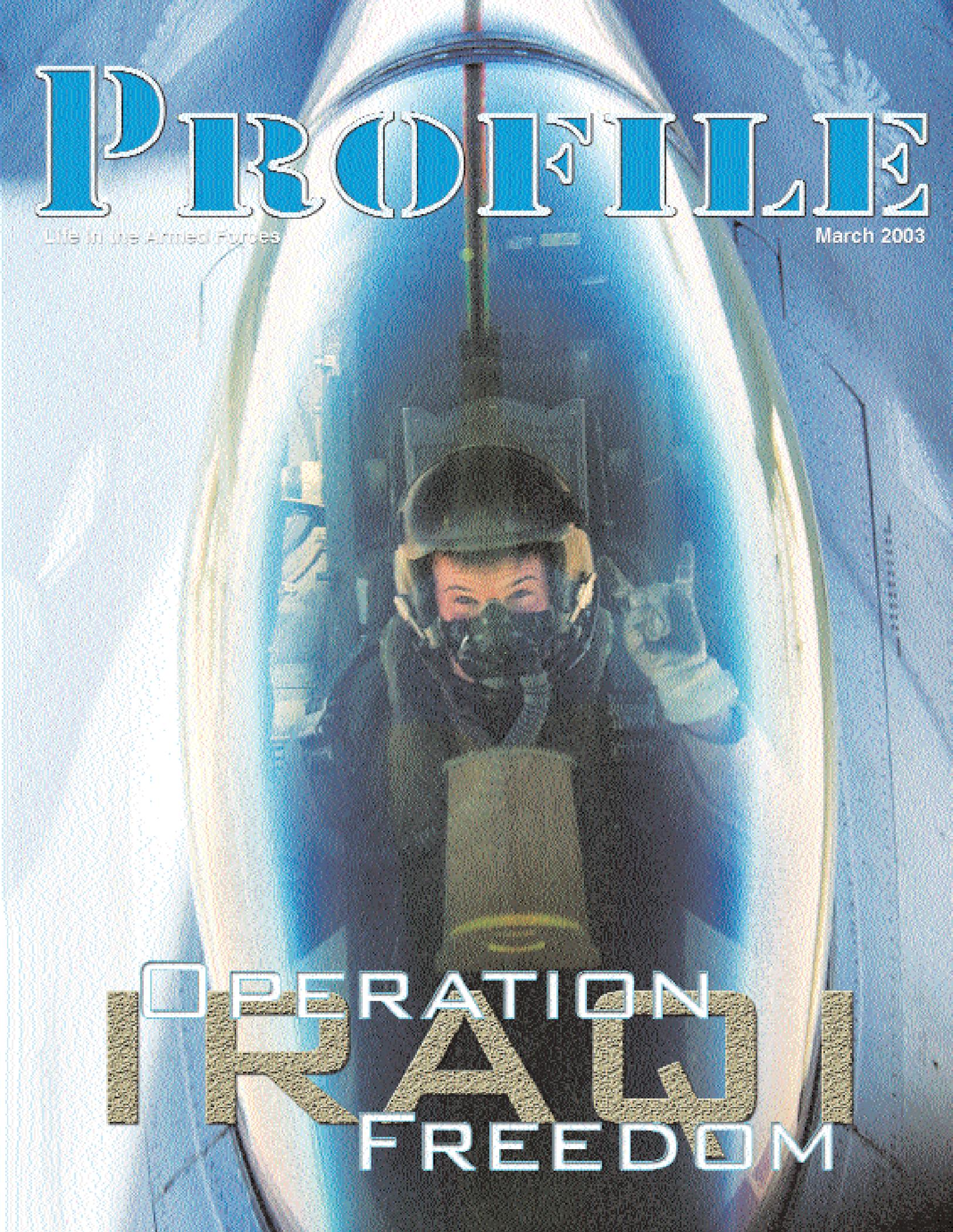


PROFILE

Life in the Armed Forces

March 2003



OPERATION
END
FREEDOM

IN THIS ISSUE

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

6 *The Arsenal*

The United States military is one of speed, power and intelligence. These traits are reflected by the proud Americans who serve, as well as by the advanced weaponry at their disposal. Operation Iraqi Freedom demonstrated the full capability of a country on the cutting edge of military technology, and the strength of the world's finest warriors.

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Profile

The Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Gordon R. England
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Lt. Cmdr. Gilbert A. Mendez, USN
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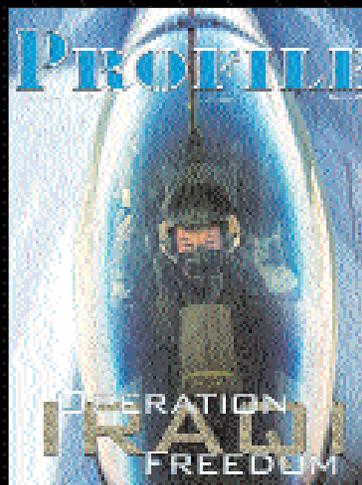
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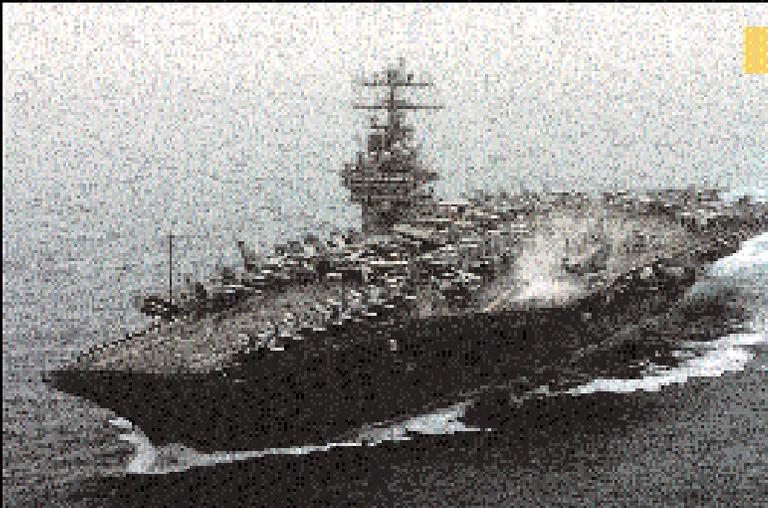
ON THE COVER



An F-16 Fighting Falcon receives fuel from a tanker in the skies near Iraq on March 22. The F-16s are from the 35th Fighter Wing "Wild Weasels", Misawa Air Base, Japan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby.

FEATURES**8 Air**

The air campaign during Operation Iraqi Freedom has been referred to as one of "Shock and Awe". The undaunting air attack formed the cornerstone of the U.S. invasion. This campaign would have been nothing if not for the men and women in uniform supporting the effort.

**14 Sea**

The U.S. Navy's dominance of the waterways surrounding Iraq proved invaluable during Operation Iraqi Freedom. With hundreds of missions being flown from warships every day, the intensity level inside these floating fortresses was high. It took the teamwork of tens of thousands to pull off one of the largest strikes in military history.

**20 Land**

Operation Iraqi Freedom gave U.S. forces a chance to prove they truly are the world's premiere warfighters. Employing the latest technology, and warriors hardened by extensive training, U.S. forces rolled through Iraqi resistance on their way to Baghdad.

News and Information

Communicators Help Marines Phone Home

"Wiredaws" from C Company, 9th Communications Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, are here doing their part to keep Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa connected to the rest of the world.

The group of 12 Marines is stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was recently deployed to Bahrain for six months. They traveled here to support the CJTF-HOA mission to ultimately defeat terrorism in the Horn of Africa.

"After we left Bahrain, we were requested to come to Camp Lemonier to help install commercial voice telephone cable and fiber lines for (secure and non-secure computer networks)," said Cpl. Jason R. Dunbar, the team's wire noncommissioned officer. Since arriving here in early March, the group has "run" nearly 10,000 feet of wire throughout the 88-acre camp.

"For some of these Marines, this is the first time they've deployed to a foreign land. They have done a great job, and they continue to do a great job everyday," communications chief, Gunnery Sgt. Victor Lopez added.

