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The Air Defense War Since Desert Fox: A Short History

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- 98-12-19: A Pentagon briefing reports that American and British forces have now struck 100 targets using about 450 sea- and air-launched cruise missiles and 650 sorties by fighters, bombers and support aircraft. Today's attacks include strikes by F-16 and F-15 fighters, as well as British Tornado fighters, based in Kuwait and supported by aerial tankers and AWACS. Around 17 missiles attack Baghdad. U.S. and British forces attack other targets in the country. B-1 bombers, based in Oman, fly into Iraq on their first combat missions. They strike barracks and headquarters of six divisions of the Republican Guard, seven or eight of Mr. Hussein's presidential palaces and the headquarters of the Baath Party in Baghdad, badly damaging it. Iraq's refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors to inspect that building is a key reason for targeting it. U.S. and British jets strike an oil refinery near Basra, in the south, that was producing product smuggled through Iranian waters to provide funds for the Iraqi regime that were not controlled by UN sanctions
- The targets as of 0800 EST in December 19, include 32 surface-to-air missile (SAM) and integrated air defense system (IADS) facilities. These include numerous targets in the Southern Sector. Damage is reported to SA-2 and SA-3 sites, and a repair facility is severely damaged. They also include 9 airfields, including the attack helicopter forces used against the Kurds in the North and Shi'ite rebels in the south. Targets also include L-29 aircraft being converted for use as RPVs for either reconnaissance use or possible delivery of biological and chemical weapons at al-Sara airfield north of Baghdad.
 - An Iraqi official in Baghdad says said the death toll from three nights of bombardment has more than doubled to 68.
- 98-12-20: The United States and Britain end their attack on Iraq during the night after a fourth day of air and missile strikes. The decision to end the campaign comes on the first full day of Ramadan
- President Clinton, appears at the White House after the House of Representatives has voted to impeach him He ends the campaign at 6 P.M. Eastern time on December 19 in the US, or on 2 A.M. on December 20 in Iraq. He declares the attack a success and warns that the U.S. and UK will would strike again if Iraq takes steps to rebuild chemical or biological weapons or threaten his neighbors. He says that, "I am confident we have achieved our mission. We have inflicted significant damage on Saddam's weapons of mass destruction programs, on the command structures that direct and protect that capability and on his military and security infrastructure." Clinton also say the United States would maintain its military forces in the region, keep Iraq under the pressure of comprehensive economic sanctions, continue to enforce the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq, and work more intensively with the Iraqi opposition to try to change the Iraqi government. "So long as Saddam remains in power he will remain a threat to his people, to his region and to the world." Clinton again calls for a new government in Iraq. "So long as Saddam remains in power, he will remain a threat to his people, his region and the world. With our allies we must pursue a strategy to contain him and to constrain his weapons of mass destruction program."
 - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says the strikes are a "successfully accomplished mission" but acknowledges that the threat posed by Iraq's chemical and biological weapons capability cannot be completely erased. "Obviously it is very hard to say that everything that he has in weapons of mass destruction has been destroyed, but his capability of threatening his neighbors and delivering (weapons) has been severely degraded. Albright says the United States may have to strike at Iraq again if Saddam Hussein rebuilds his country's weapons of mass destruction capability. "We reserve the right to use force again" She also says that aid U.S. strategy against Iraq is shifting toward overturning Saddam's regime. "We would like to see a different regime. That is what we are going to be working towards by more active support of the various opposition groups."
 - The Pentagon says 425 Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired during the campaign. This compares to a pre-Desert Fox inventory of 2,500 SLCMs (1,725 Block III and 849 Block IV) and 239 CALCMs, 198 with 3,000 pound warheads and 41 with 2,000 pound warheads. Damage assessment reports on December 21 claimed 85 percent accuracy for the TLAM. No figures were provided on the CALCM.

- The offensive involved 650 aircraft missions, including 32 sorties by 12 British Tornado fighter-bombers. Iraq says its gunners shot down more than 100 Tomahawks. In addition to the cruise missiles, there were undisclosed numbers of laser-guided bombs and other ordnance. In their first use against a real target, two B-1s bomb a large military complex near Baghdad. No sorties were flown during day time, a pattern established early in Desert Storm.
- British forces have flown dozens of sorties with Tornado GR1 fighters from Kuwait. During the fourth night of attacks, 12 Tornados flew 24 missions, attacking an large military airfield and a complex near the city of Al Kut in southern Iraq. During previous sorties, British forces struck the Tallil air base in southwestern Iraq. Royal Air Force spokesman Group Capt. Bryan Collins says four Tornados were en route to Iraq to bomb Republican Guard positions when the stand-down order reached British forces based in Kuwait. He said the fighters were recalled. The last attack comes hours after Baghdad residents broke their fast on the first day of Ramadan.
- Not a single U.S. or British casualty is reported after about 70 hours of intensive air strikes involving 650 sorties against nearly 100 targets. A total of 415 cruise missiles were launched, Pentagon officials said, including 325 Tomahawks fired by U.S. Navy forces and 90 heavier cruise missiles deployed from Air Force B-52s.
- The reporting on targets and damage is summarized as follows:
 - 32 Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs) and Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) sites: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 6; Moderate/Light Damage: 8, Under Assessment: 18
 - 20 Command and Control Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 11; Moderate/Light Damage: 6; Under Assessment: 3.
 - 18 Weapons of Mass Destruction Security Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 7; Moderate/Light Damage: 11; Under Assessment: 0
 - 11 Weapons Production, Research and Development, Storage Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 1; Moderate/Light Damage: 9; Under Assessment: 1
 - 9 Republican Guard and Regular Army Facilities: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 3; Moderate/Light Damage: 6; Under Assessment: 0
 - 5 Airfields: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 0; Moderate/Light Damage: 5; Under Assessment: 1
 - 1 Economic Target: Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 0; Moderate/Light Damage: 1; Under Assessment: 0
- General Shelton provides details on three targets in Iraq's military production infrastructure, showing photographs of buildings with large holes where bombs crashed through the roofs. The first is a missile repair facility at Taji, where the Iraqis used to repair all their surface-to-air missiles and also to develop ballistic missiles. "We aimed at five buildings. Three sustained very severe damage, one sustained moderate damage and one was damaged lightly. He won't be doing any more refurbishment or facility work there for quite some time. The second was the Zaafaraniyah facility, 13 miles (20 km) southwest of Baghdad, where Iraq makes components and designs machine tools. Two buildings were targeted and -- both were completely destroyed. At the third site at Shahiyat, a facility where the Iraqis test liquid engines for rockets and missiles, the United States aimed at two buildings and a test stand. Both buildings sustained very severe damage and the test stand was completely destroyed. The destruction was heavy and devastating to most of the targets that he holds the most dear. It included nine missile research and development facilities, 20 out of 21 of Iraq's command and control facilities and 18 out of 19 targets associated with the protection of Iraq's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction.
- Cohen says that Iraqi development of longer-range missiles is believed to have been pushed back by a year. Cohen indicates that assessment is based on the time analysts believe it would take to rebuild the facilities. It could take longer, he said, given the administration's "containment" policy of limiting Iraq's war-making capabilities through sanctions and inspections. Cohen cites "substantial" success in degrading Iraq's "command and control" systems—systems and networks devoted to communications,

intelligence, propaganda and security. "Saddam may rebuild, and attempt to rebuild, some of this military infrastructure in the future, just as he has replaced many facilities, including lavish palaces, after Desert Storm," Cohen said, referring to the aftermath of the Gulf War. "But we have diminished his ability to threaten his neighbors with both conventional and nonconventional weapons. The policy of containment has been successful....We will keep our forces in place as they've been in place for a number of years now. We will be at the ready should he try to reconstitute those facilities or pose a threat to the region. We'll be prepared to act again in the future."

- Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan repeated the vow of other Iraqi leaders never to let UNSCOM return, at least as long as U.N.-imposed sanctions remain in place: "The issue of UNSCOM is now in the past, the commission of spies is now in the past," Ramadan told reporters in Baghdad. "I don't want to go into details, but I am saying that everything dealing with the inspections, monitoring and weapons of mass destruction, it's all behind us."
 - There is no comprehensive tally of Iraqi casualties. Officials said a mass funeral had been held for 68 people killed in and around Baghdad in the bombing raids. Tariq Ramadan states there were 10 times more casualties among civilians than in military ranks but did not cite any figures. Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, says that U.S. and British attacks have killed or wounded thousands of people. "There has been enormous damage, mainly to the civilian infrastructure and to human life. I am told the casualties are in thousands, in terms of people who were killed or wounded, but we don't have any final figures." There are reports of as many as a dozen deaths at a university in a northern Iraqi province, and at least a handful of deaths from the bombing of a major oil field in Basra in the south. U.S. officials have confirmed that they tried to kill large numbers of the Special Republican Guard, which provides crucial support, protection and muscle for Saddam Hussein. Neither U.S. nor Iraqi officials would give an estimate yesterday of Iraqi military losses. In Baghdad, life went on as normal, but reporters says it was possible to glimpse heavy damage to several buildings where elements of the Iraqi security and military establishments were housed. One missile hit the headquarters of the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs last night, witnesses said, wounding at least three guards and leaving a crater 20 feet deep just inside the gates. Three other missiles were said to have hit near Al Mustansiriya University in the heart of the Iraqi capital.
 - A statement by Iraq's armed forces general command said that strikes targeted presidential sites, civil establishments, government offices, colleges, students' dormitories, factories, refineries and some military units. It does not elaborate.
 - Saddam Hussein makes his first public comment since the attacks have ended. He says that the Iraqis have been victorious against "enemies of God" The Iraqi president gives a brief speech on radio and television and says that the Iraqi people and the army have proved to be "worthy of what your leadership expected from you. God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory." In his speech, Saddam also criticizes the Arab world for pretending to be "asleep ... or sick" and not supporting Iraq. "A new aggression (was) started by the enemies of God and the nation. With it, the resistance started again."
- 98-12-21: The Defense Department revises its format for describing bomb damage. During the strikes, Pentagon figures indicated that only one target in five was destroyed or severely damaged. Now the statistics list simply list "confirmed damage" that may include light to moderate damage. On that basis, 73 out of 96 targets reported sustained some damage. Revised damage data issued at 1400 on the 21st claim an 85 percent hit rate and that 74 percent of all strikes were highly effective.

<u>Target Set</u>	<u>Targets - Planned/Executed</u>	<u>Impacts – Hit/Missed</u>	<u>Success – Full/Partial</u>
<i>Integrated Air Defense System</i>	19 / 18	13 / 5	8 / 5
<i>Surface-to-Air Missile</i>	16 / 16	9 / 5	8 / 1
<i>(Set conditions for air operations, degrade Iraq's air defense system. Critical IADS nodes and strategic SAM fire direction Centers below 33° north degraded)</i>			

<u>Airfields</u> (Destroy high value assets difficult for Iraq to replace. Degrade helicopter Capability)	6	6	5	1	4	1
<u>Weapons of Mass Destruction/Security</u> (Attack the Iraq leadership's security apparatus. Degrade national command and control system)	18	18	18	0	16	2
<u>Weapons of Mass Destruction/Missile Industry</u> (Degrade/delay WMD program and key enabling technologies. Ability to produce ballistic missiles delayed one year.)	12	12	12	0	11	1
<u>Command and Control</u> (Attack strategic center of gravity; degrade national command and control system. High value regime C2 targets attacked. Capability to command and control WMD, security and operational military forces severely degraded.)	21	20	18	2	17	1
<u>Republican Guard</u> (Degrade capability to reinforce security efforts or move forces north or south. Ability to use RFGC in strike against Kuwait degraded)	9	9	9	0	9	0
<u>Refinery</u> (Deny Saddam revenues from illegal oil exports)	1	1	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	102	100	85	13	74	11

-- Pentagon officials caution, however, that full bomb-damage assessment could take months, that pictures are often deceiving and that Iraq may have to be attacked again. Although troop reinforcements were expected to be ordered back to their U.S. bases today, the "containment" force in the Persian Gulf region will remain some 20,000 strong, and there are no plans for relaxing the guard over Iraq.

-- Prime Minister Tony Blair's office says the attacks left the Iraqi air defense system "in ruins" and Saddam Hussein weakened. The sites targeted during the four-day bombardment that ended Saturday included 20 command and control facilities and nine sites linked to the elite Republican Guard. Attacks on 35 other targets "have left the Iraqi air defense system in ruins." Six of the targets were related to delivery systems for Iraq's remote-piloted weapons of mass destruction. "We believe the damage that has been inflicted in the last few days has left Saddam (Hussein) very weak and vulnerable."

-- Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says that Iraq remains on high alert and he believes U.S. and British air attacks could resume. He tells four days of intense U.S and British air strikes had killed 62 military personnel dead and wounded 180. The air strikes had also ended UN arms inspections in Iraq, he added. Aziz did not give details of civilian casualties but said they were "much, much more" than those in the military. "We are still on red alert and there might be a repetition of military aggression some time... We

shall never, never accept any conditions made by Clinton or Blair...They acted according to the law of the jungle." He says that Clinton and Blair had boasted about the damage the strikes had inflicted on Iraq's elite Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard, but that only 38 were killed and 100 wounded from the two guards corps, plus 24 soldiers from regular army and air defense units were killed and 80 wounded. Aziz says that the U.S. and Britain committed "an unjustified crime" in carrying out the raids. He condemns chief UN arms inspector Richard Butler and said that the inspection process ended when London and Washington began the air strikes. "The moment America and Britain launched missiles against Iraq they killed UNSCOM. I cannot give them another life." He calls Butler "a cheap pawn in the hands of the Americans." Aziz said the air attacks had taken place in daylight as well as at night because the United States and Britain wanted to wind up their assault quickly to avoid causing greater hostility in the Arab world. He complains of an US-British conspiracy to destabilize the Iraqi government and to finance "terrorist" acts. "The aggression has not stopped, it is continuous," and that Prime Minister Tony Blair had "turned Britain into a tail of the fox which is in Washington." As for Blair's statement about putting Saddam "back in his cage" with the air raids, Aziz says that. "This is the old rhetoric of a liar."

-- Kuwait increases security measures at home and around its foreign missions after a "terrorist" threat following the U.S.-led assault on Iraq.

98-12-22: British Defense Secretary George Robertson gives a press briefing to show that the strikes had seriously damaged Iraq's military. He tells a news conference that, "We know that we have done considerable damage to the war machine of Iraq. Increasingly in the next few days evidence will be brought forward from the battle damage assessments to show that is absolutely correct. While life appears to be going around as normal inside Iraq, inside the military structures there has been immense damage and the impact has been very considerable indeed."

-- Air Marshal John Day, Director of Operations in the Ministry of Defense, says initial assessments showed that 74 percent of the 111 attacks on key Iraqi installations had knocked out the facilities concerned. Fifteen percent had missed their targets and 11 percent appeared to have caused only slight damage, said Day, who was briefing reporters only on British action during the U.S.-led aerial bombardment of Iraq. Day produces a series of slides showing damage to key installations. One shows the hangar at Tallil Airfield, which he says housed pilotless aircraft, designed to deliver biological and chemical bombs, and large areas of its roof are destroyed and debris litters the ground. Another photo shows the Taji steel fabrication plant, and two buildings believed to be used to make components for nuclear programs are shown to be destroyed. "We set out to minimize collateral damage and to focus our attacks on the military machine. I appreciate very much the constraints on the media caused by the Iraqi government propaganda machine...those members of the press who are laboring in Iraq just now cannot possibly see the damage that we have done." He says 12 Cruise missiles had hit the interior of the headquarters of the ruling Ba'ath Party, which had been closed to UNSCOM inspectors, but that a passer-by on the street might not notice great damage. "That (the party HQ) was one of the mechanisms by which Saddam controlled his chemical and biological weapons program...he will not be able to do that ever again because of the damage that was caused. Those close to Saddam will realize that we have the ability and the will to target the regime, as distinct from the Iraqi people."

-- Iran reports that two stray cruise missiles from the U.S.-British attack on Iraq hit Khorramshahr, about 25 miles east of the Iraqi city of Basra. The first cruise missile struck the city, a port with major oil facilities, on Thursday. Iran does not say when the second missile struck the city. The first missile landed in the city center and damaged several houses but did not cause any casualties.

12-23-98: Secretary Cohen arrives in Kuwait. He later announces that the U.S. will keep enough U.S. troops and equipment in the region to be able to renew military attacks on Baghdad if Iraq threatens U.S. allies in the region. "To the extent that we determine that he is in fact going to pose a threat to the region again, then we're prepared to take action. We have the ability to react very quickly so we're satisfied that our day-to-day force is adequate." Officials traveling with Cohen say the number of U.S. troops in the Gulf region will drop to between 21,000 to 22,000 from a peak of 29,900 during the strikes. They state that many of the heavy bombers and other aircraft used in the strikes are returning to the US, including all six

- B-1B bombers, 12 tank-killer A-10s, 10 KC-10 tankers and 12 of 15 giant B-52 bombers. They also say that the forces being withdrawn will remain on alert and can return to the Gulf on 72 hour's notice.
- General Zinni says that Iraq can quickly rebuild its military command and communication systems, which were hit during the U.S. and British strikes. He says that President Hussein most feared a revolt in his own ranks, and moved Iraqi ground troops into four widely separated sectors where he placed loyal and lieutenants in charge. Zinni reports, however, that there are no signs of an imminent overthrow of Saddam. U.S. intelligence analysts saw troop movements which were monitored from satellites and U-2 spy planes, and concluded that Saddam's main aim was to avert any uprising from within once the British and American strikes began. "That decentralization was done so they ensured they had control," and "to prevent plotting," Zinni said. "I think it was done more for internal reasons and internal military problems they thought they might have than for any military preparations they had for us."
 - Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said on Wednesday he expected "terrorist activities" against the United States to increase as a result of its policy toward Iraq, but says that Iraq would not be behind, or support such attacks. "When the United States is helping terrorist activities against Iraq, then this will enhance terrorist activities against the United States," Saleh said, referring to a bill in the U.S. Congress allocating nearly \$100 million to Iraqi opposition groups. It is not a threat, it is a consequence of their policy....by adopting aggressive policy against Iraq and against Arab people and against Moslems, and by using sanctions as a means of destroying this society and by using military aggression..." Saleh also states that the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations was a failure and called for the immediate lifting of sanctions. "It is not a system that can be used for the future. It has failed."
 - The official Iraqi News Agency reports that three children were killed and 20 people wounded in the southern province of Wasit as a result of the U.S-British strikes. These casualties are in addition to 62 soldiers and an unspecified number of civilians that Iraq had said were killed earlier.
 - The Iraqi army claims Western warplanes violated its airspace twice but it does not report any exchanges of fire.
 - France announces that its military aircraft will soon resume flights to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq suspended during Desert Fox. The French daily Liberation reports that French planes flying over southern Iraq had helped to prepare the strikes, and that film and electronic intelligence gathered by French Mirage F1CR reconnaissance aircraft were provided to the USAF Force until December 16, when French participation in the monitoring mission was suspended.
- 12-24-98: Saddam Hussein calls U.S. and British leaders "enemies of God" in a Christmas speech and calls on believers to fight their "continued aggression." "The criminal aggressors in America and Britain as well as Zionism and those in their shadow...launched their criminal aggression...not only against the dignified people of Iraq but also against humanity and mankind at large." He declares the U.S. and British attacks are contrary to the principles of Jesus and the principles of Islam because they continued into Ramadan. "...it has become clear to us all, the believers in God and his prophets...that the rulers of America and Britain, along with Zionism, that they are the enemies of God.... face up to these criminals...who continue the aggression against Iraq."
- 98-12-26: Iraq says its air defenses fire at British planes attacking a post in southern Iraq. An Iraqi military spokesman says that, "At 11:25 (0825 GMT) this morning formations of enemy planes...attacked one of our air defense positions which confronted them and forced them to drop their load indiscriminately." The spokesman does not explain where the incident took place, but says that the planes were flying from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, violated the Iraqi airspace at 9:15 a.m. (0615 GMT), but flew outside the range of anti-aircraft guns. Iraq claims that this is the third straight days that Western planes violated Iraq's southern airspace but does not report any exchange of fire.
- The northern no fly zone was imposed in 1991 and the southern zone in 1992. A total of approximately 45 planes normally patrol the northern no zone as part of Operation Northern Watch and are based at Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey. The southern no-fly zone stretches from the border line with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to the 33rd parallel just south of Baghdad. The northern no-fly zone is above the 36th parallel. The United States flies up to ten types of planes, including USAF E-3A

AWACS, electronic warfare planes F-16 and F-15 jets, Marine Corps EA-6Bs, and Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and USAF HH-60 Night Hawk helicopters used for search and rescue missions. Turkey flies F-4 and F-16 fighters and The UK flies Tornado fighters and aerial refueling planes. Operation Southern Watch is conducted by U.S. and British planes based in Saudi Arabia and U.S. Navy aircraft aboard carriers in the Gulf area.

- Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan says on the Qatari al-Jazeera satellite television station that Iraq will now fire at Western planes patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. "We say it clearly, any violations of our air space can not but be confronted by Iraqi fire." He also reiterates that UNSCOM will never be allowed back. "Now, and after the aggression...the issue of the Special Commission and its inspections is finished and that is final."
- 98-12-28: An Iraqi military spokesman says that, "Iraq air defenses have probably shot down a hostile Western plane and a search for the wreckage of the plane and its pilot is going on...in order to provide its pilot an opportunity to infiltrate if he is alive or give its agents an opportunity to bring back his body if he is dead." Iraqi also claims its forces fired at U.S. or British aircraft coming from Turkey, and that four Iraqi soldiers were killed and seven injured when the planes fired missiles at its air defense positions. U.S. officials confirm an incident and that Iraq had launched missiles at planes patrolling the northern a no-fly zone.
- 98-12-29: Iraq warns that its aircraft are flying in the "no-fly zones" and its anti-aircraft batteries will fire on U.S. and British planes. Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, is asked by Associated Press Television News whether Iraq was flying aircraft in "no-fly" zones, and says, "We are doing it right now. Iraqi planes in effect are flying in a normal manner in Iraqi airspace. The so-called air exclusion zones exist only in the sick imagination of the British and American administrations. "Our observation posts and concerned forces in the field have confirmed that they shot down a plane/ Iraq does not recognize these no-fly zones...and we will continue to resist such violations."
- The U.S. says there are no immediate reports of Iraqi aircraft in northern and southern "no-fly" zones and that the U.S. and Britain will continue to enforce the zones. It says there were no flights over the northern "no-fly" zone on December 28th, "strictly due to weather and nothing else." A British Defense Ministry spokesman reports no Iraqi air activity and adds that the UK is ready to take action "should the conditions of the 'no-fly' zones be breached."
- French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne Gazeau-Secret says France has not ruled out resuming French flights as part of "Operation Southern Watch" She declines comment on Iraqi statements that Baghdad does not recognize the no-fly zones and will treat planes entering Iraqi airspace as invaders. France had grounded its surveillance aircraft in the region on December 16, in anticipation of the U.S. and British strikes on Baghdad in which Britain also participated. The French arm of Operation Southern Watch is based in Saudi Arabia and consists of 175 people, five Mirage 2000-C planes, two Mirage F1-CRs and a tanker aircraft.
- Turkey renews calls for a peaceful solution to the situation. Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin says, "This is a sensitive situation for Turkey...We are making our warnings for the use of the base with sensitivity." Sezgin says the U.S. planes used the right of self-defense in response to the Iraqi attack and said Ankara was seeking a peaceful solution to the tension. "Iraq also should comply with the UN resolutions. We want our neighbor to return to the international community as soon as possible. The Turkish foreign ministry says, "It is necessary for regional stability to avoid actions that would disturb the implementation of Northern Watch."
- 98-12-30: U.S. planes attack Iraqi targets for the second time after Iraqis fire surface-to-air missiles on British and U.S. aircraft flying in Iraq's southern no-fly zone. U.S. Department of Defense spokesman says there are no U.S. or British casualties and that 24 aircraft, including British Tornado and U.S. F-16 fighter jets, had returned safely to base with no damage. The U.S. and British aircraft were conducting a routine patrol at about 1:30 a.m. EST (0630 GMT) when the Iraqis fired between six and eight surface-to-air missiles from a site southwest of Talil in southern Iraq. The British pilots, flying on the same mission with the Americans, detected the Iraqi missiles and the Americans retaliated. A USCENTCOM

spokesman says that, "In response to that unprovoked attack, we responded by firing two HARM missiles (anti-radar missiles) and we dropped a number of GBU-12 500 pound (300 kg) precision-guided munitions at approximately 2:15 a.m. Eastern Time (0715 GMT)."

- The British Ministry of Defense issues a statement saying that, at around 06:20 GMT on Wednesday, six Iraqi missiles were fired from a site around 20 miles (30 km) west of Talil at allied aircraft, including British Tornados, patrolling the southern no-fly zone. U.S. F-16 aircraft flying with the Tornados responded by attacking the missile site with anti-radar missiles and laser guided bombs. All coalition aircraft returned safely to base. British Defense Secretary George Robertson warns that Britain will rigorously enforce the no-fly zones despite Iraqi missile attacks and accuses Saddam Hussein of defiance, arrogance and weakness. A U.S. National Security Council spokesman says the No Fly Zone patrols would go on. "This is a key element of our containment policy to prevent (President) Saddam Hussein from using his aircraft to threaten his own people and his neighbors. We will continue to vigorously enforce it and our aircraft will take the necessary precautions to carry out their mission and defend themselves." Iraq says it will continue to fire on Western planes guarding the two no-fly zones, which were established in 1991 to deter the Iraqi army from attacking minority Kurds in the north and Shi'ite Moslems in the south of the country.
- An Iraqi military spokesman says "Our brave air defenses have fired ground-to-air missiles at hostile (Western planes) formations forcing them to flee after it was almost certainly that one of the planes was shot down. The criminals have once again violated our airspace in the southern region as formations of their hostile planes approached today at 9:24 a.m. local time (0624 GMT)."
- 98-12-31: General Ali Hassan al-Majeed, a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, says, "Heroes of our air defenses have fired missiles and shot down on Wednesday one of the hostile planes flying in Iraq's airspace. We will continue to liberate Iraq's sky from the evil ones who support the most corrupt man in this world, (President Bill) Clinton, and his Arab supporters, the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia." Majeed was appointed by Saddam as commander of Iraq's southern region when the United States and Britain began a four-day bombing campaign against Iraq on December 17.
- 99-1-1: U.S. defense officials report that Iraq frequently is moving anti-aircraft batteries to make Iraq's estimated 60 surface-to-air missile, or SAM, batteries hard to find and hit. "They are moving their batteries around quite heavily. A concrete building is obviously easier to plan for and to hit than something that is mobile. They are difficult to hit and mobile. They are small targets. ... And you don't always know where they are." U.S. and British patrols and satellites track missile movements between launching sites, but this requires constant monitoring because many batteries are highly mobile. The SA-6 units, used in recent Iraqi attacks, are loaded on a trailer behind a vehicle and can move in minutes. SA-2s and SA-3 units take several days to disassemble, move, and reassemble.
- Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says, "Iraq will continue its confrontation of hostile planes flying in the so-called no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq. Iraq does not recognize the two no-fly zones since they were imposed by America and Britain, as it was a unilateral decision taken outside the United Nations Security Council." Ramadan also says the work of UNSCOM and IAEA inspectors is finished: "they have nothing to do in Iraq except spying on Iraq."
- The Baath Party newspaper al-Thawra says, "Our great people...will achieve victory against the wicked aggressors and it will foil their last failing dreams. Iraq's resistance of the no-fly zones is an act of self-defense and it is legal, just and in line with the Security Council resolutions." The paper quotes a Ministry of Culture and Information statement that the, "The British government would not dare to send its crows to violate Iraq's sovereignty without military and political cover provided by corrupt (U.S. President Bill) Clinton./ The British who claim they are protecting Iraqi people...are the same people who bombed Iraqi tribes in the south and north with chemical weapons during the 1930s and attacked Iraqi soldiers (during the 1991 Gulf War) with weapons enriched with depleted uranium."
- 99-1-2: Babel calls on Egyptians to overthrow Mubarak. "Egyptians who can not accept such behavior...would reject their shameless ruler who has lost everything, including his self-respect. In order to follow up American hostile policy against Iraq, Mubarak collaborated with Saudi rulers to prevent the Arab

meeting.” A cartoon shows Mubarak dancing in a female belly dancing costume while Kuwait’s rulers and King Fahd stand around him, beating drums and playing music. President Clinton, Secretary Albright and Netanyahu applaud, President Clinton is shown dressed in a cowboy suit with a tie emblazoned with the Star of David.

- The Iraqi Ministry of Trade claims that, “The hostile American stand towards the Iraqi people is still high and on all levels. The U.S. Representative at Committee 661 is playing an aggressive role and continuing his economic war against the Iraqi people by deliberately impeding the arrival of food, medicine and other humanitarian needs in time to Iraq. This hostile attitude of the American Representative at Committee 661 is added evidence of the intention of U.S. officials to annihilate the Iraqi people by all means.”
- 99-1-3: Saddam Hussein says the “no fly zones are, “not only a stark violation of international laws and norms, especially those of the United Nations, but a stark violation of Security Council resolutions themselves. What they are violating ... is the will of the Arab nation and the will of the Iraqi people... which is determined to fight back with all its courage and bravery. Arabs and just people all over the world are asking what these planes are doing flying in the skies of an independent country, and why have they been violating the air space of this country for eight years without a UN resolution permitting this.”
- Senior Iraqi officials say Iraq will continue to defy the no-fly zones and an Iraqi government newspaper says confrontation with the U.S. and Britain will escalate after a pause over the New Year.
- 99-1-4: Iraq asks the UN to replace its American and British staff in Iraq, citing anger from citizens after the U.S.-British bombing raids and says it cannot guarantee the safety such personnel. There are about 14 UN staff members -- one American and 13 Britons out of some 420 UN humanitarian staff in Iraq, including the three northern Kurdish. Diplomats said work to get rid of mines in the north was particularly upsetting to Baghdad, which is seeking to populate the area with non-Kurdish Iraqi citizens.
- Iraq claims it had defused 58 unexploded bombs dropped during Desert Fox, “The Civil Defense Directorate defused during the latest U.S.-British aggression on Iraq in Baghdad and the governorates 58 unexploded missiles and bombs dropped on government and civil establishments.” The Directorate's Chief, Qasim Mohammed Noori, states that 39 of the unexploded bombs were found in Baghdad and the others in the southern provinces of Qadissiya, Wasit, Basra, Dhi Qar and Babil.
- 99-1-5: Iraq accuses the U.S. of violating international law by maintaining no-fly zones in its northern and southern airspace, and claims that the U.S. and British air strikes in Desert Fox had won support in the Arab world despite criticism from some Arab leaders. An Information Ministry spokesman says, "When the United States announces it will continue to enforce the no-fly zones, it is announcing the continuation of violating the sovereignty and dignity of Iraq's northern and southern skies. Enforcing the so-called no-fly zones is an illegal action, outside UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, and an aggressive action rejected by Iraq and resisted with all bravery and honor. The American insistence to enforce the no-fly zones at a time when big powers like Russia and China have announced that their imposition took place without consultation at the (UN) Security Council and has no connection with UN resolutions means the United States is persisting in ignoring international will.”
- White House spokesman Joe Lockhart says that, “We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones, It's an important part of our containment policy.”
- U.S. Air Force and Navy warplanes fire missiles at four Iraqi MiG-25 fighters over southern Iraq in the third military confrontation in eight days. In two separate incidents some 60 miles and 15 minutes flying time from each other, two pairs of MiG-25s turn their targeting radars on two U.S. Air Force F-15s based in Saudi Arabia and two Navy F-14s from the aircraft carrier Vinson. The first incident, involving two MiGs and the F-15s occurred at about 2:15 a.m. EST (0715 GMT) or about 10:15 a.m. in Iraq, southeast of Baghdad. The second incident involving two other MiGs and the two F-14s from the Vinson occurred about 15 minutes later southwest of Baghdad. The American planes fire a total of six missiles, none of which hit their target. Another Iraqi fighter, a MiG-23, seems to have crashed after fleeing from the southern no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon tells reporters that fighter may have run out of fuel. Bacon says all U.S. planes returned safely. This is the third incident between Iraq

and U.S. and British forces in eight days, and the first instance in which U.S. jets have fired on Iraqi warplanes since December 27, 1992--when a USAF F-16 shot down an Iraq MiG-25. The U.S. says as many as 14 Iraqi jets violated the no-fly zone in eight incidents. Iraq confirmed that there had been a confrontation and said that all of its planes returned safely to bases.

- Saddam Hussein says in an Army Day broadcast after the air clashes, "Revolt, sons of the great Arab nation ... revolt and unseat those stooges, collaborators, throne dwarfs and cowards. Both you and we are aware that some of the rulers in certain countries in our great Arab nation, together with their fathers and grandfathers, were installed by foreign powers, especially Britain and the United States supported by vicious, racist Zionism."
- Iraq's Defense Minister General Sultan Hashim Ahmed says, "We were attacked and we had to defend ourselves," Ahmed said. "We shall defend (Iraq) to the death... We will continue to defend ourselves whether the others like it or not." When he is asked about the combat capability of Iraq's army, he says it is in "excellent" shape and that Iraq's air force is in even better shape.
- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says, "Some of the actions of Saddam today and his rhetoric calling on people in Arab countries to overthrow the governments that do not support him really show Saddam's increasing isolation and desperation... We intend to enforce the no-fly zones."
- Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is asked at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, why American missiles and jets do not destroy Iraqi military airfields and jets on the ground. "We have looked at numerous options and have various plans that are available right now. If the president were to see fit to take that type of action, we in fact have these kinds of plans on the shelf."
- A UN official states that U-2 flights from bases in Saudi Arabia have been halted and that last flight took place before the start of four days of attacks on Iraqi targets by United States and British warplanes and cruise missiles that ended on December 19th. UNSCOM spokesman Ewen Buchanan says, "We have not asked for any U-2 flights. I am not sure what value such flights would be if you can't actually do any inspections on the ground."
- Iraqi News Agency denies any arrests, "It is clear that (U.S. State Department spokesman) James Rubin could find nothing to cover the failure of their criminal aggression to achieve its evil aim except by issuing these silly and cheap lies which exist only in Rubin's sick imagination."
- 99-1-6: Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashem Ahmed, Iraq's Minister of Defense, says at a ceremony at the monument of the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad, during the 78th anniversary of Iraq's armed forces, that Iraqi air force jets will keep challenging the "no-fly" zones, "We have to defend ourselves. We shall fly in our airspace and defend it until death."
- The British aircraft carrier Invincible, carrying Sea Harrier aircraft and Sea King helicopters departs for the Gulf with the destroyer, the Newcastle, and two supply ships. Britain's Minister for the Armed Forces, Douglas Henderson, says, "This is the clearest possible signal that our efforts to find a way forward on the diplomatic front remain firmly underpinned by a readiness to use military force again, if need be, to keep him (Saddam) contained."
- Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin repeats Russia's long-standing opposition to the no-fly zones and calls for all sides to show restraint. "We're seriously concerned by the new incidents... Our negative view of these unlawful actions is well known. Sooner or later this issue has to be reviewed in a fundamental way. At this stage, we urge all sides to show restraint."
- 99-1-7: A U.S. F-16 fires missiles at what is believed to be a Roland Iraqi ground missile radar site in the northern no-fly zone after its radar targeted an aircraft policing the exclusion area. The F-16CJ picked up indications it was being targeted by a Roland mobile surface-to-air missile radar. At 3:12 a.m. EST, the F-16 fired a HARM anti-radiation missile then returned safely to base. The radar does not come on-line again and the missile unit is believed to have been hit. The incident is the fourth in 10 days
- Lt. General. Anthony Zinni says Saddam's grip on power seems to be slipping and that he is trying to assert control by repeatedly challenging "no-fly" zones, by executing suspect military and civilian

leaders and by attacking Arab leaders. "He's dangerous now. He could become more dangerous." Zinni says Iraq has now violated the no-fly zones at least 40 times in the last few weeks. He says Saddam's efforts to shoot down a U.S. or UK plane are "a desperate attempt ... to claim some sort of victory. These are fairly desperate attempts to regain some of that position (in Iraq and the region) that he held before, or thought he held before. We're seeing signs -- and I wouldn't want to overstate what we're seeing or make predictions -- but we are seeing things that indicate that maybe his grip on control and the ruthlessness by which he attempts to maintain control is slipping."

- Zinni also says that Saddam ordered the executions of military officers he considered traitors during Desert Fox, and has apparently executed civilian leaders in the south since that time. If I were a member of Saddam's inner circle, I'd worry. I do think we see clear signs that his internal control has been affected. I think we see clear signs that he's worried about it. I think we see clear signs that he's doing things that are desperate." When he is asked how long U.S. warplanes can play cat and mouse with Iraqi aircraft, Zinni states that it is up to President Clinton whether to authorize further military action, such as bombing Iraqi airfields. "We do have contingency plans to react if that decision is made."
- A Pentagon spokesman says that most no-fly incursions have been "cheat-and-retreat actions." The two violations in the southern no-fly zone on January 6, for example, lasted seven minutes and four minutes. Two MiG-21s "darted into the no-fly zone for a very brief period of time and at a time when U.S. aircraft were not in the area. So, as I say, it was timid, cheat and retreat. And that's basically the pattern we're seeing day in and day out."
- General Zinni says he has no evidence that any schools or hospitals were directly hit during Desert Fox. He is reacting to a preliminary survey by UNICEF, and the World Food Program, which said the attacks flattened an agricultural school in the northern city of Kirkuk, and damaged at least a dozen other schools and hospitals in Baghdad. "We look at our battle damage assessment and we use our intelligence sources and the pictures you see and everything and we have not seen any of this. " Some of this could possibly have been damage from shock effect. We have seen some broken glass and ceiling tiles, and the possibility (is) that that kind of effect might have taken place. We have seen nothing like a quote direct hit -- I mean we would see a direct hit. We've looked very hard through intelligence (data) and haven't seen it, so we haven't seen the proof or evidence for any of this." Zinni estimates that the attacks killed between 800 and 1,200 members of the elite Iraqi Republican Guard, units of which guard President Saddam Hussein as well as Iraq's secret biological and chemical weapons projects.
- The Gulf Arab states react to Saddam Hussein call for Arabs to revolt against their rulers. Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheik Saad al-Abdulla says that, "aggressive intents are always present in Saddam Hussein's regime. His attacks against Arab leaders are not new because swears and insults and conspiracies are tools which the Iraqi regime uses against all those who do not follow it." The Kuwaiti newspaper al-Anba says, "Who will heed your invitation you moron? No one except the Iraqi people who must rise one day to step on the red hats of your guards and spit on your statue." Saudi Arabia's al-Riyadh newspaper says that Saddam's speech reflects his "political and intellectual bankruptcy" and that the solution is now the "termination of Saddam. This is the truth over which there is no disagreement. How could this be achieved?...The Iraqi people alone own the future and should act accordingly."
- The Saudi al-Yawm newspaper says, "The tyrant of Baghdad has started the process of writing the beginning of his end and hammering the last nail in his coffin as the worst ruler Iraq has witnessed in its long history. It will not only increase Baghdad's isolation but will lead to the imminent fall of the regime." The Saudi newspaper Okaz says, "The Arab masses will not respond to those who gamble with their destiny. The regime of Saddam cannot live in a healthy political climate because political stability...means the Iraqi people will wake up to work for their security and stability by lifting that regime off their chests and causing its downfall forever." The UAE's Gulf News says, "There is no reason for the Arab world to fight over whether to hold a summit to discuss Iraq, clearly they must. To keep Saddam from speaking for everyone, the Arab world has to find its own voice."
- The Iraqi Communist Party claims that 81 Iraqis, including 18 military officers, were executed in Baghdad for political or security-related reasons during Desert Fox, and that four officers were convicted under Article 223 of the penal code, which stipulates the death penalty for anyone who attempts to kill

the president. "Our party sources inside Iraq have reported that the dictatorial regime carried out in mid-December 1998 a horrific massacre which claimed the lives of tens of political detainees who had been languishing in the cells and dungeons of Abu Gharib Prison in Baghdad. The executed victims...were convicted on political or security-related charges after sham trials in which the accused did not enjoy even the most basic rights." The Statement claims that Colonel Salem Eidan Muhawash and Major Hilal Farhan Naji supervised the killings and that around 2,500 detainees had been killed since 1997 as part of a "prison cleanup campaign."

- French President Jacques Chirac, states that, "The (U.S.-British) air strikes did not resolve anything so the UN Security Council should regain its full role. The main lesson of this crisis is that no one should weaken the Security Council because it cannot be replaced." He says the goal of the UN should be "to ensure security in the region and give the Iraqi people the means to lead normal lives," and calls for, "a lifting of the international embargo coupled with a strict control of funds Iraq receives from exports. That is the only reasonable solution."
- Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also criticizes Desert Fox and the air strikes and says France is working on new proposals to solve the crisis and lift sanctions. Jospin says the air strikes showed Washington to be "acting unilaterally and to be at pains to keep up with its ambition of leading the international community. We went from a situation in which...the United Nations was reminding Iraq of its obligations, to a direct confrontation between the Baghdad regime and our American and British friends."
- 99-1-8: General Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that Desert Fox killed several key advisers and up to 1,600 Republican Guard troops and others, "When you look at some of the intel (intelligence) reporting that has come in, (there are) several key individuals that were right in the upper structure that are no longer available to him, to advise or to lead." He refuses to elaborate but, but says that up to "several times" as many may have injured with almost no damage to civilians. "We know who protects the center of gravity. And so that's who was targeted. I think that Saddam is feeling the pressure, is becoming more desperate." Shelton refuses to name of top or to the source of the intelligence: "I can't, because it relates to the sources that we have and I don't want to reveal that. That would hurt us." Shelton reiterates earlier claims that U.S. and British missiles and bombs had hit 64 of our 66 planned targets and had caused minimum collateral damage to civilian sites.
- General Zinni provides an updated damage assessment for Desert Fox. He says that 600 to 1,600 members of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard may have been killed, as well as "several key individuals" in his leadership structure. He states that the strikes destroyed key pieces of equipment used to maintain, repair and improve Iraq's missile capability, and that Iraq's program has been put back two years, instead of one. He declines to name the individuals, cite their positions or what their importance might have been. He also states that his estimates of deaths is "based on unconfirmed reporting from a variety of sources," and that "I ... give you a range from about 600 to 1,600 that could have been killed and probably several times that ... that were killed or injured." Zinni says "We struck and damaged significantly" about 85 percent of all targets, and that the U.S. military didn't specifically use intelligence gathered by UNSCOM inspection efforts to select Iraqi targets. Zinni says the recent violations of the no-fly zones and the testing of U.S. and British aircraft are an indication of Saddam's desperation at being hit so hard. "I believe he is shaken."
- 99-1-9: Saddam Hussein praises the Iraqi military forces for their performance in confronting U.S. and British warplanes patrolling Iraqi skies. "The President hailed...the high morale of the air hawks (pilots) and our brave anti-aircraft men." Iraqi air defense commanders pledge to continue their effort to confront U.S. and British warplanes patrolling the No Fly Zones
- British Prime Minister Tony Blair says in Kuwait that, "The only way to deal with Saddam is to make it clear that if he attempts to threaten anybody in this neighborhood, he will be beaten back by force and we will do this again if necessary."
- Hassan Ibrahim al-Mahdawi, chairman of the legal committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, says a special session that, "The countries who allow America and Britain to use their territories in order to

launch their aggression against Iraq should be regarded as hostile states...and they should be punished.” Speaker Saadoun Hammadi says, “We reject all UN Security Council resolutions including Resolution 687.” An MP ” Ibrahim Yousif Turki, says, “Demarcation (of borders between Iraq and Kuwait) is an alien and tyrannical decision...and Iraqi deputies reject it.” Hamoudi says this is premature, but that, “The (UN) resolution imposed a savage and illegal demarcation of borders on Iraq...It (demarcation) cut off Iraqi waters and territory and handed them to Kuwait.”

