

THE HAJJ



File photo
Thousands of pilgrims walk counter-clockwise around the Kaaba (Tawaf).

“And pilgrimage to the House is incumbent upon men for the sake of Allah, upon everyone who is able to undertake the journey to it” – 3:96 Quran

The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca. It is one of the five basic requirements (arkan or “pillars”) of Islam, a moral obligation that must be carried out at least once in the lifetime of every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to do so. The Hajj is a demonstration of the solidarity of the Muslim people, and their submission to Allah (God).

The pilgrimage occurs from the 7th to 13th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, eleven days shorter than the Gregorian calendar used in the Western world, the Gregorian date of the Hajj changes from year to year. In 2009 it will be Nov. 25–29.

“Ihram” is the name given to the special state in which Muslims live while on the pilgrimage.

The Hajj is associated with the life of Islamic prophet Muhammad, but the ritual of pilgrimage to Mecca is considered by Muslims to stretch back thousands of years to the time of Ibrahim (Abraham).

Pilgrims join processions of hundreds of thousands of people, who simultaneously converge on Mecca for the week of the Hajj, and perform a series of rituals: each person walks counter-clockwise seven times about the “Ka’bah,” the cube-shaped building which acts as the Muslim direction of prayer; kisses the Black Stone in

the corner of the Ka’bah; runs back and forth between the hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah; drinks from the Zamzam Well; goes to the plains of Mount Arafat to stand in vigil; and throws stones in a ritual (Stoning of the Devil). The pilgrims then shave their heads, perform a ritual of animal sacrifice in honor of Abraham’s near-sacrifice of Isaac, and celebrate the three day global festival of Eid al-Adha.

The Hajj, currently gathering more than 2 million Muslims annually, was perhaps the greatest impetus to voluntary mobility before modern times.

Crowd-control techniques have become critical, and because of the large number of people, many of the rituals have become more stylized. But even with the crowd control techniques, there are still incidents during the Hajj. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Hajj has a website, with the message, “Be peaceful, orderly and kind. No crushing.”

Pilgrims can also go to Mecca to perform the rituals at other times of the year. This is sometimes called the “lesser pilgrimage”, or (Umrah). However, even if they perform the Umrah, they are still obligated to perform the Hajj at some other point in their lifetimes if they have the means to do so.

Religious Leaders meet on the Shatt-al-Arab

Compiled by SSG Chris Carney
367th MPAD 

COB BASRA – Religious leaders play a key role in Iraq due to the integral position of faith in the lives of its citizens. So, it was a notable event when a broad cross-section of prominent officials of Shi’ah and Sunni Islam, Chaldean Christianity and Mandaeanism met near Basrah, Iraq, Nov. 16, to demonstrate their solidarity.

Maj. General Richard Nash, commander, Multi-National Division South, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team chief took the opportunity to open up a two-way conversation with the community.

The main theme of the discussions, “was support of free and fair elections, support of the Iraqi government and army, and building community and civic stability,” said Lt. Col. John Morris, 34th Infantry Division chaplain, from Afton, Minn., who was also in attendance.

Imam Sayyed Moosawi hosted the event on his yacht on the river Shatt-al-Arab, which is formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris and flows into the Persian Gulf.

“Basrah enjoys really good relations among its religious community,” said Morris. “It’s a fragile community and the leaders are critical.”

In a speech to the gathering, Nash emphasized that, throughout southern Iraq, people of many faiths come together in order to forge a peaceful future for the children on Iraq.

Even in the face of those who oppose unity they have worked together for a common good. Basrah is a model for all of Iraq to follow, said Nash

“It’s one more key meeting on the road to stability,” said Morris.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. John Morris, 34th Inf. Div. chaplain
Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, commander, Multi-National Division South met with Basrah, Iraq religious leaders Nov. 16, during a gathering that brought together a diverse group of officials to discuss issues impacting the province and city.



Courtesy photo
Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, commander, Multi-National Division South meets with Basrah religious leaders Nov. 16, on a yacht on the river Shatt-al-Arab which is formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris.

