

here in Iraq. Our troopers have been on six- month rotations to Afghanistan, and now we had a brigade just leave here after a year's duty here. And we have the remaining two brigades that were in Afghanistan here now, with them departing probably over the next month to month-and-a-half.

So the division has been very stressed. It's interesting to note that the 82nd Airborne Division has a rapid deployment mission, wheels up 18 hours. Paratroopers kind of have a mind-set of mission focus, where you jump in at the night to seize an airfield or jump in the night in the middle of nowhere, little groups of paratroopers getting the job done. So they expect that.

The one thing, I think, that helps cope, our Army trying to get to be an expeditionary force model now, is that we get predictability in our troopers' schedule. That's what they need. That's what they need to know -- is when the time is they'll be deployed, when the time is they'll be on mission cycle, standing at Fort Bragg, ready to deploy anywhere in the world, and when they'll have off. And that's the best way we can help our troopers cope with this very high OPTEMPO that they're experiencing right now.

It also helps for family members -- and they're probably the most critical in this equation -- is for our family members, our loved ones, to have a predictability as to how long they will -- our troopers will be deployed and when they'll be back, before their -- and how much they'll be back before their next deployment.

Does that answer your question?

Q: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Swannack: Thank you.

Over here.

Q: Thanks, General. Mark Stern, ABC. You've talked a lot about the rebuilding work that your soldiers have done. But at the same time, while that's been going on, as you've just mentioned, the type of enemy you've been dealing with has changed. Do you feel, now that you're leaving, that you've left your region any safer for the Iraqi people?

Swannack: Yes, I do. I feel that we've left Al Anbar safer in the generation of the Iraqi capability, working with the coalition capability.

I also believe that the center of gravity for this entire operation that we're conducting here is the Iraqi populace. If we have the popular support of -- the coalition forces and Iraqi security forces have popular support from Iraqis, then the insurgents or terrorists do not have that support. Then the populace is working with us, as we've seen in the tips that we get, to turn in foreign fighters in their areas, insurgents. It's amazing every day how many IEDs we get notified of, caches we get notified of, and individuals who are trying to attack us that we get notified of. That's what's going to go ahead and create a safer Al Anbar province, and I believe that we have that -- already have that now and will even get better in the future, with the United States Marine Corps here.

Right here.

Q: Shob-i-fru (ph) from NHK. Just to follow up on the question of the equipment, you said that November, January, March, there was like a delay of the equipment to come. How frustrated were you when you learned that the delays are coming? Like who did you curse the most about this delay? And did you feel sorry that the Iraqi police had to go in the field without enough equipment?

Swannack: Well, probably the thing that was most frustrating to me is I kept on trying to explain to the Iraqi security forces that I was very much trying to generate in them the capacity to do the work that they had to do.