise-missile attack targets Iraqi leaders



An explosion erupts in Baghdad during U.S. airstrikes launched against the Iraqi capital today. The U.S. aims to remove President Saddam Hussein from power and disarm Iraq.

By Kevin Simpson
and Michael Booth
Denver Post Staff Writers

Dawn brought the flash of explosions and anti-aircraft fire across Baghdad today, signaling the start of the U.S.-led campaign to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

A wave of Tomahawk cruise missiles and bombs dropped from F-117A Nighthawk stealth jets marked what one U.S. official called a surgical strike against a "target of opportunity" — Iraqi leaders that intelligence revealed to be in the area.

There was no immediate word on which leaders were targeted or whether the strike — called a "decapitation attack" by a Pentagon official — was successful. But images of Hussein broadcast hours after the attack appeared to show the Iraqi leader condemning the American aggression.

Although no attack planes were immediately visible from the ground, air-raid sirens wailed and flashes of yellow and white Iraqi tracer fire ignited the sky less than two hours after President Bush's deadline for Hussein to leave the country.

Just minutes after the U.S. launched the attack, Bush told Americans in a televised address that coalition forces had begun striking selective targets, the first part of a "broad and concerted campaign."

"And I assure you," the president said, "this will not be a campaign of half measures, and we will accept no outcome but victory."

Bush added that the U.S.-led coalition faces an enemy "who has no regard for rules of morality" and uses women and children as shields. He said coalition forces will make "every effort" to spare civilians and stressed that the war is not against the Iraqi people.

"We come to Iraq with respect for its citizens and the religion they practice," Bush said.

The president said that although the U.S. enters the conflict reluctantly, "we will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime."

A Colorado-based anti-war group, Priority Peace, issued a statement disputing Bush's claim that war with Iraq will make America safer from terrorism.

"Americans are going to be less safe at home and abroad — not more — as a result of this costly invasion and multi-year occupation of Iraq," the group said. "One certainty from this unnecessary and illegal war will be a wave of anti-Americanism around the globe like we've never seen before. We shouldn't be surprised to see 10 new al-Qaedas arise as a result of the Bush administration's conquest of Iraq."

Earlier, Bush had given Congress formal notice that diplomatic means alone would not contain the Iraqi leader's threat. That notification fulfilled terms of last year's resolution authorizing military force.

The president also offered new justification for the war — namely, that Iraq's defeat could supply new information about terrorists operating in the U.S.

In Denver's University Park enclave, neighbors gathered for a chili dinner after spending the afternoon shoveling snow from their driveways. The party broke up quickly after the announcement that war had begun.

"I hope it's short and sweet," said Skip Siemers, a real estate broker. "I don't think they can hold a candle to our military. Now that we're at war, everyone should be

TERRORISM

FBI focusing on Iraqis in U.S. 2A

KUWAIT CITY

Unseen, unaffected in Kuwait. 3A

REACTION

Confident support and unease. 4A

FAMILIES

Emotions run high in conflict. 5A

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ANALYSIS

Assault on officials designed to save lives

By John Walcott
and Tom Infield
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — America's pre-dawn attack on what Pentagon officials called "leadership targets" in Baghdad was a bold and unexpected beginning to President Bush's even bolder campaign to disarm Iraq and install democracy in place of Saddam Hussein's brutal dictatorship.

After months of preparing America, Iraq and the world for a devastating air and ground blitzkrieg, Bush switched signals at the last minute and attempted to kill Hussein, his sons and his most trusted aides in an effort to spare thousands of other lives, American, allied and Iraqi.

Whether the attempt succeeded is another matter. Intelligence officials had predicted that even if Hussein were dead, Iraqi officials would try to conceal the fact from their countrymen and the world. Hussein apparently made an appearance on Iraqi television this morning to condemn the attack.

And although clandestine American teams have been eavesdropping on Iraqi communications and prowling around Iraq for more than a month, intelligence officials concede that sighting Hussein isn't easy, in part because he employs body doubles and rarely sleeps in the same place two nights in a row.

Nevertheless, the president and his top aides concluded in an Oval

Office meeting Wednesday afternoon that killing the Iraqi leader, and perhaps also his sons Uday and Qusay and the top members of his Revolutionary Command Council, was worth a try.

If they succeeded, said a senior administration official, the entire Iraqi military — not just its ill-equipped and demoralized conscript army — might fold without a fight.

That would spare American troops the danger of facing chemical and biological weapons and the unpleasant prospect of house-to-house fighting in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

Just as important, Bush and his aides decided, it might spare Iraq thousands of civilian casualties, deaths that Muslim radicals could use to recruit new terrorists.

It also might avoid a spasm of revenge killings, untold economic and environmental damage, and civil wars that could tear the country apart and unnerve its neighbors.

"It might be the most brilliant war plan that has ever been devised," said retired Adm. Leighton Smith, a former commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe and former commander of NATO forces in southern Europe.

He said that if the quick attempt to decimate the regime failed, the United States could go back to the "shock-and-awe" approach.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of this came to a conclusion without a massive strike? ... I don't know if it can."

Attack from the Mediterranean

The U.S. Navy launched Tomahawk cruise missiles from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea at targets in Baghdad today. Attacks were also launched from F-117 Stealth fighters dropping Joint Direct attack munitions.

Launch

Can be launched from SeaWolf or Los Angeles-class submarines, or cruisers and destroyers and surface ships.

Flight

A booster rocket propels the missile to about 1,200 feet, where the wings fold out and the turbofan engine takes control.

Cruise

Can hug terrain at altitudes as low as 50 feet, using stored elevation maps, on-board radar and GPS.

Strike

On-board camera compares actual target to a stored image, and makes any final route changes. Can carry payloads ranging from a single warhead to combined bombs capable of striking up to three targets.

F-117A Nighthawk

Primary function: Stealth fighter/attack
Length: 63 feet, 9 inches
Height: 12 feet, 9.5 inches
Wingspan: 43 feet, 4 inches
Speed: High subsonic

Sources: AP; Program Executive Office Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aviation; Jane's Information Group; GlobalSecurity.org; U.S. Air Force

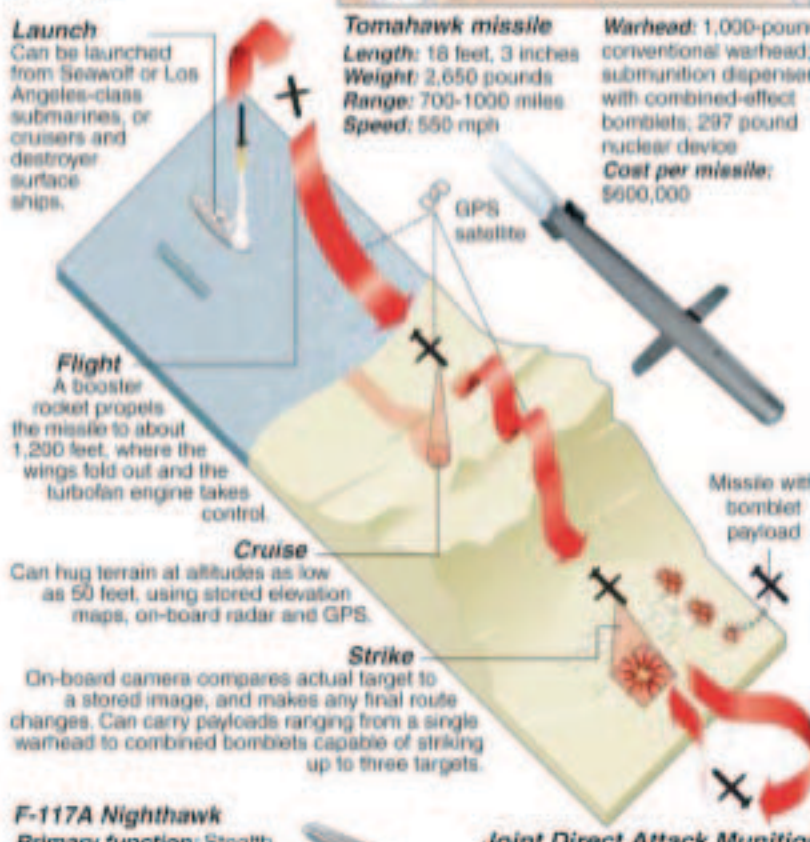


Tomahawk missile

Length: 18 feet, 3 inches
Weight: 2,650 pounds
Range: 700-1,000 miles
Speed: 550 mph

Warhead

1,000-pound conventional warhead; submunition dispenser with combined-effect bomblets; 297 pound nuclear device
Cost per missile: \$600,000



Joint Direct Attack Munition

Range: Up to 15 miles
Warhead: 196 to 942 pounds high explosive or bomblets

The Denver Post

Please see IRAQ on 20A

Allies take cities, oil sites; troops halfway to Baghdad



Associated Press / Takanori Sekine

An Iraqi soldier is detained by Army 3rd Infantry Division troops after he surrendered Saturday at An Nasiriyah in southern Iraq. Up to 2,000 Iraqi soldiers have surrendered.