For more of SSG. Carney’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Carney

THE RED BULL REPORT

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Praise for 100 years of chaplain's assistants

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – Chaplain's assistants have always played a crucial role in supporting other Soldiers, a legacy that reaches the one-hundred year milestone this year.

These Soldiers play an integral function in the U.S. Army, bringing to the field three things the Army calls "force multipliers", said Lt. Col. John Morris, from Afton, Minn., the 34th Infantry Division chaplain.

"First, they bring combat skills to bear, which allows me to move around the battlefield," he said, "second, they have the

administrative skills necessary to run a staff section, and third, they are the voice of the enlisted Soldier."

An assistant's enlisted status allows them to act as a liaison, said Master Sgt. Adam Johnson, 34th Inf. Div. unit ministry team noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Sometimes Soldiers can be intimidated by rank, and chaplain's assistants act as a bridge from enlisted-Soldier to officer-chaplain," said the Monticello, Minn. native.

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Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Sgt. Jonathan Groeneweg, of Marshal, Minn., chaplain's assistant with the 34th Inf. Div., sets up audio equipment with Spc. Jonathan Krentz, of Watertown, Minn., a 34th Inf. Div. band instrumentalist, before a religious service.

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT



Afton is well known for Afton Alps, the largest ski and snowboard area in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Can you spare a dollar?

Do you earn \$47,000 or more in a year? As an E-5 or higher on deployment, you do, putting you in the top 1% of income earners in the world. Why not give some of that money to the Combined Federal Campaign- Overseas Organization?

The E-pledge is the fastest, most convenient way to give. All you have to do is go online to www.cfcoverseas.org Once you are there click on "e-giving". If you already have an account with CFC, just log-in. If not, you need to register.

After you are done registering you can do a charity search to find the right charity for you. The CFC-O has over 2,000 national and international organizations you can donate to such as Books for Africa, Pet life Line or National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation.

To do a charity search, click on programs and look at the different categories such as Animal related or Youth development. Select one, then hit "GO." When you scroll down the page, you get a list of charities to choose from. After you pick the one you want to support, simply add it to your "Basket". You can designate the amount you want to give, starting out at as low as a one-time donation of \$1.

On the e-pledge you will be asked to provide a Reporting Unit Code. These codes help your section get credit and awards for your donations.

This year's CFC-O Campaign ends on 4 December so sign up to make a difference in someone's life.

3 ways to give:

- Get a paper pledge card from your CFC-O representative
- Go online and print one off
- E-pledge online using your credit or debit card

Reporting Unit Codes

- 34th DSTB, HHC- 8170025
- 34th DSTB, NSC- 8170026
- 34th DSTB, HSC- 8170027
- 34th DSTB, MP's-8170028
- 34th DSTB, Band-8170029
- 3-58 AOB- 8170030
- 305 PSYOP- 8170031
- 343/367 MPAD- 8170032
- 4-5 ADA BTRY- 8170033



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An assistant's duties include managing logistical needs and ensuring service times and locations are communicated properly and timely.

They also play a role in battle tracking, said Johnson

"We are battle-staff trained, which lets us know where the chaplain can and can't go," he said. "You want to avoid a firefight if you can, but he will be in one if he is needed there."

Morris works frequently with Soldiers in this vital Military Occupational Specialty.

"Their role can be summed-up in one word," said Morris, "critical."

So vital a position might be expected to be as established in the Army as infantry, but that is not the case, Johnson says.

"The chaplain's assistant is a fairly new MOS," he said.

The chaplain's assistant position was established Dec. 28, 1909, but the role appeared more like that of a special duty for Soldiers who had skills that could aid chaplains, who then served

as schoolmasters, said Johnson.

Not until the 1950's, during the Korean War, did the MOS, identified as 71B, begin to develop into something more.

"Finally it was our own MOS," said Johnson.

In 1965, the MOS became known as 71M. After 2001 it was redubbed 56M, and took on the manifestation recognized today.

That role has allowed the chaplains throughout the Army to effectively support Soldiers in their times of need.

"They are another set of eyes and ears and know where the needs are," said Morris.

The century mark is an important milestone for the chaplain's assistants and their role in the U.S. fighting force.

