

RAKKASAN REPORT

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Voting in AO Rakkasan A Success



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway
An Iraqi boy watches his father put his finger in purple ink that indicates he voted at a polling station in Bayji, Iraq, Dec. 15.

By Maj. Tom Bryant
3rd BCT Public Affairs

FOB SUMMERALL, Iraq (December 16) – With a total turnout estimated at 82% of registered voters and no incidents of violence related to the polls, the Iraqi parliamentary elections in the Northern Salah Ah Din province on December 15th were deemed a success by all involved.

Rakkasans from 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry and 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry provided security overwatch as the Iraqi Security Forces – police and soldiers – took the lead in ensuring a safe environment for the historic event.

According to Lt. Col. Randy George,

commander of the Leader Rakkasans, this event marks a significant milestone in the development of Iraq's new government, and perhaps a positive sign in the fight against the insurgency.

“Over the last couple weeks they’ve been talking about it a lot – talking about the election, talking about politics,” said George. “Anytime you’re talking about things and you’re not out there afraid for your life, I think that’s a good thing.”

The two largest population concentrations in the Rakkasans’ area of operations, Bayji and As Sharqat, combined for a turn-out of over 110,000 voters.

The mayor of Bayji, Mr. Saad Nazal Alawi Al Qaisi, attributed the impressive turn-out in the area to the relative security in the city.

“In the last election, See Vote Page 2

Rakkasans, Iraqi Police Working Toward Security

By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski
3rd BCT Public Affairs

FOB SUMMERALL, Iraq (Dec. 12) An important part of the Rakkasans’ mission in Iraq is assisting the police of Bayji and the surrounding areas in developing an increased capability to protect and serve their citizens without help from coalition forces.

“Our goal is to properly equip and train them so they can perform their duties as police officers,” said Cpt. Ryan Barnett, Human Resource Management Officer and Iraqi Po-

lice Liaison for Task Force Leader, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment.

A platoon from the Puerto Rican National Guard’s 918th Military Police Company is assigned to the Rakkasans with the primary task of mentoring the Iraqi Police.

According to Barnett, this gives the Task Force a dedicated asset to focus on the Iraqi Police, and allows the Rakkasans to surge on other missions.

The relationship between the military police and their Iraqi counter-



Photo by Spc. Matt Wrzesinski
The 918th MP Co. conducts a visit to the Bayji police station in order to assess what supplies the IP need.

parts is an important aspect of the training.

“Their only mission is the Police,” said Bar- See Iraqi Police Page 4

Editors Notes



dvids
Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System

The Rakkasan Report can be viewed at www.dvidshub.net. Holiday greeting are also posted on the DVIDS site.

The following journalists are embedded with and reporting on the Rakkasans in December and January:

Ryan Lenz

AP Associated Press

Dennis Steele

Army Magazine

Next Issue

Units to be featured:

3-187 IN, 3-320 FA

Publication Date 15 Jan.

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Vote

12 voting sites were attacked in Bayji. How can a citizen simply walk in to vote after finding out the voting sites have been attacked?" asked Alawi.

For the Rakkasans, the performance of the ISF and their reduced dependence on American forces was the highlight of the election.

"It was successful because of all the efforts –both preventative, during and after the elections – the coalition forces were really second fiddle, just assisting," said Maj. Rick Kelling, 3rd BCT Deputy Effects Coordinator. 



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Iraqi police check local Iraqi men waiting to enter a polling station in Bayji, Iraq, Dec. 15.

RAK 7 NOTES

RAKKASAN and AIR ASSAULT! During this holiday season take the time to celebrate the blessings and freedoms we have as Americans. The Rakkasans are fighting and winning the War on Terror here in Iraq to ensure we and our children can enjoy the same quality of life for years to come.

Say a prayer this Christmas for the Soldiers on guard in Iraq and the world over. Pray for the families and Soldiers who are sacrificing their time together this year to make our country and Iraq a safer place. Our hearts bleed for our fallen Rakkasans and their families back home. They can never be replaced but their legacies will live on forever in the Rakkasan Family.

Rest assured that progress is being made here. The country of Iraq has its first democratically elected four year national assembly. This brings the country one step closer to a self sustained sovereign government.

On behalf of 3rd BCT I want to thank the Rakkasan family – spouses, children, parents, Golden Rakkasans and the communities who have given so much. Your gifts are coming in a steady stream on mail trucks. I wish you could see the impact one single package has on a Soldier. There are few things more uplifting for a Soldier's morale than to get a package from home. We are thankful to have you supporting us. Your support drastically increases the morale which in turn increases our combat effectiveness.

Rakkasans – Stay sharp. Look after your buddies. The holidays are always hard during deployments. It is imperative that we support one another and stay plugged in with our comrades. Don't let anyone fall by the wayside.

"Ne Desit Virtus"

Red Knights Change Leadership, Not Mission

By Spc. Kenia Kraus
3rd BCT Public Affairs

FOB O' Ryan, Iraq (December 10, 2005)— Rakkasans of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, held a change of command ceremony to replace outgoing commander Lt. Col. James Inman. Inman is currently recovering from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device while on patrol last month.

