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## news

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### Digging in for the long war

**Part one:** They thought the Iraqis would surrender. They haven't. They thought it could be over by now. It isn't. And as the coalition changes its plans, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is feeling the heat. By Diplomatic Editor Trevor Royle

### Solemn return of war dead

Families and officials mark return of first 10 servicemen killed in Iraq  
 By Stephen Naysmith

### Allies' Northern assault

**Part five:** As the US arrives to open its new front in northern Iraq, Foreign Editor David Pratt in Kalak, talks to Peshmerga and Kurdish fighters who live, and may well die, in the region

### Beatles' disaster zone up for sale

By Liam McDougall, Arts Correspondent

### Big business set to sponsor NHS nurses

Charities call for companies to repay communities by funding specialists  
 By Sarah-Kate Templeton, Health Editor

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## US forces' use of depleted uranium weapons is 'illegal'

By **Neil Mackay**, Investigations Editor

BRITISH and American coalition forces are using depleted uranium (DU) shells in the war against Iraq and deliberately flouting a United Nations resolution which classifies the munitions as illegal weapons of mass destruction.

DU contaminates land, causes ill-health and cancers among the soldiers using the weapons, the armies they target and civilians, leading to birth defects in children.

Professor Doug Rokke, ex-director of the Pentagon's depleted uranium project -- a former professor of environmental science at Jacksonville University and onetime US army colonel who was tasked by the US department of defence with the post-first Gulf war depleted uranium desert clean-up -- said use of DU was a 'war crime'.

Rokke said: 'There is a moral point to be made here. This war was about Iraq possessing illegal weapons of mass destruction -- yet we are using weapons of mass destruction ourselves.' He added: 'Such double-standards are repellent.'

The latest use of DU in the current conflict came on Friday when an American A10 tankbuster plane fired a DU shell, killing one British soldier and injuring three others in a 'friendly fire' incident.

According to a August 2002 report by the UN subcommission, laws which are breached by the use of DU shells include: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Charter of the United Nations; the Genocide Convention; the Convention Against Torture; the four Geneva Conventions of 1949; the Conventional Weapons Convention of 1980; and the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which expressly forbid employing 'poison or poisoned weapons' and 'arms, projectiles or materials calculated to cause unnecessary suffering'. All of these laws are designed to spare civilians from unwarranted suffering in armed conflicts.

DU has been blamed for the effects of Gulf war syndrome -- typified by chronic muscle and joint pain, fatigue and memory loss -- among 200,000 US soldiers after the 1991 conflict.

### Gulf War 2



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## Blair hints Iraq to blame for Baghdad market carnage

By James Cusick,  
Westminster Editor

### Blair... out in the cold

**Part six:** The balancing act is far from over for Blair. He still has to grapple with UN aid for Iraq and the thorny issue of who will govern the country. Westminster Editor James Cusick and Marion McKeone, in New York, report

### Embedded ... or in bed with the Pentagon?

By Marion McKeone in New York and Martin Patience

### Fury as UK farmers eye Fairtrade logo

Soil Association argues for inclusion of British organic producers in third-world farming protection scheme  
By Stephen Naysmith,  
Social Affairs  
Correspondent

### Getting the aid in

**Part eight:** Alex Renton, with Oxfam in Amman, Jordan, explains why thousands may die because key agencies were not factored in by war planners

### Hedgehog reprieve at kangaroo court?

Last-gasp contraceptive bid could save animals at centre of Hebridean cull  
By Jenifer Johnston

### Hewn cry over sculpture for Holyrood

By Jenifer Johnston

### Holyrood faces mother of all battles to keep voters' minds on Scottish fiscal autonomy

By Iain MacWhirter

It is also cited as the most likely cause of the 'increased number of birth deformities and cancer in Iraq' following the first Gulf war.

'Cancer appears to have increased between seven and 10 times and deformities between four and six times,' according to the UN subcommission.

The Pentagon has admitted that 320 metric tons of DU were left on the battlefield after the first Gulf war, although Russian military experts say 1000 metric tons is a more accurate figure.

In 1991, the Allies fired 944,000 DU rounds or some 2700 tons of DU tipped bombs. A UK Atomic Energy Authority report said that some 500,000 people would die before the end of this century, due to radioactive debris left in the desert.