"Today chaplain's assistants are highly professional and highly skilled," Morris said, "They do all the things that other Soldiers do and are there working with all Soldiers to meet their moral, ethical, and spiritual needs."

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Keef Halac -
Greeting, "How are you?"

Red Bull Radio PODCAST

"DFAC Thanksgiving Preparation"

www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast

THANKSGIVING SERVICES INTERIM CHAPEL



Join us!

Thursday, November 26, 2009

**Interfaith Service
4:00 p.m.**

**Catholic Mass
9:00 a.m.**

Questions? Contact 34th DSTB Chaplain Assistant SGT Groeneweg at 858-4596 or jonathan.groeneweg@iraq.centcom.mil.

Green Beans Coffee

Interim Chapel Tent

D-Main

Thanksgiving Safety

Thanksgiving is the first of three holidays we will celebrate as a community between now and the coming of the New Year. It is on this special day that we remember the 110 Pilgrims who bravely left the security and familiarity of their homes in England in 1620 in pursuit of religious freedom in the New World. For many, this is the happiest holiday time of the year, a time for family gatherings, good fellowship, laughter, and most of all, thanks giving. It is a time when we should step back and reflect on our blessings and all the good that surrounds us. We must also look at how we can ensure this is a safe and joyous Holiday for all.

Over the next six weeks, Soldiers' families will travel to various destinations in both their local area and around the country to share this joyful season with family and friends. Thanksgiving weekend is statistically the most highly traveled of the year. The crowded roads and potential for adverse weather have made this long weekend one of the most dangerous in terms of potential traffic accidents. During this time, it is especially important that we, as leaders, ensure our soldiers and their families are aware of these potential dangers.

Have a wonderful Turkey Day.



Holiday Driving Safety Tips

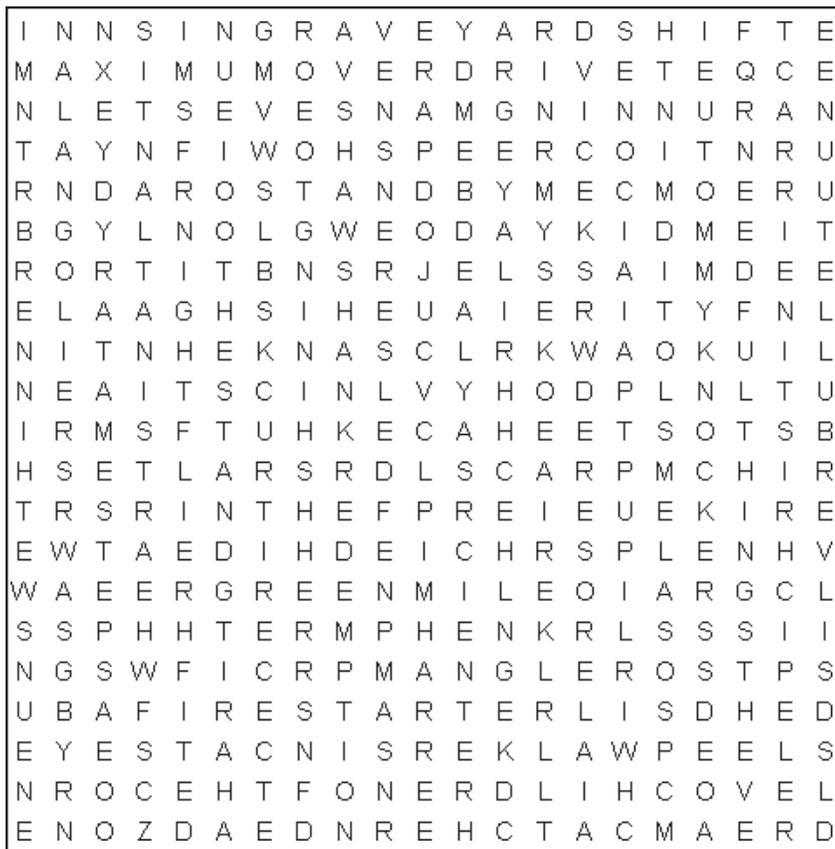
- ◆ Take your car in, have it checked over, and make sure it is ready for travel
- ◆ As you go out in the car, be sure and wear your seatbelt.
- ◆ Make sure you are rested when you drive and take frequent rest stops.
- ◆ Check the local radio stations for the latest traffic updates.
- ◆ Never drink and drive
- ◆ Always pay attention to the road. Do not get distracted with cell phones, maps, GPS, etc.

