

From the Podium

Secretary Rumsfeld and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson Brief Press at NATO Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado

"The goal of the Coalition is not to become the permanent provider of security for that country. Rather, it is to be there for a short period, whatever it takes, assist in getting the Iraqi forces up to speed and armed and equipped and trained so that they can, in fact, provide for Iraq's security, which is the job of Iraqis, not of Americans, not of Coalition forces, except for a period, and then allow them to take that over... The same thing's true in the political area, where the transition will go from the Coalition Provisional Authority, a transfer of sovereignty over a period of time to the Iraqi government as it evolves." ([transcript](#), [story](#))

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Oct. 8, 2003

Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz Accepts the Keeper of the Flame Award

"Success in the battle for democracy in Iraq will be a major victory in the war against terrorism. Iraqis understand this. And alongside us, they are working hard to fight the forces of anger and hopelessness. They are seizing this opportunity to move their country forward. The brave Americans who liberated Iraq have brought us to the possibility of a major victory in the war on terrorism. We must complete that victory. That is the best way that we can honor the memory of the heroes who have died and the heroes who are still risking their lives. And we are winning." ([transcript](#))

Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Oct. 9, 2003

Afghani School Girls



Pfc. Omadai Lall with the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, talks with Afghani school girls during a visit to Orgun, Afghanistan, Sept. 22, 2003. Soldiers with the 486th are in Orgun to provide supplies and inspect the current operating condition of local schools. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Kyle Davis, U.S. Army.)

Six-Month Progress Report in Iraq Ambassador Bremer Press Conference

The Coalition has completed over 13,000 reconstruction projects, large and small, as part of our strategic plan for the reconstruction of Iraq. That plan has four elements:

- Create a secure environment;
- Begin restoration of essential services;
- Begin to transform the economy; and
- Begin the transformation to democracy.

Ambassador Bremer
Oct. 9, 2003, Baghdad
([transcript](#))

In the News

Media's Focus After Interim Report Surprises Top Arms Inspector

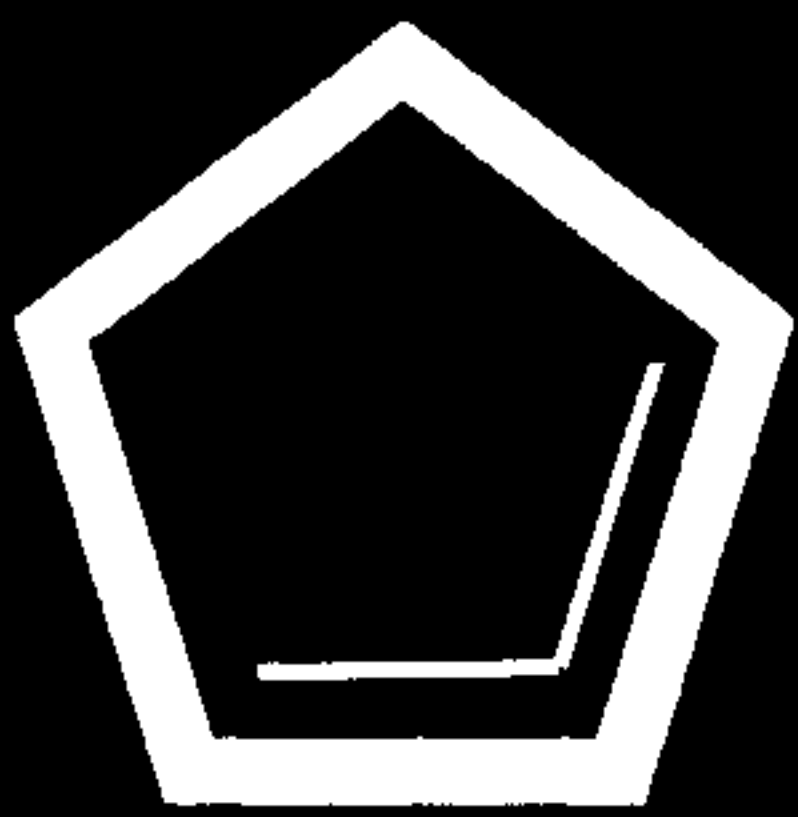
WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 – The man leading the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq expressed surprise that media reports focused mainly on what his team has yet to find and not on what it has turned up so far after his Oct. 2 interim report to Congress. David Kay, chief U.S. arms inspector, told host Tony Snow on the "Fox News Sunday" that while his team indeed has yet to find illicit weapons, "I'm sort of amazed that what was powerful information about both (the former Iraqi regime's) intent and their actual activities that were not known and were hidden from (United Nations) inspectors seems not to have made it to the press." This is information (that), if it had been available last year, would have been headline news," Kay noted. ([story](#))

