

# White House general talks reconstruction

**SGT. JASON STADEL**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

**PATROL BASE MURRAY** — Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, named the Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan in May, went to Patrol Base Murray Oct. 25 to meet with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's military and civilian leaders on reconstruction in their areas of operation.

"One reason we're down here is to get bottom-up feedback (from the units on the ground)," Lute said.

Lute gave ideas to the military and civilian leaders at the meeting on helping to rebuild the areas.

One idea was having different states adopt one of the 18 provinces in Iraq.

As an example, he said that the governor of Missouri might be interested in working closely with the governor of the Babil province.

That state would then work closely with its adopted province to build the local economy.

Along with plans for local government and infrastructure reconstruction, the improved security of the re-



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute speaks with Col. Terry Ferrell and John Smith, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team leader.

gion was also discussed. Commanders recognize that security is the first step in economic and political growth in their AOs.

"It all goes back to the security," said Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. commander. "When the secu-

rity improves we can work on the projects."

Lute also said improving security would open the door to reconstruction projects. "We want to take advantage

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# Iraqi national police join forces with 1-10 FA in Nahrwan

**SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK**  
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

**FOB HAMMER** — The 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Iraqi national police are partnering with U.S. Soldiers for eight days in Nahrwan.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment will work closely with the national police during their partnership in the coming week and onwards, according to Command Sgt. Maj. James Benedict, 1-10th FA.

The 1-10th FA Regt. has assumed responsibility for Nahrwan, a town east

of Baghdad. Benedict said the 1/3/1 NP has been called in to assist in operations for the next eight days.

"The goal is to put an Iraqi face on operations," he said. "If the Iraqi police in Nahrwan need assistance, they call the national police. We will provide support as well, and will work with the Iraqi security forces to make Nahrwan a more safe and secure place for Iraqi citizens to live."

Leaders from the 1-10th FA Regt. met with leaders from the 1/3/1 NP from Jisr Diyala at a dinner held Oct. 27 at the dining facility on FOB Ham-

mer, to discuss operations, resources in the area, and to coordinate for the upcoming week.

"We are moving in the right direction," Benedict said. "Side by side with the Iraqi security forces we can work towards the common goal of combating the insurgency."

The artillerymen of the 1-10th FA Regt. were previously serving as guards at the Bucca Detention Center as part of Taskforce 134. They were reassigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and assumed control of Nahrwan Oct. 15.

# TWO GENERATIONS TWO DIFFERENT WARS

**MAJ. WEB WRIGHT**

2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI)

**CAMP STRIKER** — “It’s a small Army.”

I used to take this saying for granted, as a clever little description for the coincidence of running into an old friend or the friend of a friend.

But this little cliché is truer than one would believe.

About seven months into my first deployment into Baghdad with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), out of Fort Drum, N.Y., I made a rare phone call back home to my parents.

My dad was pretty excited to talk to me and the ensuing conversation went something like this:

“Hey son, I just called my old crew chief from Vietnam in preparation for the squadron reunion. We began talking and reminiscing about the old times. When the subject of family came up, I asked him, ‘What’s your son up to?’

His response was, ‘He’s in the Army.’

‘Oh really? Mine, too. What’s he doing?’

‘He’s in Iraq.’

‘Mine, too. Where?’

‘Baghdad.’

‘So is mine – what unit?’”



Maj. Webster Wright and Chief Warrant Officer Paul Williamson meet at Striker after discovering their fathers served together in Vietnam. Top right: Lt.j.g. Web Wright Jr., Vietnam, 1968; bottom right: AMH-3 Jack Williamson, Vietnam, 1968.

It was at that point that they both realized the proud irony unveiled through a friendly phone call. Two men, who fought together, in the same helicopter in the Mekong Delta 38 years before, had sons in the same brigade in Baghdad – two different generations serving together in two different wars.

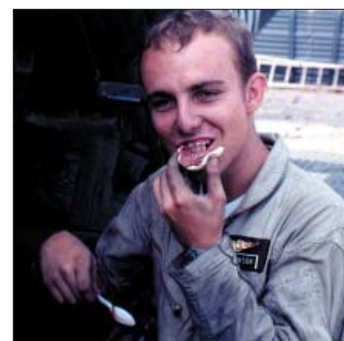
Even more ironic is that they served in different branches of service.

My dad retired from the Navy as a Lt. Cdr. but at the time Navy Lt.j.g., Webster

Wright Jr. and his crew chief, AMH-3 Jack Williamson, flew UH-1B Huey gunship helicopters along the three major rivers southeast of the splitting from the Mekong River in Southern Vietnam.

