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PRESS RELEASE

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**ROYAL ENGINEERS BOMB DISPOSAL SPECIALISTS WORK WITH WELSH GUARDS
TO BRING IN IRAQI POLICE HAUL OF MINES AND MORTARS**

Despite ongoing hostilities towards British Forces in the city of Al Amarah, there are success stories, as was seen in a recent coordinated operation between the Iraqi Police Service, The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal team, where they dealt with a large find of munitions in vehicles stopped at a routine vehicle check point.

STORY DETAILS

- The main vehicle involved was a large Flat Bed Truck.
- There was also a smaller pick-up truck brought in with a smaller load of mortars and a rocket.
- The vehicles were apprehended by Iraqi Police at a routine vehicle check point.
- They were immediately impounded and taken to the Police compound at the Maysan Province Police Headquarters, and the driver was arrested.
- The Police then called on the British Forces based at Camp Abu Naji, just outside Al Amarah, to assist in dealing with the haul.
- The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, provided a patrol escort to allow the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal team to go to the Police Headquarters.
- The Bomb Disposal team then assessed the haul, which was made up of anti-tank mines, mortars and rockets.
- The munitions were then loaded into trailers in order to transport them back to the camp.
- As with any find of this type, the Royal Engineers will now carry out a more detailed assessment of the find, record all the details and then all the munitions are safely decommissioned and disposed of.
- Finds of this type are evidence of the ongoing hostilities in the area; but the ongoing efforts to deny the insurgents the ability to carry out attacks are proving successful, as in this case.
- It is also a good example of the increasingly successful cooperation between British Forces and the Iraqi Police Service.

NOTES

- 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards are based at Camp Abu Naji just outside Al Amarah.
- The Welsh Guards conduct regular patrols in the city day and night.

- The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards are based at St Athan in Wales; it is the first time in the Regiment's history that they have been based on Welsh soil. They also serve as the Queen's Guard. Names of members of the patrol concerned are as follows:

2nd Lieutenant Scott Broughton - Platoon Commander

Lance Sergeant Cross
Lance Corporal Davies
Guardsmen Haines
Guardsmen Blackett
Guardsmen McGhan
Guardsmen Soco
Guardsmen Wilks

Lance Corporal Gardiner
Lance Corporal Lilliman
Guardsmen Jenkins
Guardsmen Williams
Guardsmen Crabb
TUS Hepburn

- The Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Team form the Camp Abu Naji detachment of the Joint Explosives and Ordnance Team, which is based at the Shaibah Logistics Base just outside Basrah.
- The Royal Engineers respond to call-outs to deal with Munitions finds as well as any suspected Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and any other explosives related matters.
- The Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Team at Camp Abu Naji originate from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Carver Barracks, Wimbish, Essex. Names of members of the team are as follows:

Sergeant Brown Bomb Disposal Officer
Corporal Barton 2 i/c
Lance Corporal Holdstock
Lance Corporal Wilcock

Sapper Strainer
Sapper Eades

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES

1.



Cpl Dougie Gardener chats with some of the local youngsters in Al Almarah

2.



Two members of the Royal Engineers Explosives Ordnance Disposal Section offloading mines seized by members of the Iraqi Police Service.

3.



Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Experts load seized mines onto their 'Snatch' Vehicles.

4.

