



The Honolulu Advertiser

FINAL EDITION

Oahu / 50¢
Neighbor Islands / 75¢
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SATURDAY / March 22, 2003 / HAWAII'S NEWSPAPER / honolulua.dvertiser.com

Hawaiian Air files for bankruptcy protection

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Carrier wants new aircraft lease deals

By Andrew Gomes and Kelly Yamanouchi
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITERS

Hawaiian Airlines filed for bankruptcy yesterday for the second time in less than a decade and said it took the action largely to negotiate better

deals on its aircraft leases. The airline said it plans to emerge from bankruptcy this fall and stressed that it plans to continue normal flight operations to the Mainland and the Neighbor Islands. The airline, which filed for Chapter 11 reorganization under federal bank-

ruptcy laws, by late yesterday had obtained court approvals to allow the company to continue all of its operations, honoring tickets, redeeming frequent-flier miles and maintaining flight schedules. John Adams, Hawaiian's chairman and chief executive, said the bankruptcy action is not a "shotgun approach," where the entire company's finances need overhauling. Rather, he said, the airline sought bankruptcy protection to help it renegotiate more

favorable leases for new aircraft, one of the key and final pieces in a restructuring started several months ago. "We wanted to deal with the leases with a sense of urgency because in the environment we're facing there are a lot of opportunities and challenges," Adams said. While Hawaiian executives tried to cast the action as a positive step that



See HAWAIIAN, A2 JOHN ADAMS

Air assault unleashed

8,000-member Iraqi division surrenders; oil port seized



Associated Press

Iraqi soldiers surrendered to Marines following a gunbattle yesterday at the headquarters of the Iraqi 51st and 32nd mechanized infantry divisions near Az Bayer. In all, 8,000 soldiers of the 51st Infantry Division surrendered to coalition commanders.

By David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The United States launched a ferocious, around-the-clock aerial assault on military targets in Baghdad and other cities yesterday, and invading ground troops penetrated 100 miles into Iraq. The ancient capital's skyline exploded in balls of flame, leaving Saddam Hussein's Old Palace compound and other symbols of his government ablaze. Coalition commanders accepted the surrender of the 8,000-member 51st Iraqi Infantry Division near the southern city of Basra, officials said, and U.S. and British troops encountered little resistance as they seized Iraq's only port city and moved to secure key oil fields. After an overnight reprieve, a huge explosion shook the center of Baghdad, a city of 5 million, before dawn today and aircraft could be heard overhead. A halo of smoke hung in the sky. The city's nine-story intelligence headquarters appeared to have been damaged by allied fire. Units moved into western airfield complexes where Iraq was believed to have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel, and possibly weapons of mass destruction. "We're going at it hammer and tongs," said Capt. Mark Fox, back aboard the USS Constellation after a bombing run that was part of a

U.S., British troops march toward Basra

By Ravi Kessman and Ellen Knickmeyer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTHERN IRAQ — U.S. and British forces streamed in a long line of tanks and armored vehicles toward Basra, Iraq's second largest city, today, a day after they collected hungry and overwhelmed Iraqi soldiers who surrendered in droves. An entire Iraqi division, the 51st Infantry, gave up to U.S. troops yesterday, military officials said. A key unit for Basra's defense with 8,000 men and up to 200 tanks, it was the largest defection in a day when Saddam Hussein's forces showed signs of crumbling. Earlier today, U.S. Marines and British troops rumbled within nine miles from Basra on the main road from the Kuwaiti border, Highway 80 — nicknamed the "Highway of Death" during the 1991 Gulf War when U.S. air strikes wiped out an Iraqi military convoy along the

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80 more Schofield troops ordered to Middle East

By William Cole
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

About 30 soldiers from Schofield Barracks are making their way to Baghdad, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson said yesterday. "The first task force we sent out last week, I got a note this morning, and that task force has already joined the 3rd Infantry Division Mechanized, and is on the march to Baghdad as we speak," said Olson, the commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division (Light). Olson made his comments at a send-off at Schofield for 80 other soldiers deploying to Kuwait and elsewhere in the Middle East.

"This group of courageous soldiers ... will be (joining) that effort, which to date ... is achieving extraordinary success," Olson said. The Army's 3rd Division had surged 100 miles into Iraq yesterday. The 30 Schofield soldiers that deployed to the region March 12 included an armor officer, about five helicopter pilots, chemical operations specialists and 18 combat engineers. The majority of those deploying yesterday and during the next several days are infantry from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 27th Infantry Regiment, but there are 13 units

See SCHOFIELD, A6



BRUCE ASATO • THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER

Julie M.F.L. Ceder bids aloha to her husband, Spc. Gene W. Ceder of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, who was deployed to war. Eighty Schofield troops are headed for the Middle East.

U.S. tries to lure defectors with promises of safety

By Dena Priest and Walter Pincus
WASHINGTON POST

In an intensified effort to divide Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from his inner circle, U.S. military and intelligence officers in recent days have communicated with some Iraqi commanders and have secretly designated buildings in the capital for defectors to occupy, promising they will not be targeted by U.S. air strikes, senior U.S. officials said yesterday. U.S. military and intelligence officers have also gained promises from some Iraqi commanders that they will not fire chemical weapons at American ground forces, the officials said. However, U.S. officials

said they are monitoring one Republican Guard unit outside Baghdad that they believe has been issued artillery shells filled with chemical agents. As U.S. warplanes made a thunderous show of force in Baghdad and other cities and as American ground units pushed north toward the capital, an invisible but equally purposeful campaign was under way to divide the Iraqi leadership and eliminate the government's inner circle. A major part of that effort, officials said, was communicating with potential defectors — both in the government and the

See DIVIDE, A6



Mystery illness spreads

Hawaii's third suspected case of an unknown respiratory illness has surfaced. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention list 22 suspected cases in 12 states.

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Bomb-scare arrest

Police say schoolyard boasts and the path of a cell phone call helped lead to the arrest of a Kaiser High student suspected of making the bomb threat that prompted an islandwide alert.

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