The use of DU has also led to birth defects in the children of Allied veterans and is believed to be the cause of the 'worrying number of anophthalmos cases -- babies born without eyes' in Iraq. Only one in 50 million births should be anophthalmic, yet one Baghdad hospital had eight cases in just two years. Seven of the fathers had been exposed to American DU anti-tank rounds in 1991. There have also been cases of Iraqi babies born without the crowns of their skulls, a deformity also linked to DU shelling.

A study of Gulf war veterans showed that 67% had children with severe illnesses, missing eyes, blood infections, respiratory problems and fused fingers.

Rokke told the Sunday Herald: 'A nation's military personnel cannot wilfully contaminate any other nation, cause harm to persons and the environment and then ignore the consequences of their actions.'

'To do so is a crime against humanity.'

'We must do what is right for the citizens of the world -- ban DU.'

He called on the US and UK to 'recognise the immoral consequences of their actions and assume responsibility for medical care and thorough environmental remediation'.

He added: 'We can't just use munitions which leave a toxic wasteland behind them and kill indiscriminately.'

'It is equivalent to a war crime.'

Rokke said that coalition troops were currently fighting in the Gulf without adequate respiratory protection against DU contamination.

The Sunday Herald has previously revealed how the Ministry of Defence had test-fired some 6350 DU rounds into the Solway Firth over more than a decade, from 1989 to 1999.



## Insurers accused of 'hysteria' in withdrawal of terror cover

By Teresa Hunter, Personal Finance Editor

## Iraq to unleash wave of suicide bombers

- Saddam gives medal to plain clothes officer who blew up four US soldiers
- Baghdad tells allies: we'll take the war to your land

From Tim Judah in Baghdad and Neil Mackay

## Iraq's humanitarian crisis set to slow boil

By Pete Sweetnam, Emergency Programmes Officer Aid International/Mercy Corps Scotland

## Israel sets sights on Blair in bid to fold peace road map

**The view from Israel:** Tony Blair has provoked fury by pushing the road map to peace, finds Bob Tait in Jerusalem

## Kid gloves go on for election

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By Douglas Fraser, Political Editor

## Labour election pledge to deliver national theatre

Mixed feelings as Creative Scotland mooted to replace arts council and Scottish Screen in radical shake-up

By Liam McDougall, Arts Correspondent

## Let's have a Zeta-Beater

Alan Taylor's Diary

## Living through the bombing of Baghdad

**Part two:** By Tim Judah in Baghdad

## Most Britons now support the war ... but that doesn't mean we're happy with America

Numbers for and against military action have reversed. Robert Worcester, chairman of Mori, analyses the figures

## Protests remain undimmed as thousands take to streets

By Alan Crawford

## Rape and abuse: hymns for today

By Jenifer Johnston

## Revealed: the nuclear dump hit list

Executive refuses to publish secret list, but we expose potential sites for up to half a million tonnes of deadly waste  
By Rob Edwards,  
Environment Editor

## Saddam's enforcers

**Part three:** The Fedayeen have vowed to step up their suicide bombings. Neil Mackay reports that they are just one string of militias ready to fight to the death for Saddam

## Schools prepare for fallout from war

Leading teachers' union to issue guidance on dealing with effects of conflict on the classroom  
By Stephen Naysmith,  
Education Correspondent

## The West's big mistake

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Institute for the study of Arab world and Islam, on Western ignorance of Iraq's proud history

**The cost of war for one Iraqi family caught in the crossfire**

From Sean Maguire in central Iraq

**The media battle**

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**The word on the street**

How does Scotland feel about the Iraq conflict? To find out, Alan Crawford sampled public opinion in one of the capital's streets

**Top firms say graduate CVs are 'shocking'**

Calls for better careers advice as UK's top recruiters slam poor quality of applications  
By Karin Goodwin

**True leader of opposition warns Blair of European isolation danger**

New Labour's heavyweight rebel, Robin Cook, talks to Political Editor Douglas Fraser about his new role

**US denies pause on road to Baghdad: 'We're just resting'**

From Jamie Dettmer in Washington and James Cusick in London

**US forces' use of depleted uranium weapons is 'illegal'**

By Neil Mackay,  
Investigations Editor

**Uncensored: my two days with Tommy**

**Holyrood elections:** Over the next four weeks, Tom Shields will be on the road

with party leaders.  
First up: the SSP's man with  
the tan and the plan

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