EXPANDED COVERAGE
BEGINS ON PAGE 4A

GRENADE ATTACK

Blasts kill one, hurt up to 16; U.S. soldier is held. 4A

HONORING THE FALLEN

Profiles of soldiers who have died. 8A

HEADING OUT

Fort Carson troops prepare to depart. 18A

SEEKING SOLACE

In anxious times, a turn toward the familiar. 24A

Marine platoon deals with death

Comrade killed during first combat that also took lives of five Iraqi soldiers

By Doug Mellgren
The Associated Press

SOUTHERN IRAQ — Lance Cpl. Joseph Willems was approaching one of many bunkers dug into Iraq's desert when he saw the muzzle fire.

"I looked down and saw shots being fired, and I just went 'oooooh,' and jumped back," said the 19-year-old Marine from Kenosha, Wis. "Saw a guy in a blue sweat shirt, and took a hip shot with my saw."

With his "saw" — slang for machine gun — Willems killed the Ira-

qi soldier in the first action by Echo Company's 1st Platoon of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit after it entered Iraq from northern Kuwait on Friday.

"The only time I freaked was when I saw his eyes, and my weapon jammed. I kept backing up and it kept jamming," Willems said.

It was early morning. By the end of the day, Echo Company had lost one Marine, killed five Iraqis and taken 400 prisoners.

The Marines were clearing an area of bunkers in southern Iraq, near the port of Umm Qasr, after

scores of Iraqi soldiers surrendered, many walking toward the Americans in strict military formation under a white flag.

But there were still a few holdouts. The Marines, covering each other, stopped and scrambled over the ground, repeating the movements as they approached each bunker. There were bursts of gunfire, often from machine guns, and the heavy thud of hand grenades.

"It was very eerie," said Lt. William Todd Jacobs, 24, of Cincinnati. "There was smoke everywhere. It's our first time in Iraq,

and you see these four guys walking toward you with their hands up. We knew they were surrendering."

"But then somebody shouts, 'There's two in the hole! There's two in the hole!'" said Jacobs, who leads the 1st Platoon.

The Marines reacted immediately, and shot both, then threw in a grenade that blew a plume of sand and black smoke out of the bunker.

"I didn't want to get shot, so I shot him first," Cpl. Juan B.

Please see **FRONT** on 9A



Associated Press / Franck Prevel

Activists in Paris wave an Iraqi flag, left, and a partially burned U.S. flag while protesting the U.S.-led war on Iraq. **WORLD PROTESTS, 21A**

Tens of thousands in U.S. hit streets, decry attacks

Staff and wire reports

Anti-war activists throughout the nation and around the world returned to the streets Saturday to protest the U.S.-led war in Iraq, with demonstrations underway in a number of U.S. cities, including New York, where a 3-mile-long mass of marchers paraded down Broadway.

New York's rally was the largest, but there were other demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience across the country. In Washington, a few thousand people marched near the White House,

"This is what democracy looks like." Then, gesturing toward the president's residence, they shouted, "That is what hypocrisy looks like."

In Salt Lake City, demonstrators held a "Funeral for Democracy," carrying coffins they said represented the death of the United Nations, civil liberties, and civilians and soldiers in Iraq.

In Chicago, about 500 war protesters faced 3,000 people who gathered in Federal Plaza in sup-

Please see **PROTESTS** on 20A

Forces race toward capital, but tank clash causes concern

By Michael Booth
and Karen Augé
Denver Post Staff Writers

U.S. and British forces rolled across the Euphrates River and pushed more than halfway to Baghdad on Saturday, securing southern Iraqi cities and key oil facilities without major bloodshed, although a fierce tank battle and huge explosions from 500 cruise missiles warned of bleaker scenes ahead.

American tanks and troop carriers raced 200 miles north of Kuwait, leapfrogging at least one problem area in Basra by surrounding it and moving on. Baghdad suffered most of the continuing "shock and awe" aerial campaign, with a new round of furious explosions from Tomahawk cruise missiles and guided bombs hitting the capital just after sunset.

Invading forces captured and crossed an important bridge across the Euphrates, opening the way for a parallel race up another highway toward Baghdad.

Iraqis lit pools of oil afire south of the capital city, reportedly to make U.S. bombing runs more difficult.

In Kuwait, a soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was killed and 16 were wounded Sunday morning local time when two hand grenades were thrown into the 1st Brigade technical operations center at Camp Pennsylvania, U.S. Army officials said.

An American soldier was held as a suspect, an Army spokesman said. The soldier, who was not identified, is a member of the 101st Airborne and was found hiding in a bunker after the attack.

Max Blumenfeld, an Army spokesman, said the soldier's motive "most likely was resentment."

Accidental deaths continued to dominate the casualty reports, as two British navy helicopters collided over the Persian Gulf, killing the seven on board, including one U.S. Navy officer. On Thursday, eight British and four U.S. Marines died when their helicopter crashed south of the port Umm Qasr, again without enemy fire anywhere in the area.

Two U.S. Marines have died in combat: one battling Iraqi infantry in southern areas to secure an oil-pumping station, the second fighting near Umm Qasr.

Iraqi pronouncements said more than 200 civilians were injured in the waves of missile strikes on Baghdad. The Arab-language network al-Jazeera showed gruesome images of children and other alleged casualties from bombing as forces surrounded Basra.

An apparent car bomb killed an Australian journalist and four Iraqis in Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, where a radical Kurdish group with ties to al-Qaeda promised terrorist strikes. Three British journalists traveling on their own were missing in southern Iraq.

U.S. forces chief Gen. Tommy Franks offered the first local briefing of the invasion's progress from Central Command headquarters in Qatar, promising the fighting would be "unlike any other in history." Franks described both the success of seeing hundreds of Iraqis at a time heading U.S. leaflets to surrender in mass formation, and the grief from even limited casualties as pockets of Iraqi forces put up a fight.

"There may be tough times ahead," Franks said.

President Bush, in his weekly ra-

Please see **WAR** on 4A

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GET READY FOR OSCARS

Get everything you need to know about the Academy Awards to prep for tonight's show. **1F**



MARCH MADNESS

The No. 1-seeded Arizona Wildcats squeak by Gonzaga with a 96-95 win in double overtime; CU's women cruise past BYU and will face North Carolina on Monday. **Sports, Section C**



BLIZZARD OF 2003

Stories of the stranded — and more damage — from last week's storm: The town of Rollinsville curses and shrugs at its 87.5 inches. In Denver, many assess what could top \$25 million in damage after roofs and walls buckled under the snow. **Denver & The West, 1B**

3 TEENS DIE IN CRASH

Three 16-year-olds from Longmont are killed when their car goes out of control on Interstate 25. **1B**

‘Kingpin of al-Qaeda’ arrested

WAR WATCH

Missiles destroyed: Iraq begins destroying its Al Samoud 2 missiles, as ordered by the United Nations. **27A**

U.S. troops rejected: Turkey’s parliament deals a blow to U.S. war plans by refusing to let American troops begin preparations to open a northern front. **27A**

Arab summit: The United Arab Emirates calls for Saddam Hussein to go into exile. **22A**



Mohammed: One of three terror suspects arrested Saturday in Pakistan.

Pakistan turns over suspected planner of 9/11 attacks to U.S.

By Erik Eckholm
The New York Times

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, suspected of planning the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington and one of the FBI’s most wanted terrorists, was arrested by Pakistani authorities on Saturday morning, officials here said.

After he was interrogated by Pakistani officials, Mohammed was handed

over to the United States and taken to an undisclosed location out of the country, a senior Pakistani official told The Associated Press today.

The arrest represents a major victory in the U.S.-led global search for pivotal leaders of al-Qaeda — the men who planned the suicide hijacking attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and other terrorist acts.

It was also the most prominent arrest yet in Pakistan, where more than

400 al-Qaeda suspects have been detained in a cooperative effort that has opened President Pervez Musharraf to criticism from Islamic political forces at home.

“We have finally apprehended Khalid Shaikh Mohammed,” Musharraf spokesman Rashid Qureshi said late Saturday. “He is the kingpin of al-Qaeda.”

In Washington on Saturday, the White House issued a statement praising Pakistani and U.S. officials for what it

called a joint operation in capturing Mohammed.

“Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is one of Osama bin Laden’s most senior and significant lieutenants, a key al-Qaeda planner and the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks,” said the statement, issued by Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary.

Officials suspect that Mohammed

Please see **ARREST** on 27A

‘If they are above 10 years old, they will not take them. Once they turn 12, they send them home.’

M.D. Zahuruislam, trainer in Kuwait camel racing stables, on the child jockeys



The Denver Post / Craig F. Walker

A young jockey prods his camel toward the finish line at the third annual Kuwait Championship. Most jockeys are from outside Kuwait.