-Defend America News



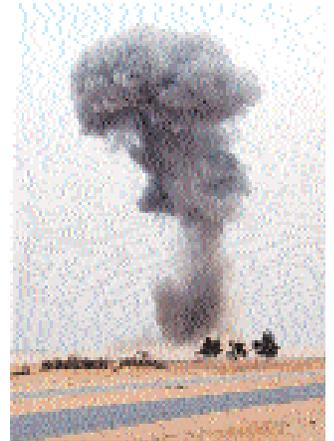
3rd Infantry Division Destroys Massive Iraqi Weapons Cache

3rd Infantry Division soldiers found and destroyed a massive Iraqi Fedayeen weapons cache in a Khairat village school March 31.

Soldiers found more than 900 mortars, 26,000 AK-47 rounds, protective masks, protective suits and dynamite. They safely destroyed the weapons and equipment, officials said, to keep them out of enemy hands.

Maj. Mike Peloquin, 10th Engineer operations officer from Rockville, Md., commented on the success of the mission: "It was a big find, the largest so far in 2nd Brigade. It's definitely good to get out of enemy hands."

-Army News



"Golf" Makes Waves; Marines Become 'Surf Qualified'

Marine Corps has conducted over 300 amphibious landings on foreign shores, many of which faced fierce enemy opposition. The lessons learned from previous wars have been taught to the Marines who instinctively prepare themselves for the worst possible scenario.

One of those scenarios is being trapped inside a broken down amphibious landing craft under heavy enemy fire. The Marines of G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division trained for this by recently becoming "surf qualified."

The surf qualification consisted of jumping off a Marine Corps Assault Amphibious Vehicle 500 meters from shore at Splash Beach and swimming back to the beach in full camouflage utilities.

"I think this training is awesome, and I think everyone in the Marine Corps should do this," Richardson noted. "The Marine Corps is, after all, amphibious so we should do amphibious training."

-Marine Corps News



Airmen Jump in; Prepare Airfield in Northern Iraq

As part of what may be the largest airborne assault since D-Day, 20 airmen of the 86th Contingency Response Group parachuted into northern Iraq on March 27 with more than 1,000 soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The people who jumped into Iraq comprised a team of specialists from the intelligence, medical, communications, security, aerial port, engineer and fuels career fields. Their skills helped prepare the airfield for the C-17 Globemaster IIIs that now deliver more than 1 million pounds of people and cargo every night.

The rapid pace of the deployment and the nature of the mission required the teamwork of both soldiers and airmen, according to Col. Steve Weart, the group's commander.

"It was important to insert the (group) with the airborne brigade so we could assess the airfield and operating environment as quickly as possible," said Weart, who earned his first combat jump here and has 29 jumps to his credit.

The 86th CRG, based out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is one of three Air Force units established for contingency operations. The group is a rapid-response unit designed to deploy anywhere at a moment's notice. It specializes in airlift command and control, mobile aerial port operations, force protection, forward area medical operations, humanitarian aid and communications.

"I was excited about the jump," said Staff Sgt. Damian Spaits, patrol master with the 786th Security Forces

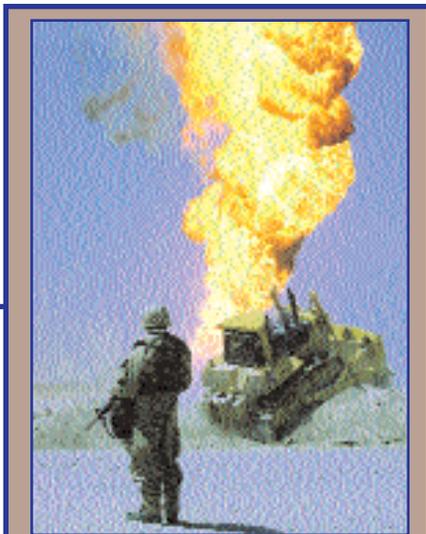
Squadron at Sembach AB, Germany, who has 34 jumps under his belt. "This is the type of mission we've been training for."

"All I could hear was the rush of air as I got up to the door and jumped," said 1st Lt. Jarrett Lee, a 786th Security Forces Squadron intelligence officer. "I hit the ground and immediately gathered my gear and sloshed my way through the knee-deep mud to the rally point."

After the rest of the team hit the ground, they gathered to begin preparing the airfield.

"Once we rallied together, we first made sure everyone was safe," said Maj. Erik Rundquist, defense-force commander for the 86th deployment. "Then we cleared the runway of debris, sent out a reconnaissance team and secured the airfield."

-Air Force News



A U.S. Army soldier stands guard duty near a burning oil well in the Rumaylah Oil Fields in Southern Iraq. Coalition forces have successfully secured the southern oil fields for the economic future of the Iraqi people and are in the process of extinguishing the burning wells that were set ablaze in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

USCG Protects Aid Shipment to Umm Qasr, Iraq

Coast Guard cutter Wrangell, homeported in Portland, Me., along with Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter from Air Station Honolulu, escorted the first waterborne humanitarian aid shipment into the port of Umm Qasr Mar. 28, while members of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 311, from San Pedro, Calif., assisted other coalition forces protecting the harbor.

Approximately 650 Coast Guard men and women are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Persian Gulf aboard four patrol boats, a high-endurance cutter, a buoy tender, two law enforcement detachments, two port security units, one mobile support unit, elements of the National Strike Force and a harbor defense command.

-Coast Guard Forces Southwest Asia



The Arsenal



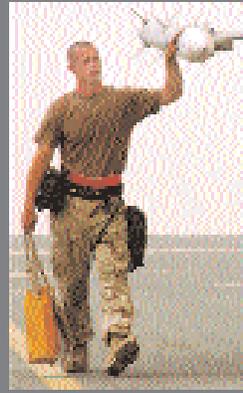
Soldier



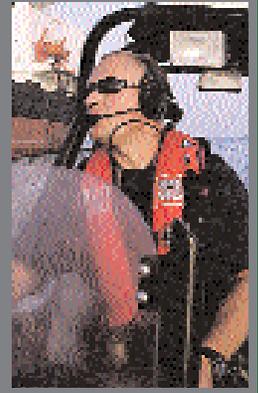
Sailor



Marine



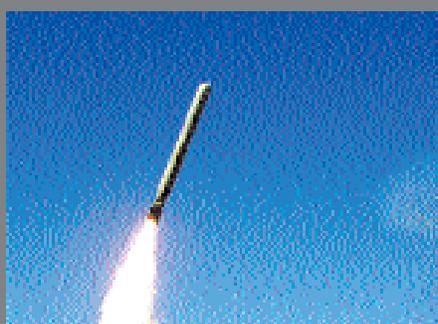
Airman



Coast
Guardsmen



AH-64D "Apache Longbow" - The most capable and deadly helicopter to ever see combat. Its advanced radar targeting system makes it just as effective in almost any weather, even total darkness.



"Tomahawk" - One of the most effective weapons ever conceived. This missile's range is upwards of 1,000 miles, and is extremely accurate. It flies at low altitudes to avoid radar detection.



F-117 "Nighthawk" - One of the U.S. Air Force's "stealth" bombers. Due to its faceted design and construction of radar absorbing materials, the F-117 appears to be the size of a seagull on radar.



Aircraft Carriers - The aircraft carrier is a centerpiece of forward presence in battle. It can carry, launch and maintain up to 85 aircraft, and holds the title of the largest warship in the world.



"Howitzer" Cannons - With the ability to attack targets up to 18 miles away, the 155mm Howitzer is a highly effective addition to the U.S. ground forces. The blast from one of these guns can be felt miles away.



M1A1 "Abrams" - With its 120mm main gun and 1,500hp engine, the M1A1 is one of the most deadly and effective war machines in the U.S. arsenal. This 67-ton behemoth can hit targets over 2.5 km away.



