

CG sees progress in Hawr Rajab



Security in old al-Qaeda stronghold shows marked improvement

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

HAWR RAJAB — Four months ago, the sight of a U.S. or Iraqi soldier walking the streets of Hawr Rajab would have likely sparked a battle.

The city was dominated by al-Qaeda, the streets lined with improvised explosive devices.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Multi-National Division -Center commander, walked the streets of Hawr Rajab Nov. 7, witnessing firsthand the dramatic improvement in the city's security.

With the Concerned Local Citizens fighting back and aiding U.S. Soldiers, the threat of

Sgt. Jason Stadel

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, MND-C commanding general, walks the streets of Hawr Rajab with Sheik Ali (to Lynch's left) and Sheik Mahir (to Lynch's right) Nov. 7.

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Brothers share deployments, faith, love for family

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Deployments aren't generally regarded by families as happy occasions — but the circumstances are a bit different for the Treanor brothers.

For the second time, Army Maj. Stephen Treanor, executive officer of 3rd

Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and Air Force Maj. Don Treanor, a civil engineer commanding Detachment 3, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, are serving simultaneously in Iraq.

"I knew coming into it that Stephen would be here toward the end of the deployment," Don said. "It was some-

thing to look forward to."

Stephen agreed. "Leaving my family is terrible but getting to see (my brother) here kind of eased the transition," he said.

The majors were last deployed to Iraq in September 2005, when Don was attached to a unit in the 101st Abn.

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BROTHERS: *Family ties bind Army, Air Force majors while in Iraq*

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Div. (AASLT). They were based about 100 miles apart though, and only saw each other periodically when missions brought Don to Stephen's location.

There was a seven-month overlap for the last deployment, but this time it's only six weeks. "We've kind of made a point of trying to get together on the weekend and that's been nice," Don said.

Before arriving in Iraq, the brothers had not seen one another since last Christmas. "We see each other more deployed than we do in the States," Stephen said.

The Treanors were raised in Prattville, Ala., and graduated from Auburn University in Alabama. Their parents, sister, grandparents and other family members live in Northport, near Tuscaloosa, Ala. But the brothers say the place they call "home" changes from time to time.

Stephen joked, "Home is where the Army sends you."

Stephen and Don agree that "home" to them is wherever their wives and children are. Stephen has been married for 12 years and has three daughters; Don has been married for 16 years, with two daughters.

Don has been in the Air Force for 15 years; Stephen in the Army 18 years total – five National Guard, 13 active. Two years seem to be a pattern with these two.

Stephen is two years younger than Don, has two less years of active-duty time in the military and was promoted to major two years – to the date – after his older brother.

"I never really thought of myself as following in his footsteps, but I think he



Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy

Air Force Maj. Don Treanor and his brother, Maj. Stephen Treanor, enjoy some family bonding time at Camp Striker while serving simultaneously in Iraq for the second time.

created a heck of an example," Stephen said of his brother.

Not only do the brothers share a love for family, the military and Auburn football, but they both have a strong faith that is particularly helpful during deployments.

Don and Stephen both said the Air Force and Army values, respectively, align perfectly with their Christian values.

"Having a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ means that I don't live in fear while I'm deployed to Iraq," Don said. "I know that God is in control always."

Stephen echoed his brother's sentiment, adding that his faith in God allows him to focus on the mission at hand and not be plagued with fear or

worry.

"I've probably never expressed it, but my brother has been a tremendous Christian influence throughout my adult life," Stephen said. "Besides being a successful officer, he has always been a strong Christian."

The brothers have been able to attend a couple church services together recently, something they hadn't done in years.

As Don prepares to return to his home station at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., he and his brother look forward to meeting somewhere other than the Middle East.

"I hope this is the last time we see each other in Iraq," Stephen said. "I prefer to see him in Florida, but we'll take Iraq if it's all we can get."

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82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

PROGRESS: *Hawr Rajab security now 'better than it ever has been'*

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al-Qaeda has dropped considerably. An Iraqi army mechanized company was added to help secure the community.

Iraqis setting aside sectarian differences has also helped secure the area. Sunnis and Shias are working together to fight a greater enemy - al-Qaeda. The change hasn't gone unnoticed by U.S. forces.

"We're unique here," said Capt. Chad Klacius, commander, Troop A, 1st Battalion, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th

Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, currently attached to the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. "The Sunni concerned citizens and Shia IA are working together. This is something that has helped us to secure the city."

Klacius spearheaded the CLC program about four months ago when he began working closely with a local leader named Sheik Ali, who is now the leader of the Hawr Rajab CLCs. The group has grown to 445 members.

Ali, a Sunni, told Lynch that working with U.S. Soldiers and the IA has helped his people return to their homes

after being driven out by al-Qaeda. He said the concerned citizens would continue their relationship with the IA and Coalition Forces to keep al-Qaeda out of Hawr Rajab.

"The relationship with you and the IA is very important," Lynch told Ali. "Whatever you need to help improve the living conditions, we'll try and give it to you."

The outlook for Hawr Rajab is optimistic.

"The security is better than it ever has been since I took command 14 months ago," Klacius said.

How much do you know about your benefits?

Veterans Day is Nov. 11, and of the 25 million veterans currently alive, nearly three of every four served during a war or an official period of hostility. About a quarter of the nation's population — approximately 70 million people — are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans.

There are a number of benefits to serving in the U.S. military.

As a U.S. Army veteran, you're entitled to ...