Number of Attacks in Iraq Constant, Enemy Tactics Change

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 -- While the number of attacks against Coalition troops in Iraq has remained constant, the tactics enemy forces use have changed, Coalition officials said in Baghdad. The nature of enemy action against Coalition forces has changed since May 1, officials said. Enemy forces are moving away from small-unit infantry attacks against Coalition forces. Regime holdouts are moving toward more hit-and-run attacks using improvised explosive devices, mortars or rocket-propelled grenades. "They are using different tactics so they do not need to engage our forces directly," said a Combined Joint Task Force 7 spokesman. The change in tactics did not create a rise in the number of incidents. ([story](#))

Wolfowitz Asserts Value of Ground Forces

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 – Ground forces are an important part of the Defense Department's plans in transforming itself to meet 21st century challenges, Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said at a speech to members of the Association of the U.S. Army. Wolfowitz said he's puzzled by media reports that say civilian leaders think ground forces are obsolete. "Yes, the armed forces today have mind-boggling long-range precision-strike capabilities," Wolfowitz said, "and yes, we intend to take full advantage of that. But that hardly suggests that the Army is no longer necessary." ([transcript](#), [story](#))



March 24, 2003

Pentagon Briefing

An Update from the Department of Defense

www.defendamerica.mil

From the Secretary

POWs

"[N]eedless to say, television networks that carry such pictures [of U.S. POWs] are, I would say, doing something that's unfortunate. ...We treat our prisoners well. We have over 2,000 Iraqi prisoners of war at the present time. ...They're being fed. They're being provided medicine where it's appropriate and needed."

- Secretary Rumsfeld - 2/23/03 - CNN Late Edition

Surrenders

"There are discussions with Republican Guard leaders in selected places and ... our goal is to have this done with a minimum loss of life on the coalition side and on the Iraqi side. The Iraqi people are hostages of a very repressive regime, and to the extent the Iraqi military will act with honor and stop supporting a regime that's history ... and help liberate the Iraqi people and help find the weapons of mass destruction and destroy them, the whole world will be better off."

- Secretary Rumsfeld - 3/23/03 - Face The Nation

Iraqi Resistance

"There are periodically instances where the resistance is quite stiff. ...And it varies substantially from place to place and circumstance to circumstance. But one has to imagine that there would be pockets of resistance. I expect this to go on. You have to appreciate this conflict started on the ground 72 hours ago. The fact that there's a firefight someplace ought not to be surprising."

- Secretary Rumsfeld - 3/23/03 - Meet The Press

Casualties

"The young men and women that are out there are doing a superb job, and the outcome is clear: it will end, and Saddam Hussein's regime will be gone, and the United States will be a safer place for it. How long is not knowable. How many casualties is not knowable. And that's just the only honest thing anyone can say."

- Secretary Rumsfeld - 3/23/03 - Meet The Press

"In wars people get killed. It's a tragedy. My heart goes out to their families and their friends. These are wonderful young people. They're all volunteers and God bless them for their service."