The Objective

AIR

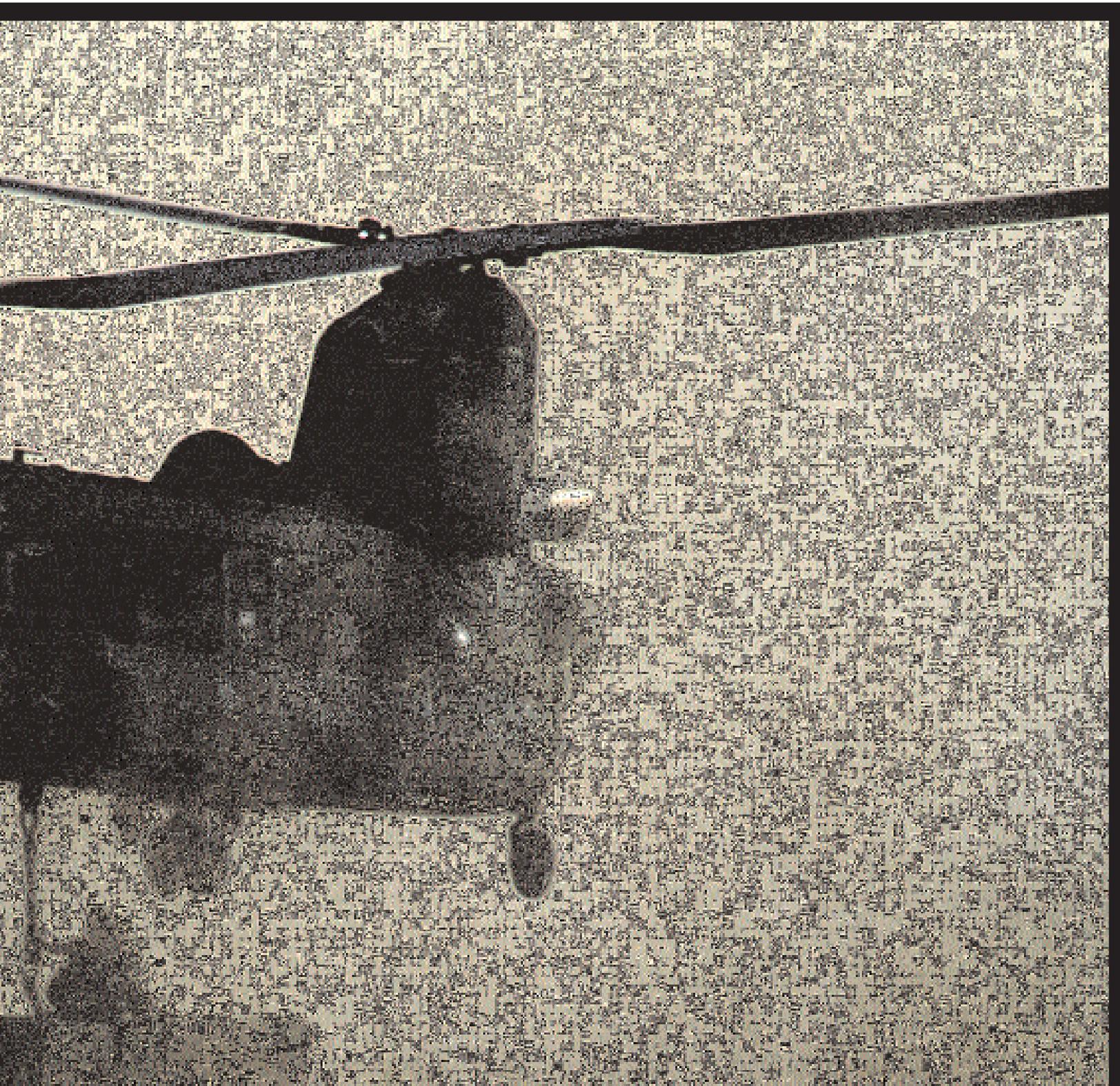
Shortly before dawn: March 20, 2003. U.S. and coalition aircraft began conducting surgical placement of precision bombs into the Iraqi capital. The skies over Baghdad erupted with flashes of anti-aircraft fire in defense against the might of the U.S. military.

A day later, "Shock and Awe" had begun: a massive blitzkrieg of tactical missile strikes designed to gain a psychological advantage by taking out key military targets. This overwhelming onslaught of satellite-guided ordnance was one of the most elaborate air attacks in military history.

However, it takes much more than aircraft and bombs to pull off missions such as this. It took the coordination of thousands of support troops, of all branches of service, to keep the planes in the air ... and Iraqi liberation on the horizon.

The close integration of those outside the cockpit kept the intensity of the attack high. Their hard work allowed pilots to fly over 1,500 missions a day ... creating tremendous momentum for things to come.





A CH-47 Chinook helicopter belonging to the 101st Airborne Division hovers over communications equipment in Southwest Asia as soldiers sling-load it for aerial transport north to the division's Assault Command Post during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by Pfc. James Matise
Photo Illustration by Sgt. Aaron Thacker

“Our country was founded on the precept that freedom is the birth-right of every human being, and America is proud to serve as a force for freedom across the globe.”

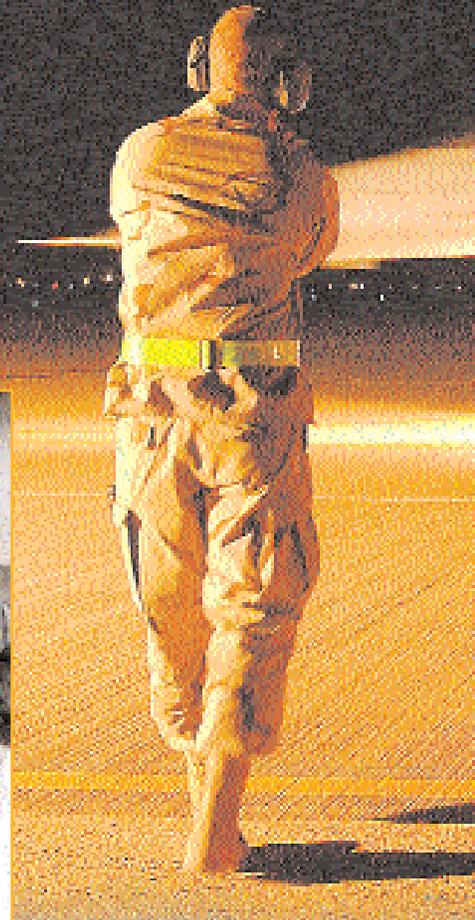
**-Secretary of State Colin Powell
March 31, 2003**

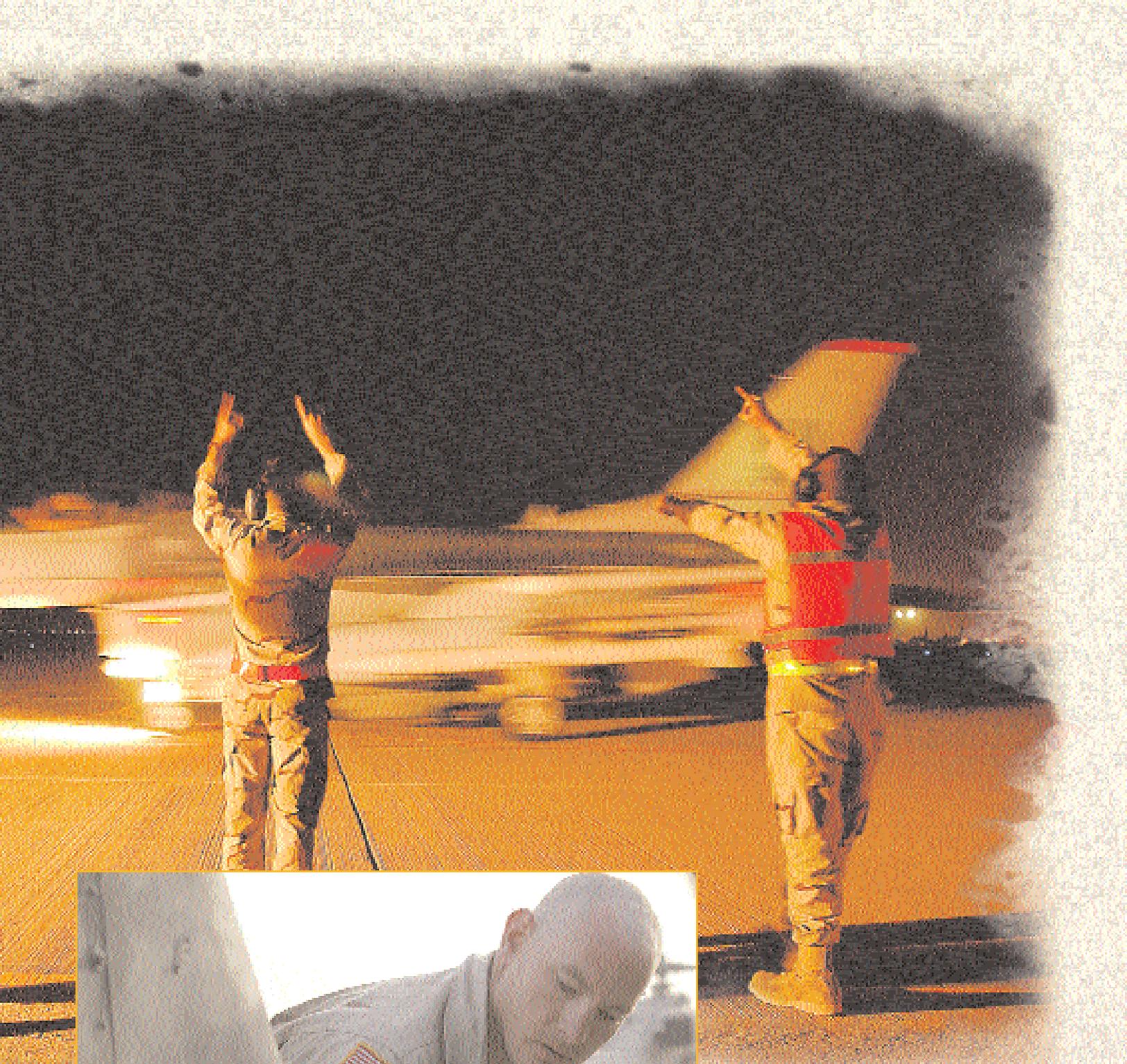
Air Force maintenance members from the 14th Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, deployed to the 363rd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, cheer on an F-16CJ fighter pilot prior to taking off for a mission on March 21 as part of the "Shock & Awe" campaign. Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Apprentices see that aircraft are in operationally ready condition -- performing scheduled inspections, functional checks and preventative maintenance before and after flights. Other maintenance career fields include Aerospace Maintenance, Helicopter Maintenance, Aircraft Structural Maintenance and Missile and Space Systems Maintenance.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Philip A. McDaniel