Education

- Montgomery GI Bill
- Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35)

Home Loans

Compensation and Pension

- Disability Compensation
- Pension

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment


- Vocational Training and Employment Services
- Vocational Counseling

Life Insurance


- Servicemembers' & Veterans' Group Life Insurance
- Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

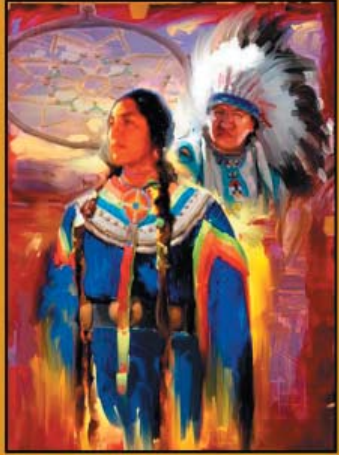
... and MORE!


Log on to <http://www.vba.va.gov/> for more information.



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**Friday, Nov. 9
at 6:30 p.m.
Al Faw Palace Rotunda
Keynote Speaker
Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, CDR TF 134
Followed by dinner in the ballroom**

Safety Thought of the Day Carbon Monoxide — Silent Killer

- Carbon monoxide is harmful because it displaces oxygen in the blood and deprives the heart, brain, and other vital organs of oxygen. It can overcome you in minutes without warning, causing you to lose consciousness and suffocate.
- Initial symptoms: tightness of the chest, headache, fatigue, dizziness, drowsiness, or nausea. During prolonged or high exposures, symptoms may worsen and include vomiting, confusion, and collapse in addition to loss of consciousness and muscle weakness.

Prevention

- Educate personnel in the prevention, symptoms, and immediate action of CO exposure.

- Proper PMCS of CO producing heaters, vehicles, and equipment (identify/repair exhaust leaks).
- Vehicle and equipment operators should adhere to operator and technical manuals.
- Adequate ventilation in close quarters such as tents, KP tents, MKTs, OPs, and guard towers.
- Train fire guards to recognize symptoms of CO poisoning.
- Ensure only trained and licensed personnel operate heaters.
- Do not sleep in vehicles/equipment with the engine or heater running.

Headline Highlights

'Best mom' on currency; calendar serial killer

'Best mom' on the money

SEOUL (Reuters) — South Korea's central bank on Monday chose the face of Korean motherhood as the first woman to be featured on its banknotes, but women's rights groups say the selection only reinforces sexist stereotypes.

Shin Saimdang, known for raising a famed Confucian scholar and having a deft hand in painting, will grace the new 50,000 won (\$55) note when it debuts in early 2009, the Bank of Korea said.

Women's groups say her selection bolsters the idea that mothers should stay at home and devote their lives to their children's education.

Shin, whose nickname is "wise mother," gave birth to the 16th-century scholar Yi I, also known by his pen name Yulgok. She is celebrated for placing her son on the path to fame.

A paper on a government Web site describes Shin as "the best example of motherhood in Korean history," while the central bank said she was selected "to promote gender equality and women's participation in society."

Women's rights groups acknowledge Shin as an important figure but have been pushing for other female candidates, who have risen to positions of power and respect in a male-dominated society, to be placed on the new note.

"Although women nowadays are highly capable and educated, the idea of 'wise mother and good wife' holds them down," said Kwon Hee-jung, secretary general of the women's rights

group IF.

More than a dozen women's rights groups plan to protest against the bank's decision.

Yulgok's face is already on the 5,000 won note. Shin will appear on the second-highest valued note after the new 100,000 bill is also issued in 2009.

Waking up to nosebleeds in super-dry Tibetan autumn

BEIJING (Reuters) — Moisture has become a luxury in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa where many locals are waking up to nosebleeds in the dry autumn, state media said on Monday as the Himalayan region faces growing threat of global warming.

"As it stands, there is little water component in the air in the Sunlight City which sits at 3,700 meters above sea level, making the weather extremely dry and things flammable," Xinhua news agency quoted the Lhasa Observatory as saying.

"The weather has also caused many Tibetans to wake up to nosebleeds."

The observatory has reported record low humidity in Lhasa since October while most of China's south had rainfall.

Tibet, long regarded as sensitive to the effects of global warming, is heating up faster than anywhere else in the world, state media has said.

Scientists have warned that the warming Qinghai-Tibet plateau will melt glaciers, dry up major Chinese rivers and trigger drought, sandstorms and desertification.

What says 'Christmas' like a serial killer?

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German advent calendar for children has become a hot seller since word got out it has a picture of a notorious serial killer on it.

The cartoon calendar shows Fritz Haarmann, who murdered 24 young men and boys in the 1920s, lurking under a tree with a hatchet next to the door for December 1.

Below him, Santa Claus hands out presents to children in a festive-looking Hanover.

A local tourism office included the serial killer alongside 23 other celebrities in the northern city, including philosopher Gottfried Leibniz and hard rock band The Scorpions.

Haarmann's depiction featured in last year's edition, but this year it is attracting wider attention because top-selling newspaper Bild questioned whether the use of the murderer in a children's calendar was in good taste.

"People are queuing up to buy the calendar now," said a surprised Hans Nolte, director of the city's tourism board.

Nolte said he expected the initial 20,000 copy run of the calendar to sell out soon as orders were pouring in from Berlin, Vienna and other parts of Austria. Proceeds from the sales are going towards a local charity for children with cancer.

"It's part of our history," Nolte said.

Nonetheless, the serial killer, who was beheaded in 1925, will not appear in next year's edition, Nolte said.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

What?

shih-noo?