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Militants approach, rattle Baghdad

Still, military analysts say Islamic State gains in Iraq's capital city are doubtful.

By VIVIAN SALAMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — On the western edge of Iraq's capital, Islamic State group militants battle government forces and exchange mortar fire, only adding to the sense of siege in Baghdad despite airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition.

Yet military experts say the Sunni militants of the Islamic State group, who now control a large territory along the border that Iraq and Syria share, won't be able to fight through both government forces and Shiite militias now massed around the capital.

It does, however, put them in a position to wreak havoc in Iraq's biggest city, with its suicide attacks and other assaults further eroding confidence in Iraq's nascent federal government and its troops, whose soldiers already fled the Islamic State group's initial lightning advance in June.

"It's not plausible at this point to envision ISIL taking control of Baghdad, but they can make Baghdad so miserable that it would threaten the legitimacy of

See IRAQ, Page A2

Officer charged in assault on wife

By JO CIAVAGLIA
STAFF WRITER

A Northampton police officer is accused of assaulting his wife and her adult son at their Upper Southampton home.

Michael C. Carter, 47, was arraigned Friday before Newtown District Judge Philip Daly on two counts of misdemeanor simple assault and two counts of summary harassment. He was released on \$200,000 unsecured bail.

Reached Friday, Northampton police Chief Michael Clark said he could not comment on personnel matters, including whether Carter has been suspended as a result of the arrest.

The newspaper was unsuccessful in immediately reaching Carter's attorney, Tom Logan, for comment Friday.

Bucks County detectives investigated the assault allegations after Upper Southampton police initially responded to a domestic call Tuesday from Carter's 49-year-old

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61° Partly sunny.
44° sunny. B3

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The path to somewhere



Commentary
Phil Gianficaro

The trail quickly morphs from weathered gravel into beaten dirt and grass, a gateway deep into the woods somewhere in Bristol Township on this mild October morning. The path is bracketed by willow trees, whose branches bend gently to greet you, and sunlight winks through their leaves quivering in the breeze. The footing is as uneven and uncertain as the lives of the needy folks who reside in its shadow.



There's a clearing up ahead, then a right turn, and there it is. From this perch on the path to nowhere, one peeks through figurative blinds to see where homelessness hides from the world.

"C'mon in," said Brian, 50, inviting us into the two tents that have served as his home for the past six months. "It ain't much, but it's what I've got."

Brian is one of six homeless people who are living in tents at this spot, where the golden skies of heaven are obscured by lingering clouds of hardship. A screened-in tent serves as his kitchen area, which is best described as organized clutter. A round wooden table with four green and white striped placemats, an empty ashtray and a dotted pumpkin

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Brian lives in a tent in a wooded area of Bristol Township. He lost his job as a truck driver after "making some bad choices in life," and doesn't have the required identification or address to get a new job.

CHLOE ELMER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BUCK UP BUCKS COUNTY!

\$11,552 raised

\$188,448 needed to reach goal

Our goal is to raise \$200,000 to buy a new bus for Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need and to renovate bathrooms at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter. To donate online, go to: www.fsabc.org/buckupbucks Or find us on Facebook: @BuckUpBucksCounty

You can help

■ To contribute to the campaign by mailing a check payable to Family Service Association of Bucks County to: Buck Up Bucks County, c/o Family

Service Association, 4 Cornerstone Drive, Langhorne, PA 19047

■ To donate by credit card go to www.fsabc.org/buckupbuckscounty2

WHERE CAN YOU DONATE? A8

Time travelers



WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN / FOR THE COURIER TIMES
George Tolton, Diana Troxell, Bryn Utz and David Utz of Heritage Dancers wait to perform at Historic Fallsington Day in Fallsington.

Some say closing borders not one for the history books

By JIM MCGINNIS and GWEN SHRIFT
STAFF WRITERS

America's heritage was on the minds of many Saturday, from Colonial re-enactors firing a ceremonial salute in Newtown to folks in costume performing patriotic 18th-century dances in Fallsington.

For U.S. Army veteran Rob Huebner, of Langhorne, those traditions entwine with the most contemporary of issues: potentially closing the nation's borders to travelers from West African nations affected by Ebola.

The virus killed one man in the U.S. so far, whose death was among more than 4,000 confirmed, probable or suspected as of Friday. The worsening situation prompted Bucks County Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick to call last week for a temporary halt on travel to the U.S. from affected parts of the world.

Huebner, who served in Vietnam, was among a number of people who disagreed with the proposal. "We shouldn't close our borders for any

"We can't shut our borders to what's happening on this planet Earth. It's one big system."

JAN WOLAND OF NEW HOPE

Doctors offer reassurance A6

reason like that," he said while attending the annual Historic Fallsington Day street fair.

"Every little kid knows we're the land of the free and the home of the brave. All of a sudden, we're not?"

Lower Makefield resident Angel Brosius-Boettinger, a vendor at Market Day in Newtown, agreed. "I don't think the borders should be closed for any reason, this is how we all got here. Take (individual) precautions . . . and I think they

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