Navy Airman Isisgena Doylet cleans the front landing gear of her F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 113 prior to launch March 23. Her brown jersey indicates her role as plane captain, making her responsible for the safe start-up and shut-down of the aircraft on every launch. The plane captains' leadership on the flight deck keep the maintenance trouble-shooters and aircrew operating safely.



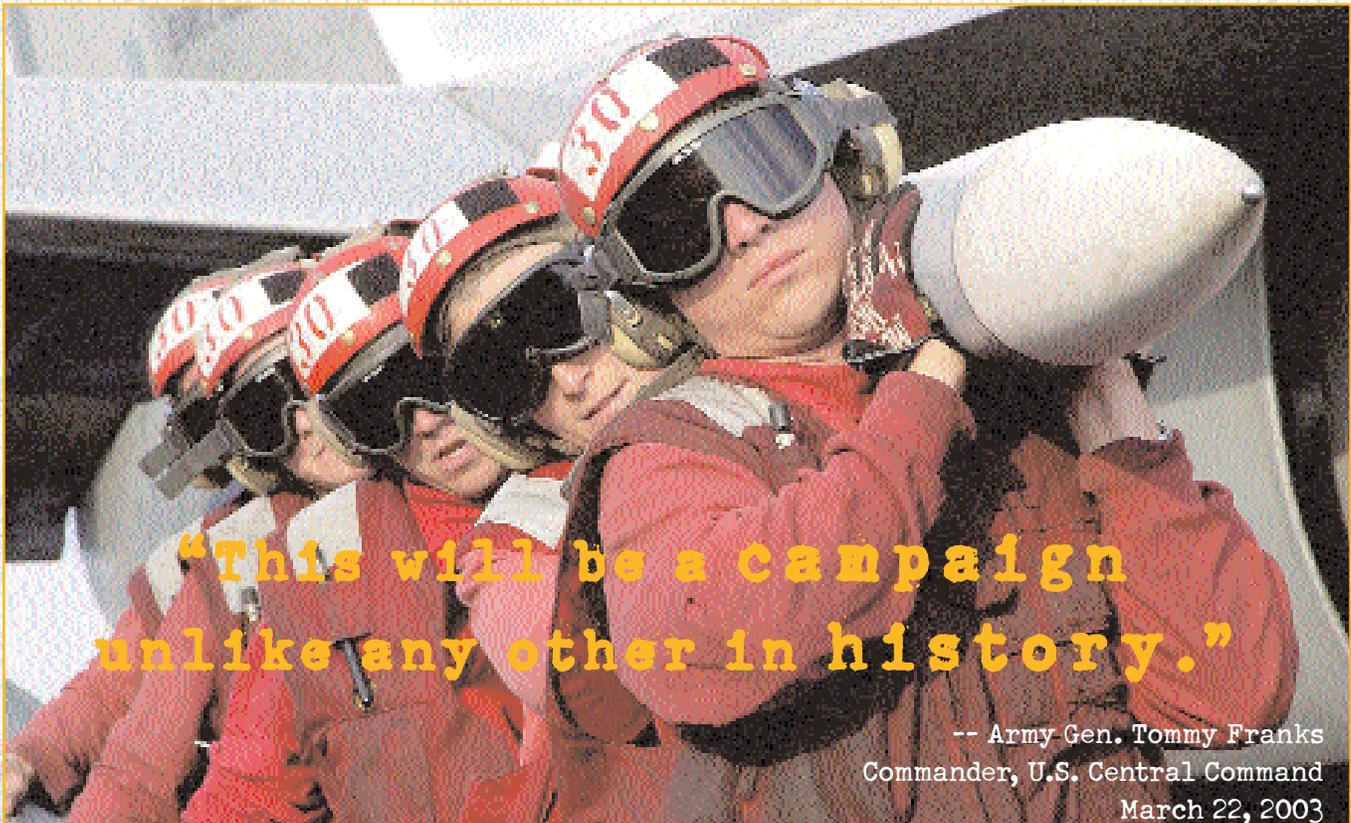


Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen



Pfc. James Matise

Army Spc. Melvin Reden, 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, loads a 2.75-inch rocket into the launcher for an AH-64 Apache helicopter. The AH-64D Armament/ Electrical/ Avionic Systems Repairers are responsible for supervising, inspecting and performing maintenance on the armament, electrical and avionics systems of the Apache helicopter.



Airman Ryan O'Connor



Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurby

Air Force Staff Sgt. Doug Dick, a KC-135 boom operator, refuels aircraft in the skies near Iraq. In-flight Fueling Apprentices connect the two aircraft so fuel can be transferred safely. They are also trained as loadmasters, assuring cargo in the tanker is properly secured for flight.

Navy Aviation Ordnancemen unload ordnance from an F/A-18 Hornet on the flight deck of USS Harry S. Truman. USS Harry S. Truman and Carrier Airwing Three are currently on a six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Aviation Ordnancemen are responsible for inspecting, maintaining and repairing aircraft mechanical and electrical armament and ordnance systems, and stowing, assembling and loading aviation ammunition.



