

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

January 13, 2010

USD-S returns first of many camps in southern region

By Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker
17th Fires Brigade



BASRAH – As part of the ongoing turnover of Iraqi security to Iraqi forces, U.S. military leaders in United States Division-South signed over facilities to the Government of Iraq in Basrah Province, Jan 9.

Leaders from Task Force Thunderbolt, 17th Fires Brigade, met with leaders from the Iraqi Army's 14th Division and the Department of Border Enforcement's 51st Brigade to transfer Camps Hutch and Area 51 located within the Shaibah Training Center.

Iraqi Security Forces will continue to use the facilities to train and operate out of as American forces continue to drawdown.

"The handover highlights Iraq's

"The handover highlights Iraq's growing confidence, capacity and capability to provide a stable and self-reliant country"

Lt. Col. Charles Roede

growing confidence, capacity and capability to provide a stable and self-reliant country," said Lt. Col. Charles Roede, 17th FB executive officer and the senior U.S. leader of the day's events.

"The base returns do not mean we are ending our partnership with Iraqis," Roede said. "It just means U.S. partners will not be living and working with their Iraqi counterparts twenty-four/seven."

U.S. Forces transferred tents and other life-support property to the Iraqis at Camp Hutch. However, American military trainers and a battery of Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 377th Field Ar-



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Samantha M. Stryker

Members of "A" Battery, 1st Bn., 377th FAR, and the Iraqi Army sign paperwork returning Camp Area 51 to the Government of Iraq, Jan. 9. The facility is part of the Shaibah Training Center where Iraqi Security Forces will continue to train.

tillery Regiment, 17th FB will remain as tenants at Area 51 until Feb. 10.

According to Maj. Jon Dyer, 17th FB engineer and brigade camp coordinator for the taskforce, these are just two of nine scheduled returns early this year.

He said there are three types of facility returns: a complete return, a partial return and a return with tenancy.

In a complete return, U.S. forces transfer equipment to the Iraqi forces and depart from the camp, such as the case with Camp Hutch. During a partial return, American forces retain control of part of the facilities or camp.

In the case of a return with tenancy, U.S. forces return ownership of the facility to the Iraqi Government, but remain as tenants and continue to train and provide security support for the

Iraqis.

The handovers provide physical proof of the progress made by American forces to adhere to the Iraqi Security Agreement to withdrawal U.S. combat forces from Iraqi cities, villages and localities.

"The returns serve as visible proof of the U.S. Government abiding by the security agreement," Roede said.

These are the first of many closures under Task Force Thunderbolt, he said, and four camps were handed back to the Iraqi Government under 2nd Infantry Division.

According to the Department of Defense, more than 150 U.S. bases have been closed or returned to the Iraqi

Whither the weather in Iraq wanders

By Spc. J. Princeville Lawrence
34th Red Bull Infantry Division PAO



COB BASRA, Iraq – Kin Hubbard, a turn of the century humorist, once said that if not for the weather, nine out of 10 people could not start a conversation. Perhaps this explains why weather, no matter how unfashionable, is always a conversation staple among Soldiers.

The weather in Iraq, in particular, seems prone to hyperbole. Search the web or read the newspaper, and you'll find numerous references to Iraq with temperatures of 130 degrees and 140 degrees and higher. While Iraq is one of the hottest places on Earth, 140 degrees is not the norm. The hottest temperature ever scientifically recorded in Asia is 124

degrees, and the hottest temperature recorded anywhere on earth is 136 degrees.

In reality, the Iraqi climate around Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, is similar to that of the extreme southwestern United States with hot, dry summers, cold winters and a pleasant spring and fall.

Roughly 90 percent of the annual rainfall occurs between November and April, and most of that comes via thunderstorms in the winter months, from December through March, resulting in an annual total of somewhere from four to seven inches.

WEATHER
Page 9



Photos by Spc. J. Princeville Lawrence

A 34th Infantry Division Soldier walks along a fence line on COB Basra, his hood raised against the cold and rain Dec. 31. Roughly 90 percent of Iraq's annual rainfall occurs between November and April.



