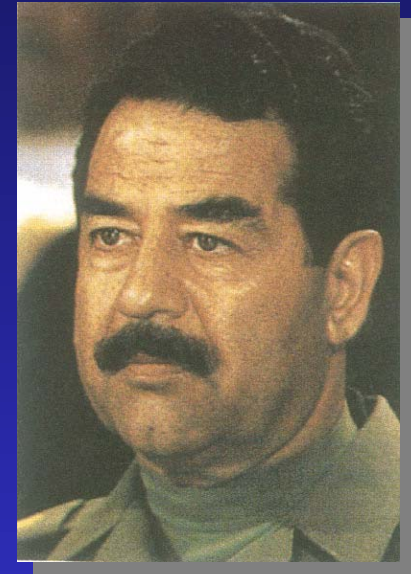




# **Saddam's Use of Human Shields and Deceptive Sanctuaries**

**Special Briefing for the  
Pentagon Press Corps**





# BRIEFING OVERVIEW

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- **Iraqi Objectives**
- **Perceptions of US/Coalition Targeting**
- **Strategy**
  - **Key Elements**
  - **Methods**
- **Execution**
- **Implications**



# COUNTER-TARGETING

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## Definition

**Preventing or Degrading Detection, Characterization, Destruction, & Post-Strike Assessment of Targets, by any Means.**



# WORKING DEFINITIONS

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## Human Shield

The placement of any category of non-combatant personnel, or of civilian equipment, vehicles, or material at or near a recognized or suspected military or government facility immediately before or during hostilities.

## Deceptive Sanctuary

The use of any category of civilian structure or facility for military purposes during hostilities.



# IRAQI COUNTER-TARGETING OBJECTIVES

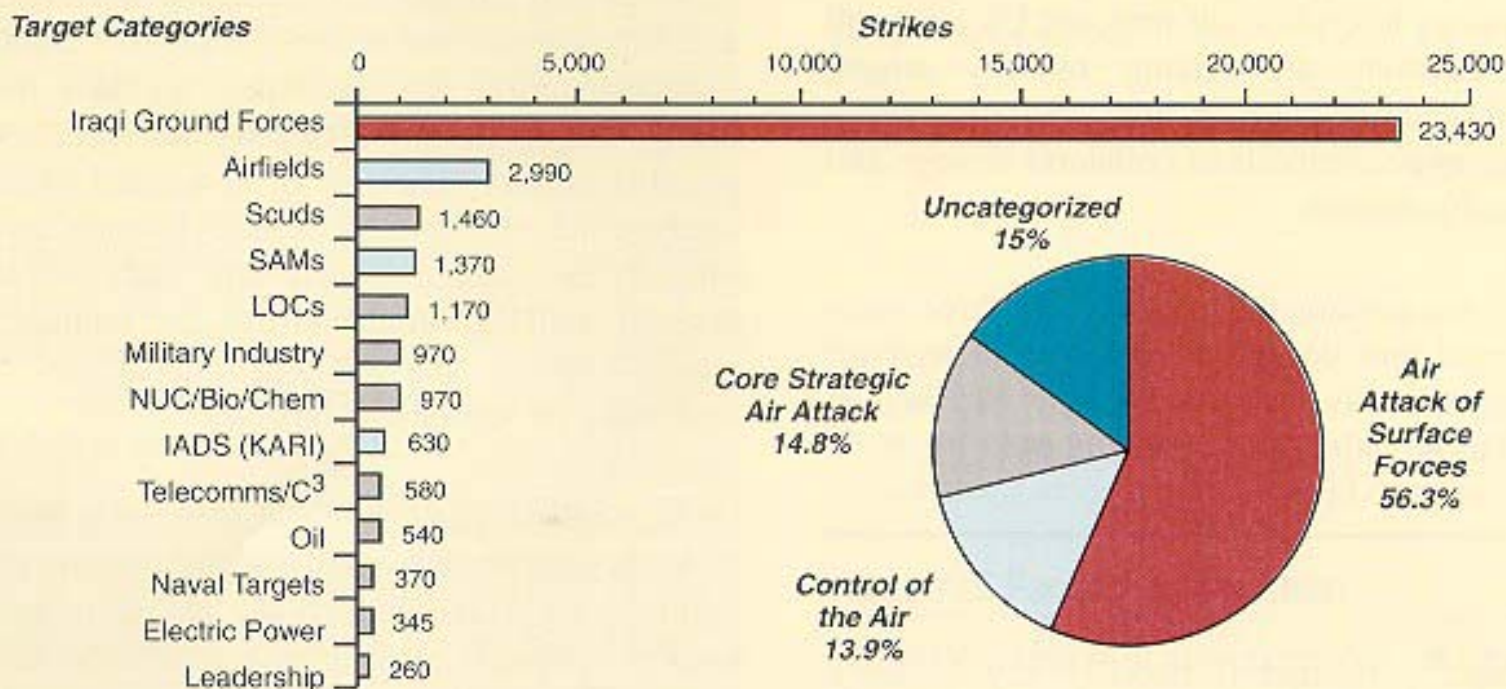
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- **Ensure Regime & WMD Program Survival**
- **Defeat Inspection Regime and US/Coalition Strike Potential**
  - **Deter Strikes Against Key Target Sets**
  - **Degrade Military Effectiveness of Strikes**
- **Cause a “Strategic incident”**
  - **Complicate and Discredit US/Coalition Air Campaigns**