Come back safe and sound.

Please Contact your Camp Basrah Safety Office for more information 318-858-4255

For more about safety, visit:

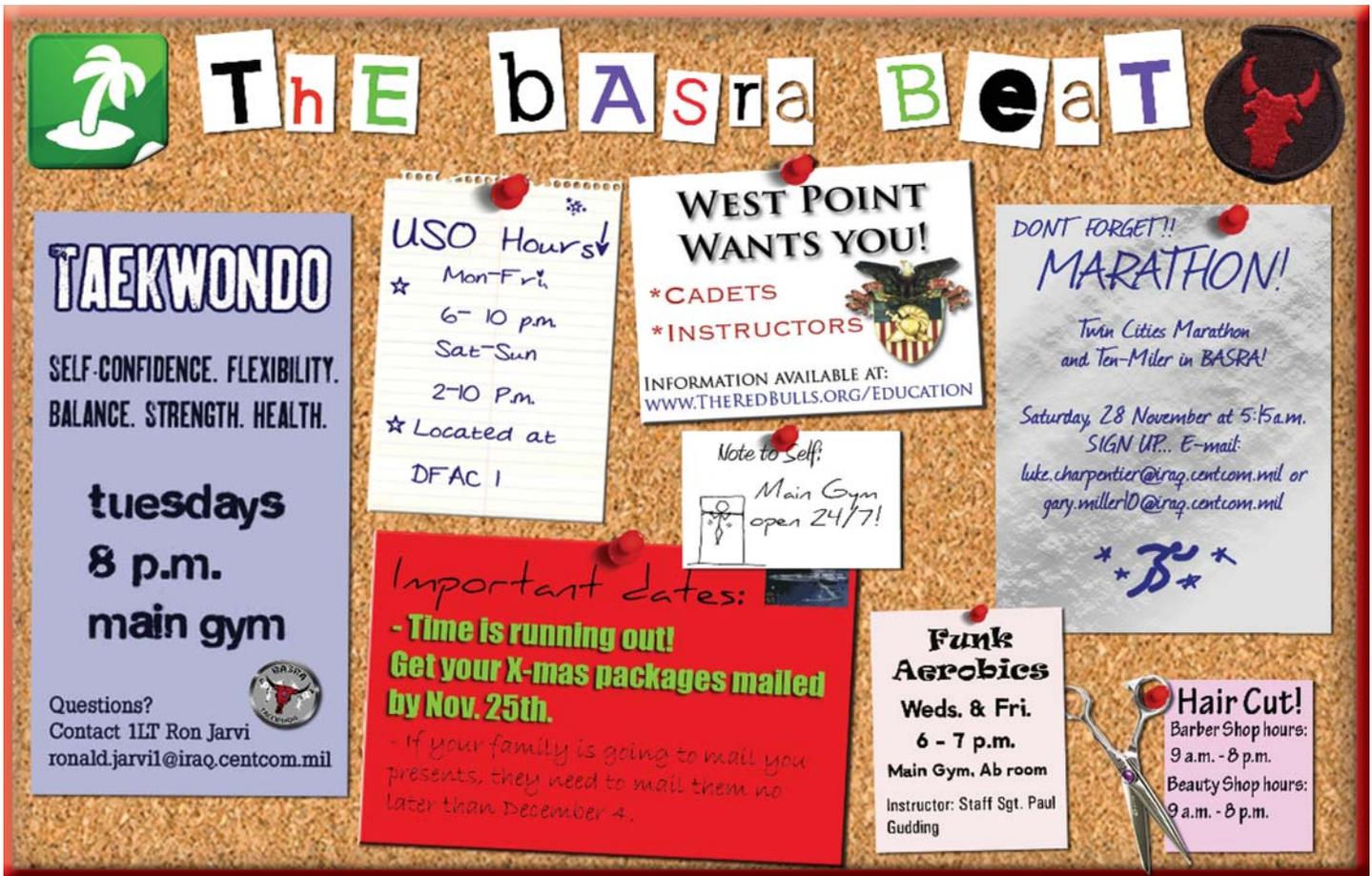
www.TheRedBulls.org/SafeandSound



Word Search: Stephen King Movies

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| APT PUPIL | MISERY |
| CARRIE | NEEDFUL THINGS |
| CAT'S EYE | NIGHT FLIER |
| CHILDREN OF | PET SEMATARY |
| THE CORN | QUICKSILVER |
| CHRISTINE | HIGHWAY |
| CREEPSHOW I | ROSE RED |
| CREEPSHOW II | RUNNING MAN |
| CUJO | SALEM'S LOT |
| DARK HALF | SHAWSHANK |
| DEAD ZONE | REDEMPTION |
| DOLORES CLAIBORNE | SHINING |
| DREAMCATCHER | SILVER BULLET |
| FIRESTARTER | SLEEPWALKERS |
| GRAVEYARD SHIFT | STAND BY ME |
| GREEN MILE | THE STAND |
| HEARTS IN ATLANTIS | THINNER |
| LANGOLIERS | TOMMYKNOCKERS |
| MANGLER | TRUCKS |
| MAXIMUM | |
| OVERDRIVE | |

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



Around the world in 34 seconds



KABUL – Bomb attacks and a firefight killed four U.S. service members in the past 24 hours in Afghanistan, NATO forces said Monday. Three of the Americans died in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, the military force said in a statement. Two of them were killed in a bomb attack and the third in a separate firefight. The military said the fourth U.S. service member died in the east Monday in a bomb explosion. The deaths bring the number of Americans killed in Afghanistan in November to 15. October was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in the eight-year war, with 58 dead.



RHODE ISLAND – A bitter dispute over abortion that prompted Rhode Island’s Roman Catholic bishop to ask Rep. Patrick Kennedy not to receive Holy Communion has revealed the depth of the divide among Catholics over how politicians should reconcile their faith with their public duties. Bishop Thomas Tobin on Sunday said he made the request because of the Democratic lawmaker’s support for abortion rights. The news prompted debate among Catholics around the country and within the bishop’s flock in the nation’s most Catholic state about whether it was right for Tobin to publicly shame Kennedy for breaking with the church on what its leaders consider a paramount moral issue.