In reality, the Iraqi climate is similar to that of the extreme southwestern United States with hot, dry summers, cold winters and a pleasant spring and fall.

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

Editorial Staff

The Red Bull Report is an authorized publication for members of USD-S. Contents of **The Red Bull Report** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 34th Infantry Division. All editorial content of **The Red Bull Report** is prepared, edited provided and approved by the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

34th Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Kevin Olson
OIC, Command Information: 1st Lt. Shamika Hill
NCOIC, Command Information: 1st Sgt. David Bennett
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Managing Editor: Sgt. Ben Kibbey
Graphics Designer: Sgt. Francis Horton
Layout/Design: Spc. Samantha Johnson
Staff Writers: Sgt. Francis Horton, Spc. Sam Soza,
Spc. Samantha Johnson, Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Contributing Units

- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 12th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
- 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Media Queries please contact 34th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office at MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

34th Public Affairs Soldier doubles as deployed rapper

By Spc. J. Princeville Lawrence
34th Red Bull Infantry Division PAO



COB BASRA, Iraq – When I agreed to interview Joe Roos, international rap musician, I must admit I really didn't know what I was getting into. Joe, or as he is known while deployed to southern Iraq, Sgt. Joe Roos, is a torrential talker who can use a simple question to delve into deep philosophy. For full disclosure, I also admit that I have worked with Roos for over a year, but this conversation, a snippet of a much larger interview, reveals a Soldier who has a lot (almost too much) to say.

How's Iraq been?

Like anything else in life: probably you're going to take some good with some bad.

How did this all start?

You know, I'm a Midwest kid from a rural town in Minnesota. When I was 13 or 14, there was this new kid who moved into town from Fort Worth, Texas. And his name was Anthony Watson.

We were in seventh grade, and Anthony Watson was rhyming without a beat, and I was standing there listening, and he started rapping about my shoes. And then he started rapping about the locker, and then he started rapping about this other kid's glasses. And I didn't know what was going on, but he was free styling, and I thought it was amazing.

And I tried my hand at it a couple times, and the first time you do something you're probably not amazing at it, but after a while, I kept rapping with Anthony, we'd do it on the bus, I started to get good at it.



Photo by Dajon Schafer

Sgt. Joe Roos, shown here performing at a rap show in Minnesota, is a 34th "Red Bull" Inf. Div. photojournalist currently deployed to southern Iraq. His album, "Just Glad to be Here," is currently on iTunes.

Can you tell me more about your album – how do you come up with your lyrics? What's your inspiration?

I get so inspired by life, obviously; my own personal experiences. It's best to talk about what you know, and I know my own personal experiences pretty well, so I put those down in rhymes. I hate to be so generic, and I hate to speak in so broad terms, but I get inspired by life and music.

So do you sit down and consciously decide to write, or does it just come to you?

Whether you're writing lyrics or writing a movie script or writing a print journalism story, it's like a muscle. Writing and rhyming is like a muscle. And you have to use the muscle, and when you use

the muscle the muscle gets stronger and sometimes the muscle will just want to go on its own. So I do definitely force myself to write, but because I force myself to write, inspiration comes a lot easier and a lot quicker.

Do you have a bent more towards lyrics or toward hooks and melodies?

When I was a kid, I grew up with a lot of music. My dad was a preacher, so I grew up with a lot of Gospel music. My dad was a Pentecostal preacher - I'm not sure if you're familiar, but it's a wild service. There's a lot of very lively music going on.

I learned a little bit about music when I was a kid, but as I got older, it's like anything else: if you don't use it, you start to lose it. So I am more lyrically inclined. It's not to say I don't have a concept of what a musical chord is or how to put it together, or

maybe if a song needs to be in a certain key or what a key does.

But I definitely am a lyricist, and I lean more toward lyrics. I can say that I'm pretty proud that I was able to put the music together, except for one song, on my album. Part of that is out of necessity though; I don't have enough money to be paying people at this stage of the game.

What's that like, being a start-up rapper?

It's almost like you're starting a small business, this rap career.

