





Serving Task Force Marne

November 1, 2007



Courtesy photo

Members of the Concerned Local Citizens in Al Ja'ara patrol with Soldiers from Co. B, 1-15th Inf. Regt. and Iraqi national police Oct. 27.

### **Concerned Local Citizens patrol** with Soldiers, police in Al Ja'ara

Spc. BEN HUTTO 3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — More than 200 Concerned Local Citizens impressed ground troops by standing their ground in a fire fight and finding several improvised explosive devices.

The Al Ja'ara Concerned Local Citizens patrolled approximately eight kilometers during a 40-hour mission that included the Iraqi national police and Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment Oct. 27.

During the mission, the citizens received small arms fire from insurgent forces, pointed out several improvised explosive devices and scouted out sites along the route to place future checkpoints.

"The mission was successful on

multiple levels," said Capt. Steve Hemmann, Co. B executive officer. "To have over 200 citizens show up on time and in the proper uniform was a great start and made a great statement. We have been building up the concerned citizens here in Al Ja'ara, and they all want to secure their neighborhoods."

Near the Tigris River, the patrol took small arms fire, but was able to seek cover and return fire.

Pvt. Phillip Crumm, a Co. B infantryman, was impressed with the CLC's reaction to taking gunfire.

"The concerned citizens did a real good job," Crumm said. "The important thing is that they were out there. They weren't back at their houses drinking chai. They were out here

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# **IPs** find Iranian arms cache

SGT. J.H. FRENCH 4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

KALSU — Iskandariyah policemen turned in 26 Iranian mortar rounds, including seven made within the last year, to Paratroopers in North Babil

The police discovered the munitions as well as other weapons during a raid on a cemetery in the city, and gave them to Paratroopers from Company D, 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

Cemeteries are categorized as sensitive sites, along with mosques and certain historic places. The Coalition observes Geneva Convention protections on such places.

Although the Conventions make clear that the protections are voided by insurgent groups using the sites for caches or other military activities, the Coalition and the government of Iraq have arrangements to ensure that sensitive places receive the maximum possible protection.

One of those arrangements involves Iraqi Security Forces conducting raids or searches of these places whenever possible.

For that arrangement to work, the

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### PATROL: Concerned Citizens join with Coalition Forces, policemen

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protecting (the local community), instead of just letting us do it."

First Sgt. Arvento Collins, the Co. B first sergeant, believes the incident held value for his Soldiers, confirming they were not alone in the fight.

"When you've been in a gun fight and fought alongside someone, it helps solidify the relationship even more," Collins said. "We saw that they were serious about protecting themselves and their communities."

Over the course of the mission, which spanned the area from Al Ja'ara to the Tigris River, CLCs pointed out where several improvised explosive devices were planted. The 789th Ordnance Company was on hand to disarm the devices.

"The citizens here know their neighborhoods much better than we do," Collins said. "They were able to safely direct us to the IEDs and allow EOD to do their work. The information they gave us was very beneficial."

Along the route, the CLCs pointed out locations where they would like to build checkpoints.

"This was totally driven by them," Hemmann said. "They know the best places for the locations. The national police listened and added suggestions, but the concerned citizens showed us where they thought the best locations were."

Collins said the CLCs displayed great potential.

"It will take some time for them to get fully established, but we saw a lot of motivation and courage out there," Collins said. "If we can get ordinary citizens to be our eyes and ears out here and allow them to do simple security tasks, it frees us and the national police up to do more complex security operations."

The patrol cleared 20 houses and found a sniper rifle, a global positioning device and IED-making materials.

"That was a good find for us," Hemmann said. "Anytime you can take weapons out of the enemies' hands, it's a good



Courtesy photo

Members of the Concerned Local Citizens in Al Ja'ara prepare to move out on a patrol with Soldiers from Co. B, 1-15th Inf. Regt. and the INP Oct. 27.

find."

Hemmann was pleased with the way his troops interacted with the CLCs and the Iraqi NP.