U.S. Air Force Photo



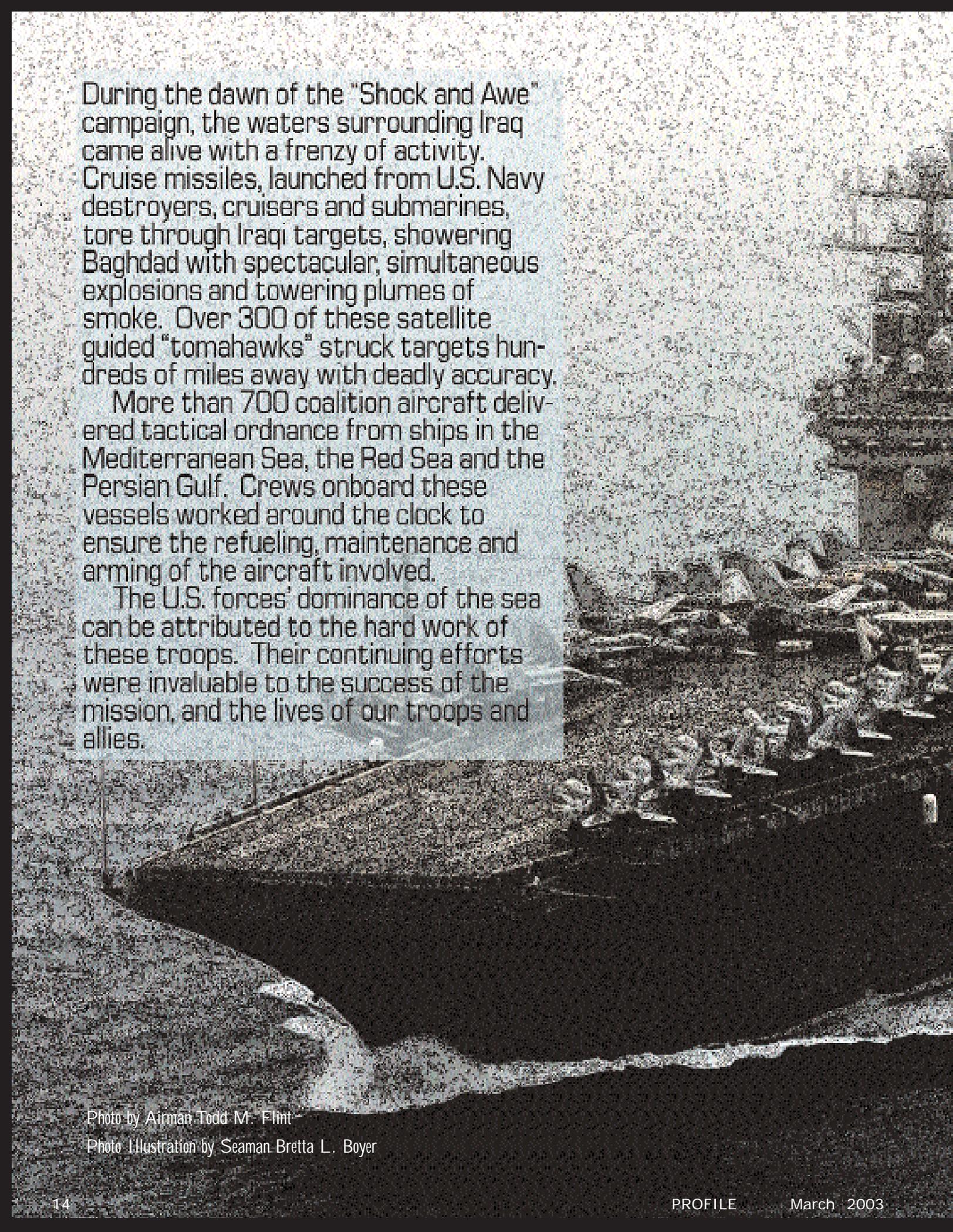
An Aviation Ordnanceman tightens the tip of precision guided ordnance March 23. USS Abraham Lincoln and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen are conducting combat operations in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler J. Clements



Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler J. Clements

An Airman on the USS Abraham Lincoln carries tie down chains to a nearby aircraft March 25. Members of the aircrew spend most of their time on the flight deck making sure planes are maintained and refueled. USS Abraham Lincoln and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen are conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



During the dawn of the "Shock and Awe" campaign, the waters surrounding Iraq came alive with a frenzy of activity. Cruise missiles, launched from U.S. Navy destroyers, cruisers and submarines, tore through Iraqi targets, showering Baghdad with spectacular, simultaneous explosions and towering plumes of smoke. Over 300 of these satellite guided "tomahawks" struck targets hundreds of miles away with deadly accuracy.

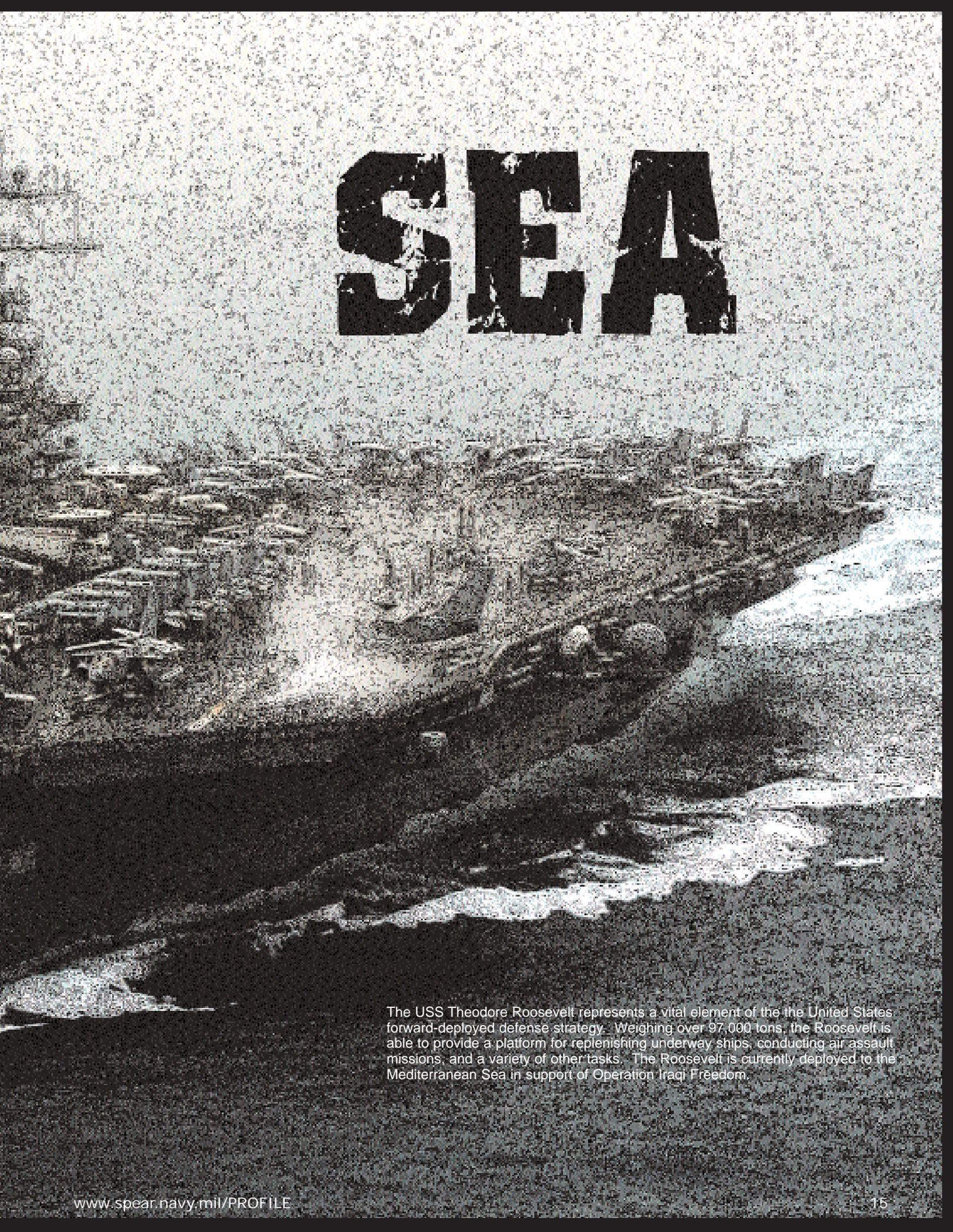
More than 700 coalition aircraft delivered tactical ordnance from ships in the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Crews onboard these vessels worked around the clock to ensure the refueling, maintenance and arming of the aircraft involved.

The U.S. forces' dominance of the sea can be attributed to the hard work of these troops. Their continuing efforts were invaluable to the success of the mission, and the lives of our troops and allies.

Photo by Airman Todd M. Flint

Photo Illustration by Seaman Bretta L. Boyer

SEA

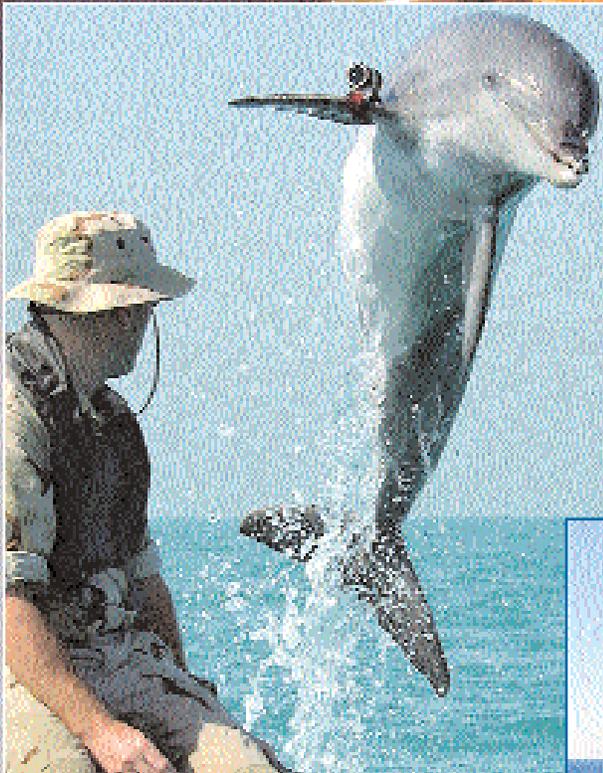


The USS Theodore Roosevelt represents a vital element of the the United States forward-deployed defense strategy. Weighing over 97,000 tons, the Roosevelt is able to provide a platform for replenishing underway ships, conducting air assault missions, and a variety of other tasks. The Roosevelt is currently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric A. Clement

Watch standers in flight deck control monitor the position and movement of all aircraft aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing Eight are deployed conducting combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Aho

K-Dog, a Bottle Nose Dolphin belonging to Commander Task Unit 55.4.3, leaps out of the water in front of Sgt. Andrew Garrett while training near USS Gunston Hall in the Arabian Gulf. Naval Special Clearance members work with K-Dog conducting deep/shallow water mine countermeasures operations to clear shipping lanes for humanitarian relief. Explosive Ordnance Disposal servicemembers of all branches of service are responsible for locating, identifying and disposing of foreign and domestic explosive devices.