- 99-1-11: U.S. fighter jets open fire on an Iraqi missile site after they are targeted by an Iraqi missile site near Mosul while they are patrolling the northern zone. Two F15-E's drop two precision-guided bombs and a U.S. F16-CJ fires a HARM missile. Damage to the Iraqi site is uncertain, but there is no damage to U.S. planes.
- Kuwait puts some of its military units on maximum alert because of Iraqi threats.
- 99-1-12: The sixth clash since December 28 occurs in the no-fly zones. A USAF F-16 fighter plane fires a HARM at an early-warning radar site in northern Iraq's no-fly and returns safely to base in Incirlik. The encounter takes place at 3 a.m. EST, or 11 a.m. Iraqi time, near the city of Mosul in northern Iraq.
- Secretary Cohen, says the U.S. will continue to give enforce the no-fly zones and Iraq would pay a price if it challenges the U.S. and Britain. He declines to say whether repeated Iraqi missile threats against U.S. and British jets, or violations by Iraqi warplanes of the no-fly zones, might lead to wider U.S. attacks.
 - Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's new Prime Minister, says the U.S. has no clear policy for dealing with Iraq, “I don't understand what the United States wants to achieve. They have tactics, but no policy or strategy. On one hand we want Iraq to be more conciliatory with the world, on the other we want the United States to consider and implement more peaceful methods.” He states, however, that he does not see any change in the status of a joint U.S.-Turkish airbase used to patrol the northern no-fly zone.
- 99-1-13: U.S. planes flying over Iraq's no-fly zone are illuminated with ground radar and fired upon. The U.S. aircraft respond, score two direct hits on Iraqi air defense batteries near Mosul and return safely to their base at Incirlik. A U.S. spokesman says, “We responded with a series of precision-guided missiles including Harm missiles. We think we had some success with our precision-guided munitions and struck the radar sites.” This is the eighth military confrontation since Desert Fox. Iraq possesses over 1,000 surface-to-air missiles.
- An Iraqi spokesman says that several formations of U.S. and British planes entered Iraqi air space at 0951 (0651 GMT). Iraqi air defenses “opened fire on one of those enemy formations and our border observation post saw one of the enemy planes hit. One of these formations approached one of our air defense sites and they were engaged and fired upon by one of our missile units at 1045 (0745 GMT).”
- 99-1-14: About 4:15 a.m. Eastern time, a U.S. F-16CJ jet detects ground radar activity while on patrol northwest of Mosul, in northern Iraq, and fires an anti-radar Harm missile at an air defense site. About 90 minutes later an F-15E warplane fires an AGM-130 laser-guided missile at a suspected surface-to-air missile site. The planes return safely to their base at Incirlik, Turkey. No official assessment is provided of damage to the Iraqi air-defense sites.
- Turkey announces that the U.S. is prepared to send Patriot missiles in case of a major escalation in the air war with Iraq. “It is felt that Patriot missiles could have a useful role to play and the United States has been asked whether such missiles could be brought to Turkey. The U.S. response has been positive.”
- 99-1-16: Saddam Hussein denounces UN sanctions for their “mischief and damage” in a speech on eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War. “On this day (in 1991), some have committed the crime of striking Baghdad with their missiles. Those evil doers will be defeated and driven to despair.” Some 6,000 people march through Baghdad in a government-organized demonstration against the U.S. proposal to Security Council.
- The Iraqi parliament issues a statement stating that Iraq was committed to Kuwait's borders as defined by the Security Council resolution. This counters the article published by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

- The United States sends a Patriot missile battery to Turkey as a precautionary measure to deal with Iraqi threats made after Operation Desert Fox. Secretary Cohen signs orders deploying units of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, based near Frankfurt, Germany. At least three Patriot launchers and about 150 soldiers will deploy to Turkey and become part of Operation Northern Watch, conducted from Incirlik Air Base, a Turkish facility near Adana. At present, 38 U.S. aircraft patrol the no-fly zone over northern Iraq, along with British and Turkish forces.
- 99-1-21: Al-Zawra quotes General. Hazim Abdel Razzaq Shihab, the chief of Iraq's missile forces during the Gulf War as saying Iraq fired 93 Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the war. He calls his book Forty-three Missiles on the Zionist Entity. It is published to mark the eighth anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf War and contains a copy of Saddam Hussein's order to begin firing missiles: "Start, with God's support, the strikes on targets in the criminal Zionist entity as heavily as possible and be careful about the possibility of being detected." Shihab states another 50 missiles were aimed at targets in Saudi Arabia.
- 99-1-23: Kuwaiti government sources say that Iraqi military reinforcements to the south have been normal, although Iraq has moved some military equipment and troops into the south of the country, apparently to deal with internal Moslem Shi'ite opposition. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah says, "Our information is that it is an ordinary (Iraqi) build-up and one has to be cautious towards rumors and reports by news agencies and others. Kuwait is prepared to defend itself and is cooperating with its friends to defend itself... We are supporters of all efforts to lift the suffering of the Iraqi people but within international legality resolutions."
 - A UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKON) official says, "There is nothing unusual inside Iraq's 10 km (6.3 miles) of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and visually it also looks normal (just) north of the DMZ." The UNIKON secures the border between Iraq and Kuwait, and secures the 15-km-wide (9.4 miles) DMZ.
 - Saddam Hussein issues a statement attacking Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He says they are creating a glut in the oil market and betraying the Arab cause. "Saudi rulers have caused great calamities to the Arab nation and committed aggression against its rights ever since they became a bridge for the foreigner." They have given "America and Zionism knives to pierce the Arab nation with." They have led to increase in OPEC oil quotas "which led to the collapse of oil prices ... inflicting great damage on the interests of member countries, including those of the Saudi people."
 - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says in Cairo that, "There is no military build-up on the Kuwait and Saudi border and these reports are lies." He also says that Iraq demands that the Arab ministers condemn Desert Fox, that. "This is the least Iraq will accept, and that Iraq will demand compensation for the "aggression."
 - Iraqi Speaker of the National Assembly, Saadoun Hammadi, says "The government of Kuwait participated in the recent U.S.- British aggression on Iraq by allowing these forces to use its lands. This is in addition to admissions by its rulers that it (Kuwait) contributed to the cost of this aggression."
 - U.S. fighters, threatened by Iraqi MiGs and anti-aircraft ground fire, drop laser-guided bombs on two surface-to-air missile sites in southern Iraq. Two U.S. F-18 warplanes carry out the attack after Iraqi MiGs violate the no-fly zone. The southern zone stretches from the border with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to the 33rd parallel just south of Baghdad.
- 99-1-24: The Arab League begins its foreign ministers meeting in Cairo. A draft declaration is prepared by Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman which calls on Iraq to recognize Kuwait and put an end to the issue of Kuwaitis considered prisoners of war or missing, and which says the Arab states will work with Security Council to lift sanctions once Iraq implements UN resolutions. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf walks out in apparent anger after the ministers refuse to denounce Desert Fox as aggression and only express "deep concern at the use of the military option against Iraq." Al-Sahhaf says that the Arab League statement is "a cover for resuming the U.S.-British airstrikes" and claims the ministers have reacted to U.S. pressure and Saudi and Kuwaiti plots.

- A U.S. F-15E launches an AGM-130 missile on an Iraqi SA-3 surface-to-air missile installation in the Northern No Fly Zone after aircraft in the area reported they were illuminated by the Iraqi unit. The missile scored a direct hit and the site is reported to have “suppressed. The incident takes place at 10:45 a.m. Iraqi time, or 6 a.m. EST. The northern no-fly zone is above the 36th parallel. Less than an hour after the first attack, a U.S. Marine EA-6B Prowler and two U.S. Air Force F-16s fire HARMs after their aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi systems. All of the American aircraft return safely to Incirlik.
- The U.S. says it will soon rotate some of its forces in Kuwait which patrol the southern no-fly, The 104th Fighter Squadron with A-10s will start deployment on the 26th and additional F-16s will deploy, bringing the total number of U.S. aircraft almost 200. There are also 12 British Tornados in Kuwait and six in Saudi Arabia.
- Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, the governor of Basra, says that Iraq is boosting its air defenses in the south, “We are prepared for all eventualities. The reinforcements are there. They are air defense reinforcements. Everything we can reinforce, we are reinforcing. More than that I cannot say.” He says that some aspects of the moves are exceptional, but are a defensive reaction. “We will challenge this aggression, and will continue to challenge it. We will not accept a mandate of anyone upon us. Regarding Kuwait, they are our neighbors. If we wanted to take Kuwait, we could take Kuwait in one night and a day despite the presence of Americans now, or others. We did not threaten anyone, and we will not threaten anyone.”
- 99-1-25: Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur says U.S. and British warplanes attacked two residential quarters in the al-Jumhuriya neighborhood of Basra, “I do not have the exact figure now but I have been told that...tens of people were injured and several were killed, among them children and women and at least two residential sites were bombed... We think that this new communiqué by the foreign ministers is a green light to the American and British to attack Iraq again.”
- Mike Huggins, a CNN producer in Basra says local officials told him 11 people were killed and four wounded in one attack. He said the scene was one of widespread devastation, and that he had been to the scene of the attack in a poor residential area of Basra and that there were no Iraqi defense sites in the neighborhood.
- The U.S. confirms that its planes had attacked targets in the no-fly zone of southern Iraq “as a result of provocation.” Britain says its planes were not involved. The U.S. says the raid took place at about 9:25 a.m. local time/1:25 a.m. EST when U.S. planes responded after four Iraqi MiG planes initiated “threatening activity” and Iraqi air defense systems fired anti-aircraft artillery. It says it no confirmation of any Iraqi casualties and all U. planes returned safely to their bases.
- USCENTCOM says , “Since Operation Desert Fox, the Iraqi military has been increasing both the pace and severity of no-fly zone violations. Despite repeated warnings, Iraqi actions and intentions pose serious threats to our aircrews and our actions today are an appropriate response to these threats.”
- The official Iraqi News Agency reports another strike 40 minutes later. It accused the U.S. of targeting “heavily populated areas” and says they hit the village of Abu al-Khaseeb near Basra, the Basra airport, and an oil field. It claims that civil defense teams were ferrying wounded to hospitals and trying to recover bodies from the ruins of buildings. “Planes of the American and British aggressors continue their air raids against residential quarters and economic targets in Basra governorate. The indiscriminate and savage bombings have led to the martyrdom of more civilians, and civil defense units rushed to the sites to search for bodies of martyrs and to rescue the wounded and take them to hospitals. The criminals bombed a number of residential areas at 10.10 a.m. local time (0710 GMT) in the morning in Abu Flus, Basra airport and the northern Rumalia field.”
- A reporter in Basra said he saw a house that was destroyed and three others that were damaged. He said he was taken to a hospital where he saw severely injured children. Greg Palkot of Fox News reports that he saw civil defense teams searching for people in the rubble. Abdel-Khaliq said at least two residential areas were hit, several people were killed, and dozens were wounded. Cable News Network reports 11 people were killed and four injured.

- Tariq Aziz condemns the attacks in the southern region of Basra, saying "Iraq holds American and British aggressors and their Kuwaiti and Saudi partners responsible for this cowardly and treacherous aggression. It (Iraq) will continue to challenge the no-fly ban imposed by force in the south and north," Aziz said the attacks follow the "shameful statement adopted by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and those who collaborate with them during an Arab League meeting held in Cairo and which was welcomed immediately by Washington because it suits its policy." He says that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait took part in the attack. "Those who allow America and Britain to use their territory and space to kill Iraqis and pay for the aggression do not represent the Arab nation but they serve their masters in Washington and London."
- Iran reports that a stray missile fired in U.S.-led attacks landed in Iranian territory. The governor of the city of Abadan in southwestern Iran tells the television that the missile landed inside the oil city but there were no casualties. Iran had protested to Britain and Switzerland, which represents the United States in Iran, after a stray missile landed in Iran's southwestern border city of Khorramshar during Desert Fox. It damaged property, but there was no report of injuries.
- A spokesman for Operation Northern Watch based at Incirlik air base in Turkey, said that after an Air Force F-15E encountered anti-aircraft artillery fire, two other F-15Es dropped one laser-guided bomb each on the air defense system. The U.S. planes operate from Incirlik. In a separate incident near Mosul, a Marine Corps EA-6B electronic warfare plane fired a missile at an Iraqi surface-to-air missile installation that "posed a threat" to U.S. and allied aircraft. An Air Force F-16CJ plane later attacked a different SA-2 surface-to-air missile site that also was deemed to pose a threat. A spokesman with U.S. Central Command says the American jets fired at an Iraqi surface-to-air missile site and associated air-defense systems north of Basra "in response to Iraqi incursions in the no-fly zone." He says the U.S. jets were threatened by Iraqi ground artillery and four Iraqi MiGs. All aircraft involved returned safely to their bases..
- The U.S. reports later that its warplanes attacked three separate anti-aircraft facilities in northern Iraq following two clashes earlier in the day in southern Iraq. A Pentagon spokesman says planes flying a routine surveillance flight over the northern no-fly zone were tracked by ground radar and fired on by surface-to-air missiles and artillery and responded with bombs and missiles. Shortly before 2 p.m. Iraq time (6 a.m. EST) aircraft flying with the Northern Watch patrols were illuminated by ground radar and fired on. Two U.S. Air Force F-15 fighter planes dropped laser-guided bombs on an anti-aircraft artillery system. Separately, a U.S. Marine Prowler fired a High speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) at a missile site that was threatening the flights and an Air Force F-16 fired a HARM at a different missile site. In addition, an Iraqi SAM missile was fired at an F-15. U.S. officials say they have no confirmation of Iraqi casualties. All U.S. planes return safely to their bases.
- Gen. Anthony Zinni says later that, "We have the possibility of one missile that may have been errant...Our targeting and execution of strikes are done in a manner to minimize any civilian casualties or damage to civilian property. No one can guarantee that these strikes will not have errs or we might not have errant ordnance but we do make every possible attempt to make sure this doesn't happen...We deeply regret any civilian casualties regardless of what the cause might be but these exchanges have been initiated by Saddam Hussein." He adds that the U.S. is reviewing intelligence determine if an errant U.S. missile might have caused civilian casualties reported by Iraq.

On January 27, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon admits that an AGM-130 missile launched from an Air Force F-15E strike aircraft U.S. missile fired at air defense targets near the city of Basra on the 25th missed its target by miles and struck a residential area. "It created some damage," spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday, referring to the errant. "We realize that and we regret any civilian casualties. But this was done in response to a provocative attack against our planes by Saddam Hussein." Iraq has now reported that five civilians were killed, 42 were injured and several homes were destroyed, but Bacon says he cannot confirm the missile killed any civilians. "I don't think I have any independent confirmation whether it did or it didn't." He says that the USAF will continue using the AGM-130 in no-fly zone enforcement missions and describes the weapon as "generally very accurate, but there are many reasons it might miss a target. He would not offer any examples." He also says that, "I think that we are

- having a grave impact on the Iraqi air defense system, and a grave impact on the number of weapons they have to bring to bear against our planes, and we will continue to do that until the threat goes away.”
- The AGM-130, the Air Force missile that missed its target Monday in Iraq, is a newly modified weapon with a 2,000-pound, high-explosive warhead. It is equipped with a guidance system that enables the crew of the launching aircraft to watch the missile's path on a television monitor and steer it to its target. It also can be used with automatic weapon guidance.
 - A U.S. spokesman says that the U.S. now has about 240 aircraft, 31 ships and more than 28,000 forces massed in the Gulf region to patrol the northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. The are about 28,000 U.S. forces stationed on ships or at bases in the Gulf region which monitor the southern exclusion zone in Iraq. About 200 U.S. aircraft are involved in the operation. The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is in the area, along with a total of 31 ships, of which 16 were combatant vessels and six of those could fire Tomahawk missiles. There were about 45 coalition aircraft and 1,300 U.S., British and Turkish forces at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, from where U.S. and British forces monitor the northern no-fly zone.
 - Saudi Arabia rejects Iraqi charges that U.S. and British warplanes used its territory as a launch pad for attacks that hit a residential area of the southern Iraqi city of Basra. “These allegations are untrue and unfounded.” The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) had said the missile came “from a westerly direction, Saudi Arabia.”
 - Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament on Monday expressed his outrage to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about reports of a new U.S. missile attack on Iraq and said she had no reply. “I told her about (the attack). I said, again peaceful people have been killed. But she said nothing. It seems that she still does not have confirmed information about what has happened there.” Deputy Duma Speaker Mikhail Gutseryev, also a Middle East specialist, tells Itar-Tass that the attack on Basra was “unacceptable and impermissible in a civilized world.”
 - Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit says Turkey is preparing proposals to ease the escalating tension between its neighbor Iraq and its NATO ally the United States.
 - Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls says, “This new incident confirms once again what the holy father has said, even in the past few days, that military measures do not resolve problems by themselves. In fact they just make things worse. Pope John Paul II and the Vatican has previously described Desert Fox as a breach of international law, and called the strikes “aggression.”
- 99-1-26: Sandy Berger, the president's National Security Adviser, says that American warplanes patrolling the skies over northern and southern Iraq are operating under new guidance that authorizes more aggressive action against Iraqi air defenses. “We're acting here in self-defense and in response to concerted attacks by Saddam Hussein (in response to) a distinct increase in the challenges to enforcement of the no-fly zones.” He says that the attacks on the 25th illustrated the more aggressive approach that U.S. military commanders requested, and that President Clinton approved them after Desert Fox. “The president has responded to requests by the military for more expansive rules of engagement. Our pilots understand, and our air force understands, that if there are violations of the no-fly zone, that our response be not simply against the particular source of the violation or source of the threat but our response, as appropriate, will be against any of the air defense systems that we think makes us vulnerable.” The Department of Defense had previously refused to confirm the change in approach.
- The Iraqi daily Al-Jumhuriya says, “We maintain our full right to hold the evil aggressors in America and Britain and their partners...in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for this heinous aggression. We say that our Arab masses are called today to revolt against this unjust (aggression)...after those unjust (U.S.) aggressors exceeded their limits... No sooner the deliberation meeting of the Arab foreign ministers ended and the issue of the statement in a suspicious way...than aggression was repeated on Iraq from the lands of Najd and Hujaz (Saudi Arabia...The collaborators gave a cover for the Americans for aggression on August 10, 1990 and they gave the same justification for aggression today.”
 - Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon confirms that a U.S. missile Iraq exploded in a residential area of Basra. “We have analyzed yesterday's information and found that an AGM-130 (missile) did miss its target and

- explode in a residential neighborhood several kilometers away from its target. We do not have any independent estimate of casualties or fatalities. I want to repeat that we are not targeting civilians. We are in fact taking every step we can to avoid targeting civilians ... or avoid creating collateral damage in civilian neighborhoods, because we are not attacking the people of Iraq.”
- Iraqis in Abu Fullous mourn their dead after missiles fired by U.S. warplanes hit small village, 25 km (15 miles) south of Basra. Residents say the missile struck the house of Fadl Abbas Mansour, gouged out holes in the roof and moved on into other homes. Two stone-walled houses collapsed and two others were badly damaged. Reporters who visit the village see the 6-foot barrel of the gray missile on the street, minus its nose and tail
 - Members of the Iraqi parliament accuse Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of taking part in Desert Fox and demand an Arab tribunal to try them. Some call for revoking recognition of Kuwait and/or the new border demarcation. Saadoun Hummadi, the speaker of Iraq's Parliament, says, “The Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes have become the head of a venomous snake.”
 - The Russian Foreign Ministry says, “Nothing can justify new deaths among the civilian population of Iraq, which has already been bled dry by the hardships of many years of blockade. Russia renews its longstanding criticism of the no-fly zones, “The latest tragic events have confirmed the pressing need for all problems connected with Iraq to be resolved exclusively in a political context, all the more so since the no-fly zones were established unilaterally, without the sanction of the UN Security Council.” The statement is issued while Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is in Moscow.
 - U.S. fighter jets are involved in three incidents between 1:25 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. Iraqi time/5:25 a.m. EST and 5:50 a.m. EST (1025 and 1050 GMT) near the city of Mosul in the northern no-fly zone. Iraqi surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery systems targeted aircraft on routine patrols for the fourth consecutive day. All aircraft and crews returned safely to Incirlik. Two violations were also reported in the southern no-fly zone when two Iraqi MiG planes conducted fly into the exclusion area. U.S. and British planes are not patrolling the area at the time and there are no engagements.
 - The U.S. sends 8 more F-16 jets to Kuwait, bringing the number of U.S. aircraft patrolling the Western-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq to almost 200, along with 12 British Tornado bombers in Kuwait, and 6 Tornados in Saudi Arabia. A scheduled rotation of A-10s also begins for a three-month deployment at a Kuwaiti desert air base.
 - The official Iranian news agency IRNA reports that a foreign ministry spokesman “condemned the recent attack by American aircraft on Iraq which killed a number of civilians and destroyed residential districts.”
- 99-1-27: Iraq's vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, says “Iraq will continue to challenge with all its capabilities and means American and British planes which violate our air space. Iraq holds the (UN) Security Council and Arab rulers responsible for the dangers and damage Iraq is facing through these aggressive acts...Iraq will continue dialogue with any Arab government who wants dialogue, within the context of Arab integration, unity and independence.”
- Iraq's parliament issues a statement says, “Arab masses who stand against the aggression...are urged to revolt against these (Saudi and Kuwaiti) regimes...The governments of America and Britain and the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are responsible for the aggression and the human and material losses caused by it.”
 - The Iraqi newspaper al-Zawra, which is owned by Uday, says the U.S. missile strike near Basra risen to 18. During this cowardly act 18 people met martyrdom and 59 were injured, most of them women and children,” said. Seven houses were destroyed and 27 slightly damaged.”
- 99-1-28: Gen. Anthony Zinni told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Clinton administration's strategy of U.S. support for Iraqi opposition groups is ill-conceived and could further destabilize the region. “The last thing we need is another rogue state. Even if we had Saddam gone, by any means, we could we end up with 15, 20, 90 groups competing for power. I will be honest. I don't see an opposition group that has the viability to overthrow Saddam at this point...(Such efforts) could further destabilize the area and

could be very dangerous. The last thing we need is a disintegrated, fragmented Iraq. Because the effects on the region would be far greater, in my mind, than a contained Saddam...Now Saddam is dangerous. Saddam should go. There's not a doubt in my mind. But it is possible to create a situation that could be worse. And that's my concern. These groups are very fragmented. They have little if any viability to exact a change of regime in and of themselves. Their ability to cooperate is questionable." Zinni says that Iraq had violated no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq more than 70 times since Desert Fox, I think it's clear that Saddam has been a loser and his air defense system has been a loser in these engagements. I would emphasize, though, our pilots are still at risk. This is not an undangerous mission." He says that that Iraq still may have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel and retains the capability of manufacturing biological and chemical weapons. He says of Desert Fox that, "We're seeing more damage -- damage that we were very conservative in estimating until we had more proof or more evidence."