"Before the mission, we didn't get a chance to do a rehearsal with them, but we worked really well together," Hemmann said. "We worked hand in hand clearing all the buildings and we did it without tearing anyone's house up. We were very careful and respectful. Having them there was a big help because the people we came across were much more at ease having people they knew with us."

"It helps that the Iraqis are maintaining the progress we make out here," Crumm said. "They need more training, but they are out there helping. The sooner they are ready to stand up and control their area the sooner we all get to go home to our families, so I'm all for it."

### Help name the 3rd Inf. Div. OIF V Yearbook!

Do you like "Chapter 90 in the History of the 3rd Infantry Division" as the title of your redeployment yearbook?

If you have an idea, please share it with the 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office. Every deployed Soldier from a 3rd Inf. Div. brigade will receive a free yearbook, and the PAO staff needs your help to ensure it's a quality product that depicts your successes. Send your ideas for a title, personal photos or graphics to 3IDyearbook@iraq.centcom.mil. The last day to submit a yearbook title is Nov. 10.

#### **THE**

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82nd Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

### **CACHE:** Iskandariyah police turn in Iranian cache to Coalition Forces

#### From Page 1

police or other security forces need to be reliable partners. In Iskandariyah, a number of recent incidents show that the Iraqi police are just that.

On Oct. 23, Lt. Col. Valery Keaveny, 3-509th Abn. commander, spoke of recent successes for Coalition and Iraqi forces working together.

His comments came after two cordon and search operations involving mosques, in which Coalition Forces had been able to rely on Iraqi police to perform the successful searches.

"Iraqi Security Forces," he said, "tired of the selfishness and brutality of the Shia extremists, have provided volumes of detailed intelligence on the terrorist activities and personalities. This information and aggressive operations by the ISF and Coalition Forces led to the capture of many Shia extremist leaders and followers in Iskandariyah and Haswah."

Following the Oct. 4 killing of Iskan-

dariyah's mayor by explosively formed projectiles, the Iskandariyah police arrested one of their own who had been accused of spotting for the attack. He was turned over to Coalition Forces.

Arresting officers signed sworn statements attesting to their reasons for suspecting the arrested officer.

Capt. Brian Slosman, commander of Company D, 3-509th Abn., praised the Iragi police

"U.S. Army and Iraqi police joint operations in the Iskandariyah have had a profound impact on the ability of criminal groups ... to achieve their goals in the area," he said. "Recent operations have targeted leadership and the extremists' supply of weapons and explosives in the greater Iskandariyah area. In the past (we had) up to fifteen daily extra judicial killings, sectarian inspired murders ... (now we have) about one to three per month.

"Coalition operations have emboldened the local police force to take back control of their community," he added. "Much more progress is needed but we are on the right path to a more secure Iskandariyah"

In the Oct. 30 raid on the cemetery cache, the policemen handed over 19 82mm Iranian mortar rounds made in the year 2000, and seven 60mm Iranian mortar rounds made in the year 2006.

The IPs also turned in a mortar tube, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and RPG, three pounds of TNT, 16 sticks of TNT, 13 57mm mortar rounds, five 75mm mortar rounds, a 155mm artillery round, a mortar sight and two aiming stakes.

The IP raid was the second time the cemetery had been searched in the last two days.

Iskandariyah policemen and Paratroopers from Co. D conducted a search of the cemetery Oct. 29.

During that search, an explosively formed projectile, flares, copper wire and other improvised explosive devicemaking materials were discovered.

### EXPECTING A HOLIDAY PACKAGE?

## **Keep your loved ones informed:**

According to the Military Postal Service Agency, mail going parcel post must be sent by Nov. 14. First-class mail must be sent by Dec. 10 to arrive by Dec. 25.



### Safety Thought of the Day

**Guard Duty General Orders** 

- I will guard anything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved.
- Guards must stay alert at all times while on duty.
- Guards should brief replacements of all activities prior to being relieved.
- The sergeant of the guard should conduct an AAR for each shift.
- I will obey my special orders and perform all my duties in a military manner.
  - Ensure Soldiers are trained and familiar with the

- weapon systems in their guard position.
- Ensure each position has a range card and the Soldiers know how to use them.
- I will report violations of my special orders, emergencies, and anything not covered in my instructions, to the commander of the relief.
- Ensure the Soldier knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- Ensure Soldiers know and understand the Rules of Engagement.

