

BEST AVAILABLE COPY ONLINE (SN) WWW.AZSTARNET.COM

# Arizona Daily Star

SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2003

50¢ One dollar in value



## NOGALES BY NIGHT

Accent

## COUNTRY JOINT IS BACK, JUMPING

Accent

## KING OF CLUBS

THE MAVERICK

## CAL DROPS FURTHER BEHIND UA

Sports

### U.S. troops get combat mission in Philippines

By Eric Schmitt  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The United States will send more than 1,700 troops to the Philippines in the next few weeks to fight Muslim extremists in the southern part of the country, opening a new front in the fight against terrorism, Pentagon officials said Thursday.

A six-month training mission in the Philippines last year limited 1,200 U.S. troops, including 100 Special Forces soldiers, to an advisory role and permitted them to fire only in self-defense in the rare cases when they accompanied Philippine soldiers. But this mission will be a combat operation with no such restrictions on American and Philippine troops serving side by side, military officials said.

Under the plan, about 750 ground troops, including 350 Special Operations personnel, will conduct or support combat patrols in the rugged jungles of Sulu province. In addition, about 1,000 Marines, backed by C-130 attack helicopters and Harrier AV-8B attack planes, will stand ready aboard two ships offshore to act as a quick-response force and to provide logistics and medical support. The first troops are expected to arrive within days, officials said.

The operation will last as long as necessary "to disrupt and destroy" the estimated 200 members of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group, one official said. It marks a sharp escalation in the war against terror as the United States builds up for a possible war with Iraq and continues to hunt al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

Philippine and U.S. officials agreed to launch the joint offensive now for several reasons, officials said.

Negotiations between the two countries have been under way for months, but Abu Sayyaf's repeated attacks and the bombing death of an American Green Beret in November spurred President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to hammer out an aggressive plan.

Dispatching commandos to the jungles of the southern Philippines will let Pentagon officials say, as they have before, that the American military can fight a war with Iraq and still carry out a global hunt for terrorists.

Arroyo has walked a political tightrope for several reasons, officials said.

### 78TH LA FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS



Yvette Matos, 4, Lucas Matos, 2, and Lisanna Matos, 7, from left, hail a wagon carrying Ronald McDonald.



The 78th annual parade drew a crowd that was unofficially estimated at 215,000 despite forecasts of rain.

## TRADITION ROLLS WITH PARADE

By Megan Rutherford and Betty Mandler  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

**F**ans hollered, bands straddled and horses reared on Tucson's South Side Thursday during the city's 78th annual tribute to some of its oldest traditions.

An estimated crowd of about 215,000 turned out to see the world's largest two-wheeled parade.

For Christopher Stump and son Chris, it was the 18th year of a family tradition that includes a morning at the Tucson Rodeo Parade and an afternoon at the rodeo grounds.

The pair find their way each year to a tall utility box near the railroad tracks along East Alhambra Way between South Second and South Park avenues, near the be-

**Parade best**  
A lot of the competition winners from Thursday.

**PAID AS**  
In the arena  
Scott Johnson's hard-earned approach has made him the ringleader of the cowboy PAGE 11

**On StarNet**  
Click through an interactive presentation on rodeo. www.azstar.net/rodeo

glimping of the parade route. Their perch atop the box gives them a great view of the horses and floats, Stump said. "It's getting harder for me to get up here and easier for him,"

he said of his 12-year-old son, Stump. At said there has only been one year when another duo claimed the spot before they arrived.

This year, spectators sat under cloudy skies.

The aroma of kettle corn filled the air early on, soon replaced by the smell of horses.

Vendors were everywhere along the 5-mile parade route working the crowd, selling cotton candy, balloons, toys and other assorted treats.

Some said the crowd seemed smaller Thursday than in previous years.

Tucson police traffic Detective Mary Puentes has stood watch at East Fair Street and South Park Avenue every year since

SEX: PARADE / A6

### U.S.-IRAQ BUILDUP

## Britain, U.S. plan new U.N. strategy

By Steven R. Weisman and Felicity Barringer  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The United States and Britain will try to persuade nine of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council to back a new resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq, and then to challenge France, Russia or China to veto the will of the council's majority, administration officials said on Thursday.

U.S. and British officials worked on Thursday to bridge their own differences over the resolution's language while refining it to attract the support of as many council members as possible. Administration officials said the negotiations would delay the resolution's introduction until next week, possibly on Monday.

One point of disagreement was a desire by British diplomats to include an explicit deadline for Iraq to disclose its weapons and start disarming, administration officials said. U.S. officials were said to be reluctant to include such a provision.

The strategy reflects an evolution in the two countries' thinking. A month or so ago, they were still hoping for unanimous council approval.

Some officials involved in the discussions argued that a resolution approved by a divided council —

SEX: U.N. / A11

## Gay partners may get registry

By Joe Burchell  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

By this time next year, gay couples in Tucson may be able to offer each other a new token of commitment, listing their relationship in what would be Arizona's first domestic partner registry.

A city commission is seeking creation of the registry for couples, who, for whatever reason, are unable to marry.

The primary attraction would be for same-sex couples, said Nancy Robinson, co-chair of the 13-member Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Commission, which unanimously endorsed the proposal last month. But it would also be open to others, such as seniors unable to marry because of pension, Social Security or children issues, who want some record of their union.

SEX: SAME-SEX / A11

**IN TODAY'S STAR**

**Weather**  
TODAY'S FORECAST  
Mostly sunny.  
High 67 / Low 50  
Thursday: High 64 / Low 47  
For complete weather information, see the Weather Report page on back of sports.  
www.azstar.net/weather  
A Phoenix Newspaper  
Vol. 132, No. 52

ARIZONA & THE WEST	A6	PUBLIC RECORDS	B4
BRIDGE	D7	PUZZLES	CLASSIFIED 1
BUSINESS	D16	SPORTS	C12
COMICS	B6	TELEVISION	E2
DEAR ABBY	E7		
EDITORIALS	B67		
HOROSCOPES	E7		
LOTTERY	A11		
MOVIES	CALENDAR 20-25		
NEWS/OPINION	B		
OBITUARIES	B4		

7 01150 00001 5

**COMING SUNDAY**

**EXPANDED AUTO RACING**

See the Star every Sunday during the NASCAR season for a full page of coverage.

**5% OFF** End-of-Season SALE!

See our ad in today's paper.

**Dillard's**  
Defining Quality & Value Every Day of the Year!