It's a learning process, man. It's just a progression, and sometimes it's like diving into the deep end. Some of it, as far as the business side goes, is just getting as far as you can get to one point, and then realizing 'oh, well the next step is obviously to try put an album together.' Or the next step is to try to figure out a marketing scheme. Or to figure out 'what am I going to do with these songs now? Am I going to mass-produce a CD? Am I going to put the songs on iTunes? Am I going to sell it one way or another?' It would baffle you how much lack of forethought I have operated with, sometimes.

So what makes you think you can make it as a rap star?

There are a million Joe Roos's out there right now. Guys with a mike and a MySpace and an idea of what they want to be. Really, super-big aspirations. And good for them. I hope we can all make it.

But the reason I am going

From Page 3
RAPPER

to make it as a hip-hop star is because I know that it takes more than just the thing. It takes a whole machine. It takes a whole public relations and marketing machine behind an artist in order for that artist to be successful.

Until I am in that position where I can hire people and put a lot of people working as a machine behind me, I know enough to be the machine behind me. That's why I'll be successful. Right now the machine happens to be me behind me, but that's a pretty good machine.

So I hear you're shooting a new music video. Can you tell me more about that?

While I was doing public relations for

the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota, we had our 1st Brigade Combat Team here in Iraq. There was a war going on, a civil war inside of a war, and guys were coming home in caskets, and I was inspired by the resolve of the troops.

You'd hear some very inspiring stories about Soldiers doing really good work over here in the face of a lot of adversity, so I recorded this song called "Troop." It's a song for Soldiers, it's by a Soldier, it's about Soldiers, and it's just about being a troop, and the kind of resolve it takes to be a troop in lousy conditions, like Iraq.

I think that about wraps it up. Do you have any words to leave us by?

I'm very lucky and I'm very happy to

be put in the situations I am. The name of my album is "Just Glad to Be Here," and it really is the spirit that I approach everything that I do. I think as long as I stay grateful, I won't misuse anything, abuse anything and I will stay hungry and keep moving forward. I hate to use corporate talk, keep moving forward, but I will keep moving forward.

Sgt. Joe Roos, a native of St. Paul, Minn., is a public affairs photojournalist with the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, currently deployed to southern Iraq. His album "Just Glad to Be Here," is now available on iTunes.


For full transcript of this interview, visit www.theredbulls.org and hear about Roo's


For more of Spc. Lawrence's stories, visit www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence


Re-deployment Safety

As we all prepare to return home to our loved ones please keep in mind these three things:



 Start stretching and shaping your muscles as you prepare to lift your gear. Do not over-do it and strain your muscles. We do not want anyone blowing a shoulder, their back or anything else.

 Once you return home, DO NOT DRIVE. Allow yourself to be a passenger on the way home. You have just got off of a flight that lasted for hours. You're tired and stressed so just ride in the car and relax.

 For every one who is planning to purchase a motorcycle or already has one remember to wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Spring will be arriving soon, and individuals will be excited to ride their bikes. Take the required safety course first, and wear your PPE.



Lt. Col. Charles Roede of TF Thunderbolt congratulates Iraqi Army Col. Muhamad Aljabari, 14th Div., at the camp handover ceremony signifying the return of Camp Hutch to the Government of Iraq at the Shaibah Training Center, Jan. 9.

From Page 1 **RETURNS**

government since January 2008. U.S. troop strength has decreased to 115,000 from a high of 165,574 in September 2007. Additionally, more than \$15 million of property has been transferred to the Iraqi Government.

Under the agreement, the U.S. will continue to reduce both number of bases and combat forces through the end of 2011.

For more of SFC Stryker's stories visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Stryker

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR THE LIMITED EDITION COMMEMORTIVE PRINT

To order go to : www.paypal.com make payment of \$45 to jodyharmon74@yahoo.com note 34th ID in memo section

For questions: eric.j.andringa@us.army.mil



\$ 45.00
Paid at
time of
order
through
PayPal

Actual Size
23" x 12.73

This is a concept photo of the painting in progress



For other samples of Mr. Harmon's work go to www.jodyharmon.com
The prints will be delivered at the 60 day event or mailed out to non-attendees.