### **Headline Highlights**

### Mink chase; serial jailbreaker; ketchup robbers

### Army sent after minks

BERLIN (Reuters) — Twenty German soldiers were deployed on Friday to help recapture around 17,000 minks on the run.

The animals had been let out from a mink farm into the eastern German countryside by unknown perpetrators, according to police in Stendal, 55 miles west of Berlin. Local officials and mink farm employees also spent the day trying to trap the animals at large.

"So many minks escaped, I have no idea how many they'll catch," police spokesman Joachim Albrecht said.

Authorities suspect the minks — small mammals whose fur is used for making expensive coats and accessories — had been let out by animal rights activists, he said.

### Serial jailbreaker escapes for fourth time

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — A Belgian inmate made a dramatic escape from jail for the fourth time Sunday evening after his armed accomplices landed in the prison grounds in a hijacked helicopter, prosecutors said Monday.

Nordin Benallal, self-styled "escape king" with several convictions for armed robbery and carjacking, has previously run from a prison van, walked out of jail wearing a wig and sunglasses and scaled a prison wall with a rope ladder.

Sunday, Benallal's accomplices hijacked a helicopter near the prison in Ittre, some 30 km (19 miles) south of Brussels.

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On landing, the helicopter was crowded by other prisoners, making takeoff impossible and causing it to crash. The pilot and a prisoner were slightly injured.

Benallal and his cohorts then briefly seized two prison warders as hostages and fled in a car parked nearby.

It marked the second time this year that a prisoner has escaped from a Belgian jail using a helicopter. In April, two men posing as tourists hijacked a helicopter and flew into the yard of a prison near Liege, in the east of the country, to pick up an inmate.

#### Robbers armed with ketchup

ATHENS (Reuters) — Two thieves armed only with ketchup ambushed a supermarket employee as he was taking cash to the bank, Greek police said Tuesday.

"The thieves jumped out of the bushes and threw two big bags of ketchup on the front window to stop the car," said a police official who requested anonymity.

The man fought with his attackers who managed to flee on a motorcycle with only 400 euros of the 140,000 euros he was carrying.

### City bans 'seductive' ads

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BEIJING (Reuters) — A northern Chinese city has banned the use of "seductive" words like "foxy lady," "handsome guy" and "moneybags" in marriage advertisements in a bid to stamp out fraud, domestic media reported Tuesday.

Many Chinese people still go to marriage brokers to arrange suitable life partners for their children, and often turn to adverts carried in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet.

But after a series of complaints from people who said they had been cheated — although how was not explained — Henan provincial capital Zhengzhou is reining in the industry, the Beijing News said. From November 1, marriage brokers will need to have the content of their adverts approved by the city government and risk being banned for life if they snub the new rules, it added.

Promises to arrange marriages to foreigners are also banned, as are marriage adverts dressed up as solicitations to simply find friends or travel partners, the report said.

### Teen escapes jail in suitcase

BERLIN (Reuters) — A 19-year-old German woman has escaped from prison by hiding in a friend's suitcase.

The fugitive hid inside the large case when her 17-year-old fellow inmate was released from the youth prison in northwest Germany on Friday, Lower Saxony ministry spokesman Dennis Weilmann said on Monday.

The girl simply walked out of the building with her friend concealed in her luggage, Weilmann said.

"Our staff are going to make sure they inspect big suitcases more carefully in the future," Weilmann said.

Neither of the teenagers has since been caught. Both had been jailed for theft. The escaped prisoner had less than two weeks left to serve.

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

4	8	5	9	3	2	7	1	6
7	2	9	1	8	6	4	3	5
1	6	3	5	4	7	8	9	2
6	7	2	8	9	3	1	5	4
5	3	1	6	7	4	9	2	8
9	4	8	2	5	1	3	6	7
2	1	4	3	6	8	5	7	9
8	9	6	7	1	5	2	4	3
3	5	7	4	2	9	6	8	1

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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Water My