Saddled with a risky ride

Child jockeys key to sport of camel racing in the Kuwaiti desert

By Jim Hughes
Denver Post Staff Writer

SULAIBIYA, Kuwait — When they are not working, the little Sudanese boys crouch in the sand outside the gates of the Kuwait Camel Racing Club, playing at their work.

Most of them are barefoot. Some wear socks. Each has a thin white leash on his right wrist, dragging the attached riding switch through the sand. When they argue, the boys brandish these sticks like swords. They make toys from trash, which is strewn among the sand. Some pick up plastic grocery bags, hold them open and release them to the wind — kites without strings. Or turn

cardboard boxes into trucks. They also take turns sitting astride milk crates.

They bounce and bounce, whipping their plastic mounts until they crack. They move around on the sand, making the appropriate noises with their mouths.

“Hit it with the stick! Hit it with the stick!” one excited boy yells from atop the dune.

Usually, it is the men yelling, hoping one of their expensive racing camels will carry a small boy around the club’s track fast enough to win them a sterling silver sword, cash or, best of all, a car.

These boys are professional camel jockeys.

The Kuwaitis for whom these Sudanese boys race refer to them in Arabic as “chicks.” They are the subjects of complaints from human rights advocates, who say young children should not be put astride large animals for sport. They allege that some camel jockeys essentially are slaves, sold into the sport from poor countries like Sudan and, more often, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Men involved in the sport here say camel racing allows these boys to keep in touch with a rich part of their history and culture.

A sprawling neighborhood of white canvas tents

Please see **RACING** on 24A

Friends of teen victims gather at scene of crash

By John Ingold
Denver Post Staff Writer

A day after three Chatfield High School students died in a devastating car accident, their friends, neighbors and families trudged through a biting wind and snow to lay flowers, teddy bears and other remembrances at the crash site.

Some came alone Saturday, holding single bouquets of flowers. Others came in groups, in large vans and caravans of cars.

All came with questions. “They were just the nicest guys,” 14-year-old Bailey Parker said of the two boys who died in the crash. “And it’s, like, why did this have to happen to them?”

The three teenagers — a

15-year-old boy, a 15-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy — all died at the scene of the crash, on Ken Caryl Avenue just west of Continental Divide Road. It was the second fatal crash involving Chatfield students this year.

Among those killed in Friday’s accident was 15-year-old Michael Heykoop, an avid basketball player and a ready learner, his family said.

“I think the biggest thing about Michael, he was contagious,” said Heykoop’s sister, Virginia. “He had a contagious smile, a contagious laugh. When Michael was around and you were having a bad day,

Please see **DEATHS** on 16A



The Denver Post / Karl Gehring

Students from Deer Creek Middle School gather Saturday at the scene of an accident on Ken Caryl Avenue that killed three Chatfield High students.

Academy haunted by culture of distrust

Rape victims’ treatment leads to calls for fundamental change

By Amy Herdy, Erin Emery and Miles Moffeit
Denver Post Staff Writers

AIR FORCE ACADEMY — At the academy, female cadets who have been raped face a culture that commonly neglects and even vilifies them for reporting the crime.

The academy itself has described an environment that can be “offensive, intimidating or threatening to women.” That was a decade ago, in a survey of cadets.

More than two dozen interviews with current and former cadets, military officials including the secretary of the Air Force, parents, counselors and experts indicate little has changed.

Women are offered little counsel or support if they are attacked. They live in a realm in which upper-classmen wield great power. Their complaints often are sidetracked, or their own behavior is used against them. They sometimes remain in close quarters with the men who raped them.

The atmosphere is so bad, said former cadet Libby Saum, “they need to prepare freshman female cadets for being raped, if not physically, then mentally.”

And the leadership of the academy, while expressing concern about sexual assault, rarely takes strong enforcement action against attackers, and is so distrustful that many women seek outside, civilian help.

“Clearly, we’ve got a problem, and we need to fix it,” said Lt. Gen. John Dallager, superintendent of the academy. “The entire military atmosphere and the atmosphere within the Air Force and at the Air Force Academy is built upon trust and confidence. And, in my view, that is a character issue.”

Please see **ACADEMY** on 6A

Embattled USOC chief Ward resigns

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Sports Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS — Lloyd Ward resigned Saturday as head of the U.S. Olympic Committee, ending a scandal-torn, 16-month reign marked by a staff mutiny and relentless criticism from everyone from senators to sponsors.

At least three of Ward’s lieutenants also were asked to step down Saturday by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who wants “a clean slate” at the top of the embattled USOC.

“Lloyd Ward did the right thing,” said Campbell, a Colorado Republican and one of three senators leading a congressional overhaul of the organization. “It seems to me whoever he brought in on his management team should follow suit.”

Ward will receive no compensation package, unlike 16 former USOC officials who were paid a total of \$4.5 million in severance over the past two years, records show. Ward will get one year of medical benefits and a laptop computer.

Since January, Ward has been dogged by six ethics

Please see **USOC** on 10A



Ward: Had been dogged by six ethics scandals.



A regime removed, a promise to keep



Associated Press / Laurent Rebourg

Marine Cpl. Edward Chin of New York drapes a U.S. flag over a statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Firdos Square on April 9. The flag was removed before the statue was toppled.

After ousting Hussein, the U.S. shapes Iraq's future under pressure to tread lightly and leave quickly

By Michael Booth and Kevin Simpson
Denver Post Staff Writers

Saddam Alwan Jabar was liberated by American troops just in time to help clean up the lawlessness that Saddam Hussein's overthrow created in the streets of Baghdad.

"We want two things," said Jabar, 55, a garbage man who was making his rounds voluntarily, with his young sons as assistants, because he could no longer stand the stench from the trash piling up in his neighborhood. "We want America to get back our (everyday) security. And we want a new government run only by the Iraqi people."

Thank you.

Now get out.

It is a concise, sharply worded conclusion to an American invasion that signaled a revolution in U.S. foreign policy and ousted the Middle East's most brutal dictatorship.

But those who sacrificed to make it so refuse to grow cynical quite that quickly.

Sharon Hoffstetter of Colorado Springs has been married to a military man for 12 years and has been with him for only four. Lt. John Hoffstetter, an Army flight surgeon, is lucky to call home from Iraq once a week.

Don't sully the sacrifices of her husband, or the good intentions of the United States, with petty second-guessing, Sharon Hoffstetter said. John has missed precious years with his 10-year-old daughter, Ashley, to give freedom to 10-year-old girls half a world away.

"If a nation of little girls can now be educated and grow up without

fear, then it is worth it," she said. "How can you put a value on that? Is that worth one life? Two? A hundred? If my husband had died, it would still have been worth it."

The takeover of Iraq reflected all this: American idealism, worldwide wariness, Arab apprehensions.

America's unmatched military forces put muscle to a bold new policy of preventive warfare, smashing through punchless Iraqi troops, disheartening many on the streets from Cairo to Tehran and boosting Pentagon advisers who argue the best U.S. defense is a swift, wide-ranging offense.

President Bush removed Hussein from power without the painful military morass, domestic terrorist strikes or Middle East uprising predicted by many critics. Armed forces transformed by precision air strikes took all of Iraq at the cost of far fewer American lives than the 1991 Gulf War. Bush declared an end to the fighting last week.

Twenty-four million Iraqis appeared grateful for the largely accurate and lightning-fast use of American force to liberate them but quickly turned sour about chaotic looting and the heavy hand of what some called an imperial occupation.

Now comes the challenge of Americans finding an attention span long enough to make lasting changes in the Middle East. U.S. aid officials started planning the reconstruction of Iraq before their colleagues in the military had even begun deconstructing it. But the wilting U.S. economy demands attention, even as troops continue to search Iraq's deserts and palaces for the weapons of mass destruction that Bush used to justify his