- Ten U.S. F-15 and six F-16 fighter-bombers, two escort "Prowler" radar-jamming aircraft and two AWACS radar and control aircraft as well as four tankers took off on routine patrols in the course of the morning. They attack five targets in northern Iraq after they are been targeted by Iraqi anti-aircraft systems.
- Two F-15 fighter-bombers on a routine patrol of the northern "No-Fly Zone" are targeted by anti-aircraft artillery north of the city of Mosul and attack an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery in northern Iraq with three precision-guided bombs before returning to Incirlik. The incident comes shortly after the base at Incirlik is put on a state of alert on fears of a missile attack from Iraq. Allied sources in Ankara said a U.S. tracking station had picked up a possible launch from northern Iraq in the direction of the Turkish border. But the 'target' disappeared from radar and the alarm was lifted. The Turkish stock market falls by more than three percent on accompanying rumors of an Iraqi missile exploding in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.
- A statement by the Turkish General Staff said there had been an explosion northeast of Mosul at the time Incirlik was put on alert and that this may have been interpreted as a missile launch. It did not say what caused the blast. Troops at Incirlik don protective gear, the gates are closed and traffic halts. Four British Tornado aircraft are at the time of the alert. They returned to the base shortly after the all-clear was given. The battery of Patriot missiles at Incirlik is not readied for action during the alert.
- 99-1-29 The Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra says, "The Saudi government is a full partner in the conspiracy and aggression on Iraq's leadership and people. This is the truth... We condemn the deviant and deceitful Saudi positions with facts and evidence, and expose how the custodian of the two holy shrines (Saudi King Fahd) conspires against our country, people and leadership... The Al-Saud and Al-Sabah face the harmful consequences of (the conspiracy) which results in the violation of our airspace under the cover of what is called the no-fly zones... continues until today by allowing American and British planes to fly from Saudi bases to violate Iraqi airspace and bomb Iraq and its peaceful people."
- 99-1-30: U.S. fighters attack four Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites and one surface-to-air missile site near Mosul in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. U.S. aircraft fire missiles in separate incidents in self-defense between three and 4.30 p.m. Iraqi time (1200-1330 GMT). The first incident takes place shortly after 3 p.m. Iraqi time, when a group of F-15Es drop two GBU-12 munitions on an Iraqi Skyguard surface-to-air missile site after being targeted. A few minutes later, F-15Es dropped two more GBU-12s on an anti-aircraft artillery system and associated radar. A further F-15E attack on an anti-aircraft artillery site occurs close to 3:30 p.m. A U.S. Marine EA-6B Prowler fires a HARM missile at a radar-guided anti-aircraft artillery around 4:30 p.m. Moments later, F-15Es dropped GBU-12s on another anti-aircraft artillery site.
- Iraq states "Twelve hostile formations coming from Turkish air space supported by an early warning plane (AWACS) implemented 22 missions using 17 missiles and bombs. Planes of the aggressors have violated our air space in northern Iraq at 1325 p.m. local time (1025 GMT) on January 30. The aggressors returned at 1630 p.m. local time (1330 GMT) by violating our national air space but this time coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi air space. Fourteen hostile formations supported by an early warning plane (AWACS) violated our air space coming from Saudi skies as well as an EC2 plane coming from Kuwaiti skies."

- Iraq claims to have defused an unexploded cruise missile near Kirkuk. It has previously said that it defused 58 unexploded bombs dropped during Desert Fox. It now claims 18 people were killed and 59 injured in Basra during the AGM-130 strike five days earlier.
 - The Iraqi government newspaper al-Jumhuriya says "We are surprised at what a Saudi source had said that his country was not able to prevent so-called international monitoring of Iraqi airspace. Doesn't this Saudi regime's weakness and loss of will mean that it is in fact under American military occupation? Those who have (political) goals in Iraq and their supporters have prevented Iraq importing weapons and prevented it improving its conventional military abilities while Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Turkey were allowed to do so."
 - The British aircraft carrier HMS Invincible arrives in the to help patrol a no-fly zone over southern Iraq. The destroyer HMS Newcastle and the store ship Fort Austin accompany the Invincible. The duration of Invincible's deployment is not announced, but it is expected to stay until late spring. The carrier has a crew of around 1,200 and its aircraft includes Sea Harrier vertical takeoff and landing jets and Sea King. The Invincible's Harriers will take part in Operation Southern Watch. The helicopters will be involved in enforcing trade sanctions against Iraq, monitoring shipping in and out of Iraqi waters. Twelve British Tornado bombers in Kuwait and six in Saudi Arabia already participate in Operation Southern Watch. Britain also has aerial refueling tankers based in Bahrain.
- 99-1-31: U.S. and British fighters fly patrols from Incirlik. The patrol group includes 20 U.S. F-15 and F-16 fighters, British Tornado jets, AWACS and tankers. A U.S. F-16 based in southern Turkey fires a HARM missile at a radar system north of Mosul at around 3:20 p.m. Iraqi time (1220 GMT). It was a part of a patrol group of more than 20 U.S. F-15 and F-16 fighters, British Tornado jets, AWACS radar and control aircraft and tanker planes had taken off earlier into blue skies above the complex of red-brick buildings set behind wire near the southern Turkish city of Adana. All of the aircraft returned without damage.
- U.S. and British aircraft, including two U.S. Navy F-14s, two FA-18s, one EA-6B, one U.S. Air Force F-16CJ and two British Royal Air Force GR-1 aircraft, attack two Iraqi communications facilities after an Iraqi MiG 23 enters the southern no-fly zone, The attacks occur at about 2:20 a.m. EST and strike an Iraqi communications repeater station in Talil, about 170 miles southeast of Baghdad and a radio relay station in Al Amarah, about 120 miles southeast of Baghdad, The eight American and British aircraft involved in the attack return undamaged
 - Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, speaking in Switzerland says the U.S. and Britain should stop using force against Iraq and try to create an international consensus on how to end the crisis. "No unilateral action will be helpful. What the American and British governments have done so far has not been quite helpful because it has created more of a gap inside the Security Council. Therefore I believe the international consensus is the most valuable instrument (leading) out of the crisis. I believe there should be a change of policy toward Iraq to be more practical and at the same time to take into consideration the concerns of the...countries in the region." He says of the patrols over the no-fly zones, "Yes. I believe that is not justified."
 - The speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Saadoun Hammadi, is quoted by as saying Saudi Arabia and Kuwait collaborated with the U.S. to "destroy the Iraqi economy," He says Saudi Arabia's oil policy cost Arab oil producers some \$919 billion in potential revenue over the past 12 years. "These funds went to the economies of the advanced industrialized countries instead of being useful in development programs in these states. The Saudis with this behavior wanted to implement what America wanted." Several days earlier, Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed announced that Iraq would ask the OPEC to cut Saudi Arabia's 8.0 million barrel per day quota by more than a third in order to raise oil prices.
- 99-2-1: Lieutenant-General Mohammed Abdel-Qader, the Iraqi governor of Nineveh province says he has prayed Iraqi air defense crews would shoot down a plane, "All of us hope that an American plane comes down...We call on God that an American plane, or planes, come down because of the flagrant aggression on our country, our people and national security. In the northern area, there are Iraqi people. Kurds, Arabs and people of different religions living in the area. It is natural that any country exposed to

aggression, will challenge the aggression with all its means. Iraq is a country being attacked by America and Britain. There are many civilian places that were hit, the latest in Basra. It is very likely that missiles or bombs will fall upon civilian areas.

- The weekly Iraqi newspaper Nabdh al-Shabab (Pulse of Youth) reports that Saddam has offered a reward of \$14,000 to any Iraqi who shoots down an enemy plane. "In accordance of the leader's order, the Presidential Office will grant 25 million dinars to those who shoot down a hostile plane and 10 million (5,000 dollars) for gunning down a missile." Defense Secretary William Cohen replies, "It reflects just another example of Saddam Hussein flailing out."
- 99-2-2: U.S. warplanes attack and seem to destroy a new anti-ship missile site in southern Iraq that could have threatened shipping in the oil-rich Gulf. The anti-ship missile launchers were deployed in recent weeks on the al-Fao peninsula, which juts into the Gulf at the mouth of the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Four attack jets from the carrier Carl Vinson in attack a Russian-made CSSC-3 missile battery. The missiles, with a range of about 60 miles (100 km) and a 1,100-pound (500 kg) warhead, were apparently moved within the past week to the coast just southeast of Basra and would have posed a threat to U.S. warships and commercial shipping. The attack takes place about 12:30 p.m. Iraq Time (4:30 a.m. EST/(0930 GMT) and two F-14 and two F/A-18 attack jets launch four laser-guided 500-pound (800 kg) bombs
- Other U.S. jets make at least four bombing strikes against anti-aircraft missile and radar sites in the northern no fly zone after the jets are targeted anti-aircraft artillery sites and a radar associated with an SA-2 surface-to-air missile battery. At 2:20 p.m. Iraqi time (6:20 a.m. EST/1120 GMT), two U.S. F-15Es drop two 500-pound (800 kg) laser-guided bombs on an anti-aircraft artillery battery in response to being targeted by Iraqi radar near the northern town of Mosul. In a second incident about 15 minutes later, a Marine Corps EA-6B electronic warfare plane fires a high-speed anti-radiation, or HARM, missile at an SA-2 missile radar site. In a third incident about five minutes later, an unspecified number of F-15Es drop GBU-12 precision-guided munitions on an anti-aircraft artillery site. Some ten minutes later, F-15Es drop an unspecified number of GBU-12 munitions on another anti-aircraft artillery site. There at least two other attacks by American jets in the area near Mosul. All of the U.S. aircraft returned safely to their bases.
- The official al-Iraq newspaper publishes front-page editorial Iraq saying, "Our decision to prevent the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) from returning and to resist the so-called no-fly zone is irreversible."
- Iraq bans any product carrying a picture of the American flag.
- Turkey's Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk says the government is considering changes in rules of engagement for warplanes patrolling the northern no-fly zone. "There is work (going on) now on the rules of engagement. The rules of engagement are to be redefined. Both sides are working on that,." He also says that Turkey will react to any Iraqi move to launch a Scud missile attack on Incirlik.
- An Iraqi military spokesman says that U.S. and British aircraft carried out 26 missions inside Iraq's national air space and attacked a position in Najaf province and a food ration center. "It has been confirmed to us clearly that Saudi pilots have taken part in these formations."
- Saudi state television says, An official Saudi source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation denied a report issued today....by some news agencies quoting the Iraqi News Agency that Saudi pilots had participated in an air raid on a food distribution center in the Najaf Province in southern Iraq. The source said that the report was totally fabricated and that such a thing was impossible to happen in any form," the television added.
- Kuwaiti Defense Minister and deputy prime minister Sheik Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, told reporters, "My reaction is Iraq should not disturb its neighbors by threatening them all the time."
- 99-2-3: Iraq moves missile launchers from the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq to central Iraq, where they pose less of a threat. Iraq had added air defense forces to the northern and southern sectors after the four-day U.S. and British bombing campaign in mid-December. It is not clear whether the withdrawal means Iraq reduced its challenge or is changing tactics.

- Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara says to Robin Cook, "The bombing is futile, it only hurts the Iraqi people. Only the Iraqi people are paying the price. After eight years of sanctions, the picture hasn't changed on the ground except more suffering."
 - Sheik Mohammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the UAE defense minister, expresses strong reservations about U.S. efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein. The official news agency WAM reports that he said he "considered that any political change in Iraq imposed from outside could lead to the division of (the country) and internal civil war" after meeting with Indyk. The al-Khaleej newspaper says, "It is clear that the United States is seeking to market its policy and positions sometimes by force and sometimes by deception."
 - A government statement in Oman says Sultan Qaboos stressed the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries to Indyk, and the need for continuous efforts to help ease United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq and to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.
 - A senior Foreign Ministry official in Qatar says, "It is an internal matter for Iraq. We would prefer this matter should be left to the Iraqi people to decide whether they want a change or not or whom they want as their leader. Any outside interference will not be in the best interest of anybody."
- 99-2-7: Saddam Hussein praises Iraq's air defense troops. "I salute your effort to defend the sovereignty of great Iraq. It's an irony when the Americans say they are defending themselves while they make an...aggression on Iraq and air defense sites as if they are flying over Washington's skies, not Iraq's." The Iraqi News Agency reports that Saddam met with Defense Minister Sultan Hashim Ahmed and senior air defense commanders involved in recent battles with U.S. and British warplanes over Iraq, and also said that he was proud that Iraq could confront the most advanced military technology in the world.
- 99-2-9: Iraq claims that the U.S. and UK flew 21 sorties in the Northern No-Fly Zone and, "At 1240 today (0940 GMT), hostile formations approached one of our air defenses. Our brave air defense fighters fired at this formation and primary data indicate that one of the hostile planes was shot... the aircraft left our southern national airspace at 1305...heading back to the dens of evil that they came from." A Pentagon spokesman says, "I have every evidence that that absolutely did not occur. There have been no strikes taken by U.S. aircraft in the north or the south in the past four or five days." The British Ministry of Defense says all British planes had returned safely from their missions.
- British Defense Secretary Robertson arrives in Saudi Arabia and meets with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz and senior army officials.
- 99-2-10: U.S. aircraft fire weapons at two air defense sites in Iraq after encountering Iraqi violations in the southern "no-fly" zone. The incident took place at about 4 a.m. EST (0900 GMT) and was in response to Iraqi Mig-23s and MiG-25s flying in the southern exclusion zone. U.S. pilots fired precision guided bombs at air defense sites near Talil, about 170 miles (274 km) southeast of Baghdad, and an air defense radar site near an-Najaf, about 100 miles (160 km) south of the capital. No coalition aircraft are damaged.
- Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is head an Iraqi delegation to visit Turkey to discuss relations. Last month Iraq has asked Turkey's new prime minister Ecevit to stop U.S. and British jets from using an air base at Incirlik.
- 99-2-11 U.S. forces strike at least seven Iraqi air defense targets in both the northern and southern no-fly zones ranging from Iraqi missile communication sites to radar sites. In the attacks in the north, U.S. planes bomb two communications sites, two surface-to-air missile systems and an Iraqi radar site near the northern town of Mosul. The attacks in the southern no-fly zone occurred in response to violations by Iraqi MiG-23 planes in the exclusion zone at about 10:45 a.m. EST (1545 GMT), several hours after the clashes in the north. The targets included radar sites and associated facilities near Al Habbariyah, about 135 miles (220 km) southwest of Baghdad, and near Al Amarah, about 170 miles (270 km) southeast of Baghdad. A Pentagon spokesman says, "In all cases, U.S. aircraft returned safely to their bases. We go to extreme measures to ensure that as we attack these targets we do so in a way that minimizes the risk to

the civilian population.” Doubleday said. The spokesman adds that U.S. and British attacks since December had had a “grave impact” on Iraq's air defense system: “We believe we have been effective in hitting the targets threatening coalition forces and our intention is that as long as they (Iraq) continue these provocative actions we will continue to respond.” There have now been more than 90 no-fly zone violations since Operation Desert Fox and more than 70 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations' against U.S. and British planes. U.S. and British forces have responded by attacking more than 37 targets.

- Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says that Iraq would continue to challenge the no-fly zones “no matter what the sacrifices and consequences are.”
- Iraq says at least two people are killed in the attacks and several were injured. “They launched eight missiles and bombs against our air defense positions in the southeastern region, wounding a number of civilians.”
- 99-2-12: A U.S. Air Force F-15E drops one GBU-12 precision-guided bomb on an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery site Friday after the jet was fired on in the third clash in the no fly zones three days. The attack takes place over northern Iraq occurred at 1:30 p.m. local time (5:30 a.m. EST) north of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. The official Iraqi News Agency says one civilian is killed and another injured. The F-15E is not damaged and returned safely to base. Three pairs of Iraqi planes, including MiG-23s and Mirage jet fighters, violate the no-fly zone without incident.
- 99-2- 13: The official daily Al-Jumhuriya recalls the Gulf War, “Today we remember details of that heinous crime, just as we have counted scores of similar crimes before and after it associated with the crime of the embargo. Iraqis reaffirm their intention to challenge all forms of aggression... The Ameriya Shelter, with its sorrowful memories... reminds us of the mean and treacherous aggression which killed the dreams and bright futures of 421 innocents....In memory of the martyrs of Ameriya, we describe how their smooth bodies were incinerated by bombs of criminal America.” Al-Qadissiya says, “America is using sanctions to starve and kill the innocent. But in the end it will taste nothing but disappointment when Iraq and all humanity reap the fruits of our struggle, and our sacrifices are rewarded with victory.”
- U.S. military jets attack two Iraqi defense sites in southern no-fly zone on Saturday, including one that fired on coalition aircraft patrolling the area. No U.S. aircraft are damaged and all return safely to their bases. U.S. Navy F/A-18s and F-14s attacked an Iraqi missile site on the country's southern Faw peninsula in the Gulf at about 8 a.m. EST (1300 GMT) because the presence of the missiles violated the terms of the southern no-fly zone. An anti-missile site in the same area had been attacked by U.S. fighters aircraft on Feb. 2nd, with the Pentagon saying it could have threatened shipping in the oil-rich Gulf. At the time, it said American aircraft destroyed a Russian-made CSSC-3 “Seersucker” anti-ship missile battery. About 30 minutes after the attack on the Faw peninsula, U.S. Air Force F-15Es dropped bombs on Iraqi air defense sites near Tallil, about 170 miles (272 km) southeast of Baghdad. The bombing comes after the Iraqis fired anti-aircraft artillery at the Western coalition aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone.
- An Iraqi military spokesman says of the U.S. attacks, “They committed another crime...when their hostile formations attacked a civilian installation in Dhiqar province (Nasiriya) killing three citizens and injuring many others. At 1505 local time (1205 GMT) fourteen hostile formations...coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti skies violated our national airspace and implemented 34 missions.“ Iraq claims the planes also bombed a fishing jetty in Faw and a residential quarter, The spokesman says U.S. or British planes flew over the southern provinces of Meisan (Amarah), Dhiqar, Najaf and Basra and returned to their bases at 1635 (0135 GMT).
- Iraq's Culture and Information Minister Humam Abdul-Khaleq Abdul-Ghafur says, “We will continue protecting our borders and airspace and we are defending our country and skies.”
- Iraq claims hundreds of people visited the al-Amiriya shelter on the anniversary of the Gulf War attack to mourn those who died. Iraq claims the victims included 52 children and 261 women.
- 99-2-14: The British Sunday Telegraph claims that Russia has signed a \$160 million deal to reinforce Iraq's air

defenses and upgrade its MiG fighters, and that the agreements were signed in Moscow on Jan. 13 and 14 after a visit to the Russian capital by Ahmed Murtada Ahmed Khalil, Iraq's Transport and Communications Minister. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov denies the report and says Russia is strictly meeting by its commitments to UN. The Telegraph had claimed the decision to give Iraqi President Saddam Hussein military help was approved by Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov on Dec. 7 in violation of the United Nations arms embargo on Iraq.

- Iraqi television says it is quoting President Saddam Hussein and senior leaders in making threats that Iraq could attack U.S. and British bases in the Gulf used to launch air strikes against Iraq. "We, by help from God and support from the sons of our glorious Arab nation, including true and sincere nationals ... in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have the ability to attack the soldiers and means of aggression from whatever region. Once again ... we draw the attention of the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and tell them you are getting involved now in a vicious and aggressive war that the people of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have no interest in... We warn the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and tell them 'you are now involved in an aggressive war which the peoples of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have no interest in, but America and Zionism do... If you are helpless and you have no desire for the aggression, we are able to target sources and means of aggression, and from anywhere it is launched, after relying on God and the support of our Arab nation'"
- 99-2-15: The government newspaper al-Jumhuriya repeats Iraq's threats in a front- page editorial, "We warn the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait against allowing the warplanes of the American and British aggressors to violate our airspace and we are able, after relying on God...to minimize and harm the bases of aggression. The rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should understand and read carefully what is inside the lines of the Iraqi leadership's statement (on Sunday.)"
- The Baath party newspaper al-Thawra says, "Iraq has the legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and national airspace. What is being launched by the United States and Britain against Iraq is an act of aggression."
- Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says Turkey will not rescind permission it has given the United States to base its planes at the Incirlik air base. "We shall greet (Aziz) with the good will and warmth that suits a host. But everyone should know that our policies will not change because of a visit." Turkish officials are expected to ask Iraq not to harbor Turkish Kurdish rebels.
- U.S. fighters strike at Iraqi defense sites on two separate occasions. An antiaircraft artillery site north of Mosul fires upon two F-15E's, which is some 250 miles north of Baghdad. One F-15E drops a 500-pound bomb on the site. The fighter planes return undamaged to Incirlik. The incident occurs about 11:26 a.m. Iraqi time. In another incident, an U.S. fighter launches a missile at an Iraqi radar site that targets it about an hour later. U.S. National Security Adviser Samuel Berger says, "As they've challenged the no-fly zones, we've responded against their air defense system."
- The United States says Iraq has violated the zones 90 times since it began challenging them in December. U.S. and British planes have retaliated by attacking more than 40 Iraqi air defense sites.
- An Iraqi spokesman says Iraqi air defenses engaged Western warplanes coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the south. "At 0940 local time (0640 GMT) 21 formations supported by early warning planes AWACS and E2C ... violated our national airspace ... coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti skies... These formations returned to their evil bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 1140 local time (0840 GMT) after implementing 42 missions and flew over the provinces of Dhiqar (Nissariya), Meisan (Amarah) and Basra (in southern Iraq)." He claims five civilians were killed and 22 were injured when U.S. planes attacked sites in the southern no-fly zone, and that "evil aggressors carried out today ... 42 aggressive sorties against the souls and properties of Iraqi people... Our air defense weapons fired at the these aggressive planes which bombed both civil and military sites. The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of five civilians."
- Iraq also says that fighters coming from Turkey violated Iraqi space in the north and that the planes came in two waves and conducted 23 sorties. The first wave came at 1000 local time (2 a.m. EST) (0700 GMT) and more U.S. planes entered Iraqi territory from Turkey in the north at 11:40 a.m. Iraqi time. It

