

In Michigan, relief for some, mourning for others

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least five Michigan families rejoiced over news that relatives had survived an attack on a U.S. Navy ship in the Persian Gulf while three others mourned the deaths of sailors from the state.

The Department of Defense confirmed Tuesday at least three sailors from Michi-

gan were missing and presumed dead after a missile struck the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf.

The three were identified as Steven Thomas Erwin, 22, of Troy; Kelly Robert Quick, 20, of Genesee County's Fenton Township near Linden; and Joseph Pearce Watson, 25, of Ferndale.

The Pentagon said 37 people were killed in the attack Sunday. A spokesman said 22 of the victims have been identified, and 15 are missing and presumed dead.

A military transport plane was scheduled to carry their remains to a base in West Germany today.

Philip Shandler, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said seven others from Michigan were aboard the ship and believed to be alive, but he would not release their names.

He said Charles Allen, 23, of Hazel Park and John Thomas Haley, 20, of Saginaw are apparently alive. Their mothers also said Navy officials had told them their sons were alive.

Haley's family erected a sign on their lawn which read, "John is alive and well - U.S.S. Stark - Thanks to all."

Families of Michael Zinn, 22, of Birmingham, Marshall Hayes, 28, of Benton Harbor and Wayne Fox, 23, of Southgate, said they too were notified the men had survived the attack.

Hayes' wife, Mildred, who was finally notified about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, said

she and her family were ecstatic.

"Everyone (in the family) is hollering and screaming," she said.

Shandler said Zinn, Hayes and Fox were not among the 10 men on his list.

Navy officials went to the Detroit suburb of Ferndale Monday night to tell relatives of Watson, an electronic warfare specialist, that he was among those killed

when the Navy frigate was hit Sunday by a missile fired from an Iraqi warplane.

"He was the youngest of six, and his family is heartbroken," Watson's mother, Thelma, said Tuesday.

"He died doing what he liked and wanted to do," said his father, Harold.

Watson had studied social science at Michigan State University, where he met his wife, Kristin, 24, a native of St. Johns. They were to celebrate their second anniversary in June.

Erwin, a sonar technician with the Navy, telephoned his family Friday night and expressed optimism about the Stark's Mideast mission, said his father, Rodney.

"He didn't seem concerned. He was proud of his ship," the elder Erwin said.

Nancy Erwin, the victim's mother, said she was notified by authorities late Tuesday that her son's status was changed from missing to presumed dead.

She said her son, a 1982 graduate of Troy's Athens High School, had decided he would end his naval career this summer after 3½ years at sea.

"The Navy really was a good option for him, because he had an opportunity to travel and learn skills. But he was eager to get out," she said.

A woman who answered the phone at the Quick residence said they had not been notified Kelly was presumed dead by late Tuesday.

Quick, an electronics technician 3rd

MICHIGAN MISSING



The three sailors from Michigan who have been confirmed as missing and presumed dead are, from left: Joseph Pearce Watson, 25, of Ferndale; Steven Thomas Erwin, 22, of Troy; and Kelly Robert Quick, 20, of Genesee County's Fenton Township.



The parents of Petty Officer John T. Haley, who survived the attack on the Stark, have been celebrating at their home in Saginaw. A neighbor embraces Haley's mother, right, top, and John Haley Sr. waits at his front door as another visitor comes up the walk to congratulate the proud parents.

AP PHOTOS



Class, graduated from Linden High School in 1984. He had enlisted in the Navy in December of his senior year and went on active duty the following year, said his father, Bob Quick.

"Wherever he is, I wish I could trade places with him," the elder Quick said.

"He hasn't had enough time to live."

Pamela Peterson, mother of Seaman 3rd Class David Peterson of Durand, said her son telephoned Monday from Italy, saying he had left the ship on special orders about a half hour before the attack and was fine.