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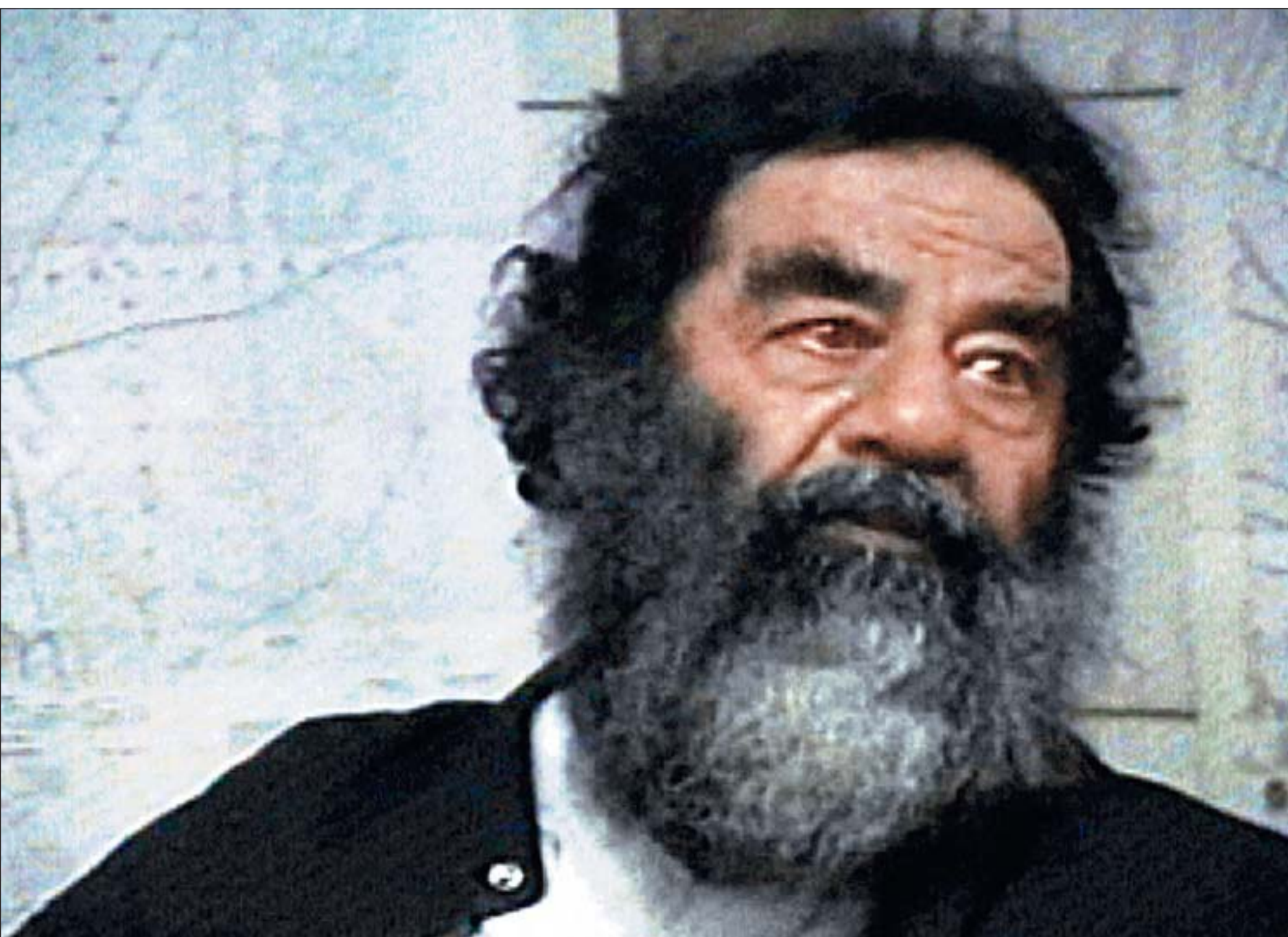
Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

December 15, 2003

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'WE GOT HIM'

U.S. soldiers pull Saddam Hussein from hole in ground

*'A dark and painful era is over,' Bush tells Iraqis**Tyrant faces interrogation and war-crimes prosecution**Capture unlikely to end insurgency, experts caution*

Associated Press

Deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is shown on television Sunday after his capture near Tikrit. Hussein was said to be disoriented when U.S. forces found him.

By John Aloysius Farrell
Denver Post Staff Writer

U.S. forces hauled Saddam Hussein out of a crude underground hiding place near Tikrit and took him into custody over the weekend, announcing his capture as many Americans awoke early Sunday morning to televised proclamations of "We got him."

Widely broadcast video of an unkempt and wild-haired Hussein meekly submitting to physical examinations by his captors was expected to boost the spirits of coalition forces, reinforce respect for American power in the region and reassure the uncertain Iraqi people, many of whom feared that the dictator might someday return to power.

"I have a message for the Iraqi people," President Bush said in a televised address at midday Sunday from the White House. "You will not have to fear the rule of Saddam Hussein ever again. ... In the history of Iraq, a dark and painful era is over."

Some 600 soldiers tracked Hussein to a dirt hole 8 feet deep outside a farmhouse near his hometown, capturing the elusive dictator without firing a shot. The 66-year-old former Iraqi leader was taken captive after 8 p.m. Baghdad time on Saturday by members of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, acting on information gleaned during U.S. questioning of members of a family "close to him," Army Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of the division, said during a briefing.

The small compound near the village of Adwar is about 10 miles southeast of Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, generally considered the seat of resistance in the country. The immediate area contained two farmhouses, a farmer's field, a sheep pen and a hut in the middle where Hussein was hiding. It was close to the Tigris River, and soldiers found boats nearby, Odierno said.

The bedroom of the two-room hut contained one chair, one bed and "lots of clothes strewn all over the place," Odierno said. A rudimentary kitchen had a sink with running water and an area to cook in. The hole where Hussein was found was outside the structure. Odierno said a Styrofoam insert and a rug covered the opening, which were then covered.

SEE HUSSEIN ON 20A

RISE AND FALL
HUSSEIN'S RULE

Chronicling Saddam Hussein's ruthless rule of Iraq, from his rise to power from the nation's Cabinet in 1968 to his unceremonious fall this year during a U.S.-led war. **22A**

REACTION
JOY AND CAUTION

How the world is reacting to the capture of Saddam Hussein — from Baghdad to Colorado. **25A, 27A-29A**

INSURGENCE
WHAT'S AHEAD

Former dictator may hold a valuable key to stemming the tide of opposition to the Iraq reconstruction. **26A**

VIOLENCE
BOMBING KILLS 17

Suicide car bombing outside a Baghdad police station kills 17; another blast strikes early today in Baghdad. **30A**

COMPLETE COVERAGE
20A-30A

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Boost for Bush could prove fleeting

By John Aloysius Farrell
and Mike Soraghan
Denver Post Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — President Bush, who played the capture of Saddam Hussein straight and somber Sunday, appeared to get a short-term political boost from the weekend's events.

But political experts cautioned that Bush's gain could be only temporary. Iraq still holds dangers for American soldiers and foreign policy. And others, not Hussein, threaten the United States with terrorism.

Several of Bush's Democratic rivals, meanwhile, immediately attacked one of their own, front-runner Howard Dean, who opposed the war in Iraq.

The president, who offered brief, earnest remarks Sunday, could let the nonstop television coverage of the developments in Iraq speak for him.

"In talking to the president this morning" Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said on "Fox News Sunday," "he made it very clear ... that politics has nothing, nothing, nothing to do with today ... that today is a celebration for the Iraqi people."

As Bush himself found out this year, events can turn quickly. In May, the flight-suited president landed on an aircraft carrier off the California coast, a prominent banner declaring "mission accomplished."

Seen as a public relations coup then, it increasingly looked boorish and self-promoting as the American death toll in Iraq climbed.

"Unlike the gloating flyboy" of May, Bush acted with restraint this weekend, Democratic pollster Peter Hart said. "I think he

SEE BUSH ON 23A

Iraqis react with mix of cheers and questions

By Beth Potter
Special to The Denver Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Many Iraqis took to the streets Sunday after the announcement that U.S. forces had captured Saddam Hussein.

Bursts of gunfire heralded the news from morning through the lunch hour as word spread like wildfire. Some children and young people danced. Drivers honked their horns.

But most were not out to celebrate. Instead, as evening fell, hundreds of drivers waiting in miles-long lines to buy gas gathered in small groups to discuss the previously unthinkable situation.

For many, news of the capture was bittersweet. Because Hussein's Baath Party ruled with an iron fist for 35 years, it was shocking to hear he had been hiding in a hole. Some people said they were surprised he had not committed suicide or come out shooting.

"Saddam now seems like a normal person," said Khalid Issa, 48, a construction foreman. "I'm not sure how to feel."

Others questioned whether the disheveled man they saw on television with the long beard really was Hussein.

"How long does it take to do a DNA test?" asked

SEE IRAQIS ON 27A



Los Angeles Times / Carolyn Cole

Eight-year-old Hiba Ahmen Qusai celebrates with her family Sunday night in front of the Iraqi Communist Party headquarters in Baghdad. Most Iraqis were more subdued in their reaction to the news of Saddam Hussein's capture.

How they
found him:
Tip was keyBy Eric Schmitt
The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The hunt for Saddam Hussein had become a maddening challenge.

Eleven times in the past several months, members of a brigade combat team from the Army's 4th Infantry Division thought they had a bead on Hussein and launched raids to kill or capture him, only to come up empty, sometimes missing their man by only a matter of hours, military officials in Baghdad said.

But at 8:26 p.m. Iraq time on Saturday, less than 10 hours after receiving a decisive tip from a member of his tribal clan, 600 U.S. soldiers and special-operations forces backed by tanks, artillery and Apache helicopter gunships surrounded two rural farmhouses and near one of them found Hussein hiding alone at the bottom of an 8-foot hole. He surrendered without a shot.

