

TUESDAY

APRIL 15, 2003  
50 CENTS  
138TH YEAR No. 146

# The Virginian-Pilot



Mostly sunny and mild, with a high in the mid-70s / D8

SERVING HAMPTON ROADS AND NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

# Saddam stronghold falls

## WAR COVERAGE

Operation Iraqi Freedom:  
Six pages of news inside

### IN THE WAR ZONE

**Life in the fast lane:** A tour through the house of Saddam Hussein's oldest son, Odai, reveals his taste for fast cars, expensive liquor and women/A7

**Missiles found:** Near Kirkuk, U.S. paratroopers find missiles, several tanks full of an unknown substance, and crates of suits and masks designed to protect troops from chemical attack/A8

**More invective:** Administration officials brand Syria a "rogue nation" and threaten diplomatic, economic and unspecified "other" sanctions/A12

### IN HAMPTON ROADS

**Coming home:** The fast-attack submarine Boise is scheduled to return home to the Norfolk Naval Station today/A8

**Military spouses:** U.S. Sen. John W. Warner and Navy officials bring good news to Navy wives/A14

### IN BAGHDAD

**The weather**  
Today: Scattered clouds with a high of 91 and a low of 62.

### The time difference



### ONLINE

Get updates, view photos, watch videos, read military families' journals and more at [pilotonline.com](http://pilotonline.com)



U.S. Marines move carefully in Tikrit, Iraq, on Monday. Saddam Hussein's hometown fell with scant resistance, surprising U.S. commanders.

## U.S. takeover in Tikrit ends major combat, Pentagon says

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Marines seized control of Tikrit on Monday, wrapping up the last significant Baath Party stronghold in Iraq and marking a shift in the U.S. campaign from grabbing territory to targeting pockets of resistance, rebuilding war-ravaged infrastructure and creating a new system of government.

U.S. officials said the Marines who captured Tikrit, a small city 90 miles northwest of Baghdad and the ancestral region of former President Saddam Hussein, encountered lighter-than-expected resistance, mostly from paramilitary Baath loyalists instead of the organized military defenses some had feared. By the end of the day, U.S. troops patrolled the city center and set up checkpoints, receiving a calm, if sometimes reserved, welcome from the population.

Marines in the capital also refocused their duties from fighting to peacekeeping, sending out more troops to apprehend looters and starting joint patrols with Iraqi police officers. The tide of lawlessness that had enveloped Baghdad for the previous five days appeared to ebb.

Army Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Washington that the fall of Tikrit means "major combat operations are over" in the 26-day military campaign to take out Saddam's government. But the challenge of restoring civil order and searching for pro-Saddam militiamen remained formidable in this still-chaotic country of 24 million people.

To help with those tasks, thousands of soldiers from the Army's 4th Infantry Division moved into southern Iraq from their staging areas in Kuwait. At the same time,

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## Retired U.S. general set to remake Iraq

He expects contentious but rapid transition

BY JANE PERLEZ  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KUWAIT CITY — The retired U.S. general who will run postwar Iraq for the Bush administration flew to Iraq on Monday on a mission to remake the country's politics, a process he predicted would be messy and contentious.

But Lt. Gen. Jay G. Garner insisted that U.S.-style democracy could sprout on the shards of President Saddam Hussein's government.

"I don't think they had a love-in when they had Philadelphia" in 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, he said in an interview in Kuwait

before his departure. "Anytime you start the process, it's fraught with dialogue, tensions, coercion — and should be."

The general will preside over a meeting of Iraqis and Iraqi exiles in Nasiriyah today, the first of many meetings that the Pentagon says are intended to form the basis of a representative government for Iraq.

The invitations to about 70 to 80 people, including prominent exiles such as Ahmed Chalabi and Iraqis unknown to the outside world, were issued in the name of the war commander,

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### IN THE FIELD WITH TASK FORCE TARAWA

## Terrorist camps give view of fanatical nature

BY DENNIS O'BRIEN  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

KUT, IRAQ — Just before Charlie Company arrived here, intelligence said the city was thick with terrorists.

Four days later, the Marines have spotted no terrorists, but they have seen spooky evidence that they were here — and that they meant business.

Charlie Company's inspection of two terrorist training camps has given its Marines an unsettling firsthand look at the fanatical nature of its former occupants — members of Saddam Hussein's "Al-Quds Army," which says it is dedicated to liberating

Jerusalem from Israeli control.

The Star of David is everywhere — on targets, on caricatures depicting a Jewish devil, on wall murals, and on tiled entryway floors. Entrances also feature Israeli and American flags, which were designed to be stepped on every time someone entered or left.

The Marines do not have to walk on the symbols or flags — coalition air strikes blew out the doorways and the men can enter through any number of broken windows and blast holes.

The air attacks emptied

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## Everything's just ducky for church flock

Little ones waddle outside to locate their mom and water

BY DIANE TENNANT  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

CHESAPEAKE — The short version of this story is: Baby ducks made it safely from nest to pond on Monday.

The long version isn't much longer but it has a cast of

characters including the unidentified woman who screamed, the property chairman who had the key and the preacher who quacked. Here it is:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church is built around a small courtyard. It has a paved walk, a bench, two storm drains, some small trees and numerous flowers. It is entirely enclosed by brick building.

On Feb. 28, a female mallard flew into the courtyard

and made a nest under the flowers. She was safe from cats and dogs and snakes and any other predators. She was living there when a Sunday school class decided to refurbish all the flower beds around the church and a woman went into the courtyard to pull weeds. The duck burst out of hiding, the woman screamed, the preacher came running to see what was the matter, and Jack Dabney was pleased to learn that the mama duck was back

for the eighth year in a row.

Dabney co-chairs the property committee for the church. He has a key to the courtyard door. It was duly locked for privacy, and church people were limited to peering through the windows like celebrity seekers.

Thirteen baby ducks hatched on Friday, and were ready to meet the world on Monday morning. A small contingent of children waited

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STEVE EARLEY/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

One last duckling follows its dozen siblings down a hallway and out a door Monday at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake.

### Filing taxes at the last minute? Get tips here

Get help on where to get forms, where to mail your forms at night, the number to call for free IRS help, where to go for more serious help, and what to do if you're late/**Business**



### Roy Williams trades Jayhawks for Tar Heels

The basketball coach, who grew up in the North Carolina mountains, is returning to his beloved alma mater to try to win the national championship that eluded him in Kansas/**Sports**



### Is SARS carried by "supercarriers"?

As the mysterious respiratory illness continues to spread, epidemiologists wonder if it's carried by hyperinfective people, spewing germs out like teakettles/**A3**

