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11 Sep 2003

KOSB BRING HUMANITARIAN AID TO SOUTHERN IRAQ

Soldiers from 1 Kings Own Scottish Borderers have transported 23 lorry loads of much needed humanitarian aid across southern Iraq. The aid has now been distributed by agencies to 7,400 of the most needy families in Maysan province.

Sixteen ISO containers and seven low loaders of aid were driven by 1 KOSB from warehouses in the port of Umm Qasr at the weekend to the Battle Group's base at Camp Abu Najji, Al Amarah. This considerable amount of aid consisted of:

- 4,000 Hygiene Boxes (washing powder, soap, disinfectant, tooth brushes and paste)
- 4,000 Blankets
- 4,000 Kettles
- 6,000 Cooking pots
- 15,000 drinking mugs
- 15,000 bowls
- 1,000 Petrol cookers
- 250 Food boxes

The 1 KOSB CIMIC (Civil and Military Co-operation) team helped to find the most deserving families for the aid. Major Kevin Connor, who is from Ayr, said: "This was the first humanitarian aid to reach Al Amarah, given by the people of the KU, and brought here by Coalition Forces. Distribution was organised by the Salvation Army and the local town councils.

"Getting the aid up here was easy. Distribution has been a very difficult job though and we had to spend a lot of time talking to local leaders to identify those people who need it most."

Distribution was effected using the combined resources of the Non- Government Organisations (NGOs) and the local Town Councils. The Salvation Army have been proactive in working with the Town Councils to identify the most needy recipients of the aid and have agreed an auditable distribution plan.

The CIMIC team co-ordinated the move of the aid to the World Food Programme Warehouse in Al Amarah using a local civilian contractor, where the KOSB also provided security for it..

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N SEYMOUR
Major
Unit Press Officer
1 KOSB