

CENTCOM nominee touts diplomacy in Iraq approach

By **Sgt. Sara Wood, USA**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Cooperation and assistance from U.S. allies in the Middle East are essential to promoting security and stability in Iraq, the president’s nominee to lead U.S. Central Command said here today.

Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, whom President Bush nominated to take over for Army Gen. John Abizaid, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that, if confirmed, he would draw on his diplomatic experience as the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, where he has served since February 2005. In Pacific Command, Fallon said, he engages countries in the region for advice and opinions in security operations. He would like to bring this same approach to the Middle East, he said.



Navy Admiral William J. Fallon

“It seems to me that we make progress when we are willing to be open and to use every means at our disposal to try to achieve the ends. But this, of course, requires reciprocal actions from the other parties,” Fallon said.

— [Full Story](#)

Army destroys insurgent stronghold in Diyala

By **Sgt. Armando Monroig**
5th Mobile Public Affairs

BALAD RUZ, Iraq — The U.S. Army concluded a massive, nine-day assault Jan. 13, centered on a series of small villages in the Diyala province that for the past 18 months had been used as a safe haven for insurgents.

During the operation, Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance, 82nd Airborne Division, killed more than 100 insurgents and detained 54 suspected of involvement with terrorism activities in the area, which is located just south of Balad Ruz.

The unit, located at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, also reported capturing six unnamed leaders of an underground organization thought to have ties to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups hiding in the villages of Turki, Hamoud, and 30 Tamuz. — [Full Story](#)



Soldiers prepare to enter a series of small mud huts in the Tawillah region of Iraq. The 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment participated in an insurgent seek-and-capture-or-destroy mission that began Jan. 4 and lasted until Jan. 13. U.S. Army photo Sgt. Armando Monroig.

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EXPOSING THE ENEMY

DR. AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI
ADDRESSES BUSH’S BAGHDAD
SECURITY PLAN



Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda’s number two, presents a speech titled: “The Correct Equation,” in a 14:11 minute video produced by the group’s multimedia arm, as-Sahab. The speech, including English-subtitles, concerns the Iraq security plan announced by U.S. President George W. Bush to send an additional 20,000 American troops to Baghdad, and the necessity of the Muslims joining the Mujahideen and supporting their jihad in all theaters of war, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Chechnya, Somalia, and Algeria. Zawahiri taunts Bush, questioning: “why send 20,000 only - — [Full Text](#)

WARFIGHTER STORIES

A COMMANDER’S COURAGE
UNDER INSURGENT FIRE



On the night of Sept. 13, 2006, Lt. Col. Winski led a team to capture a high-value terrorist leader east of Baghdad. As the group approached its target, insurgents opened fire, crippling one of the vehicles. Paying no attention to the gunshots exploding around him, Winski drove to the immobilized vehicle, hooked chains around it, and pulled it to safety.

As the ground commander of the raid, Winski was not done: he had to keep his scattered men focused on the mission and aware of their surroundings and enemies. — [Full Story](#)

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