- claims Iraqi air defenses opened fire but reported no damage or casualties.
- Iraq later claims that at least 32 people have been killed in the series of attacks.
 - The strikes coincide with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's visit to Turkey, and his meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit to voice displeasure at Turkey for allowing U.S. and British forces the use of Incirlik. Aziz, who traveled to Turkey through the Iraqi Kurdish areas, questioned the validity of the no-fly zones. "They claim they are protecting the Kurds from Iraqi government," he said. "Then how can an Iraqi deputy prime minister travel so easily?"
 - Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says Iraq will attack the Turkish base at Incirlik if the jets continue to patrol the skies over Iraq. Ramadan speaks in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. And says that "if the Turkish base continues attacking Iraq it will certainly be (targeted) like other bases" in the Gulf." He speaks just hours after Aziz holds talks with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit in Ankara.
 - U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger warns Iraq not to attack Turkey and other regional states, "It would be extraordinarily counterproductive for the Iraqis to take such a measure because we would respond ... strongly and firmly." Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says "We have made very clear that were there any attacks on our forces or on neighboring countries that our response would be swift and sure."
 - The Russian government again denies a Sunday Telegraph report that Russia signed a \$160 million deal to strengthen Iraq's air defenses and upgrade squadrons of MiG fighters in mid-January after a visit to Moscow by Ahmed Khalil, Iraq's Transport and Communications Minister. "The fabrications in the British media have clearly been initiated by those who try to cast a shadow on Russia's policy for political settlement of the Iraqi problem."
- 99-2-16: Iraq again warns neighboring states that they will pay a high price for basing U.S. and British warplanes that patrol the no-fly zones. In Ankara, Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says, "The U.S. and British planes are killing Iraqis, are destroying Iraqi property and this is not acceptable. A Turkish airbase should not be used by the Americans and British to hurt Iraqis." al-Jumhuriya says, "Time has run out for American and British aggressors and those supporting them. They shall pay a heavy price. We will tell them (Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti rulers) and their evil masters the United States and Britain that their continuous aggression on Iraq and its airspace will be confronted strongly. It is too late now for the American and British aggressors and their evil supporters and they will pay a dear price." Al-Qadissiya, the Iraqi military newspaper says that it "must be made clear and obvious to them that ... the price for their ongoing aggression will be very high."
- Al-Riyadh newspaper, which has close ties to the Saudi government, rejects Iraqi threats to attack Saudi bases used by to patrol no-fly zones. It asks in an editorial how Iraq could attack bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait if its forces were unable to hit even one aircraft in breaching Iraq's air space. "He is definitely living moments of self-defeat which could force him to take revenge from those around him as a result of...losing confidence even in those who are close to him." Al-Nadwa, another Saudi newspaper, says the only way to deal with Saddam is by "cutting the head off the snake. Instead of trying to digest the facts in an objective manner which may help it out of the swamp..., we find him insisting on distributing threats right and left in a campaign aimed at preventing any attempt by Arab states to lift the suffering from the Iraqi people." Okaz says. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... does not need to respond to the Iraqi regime's claims on the lie that U.S. and British planes use its territory as a launching pad...The response to these threats will be decisive and the kingdom will not shy from taking any measure to protect its territory and people and has the power to deal the Iraqi regime a new lesson..."
 - U.S. Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon says, "Any attack by Iraq against one of our allies in the region would be a severe mistake and would be met with a very swift and sure response. I think it is a sign of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's isolation and desperation that Iraq is making such threats. He has tried diplomacy with his neighbors. He has tried to cajole them in supporting his position and that has failed...We do maintain not only Patriot missiles, but a very significant counter-attack or deterrent capability in the region. And that is why any use of missiles or any other way to attack allied bases in this area would be a huge mistake on Saddam Hussein's part." Bacon and State Department spokesman James

- Rubin also deny the Sunday Telegraph that Russia agreed to sell some \$160 million in new air defense and warplane modernization services to Iraq. Bacon says, "I have nothing to suggest that report is true."
- Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf says the no-fly are outside the framework of United Nations resolutions. Their imposition is a continuous violation of Iraq's security and sovereignty." " he told the Iraqi News Agency during a visit to Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.
- 99-2-17: Kenneth Bacon again comments on Iraq's threats to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey says that Iraq has three options: fire Scud missiles, attack by air with planes, or launch a terrorist attack. Bacon says, "All of these would be difficult, given the circumstances that Iraq faces today...Whether or not he means this threat to be taken seriously, we have to take seriously threats like this...It's a sign of Saddam Hussein's desperation and isolation that Iraq is making such threats." Bacon says that Incirlik is at "the very outer edge" of the range of the Scud and is protected by Patriot anti-missile missiles. He says that Iraq's depleted air force would stand little chance against U.S. and allied air defenses in Turkey, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, "I don't think that they have significant air power to be able to launch a longer-range attack against bases deep inside another country's territory, and it would be extremely unwise for them to try to do that."
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says in Ankara, "The U.S. and British planes are killing Iraqis, are destroying Iraqi property, and this is not acceptable...A Turkish air base should not be used by the Americans and British to hurt Iraqis."
 - Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli says Turkey ready to respond to any threat by Iraq. "We have shown in the past that we are ready to meet and respond to any threats that are directed towards us. The Turkish spokesman describes the Iraqi remarks as "inappropriate, incorrect and unsuitable for neighborly relations."
 - Turkish forces advance into the Kurdish-held enclave in northern Iraq. A spokesman for Turkey's General Staff says, "It is a small-scale operation against the terrorists...it will not last long." Turkish forces are fighting the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Turkish special forces captured Ocalan in Kenya earlier in the week. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has called on PKK guerrillas to surrender and take advantage of an amnesty program.
 - Witnesses at the Habur border point on the Iraqi-Turkish border says 3,000-4,000 troops with armored vehicles have crossed over in the last few days. More than 29,000 rebels, troops, militiamen and civilians have died in 14 years of fighting between the PKK and Turkish forces.
- 99-2-18: Turkish troops advanced more than 15 km (nine miles) into northern Iraq to attack Kurdish guerrillas loyal to Abdullah Ocalan. Clashes occur near the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels' Haftanin camp in the Metina mountains. The Turkish forces are supported by fighters and Cobra helicopters. They include up to 4,000 troops supported by 1,000 members of a Kurdish pro-Turkish militia. Turkish officials say, "The operation will continue until its aims have been met. The terrorists are in a state of panic and don't know what to do."
- The U.S. denies an Iraqi report that U.S. planes patrolling a no-fly zone attacked anti-aircraft defenses in northern Iraq. An Iraqi military communiqué says, "In an aborted attempt on the will and endurance of our people, the killers did their cowardly act again and violated our national airspace...Ten hostile formations violated our airspace from the northern region coming from Turkish airspace at 11:05 a.m. (0805 GMT)...They involved F-14s, F-15s, and F-16s supported by early warning systems from inside Turkish airspace and implemented 21 sorties over regions in Ninevah and Dohuk... The crews attacked one of our brave air defense units, which challenged them with different weapons and compelled them to flee..." A Pentagon spokesman says some flights were in operation in the northern no fly zone, and there were reports of some anti-aircraft fire from the ground, which was ineffective against the aircraft flying at around 30,000 feet (9100 meters). The weather was bad and the U.S. made no response.
- 99-2-19: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sends a letter to Secretary General Annan claiming the U.S. and UK are still intent on "implementing a policy of brutal aggression against the Iraq people, government, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq." He claims their aircraft are "continuing intensive

strikes...against numerous Iraqi civilian localities, including cities, residential neighborhoods and populated areas." He says senior U.S. administration official told the Washington Post newspaper on Jan. 31 that this was "a way of pursuing an objective in a way that everyone's comfortable with," and that the U.S. followed Desert Fox with, "military operations of a different type involving low-intensity, high-technology strikes to enable it, in the long term, to achieve its objectives without arousing inter-Arab and international public opinion against it." Aziz said this policy had also been proclaimed by Peter Burleigh in a February 5th interview with the newspaper Al-Hayat in which he was quoted as saying U.S. policy was to replace the regime in the long term and that it would persist in maintaining the no-flight zones over northern and southern Iraq. Aziz says the silence of the UN would have "dangerous repercussions for international peace and security" and represent "the beginning of the collapse of the collective security system."

- Two U.S. Air Force F-16s fire missiles at an Iraqi site near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern "no-fly" zone. There is no damage to the aircraft..
- Turkey's army continues to attack the PKK in Iraq. The PKK offers to negotiate, but Turkey has rejects the offer. Turkish newspapers claim about 10,000. Turkish soldiers are in northern Iraq. Iraq has strongly denounced the incursion and demanded that Turkey withdraw. In Ceyhan, 330 miles south of Ankara, pro-PKK demonstrators fire on police, wounding three officers and a protester to an end to the conflict. Turkey claims some 37,000 people have died since fighting erupted in 1984. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit says the government will renew its call to the rebels to surrender, and assure them that parliament would pass a law providing lenient punishment after elections in April. Ecevit also hints that Turkey received outside help in capturing Ocalan. When asked whether assistance from the United States, Israel, or another country helped Turkey locate Ocalan, Ecevit said: "I can't reveal that. I can't give country name. But you can make your own guess." Three Greek Cabinet ministers, including the foreign minister, are forced to resign, and the Cabinet was reshuffled in Kenya. Kurdish protests in Europe go on for the third day."
- 99-2-21: U.S. and British warplanes attacks an Iraqi missile base and two military communication sites after two Iraqi jets violate the no-fly zone, The strikes occur near al-Amarah and Tallil, about 170 miles southeast of Baghdad. All the planes return safely to their base. Earlier, the official Iraqi News Agency said Iraqi air defenses might have shot down a Western military plane in southern Iraq. The U.S. and Britain deny any planes are lost.
- Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the U.S joint chiefs of staff, discusses Iraqi threats with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan. The talks focused on the raised tensions following Iraqi threats against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey earlier this month. Shelton is also visiting Oman and Qatar.
- 99-2-22: A report by Hans von Sponeck, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Baghdad, says Iraqi missiles aimed at U.S. and British planes flying over the northern no-fly zone have caused some civilian damage and hampered UN operations. The United Nations is concerned that continued aerial confrontations could affect food deliveries in northern areas and has restricted staff movements between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. local time -- the time when most incidents take place. Von Sponeck says the report was based on information from UN personnel and his own visit on Feb. 12 to the region around the city of Dohuk, 40 miles south of the Turkish border. The report says that 33 missiles landed in a 100-square-mile area around Dohuk between Feb. 2-12 and at least 21 exploded. The missiles appeared to be surface-to-surface artillery rockets fired from mobile, multiple rocket launchers. UN personnel in the area were not in a position to confirm any casualties. The UN World Food Program is concerned that the daily delivery of about 2,000 tons of food to Dohuk could be affected by continued aerial incidents.
- Iraq's UN Ambassador Saeed Hasan says during a Security Council debate protecting civilians in armed conflict, that the no-fly zones illegal and accuses Britain and the United States of shedding "crocodile tears over the Iraqi people whom they massacre every day. Two states, permanent members of the Security Council, consider themselves above the law." He claims that sanctions have cost the lives of a million-and-a-half Iraqi civilians, devastated the country's infrastructure for generations to come, and killed 10 Iraqi children every hour. He says Council members have a historic opportunity to save Iraqi civilians by immediately lifting sanctions and telling Britain and the United States to stop attacks in the

no-fly zones. He says it “has a good opportunity to protect the Iraqi civilians through preventing the daily use of force by Britain and the United States against them through the imposition of the illegal no-fly zones.”

- The British and U.S. ambassadors reply that allied planes are responding to Iraqi threats and attacks and that the no-fly zones are justified under international law because they protect civilians from Iraqi government repression. Peter Burleigh says Iraq's difficulties rested solely with the Iraqi leadership, which had tried to “erase one of its neighbors,” that the use of force against Iraq resulted from its refusal to comply with Gulf war disarmament requirements by giving up its weapons of mass destruction, and that the no-fly zones were created “for the express purpose of protecting Iraqi civilians from the depredations of the Iraqi regime...Just this weekend there have been many reports of Shia citizens being targeted by the regime in Baghdad and in the south following the assassination of a prominent Shia religious leader. The Iraqi regime is itself the perpetrator of calculated ongoing violence against Iraqi civilians. Until that violence stops, the international community, including the United States, must continue to exert every possible effort to protect the citizens of Iraq from their brutal regime.” Britain's Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock says the no-fly zones were established to help protect the civilian population in the north and south from repression by the government of Iraq.” When details of Iraq's “continuing repression of its own population” were fully told, “that story will be a horrific one. Any actions taken by my government in the no-fly zones are taken purely in self-defense and as a direct result of Iraqi threats and attacks.”
 - U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi military sites after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. and British planes also strike in the southern no-fly zone today after two Iraqi planes crossed into the zone. In the north, U.S. F-15s drop 11 precision-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and radar sites near Mosul. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. None of the planes are damaged and all return safely to their base of Incirlik, in southern Turkey. In the southern no-fly zone, six U.S. F-15E fighters and an unspecified number of British Tornado jets attack two communications facilities and two weapons storage facilities near Basra. The attacks in the southern no-fly zone take place in response to two Iraqi MiG-23 planes that briefly crossed into the zone and retreated.
 - There have now been more than 80 incidents involving American and British fighter jets in the no-fly zones in the past two months.
- 99-2-23: Two U.S. F-15 fighters drop 2,000-pound "bunker buster" bombs on a command and control installation in Iraq after planes patrolling the northern no-fly zone came under anti-aircraft fire. In a separate incident, an unknown number of F-15s drop 500-pound bombs on a SAM launch site after they were fired on by Iraqi anti-aircraft guns. Both incidents occur near Mosul at about 6 a.m. EST. Weather curtails patrol flights over the southern no-fly zone over Iraq. Pentagon officials say that two months of raids against Iraqi air defenses in response to air defense “provocations” have not led to any losses of allied warplanes but have destroyed about 20 percent of Iraq's anti-aircraft missile batteries.
- Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan rejects Iraqi threats to retaliate against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for allowing U.S. and British warplanes to patrol Iraq from their air bases. “These threats are of no importance because they do not come from a sane person who values the interests of his country and those of the Arab and Islamic nation.” His comments are the first official Saudi reaction to Iraq's demands that they stop allowing the U.S. and Britain to patrol a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Shi'ite Moslems.
- 99-2-24: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sends a letter to Secretary General Annan urging him to intervene to prevent Turkey from invading northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas, “The UN should shoulder its responsibility and prevent the continuous (Turkish) threat and aggression against Iraq. We urge you...to call on the Turkish government to withdraw its armed forces immediately from northern Iraq...The Iraqi government reserves the right of compensation for the damage sustained by such illegal practices.”
- Commodore Anthony Dymock, deputy commander of the British aircraft carrier ‘Invincible’ battle group in the Gulf, says Iraqi forces have violated the no-fly zone over southern Iraq more than 100 times since Operation Desert Fox. These violations range from “just nibbling across the zone to coming right down

close to the Saudi border...It seems as if they are designed to avoid contact with coalition aircraft if at all possible, and certainly when chased they retreat back over the border. It's a sort of teasing operation to test whether we still have the will to go on enforcing the no-fly zone and, of course, we do... So, although he doesn't represent a massive threat at any one time, his constant readiness to probe and look for weakness means that we can't afford to change our stance. He doesn't fly much at weekends... he's tended not to bring his aircraft within missile firing range and has tended to rely on the ground-based air defense system...We've had no direct engagements between our aircraft and Iraqi aircraft." He says, no Iraqi aircraft have crossed either the Saudi or Kuwaiti borders since late January. The Invincible carries a mix of 24 aircraft: Sea Harrier jump jets. The carrier and its escorts are also enforcing sanctions against Iraq by stopping and searching merchant shipping. "HMS Cumberland is currently, probably as we speak, boarding ships at the northern end of the Gulf checking that the oil-for-food embargo is working and making sure that the only goods that go in are authorized ones." The Invincible's tour of duty is due to end in April and no current plans exist to replace it with Britain's two other aircraft carriers.

- Air raid sirens go off in Baghdad, and Iraq claims that U.S. and British fighter attacked targets on the outskirts of Baghdad, killing or wounding several people, the Iraqi armed forces said. Iraq claims 23 formations of aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait carried out a total of 48 sorties.
 - U.S. officials says USAF and Navy aircraft attacked two Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites near Al Iskandariyah, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire and an Iraqi aircraft violation of the southern no-fly zone. An unspecified number of F-15E and F/A-18 aircraft carried out the attacks. Attacks are conducted by U.S. Air Force F-15E and Navy F/A-18 against two surface-to-air missile sites near Al Iskandariyah, about 30 miles (48 km) south of Baghdad in response to an Iraqi aircraft violation of the no-fly zone and anti-aircraft artillery fire directed at coalition aircraft. U.S. Air Force F-16 jets fire two high-speed, anti-radiation missiles against an air defense radar site near Tallil in southern Iraq after the aircraft were targeted by radar. This is the fourth consecutive day of raids.
 - In Baghdad, a communiqué carried by the official Iraqi news agency says Western warplanes attacked Baghdad, killing one person and wounding others. It said the planes hit some targets in the suburbs of the capital but did not immediately say what the targets were. Pentagon officials, says no attacks had been launched against targets in Baghdad.
 - The director of Iraqi News Agency, Uday al-Ta'ie, says civilians have been killed and wounded in a "grave escalation. American jet fighters crossed tonight the 33rd parallel to a distance of 20 kilometers (12 miles) north in the direction to Baghdad. They "used for the first time new guided projectiles. Our anti-defenses were able to shoot one of the three projectiles and the two others hit one of our civilian sites...We reaffirm once again that Iraq will not and will never recognize the so-called no-fly zones... Iraq will maintain its full rights to legitimate defense of its airspace and it will confront anyone who dares to (attack) the sovereignty and security of Iraq."
 - U.S. officials deny that U.S. planes crossed the 33rd parallel, designated by the United States and Britain as the border for the southern no-fly zone intended to protect Shi'ites after the 1991 Gulf war.
 - President Clinton says of Iraq that, "They're trying obviously for the symbolic victory of shooting one of these planes down and perhaps trying to intimidate us from enforcing the no-fly zone, which we're still bound to do... We have not given up on the prospect of restoring inspections."
- 99-2-25: The Baath party newspaper al-Thawra says, "The British-American aggression rumbles on! We ask those responsible in Arab countries "Is it really possible to call what American and British planes are undertaking 'international monitoring'?" Babel says, "It's a shame the escalation can occur in this war of Anglo- American aggression against Iraq without a move from international organizations and those which moan about international law, and without a warning to the aggressors from this organization and its security council."
- Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry Shelton, denies U.S. and British aircraft attacked targets outside the no-fly zone and said they did not intend to do so at this point.. "The report...is erroneous. We have not gone across the 33rd, nor south of the 36th. We operate only up to the 33rd parallel and do not go south of the 36th. We have not and at this point do not intend to do that as an

enforcement mechanism.” He states that U.S. and British aircraft acted in self-defense and in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's “provocation” and “aggressive acts... Anything coming out of Baghdad should be questioned in terms of its veracity since we have seen very little of the truth coming out of Iraq in recent years... He declared that no-fly zones would be null and void, and consequently has in recent days decided to violate the no-fly zone as well as to fire his anti-aircraft artillery, his surface-to-air missiles and light up our aircraft with radar which is an offensive action in itself.”

- 99-2-27: Iraq claims U.S. and British aircraft strike military and civilian targets in the south and wounding 23 people. Iraq claims 11 formations of F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft carried out 28 sorties targeting civil and military targets in Basra, Dhiqar, Maisan, Najaf and Muthana provinces in southern Iraq and that the planes came from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. “Our anti-aircraft weapons have confronted the enemy formations, forcing them to flee to the bases of evil.”
- The U.S. says U.S. Air Force F-15Es, and Navy F/A-18s and F-14s retaliate with precision guided munitions against anti-aircraft artillery fire directed at coalition aircraft on a previous mission. The planes attack two Iraqi military communication facilities in the no-fly zone southeast of Baghdad at about 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT) on Saturday in response to Iraqi aggression.. The strikes were conducted near As Samawah, about 130 miles (210 km) southeast of Baghdad, and Al Amarah, about 170 miles (270 km) southeast of Baghdad. The aircraft return safely to base. The U.S. statement say Iraq had violated the southern no-fly zone more than 90 times since Desert Fox. It cites more than 30 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations against coalition aircraft. It added that coalition forces enforcing the southern no-fly zone have attacked more than 35 targets.
- 99-2- 28: The Baath party paper al-Thawra calls on the Arab League to work some Security Council permanent members to end the no-fly zones. “If there are major foreign countries...calling for non-interference in Iraq's affairs...the Arabs, therefore, should work with these (UN) permanent members...to stop aggression.... Russia, China and France call for non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs and consider America's imposition of the no-fly zones...a unilateral measure that contradicts international legitimacy. The Arab League...is needed to demand the United Nations to take necessary measures to stop the American-British aggression on Iraq.”
- U.S. warplanes bomb sites in northern Iraq after coming under Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. A flight of U.S. F-15Es are fired upon at 1:55 p.m. Iraqi time (5:55 a.m. EST/1055 GMT. In retaliation, the F-15Es fire three air-to-ground missiles and three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defense headquarters and radio relay. A short time later, F-15E aircraft dropped two 500-pound (230 kg) and three 2,000-pound (910-kg) laser guided bombs. Both incidents occur near Mosul, about 200 miles (320 km) north of Baghdad, and are over at 2:20 p.m. Iraqi time (6:20 a.m. EST/1120 GMT). No U.S. aircraft are damaged.
 - Iraq said three people are killed by the warplanes in villages in the north of the country. “The crows returned today...and attacked with their malicious bombs a number of villages in Ninevah province (Mosul) and the bombings killed three innocent civilians. At 1300 local time (1000 GMT) of today 11 hostile formations violated our air space coming from Turkey...and implemented 21 sorties...(they returned) to the bases of wickedness and evil in Turkish territory at 1642 local time (0142 GMT). The black crows flew over the provinces of Ninevah, Dohuk and Arbil and bombed a number of civilian installations and villages in Ninevah.”
 - Faleh al-Khayat, director-general of planning and studies at the Iraqi Oil Ministry, tells a news conference U.S. planes bombed a pipeline used by Iraq to export oil via Turkey. “The attack resulted in the stoppage of crude oil pumping through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. The pumping has not been recommenced until this moment. At 1445 (1145 GMT) of today... Repeater Station Number 6 (RS6) which constitutes a vital link in the control of the operation of Iraqi-Turkish pipeline ... was subjected to a vicious aerial attack by American airplanes coming from Turkey” He one oil worker was killed and two were wounded in the attack and that the pipeline carried half of Iraqi crude exports to the Turkish port of Ceyhan in the Mediterranean. The strikes hit the Ain Zahla oil control complex, about 470 km (290 miles) north of Baghdad, on Monday, killing one person and injuring seven people

