

Pilots’ valor honored for thwarting ambush

By **Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert**
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Set up in five trucks with heavy machine guns, enemy forces sat in wait for a helicopter to fly over their location west of Baghdad on the last day of May.

It appeared their plan was to strike a blow to Multi-National Division-Baghdad by taking down a U.S. Army helicopter.

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Photo - Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commanding general of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, (left) presents the Distinguished Flying Cross to Onawa, Iowa, native Chief Warrant Officer Elliott Ham, (second from right), as Portage, Ind., native Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven Kilgore, (right), waits in a ceremony Oct. 28 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs.

Airmen perform leaflet drop over Afghanistan

by **Staff Sgt. Jason Barebo**
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) -- Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Bohl and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Letz watched with night-vision goggles through opposite troop doors on board a C-130 Hercules for any indication of enemy fire during a recent leaflet drop mission over Afghanistan.

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Photo - 1st Lt. Jon Waldroup (right) discusses the leaflet drop mission details with Tech. Sgt. Kevin Letz in October at a base in Southwest Asia. The C-130 Hercules crew dropped 300,000 leaflets over an area of Afghanistan. Lieutenant Waldroup is a 40th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron navigator and Sergeant Letz is a 40th EAS loadmaster. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Barebo).

CENTCOM PODCAST

Admiral Fallon attends leadership conference in Afghanistan, Senior Director for Iraq talks about the positive affects security forces are having and Col. Tracy Smith gives an eye witness account of the role Iraqi leaders are taking.

FROM AROUND THE AOR

CENTCOM Commander attends Khost leadership conference

RCT-2 takes to the skies to cover AO

3rd Bn., 2nd Marines hits ground running

[Learn more about CENTCOM’s Area Of Responsibility](#)

EXPOSING THE ENEMY

CONCERNED LOCAL CITIZEN GROUPS AID PROGRESS IN IRAQ

WASHINGTON – Captures of al Qaeda operatives and seizures of weapons caches in Iraq are up, and casualties are down, a senior military official in Baghdad told online journalists and “bloggers” today.

Air Force Col. Donald Bacon, a Multinational Force Iraq spokesman, attributed a large part of this success to the surge of operations, the increase in activity among Iraqi security forces, and most recently, the formation of concerned local citizens groups, known as CLCs.

– [Full Text](#)

WARFIGHTER STORIES

WOUNDED WARRIOR STANDS TO PIN ON SILVER BARS

FORT MYER, Va. -- Exactly two months ago 2nd Lt. Mark Little was patrolling in Iraq, when he was wounded by an improvised explosive device. He lost both of his legs.

Wednesday morning at the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, Lt. Little stood proudly outside on his new prosthesis for the first time to receive the silver bars of a first lieutenant.

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