"He could have been hiding in a hundred different places, a thousand different places like this all around Iraq. It just takes finding the right person who will give you a good idea where he might be," Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, told reporters at his headquarters in Tikrit on Sunday.

In recent weeks, U.S. officials had started a new analytical effort to draw up a list of people likely to be hiding Hussein. The list included bodyguards, former palace functionaries, tribal leaders and others not prominent on previ-

SEE CAPTURE ON 20A

INSIDE

Anatomy of the capture. **21A**



TONY RANDALL, 84, DIES

> NATION, 3A



PERFECTLY AGED RANDY JOHNSON OLDEST TO PITCH PERFECT GAME

> SPORTS, SECTION D

THE DENVER POST

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Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

50 CENTS MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER

★★

Brutal interrogation in Iraq

Commission prescribes “profound changes” for CU athletics

Report pins blame at top

Tharp, Byyny harshly scolded

Leaders from Hoffman on down are faulted for not halting the use of sex and alcohol to lure recruits.

By Jim Hughes
Denver Post Staff Writer



What the investigative panel said about Hoffman, Byyny, Tharp and Barnett

From the Independent Investigative Commission's report on top officials at the University of Colorado:

Betsy Hoffman University president

“Regents ... should evaluate whether Hoffman can provide the leadership and vision needed to restore the University’s integrity and reputation. As the University’s chief administrator, Hoffman failed to exercise sufficient oversight until pressured by the governor and lawmakers.”

Findings: Complete summary of the investigation into athletic recruiting practices at the University of Colorado. > **20A**

Richard Byyny CU-Boulder chancellor

“Byyny failed to follow through on his directives to increase controls and supervision of recruits first in 1997 and again in 2001. He allowed the Athletic Department to operate autonomously for years, and consequently failed to implement the University’s stated goal of putting academics above winning on the playing field.”

Dick Tharp Athletic director

“Tharp evaded and ignored repeated directives to implement policy changes and failed to place appropriate boundaries around the football coach. (He) espoused a philosophy of ‘plausible deniability’ when faced with accusations of misconduct by student-athletes and employees; isolated himself from his staff and has not given his full attention to his responsibilities. ...”

Gary Barnett Head football coach

“Barnett has been widely praised for being a strong leader and a firm disciplinarian. He continues, however, to resist some recruiting changes and demonstrates an unproductive defensive attitude. He and his coaching staff provided insufficient supervision of recruits, and he did not follow proper protocols regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment on at least two occasions.”

Panel makes case for national reforms

Big money and a recruiting “arms race” are cited as damaging to college sports.

By Alicia Caldwell
Denver Post Staff Writer

The panel investigating the University of Colorado’s recruiting practices did more than criticize a culture of easy sex and alcohol: It offered a broad blueprint for the retooling of college athletics across

the country.

The CU report asserts that intercollegiate athletics is a troubled universe, driven by a recruiting “arms race” and compromised by big money. And while it offered little evidence to buttress those claims, the report recommends that the NCAA be encouraged to adopt nationwide reforms.

Those reforms include the return to a rule prohibiting freshmen from playing on varsity squads, eliminating financial incentives for coaches

who win, making coaches accountable for off-the-field player behavior and possible NCAA sanctions if underage student athletes are caught drinking alcohol.

Wally Renfro, senior adviser to the NCAA president, discounted the panel’s recommendations as lacking relevance to the NCAA’s mission.

“To some degree, they reflected the lack of understanding of the role of the NCAA,” Renfro said. “You

Big change: Former CU president blends Vanderbilt’s athletics into the rest of the university. > **20A**

Woody Paige: It’s time for CU to clean house at the top. > **1D**

> See **NCAA** on 21A

Catholics vote with wallets on bishop’s Communion ban

One prominent donor says he will withhold \$100,000, but others double their contributions.

By Eric Gorski
Denver Post Staff Writer

A prominent donor to the Colorado Springs Roman Catholic Diocese is leading a charge to revoke large gifts to the diocese unless the bishop reverses his Communion clampdown on Catholic voters. In a scathing “open letter” to Bishop Michael Sheridan, Parker lawyer and businessman Ric Kethcart says Sheridan’s stance harkens back to McCarthyism and threatens his flock more than the cler-

gy abuse scandal.

Kethcart, a central figure in the diocese’s Douglas County fundraising, is threatening to revoke a \$100,000 pledge to his Highlands Ranch parish’s building project and is enlisting others to take similar steps.

“We don’t penalize people for standing back and letting other people seriously make their own judgments on moral issues as long as they properly consider all elements,” said Kethcart, a longtime supporter of Colorado Democrats. He shared the letter with other prominent lay Catholics and some clergy.

Peter Howard, Sheridan’s executive as-

> See **CATHOLICS** on 10A



John Leyba | The Denver Post

Ric Kethcart leads efforts to revoke big gifts to the Colorado Springs diocese after its bishop linked Communion access to voting decisions.

Five detainees’ deaths probed

“VERY TROUBLING”

Pentagon records provide the clearest view yet of the U.S. tactics used at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere to coax secrets from Iraqis.

By Miles Moffeit
Denver Post Staff Writer

Brutal interrogation techniques by U.S. military personnel are being investigated in connection with the deaths of at least five Iraqi prisoners in war-zone detention camps, Pentagon documents obtained by The Denver Post show.

The deaths include the killing in November of a high-level Iraqi general who was shoved into a sleeping bag and suffocated, according to the Pentagon report. The documents contradict an earlier Defense Department statement that said the general died “of natural causes” during an interrogation. Pentagon officials declined to comment on the new disclosure.

Another Iraqi military officer, records show, was asphyxiated after being gagged, his hands tied to the top of his cell door. Another detainee died “while undergoing stress technique interrogation,” involving smothering and “chest compressions,” according to the documents.

Details of the death investigations, involving at least four different detention facilities including the Abu Ghraib prison, provide the clearest view yet into war-zone interrogation rooms, where intelligence soldiers and other personnel have sometimes used lethal tactics to try to coax secrets from prisoners, including choking off detainees’

> See **PRISONERS** on 19A

Insurgency: Shiite cleric urges radical militia and U.S. troops to withdraw from holy cities. > **15A**

Plan: Iraq “underestimated.” > **17A**

Investigators seek OSHA’s help in probe of girder fall

By Jeffrey Leib
Denver Post Staff Writer

The team investigating Saturday’s fatal girder collapse asked Tuesday for additional technical help from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration as members continued to sort through possible causes of the tragedy.

“We’ve been requested by (the National Transportation Safety Board) to give them some technical assistance in the investigation,” said John Healy, OSHA area director in the agency’s Englewood office.

A local OSHA representative joined accident task force members in Tuesday’s meetings, and an engineering specialist from OSHA’s Washington, D.C., headquarters will arrive in Denver later this week to help with the investigation, Healy said.

Today, investigators were expected to begin in-depth inter-

> See **GIRDER** on 19A

84° HIGH 50° LOW

Dry and sunny: Mild statewide with thunderstorms in the mountains. > **8B**



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BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPS

DU hammers North Dakota 4-1 for national hockey title > 1B

THE CITIZEN
ARMY AT
THE BORDER

> SECOND A SECTION, 25A

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE SUNDAY DENVER POST

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DISPATCHES FROM IRAQ | On the ground with the Fort Carson-based 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Working, waiting, worrying



Sgt. Erik Houghton, left, examines the engine of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that broke down with an oil leak. Up to 5,200 Fort Carson-based troops in the 3rd Armored Cavalry are on their second Iraq tour; they say their work is difficult and dangerous, but it beats sitting around.

3RD ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT BY THE NUMBERS



- 5,200 troops
- 5.5% are women
- 60% have been in Iraq before
- 400 had three-week courses in Arabic to help them communicate with Iraqis

Story by Bruce Finley, Denver Post Staff Writer | Photos by Craig F. Walker, Denver Post Staff Photographer

South of Baghdad, Iraq

Hot gravel crunching beneath their boots, Pfc. Nicholas Saucedo and seven fellow soldiers gathered around the broken engine of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle on Thursday afternoon. They ran their fingers over the metal searching for an oil leak.

Their eyelids hung heavy after a nighttime mission that had them grinding along roads in gun-mounted Humvees outside their camp here, in an area military commanders say has experienced increased attacks on U.S. troops by insurgents — up to 72 a day.

Saucedo and crew are among up to 5,200 Colorado-based troops in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment starting their second stint in Iraq. As they gathered around the Bradley, they could have been catching up on sleep, but the soldiers — scouts trained for a variety of duties, including providing security for regimental commander Col. H.R. McMaster — prefer just about anything, includ-



ing engine repair, to sitting behind sandbags on their rickety green cots.

“I just want to get it through with,” said Saucedo, 21, of Phoenix. “And the busier we are, the faster it goes by.”

With the possibility of running across improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, never far from their minds, and with occasional bursts of small-arms fire and mortar thuds in the distance, some of the troops

have modest goals for this tour in Iraq.