- Secretary Rumsfeld - 3/23/03 - CNN Stakeout

News & Notes: The Acts of a Desperate Regime

Iraqis Using Women & Children as Human Shields

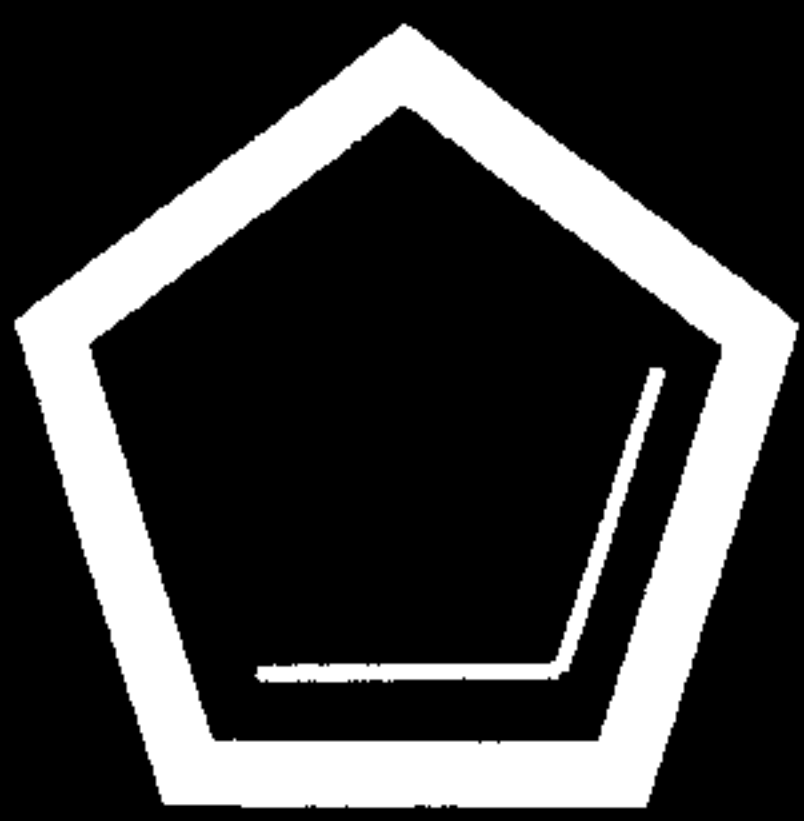
General Tommy Franks accused the Iraqis of "criminal" behavior in using civilians as human shields, intentionally placing them next to military equipment and formations as a deterrent to U.S. attacks." (Washingtonpost.com)

Saddam Issues False Pledge, Violates Geneva Convention

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has issued a statement pledging to respect the rights of prisoners of war captured by his forces, Iraqi television said Saturday. "Iraq, out of respect for itself and its humanity ... will respect the prisoners of war of the enemy whom we capture," Iraqi television said, reading a statement it said came from Hussein. "We will respect their rights according to the Geneva Convention." (Chicago Tribune) Article 13 of the Geneva Convention states: "[P]risoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity." (Department of Defense)

Desperation Tactics Used by Iraqi Troops

Inside the city, as many as nine U.S. Marines also were killed after an Iraqi surrender turned out to be a "ruse," Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid said at a briefing. The Marines died after a small group of soldiers who had indicated they wanted to give themselves up instead fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the Marines' amphibious assault vehicle, witnesses told journalists traveling with the Marine unit. (Washingtonpost.com)



March 20, 2003

Pentagon Briefing

An Update from the Department of Defense

www.defendamerica.mil

From the Secretary

"Coalition forces hit a senior Iraqi leadership compound last evening. The damage assessment on the compound is pending. That was the first. It will likely not be the last. The days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered. We continue to feel that there's no need for a broader conflict if the Iraqi leaders act to save themselves and to prevent such further conflict..."

"If Saddam Hussein or his generals issue orders to use weapons of mass destruction, whether on coalition forces, Free Iraqi Forces, neighboring countries or innocent Iraqi civilians as they have done before, those orders should not be followed. Do not follow orders to destroy dams or flood villages. Do not follow orders to destroy your country's oil, which is the Iraqi people's, and they will need it to rebuild their country when that regime is gone. Following such orders would be to commit crimes against the Iraqi people. See those orders for what they are -- the last desperate gasp of a dying regime. Those who follow orders to commit such crimes will be found and they will be punished..."

"Military units that want to live and act with honor should listen to coalition radio broadcasts to receive instructions as to how you may demonstrate that you do not intend to fight. You will have a place in a free Iraq if you do the right thing. But if you follow Saddam Hussein's orders, you will share his fate. And the choice is yours."