ORDER TODAY!

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM END-OF-TOUR PRODUCTS

34TH **RED BULL** INFANTRY DIVISION
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, 2009-2010

VISIT WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG/YEARBOOK



Tour Yearbook . . . \$35

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division's 200-page yearbook is a complete timeline of the events and accomplishments that occurred over the course of the historic 2009-2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. Hardcover edition, delivered to your home in April 2010.



The Sandstorm . . . \$40

The best photographs taken in Multi-National Division South during the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division's 2009-2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment were published in nine monthly magazines and have been bound into this one 320-page hardcover book, delivered to your home in April 2010.



Red Bull Report, 3 Volume Set . . . \$105

The Red Bull Report was the official daily newsletter for Multi-National Division South during the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division's historic 2009-2010 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. Each issue from the entire year can be found in this three-volume hardcover set, delivered to your home in April 2010.



Five-book Set . . . \$180

The five-book set includes the Yearbook, The Sandstorm, and all three volumes of the Red Bull Report in hardcover, delivered to your home in April 2010.

34TH **RED BULL** INFANTRY DIVISION

PRE-ORDER NOW!

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2009-2010



THE YELLOW RIBBON NETWORK AND CITY OF HUGO

"WELCOME HOME" PHEASANT HUNT

STILL A FEW OPENINGS REMAIN

MAR 14, 2010

MORNING HUNT 0800
LUNCH 1200
AFTERNOON HUNT 1400

DUE TO INCREASED INTEREST THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE HUNTS.

ASSIGNMENTS TO MORNING OR AFTERNOON HUNT WILL BE POSTED ON THE CITY OF HUGO WEBSITE (WWW.CI.HUGO.MN.US) EARLY FEBRUARY.

IF REGISTERED AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO SQUAD TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE CONTACT CHUCK HAAS (CHARLES.HAAS@LPL.COM) ASAP.

Word Search:

S O O N O W H E R E A D V D H G I H A E
 R B W I S E L Y S Y L T N E G N O L L D
 T H E R E M N I A G A I E A S I L Y M R
 O E Y Y L K C I U Q H Y L W O L S D O A
 I R L F Y Y O N C E D F Y V G F E R S W
 F O L D O A B N B A H E A D R A R B T E
 O F A R E R D R E S Y L T N E S E R P M
 R E E A A A E R A T N D S R A T V A D O
 W B R W R J L V E E F S R E T O E E S H
 A C A P L A T I E T N O I V L D N L S V
 R Y M U Y K C A B R S M F E Y A A O E R
 D Y T O M O R R O W B E E W S Y M R L A
 W A L T N A T Y O R N W Y O D E E I N T
 H E H T R T L R I S T H B H T H T W O H
 E E E E E T H S O R S E T I W T O H E E
 N R L K F I K L A H L R M Y L D U O L R
 C Y A O L L U P Y O S E N E Q U I T E D
 E V S E Y Y A Q W R S A S Y A W L A B S

ADVERBS

ACROSS	LONG
AGAIN	LOUDLY
AHEAD	MONTHLY
ALMOST	NEARBY
ALREADY	NEVER
ALSO	NOWHERE
ALWAYS	OFTEN
ANYWHERE	ONCE
APART	PRESENTLY
AWAY	QUICKLY
BACK	QUIETLY
BEFORE	QUITE
BEHIND	RARELY
BELOW	RATHER
BRISKLY	REALLY
DOWN	SHORT
EARLY	SLOWLY
EASILY	SOFTLY
FAST	SOMETIMES
FIRST	SOMEWHERE
FOREVER	SOON
FORWARD	THEN
GENTLY	THERE
GREATLY	TODAY
HENCE	TOMORROW
HIGH	UPWARD
HOMEWARD	WEEKLY
HOWEVER	WISELY
LITTLE	YESTERDAY

For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions

The First and Only . . .