# DESERT STORM TARGET SETS

## Coalition Air-to-Surface Strikes by Functional Area

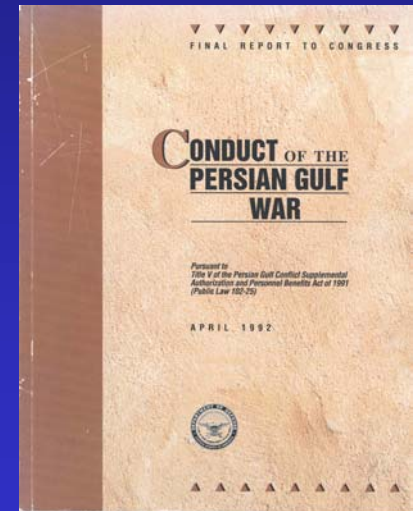
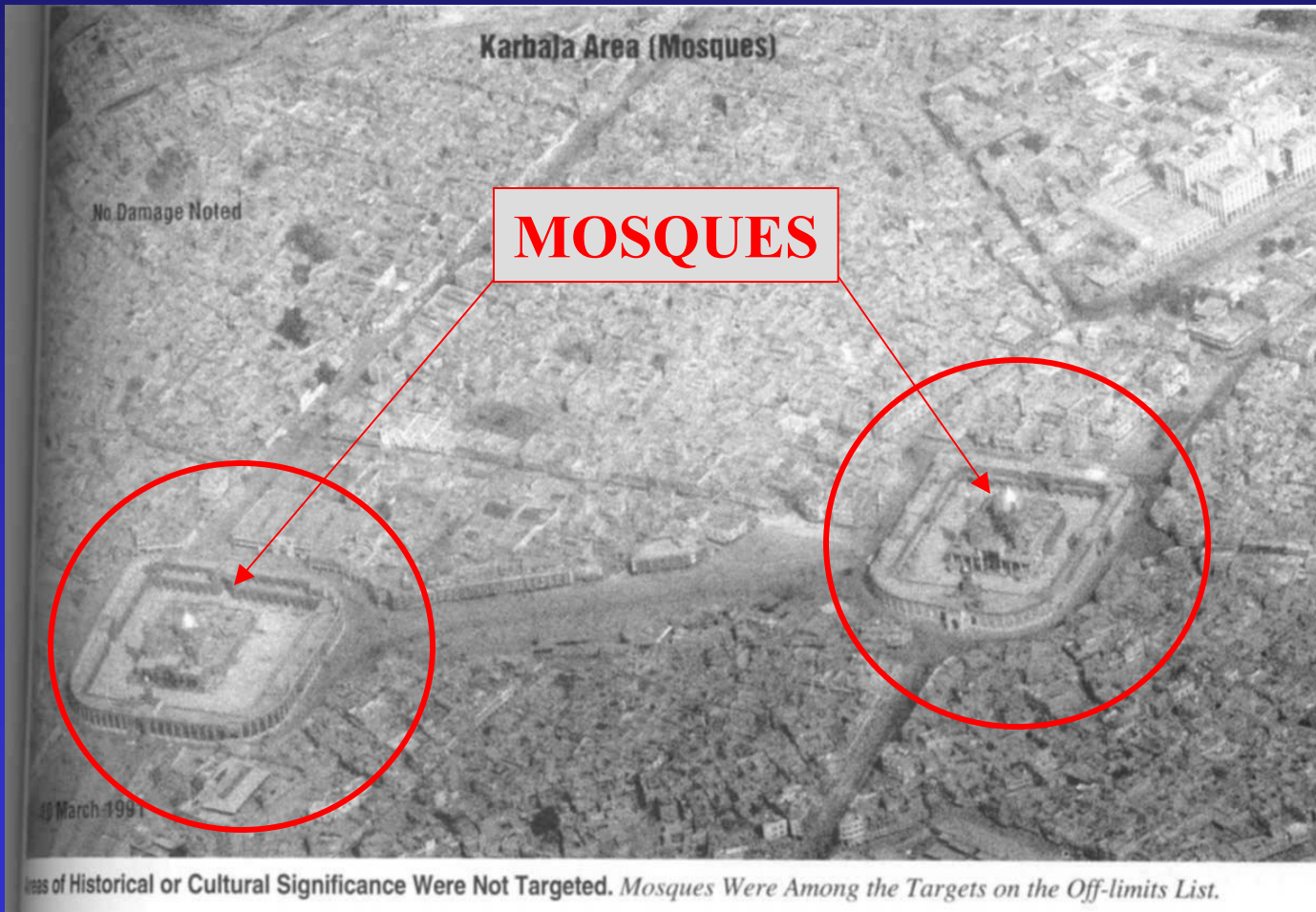