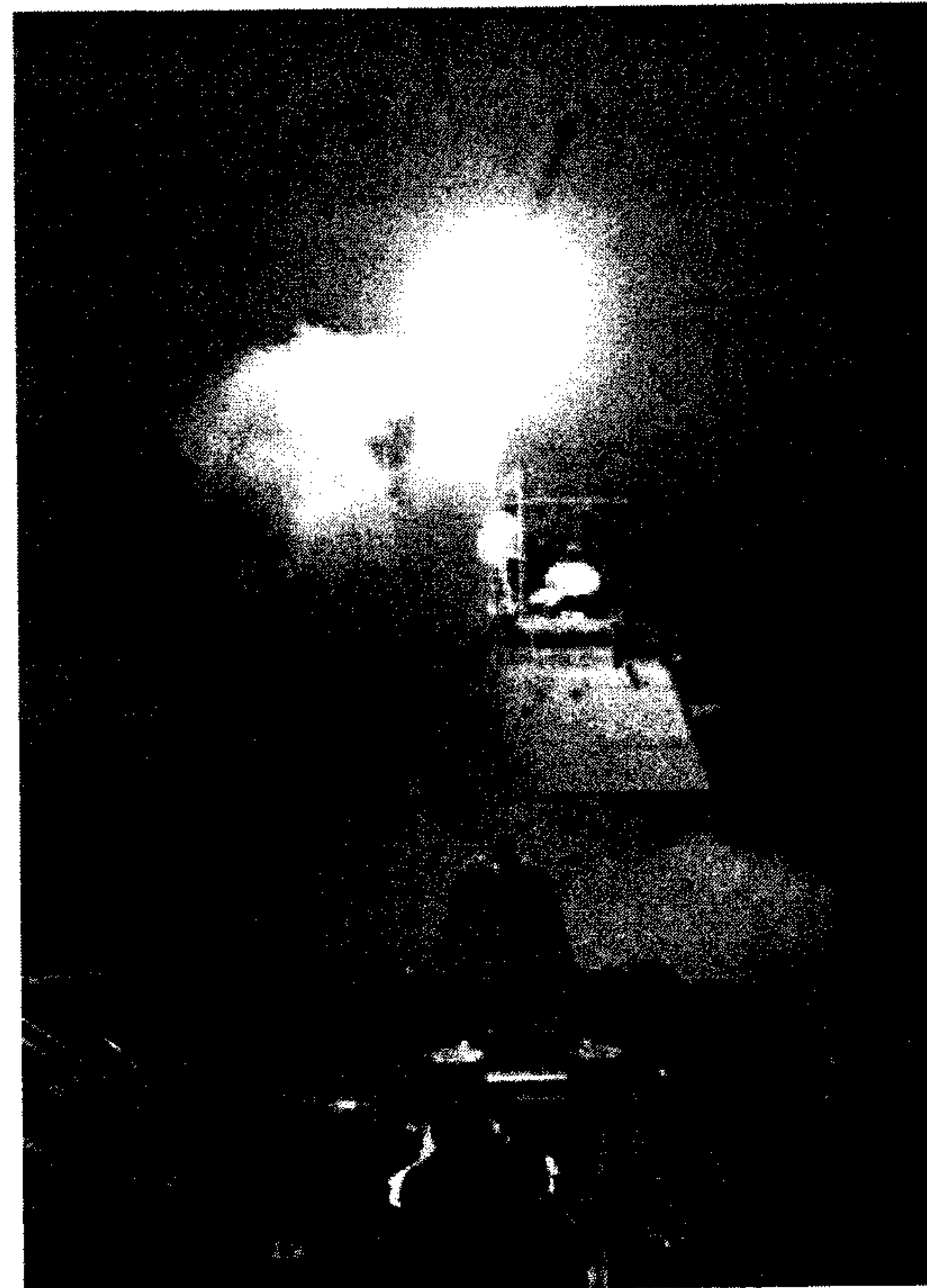
-Secretary Rumsfeld, Defense Dept. News Briefing, March 20, 2003

News & Notes

Depleted Uranium Munitions Safe - Except to Foe
Washington, DC - Pentagon officials March 14 briefed press on their studies into the effects of depleted uranium on military personnel and its lethality against enemy armor. [Depleted Uranium Briefing](#)

Bombing in Iraq Conflict will be Intense, Precise
Washington, DC - In the first 24 hours of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, coalition military aircraft struck more targets than were struck in all of 1942 and 1943 by the 8th Air Force during the Combined Bomber Offensive. [Bomb Briefing](#)

Offensive Launched Against Al Qaeda in Afghanistan
Washington, DC - Coalition forces in Afghanistan launched a dawn offensive Thursday against remaining Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Operation Valiant Strike is aimed at villages and cave complexes east of Kandahar in the Sami Ghar Mountains. Special Forces and 82nd Airborne Division soldiers are participating in the operation. [Afghanistan Offensive](#)



◀ A Tomahawk missile leaves the deck of USS Bunker Hill Thurs. morning headed for Iraq.

Fast Facts

Vital Stats on:
The Tomahawk cruise missile
Length: 20' 6"
Weight: 3,500 lbs
Diameter: 20.4"
Wing Span: 8' 9"
Range: 1000 miles
Speed: 550 mph
Guidance: GPS
Warhead: 1000 lbs.
First use: 1991

Defend America News

**Global War
On Terrorism**

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