Chief Paul Williamson and I have both served with the 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI), the Army’s most deployed combat brigade, for two tours of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Our first tour, from June 2004 through June 2005 was spent working out of Camp Liberty.



Courtesy photos

We were there for the first elections, the opening of the Baghdad International Airport to civilian air traffic, and literally tens of thousands of patrols against al-Qaeda and other insurgent forces in the area.

Our second tour was in the notorious area coined the ‘Triangle of Death’ which encompasses Mahmudiyah, Lutifiyah, Yusufiyah and much of the Euphrates River Valley.

Our duties do not keep

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## THE Dog Face Daily

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Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor/Design — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

#### Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)

4th Brigade Combat Team (Abn.), 25th Infantry Division

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82nd Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion



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us in close contact, but the knowledge that we share a family history allows us to give high-fives, handshakes and stories about what our dads are up to when we pass each other in the chow hall or the tactical operations center.

When I made this connection between Paul and our fathers, I ran around excitedly telling everyone about the discovery. It took me about two weeks to actually hunt Paul down and meet him face to face. By this time he had already heard the news from his father.

"If I remember right, my dad sent an e-mail telling me about it," Paul said. "When we finally met in the TOC, I e-mailed back asking if it was all real and my dad confirmed it all."

Paul is the brigade communications and electronics technician, running the C&E shop in Company B, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, while I am the Public Affairs officer for the brigade.

I wanted to write an article about this bizarre coincidence, so I e-mailed my dad and started the process by asking for some of his pictures and to relive the details.

As I started to hear the stories, once again, I had a different interest than that of a kid, hearing 'dad's cool war stories.' For some reason I now took more of an interest in the camaraderie and respect that each of the two men had for each other sharing the life-and-death experiences of flying close air support in Vietnam.

I acquired Mr. Williamson's e-mail address and began to ask him the many questions that came to mind. As I read his responses I realized that, as many times as I had seen the slides and heard the stories, I really did not know too

much about what my dad actually did in his 18 months at war. I did not know much about the people he served with. I took the opportunity to learn a bit more.

My dad flew with the Seawolves in an area where the rivers formed to make the Mekong Delta interdicting the VC supply lines in Operations Game Warden.

Jack Williamson's first assignment in Vietnam was with HAL-3 in Vinh Long Army Airfield where he served for the entirety of his tour.

I was impressed by what Jack had to say, and at the same time was amazed at some of the skillful, courageous and, seemingly, nutty things that my dad did.

"I remember your dad on several occasions taking pictures. One in particular, was during a strike mission, while I was putting in covering fire for the lead helo, I heard your dad over the intercom say something like, 'Hey Jack, smile, you're on camera' and I looked up to see him taking a picture over his left shoulder. He was always cool under fire."

My dad's respect for Jack was equally flattering.

"I think he was 18 or 19 at the time. I was 24. The young crewmembers were the best I have worked with in the Navy. Jack was among the best of the best. I still would go anywhere with him," he said.

After doing all of this research and interviewing our fathers, I really wanted to see the two of them interact. Paul and I plan to bring the two of them together upon our homecoming in November. The two old war vets will merge on Fort Drum as the two younger ones return home, completing the circle and making the world even smaller.

## GENERAL: *White house security advisor meets with 2BCT leaders*

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and exploit this success," he said.

On the civilian side, embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams have been embedded with the brigades to spearhead reconstruction efforts.

John Smith, the ePRT leader for 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., was optimistic about Lute's visit.

"He has an open ear for boots-on-the-ground knowledge," Smith said. "For him to hear boots-on-the-ground information helps him to get perspective."

Smith is relatively new to this area of operations, but has already met with local leaders to assess the needs of the Iraqi people in Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour. He said the time is now for the Iraqis in the area to start building their local and provincial governments and those tasks will come easier if Lute and his staff in Washington are aware of what needs to be done.

"I think he had some great ideas," Smith said. "Him (Lute) coming out here is worth its weight in gold."

A safer area of operations helps the Provincial Reconstruction Teams to assist provincial and local governments to grow economically, politically and socially.

Another development is more than 1,000 residents in the Guardian and Hammer AOs who have become Concerned Local Citizens.

The CLCs are helping to drive out al-Qaeda and insurgents.

"People see the security is improving," said Col. Wayne Grigsby, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. commander. "That's why this Concerned (Local) Citizens is growing like wildfire."

To help the security, Iraqis are setting aside their secular differences. "I've got Sunni concerned citizens and I've got Shia concerned citizens. They are interested in taking out the criminals," Grigsby added.