HOUSTON - He stood at the interview podium giving credit to everyone else but himself. “I wouldn’t say it’s about me,” quarterback Vince Young said after Tennessee’s 20-17 road victory over Houston. “It’s not about Vince.” Come on. It’s all about Vince when it comes to the Tennessee Titans. With all due respect to NFL rushing leader Chris Johnson, Tennessee assuredly isn’t riding a four-game winning streak without Young being reinserted into the starting lineup last month at the insistence of team owner Bud Adams. And the Titans definitely aren’t upsetting a division rival Monday night without Young excelling with both his arm and legs. Young keyed the game-winning drive with a 12-yard third-down scramble and short completion to Kenny Britt that set up Rob Bironas’ 53-yard field goal with 47 seconds remaining. After Houston kicker Kris Brown missed a 49-yard field goal with one second left, Young was so excited that he forgot to remove his Titans baseball cap when taking the field for the final snap.



MELBOURNE, Australia – A kangaroo startled by a man walking his dog attacked the pair, pinning the pet underwater and slashing the owner in the abdomen with its hind legs. The Australian, Chris Rickard, was in stable condition Monday after the attack, which ended when the 49-year-old elbowed the kangaroo in the throat. He said he was walking his blue heeler, Rocky, on Sunday morning when they surprised a sleeping kangaroo in Arthur’s Creek northeast of Melbourne. The dog chased the animal into a pond, when the kangaroo turned and pinned the pet underwater. When Rickard tried to pull his dog free, the kangaroo turned on him, attacking with its hind legs and tearing a deep gash into his abdomen and across his face.