Source: United States Air Force Gulf War Air Power Survey, (GWAPS), 1993, UNCLASSIFIED.

Source: 1992 DOD Report to Congress



“Coalition targeting policy and aircrews made every effort to minimize civilian casualties and collateral damage. Targeting policies scrupulously avoided damage to mosques, religious shrines, and archaeological sites, as well as to civilian facilities and the civilian population.”





# Iraqi Knowledge of US/Coalition Targeting Policy 1991

**MILITARY AIRCRAFT DISPERSED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM  
TO HISTORICAL SITE NEAR TALLIL, IRAQ**

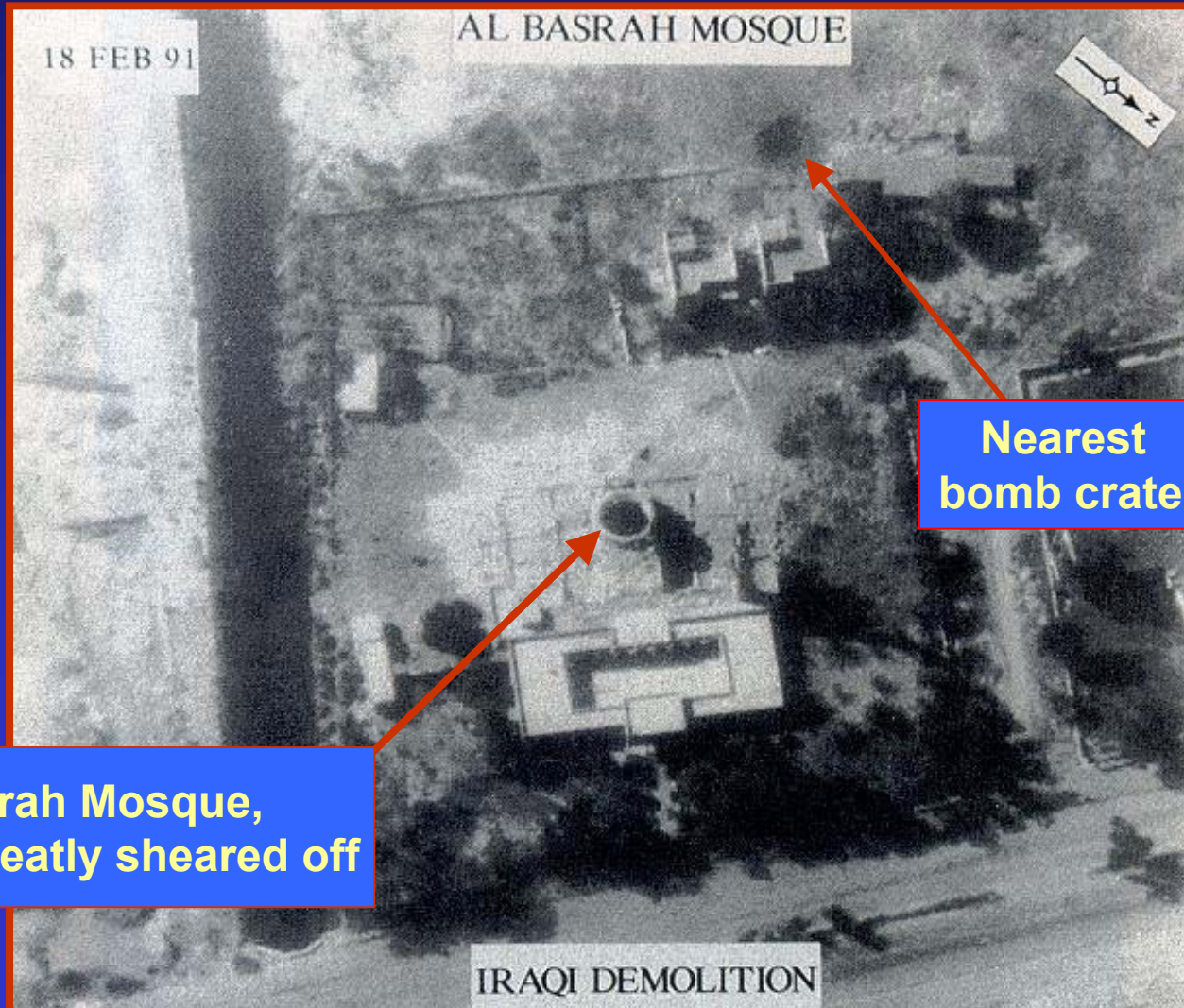






# Al Basrah Mosque “Disinformation” Incident 1991

Simulated damage to prohibited targets



Al Basrah Mosque,  
its dome neatly sheared off

Nearest  
bomb crater

IRAQI DEMOLITION



# MILITARY DISPERSAL: USE OF RELIGIOUS SITES AS “SANCTUARIES”





# USE OF RELIGIOUS SITES AS "SANCTUARIES"

**MILITARY HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTERS  
NEXT TO MOSQUE IN KUT AL HAY, IRAQ**



MZ766098



# USE OF CIVILIAN AREAS AS "SANCTUARIES"





# USE OF CIVILIAN AREAS AS "SANCTUARIES"





# COLLOCATION OF RELIGIOUS SITE WITH MILITARY INSTALLATION



# MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT NON-MILITARY GOVERNMENT BUILDING



**Ministry of Media**  
Baghdad, Iraq

Oct 2002



→ **Antiaircraft guns**

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DoD/Title 50 & Coalition Forces