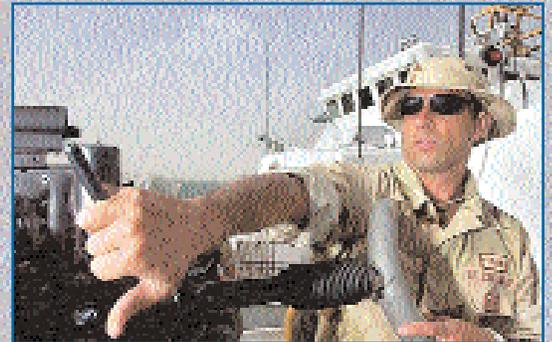


Petty Officer 1st Class Michael W. Pendergrass

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eugene Gant watches a contact on the horizon through the "Big Eyes" while standing the Forward Lookout Watch on the Signal Bridge aboard USS Cape St. George. Operation Specialists track and monitor ship and aircraft movements within radar range, and plot ship movements and targets.

“If war is forced upon us, we will fight with the full force and might of the United States military -- and we will prevail.”

-President George W. Bush,
State of the Union Address
Jan. 28, 2003



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Tom Sperduto

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Harry Pinti prepares an MK 38 25mm machine gun onboard the Coast Guard cutter Wrangell, homeported in Portland, Maine, before departing for patrol March 12. Approximately 650 Coast Guardsmen on six cutters and two Port Security Units are serving in the Persian Gulf.

A Tomahawk cruise missile launches from USS Cape St. George, operating in the eastern Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Molt

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua L. Tillman along with three other Fire Controlmen, man the ship's launch control watch station in the Combat Information Center aboard the guided missile cruiser during a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile training exercise. Fire Controlmen repair, adjust and calibrate sophisticated electric search systems, and operate weapons control systems.



Petty Officer 1st Class Michael W. Pendergrass



Chief Petty Officer Eric A. Clement

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Butler dresses out in riot gear for a training exercise aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing Eight are deployed conducting combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Whether it's Navy Master-at-Arms or Army Military Police, all services offer security forces whose duty is to provide support for battle areas by conducting area security, prisoner of war and law and order operations.

“Some people say why does **this country still have such a big defense budget? The answer is because we have big **responsibilities**. We have a lot of people, fortunately, who are willing to **volunteer to serve** in our military to carry out those responsibilities.”**

-Paul Wolfowitz

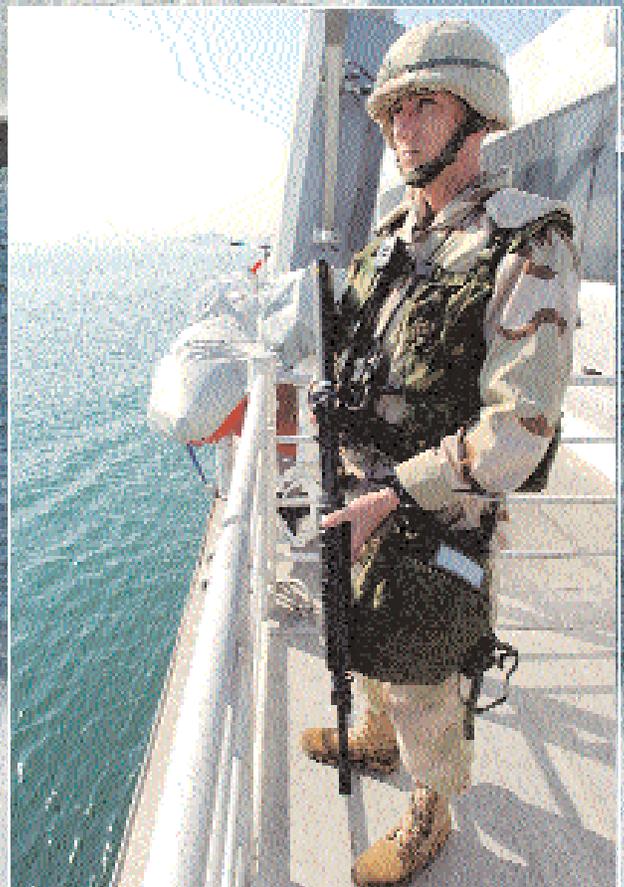
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Mar. 23, 2003



Petty Officer 2nd Class Alicia Tasz

Medical personnel from USS Kearsarge and Fleet Surgical Team EIGHT work on a "mock" wounded person during a planned Mass Casualty Drill aboard the amphibious assault ship. Navy Hospital Corpsmen assist in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, and assist health care professionals in providing medical care to service members and their families.