## Today in Marne history October 30, 1944

On this date, near St. Jacques, France, Pvt. Wilburn Russ, fought with distinction, for which he was awarded the medal of honor.

## Safety Thought of the Day Space Heaters

- Non-standard, unvented commercial heaters are NOT authorized for use under any condition inside buildings, tents, or any enclosed areas. Only approved military heaters and electric space heaters may be used.
- Only licensed personnel may perform heater operations and maintenance procedures.
- All heater operations must be performed in accordance with the applicable TM or the manufacturer's instructions. Soldiers must allow heaters to cool before attempting any service or refueling.
- A fire extinguisher must be available.
- A 3' area around the heater must be free of combustible materials.

## Headline Highlights

# Gender-bending worms; drunken 'zombie'

## Gene switch altered sex orientation of worms

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Altering a gene in the brain of female worms changed their sexual orientation, U.S. researchers said Thursday, making female worms attracted to other females.

The study reinforces the notion that sexual orientation is hard-wired in the brain, said Erik Jorgensen, scientific director of the Brain Institute at the University of Utah.

"They look like girls, but act and think like boys," Utah researcher Jamie White, who worked on the study published in the journal *Current Biology*, said in a statement.

Researchers in Jorgensen's lab switched on a gene in female worms that makes the body develop male structures, but they only activated the gene in the brain.

As a result, the female worms still had female bodies, but they behaved like males.

"It suggests sexual behavior is encoded in our genes" and not caused by extra nerve cells specific to males or females, Jorgensen said in a telephone interview.

Animals such as nematodes, fruit flies and mice share many of the same genes as humans and are often used as models to understand human genetics.

But Jorgensen said the study is not likely to resolve the burning question about the genesis of sexual orientation in humans. "A human's brain is much more complex than a worm's brain," he said.

Jorgensen said the study is interest-

ing because it suggests rather than being caused by extra, sex-specific nerve cells, attraction behaviors are part of the same brain circuit.

The finding was part of a study looking at areas in the worms' brains involved in sexual attraction.

### LIVE IN DIRT, EAT GERMS

Nematodes, or *C. elegans*, are tiny worms about one millimeter long that live in the dirt, chomping bacteria. They have no eyes and rely on smell for navigation and propagation.

There are few males, only one in 500, so most of these female nematodes are hermaphrodites, meaning they have both male and female sexual organs. This gives the female worms the ability to fertilize their own eggs and produce offspring in the absence of a male.

"For the most part they are females," Jorgensen said. "It's really hard to tell that they are hermaphrodites, but they do make these few sperm."

When they do mate with males, female worms produce 1,200 progeny, compared with just 200 when they produce their own sperm.

The researchers were trying to understand the underpinnings of sexual attraction in the male nematodes.

They reasoned it could arise from four extra smell-related nerve cells found only in male worm brains, from four core nerves found in both males and females or from a mix of both.

When they systematically neutralized the male-only neurons, mature male worms still responded to the females.

The findings imply nerve cells common to both male and female worms

are central to sexual attraction and sexual orientation.

"They have genes for both male behavior and female behavior in them," Jorgensen said. "It suggests the brain determines behavior."

The study expands on prior studies suggesting a genetic component to sexual orientation.

"This is one more observation. We've seen this in flies and in mice," he said. "The difference is we know what cells are involved."

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation.

## He's not undead, just unsober

BERLIN (Reuters) — Passengers on a German train mistook a Halloween reveler dressed up as a gore-covered zombie for a murder victim and called the police.

The 24-year-old man fell into a drunken slumber on his way home from a Halloween party in Hamburg, police in the northern town of Bad Segeberg said Monday.

Believing his hands and face were smeared with blood, passengers alerted police after getting no response from him.

A first aid team called to the scene soon cleared up the confusion. Police told the man to remove his make-up after which he was allowed to continue his journey.

"Bad Segeberg is in a rural area and Halloween isn't very well known there," police spokeswoman Silke Tobies said. "So people weren't expecting anyone to be dressed up in the train."

## Sudoku

	7		5					
			8	7		4		
2		9				5	8	
8		3	6	5				
6	1						2	3
				8	3	6		5
	8	7				9		1
		6		3	7			
					8		3	

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

8	5	3	1	4	2	7	6	9
7	2	1	8	6	9	3	5	4
4	6	9	5	3	7	8	2	1
2	8	7	4	9	5	6	1	3
6	9	4	2	1	3	5	7	8
1	3	5	6	7	8	4	9	2
9	7	8	3	2	6	1	4	5
5	1	6	9	8	4	2	3	7
3	4	2	7	5	1	9	8	6

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Shelter

*mel-jeh*