# IMPLICATIONS

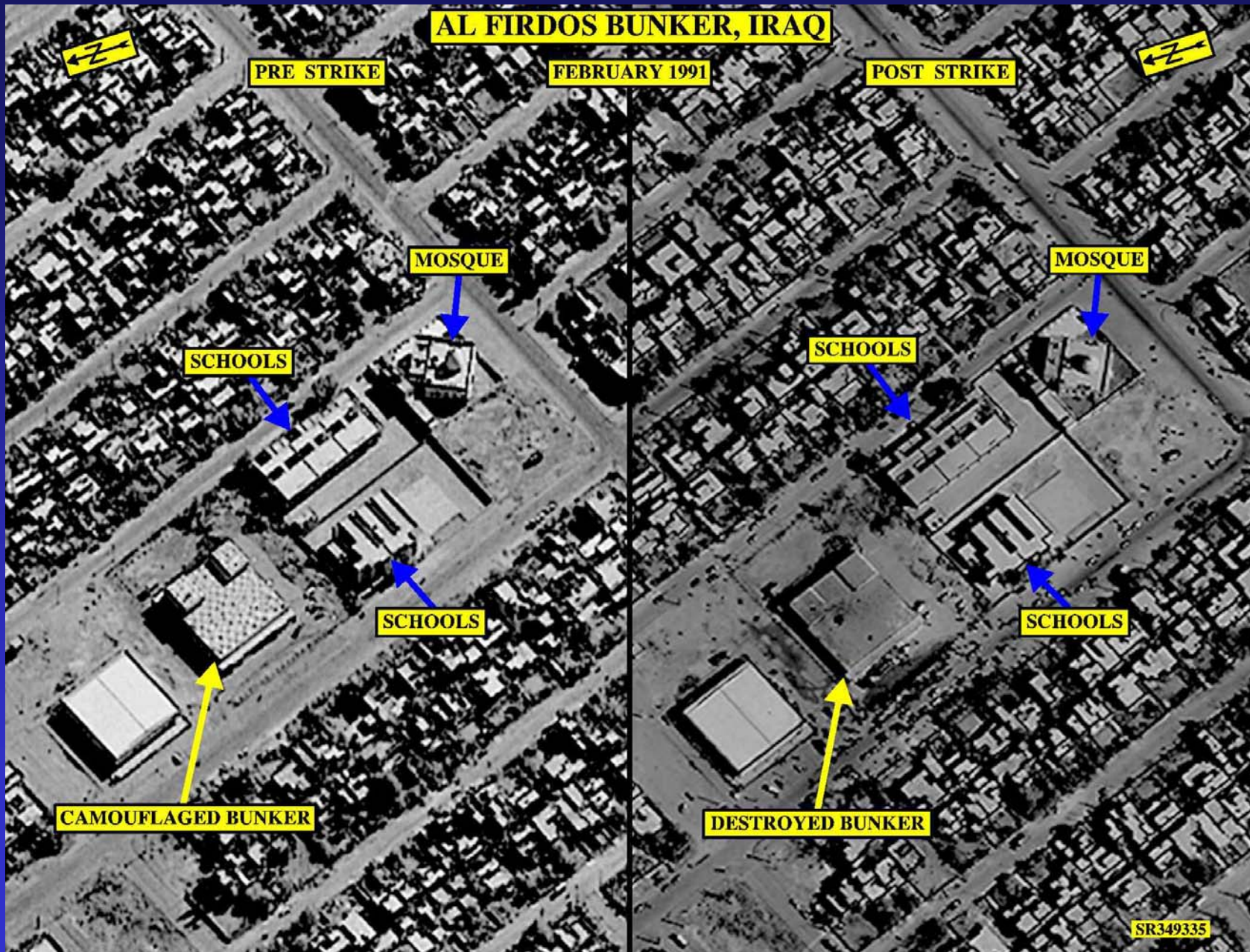
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- **Complicate US/Coalition Military Planning**
- **Reduce Military Effectiveness of Strikes**
- **Preserve Key Military Forces & Facilities**
  - **Enhance Survivability of Air Defense System**
- **Strategic Incident**
  - **Help Baghdad Discredit Bombing Campaign**





# STRATEGIC INCIDENT



SR349335



# STRATEGIC INCIDENT

## Al Firdos Bunker, Baghdad

### Feb 91

THE WASHINGTON POST

... FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1991 A29

## THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

### Iraqi Says 288 Bodies Removed From Bombed Structure

#### Two Days After Civilians Were Killed, Character of Building Still Uncertain

By Barton Gellman  
Washington Post Staff Writer

More than 48 hours after U.S. bombs killed scores, perhaps hundreds, of Iraqi civilians in outer Baghdad, the Pentagon provided no further evidence yesterday on the character of the building in which they died.