- A Turkish official at the Ceyhan oil terminal confirms that the flow has stopped and said an attack had hit "energy transmission lines of a communications center," which operates the pipeline. U.S. Army Col. Richard Bridges, the Pentagon's director of defense information, said the pipeline was neither targeted nor hit by allied forces. "We have no indication that we hit anything other than what we intended to hit, which is elements of Iraq's integrated air defense system."
- 99-3-1: Kerim Unal of the Turkish Botas pipeline company says Iraq will restore the flow of crude to Turkey by Monday. "They told me they were making an effort to have pumping start again this evening ' He says said he had spoken by telephone to Talal Ashur, the head of Iraq's Northern Oil Company, after the attack, and that a pipeline repeater station 35 km (20 miles) from Mosul was hit at 1500 (1200 GMT) causing a fire which was later put out. He say I Iraqi officials managed to restore pumping for two hours on Sunday evening using an emergency system which later collapsed. He says Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed will visit the damaged station Monday morning.
- Defense Secretary William Cohen says that "We responded to attacks on our aircraft ... that placed our pilots in jeopardy...We did in fact target a communications facility which may or may not have interrupted the flow of oil temporarily to Turkey."
- U.S. F-15Es based at Incirlik drop more than 30 2,000-pound and 500-pound laser guided bombs on Iraqi communications sites, radio relay sites and anti-aircraft artillery sites near the city of Mosul. The attacks are the biggest of about 100 such incidents in the no-fly zones since Desert Fox
- Secretary Cohen says at a news conference that U.S. pilots have been given more latitude to hit a range of air defense targets in no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq in response to Iraqi threats. "Pilots have been given greater flexibility to attack those systems that place them in jeopardy. They are not simply going to respond to a triple-A (anti-aircraft artillery) site or to a SAM (surface-to-air missile) site...They can go after command and control and communications centers as well that allow Saddam Hussein to try to target them and put them in jeopardy. So they have some flexibility and they will continue to have that flexibility."
- 99-3-2: Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan says in Iraq's Al-Qadissiya newspaper that, "Iraq will continue to defend its sovereignty and confront the American and British planes which carry out daily aggressions."
- A Pentagon official says that U.S. and British aircraft will completely destroy Iraq's air defenses in no-fly zones north and south if Iraq keeps trying to shoot down U.S. and British planes, "Our strategy of degrading Iraq's air defenses in recent weeks isn't new. But Monday's strikes should make it clear that tit-for-tat is over. The number of bombs and range of targets is growing. Even if he is now down to using ineffective anti-aircraft guns, we're going to hit back at his (air-defense) network. He isn't going to have much left in the way of defense in those zones...All bets are off if Iraq manages to shoot down a U.S. or British jet."
- 99-3-3: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein holds talks with his military officials, his second meeting in two days. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) says the talks include the ministers of military industry, industry and minerals and the heads of the air forces and air defense. It gives no other details.
- President Clinton sends a quarterly report to Congress saying that American and British warplanes have hit Iraq on more than 50 occasions since the major bombing campaign in December, substantially degrading Saddam Hussein's air defense system. "As long as Saddam Hussein remains in power, he represents a threat to the well-being of his people, the peace of the region and the security of the world. We will continue to contain the threat he poses, but over the long term the best way to address that threat is through a new government in Baghdad." He says the U.S. will support, the forces for change in Iraq to help make the opposition a more effective voice for the aspirations of the Iraqi people." Clinton said that since Desert Fox, "We have seen a significant increase in the frequency, intensity and coordination of the Iraqi air defense system to counter enforcement of the no-fly zones" protecting minority Iraqis in the north and south. Since that date, U.S. and coalition aircraft enforcing the no-fly zones have been subject to multiple anti-aircraft artillery firings, radar illuminations and over 20 surface-to-air missile attacks. On over 50 occasions since December, U.S. and coalition forces have engaged the Iraqi integrated air defense system. As a consequence, the Iraqi air defense system has been degraded substantially further

- since December.” He also says that the human rights situation in Iraq is a “cause for grave concern,” with reports of hundreds of executions, including “summary prison killings.”
- Turkish President Suleyman Demirel says that Turkey cannot accept U.S. strikes in northern Iraq that led to the closure of a pipeline carrying crude from Iraq to Turkey.
 - Turkish Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk, does not criticize the US. “This is a self-defense operation ... It is quite natural that aircraft make use of the right of self-defense.”
 - China's envoy to the UN, Qin Huasun, calls for a halt to air strikes against Iraqi targets by the U.S. and Britain at a closed-door Security Council consultation. He and the Russian representative repeat their long-held view that the no-fly zones were not authorized by the Council and were illegal.
 - -U.S. Ambassador Nancy Soderberg tells Council members that U.S. forces in the region are acting to protect the vulnerable population of Iraq. She denies the U.S. targeted the northern Iraq pipeline and said neither it nor pumping stations had been hit. “The area that was hit was in our belief part of the Iraqi air defense system, the communications area. The Iraqi command and control is part of the area that is threatening our pilots and we will continue to move in our self-defense.”
 - State Department deputy spokesman James Foley says, “We can state certainly that we don't intentionally target infrastructure associated with the oil-for-food program, but this matter is being looked into... We are targeting not only air defense radar and weapon systems, but also other parts of the Iraqi air defense command and control, early warning, and communications network. We targeted these facilities because we believe that they serve a function in the operation of Iraq's air defense system in that part of the country. As I said, we're conducting further analysis of those strikes, and we're cooperating with the Turkish government in the investigation of this matter," he added.
 - A U.S. military spokesman said there were no incidents in the northern no-fly zone over Iraq and all of the U.S. and British planes involved in the air patrols had returned safely to the Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey.
- 99-3-4: An Iraqi oil ministry spokesman says that “Oil exports were resumed early on March 4 through the Iraq-Turkish pipeline with its normal capacity. After relying on God, our brave fighters in the oil sector ... were able to repair the damage inflicted by the failing crows of America.” The spokesman says oil resumed flowing via the pipeline after the repair of a repeater station 35 km (20 miles) from the city of Mosul and a telecommunications Centre in Ain Zala 50 km (30 miles) northwest of the city. Both sites were bombed by U.S. warplanes on Sunday.
- Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sermet Atacanl says of the U.S. attacks on the Iraqi oil “This latest event was an opportunity to underline our sensitivity. No, it is not acceptable. There should be a solution to this tension which has been a bleeding wound since 1991. It is time now for both sides to deal with the issue.” He adds a call for Iraq to comply with UN resolutions.
 - Defense Secretary William Cohen says, “We are very sensitive to that and we want to make sure that we don't disrupt the flow of oil going into Turkey... There is some flexibility given to the pilots, but we are very careful about that. We are trying to stay within the bounds of making sure that we are sending a message but don't exceed the bounds... Our pilots now are trying to respond only to those instruments that present a threat to them... We have not targeted pipelines. We have not targeted pumping stations. They will continue to target only those facilities that pose a threat to them. “Cohen will visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt and Israel before flying home on March 12. He says he will explain the increasing tempo of attacks in the southern Iraqi no-fly zone from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. “They want to make sure that we are acting appropriately and I think that we can demonstrate very clearly that (Iraqi President) Saddam (Hussein) has been consistently violating the no-fly zones Some 20 SAMs (surface-to-air-missiles) have been launched against our aircraft. It is a very dangerous mission flying over the north and the south, so we intend to take whatever measures we can to ensure the safety of those pilots. I will carry that message to all of the Gulf states and I believe they will be satisfied that we are taking appropriate action.”
 - British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook defends the UK's participation in air strikes on Iraq after talks

with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. "On the issue of the no-fly zones, it should be very firmly remembered that the reason for the no-fly zones is to prevent Saddam Hussein from bombing his own people. We are in no doubt that if he were able to fly his planes in the zone, he would use this to repress both the Kurdish and the Shi'ite populations. The military action which has been taken by our planes to enforce that no-fly zone has been taken in self-defense when they have been targeted by anti-aircraft batteries."

- British Defense Secretary George Robertson says, "Saddam has moved a lot of Sam missiles and anti-aircraft batteries into southern and northern Iraq and the Iraqi pilots are trying to lure our pilots into missile ambushes." He says that there had been 100 incursions into the no-fly zones by 150 Iraqi aircraft in the past 11 weeks. Robertson insists operations were still "purely defensive" in nature and strikes on Iraqi sites were in response to precise attacks on allied pilots.
 - The Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra says "Here comes British Defense Secretary George Robertson arrogantly announcing...that his government has directed its pilots to expand rules of engagement under the pretext of protecting them. They are ostensibly carrying out a legal act, as if Iraqi airspace were British and as if the Iraqis were the aggressors, not the British or the Americans." The Iraqi News Agency said U.S. and British planes, flying out of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, had flown 3,703 sorties in the no-fly zones between December 21 and the end of February.
 - A British Tornado jet attacks an Iraqi military radar site in the southern no-fly zone in response to two Iraqi violations in the exclusion zone. The British jet strikes a radar site some 15 miles (22 km) south of the town of Al-Basrah near Ash Shuaybah in southern Iraq at about 8:15 a.m. EST (1315 GMT). The strikes are in response to two Iraqi violations of the southern no-fly zone and aircraft illuminations by Iraqi surface-to-air missiles. There have now been more than 95 Iraqi violations in the Western-enforced southern no-fly zone and 35 incidents involving Iraqi surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and target-tracking radar illuminations against U.S. and British aircraft patrolling the Western-enforced zone.
 - An Iraqi military spokesman says that U.S. and British warplanes attacked a private farm in the southern Western-imposed no-fly zone. "Hostile formations flew over regions in Basra and Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces and dropped two bombs on a farm of a citizen in Basra. At 850 (550 GMT) and 1600 (1300 GMT) today, March 4, nine hostile formations violated our national airspace coming from Kuwaiti airspace and 11 formations from the Saudi one...these formations involved F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 warplanes supported by the British Tornado. ...Those black crows carried out 44 sorties supported by the Early Warning plane AWACS and A-2C from the Saudi airspace...the hostile formations left Iraqi airspace at 1657 (13:57 GMT) returning to the dens of evil and aggression in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."
 - Ahmed Ben Hilli, the assistant secretary-general of the Arab League An Arab League, arrives in Baghdad to brief Iraq on Arab talks scheduled for Sunday in Damascus on the UN sanctions on the Iraq. The INA reports he says that attacks by U.S and British warplanes in Iraq's no-fly zones are "unjustifiable...There is no justification for what the United States and Britain are doing against Iraq...the Arab League on February 28 issued a clear statement expressing resentment at the U.S.-British aggression on Iraq." The INA says, "Ahmed Ben Hilli will hold talks with Iraqi officials on means of enhancing Arab solidarity." Iraq has rejected the Arab committee formed at an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo in January to help end sanctions and which is headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara and includes the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Jordan and.
- 99-3-6: U.S. jets strike three sites in Iraq's southern no-fly zone day and five Iraqi anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone after coalition aircraft are threatened by Iraqi weapons. In the south, two Iraqi communications facilities and a surface-to-air missile site are struck by U.S. aircraft at around 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT. One of the communications facilities is near the southern city of Al Basrah and the other, a military radar relay station, was about 100 miles (160 km) northwest of Al Basrah, as is the missile site. The attacks are launched after coalition aircraft, which include U.S. and British planes, were targeted by Iraqi missile guidance radar. The U.S. aircraft involved in the strikes, Air Force F-16 Falcons operating from unidentified bases in southwestern Asia and Navy F/A-18 Hornets operating from the USS Carl Vinson All return safely.

- Separately, a U.S. military spokesman in Turkey says F-15E Strike Eagles release GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on five Iraqi artillery sites south of Saddam lake. A U.S. airforce commander at Incirlik says, "What it seems has been happening in the last few days is Iraqis have been changing their positions... We have simply widened the definition of what a threat system is from a specific system to integrated system and all the things attached to that site," ...The systems they are using and the way they are forced to use them because of our tactics means they have a very low probability of hitting any of our aircraft."
- An Iraqi military spokesman says that a number of people were injured when Western warplanes attacked civilian and military targets in the south and north of the country, "A number of aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait flew over (the southern cities) of Nasiriya, Basra, Amarah and Samawah and fired their missiles against service installations and some military positions, wounding several citizens...Our ground defenses confronted the hostile planes and forced them to flee, returning back to airbases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 0930 (0630 GMT)...At 1125 local time (0825 GMT) 17 hostile formations violated our air space coming from Turkey...and fired at our military positions in Mosul...Our air defenses confronted the hostile planes and forced them to flee at 1435 (1135 GMT)."
- The official newspaper al-Qadissiya newspaper reports that young Iraqis have begun enlisting in month-long military training courses to increase their readiness to meet foreign attack. The paper say 18 courses are planned in 1999 and 2000. Women will take part as well as men.
- 99-3-7: The Baath party newspaper, al- Thawra, says "The American policy is facing a deadlock and Cohen's shuttle visits will fail.. The tour by Zionist Cohen in the region...is part of a continuous American policy of pressure and blackmail... the only two states who "submit to American blackmail are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Babel says, "The aggression by American and British planes in the north and south of Iraq will end and the flagrant American policy against Iraq will fail."
- 99-3-8: U.S. fighters drop laser-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone on Monday and American and British planes hit three targets in the south. The latest bombing in the northern zone took place between 12:35 p.m. and 1:35 p.m. Iraqi time (4:35 a.m. EST/0935 GMT and 5:35 a.m. EST/1035 GMT) near Saddam Lake in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles dropp GBU laser-guided bombs on several anti-aircraft artillery sites. Later in the southern no-fly zone, U.S. Air Force F-16CGs, U.S. Navy F/A-1s and British Royal Air Force GR-1 Tornados hit two sites at approximately 6:30 p.m. Iraqi time (10:30 a.m. EST/1530 GMT). According to a release from the U.S. Central Command, the jets struck an Iraqi airborne warning site near As Samawah, a surface-to-air missile site 50 miles (80 km) northwest of As Samawa near Abu Sukhayr and a radio relay station 75 miles (120 km) northeast of As Samawah. A Pentagon spokesman says U.S. forces did not suffer any injuries and there was no damage to their planes.
- An Iraqi military spokesman says one person had been injured in the northern area when Western warplanes attacked civilian and military targets in both the south and north of the country.
- 99-3-9: Qatar's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani tells a joint news conference with U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen., "We do not wish to see Iraq bombed daily or these attacks which are being made in the no-fly zones. Sometimes we have our differences. I have to say this very frankly. We have different opinions in this. But let me tell you one thing: the main issue is how to bring peace and stability in the area. We understand the position of the United States... in principle I don't think there is any difference between us and the opinion of the United States." This is the first open opposition to the attacks Cohen finds on his tour of the Gulf.
- Cohen defends the U.S. strikes as basic self-defense against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's stepped-up effort to defy international sanctions and shoot down U.S. and British fighters. "The way for the attacks to stop is for Saddam to simply stop trying to violate the no-fly zones and stop trying to kill our pilots."
- The Iraqi al-Qadissiya newspaper says Arab rulers should have not received Cohen and "should have rejected (U.S.) flagrant violation of the UN charter...How come you are receiving such a Zionist...with your open arms?" Al-Iraq newspaper says Iraq will continue to challenge U.S. and British warplanes which are imposing two no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq. "Iraq will continue its resistance and defiance..." al-Jumhuriya says that Cohen's tour was "echoing the same old story which has been said

again and again for the last nine years.”

- The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq says Iraq has executed 24 army officers including a top general who used to command Baghdad's air defense system, and whose latest position was as an adviser to Saddam's cousin, Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid the military commander in southern Iraq. SCIRI claims that al-Ghriri's execution led to rioting by his al-Ghriri tribe, which controls the strategic highway between Baghdad and the southern provinces. It says one police officer was killed and some 20 clan members were arrested. The Al-Ghriris are Sunni Muslims who have supported Saddam and provided his army and intelligence with loyal members. Al-Ghriri was in charge of the anti-aircraft installations in central Iraq, including Baghdad. It claims Maj. Gen. Ghadhban Abed al-Ghriri and 23 other officers were executed Feb. 8 after being accused of conspiring against President Saddam Hussein. SICRI also identifies Lt. Gen. Kamel Sachet as among the 24 executed. Sachet, a veteran of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran War, was a commander of an Iraqi army corps in Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War. The report cannot be independently verified. The Iraqi government does not respond to claims by opposition groups. Last month, other dissidents reported the same plot, orchestrated by exiled Iraqi army commanders. The dissidents, however, reported the execution of only one officer, Lt. Gen. Kamel Sachet, after Saddam discovered the plot. The dissidents said two of generals approached by the conspirators informed Saddam. The coup was supposed to have taken place during a future standoff with the United States and Britain.
- Two Nobel peace laureates, Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Ireland and Adolfo Perez-Esquivel of Argentina, arrived in Iraq as part of a New York-based international peace activist group, Fellowship Of Reconciliation. They call on President Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday to end the bombing of Iraq and allow sanctions to be lifted. Perez-Esquivel says, “This is genocide. Children are dying slowly and painfully.. We call on the president of America, the vice president and the congressmen to come to Iraq and see the little children and Tony Blair, the U.K. government and Kofi Annan to come and to go to the cancer ward and give us an answer ... what was their crime.” Maguire says, “I have seen children dying with their mothers next to them and not being able to do anything... We, in Ireland, are grateful for what he has accomplished with the help of ... Blair and will be more grateful if they work together again to stop sanctions and bombing of Iraq.”
- 99-3-10: Secretary Cohen ends his tour the Gulf states on Wednesday saying they support containing Iraq despite expressing some dissent in public over the air raids. “There have been no expressions of dissent or question about our need to protect our pilots... the foreign minister of Qatar did not think that daily attacks were, in his judgement, necessary... They fully support United States policy in the region. You have to look to deeds as well as words and I'm satisfied that we have the support of all of the Gulf states... including Qatar, for our policies. We are very satisfied with the situation in the Gulf and our relationship with all the Gulf states. Everything we have requested has been agreed to... This is no time to ease up on Iraq. We must insist on full compliance with UN resolutions. There should be no relief granted to Iraq until there is full compliance. Whether the French have a different position is another matter.”
- Cohen thanks Kuwait “for the strong support it provides our troops.” He says the two countries have agreed on “several specific steps to make our strong cooperation even stronger, including sharing early warning information on missile tests in Iraq and Iran. We will cooperate on ways to improve our ability to detect and defend against chemical and biological weapons. I was pleased to learn that Kuwait had already budgeted money to start work on such a program.”
- Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid announces that Arab foreign ministers will meet the following week to discuss U.S. and British strikes on targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. “There is a need to put an end to U.S. raids on these zones because the UN Security Council has not authorized them.”
- 99-3-11: Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni tells the House Armed Services Committee, “There aren't any groups that I could say that we could arm today that would march on Baghdad and successfully achieve regime change,” Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni told the House Armed Services Committee. “I do not feel it's wise at this point to speak of providing weapons, creating camps for groups that are not viable. I am all for

encouraging them to work out their differences. I am all for them speaking of a post-Saddam regime. History teaches us in this region that you can change regimes if that's your only goal and you could end up with an Afghanistan, an Iran, a Somalia," Zinni warned. "In the long run they could be more destabilizing." Zinni says the Clinton administration should continue its long-term strategy of weakening Saddam militarily while supporting his opponents inside and outside of Iraq without letting the country disintegrate into chaos. Walter Slocombe, undersecretary of defense for policy, says, "If there was a way to get rid of him quickly, we'd do it. We want to see a changed regime in Iraq. We do not believe that is something which we can count on happening at any particular time and certainly not real fast... It's not an instant solution...It won't fit on a bumper sticker. But it is, I think, a policy which has worked historically for longer than people thought it would. ... This is a long-term effort." Slocombe says the Clinton administration's strategy is to keep Saddam in a strategic box by maintaining support of Arab nations and other allies for U.S. actions; maintaining UN sanctions against Iraq to prevent Saddam from using oil profits to buy weapons, and keeping a robust U.S. military presence in the Gulf to respond to Iraqi aggression, including incursions into "no-fly" zones imposed to protect rebel groups. Former CIA chief James Woolsey says, "Perhaps the administration, in order to stay focused, needs to post a sign on the wall of the White House Situation Room that says, 'It's the regime, stupid.'" Zinni replies, "It's not just the regime. It is the region. It is stability in the region that counts. ... And whatever you do to affect regime change, a noble goal, should be done with that in mind."

