

Its Election Day morning. Supposedly, the streets are going to be awash with blood today. It is going to be tough for the insurgents to mount anything significant as everything is out there. Nearly every soldier available is patrolling the streets. Usually the base is packed. People everywhere, vehicles everywhere. Now it looks almost eerie compared to what I have become accustomed. Parking areas that were packed with armored vehicles, strykers and such are now empty. We have many people out in the streets. Countrywide it has to be over 100,000 soldiers. That is more than when we invaded this country. That is why I do not think they will be able to mount anything significant. I guess however if even one bomb goes off near you, its significant to you. I guess I should rephrase that to, I do not think they will be organized in large numbers and be able to stop the election. I am sure plenty of innocent people are going to die, however.

Because they have completely shut down traffic in the entire country car bombs and large explosions will be minimized, I hope. If you are driving a car in this country today and you hear a helicopter over head, you better stop and get out of your car because it is only a matter of seconds before it is blown up. It may seem cruel and brutal to some but car bombs can move fast, be driven directly to the target, and take out large areas, even entire buildings. Not allowing traffic at all makes it easy to spot the car bomber on a suicide mission. They will likely use multiple suicide bombers wearing explosive vests that will walk right into polling centers and blow themselves up.

I will bet even with the threat of bombs, plenty of people get out and vote. They will likely exceed the percentage turn out that America does in some areas. I hope they do. The message that will send to the world is "we want to be free". Americans will stay home on Election Day if it is raining out. What do you think the turn out would be in America if everyone thought there was a good chance of being blown up while you are at the polls. It would be dismal. We take out freedom for granted. Many Americans do not think its worth dying for anymore. Many people here still do. They want it because they have never had it.

I heard another story yesterday. There was a power line down inside the base camp, only the power line actually belonged to the city of Mosul. I do not quite understand all the details but it did not power the base it just ran across part of the base. I guess one of the Strykers ran into a utility pole and knocked it down or something. Anyway, after a few days a Mosul city electrical guy came into the base camp (I do not know how the city utility works here) to fix the power line and he brought his son in to help, just a teenager. Anyway, the two fixed the line in a short time and then left the base. They were killed within minutes of leaving the base. The insurgents thought that they were helping the Americans. They did not know they were helping the city of Mosul.

In the event something big happens here involving mass casualties today, it is Army policy to shut down all but emergency personnel use of telephones and internet access. In that event, should I not respond to an e-mail or I do not call, do not assume anything except that they shut these services off. I will respond as soon as they are back up again.

For those that pray, today would be a good day. Not for me, but for the people of Iraq.