Spec. Arturo Lopez, 20, of Mission, Texas, said: “Just hope I don’t get blown up.”

Here for about a month, Saucedo has already written five letters, used up eight 550-minute phone cards, and mailed a Kuwaiti blanket and ring to his fiancée, Megan Blanton, 19, a first-year student at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

“It’s not like we don’t want to think about home,” Sauce-

> See **IRAQ** on 10A

Reports conceal school fights

Record-keeping quirks hide violence, injuries

School Accountability Reports for many districts list few “fights/assaults,” but police records tell a different story. So do the parents of injured students.

By David Olinger
Denver Post Staff Writer

Five girls ambushed Monica Nealy outside her high school in the middle of the afternoon. One asked if she liked pain — and knocked her to the ground with a blow to her head. The others held her down, pulled up her sweater and burned her with a cigarette.

Then they told the terrified 10th-grader that they knew where she lived and when she would be alone.

Monica never returned to Aurora Central High School. “They burned me on my hand and on my stomach,” she said, leaving scars she can still see. “I was kind of scared to even walk outside.”

Aurora police considered the attack on Monica an aggravated assault. But in its yearly report to parents, Aurora Central said there were no assaults or fights during the 2003-04 school year.

Parents got the same report from every other high school in Aurora: There were no assaults or fights last year.

Colorado requires that schools provide to all parents a yearly report — called a School Accountability Report — that is supposed to

> See **ASSAULTS** on 6A

Move “drives stake into” Qwest’s heart

Verizon buys out MCI’s leading shareholder in a quick counterstrike. Qwest refuses to concede defeat.

By Ross Wehner
Denver Post Staff Writer

Verizon slammed Qwest with a surprise punch Saturday, buying out MCI’s largest shareholder, Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, for \$1.1 billion.

The move was a quick counteroffensive to Qwest’s announcement Friday that shareholders holding a majority of MCI stock preferred its bid for MCI over Verizon’s.

“This drives a stake into the heart of Qwest,” said Pat Comack, an analyst with Zachary Investment Research in Miami. “Verizon wants this war to stop now, and they are willing to pay for it.”

Some of MCI’s largest shareholders who supported Qwest on Friday are now on the fence. “I would have to seriously consider Verizon’s offer,” said Bruce Berkowitz, whose Fairholme Capital Management controls 3.4 percent of MCI. “We’re in an auction, and the next move is Qwest’s.”

Denver-based Qwest isn’t conceding defeat. Sources close to the company said that it may file a proxy statement for a hostile takeover early this week and that Qwest has the cash, financial backing and willpower to increase its offer to \$9.75 billion, or \$30 a share.

> See **QWEST** on 10A

John Paul’s legacy takes priority, cardinal says

Denver’s archbishop-turned-cardinal James Stafford says age and nationality are secondary in choosing a pope.

By Eric Gorski
Denver Post Staff Writer

Rome — Cardinal James Francis Stafford will carry much with him eight days from now when he and his colleagues file into the Sistine Chapel and begin secret deliberations to choose the next pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

He will carry the memory of an elderly black woman from the Baltimore projects whom he met during his time as archbishop there. Each morning she would wake to the sound of a rooster crowing in a neighbor’s yard, and she would pray. The cardinal calls the woman one of the great human beings he has met and “a pillar for my life.” He says he will carry “the rock ’n’

roll of Elvis Presley” from his experience as bishop in Memphis.

And he will carry with him Butterfly Hill in Cherry Creek State Park outside Denver, the site of the World Youth Day Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in 1993 and Stafford’s crowning achievement in his 10 years as Denver archbishop.

In a two-hour interview with The Denver Post at his Vatican residence Friday night, Stafford said he feels the weight of expectations of the world’s Catholics as he prepares for the historic task before him and 114 other cardinal electors. “We need to know the people of the church are praying for us,” Stafford said. “And knowing that, we experience the church as a democracy. Hundreds and hundreds of people in the last week have indicated, ‘We’re praying for you.’ That gives me a sense of further responsibility.”

> See **STAFFORD** on 4A



Toby Melville | The Associated Press

Britain’s Prince Charles and his new wife, Duchess Camilla, leave St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Prince Charles’ mistress becomes his wife in simple civil ceremony

By Glenn Frankel
The Washington Post

Windsor, England — Prince Charles married his longtime lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, on Saturday in a relatively simple civil ceremony at the 17th-century Guildhall here, surrounded by about 30 close relatives and friends. Thousands of spectators, many

waving Union Jacks, lined the street and cheered as the couple arrived and again when they came out of the hall’s double red doors at about 12:50 p.m. (5:50 a.m. MDT).

However, a smattering of boos was heard, too.

The wedding came more than seven years after the death of

> See **WEDDING** on 11A



Pvt. 2 Martin Gaymon, center, helps prepare a Humvee for a mission. Troops from Fort Carson are in the midst of their second deployment to Iraq.

IRAQ: GIs work, wait, worry in second stint

< CONTINUED FROM 1A

da said. "But it makes the time pass harder when you're always thinking about home."

So they worked. It was hot. They wore T-shirts, no flak vests, as they picked over the Bradley's engine. About halfway between northern Kuwait and Baghdad, the vehicle broke down at night. At dawn, Pfc. Reed Monson, 20, of Boise, Idaho, noticed a shiny black pool beneath it and, when he checked the oil level, found the engine was dry. A truck hauled the Bradley into camp here.

Now Capt. David Rozelle, 32, the company commander, wanted it fixed. Rozelle stood in the shade of a shipping container, watching. He lost his lower right leg when a Humvee he was riding in set off a land mine his first time in Iraq, in June 2003 in the western Anbar province.

After a few months back at Fort Carson with his wife and toddler, Rozelle became the first amputee to return for a second tour in Iraq. When his war is over, he's slated to go to work at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

That's the future. Today, he needs his soldiers to find the leak.

Sgt. Erik Houghton, 34, of Massillon, Ohio, spotted the tear. "In the hose, sir, to the oil filter," Houghton called to Ro-



Sgt. Jeff Marjerrison of Widefield rests against a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that needs engine work.

zelle.

Rozelle: "That's easy!"

Houghton: "Can you find me one, sir?"

Rozelle sent him to base aviation me-

chanics. "Take them this hose. They can make a new one."

"Crescent wrench," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Marjerrison, 28, of Widefield, south of Colorado Springs, moving to disconnect it from the engine.

Marjerrison and Monson muscled bolts loose, then sliced open an empty drinking water bottle and caught more black oil.

The aviation mechanics couldn't make a new hose right away. That meant one less Bradley Fighting Vehicle for now. The 3rd Armored Cavalry has about 125 Bradleys, along with 120 or so main battle tanks and more than 40 helicopters.

Meanwhile, the troops turned to gearing up Humvees for another convoy through a hot zone known as "the mixing bowl."

Gunner Pvt. 2 Martin Gaymon, 19, of Brooklyn, N.Y., welcomed the upcoming mission even as he reread a prayer card. He'd be out front on this one.

"As long as you are doing something, you feel like, the reason you are out here, it's worth it," he said as they headed out Friday morning. "I'd rather be out on a convoy."

Sauceda would be driving a hardened Humvee behind him.

"I just want to get it done," he said. "Get back in here with everybody alive."

DISPATCHES FROM IRAQ

An occasional series



Denver Post photographer Craig F. Walker and reporter Bruce Finley arrived in Iraq last week to report on the men and women of the Fort Carson-based 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as they begin their second deployment to Iraq.

The troops of the 3rd ACR trained at Fort Carson; some are Coloradans. Finley and Walker will bring their Iraq experiences and individual stories to readers, starting today.

Bruce Finley, 43, international affairs writer for The Post, has reported from 30 countries and has made three trips to Iraq. He filed dispatches from seven Arab countries after the Sept. 11 attacks, and has reported from the Pakistan-Afghanistan borderlands, Uzbekistan and Turkey.

Finley grew up in Colorado Springs and began his career with The Associated Press in Denver. He and his wife, Claire Martin, also a writer at The Post, have two children.

As a photographer for The Post, Craig F. Walker has covered some of the most critical events following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He chronicled the attacks' aftermath in New York City, the war in Afghanistan, the inauguration of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the deployment of American troops in Kuwait. His photograph of a child racing camels in the Kuwaiti desert was awarded first place last year by the National Press Photographers Association.

Before coming to The Post, Walker worked as a photographer for the Pittsfield, Mass., Berkshire Eagle, where he chronicled the final six months in the life of a woman with AIDS. He began his career at the Marlborough Enterprise in Marlborough, Mass. Among his honors, a portfolio of his work was awarded a first-place National Headliners Award in 2002.

Walker, 38, grew up in York, Pa. He is married to MaryBeth and has a 19-year-old stepson.