- An Iraqi military spokesman said its air defenses have "possibly hit" one of a group of Western planes flying over the southern no-fly zone. The U.S. military dismisses the report that Iraqi forces had hit a Western plane and says all planes day returned safely and undamaged. Britain denies at any of its planes patrolling Iraqi no-fly zones had been hit by anti-aircraft fire. A Ministry of Defense spokesman says, "Coalition aircraft flew their patrols of the no-fly zones today as usual...Although they met with the now routine Iraqi provocation, no response was deemed necessary and all aircraft returned safely. We have seen this sort of vague propaganda emanating from Baghdad too often to attach any seriousness to it."
- 99-3-12: U.S. fighters patrolling a no-fly zone over northern Iraq as part of Operation Northern Watch bomb anti-aircraft artillery sites after detecting Iraqi radar systems in use. U.S. F-15 fighters a Marine EA-6B Prowler respond by dropping GB-12 500 pound laser-guided bombs and a "Prowler" jet fired an anti-radiation missile on several sites north and northwest of Mosul.
 - The official Iraqi News Agency says, "nine formations of enemy planes" violated Iraqi airspace and fired seven missiles at "civilian installations and some weapons belonging to our ground defenses," and that the formation included U.S. F-16s and British Tornado fighter-bombers.
 - Defense Secretary William Cohen returns home after an eight-day tour of the Mideast with no public endorsement from any Arab ally of the U.S. airstrikes on Iraq. The only Arab official to speak to reporters traveling with Cohen is Qatar's foreign minister who criticized the strikes by U.S. warplanes. Cohen's aides say the silence is not unwelcome. Muslim leaders otherwise would have had to respect public opinion and voice concern about the strikes.
 - Libyan leader Gadhafi urges the U.S. and Britain to stop their "aggression against Iraq." immediately, saying strikes humiliate Arabs. Gadhafi also says U.S. Defense Secretary Cohen's recent visit to Persian Gulf states, Egypt, Jordan and Israel sought to "to weaken Arabs spirits and give the impression that Arabs support the American and British stance toward Iraq. `If they want to protect their interests and have interests in this great region ... they should kneel in front of the Arab Nation and respect it. The continuous American-British aggression against Iraq should be stopped immediately... We don't care about Saddam or his government. ... We care about Iraqi people and children who are part of the Arab nation. This aggression against Iraqi people is a farce and a humiliation to the Arabs' dignity and honor."
- 99-3-14: General Anthony Zinni says he is in favor of toppling Saddam Hussein, but not in a way that could destabilize the region. "I am not opposed to the Iraqi regime changing. I am all for that change. I just cautioned to be careful on any kind of programs that we institute on how that might come about... We have to make sure that the transition to a new regime is done in a way that doesn't destabilize the region...That's a very big concern. We do not want to see the territorial integrity of Iraq broken apart or changed in any way. We think it is important that it stays together. It is an important country (with a)

- very proud heritage, and it is important for the region that it stays together... We ought to work with them (various opposition groups) and bring them together. I think we need to be careful about any military aspects to that.”
- U.S. fighters bomb several Iraqi air defense sites when they come under fire in the northern “no-fly” zone, F-15E Strike Eagles drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on several anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest and west of the city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. All aircraft return safely.
 - Al-Jumhuriya quotes Iraq's air force commander, Lt. Gen. Khaldoun Khatab Bakr, as saying that his country was determined to confront any violation of its air space. “We have prepared means to carry out our right to fly in our skies, and we are determined to break what they call the ‘no-fly’ zones. Many dogfights have taken place...over our airspace despite the technical and numerical superiority of the enemy. Due to their failure and embarrassment, the enemy pilots resort to dodging and evasive ways through committing aggression against civilian and population facilities and complexes...We are fully determined to break the so-called Iraqi no-fly zones through our flights practiced by our brave hawks (pilots) every day...It is a holy right and the arrogant American-Zionist enemy should realize this fact.”
- 99-3-15: U.S. fighters bomb air defense targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones. F-15E jets based in Incirlik detect Iraqi radar emissions posing a threat to patrolling aircraft and drop an unspecified number of laser-guided bombs on several artillery batteries northwest of the city of Mosul. Mosul is about 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Allied planes have fired on the area at least 24 times since Dec. 28th. U.S. Air Force F-16 and Navy F/A-18 and F-14 jets attack an Iraq radar relay site 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Baghdad and another radar site 290 miles (465 km) southeast of Baghdad in response to violations of the southern zone by Iraqi warplanes. All the jets returned safely to their bases.
- The Iraqi News Agency says that one person was injured on Monday when U.S. and British warplanes attacked sites in the southern zone.
- 99-3-15: Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf goes to Cairo to urge Arab League to demand an immediate end to U.S. and British air strikes.
- U.S. fighters bomb air defense targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones. F-15E jets based in Incirlik detect Iraqi radar emissions posing a threat to patrolling aircraft and drop an unspecified number of laser-guided bombs on several artillery batteries northwest of the city of Mosul. Mosul is about 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Allied planes have fired on the area at least 24 times since Dec. 28th. U.S. Air Force F-16 and Navy F/A-18 and F-14 jets attack an Iraq radar relay site 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Baghdad and another radar site 290 miles (465 km) southeast of Baghdad in response to violations of the southern zone by Iraqi warplanes. All the jets returned safely to their bases.
 - The Iraqi News Agency says that one person was injured on Monday when U.S. and British warplanes attacked sites in the southern zone.
- 99-3-16: USAF F-15E fighters respond to Iraqi radar illuminations by bombing anti-aircraft artillery sites in the northern no-fly zone. They drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs “in self defense” on several anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest of Mosul between 11.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Iraqi time (0845 GMT and 0915 GMT) and hit military facilities around the Iraqi city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. All F-15Es leave the area safely. This is third consecutive day of confrontations. The Iraqi armed forces say civilian installations and some weapons sites were hit.
- 99-3-17: The ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar meet for two days in the Saudi capital Riyadh, and issue a statement that says they, “asserted that the Iraqi government was responsible for subjecting Iraq and the region to more dangers and the brotherly Iraqi people to more suffering.” They warn Iraq about its “policy of adventure and threats.” They describe Iraqi official attacks, including those of President Saddam Hussein, on Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as “direct and dangerous” threats.
- A spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information says, “We are not surprised at a statement which is American in content and language.” He the statement was worded by the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saudi al-Faisal, in accordance with instructions issued by U.S. Defense Secretary

William Cohen and that it was full of "lies...American and British continuing aggression against Iraq. The Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes are providing airbases for American and British warplanes in order to bomb Iraq's cities and kill its people."

- Saudi Arabia denies Iraqi charges that U.S. and British planes that flew over Iraq took off from Saudi territory and Iraqi claims for compensation while reasserting Saudi Arabia's right to request damages for the "aggression launched by Iraq." Saudi Arabia's UN charge d'affaires, Abdulrahman al-Ahmed, sends identical letters to Secretary-General Annan and to the president of the Security Council circulated that says Iraqi allegations about the use of Saudi territory by U.S. and British aircraft "are completely gratuitous and unfounded....we wish to reaffirm that the liability for such damage falls squarely on the Iraqi government, whose policies of aggression ... led to the adoption of international resolutions and measures based on the international legal order...While condemning Iraq's requests, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to reassert its right, enshrined in law, to request compensation for the moral and material damage sustained as a result of the aggression launched by Iraq against the Saudi territory and people." Al-Ahmed denounces the "fallaciousness of the statements" in the Iraqi letters, which he said "do not contain the slightest particle of truth." He states Saudi Arabia's "firm resolve to abide by all treaties, practices, instruments and laws in force at the international level" and to observe the inviolability of frontiers.
- 99-3-18: The Arab League foreign call for an end to all operations against Iraq which are not backed by the United Nations Security Council. "The ministers reaffirmed the need for Iraq's territorial integrity and its regional stability and the stability of its neighbors...They asked for a halt to what Iraq is experiencing with regard to activities taking place outside security council resolutions." The Arab League statement calls on all countries to abide by Security Council resolutions in "spirit and letter." The lukewarm statement is a second rebuff to Iraq. In a January meeting, the Arab League also failed to condemn the airstrikes. It did, however, pledge to work for the lifting of UN trade sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt's Middle East News Agency quotes Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Saeed al-Sahhaf as saying the statement was "a lot less than Iraq had wanted."
- Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa says that the foreign ministers agreed on the issue of missing people from the 1991 Gulf war which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. "The foreign ministers called for the Arab League secretary general to put in a mechanism with the United Nations...and 1994 Geneva agreements to solve humanitarian problems between Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia...in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross."
- Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara asks why Israel was not forced to comply with UN resolutions to leave Lebanon while the U.S. was bombing Iraq, "It is not enough to call these strange differences double standards...resolutions are being enforced on Iraq with all means available and at the same time there is a cover-up of Israel's refusal to withdraw from occupied Arab territory."
- 99-3-19: U.S. and British fighters bomb two Iraqi military radar and communications sites in response to Iraqi violations of the southern no-fly zone. U.S. F-16 and British Tornado aircraft strike an Iraqi military radar site near As Shuaybah and a military communications site near Muzalbah at about 2 a.m. EST (0700 GMT).The attacks are in response to Iraqi MiG jets flying in the no-fly zone. There have now been more than 140 provocations by Iraqi forces in the south since Operation Desert Fox in December, when coalition planes pummeled Iraq with four days of bombings. No incidents were reported in the northern no-fly zone.
- 99-3-26: Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf calls for an end to NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia "Iraq calls for halting the illegitimate military attack on Yugoslavia... And it urges world states to study the dangerous role of the United States and its allies...a role that spreads destruction in the world and replaces international law and the United Nations charter with the law of the jungle....Yugoslavia has for some time been the subject of serious aggressive acts by the United States and its allies aimed at tearing apart this peaceful country."
- 99-3-28: Al-Thawra newspaper calls for a united front by Iraq and Yugoslavia against the United States and its policies as NATO strikes against Yugoslavia begin their fifth day: "The continued aggression against

Iraq and the current aggression on Yugoslavia should alert the international community to the necessity of taking serious measures to confront the imperialist threat...If efforts are not unified and there is no real, organized work, the imperialist American danger will spread and include other countries...The understanding of independence and sovereignty does not receive the necessary respect at an age when the raging American bull is unleashed on the world.”

- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk says, “If Saddam believes that we do not have the ability to face any challenge he might pose against us as we are involved in handling the crisis in Kosovo, then he would be making a big mistake...We have big capabilities at the stage of operations in the Middle East that are capable of facing any threats and will not be affected by what is happening in Kosovo.”
 - Sources in Iraq believe the lack of military activity over northern and southern Iraq in the past nine days is linked to the Moslem pilgrimage or haj season and the Eid al-Adha feast rather than a change of policy in Baghdad or Washington. The U.S. has previously avoided attacking Iraq during Moslem holy days so as not to anger Moslems. Eid al-Adha ends on Tuesday. The last reported confrontation was on March 19.
- 99-3-30: U.S. sources report that Yugoslav defense specialists met in Baghdad in February with their Iraqi counterparts in a collaboration to prepare Yugoslavia to shoot down American war. An official “at a fairly high level” in the Yugoslav military, and accompanying officers “stayed a couple of days and met with a whole variety of people” in Baghdad, including air defense specialists. Pentagon officials says the meeting's timing and personnel, a similarity in Iraqi and Yugoslav air defense tactics since NATO airstrikes began and separate intelligence about possible arms deals between the two countries all suggest Yugoslavia sought information on U.S. fighter jets and combat tactics. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says he cannot comment on intelligence matters but that contacts would not be surprising. “These are two countries both subject to attack by forces within NATO, they both have primarily Soviet-built or purchased air defense systems, and they are both subject to international embargoes. So they might obviously look for ways to work together.” Iraq had purchased some Soviet-made air defense equipment from Yugoslavia late in the Cold War. In addition, much of Iraq's military infrastructure was constructed by Yugoslav companies during the 1980s, including airfields and aircraft shelters, vast underground command centers and industrial plants used for defense production. February's two-day visit of a four-member Yugoslav air defense team to the Iraqi military headquarters in Baghdad drew the immediate attention of U.S. intelligence. President Clinton and key congressional leaders were quickly notified, the officials said. “The Serbs have been tutored by the Russians. Their air defense system has been upgraded more recently than the Iraqis. They have huge numbers of mobile missile launchers, and better terrain and weather for hiding. And we think their people are better trained.”
- 99-3-31: Iraq's UN Ambassador Saeed Hasan, says Iraq will probably reject any proposal for renewed UN relations that doesn't include an end to the punishing sanctions imposed during the Persian Gulf War said Wednesday. Hasan stresses that he hasn't read the panel's recommendations and hadn't received any official reaction from Baghdad. But he said reports of the proposals indicated “no real solutions” to the problems Iraqis face after more than eight years of sanctions which have crippled Iraq's economy. “Our position is clear. Anything short of lifting sanctions, I don't think there is a way out.” Hasan says, the oil-for-food program, “is not working and it won't work...It really destroyed the Iraqi economy. Sanctions lifting is something Iraq might live with, not transferring certain disarmament issues to monitoring. We think all disarmament requirements have been achieved.”
- 99-4-2: An unidentified spokesman for Iraq's Air Defenses Command says allied F-14s, F-16s and Tornados carried out 18 sorties from Kuwait and 33 from Saudi Arabia. The spokesman says allied planes targeted residential areas in Afaj, “causing the destruction of two residential houses and the injury of two residents.” Afaj is in Qadissiya province, 135 miles south of Baghdad, the capital. Iraqi air defenses “encountered the enemy formations, forcing them to flee to the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.”
- U.S. warplanes do bomb communications and radio facilities in southern Iraq in the first US-led airstrikes in more than two weeks. Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis, a spokesman at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., denies however that the allied strikes destroyed the houses. At the time of

the Iraqi claim, no attacks had been conducted. "We did not conduct those strikes, U.S. and allied planes had at that time flown over southern Iraq but had not launched any missiles." Duplessis says three F-16s struck an Iraqi communication facility and a radio relay station several hours after the Iraqi claim,, following violations of the southern "no fly" zone. The airstrikes are the first since March 16, when American warplanes bombed air defense sites in northern Iraq.

- 99-4-4: The U.S. diverts parts of the U.S. air fleet charged with monitoring the sky over northern Iraq in order to sustain its role in NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Among the planes sent to Europe for the intensifying conflict with Yugoslavia are Navy EA-6B Prowlers, which are electronic warfare planes that jam and can attack air defense radars, and refueling aircraft. As a result, the American and British fighter aircraft used to enforce a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq have not flown since March 20, four days before NATO launched its airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Not coincidentally, U.S. officials have reported no Iraqi violations of the flight ban in that period, and almost daily U.S. and British attacks on Iraqi air-defense sites in the north have stopped. Air Force F-15E attack planes conducted the last attack in northern Iraq on March 16, against anti-aircraft artillery. In the 10 days prior to that, U.S. planes attacked in northern Iraq almost every day. The pace of confrontations in southern Iraq also has slackened, although allied planes are continuing to monitor the sky.
- American F-16 and F/A-18 fighters, joined by British GR-1 Tornado fighters, attacked a surface-to-air missile battery and two unspecified communications sites south of Baghdad in response to Iraqi violations of the southern "no fly" zone, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said. There also was a U.S. attack Friday, the first since March 19.
 - The air war in Yugoslavia also has put a squeeze on American naval resources. An aircraft carrier is being added to NATO's force in the Adriatic, but that has forced the Pentagon to shift the USS Kitty Hawk carrier battle group in Japan to the Persian Gulf, leaving a carrier gap in the Pacific.
 - U.S. officials express surprise that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has not used the Yugoslavia conflict, which is drawing so much of the U.S. military's attention and resources, as an opportunity to make trouble in the "no-fly" zones, which are intended to suppress the Iraqi air force. Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says, "I suppose the most charitable answer is perhaps his forces are exhausted and taking a break."
- 99-4-5: Iraq claims that U.S. and U.K warplanes destroyed an Iraqi oil pipeline control station in the south of the country after violations of the southern no-fly zone. "The attack shows the aggressive evil plans of the aggressor which are meant to reduce the level of Iraqi oil exports and to make Iraq unable to secure revenue needed for the oil-for-food program." This was the second Iraqi oil installation attacked during allied bombing raids over the last four days. Allied warplanes on Friday attacked Iraq's main oil pumping station to the Mina al-Bakr port on the Persian Gulf.
- The U.S. said allied warplanes fired on Iraqi military sites both Friday and Sunday after Iraqi aircraft crossed into the no- fly zone over the southern part of the country. Yet no pipeline stations were hit in the attack as Iraq charged. UN personnel at Iraq's southern port of Mina al Bakr said that oil shipments from Iraqi fields to the south were down 45 percent from normal rates. UN officials in New York could not confirm an attack on Iraqi facilities.
 - Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said al-Sahaf says there were attacks, and that they were a deliberate attempt "to interrupt the pumping of Iraqi crude oil." In a letter to the Security Council, al-Sahaf says that U.S. and U.K. warplanes bombed the main oil pumping station serving Mina al Bakr at 6:15 p.m. local time on Friday.
 - UN spokesman John Mills in New York said that while the UN has no personnel near Iraq's Bazarkan oil field, UN experts at the southern port noticed the drop in oil flow coming from the field. The UN said the hourly flow rate was 36,000 barrels, down 29,000 barrels from normal rates, the equivalent of losing 696,000 a day. That helped boost crude oil prices today, traders said. Oil exports through another Iraqi pipeline -- one that ships oil north through Turkey -- were disrupted for three days in March after another allied attack struck a communications center that was apparently used for both pipeline and military operations. Iraq's total oil exports amounted to about 2.2 million barrels a day last month, according to

Bloomberg estimates.

- Iraq's oil exports decline by more than 200,000 barrels a day in March to 1.87 million barrels a day. Iraqi crude exports, which reached 2.1 million barrels a day in February, declined because of the cancellation of several contracts due to the overpricing of crude oil destined for Europe, the report said. Iraq has exported an average 1.9 million barrels of oil per day since the current six-month period of sales through a UN oil-for-food program began on Nov. 26th.
- 99-4-8: Iraq claims its air defenses opened fire at Western warplanes patrolling its no-fly zones over the southern parts of the country and bombing a weapons site. "Our ground resistance units challenged (the planes) and compelled them to depart our air space into the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Nine hostile formations involving such planes of F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, and F-18 violated at 10:15 a.m. Local time this morning our airspace. They implemented 12 sorties from Saudi skies and six sorties from Kuwaiti skies supported by AWACS and A2C planes. They flew over regions of Al-Salman, Samawa, Nasiriya, Basra and Jibayish "and bombed a site of our weapons south of Basra."
- 99-4-9: Iraq vows to continue firing at Western planes patrolling no-fly zones over the southern and northern parts of the country. "Iraq is determined not only to defy the US-British continued aggression on its lands but also endeavors to inflict any possible heaviest damage to the aggressors. The UN should notice that the continued overlooking of the U.S. and British air aggression (means) the international body is evading its obligations and duties. The Arab masses and the Arab League are called on to play a role in halting the behavior of the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers in making Saudi and Kuwaiti lands and waters a springboard for the enemy aggression on Iraq."
- 99-4-10: Air Force F-16s attack Iraqi radar and anti-aircraft sites in southern Iraq with missiles after the fighters were fired at. The F-16s, on routine patrol, were targeted by Iraqi missile guidance radar systems and fired upon by Iraqi surface-to-air missiles. U.S. officials don't say how many F-16s were involved or how many missiles or other munitions were fired in the exchange. The "Fighting Falcon" aircraft return safely to base. The U.S. says the incident occurred about 9:30 a.m. Iraq time, or 2:30 a.m. EDT, around 100 miles south of Baghdad. This is the latest of about 160 of what the Pentagon characterizes as "Iraqi provocations" in the southern "no-fly" zone since a four-day mid-December U.S. and British attack against Iraqi targets.
- 99-4-11: U.S. fighters attack two Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites in the southern no-fly zone after being fired on with anti-aircraft artillery. The U.S. says that the attacks were about 100 miles (160 km) south of Baghdad, near Al Kut and Ad Diwaniyah. Iraq say two people had been killed and nine wounded in the attack on the no-fly zone. The U.S. says that Navy F/A-18 Hornets struck the sites at 5:30 a.m. EDT (0930 GMT) in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire on Sunday and a surface-to-air missile attack on Saturday. "In response to Iraqi aggression, coalition pilots continue to take appropriate actions to defend themselves, and they will continue to defend themselves by targeting Iraq's air defense network as long as it threatens coalition aircraft."
- An Iraqi military spokesman Iraq's Air Defense Command says the US, "attacked a number of our service utilities and weapons sites in the southern region and the bombing led to martyrdom of two citizens and injuries to another nine including two women." He says the planes had flown over the regions of Artawi, al-Chlaiba, al-Salman, al-Samawa and Qa'lat Suker, and the deaths occurred in an attack on al-Sannia village in Qadissiya province. "The hostile formations were engaged by our missile and brave ground resistance forces and forced to flee and leave our airspace toward Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at 2:35 p.m. (6:35 a.m. EDT) (1035 GMT.)"
- 99-4-12: Navy jets patrolling the southern no-fly zone strike two surface-to-air missile sites 100 miles south of Baghdad. F/A-18 Hornets hit the sites in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire and to Iraqi targeting of coalition planes and a subsequent SAM attack Saturday. The Navy planes return safely The Iraqi Air Defense Command says US. planes targeted cities in the nation's southern region, "Enemy formations were confronted by our surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft defenses ... forcing them to flee back to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."
- 99-4-15: Iraq says its anti-aircraft defenses opened fire on U.S. and British warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone in

southern Iraq. "Hostile planes attacked our service establishments and sites of our weapons in the southern region ... and our missile and ground resistance forces engaged them." Iraq claims the planes fired 16 projectiles at the Iraqi "establishments" but gives no casualty report. "Eight formations of hostile planes of the kind F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, and the Tornado violated our airspace today at 3:20 p.m. (7:20 a.m. EDT). They carried out 12 sorties from Saudi and four sorties from Kuwaiti airspace supported by the Early Warning AWACS from Saudi skies." Iraq claims the planes flew over the regions of al-Bsayya, al-Salman, al-Chlaiba, Basra, Samawa, and Nassiriya.

- The U.S. says U.S. and British warplanes struck two targets in the southern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-16s and the British Royal Air Force GR-1s struck a radar site near Tallil, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad, and an anti-aircraft artillery site near Ash Shuaybah, about 285 miles southeast of Baghdad. The allies say they have suffered no losses.
- 99-4-17: U.S. warplanes respond to Iraqi fire, Operation Northern Watch planes detect Iraqi radar and observed Iraqi anti-aircraft fire, posing a threat to coalition aircraft. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Falcons, along with Marine EA-6B Prowlers, drop laser-guided bombs and launch missiles on anti-aircraft sites north and northwest of the city of Mosul. The incidents occur between 1:40 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. Iraqi time.
 - The Iraqi armed forces claim four civilians died in the attacks and one was injured. The statement says the attacks were directed against "our civilian installations and weapons sites." The statement also claims American and British warplanes coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait flew 22 sorties over southern Iraq
- 99-4-18: Iraq says its anti-aircraft weapons fire at U.S. and UK warplanes patrolling the southern no-fly zone. "At 8:25 a.m. (0425 GMT)...10 hostile formations...violated our airspace coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. "They were challenged by our ground resistance units and compelled to leave our skies to the bases they came from in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 10:03 a.m. local time (0603 GMT, They carried out 16 sorties from Saudi and four from Kuwaiti skies supported by an AWACS (warning and control plane).)" Iraq the planes as F-14s and F-15s. It makes no reference to damage or casualties.
- 99-4-19: -- U.S. Air Force F-15Es dropped laser-guided bombs on radar sites in the vicinity of Mosul,. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. All coalition aircraft leave the area safely. A statement by the Iraqi armed forces says the bombing is directed against "service installations and heroic weapons sites."
 - The Iraqi News Agency (INA) protests to the Arab League about the latest Turkish incursion in pursuit of Turkish Kurd guerrillas. "The Turkish recurrent invasion (of) Iraqi territories constitute violation of Iraq's land and airspace It constitutes flagrant violation of the UN Charter...and contradicts good neighborly relations. Turkish army officials have said the previous Monday that thousands of Turkish troops pressed into Kurd-controlled territory in northern Iraq in pursuit of Turkish Kurd guerrillas. Aydin Arslan, governor of the Turkish southeastern region under emergency rule, said the operation, believed to involve 3,000 troops backed by attack helicopters, had ended. He did not say when the troops, who crossed a week ago, had returned.
- 99-4-20: Assistant Secretary General Ahmed Bin Hilli of the Arab League says, "I am very worried about the Turkish violations of northern Iraq...The Arab League is following the issue with deep concern...these unilateral violations."
- 99-4-21: U.S. Air Force F-16Cs bomb anti-aircraft and surface-to-air missile sites west of Mosul in northern Iraq after they detect Iraqi radar posing a threat to coalition aircraft. The jets attack between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. local time. All return safely to their base. Iraq says they attacked civilian and military sites in the north and that air defenses forced them to flee. There is no mention of casualties or damage.
- 99-4-22: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi air defense sites in the northern no-fly zone today after being threatened by anti-aircraft fire. Air Force F-16s fired missiles at an Iraqi radar site east of the city of Mosul, some 250 miles north of Baghdad. U.S. F-15s also dropped laser-guided bombs on anti-aircraft sites east and southeast of Mosul. All planes leave the area safely.

