THE ATTACK ON THE USS STARK: When the word came

# Shock waves hit naval base

## Wives, friends share tears as 'family' pulls together

By Kathleen Bohland
News Staff Writer

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. — This base grieved Tuesday for its 37 sailors reported killed aboard the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf.

"We're dealing with emotions that are as fragile as eggshells," said the Navy chaplain, Commander William L. Perry. "They're feeling agony — it was the same story last night. The tension was really heavy for some of these people."

About 20 chaplains brought news to families of crew members stationed here late Monday and early Tuesday. The families of 16 of the 37 dead crew members live at this naval station, located about 20 miles east of Jacksonville. It is home port for the Stark and 33 other warships with a complement of 18,500 military personnel and 1,200 civil service employees.

EVER SINCE Barbara Allen, 26, learned an Iraqi aircraft launched a missile into the the frigate her seaman husband, Charles, was stationed on, she could only sit in a chair by the television and wait for news reports.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, Allen learned the 26-year-old Hazel Park native was safe.

"I was so happy," said Allen, sitting in her home in Jacksonville about 20 miles from the Mayport naval base.

"I didn't think I would hear he was alive," she said. "I kept thinking they (chaplains) would drive up my driveway, and I would look out my window every time I heard a car."

Waiting was the hardest, she said. Her two sons, Christopher, 6, and Jeremy, 3, couldn't help but pick up on her mood.

"My youngest didn't really know — only that his dad's ship was in a fire," she said. "But Christopher watched me and whatever was on my face made him upset."

MANY OF the victims' wives were in seclusion on the base, seeing only family, friends and special counselors brought in by the Navy.

"There is great distress here," said Rear Admiral Michael P. Kalleres. "But, we're a family here and we want to ensure both moral and uplifting support for all of our families."

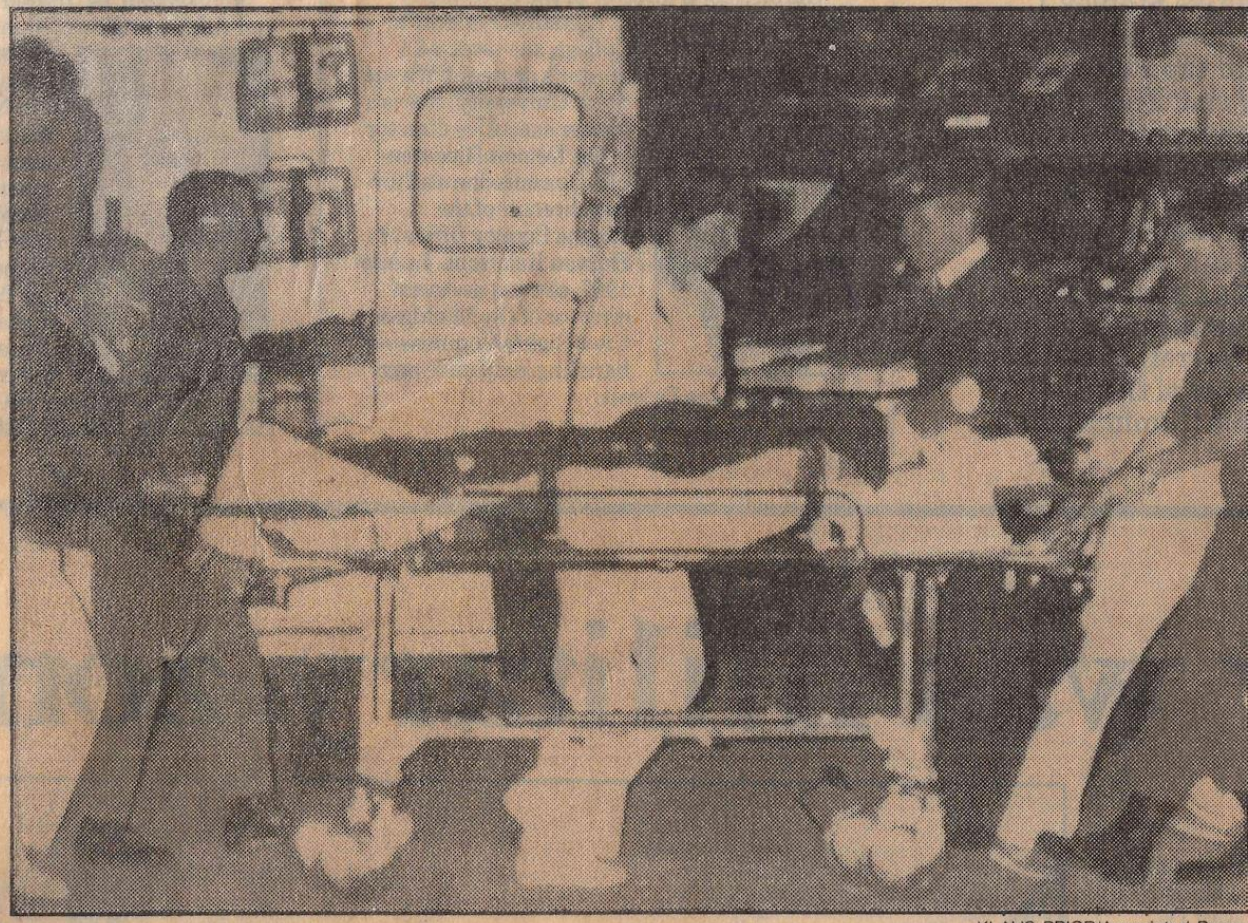
At the stroke of noon, sailors lowered the three American flags at the station's front gate to half-staff in honor of those killed when the Stark was hit by an Iraqi missile.

Private religious services were held in the base chapel Tuesday and a memorial service was planned for Friday, which President Reagan may attend, Kalleres said.

TUESDAY, CECILIE Tull, a cashier at the base's Navy Grog Shop liquor store, said many customers told her they were shocked to learn their home-port ship was attacked by the Iraqi fighter.

But Petty Officer Third Class Maurice Moody said life has to go on.

Petty Officer Third Class Scott Musser said, "I'm angry and I think a lot of other people are, too. You wonder if it could happen to you. I've been shot at, but never hit."



KLAUS PRIOR/Associated Press

One of two wounded sailors is rushed into the U.S. Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, W. Germany, Tuesday morning.

## Ship's name recalls disaster

The U.S. frigate that was attacked by Iraq Sunday ironically was named for an admiral associated with one of the worst disasters in American naval history.

Admiral Harold R. Stark was the nation's top naval officer at the time of Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Pearl Harbor that left the U.S. Pacific Fleet in ruins and put America in World War II.

Stark and his Army equivalent, Gen. George C. Marshall, were criticized for not having their forces in Hawaii sufficiently alerted to the danger of attack.

Stark was replaced as chief of naval operations three months after Pearl Harbor. Marshall remained Army chief of staff throughout the war.