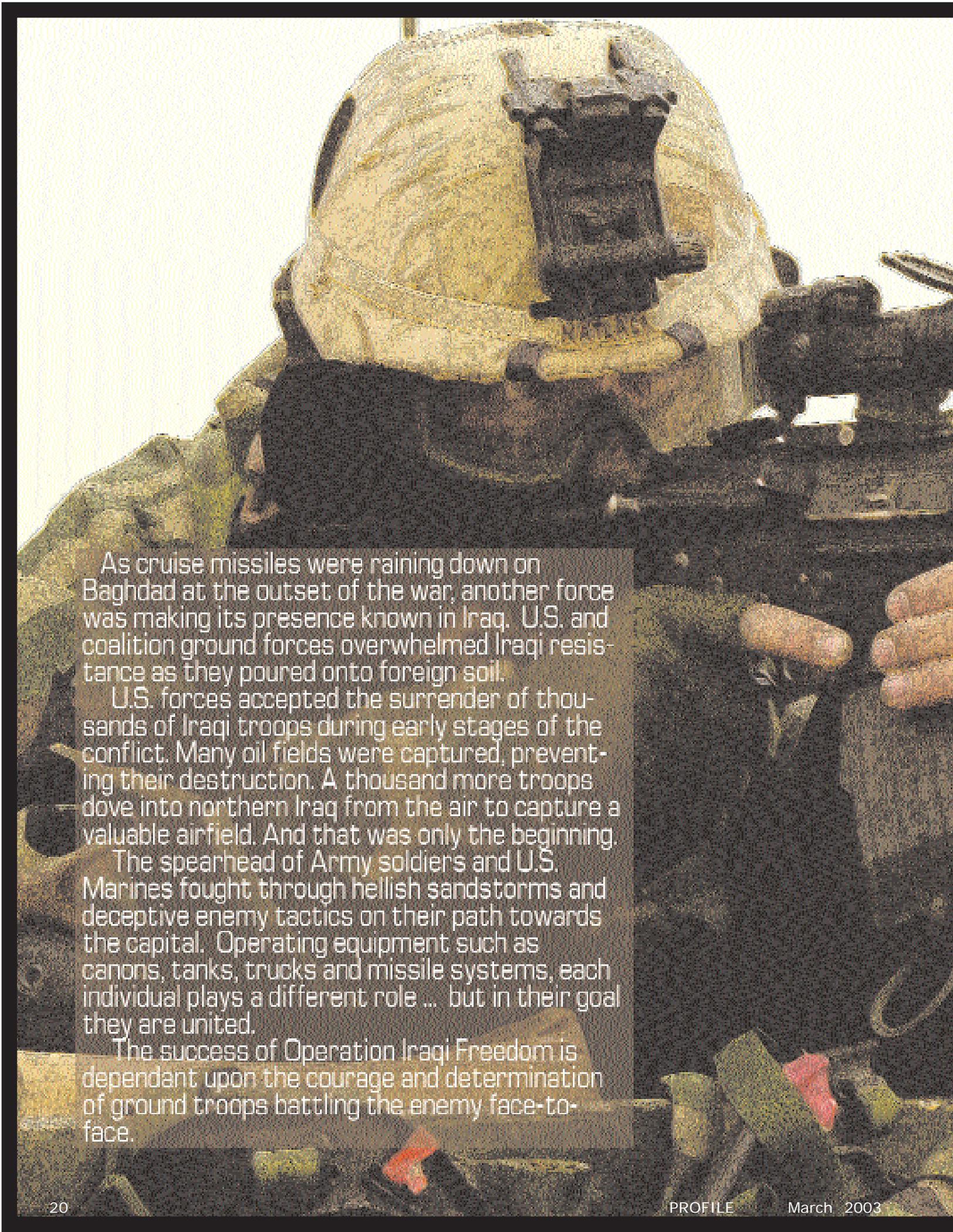
Petty Officer 1st Class Brien Aho

Staff Sgt. Marcus Gandee stands guard with an M-16 machine gun as the United States Army Vessel Theater Support Vessel-1X "Spearhead" departs from a port within the Central Command Area of Responsibility. The 98 meter-long wave-piercing catamaran has an average speed of 40 plus knots and will be utilized on missions which can take advantage of its speed and flexibility when transporting troops and cargo. Army Watercraft Operators are primarily responsible for performing mariner duties and supervising other soldiers on Army watercraft.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Alicia Tasz

Petty Officer 3rd Class Samantha Miller sorts through 16,000 pounds of mail piled in the USS Kearsarge hangar bay. Kearsarge is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



As cruise missiles were raining down on Baghdad at the outset of the war, another force was making its presence known in Iraq. U.S. and coalition ground forces overwhelmed Iraqi resistance as they poured onto foreign soil.

U.S. forces accepted the surrender of thousands of Iraqi troops during early stages of the conflict. Many oil fields were captured, preventing their destruction. A thousand more troops dove into northern Iraq from the air to capture a valuable airfield. And that was only the beginning.

The spearhead of Army soldiers and U.S. Marines fought through hellish sandstorms and deceptive enemy tactics on their path towards the capital. Operating equipment such as canons, tanks, trucks and missile systems, each individual plays a different role ... but in their goal they are united.

The success of Operation Iraqi Freedom is dependant upon the courage and determination of ground troops battling the enemy face-to-face.

LAND

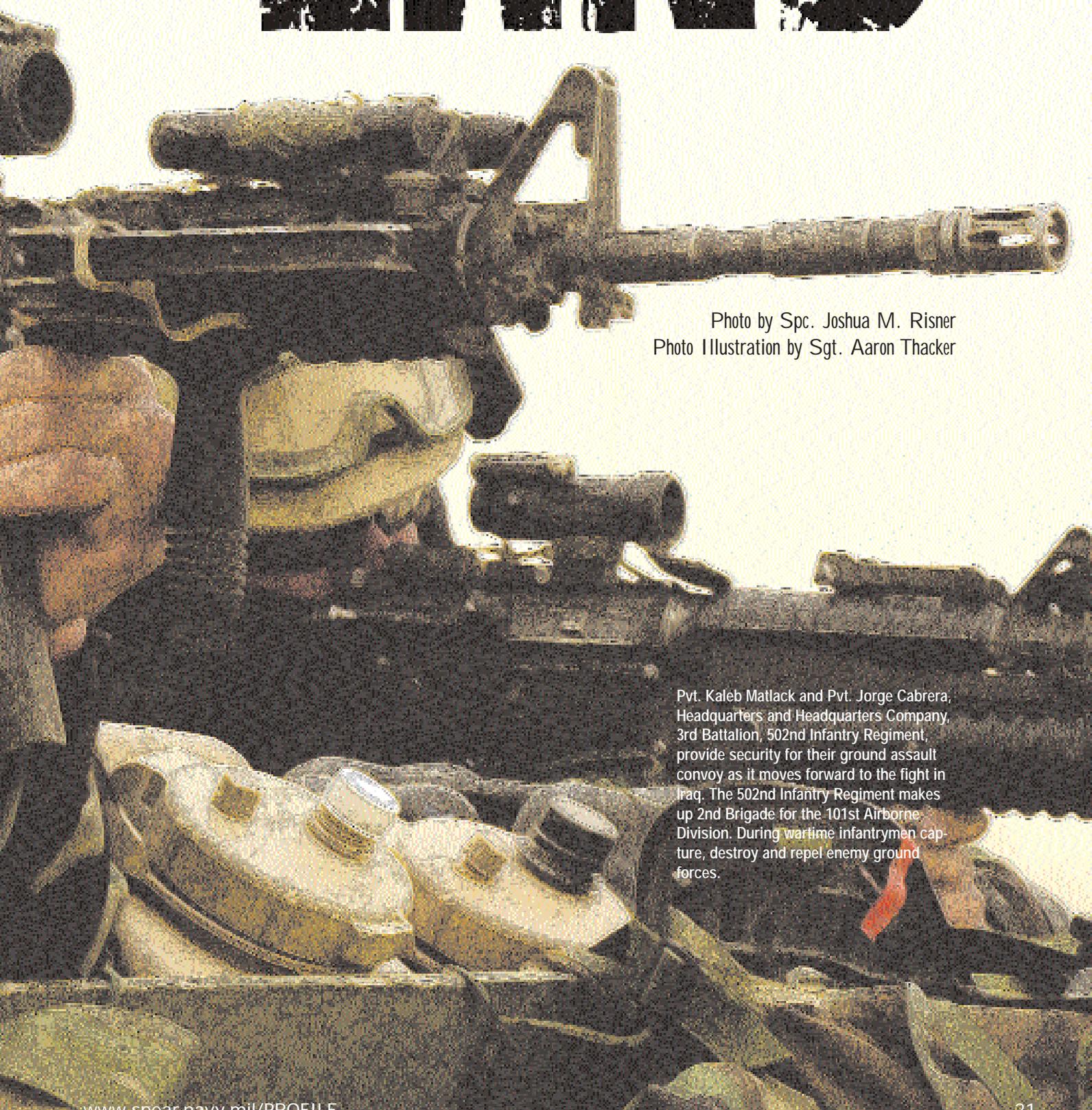


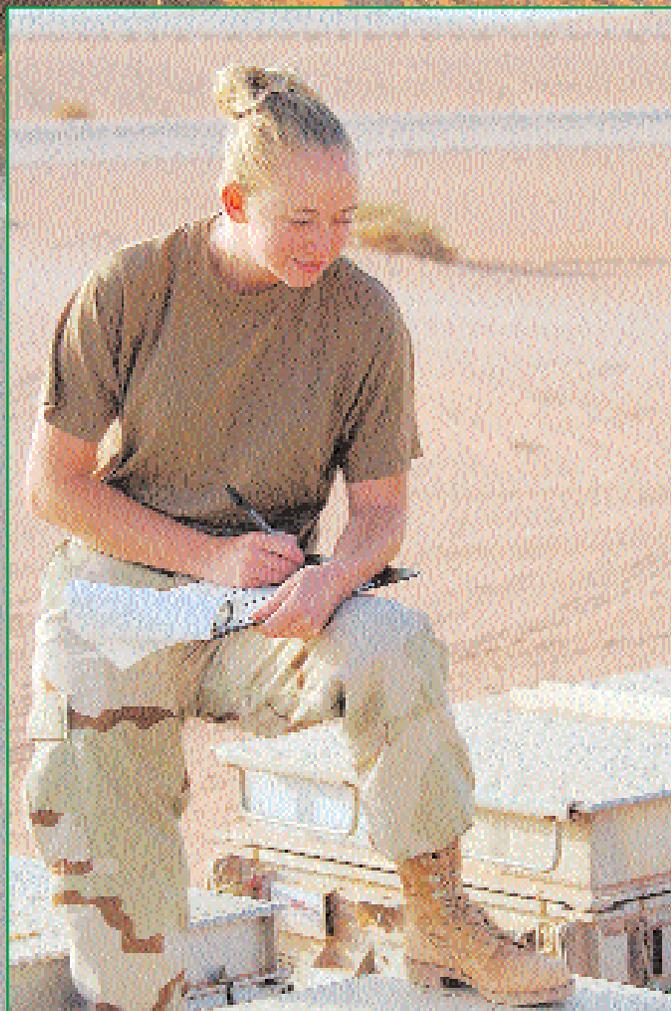
Photo by Spc. Joshua M. Risner
Photo Illustration by Sgt. Aaron Thacker

Pvt. Kaleb Matlack and Pvt. Jorge Cabrera, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, provide security for their ground assault convoy as it moves forward to the fight in Iraq. The 502nd Infantry Regiment makes up 2nd Brigade for the 101st Airborne Division. During wartime infantrymen capture, destroy and repel enemy ground forces.