“Colonel Inman was a great battalion commander,” said Col Michael D. Steele, Commander of Task Force Rakkasans. “We are very for-

fortunate that he was not more seriously injured.”

Maj. Timothy Sullivan, Executive Officer 3/320th FA, was at the ceremony to speak on behalf of Inman. Over the last year under Inman's command, 3/320th, a field artillery regiment, trained to carry out infantry missions.

“[Inman] guided the battalion through its organizational restructuring with his trade mark calm and evenhanded demeanor,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan took the opportunity to express Inman's concerns about leaving the battalion's Soldiers behind to complete the mission in Iraq without him and for having left without a formal goodbye.

“He's told me in each occasion that his thoughts and prayers are always with us” said Sullivan.

Incoming battalion commander, Lt. Col. Richard Root also paid homage to Inman's style of leadership and loyalty to his Soldiers. Root described Inman as “a leader willing to give his life for his buddy, his men, and



Photo by Spc. Kenia Kraus
The colors are uncovered during the 3/320th change of command ceremony Dec. 10.

the accomplishment of the mission.”

Root pledged to his Soldiers to maintain that conviction. Root expressed his regard for the Rakkasan brigade and honor he felt for leading one of its battalions.

“Men keep up the good work, keep your minds and your bayonets sharp, be thankful to your God and continue the mission,” concluded Root.



Photo by Spc. Kenia Kraus
Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, 101st Airborne Division, talks with incoming 3/320th Commander, Lt. Col. Richard Root, after the change of command ceremony Dec. 10.

3rd BCT Public Affairs Staff

The Rakkasan Report is an official publication of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. It is published monthly by the 3rd BCT Public Affairs Office. Contents of the Rakkasan Report are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Fort Campbell, Ky.

We welcome the submission of news items, articles, and photographs. Items and comments may be emailed to jesse.charles.riggin@us.army.mil.

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- PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER.....MAJ Tom Bryant
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- BROADCAST JOURNALIST.....SPC Kenia Kraus

Iraqi Police

nett. “The IP will always be dealing with the same company even if the Rakkasans leave this area.”

The International Police Liaison Group, made up of former police officers from the U.S., is teamed with the MPs to help teach the IP proper police techniques in enforcing the rule of law in their villages and cities.

The Iraqi Police training program is a three-pronged process. The first area is training. The Iraqi Police are trained in marksmanship, basic medical treatment, and proper techniques for patrolling and interacting with civilians.

The next step to making the IP more proficient is the logistics side of their operations. The Rakkasans are helping the IP to build a chain of command throughout their station.

According to Barnett, if an officer needs a new set of handcuffs, there needs to be an established system for getting that request to the main station and filled.

At this point Barnett is the middle man between the Bayji station and their higher headquarters.

“The goal is to take me out of the equation,” said Barnett.

The final area is operations. The main priority of the IP is to serve and protect the citizens. The Rakkasans are helping them come up with a set way of fulfilling this duty on a daily basis.

According to Barnett, the job of the IP is different from that of a police officer in the United States because of the insurgent threat.

Although the Rakkasans are helping the IP, they are not rebuilding the IP from scratch.

“Some of the IP were here before the war and know their job,” said Barnett. “We are trying to build on what they already have.”

Prior to initiating the rebuilding program, Task Force Leader Soldiers met with the chiefs from IP stations in the area to assess their level of readiness. The IP have already received some communication



systems and weapons. The Rakkasans are continuing to assist the IP in acquiring the tools they need to be an effective security force. As their proficiency increases, the Iraqi Police will assume a greater role in securing the Bayji area. Recently Lt. Col. Randy George, commander of 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, met with Col. Sofyan Mostafa Asa’ad, Bayji Police Chief, to discuss how to synchronize the operations of the Rakkasans and the Iraqi Police.



Photo by Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Spc. Hector Sanchez, 918th Military Police Company, unloads ammunition during a mission to the Bayji Police Station Dec. 8.

The Rakkasans understand how important it is for the citizens of Bayji to have confidence in their police.

“In order for the townspeople to feel safe they need to have a strong and ethical police force,” said Barnett.

Overall the IP are ready to learn and take control of their country.

“I think they have great pride in being an Iraqi and want to see their country succeed as a whole,” said Barnett. “They are eager to do their part if given the chance with the right equipment and training.”

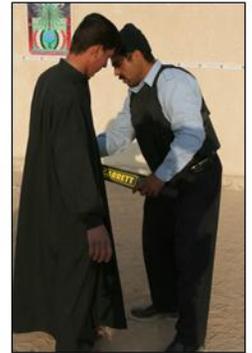


IRAQ CASTS VOTE FOR THE FUTURE

Photos By: Spc. Matt Wrzesinski



Citizens from Bayji, Iraq place their vote during the nationwide elections held Dec. 15. The elections were the first since the Saddam Hussein Regime. Over 110,000 Iraqis in the Bayji and As Sharqat areas placed their votes on election day and took one step closer to full control of their country.



