

back home.

We've adapted. Quite frankly, these were good soldiers, but we've been able to adapt at the battlespace to account for their loss. It hasn't affected us as much because it was only about 80 or so that were in our area of operations, but it will affect MND-Central and my good buddy Major General Mike Oates.

MR. WHITMAN: Go ahead.

Q It's Kimberly with CBS. Can you walk us through the makeup, as near as you can figure, of AQI, any other insurgents you're facing right now, foreign fighters versus domestic? Are you facing any militia activity as well, and what kind of -- you said car bombs; do you also have EFPs?

GEN. HERTLING: I'll answer that first one -- I'll answer that last question first. We have not seen very many EFPs. We have over the last several months. We have not over the last several weeks. And I'm sorry; I didn't hear who was answering or asking the question. Who was that, again?

Q It's Kimberly from CBS.

GEN. HERTLING: Hi, Kimberly.

Yes, in fact, Kimberly, what I'll tell you is, we think, as we've looked at the enemy in the foreign northern provinces, we've -- we have about seven different enemies, seven different fights. Many of them are calling themselves al Qaeda. I would almost tell you that in the north, we have more foreign fighters associated with al Qaeda in Ninewa province, in Mosul itself. We are seeing reflections of several different foreign fighters coming in through the Syrian desert, and those are the ones we've been targeting very hard, the Shari'a cells, the emirs of Mosul, some of the areas in the western desert.

When you go to Diyala, they will call themselves AQI, or the Islamic State of Iraq. But they're more the homegrown extremists, and in fact many of the parts of ISI or AQI are truly gang members. And that's why I say this reconciliation -- or the Iraqis use the word "musalaha" -- is going after them to try and win them over, maybe show them the error of their ways.

In the areas in the central provinces, we've got really a mixed bag of Jaish al-Islami, Ansar al-Sunna, Naqshbandi, some new groups that are forming because the old groups are either breaking down or being literally sought and pursued, and they are trying to combine to keep viable. So we really have several organizations that are affecting the Iraqi people.

But the good news is, the Iraqis see them all as terrorists. They will call them all al Qaeda, although there are some differentiation between the different groups. But I've told my bosses that I think I've got about seven different organizations that I'm fighting in the north, and it depends on where you want to go to talk about which one is the most prevalent. That's -- (audio break) -- I know, and I'm sorry for that.

Q Just a quick follow. Have border procedures, tightening up the border -- has that helped lower the foreign composition, or can you tell?

GEN. HERTLING: In terms of the actual -- in the north, our border -- the Ninewa border with Syria is about 300-plus kilometers long. It is still very porous. We are trying to help that and work some things with the Department of Border Enforcement, the DBE. But it is a very long border, and again, it's another one of those areas that we have to work through.

The southern border in Diyala has about a 200-kilometer stretch with Iran, another border with an internal Kurdish Regional Government partner, the province of Sulimaniyah.