

# OU graduate documents, brother edits Gulf war for CNN

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pg. 1

Six years ago, Stuart Clark began working as a cameraman for a little-known news station in Atlanta called Cable News Network. At the time, it did not seem like a giant career step for the 1984 OU visual communications graduate.

But when U.S. planes bombed Iraqi targets Jan. 16, Clark was part of a CNN camera crew that boarded a military plane bound for the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

"The (flight) was like riding backward in a jump seat for 18 hours," Clark recalled, speaking by phone last week from the Hyatt Hotel in Riyadh, which serves as headquarters for the Allied press pool.

Besides a gas mask, Clark was issued a chemical warfare suit, which includes syringes, pills and skin cream containing drugs to counter the effects of a chemical attack.

*"There's certain things we can't show... because the Iraqis would know the landmarks."*

Jay Clark

He said he has videotaped Scud and Patriot missile fire from the rooftop of his hotel. He also has shot military briefings given by Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces.

Clark's two younger brothers also are pursuing careers in communications. Jay Clark, a 1989 OU telecommunications graduate, works at CNN headquarters in Atlanta. Bradley Clark is an OU sophomore studying communication systems management.

Jay said he sometimes edits Stuart's video footage, which is sent

by satellite to the network's headquarters.

"We get (satellite tapes) on the air as soon as possible," Jay said by telephone from Atlanta. The tapes are aired "within minutes" of being edited, he added.

Both brothers described their jobs as stressful, but also exciting.

"I don't mind a little danger," Stuart said. But an invitation to accompany the 82nd Airborne Marine division on the front lines for two weeks was too much.

"I consider that risking my life for

pictures. I won't go that far," he said.

Recently he and the rest of his crew were detained for questioning by Saudi police after they taped footage of a bombed government building.

"We didn't have the proper credentials," Stuart said. "There's supposed to be a Ministry of Information person with you — in essence, a censor," he said. After being scolded for a half hour at police headquarters, they were driven back to their hotel, he said.

Jay said military censorship of war coverage is needed, especially because Iraqi President Saddam Hussein watches CNN.

"There's certain things we can't show... because the Iraqis would know the landmarks," he said.

Stuart's 10-week assignment in Saudi Arabia will end in mid-March. However, if the war seems to be coming to a close, he said he would like to "see it out."