The central controversy between the U.S. and Iraqi governments—whether the structure was an active command and control bunker or an air raid shelter for civilians—

remained unsettled by any information open to independent review. The available evidence, as presented in official and unofficial U.S. accounts and in television footage broadcast from Baghdad, remained consistent with each side's assertions about the capabilities and purposes of the facility.

Moreover, there was nothing in the Pentagon's account to rule out the possibility that the building may have served both functions at once.

Although no evidence emerged to suggest that U.S. planners knew of the presence of civilians at the time they ordered the bombing, neither were facts disclosed to support Pentagon senior operations officer Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly's belief that the Iraqi government cynically placed civilians there in danger, against

the rules of war set out in the Geneva conventions.

In particular, officials provided no further details on two critical questions they agreed to elaborate on after Wednesday's official briefing. First, what evidence did they have that the facility not only was capable of transmitting, but did transmit, military communications? Second, even if the facility functioned as a communications and command center, did they know whether and when it had ceased to function as an air raid shelter?

U.S. officials acknowledged within hours of the bombing that their target had been built as a bomb shelter in the early days of the Iran-Iraq war. But Navy Capt. David Herrington, director of current intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it was "converted to a military command and control facility." Other officials said a Scandinavian contractor made the necessary modifications in 1985.

Command and control does not describe a particular kind of facility, but rather is the term of art for any headquarters capable of receiving information from the field and conveying orders. It may refer to anything from a desk with a telephone to an elaborate complex equipped with maps, computers and communications networks.

See TARGETS, A32, Col. 6



Jordanian girl marks wall of the U.S. Embassy in Amman with hand dipped in red paint. Scores of women hurled shoes and insults. Story on Page A32.

#### More Dead Reported Under Rubble; Officials, Mourners Condemn U.S.

By Nora Boustany  
Washington Post Foreign Service

AMMAN, Jordan, Feb. 14—Iraqis buried their dead in anger and grief today as rescue teams worked into the second night to remove bodies of men, women and children from a still-smoldering, bombed-out structure that they were using as a shelter but which the United States says was primarily a military command center.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Jassim accused President Bush of being a "war criminal" and told foreign journalists in Baghdad that the bombing attack early Wednesday would "live in the memory of the Iraqi people and strengthen their resolve," while the official Iraqi media warned the U.S. allies of "devastating surprises."

As rescue workers awaited a third day of digging through rubble of the structure, varying figures were given for the death toll.

Faiq Bakr, director of the government mortuary in Baghdad, told reporters that 288 bodies, 91 of them children, had been removed by dusk today. The Information Ministry said at least 400 people were killed.

British Broadcasting Corp. correspondent Alan Little said the chief of a 60-man rescue team told him 92 bodies were recovered Wed-

nesday and 200 today. Reporters at the scene counted more than 40 corpses, many decapitated or missing limbs, being extricated during one 90-minute period today, the Associated Press said.

A military communique this afternoon said only 64 bodies had been identified, and officials said they feared that many would never be identified, either because they were so badly mutilated or charred or because entire families had been killed.

As night fell, reporters at the scene said stretchers were still being brought out from the building, carrying bodies wrapped in blankets, some of them unrecognizable. The heat inside the reinforced structure was intense as volunteers dug out victims from under mangled bunk beds and twisted structural steel, Little said. He quoted the chief rescue worker as saying the operation might take days to complete.

Funeral processions weaved through the streets of Baghdad, behind trucks laden with coffins, as thousands of mourners wept or directed their passions against the United States. Men fired automatic weapons into the air, a tradition at funerals. Little described the mood as "swinging from grief to fury and back again."

See BAGHDAD, A32, Col. 1



# SUMMARY

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- **Iraq has a history of conducting this type of activity**
- **Well-organized, centrally managed effort**
- **Iraq employs a range of tactics:**
  - **Using civilians as hostages/shields**
  - **Deceptive Sanctuaries**
  - **Hiding military equipment in/near mosques**
  - **Parking military equipment in/near civilian areas**
  - **Deploying equipment in/near amusement/recreation parks, cultural sites**