Red Bull Flea Market & Charity Collection



Sunday, January 17, 2010

at the Red Bull USA Volleyball courts from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to sell your items privately, from service member to service member or to donate items to charity! Provide your own display, and set your own prices. Pick up bags to store donations* prior to Jan. 17 at the Red Bull MWR tent.

*SUGGESTED ITEMS - clean towels and bed linens, useable running shoes, civilian clothes, etc.

*PROHIBITED ITEMS - uniform clothing items, undergarments, any military equipment, any item with an NSN, and weapons.

From Page 2**WEATHER**

While Iraqi may dip down to 19 degrees and up to 124 degrees, winter temperatures usually range from 39 degrees to 64 degrees and summer temperatures range from 77 degrees to 104 degrees, according to the military website Army Knowledge Online.

Half of the days in winter are cloudy, while in the summer skies are clear, mostly. When the summer skies are not clear, it is more than likely because of the dust storms that frequent the region. The "Sharqi," a dry, southeasterly wind, can carry with it violent dust storms with gusts of up to 50 miles an hour.

In the late summer to early fall, the "Shamal," a steady, northwestern wind that brings very dry air, somehow permits intensive sun heating of the land surface while also providing some cooling effect.

The influence of the Persian Gulf on the climate, strangely, is limited, although near the gulf relative humidity is higher than in other parts

of the country.

Of course, weather, like most things, is relative. One of the desert's most devious tricks is its ability to skew all normal standards of temperature. Once a Soldier is acclimated, 90 degrees becomes normal, 100 degrees becomes acceptable and anything higher becomes expected, especially in August.

The weather does delve into fog-giness and chilliness in the winter,

and Soldiers, having just gotten used to weather in the triple digits, can often find themselves thwarted by what would be t-shirt weather back home.

Intense digging for cold weather gear often follows, for as Bob Dylan, another 20th century humorist, once said, "You don't need a weatherman to see which way the wind blows."

For more of Spc. Lawrence's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence

RED BULL SHOUT-OUTS

VALENTINES DAY

RECORD A VIDEO SHOUTOUT

JAN. 18 1130-1230 DFAC 2
1230-1330 DFAC 3



**Red Bull Radio
PODCAST**
**5K Memorial
Run**

www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Jamal-Camel



CHALDEAN RITE MASS CAMP BASRA

Historic Event: *The acting Chaldean Bishop of southern Iraq will celebrate Mass at the new COB Basra Chapel. We invite you to come and worship with us at this sacred and blessed event.*

MASS

Acting Chaldean Bishop Imad Al Banna

When: 1600 16 JAN

Where: Camp Basra Chapel

Dinner with the Bishop following Mass: 1700-1800
Thunderbolt DFAC

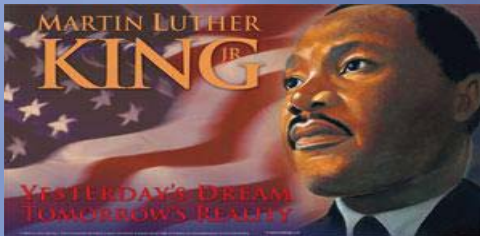
POC: CH (LTC) JOHN MORRIS
NIPR 858-4570



**UNITED STATES DIVISION -SOUTH
PRESENTS
Living The Dream By Design...**



Rev Dr. Martin Luther King's Observance



***Remember! Celebrate! Act!
A Day On, Not a Day Off!!***



***Location:
TOWN HALL
COB BASRA***

***When:
Monday, 18 January 2010
From 19:00 to 20:30
EDUTAINMENT!***

***Guest Speaker
LTC Trancey B. Williams***



**Hosted by: The Basra
Gospel Choir
&**



The bAsra Beat

DFAC
Hours of Operation:
DFAC 2
05:30 - 08:30
11:30 - 14:00
17:00 - 20:00
DFAC 3
05:30 - 08:30
11:30 - 14:00
17:00 - 20:00
0:00 - 01:30

Auntie Anne's
PRETZEL PERFECT
Now accepting Eagle Cash!

