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12 Sep 2003

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**ANTI-CRIMINAL OPERATIONS IN BASRAH**

Soldiers from 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment have made a number of arrests after evening raids on properties and businesses dealing in illegal arms. The raids carried out in the Old Basrah sector of the city were also designed to reassure the local population of Coalition Forces determination to stamp out criminal behaviour.

Businesses dealing in the illegal sale of arms are assisting criminal activity. By cracking down on these Coalition Forces are able to reduce the availability of weapons on the streets.

The operation also targeted black marketeers dealing in drugs and prostitution.

The operation was carried out by 400 soldiers, patrolling the local area alongside Iraqi police, to reassure locals of the joint commitment to providing security. Iraqi police working with the patrols were able to assist in the arrests. Troops were chatting to business owners and families to help build relationships that help them do their work.

1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, are among 11,000 British forces undertaking security and reconstruction duties in southern Iraq.

ENDS

Media Details: STILLS( Cpl Dave Whittaker-Smith) and VIDEO (SAC Jon Ryder) covered by CCT are available to media outlets.