Pfc. Nicholas Saucedo, 21, of Phoenix secures his helmet before leaving on a mission outside Camp Striker south of Baghdad. Troops on their second deployment to Iraq prefer to stay occupied: "The busier we are, the faster it goes by."

Iraqis mark Hussein's fall in '03 with call for U.S. pullout

In a peaceful protest in Baghdad, thousands of followers of a rebel Shiite cleric demand a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

By Dexter Filkins
The New York Times

Baghdad, Iraq — Tens of thousands of Iraqis marked the second anniversary of the fall of President Saddam Hussein on Saturday by marching in the capital to demand the withdrawal of American forces.

Meanwhile, one of the most lethal insurgent groups threatened Iraqis if they join the country's army and police force.

Most of the protesters were followers of Muqtada al-Sadr, the rebel Shiite cleric who has led several armed uprisings against American forces but who has re-

cently begun to participate in democratic politics.

The demonstrators gathered at Firdos Square in central Baghdad, where American troops and Iraqis pulled down a huge statue of Hussein on April 9, 2003, in a moment that defined the fall of Baghdad.

Despite the symbolism of the day, the rest of Baghdad was mostly quiet. The demonstration was peaceful, and far smaller than the 1 million people al-Sadr's aides had predicted would turn out.

Representatives of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a leading Sunni group that has expressed sympathy for the guerrilla insurgency, said its followers had taken part in the march.

The marchers echoed the demands by al-Sadr and the Sunni clerics: a timetable for the withdrawal of American forces and the release of Iraqi detainees

from American-controlled prisons.

Banners held aloft during the march also called for a rapid trial for Hussein and the elevation of Islam as the official religion of Iraq.

Demonstrators held up large photographs of Hussein that were taken after his capture, showing the former dictator looking shaggy and old. The marchers also burned large photos of President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain.

"We are asking that the occupier leave our country," said Amer Shihab, a university student who had come from Kut in southern Iraq. "Iraq now has enough competent forces to maintain security by itself."

The demonstration illustrated the ability of al-Sadr to mobilize his followers peacefully, with thousands of demonstrators traveling by bus from southern cities and staying overnight in the

homes of their allies in Sadr City, the impoverished district that is named for al-Sadr's father and that forms the heart of his support.

Last year, al-Sadr's armed followers, called the Mahdi Army, were routed by American forces after they rose up in cities across the south.

The mauling of his army is believed to be one of the chief factors behind al-Sadr's entry into the political mainstream.

On Saturday, insurgent sympathizers passed out leaflets at mosques in Mosul, the Sunni-majority city, threatening Sunnis if they join the police and armed forces.

The leaflets were labeled "al-Qaeda of Mesopotamia," the group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant who has pledged support to al-Qaeda and is believed responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Iraqi civilians.

QWEST: Verizon's stock buy bolsters its MCI bid

< CONTINUED FROM 1A

Qwest said it will continue fighting for MCI, which has more than \$5 billion in cash, a national fiber-optic network and a lucrative roster of government and corporate clients.

The battle for MCI has gone back and forth since early February, with Qwest bidding as high as \$8.9 billion. But last week, Ashburn, Va.-based MCI spurned a higher Qwest offer for a third time, saying it would merge with industry giant Verizon for \$7.5 billion.

Verizon, by taking over Slim's 13.4 percent stake, becomes MCI's largest shareholder and removes the biggest wild card in the bidding war for MCI.

Verizon chief executive Ivan Seidenberg hinted at the possibility of offering more money to MCI shareholders in a statement Saturday.

"While this was an opportunity for us to purchase a block of shares under unique circumstances and is an important step forward in our acquisition of MCI, we will continue to assess the situation as we move toward a vote by the MCI shareholders," he said.

If Verizon buys more stock, it could trigger MCI's "poison pill" provision, which releases a flood of new stock whenever any single stockholder acquires more than 15 percent of the company. The provision, however, can be voted down by MCI's board.

New York-based Verizon's \$7.5 billion merger agreement with MCI comes to \$23.10 per MCI share in stock and cash.

That is less than the \$25.72 in cash per share being paid to Slim, who had criticized Verizon's bid as insufficient. The deal also allows Slim to benefit if Verizon's share price rises above \$35.52.

Qwest's \$8.9 billion offer amounts to \$27.50 per share in cash and stock.

In a statement, Qwest criticized Verizon for creating "two classes of shareholders," those getting \$23.10 a share and Slim. It affirmed its position that its bid remains superior.

Qwest continues its campaign to raise \$2 billion in cash from large investors, which could be pumped into a sweetened bid for MCI. Denver financier Philip Anschutz, who controls 16.5 percent of Qwest, said Thursday through a spokesman that he will not participate.

Verizon also will file proxy papers this week for a special MCI shareholder meeting in late June or July to approve its merger with MCI.

But after the Slim deal, experts say Verizon will have to make a similar offer to the hedge funds and sophisticated Wall Street investors that control an estimated 70 percent of MCI.

"The Slim deal buys them (Verizon) a lot of ire from the shareholder community," said Tim Gilbert, an analyst with Principal Global Investors of Des Moines, Iowa.

Berkowitz said Verizon's per-share offer to Slim and Qwest's per-share offer are roughly equivalent, because Slim's deal allows him to benefit if Verizon's share price rises.

The deal with Slim also reflects how much Verizon needs MCI to compete with an aggressive SBC Communications, which is gaining regulatory approval for its \$16 billion merger with AT&T.

"MCI is a valuable asset," Berkowitz said. "You could give Verizon \$10 billion and five years, and I don't think they could re-create the enterprise (corporate and government) business that MCI has now."

Verizon has the resources to win a bidding war, with \$4.5 billion in cash and revenues of \$71 billion.

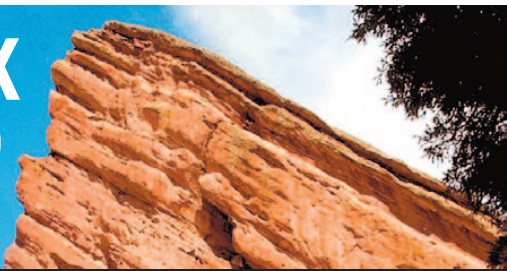
Qwest, the smallest of the regional Bell operating companies, has \$1.8 billion in cash and revenues of \$14 billion. It's also saddled with \$17 billion in debt.

Staff writer Ross Wehner can be reached at 303-820-1503 or rwehner@denverpost.com.

The battle for MCI: Before Verizon's stock purchase, Qwest touted a survey showing that the holders of a majority of MCI stock preferred its bid. > **Business, 14K**

THE ROCKS ROCK

Legendary venue draws 500,000 in the "offseason" > Business, 1K



DARK HORSE

50-1 longshot Giacomo surges at the wire for second-largest payoff in Derby history > 1B

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DISPATCHES FROM IRAQ | On the ground with the Fort Carson-based 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Progress, one raid at a time



Up to his chin in cover, Sgt. Yassar Alem Khashan al-Bedri, of the Iraqi Intervention Force, signals his position in a field south of Baghdad. Iraqi troops are taking ever-increasing roles in raids on insurgents. "They can get intelligence we can't," a U.S. soldier said.

Sweeps near Baghdad put dent in insurgency, with Iraqi troops' help

By Bruce Finley, Denver Post Staff Writer Photos by Craig F. Walker, Denver Post Staff Photographer

Ar Ridwaniyah, Iraq

On a recent morning here south of Baghdad, insurgents detonated a remote-controlled bomb. It blew a crater in a hard-packed rural road seconds before a U.S. armored vehicle passed.

Within hours, Iraqi troops backed by the Colorado-based 3rd Armored Cavalry stormed into a farm compound half a mile away. They'd planned to hit it the night before, when Iraqi Lt. Col. Jassim Abbas received a tip from a vegetable-warehouse caretaker that this was where killers hung out.

Now U.S. Capt. Andy Watson was inside the home, looking over items found around the farm. A bundle of batteries wrapped in black tape with wires sticking out. Switches and plugs disconnected from appliances. Cell-phone chargers and boxes, minus the phones. Bullets swept under plush rugs. A pencil sketch showing main U.S. military routes through Iraq. Downloaded propaganda printouts urging Iraqis to join the Islamic Army and "do anything you can to resist the Americans."

Watson and 1st Lt. Carlos Montalvan, liaisons working with the Iraqi troops, smiled.

"This guy makes bombs," Montalvan said.

Nodding, Watson spoke into his radio headset to Capt. Michael Davis in a Humvee outside, coordinating this raid with others.

"Definitely a good hit," Watson said. "Good info"



Iraqi army Sgt. 1st Class Salah Saluka questions 25-year-old detainee Rahman Hamzi Mohammed.

gleaned by the Iraqis, he added.

Now they needed the triggerman who set off the bomb that blew that morning.

Three women sat silently in their kitchen as a dozen or so U.S. and Iraqi soldiers combed their home. A blue flame burned beneath a pot on the stove.