Team From Germany Makes Summerall Soldiers Safer

By Pfc. Cassandra Groce

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FOB SUMMERALL (December 2, 2005)– Forward Operating Base Summerall took steps to ensure critical combat care with the new surgical team assigned to the base, increasing capabilities of the aid station.

“We take care of the door kickers,” said 1st Lt. Gloria Hernandez, executive officer for the 67th Forward Surgical Team from Giebelstadt, Germany, currently supporting the *Rakkasans* of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team

When deploying to an area the FST can be fully operational to start taking casualties within two hours. With an additional three hours, they’ll have their living quarters set



Photo by Pfc. Cassandra Groce

Maj. John King, nurse anesthetist for the 67th Forward Surgical Team from Giebelstadt, Germany, currently supporting the *Rakkasans*, stabilizes a mock patient during training.

up too.

The team is responsible for the immediate stabilization of a person before they are sent to a hospital. They have no real holding capabilities, but when a Soldier might typically wait an hour for advanced trauma care, they can now get care almost immediately.

When a Soldier is first received at the aid station, he is assessed in the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) room. In this room the Soldier’s vitals are taken and more advanced aid is given, such as an IV. From there the patient is moved to a surgical room.

The FST can handle 30 surgical patients in a 72-hour time frame.

After surgery the patient has post-anesthesiology recovery and can then be flown to a permanent hospital.

The teams worked different scenarios to enhance the realism of the training. During these scenarios, the electricity is shut off to prepare the team for how to handle such an emergency. The team also uses the training to find any glitches in their system and anticipate potential problems that might arise in an actual event.

For instance, something as simple as dangling light cords become a distraction, or if tent flaps are not pulled back properly, patients can get tangled in them during the



Photo by Pfc. Cassandra Groce

Lt. Col. Donna Lupien, commander of the 67th Forward Surgical Team, and Maj. John King, prepare a mock patient for surgery. Lupien has been in the army 20 years and this is the third FST she has been assigned to.

transfers from room to room.

Overall, recent training was successful. “We stuck to our roles and did what needed to be done quickly and efficiently,” said Capt. David Vollbrecht, Officer in Charge of the ATLS.

Such efficiency has seen the unit deployed ten times in the last four years to various locations around the world including Turkey, Africa, Macedonia, Kosovo and the Republic of Georgia – to name a few.

Besides experience through deployments, the team has also had two soldiers selected as Non-Commissioned Officer of the year. Staff Sgt. James Rehl was the US Army Europe’s 2004 NCO of the Year and Staff Sgt. Jesse Kane was the 30th Medical Brigade NCO of the year.

Not only is the FST team highly qualified to save Soldiers’ lives, they are also ready to do it. “We can do something to save their life before they get to the hospital,” said Maj. Laura Favand, chief nurse.

Safety Tips For Living in a CHU

By Skip Stuck

3rd BCT Safety Officer

How do you want to spend your hard earned money this Christmas; down payment on a new car or replacement of your CHU?

An electrical fire is the number one hazard in our living areas.

By following these simple steps, you will prevent a fire from occurring:

1. Never place a 110 volt item in 220 volt outlet.

2. Never place several large voltage items into the same surge protector (microwave, refrigerators, coffee pots, space heaters). One appliance into one electrical outlet. If an adapter is needed, only one appliance per adapter.

3. Never overload surge protectors. Two-three items only per surge protector.

4. Make sure all appliances, surge



protectors, and outlet adapters have grounding plug/pins/points.

5. Never daisy chain surge protectors.

6. Never use surge protectors with extension cords. Extension cords are for short term use only.

7. When not using an appliance (except refrigerators & freezers) unplug them.

8. Clean behind appliances and entrainment systems weekly.

9. Make your smoke detector works and know location of the closest fire extinguisher (weekly checks to make sure the fire extinguisher is working and serviceable).

10. Never splice extension cords or plugs. If a cord has been cut or spliced, don't use it, just throw it in the garbage.

11. Daily checks to ensure the wall sockets, outlets, and wires/cords are not hot. If the wall socket or outlet is hot, unplug, turn-off, and place a work order for the outlet to be repaired.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Simeon was startled by the sound that pierced his ears. He turned his head back and forth scanning the crowd until his eyes found the source...a baby? Simeon was well advanced in age yet the sound brought excitement and hope. He quickly made his way over to the young mother – May I hold your baby? Time slowly passed as Simeon rocked the baby in his arms. Could this be him? His question of anticipation was answered by the calmness he felt – yes.

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)

Have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. May our great God protect and watch over us all. Merry Christmas.

Chaplain (Cpt) Ivan Arreguin
3 STB

Husband and Wife Re-enlist Together



Photo by Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Sgt. Miguel Bernal, Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, and Sgt. Megan Bernal, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, re-enlist in a ceremony at FOB Summerall Dec. 18. The couple have been married for three months and decided to make the commitment to the Army for six more years together.