- 99-4-23: The U.S. Defense Department denies charges by Iraq that its planes bombed targets in southern Iraq. "We did have some aircraft flying in the region and there was some unconfirmed anti-aircraft artillery fire from the ground. But we did not engage anything and all planes returned safely to their base." An Iraqi military spokesman had said air defenses drove off the attacking planes but gave no word on casualties or damage. He said that the, "Evil-doers and aggressors" were driven off to the dens of evil in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."
- 99-4-25: U.S. Air Force F-16s drop laser-guided bombs and launched an anti-radar missile at sites south and northeast of Mosul. All planes leave the area safely.
- 99-4-26: A New Zealander working for the UN mine-clearance program in northern Iraq is killed by an unknown. The man, identified by New Zealand officials as Nicholas Geoffrey Speight, was shot on Saturday near the airport in Erbil, some 200 miles (350 km), north of Baghdad, where he had been walking with a Dutch UN employee. The gunman fired three rounds at her also but missed. The UN imposes a 7 p.m. curfew on UN staff in northern Iraq and put the area where the shooting occurred off-limits to staff. Last year UN staff were fired at twice by gunmen who approached their convoys but there were no casualties and no one has claimed responsibility. Iraq has frequently objected to UN mine clearance projects and said groups working on such activities in the north were fronts for British spies. It is reported to have security concerns about clearing mines near the Iranian border.
- 99-4-27: Iraq says four people are killed and others were wounded in air attacks in the north of the country. "Enemy planes bombed our service installations and weapons sites...and the bombing led to martyrdom of four citizens and injuring of others. Our missile forces and brave ground resistance units intercepted them and one hostile plane was seen by our observers with black smoke while heading towards Turkish airspace...11 hostile formations" made up of F-14, F-15 and F-16 planes entered Iraqi airspace from Turkey at 2:50 p.m. (1150 GMT). The planes, which were supported by early warning AWACS aircraft and flew over regions in Nineveh province, crossed back into Turkish airspace at 5:25 p.m. (1325 GMT)..
- The U.S. says that U.S. fighter jets bombed Iraqi air defenses in the northern no-fly zone on Tuesday after being tracked by Iraqi radar. "Responding in self-defense. USAF F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Falcons dropped GBU-12 guided bombs on anti-aircraft sites northeast and south of Mosul." All the aircraft left the no-fly zone safely.
 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expresses support for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and his people in facing U.S. and NATO air attacks in a letter sent to Milosevic congratulating him on Yugoslav Republic Statehood Day "We stress our solidarity with the Yugoslav people and leadership in the face of aggression and external threats to this country."
 - Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan says he expects the United States to launch a surprise attack on Iraq, but the U.S. would pay dearly if it did so. "We expect the United States to launch a surprise military attack against Iraq any moment. Washington would pay a dear price if it does so because Iraq is fully alert to confront such aggression...The main aim of the embargo is to overthrow the government in Iraq."
 - Iraq urges the Arab League on Tuesday to press Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to stop allowing U.S. and British warplanes from using their airbases to patrol the Southern no-fly zone. Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf submits a memorandum to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid, accusing Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of taking part in the U.S. and British air raids. Sahaf asks the Arab League secretary-general to interfere to stop these states from such aggressive acts that threaten Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "The support given by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to America and Britain proves that they are key partners in the aggression against Iraq. Iraq has the right to incur compensation for the damage inflicted against the people of Iraq." Sahaf tells Meguid that U.S. and British warplanes carried out 189 sorties last week in southern Iraq coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
- 99-4-29: U.S. fighters Iraqi air defense sites today in the northern no-fly zone with bombs and missiles after being threatened by radar and fired upon. USAF F-16s and F-15s bombed Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and

military sites near the city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. F-16s also launch missiles on radar sites south and west of Mosul. The attacks come after the Iraqis fired anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles, the statement said. None of the planes are hit.

- Iraq says 24 people were injured when the planes attacked civilian installations and weapons sites in the north and south of the country. A military spokesman is quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying that in the raid in the north, Western planes "attacked our civilian installations, citizens' houses...and weapons sites. The bombing led to the injury of 20 citizens in Mosul." INA says four people were also injured in southern Iraq. "At 2 p.m. (1000 GMT) 10 hostile formations, made up of F-14, F-15 and F-16 planes, violated our airspace coming from Turkish airspace... They carried out 23 sorties supported by early warning AWACS aircraft from inside the Turkish airspace and flew over Arbil, Dahuk and Mosul regions." He adds that Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery challenged the planes, forcing them to go back to their Turkish bases at 4:50 p.m. (1250 GMT). The spokesman says the casualties in the south were caused when "18 hostile formations' coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian airspace attacked civilian installations and weapons sites."
 - Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, meets Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Thursday, voicing his party's solidarity with Iraq and condemning "U.S.-British aggression." And expressing "support for Iraq vis-a-vis its legal demands in lifting the embargo, and condemnation of the continuation of the U.S.-British aggression on Iraq." Aziz says the meeting underlined the support extended by "our friends...to Iraq's just struggle in the face of foreign threats and continuation of the embargo." Zhirinovsky is to take part in an international conference on solidarity with Iraq that is due to start in Baghdad on May 2. Zhirinovsky held talks with Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan earlier.
- 99-4-30: U.S. warplanes enforcing the northern no fly zone drop bombs and fire missiles at Iraqi defense sites today in response to enemy fire.. None of the warplanes are hit.
- Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky meets Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday and expresses solidarity with Iraq: "During the meeting, the importance of exerting effort...to confront America's hegemony and arrogance against Iraq and Yugoslavia and the world was emphasized." Zhirinovsky also calls for support for a front that opposes "aggression and despotism of the United States of America," and stresses the importance of developing and enhancing bilateral relations in all fields between Baghdad and Moscow.
- 99-5-1: Iraq says Western warplanes had entered its airspace in the south of the country on Saturday but that its air defenses had forced them to return to their bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. "At 8:50 (0450 GMT) this morning, May 1, 13 hostile formations of F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, Tornados and AA6B aircraft violated our national airspace. They flew over the provinces of Basra, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Qadissiya and were engaged by our brave ground artillery and forced to flee to their bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at 11:50 a.m.(0750 GMT)." Iraq says 12 formations of the same types of aircraft had flown over Iraq again at 4:40 p.m. (1240 GMT), this time over the regions of al-Salman, al-Laseq, Nassiriya, Amara and Samawa, and that they too had been engaged by anti-aircraft fire. It claims Iraq forces had monitored a conversation between the crew of one of the planes and an AWACS early warning craft planes indicating that it had been hit. INA quotes the governor of Mosul, Mohammed Abdul-Qader, as condemning the incident as a heinous crime against innocent people that would not be forgotten.
- Babil newspaper calls for workers throughout the Arab world on Saturday to boycott vessels and planes from the United States and the capitalist world. "Arab workers should boycott the enemy's vessels and planes in all Arab ports and pressure their governments to lift sanctions on Iraq, The world is dominated by a tragic situation thanks to world capitalism led by America. Under such a situation, workers in the Third World are facing more repression and class discrimination."
- 99-5-2: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi air defenses in the northern no-fly zone after being fired upon. U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles drop GBU-12 precision guided bombs on anti-aircraft artillery northwest of (the Iraqi city of) Mosul. All of the aircraft left the region safely.
- 99-5-3: U.S. jets attack Iraqi air defense sites near the city of Mosul on Monday after being targeted by radar and

fired upon by at least two surface-to-air missiles. USAF F-15E and F-16CJ jets fire anti-radiation missiles and precision-guided AGM-130 missiles at several surface-to-air missile sites. F-16s drop GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on one of the Iraqi missile sites. No details were provided on the result of the attacks.

- The state-run Iraqi News Agency claims that two civilians were killed and 12 injured when "the evil aggressors attacked one of our civilian sites" north of Mosul. The U.S. statement says one of the surface-to-air missile sites was located in a "civilian town." In a departure from usual practice in describing U.S. air attacks on Iraqi air defense sites, the statement said the U.S. planes "did not target this site with bombs due to the potential of civilian casualties. U.S. planes fired missiles at that site. Later, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says the object targeted by U.S. jets in the civilian area was a radar. He said U.S. planes attacked the radar with a HARM, or high-speed anti-radiation missile, weapon. The incidents occurred between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. local time (between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. EDT).
 - Iraq claims "Two citizens sustained critical wounds when two cluster bombs, dropped by American and British planes in the province of Dhiqar (Nassiriya) during their continuous aggression, exploded." INA names the two as Abd Nader and Hanan Btair. They were looking after their sheep in an area called Subbah last week when the two bombs detonated. The agency said civil defense units in the province defused two more bombs in the same area without further casualties, and that civil defense units in Nassiriya have defused more than 7,000 bombs since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.
 - Hans von Sponeck, UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq says U.S. and British air strikes against Iraq might affect the UN humanitarian program for the country. "I am extremely sensitive to the effect of increasing air strikes on the implementation of the humanitarian program in Iraq...We in the UN must not take lightly events like these which affect human life, so...I made a spontaneous decision to make a site visit...I was deeply affected by what I saw -- the total destruction of a shepherd's family and all their possessions."
 - The ruling Baath party newspaper al-Thawra criticizes the UN Security Council and the Arab League for failing to condemn the attacks.
- 95-5-4: The U.S. says its fighters broke off an attack on an Iraqi air defense radar near the northern city of Mosul after realizing the radar was in a civilian area. An F-16 fighter did attack the radar site, however, with a high-speed anti-radiation missile, or HARM. The state-run Iraqi News Agency says the attack killed two civilians and injured 12. Kenneth Bacon, a U.S. spokesman says, it "could be that he's constantly looking for ways to shoot down a U.S. plane and therefore recalibrating his air defense and other systems, better to enable him to do that. That's just speculation, but the pattern appears to be that he challenges for a while, we whack him day after day in response to his challenges, and then he pulls back and goes down for a period and does nothing. And then he comes back up and presents a new series of challenges, sometimes with slightly different tactics. One of his tactics now may be to place his air defense systems in civilian neighborhoods, thinking that he can challenge us with impunity, because he's done that."
- 99-5-7: Al-Thawra says Iraq accept nothing less than the full lifting of the UN sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Iraq is determined to claim all its legal rights and at the forefront of these rights is the lifting of sanctions. Consequently, the people would eat with dignity without sympathy from anyone and there would be no need for the UN or other states to engage in looking for food for Iraqis. The UN and a number of states are busy looking for means to...import more food and medicine to Iraq. In the midst of this preoccupation, we lose the real objective of the memorandum and its temporary nature and Iraq's rejection of it as an alternative to the total lifting of sanctions."
- 99-5-8: Iraq claims that U.S. warplanes bomb sites north of Baghdad and kill three people and injure two, state-run Iraqi television reported. It says the planes carried out 18 sorties, dropping 18 bombs on civilian and military positions, a spokesman for the Iraqi air defense command was quoted as saying by Iraqi television. The U.S. military says the planes struck after being targeted by radar. Air Force F-15s and F-16s dropped laser-guided bombs on anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest of Mosul, the statement said. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad. It was the second time in a week that U.S. jets enforcing a no-fly zone over northern Iraq struck near Mosul.

- 99-5-9: Iraq says four people are killed and five wounded on when Western planes bombed targets in a no-fly zone in the south of the country.
- Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, condemned as the NATO missile strike on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: "The criminal act against the Chinese embassy, which is part of the criminal aggression against Yugoslavia, proves that the United States does not regard nations' sovereignty. We express our solidarity with China as we also stand with Yugoslavia against the American aggression." Earlier, the government newspaper al-Jumhuriya attacks the United States. "The American missile attack against the Chinese embassy reflects how America enjoys killing and harming people's will....The U.S. policy of aggressiveness, terrorism and hegemony is the road of destroying international relations and manufacturing crises in various parts of the world...Those involved in targeting mistakenly believed that the Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement was at the location that was hit. The military supply facility was the intended target, certainly not the Chinese Embassy."
- 99-5-10: U.S. warplanes hit Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and command and control sites northwest of Mosul in the northern no-fly zone after they are tracked by Iraqi radar: "Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Falcons dropped GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and command and control sites northwest of (the Iraqi city of) Mosul." The U.S.-British Northern Watch force operated out of the Incirlik airbase some 550 km (340 miles) from the Iraqi border.
- Iraq says "The hostile formations bombed one of our service installations and the hostile bombing led to the injury of a citizen... Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire at the planes and forced them to leave our air space into their bases in Turkey at 12:10 p.m. local time (0810 GMT). At 09:55 a.m. (0555 GMT), 12 hostile formations violated our air space, coming from Turkish airspace. They implemented 24 sorties supported by the Early Warning AWACS from inside the Turkish skies." Iraq says the provinces the planes flew over as Duhok, Arbil and Nineveh. The Iraqi spokesman also said Western planes patrolled no-fly zones in southern Iraq. "At 10:20 a.m. (0620 GMT) and 5:14 p.m. (1314 GMT), 24 hostile formations violated our national air space coming from Kuwaiti and Saudi skies." He says U.S. and British planes carried out 42 sorties from Saudi Arabian air space supported by AWACS and flew over provinces of Basra, Muthanna and Dhi Qar and left Iraqi skies after being challenged by Iraqi anti-aircraft batteries.
- 99-5-11: U.S. F-16CJ jets dropped 500-pound laser-guided bombs on radar sites northeast of the city of Mosul in the north after they were targeted by the radars. In the south, F-16CGs and British Royal Air Force GR-1 jets based in the Gulf struck three Iraqi air defense sites near Basrah after they were fired at by anti-aircraft guns. All planes return safely to their bases. Iraq says two civilians were killed and seven wounded when planes coming from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia bombed three targets in the southern no-fly zone. A military spokesman says the planes bombed sites involved in overseeing the transport of imported ration goods. Iraq said earlier that four people were killed and five wounded on May 10th when Western planes bombed targets in a no-fly zone in the south of the country.
- The Mujahideen Khalq claims Iranian government agents had attacked one of its bases in Iraq, killing an Iraqi, and fired at the group's Zahra Rajabi military camp near the Iraqi city of Kut 172 km (103 miles) south of Baghdad on Friday. It claims one Iraqi civilian was killed and two were wounded in the attack and that the attackers kidnapped another Iraqi and drove him back to Iran after attacking the base, which is 50 km (30 miles) from the Iraq-Iran border. It was the first reported attack on Mujahideen Khalq since Tehran threatened in April to avenge the assassination of a top Iranian general. The Iranian opposition group assassinated Iran's armed forces deputy joint chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi.
- 99-5-13: Iraq claims U.S. and British warplanes killed 12 civilians and destroyed livestock in a raid on northern Iraq Wednesday. It says they "bombed shepherds' tents in the province of Nineveh," 250 miles north of Baghdad, a number of others were injured, and the attack killed 200 sheep and wrecked a vehicle and a combine harvester, it said. Earlier, the U.S. military said its planes had bombed Iraqi air-defense sites north and northwest of Mosul, a city in Nineveh province. The U.S. military says its planes had acted in self-defense after being targeted by Iraqi radar and anti-aircraft artillery, and that initial damage assessment showed that one target was located near livestock. "Every effort is taken to avoid any

collateral damage to civilians and civilian property.. Ultimate responsibility, however, lies with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein.”

99-5-16: Dissidents and travelers report that Saddam Hussein has reshuffled the army command in the wake of anti-government disturbances in recent months in southern Iraq. Changes include replacing deputies to the chief of staff along with commanders of the border guard and air defense units. Lt. Gen. Saeed Mohammad Fathi al-Mashhadani, the guard commander, was fired, arrested and then replaced by Lt. Gen. Kanaan Mansour Khalil as a result of the March 17-18 disturbances in Basra. Lt. Gen. Sabah Nouri Alwan and Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Ismael Mohammed were appointed as deputies to the chief of staff.

99-5-19: Iraq reported that “thirteen formations of enemy aircraft guided by an AWACS early warning aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti air space carried out 35 sorties over the south of the country but anti-aircraft artillery opened up forcing them to turn tail.” The Allied operation targeted the provinces of Dhi-Qar, Basra, Muthanna, and Maysan.

99-5-23: U.S warplanes struck at Iraqi military sites, responding to artillery fire during a routine patrol of the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. Air Force F-15Es bombed the Iraqi defense systems west of the Iraqi city of Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad. Baghdad claimed two civilians were injured in the attack.

99-5-24: Armed opposition groups fought a nine-hour battle with elite Republican Guards in southern Iraq last week, killing 80 soldiers near Kut, 160 km south of Baghdad, according to an opposition report. The opposition forced government soldiers to retreat, “leaving behind their dead and destroyed weapons”. Seven dissidents were wounded. This report cannot be independently confirmed.

--Islamic resistance fighters launched rockets on government and army headquarters in the Diyala province, 60 km north of Baghdad. The offices of the governor, military security, and two army headquarters buildings sustained heavy losses in men, equipment and buildings. This report cannot be independently confirmed.

99-5-25: U.S. fighter planes attack an Iraqi air defense site north of Mosul today after they were fired on during routine patrols in the northern no-fly zone. U.S. Air Force F-15s and F-16s dropped GBU-12 and GBU-10 laser-guided bombs on the site, a communications facility that the U.S. military said was being used to pinpoint allied planes for attack by Iraqi surface-to-air batteries. The Incirlik air base reports that all jets left the area safely and that experts were still assessing the damage inflicted on Iraqi forces.

--State Department spokesman James P. Rubin announces that the Clinton administration will provide material and training for the Iraqi opposition, but no military help for now. Rubin said the administration would assist in establishing offices to help the opposition groups work together. He also said the groups would get computers, training in civil administration, and advice on distributing anti-Saddam information.

99-6-2: U.S. warplanes attack Iraqi air defenses after being targeted by radar in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq. A statement from Incirlik air base said that warplanes dropped precision-guided bombs on Iraqi positions near Mosul. The planes then departed the area safely.

-- Iraq sent an envoy to Manama to brief Bahraini officials on its relations with the UN Security Council and the effects of UN sanctions on the country. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister under-secretary Nizar Hamdoun, formerly Iraq’s UN representative, had arrived in Manama. INA said he was due to discuss with Bahraini officials “Iraq’s relations with the Security Council, the plight of the Iraqi people due to the continuation of the embargo... and bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.”

99-6-8: U.S. warplanes bomb Iraqi communications facilities after being fired upon by anti-aircraft artillery in the northern no-fly zone over Iraq. F-15 Strike Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons, “responding in self-defense”, dropped GBU-12 laser guided bombs on the sites east of the Iraqi city of Mosul. A statement by the U.S. military said that the military facilities were being used to relay information on American and British aircraft to Iraqi anti-aircraft units.

--Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk testified to the House International Relations Committee about the Middle East in general, including Iraq. He stated: "Our policy rests on three pillars. First, as long as he is around, we will contain Saddam Hussein in order to reduce the threat he poses both to Iraq's neighbors and to the Iraqi people. Second, we will seek to alleviate the humanitarian cost to the Iraqi people of his refusal to comply with UNSC resolutions. Finally, we will work with forces inside and outside Iraq, as well as Iraq's neighbors, to change the regime in Iraq and help its new government rejoin the community of nations." Indyk said nothing about restoring UNSCOM or even a modified UNSCOM to Iraq. He explained: "We maintain a robust force in the region, which we have made clear we are prepared to use should Saddam cross our well-established red lines. Those red lines include: should he try to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction; should he strike out at his neighbors; should he challenge allied aircraft in the no-fly zones; or should he move against the people living in the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq." He suggested that the United States was concerned about the fate of Iraq's Shi'ite Arab population: "The United States is concerned for the protection of all Iraqis against the repression of the Baghdad regime. Hence, we believe that the world community should tolerate no backsliding from Baghdad's obligations under any of the UNSC resolutions intended to protect the people of Iraq and its neighbors from the depredations of the current Baghdad regime. In particular, UNSC resolution 688 twice cited the consequences of Baghdad's repression of the Iraqi civilian population as a threat to international peace and security. It therefore demanded that Baghdad "immediately end this repression." Baghdad is in flagrant violation of this UNSC resolution, as it is of so many others."

99-6-10: Iraq blames Iran for a bomb blast against the Mujahideen Khalq in Baghdad that killed seven people. The Mujahideen Khalq said that most of the victims were travelling on a bus to one of its camps northeast of Baghdad when it was hit by the blast of a pickup truck filled with explosives. The blast also hit a nearby bus carrying civilians. Six Mujahideen members and one Iraqi civilian were killed and over 20 wounded. Iran denied any involvement and said it "believed Baghdad was blaming Iran as a "tactical move to deflect attention from their criminal record of the past, as well as to camouflage future terrorist activities."

99-6-11: Iraq says Iran fired three long-range missiles at an Iranian exile opposition group inside Iraq. The official Iraqi news agency quoted a government spokesperson as saying "The Iranian regime fired three ground-to-ground missiles at a base camp inside Iraq which belongs to Mujahideen Khalq." Earlier, a statement by the Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq accused the Iranian government of firing several Scud missiles at its Ashraf camp, 110km northeast of Baghdad. A spokesman for the Mujahideen said the missiles caused no casualties among the group's members at the base, but that several casualties were reported among Iraqis living in a village nearby. An Iraqi spokesman said: "Such aggressive acts by the Iranian regime escalate the situation and threaten sincere efforts exerted by Iraq to set up ties based on good neighborliness." He also said the attack followed several "terrorist and criminal acts carried out by agents of the Iranian regime inside Iraq, the last of which, a car bomb on June 9, killed several Iraqis and six members of the Mujahideen Khalq. The Iraqi spokesman urged the UN Security Council to intervene to prevent such "Iranian aggression." Iran appears to have stepped up attacks on the Mujahideen since the group claimed two months ago it had assassinated the Iranian armed forces' deputy chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ali Sayyed Shirazi.

99-6-21: Iraq reports that six people were injured when Western warplanes bombed targets in the south of the country. The spokesman said "Our missile forces intercepted them and forced them to depart our airspace into their bases of blasphemy in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." He also said that warplanes attacked civilian and service installations in the north of the country. The US Air Force's European Commission says US warplanes bombed Iraqi radar facilities north of the city of Mosul after being fired at by anti-aircraft artillery. The attacks took place between 11:30 am and 2 pm Iraqi time and all aircraft returned safely.

99-6-22: US Air Force planes bomb Iraqi radar facilities around the city of Mosul for the second day after being fired at by anti-aircraft guns. F-16s and F-15s attack a military command and control center northwest of Mosul. The attacks took place between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm Iraqi time and all aircraft returned safely to the Incirlik base in Turkey.