

Aileen McCabe of Southam News described the scene in Jordan, where another 900 or so had gone in the vain hope of obtaining visas to enter Iraq. "Sheer numbers in Amman broke down the system," she said. "I think the pool system would have broken down if the ground war had gone on much longer."

General Sidle, who provided most of these figures, remarked: "That's a lot of reporters -- 3,000 or more. It's hard for any organization to handle -- even the Superbowl has trouble with that many. We know the press wants to cover the battle on their own, but we can't let 3,000 people run around the battlefield, unescorted or anything else." His conclusions were:

- Operational security and troop safety must take precedence over any other factors;
- The media will have to limit numbers; if they do not, the Defence Department will have to do it;
- Field press censorship should be restored -- "the only solution that has worked to provide the greatest freedom of action for reporters, which is a key point, as well as furnishing maximum security and troop safety."