Sgt. 1st Class David K. Dismukes

A Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle crew with the 24th Infantry Division from Ft. Riley, Kan., takes a break in Central Iraq. The crew is part of the land force that has moved in 32 hours what it did in 96 hours 12 years ago. The Army offers a variety of careers with tracked vehicles. Along with the Infantry Fighting Vehicle crewmembers are the Bradley Linebacker crewmembers -- who operate Linebackers, which are capable of neutralizing air targets with the use of missiles and other ammunition -- and Armor crewmen who operate more traditional "tanks" to destroy enemy positions.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen

Senior Airman Lisa Jones, a Precision Guided Munitions crew member deployed from the 18th Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, to the 363rd Expeditionary Equipment Maintenance Squadron, inventories Air to Ground-88 missiles to be put on an F-16CJ aircraft on a flight line in preparation for a mission March 25. The 363rd EEMXS members work 12-hour days 7 days a week preparing precision-guided missiles to support Operation Iraqi Freedom at a forward deployed location in Southwest Asia.

To **any Iraqi** people who may be listening ...
There will be **no outcome** to this war that
will leave **Saddam Hussein** and **his regime**
in power. **Let there be no doubt.**

-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

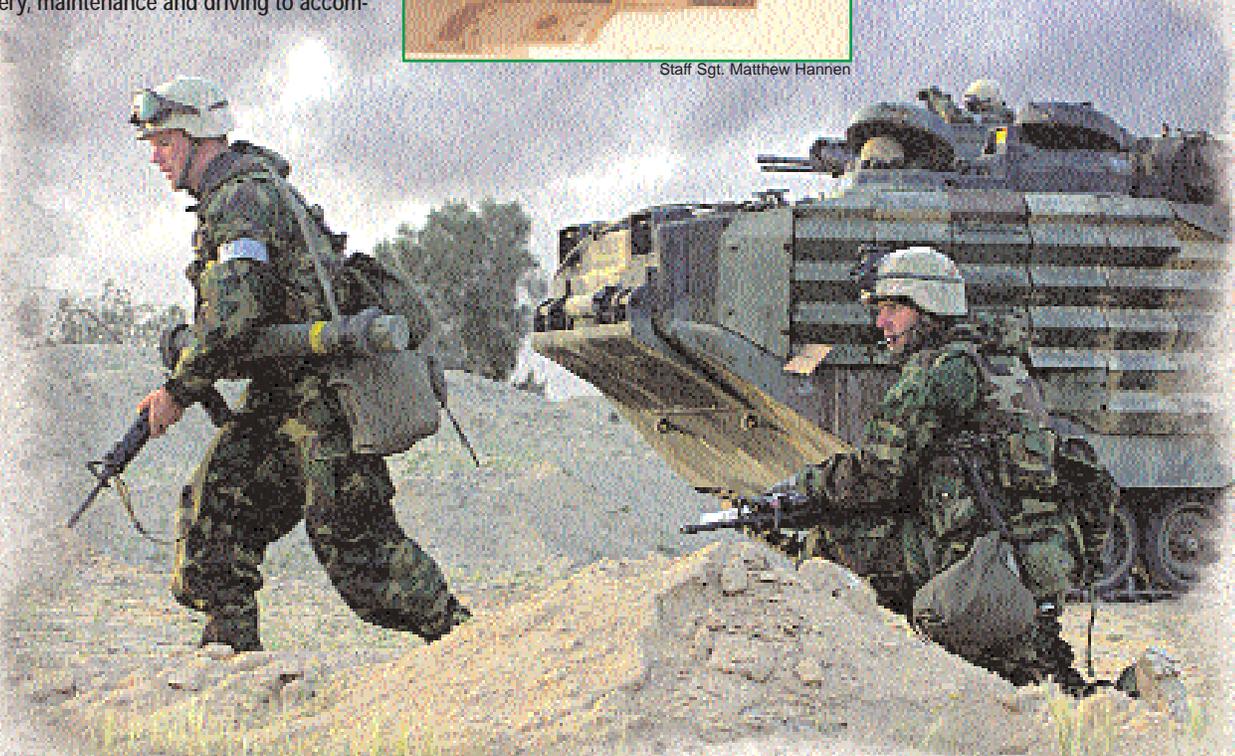
April 1, 2003

Marines aided by an Amphibious Assault Vehicle merge towards an objective. The Marines are with E Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and are in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom March 23. For these Marines, getting to the fight is half the battle. To aid them in their trek, Tank and Assault Amphibious Vehicles provide the transportation they need. The crewmen perform gunnery, maintenance and driving to accomplish their missions.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Nipp, a crew chief deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to the 363rd Expeditionary Equipment Maintenance Squadron, protects his eyes during a sand storm while spotting a munitions handling unit carrying an Air to Ground-88 missile for download to an F-16CJ aircraft on a flight line in preparation for a mission March 25. There are a variety of Avionics Systems Control Apprentices in the Air Force. They specialize in maintenance on a variety of aircraft, such as the F-15 fighter or B-2 bomber.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen



Lance Cpl. Brian L. Wickliffe

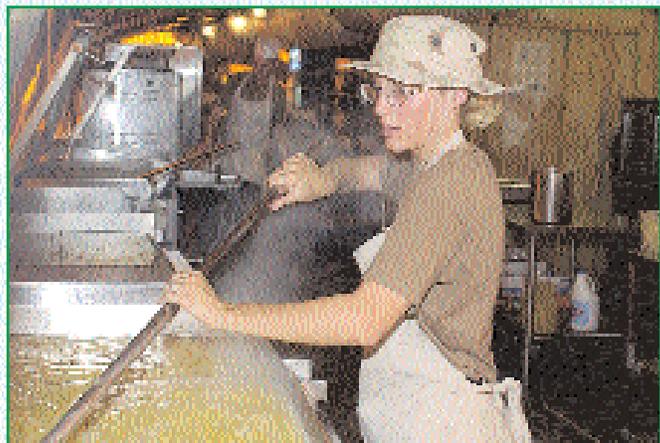


Staff Sgt. Quinto

Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

U.S. service members donned in chemical protective suits emerge from an underground bunker after hearing inbound SCUD missiles launched from Iraq into Kuwait had been shot down March 20 during the opening stages for the war to disarm Iraq. Chemical Operations Specialists are primarily responsible for operating, maintaining or supervising the use of nuclear, biological and chemical detection and decontamination equipment.

Senior Airman Kristie Williams volunteers to help make soup of the day for more than 5,000 service members at a forward-deployed air base in the Middle East supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is nothing better for morale than hot food, and bringing that to the field are the food service specialists of every branch of service.



Sgt. Derrick C. Goode

Members of the 86th Combat Support Hospital from Fort Campbell, Ky., transport a patient to the Combat Support Hospital after retrieving him from a UH-60 Helicopter at an undisclosed location March 30. Health Care Specialists are responsible for emergency medical treatment, limited primary care and health protection and evacuation from point of injury to illness.

"The regime is in trouble, and they know it. Every day, we diminish the regime's ability to command and control its forces. Every day, we erode the regime's grip over the Iraqi people."

-Army Gen. Tommy Franks
Commander, U.S. Central Command
March 30, 2003

U.S. Army soldiers from 82nd Airborne Division conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on the 105mm Howitzer March 21 at Champion Main, Kuwait. A Battery 2 Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cannon Fire Detection Specialists lead, supervise or serve as members of a field artillery cannon unit.



Sgt. Kyran V. Adams



U.S. Army Sgt. Mark Phiffer stands guard duty near a burning oil well in Rumaylah Oil Fields in Southern Iraq. Coalition forces have successfully secured the southern oil fields and are in the process of extinguishing the few burning wells that were set ablaze at the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



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For more information about the United States Coast Guard, contact 1-800-NOW-USCG or visit www.gocoastguard.com

Petty Officer 1st Class Arlo Abrahamson

Department of the Navy
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