> See IRAQ on 6A

CIA has eye on Federal Center

Beauprez IDs site for division's move

Intelligence experts say the agency's domestic unit may be headed for the Denver area to be more centrally located and to spread out operations.

By Mike Soraghan, John Aloysius Farrell and Alicia Caldwell Denver Post Staff Writers

Washington — The CIA plans to move its domestic operations division to Colorado and is eyeing the Denver Federal Center, U.S. Rep. Bob Beauprez told The Denver Post.

Beauprez, a Republican from Arvada, said he learned within the past two weeks that CIA officials plan to move a chunk of their Washington operations to Denver and are looking at the Federal Center, which is on West Sixth Avenue surrounded by Lakewood.

"The CIA is looking to increase staffing and mission (in Colorado)," Beauprez said in an interview with The Post on Friday.

He said he wasn't told how many people would be involved, but "I got that it's a significant responsibility and a significant number of jobs."

The Washington Post reported Friday that the intelligence agency was eyeing Denver. A CIA spokeswoman, who refused to provide her name, declined to comment.

"That story we are not commenting on," she said. "I can understand your interest."

The unit, officially called the National Resources Division, consults with academics and debriefs American business travelers who go abroad. It also collects intelligence on foreign nationals in the United States and recruits them to work for the CIA when they re-

> See CIA on 20A

T-REX pact a drive down wrong lane

Those involved cite good intentions, but a deal steering work to a minority firm was found to be a "pass-through."

By David Migoya Denver Post Staff Writer

The main T-REX builder asked concrete giant Aggregate Industries to share its work with a minority-owned company in order to satisfy a large chunk of the \$1.7 billion project's hiring goals.

David Armendariz saw it as a shot at the construction-industry big time for his tiny Delta company.

But the three-year partnership of Aggregate and Armendariz — one that both sides say was born of good intentions — is dissolving amid allegations it became a sham.

A government audit determined that the \$39 million arrangement between Aggregate and Armendariz was really a "pass-through" in which Armendariz's two-employee company served as a Latino-owned front that padded the project's state-mandated minority-hiring goals.

For a time, the setup allowed T-REX prime contractor Southeast Corridor Constructors to count the money Armendariz was paid toward the project's \$177 million goal in contracts for minority- and women-owned businesses, known

> See T-REX on 17A

Feds: Haste made waste in U.S. security

By Eric Lipton The New York Times

Washington — After spending more than \$4.5 billion on screening devices to monitor the nation's ports, borders, airports, mail and air, the federal government plans to replace or alter much of the anti-terrorism equipment, after concluding that it is ineffective, unreliable or too expensive to operate.

Many of the monitoring tools — intended to detect guns, explosives, and nuclear and biological weapons — were bought during the blitz in security spending after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In its effort to create a virtual shield around America, the De-

> See SECURITY on 20A

"How can people be so desperate to avoid paying 75 cents?"



Photos courtesy of the E-470 Public Highway Authority

Cameras snap photos when E-470 tolls aren't paid. Often, license plates are deliberately obscured.

Toll-evaders on E-470 stop at nothing

By Jeremy Meyer Denver Post Staff Writer

Aurora — A man dangles off a car's trunk, shielding the license plate from a camera at an E-470 toll booth.

In another photo of scofflaws, a person holds what appears to be a child out of an SUV's rear window to block the plate from the camera.

And a truck with strategically

placed mud over the license plate appears in six photos taken on separate days. But the cameras also catch a business name and phone number printed on the truck, giving authorities an easy opportunity to catch the culprit.

Officials at the E-470 Public Highway Authority have seen it all and heard it all from people trying to get around paying tolls on the 47-mile highway east of Denver.

Officials estimate that 300 to 500 times a month, people tamper with their license plates to obscure them — which has been illegal since 2004. The evidence is in photos that show plates hidden with cardboard, mud or plastic covers.

Jo Snell, spokeswoman for the authority, keeps copies of the strangest photos taken by the cameras.

> See E-470 on 17A

Catholics flexing muscles in D.C.

Washington

Evangelical Catholicism has arrived as a new and politically potent voice here in the nation's capital. On Friday, in just its second year of existence, the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast lured President Bush to downtown's biggest hotel ballroom.

Two U.S. senators, 11 representatives, White House political adviser Karl Rove and some 1,600 others braved a downpour of near-biblical proportion for early morning Mass and pancakes.

The keynote address was given by one of the movement's heroes, the archbishop of Denver, the Rev. Charles J. Chaput. They love the guy.

"Someday: Chaput for pope!" said Austin Ruse, the master of ceremonies, after the archbishop had spoken.

They love Bush too. He was greeted by an exceptionally warm and lasting ovation. If he had not done so well with such conservative and moderate Catholics in last fall's campaign, the president might not be president.

Joseph Cella, the founder of the breakfast, says he and other evangelical Catholics take their inspiration from John Paul the Great, as the late pope is now known, who called for "a New Evangelization ... in ardor, methods and expression."

Catholics spent America's first two centuries trying to "be accepted," Chaput said. But now it is time for Catholics to examine "the cost of fitting in." "Since the 1960s, many American Catholics have been acting like we're lucky just to be tolerated ... in other words, we'd better not be too Catholic or somebody will be offended," Chaput said.

"That's a mistake," he said. "If we don't conform our lives to what we claim to believe, then we're living a lie."

Once Catholics have conformed, Chaput said, they are morally bound to try to turn



THE NATION

John Aloysius Farrell, Denver Post Washington Bureau Chief

their beliefs into law.

After all, "all law is the imposition of somebody's beliefs on somebody else," he said.

Cella's group is nonpartisan but leans Republican. On a day when the headlines announced new advances in stem-cell technology and the Senate was in knots over judicial nominations and abortion, there were continual references, from Bush and other speakers, to the "culture of life." Later that morning, Bush would threaten to veto legislation to expand federally funded embryonic stem-cell research.

Give Cella credit. He reserved as much time on the program for Sister Margaret Mary, of the Little Sisters of the Poor, as he did for the archbishop of Denver or the president of the United States.

The holy sisters devote their lives to caring for impoverished senior citizens and conducting other acts of Christian charity in near anonymity in Denver and 29 other American cities.

I've come to believe that Christians can be divided, no matter their denomination, into two camps. There's the Sermon on the Mount Christians, who aspire to be blessed as merciful seekers of justice and peace, and the Ten Commandment Christians, who place more emphasis on obeying the "Thou Shalt Nots."

For the former, the sisters are like rock stars. Chaput is known as a social conservative, but he

> See **FARRELL** on 28A

COLORADO VOTES IN CONGRESS > 30A

DISPATCHES FROM IRAQ | On the ground with the Fort Carson-based 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Sharing the risks



Army Col. H.R. McMaster, center, commander of the Colorado-based 3rd Armored Cavalry, leads a platoon on a reconnaissance mission south of Baghdad. Soldiers say it means the world when a commander joins them in the field.

Commander eschews safety of base camp to join his troops

By Bruce Finley, Denver Post Staff Writer Photos by Craig F. Walker, Denver Post Staff Photographer



"The way you win this is by helping the Iraqis win it."

Col. H.R. McMaster

Tigris Valley, Iraq

Flying 150 feet above the jade waters of the Tigris River in an open Black Hawk helicopter recently, U.S. Army Col. H.R. McMaster looked out and studied riverside villas with satellite dishes on top.

Displaced honchos from the Saddam Hussein era live here. And as commander of the Colorado-based 3rd Armored Cavalry, McMaster was headed to check on some 150 ground troops he had sent to work with Iraqi troops sweeping through the area.

Soldiers say it means the world when a commander joins them in the field, rolling down the same risky roads, quizzing Iraqis frustrated and ambivalent as the war rages on.

A few days before, insurgents had shot down a helicopter north of Baghdad and then butchered

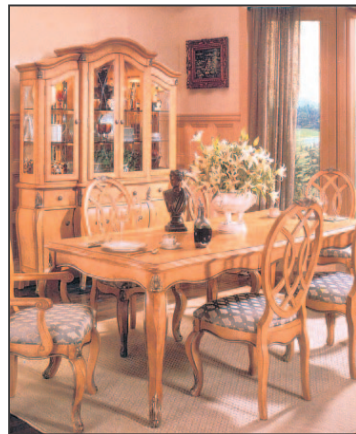
a crash survivor. A few days before that, insurgents attacked a Humvee ground convoy carrying McMaster by detonating a remote-controlled bomb. The blast killed gunner Pfc. Joseph Knott, atop a Humvee in front of McMaster, and critically wounded Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell. McMaster directed counterfire and radioed for air support and medevac.

"There is some risk" in leaving base camps, McMaster said now as the Black Hawk swooped south.

But he and other commanders speak confidently about U.S. operations around Iraq. "We can see the way ahead, we can see it clear as a bell," McMaster said. Commanders are convinced that by working patiently with Iraqi soldiers to win "a

> See **COMMANDER** on 30A

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