Job Searching Strategy Sessions
SESSION IV:
One on One Practical Interviews
7-18 January: Schedule appointments with CW2 Yu
Michael.Yu@Iraq.Centcom.Mil or at 858-4515

RED BULL SHOUT-OUTS VALENTINES DAY
RECORD A VIDEO SHOUTOUT
JAN. 18 1130-1230 DFAC 2
1230-1330 DFAC 3

Hair Cut!
Barber Shop hours:
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Beauty Shop hours:
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Legal Assistance
will no longer be open on Sundays except by appt. after Dec. 27

WEST POINT WANTS YOU!
*CADETS
*INSTRUCTORS
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG/EDUCATION

USO hours
"A touch of home"
sidewalk cafe
guitar hero/rockband room
xbox/playstation "battle stations"
theater
phones/internet
high-def tv
new movie titles
open daily 10 am till 6 am
Located in the main gym

Note to Self:
Main Gym open 24/7!

For Minnesota Job Resources & Opportunities
Click Here
Or visit
www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org/

Around the world in 34 seconds



BEIJING - North Korea will not return to nuclear disarmament negotiations unless the United States agrees to peace treaty talks and lifts sanctions, a senior North Korean diplomat said on Tuesday, leaving little room for compromise. Pyongyang has urged talks with the United States and other powers to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, while the White House has said North Korea must first rejoin the long-stalled six-party nuclear negotiations before such proposals can be considered. North Korea's ambassador to China, Choe Jin-su, said in a rare news briefing in Beijing there could be immediate progress if the reclusive state's demands were met. But six-party negotiations could resume only with the lifting of sanctions on North Korea and acceptance of its latest proposal for peace treaty talks. North Korea may be calling for a peace deal and a lifting of sanctions to delay the nuclear talks and boost its leverage once the discussions finally begin, analysts said. The DPRK, or Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is the formal name for North Korea, which staged its second-ever nuclear test in May 2009, drawing international condemnation and a fresh round of U.N. sanctions.



KANSAS CITY - The Kansas trial of an anti-abortion activist accused of gunning down one of the few late-term abortion providers in the United States is set to begin this week in a case that has galvanized people on both sides of the contentious debate over abortion. Abortion rights supporters and abortion foes say the stakes are high after the trial judge said he would allow defendant Scott Roeder's lawyers to argue that his actions amounted to the lesser crime of voluntary manslaughter, not murder. Roeder, 51, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Dr. George Tiller, a 67-year-old abortion provider who was shot in the head while serving as an usher at his Wichita church in May 2009. Court officials, who have beefed up security surrounding the trial in Wichita, said jury selection, which had been scheduled to begin on Monday was postponed until Wednesday due to unspecified "additional legal issues that have surfaced." Roeder, from the Kansas City-area suburb of Merriam, Kansas, has admitted in news media interviews that he killed Tiller. But he has said his actions were justified in order to prevent Tiller from performing further abortions.



NEW YORK - Former St Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire has admitted using steroids when he was a player, including in 1998 when he broke the single-season home-run record, but denied they improved his performance. McGwire belted 70 home runs for St Louis in 1998 to shatter the record of 61 set by Roger Maris for the New York Yankees in 1961. The record was subsequently broken when Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants registered 73 homers in 2001. McGwire, who last played in 2001 and was hired in October as hitting coach for the Cardinals, said he wanted to set the record straight before beginning his new role with the team.



OSLO - Arctic terns can fly more than 80,000 km (49,700 miles) a year, beating past estimates of the seabirds' record migrations and equivalent to three round trips to the Moon over a lifetime, a study showed on Monday. Tiny tracking devices attached to 11 of the small white birds breeding in Greenland or Iceland showed they flew a far more meandering route than expected on their annual trips to the Antarctic and back, an international team of scientists said. Already widely reckoned to have the longest migration of any creature, the birds flew an average of 70,900 km in a year, with one clocking up 81,600 km. That was double the 40,000 km often estimated in the past. And over a tern's lifetime of up to 34 years, the migrations add up to about 2.4 million km -- equivalent to three return trips to the Moon or a dizzying 60 times around the Earth.