

Headquarters (Multi National Division) South East  
British Forces Post Office 641

**PRESS INFORMATION CENTRE**

Telephone 00870 600 322 756

00870 763 655 814

Mobile 00965 9113350

E-mail: [picbasrah@defencemediaops.co.uk](mailto:picbasrah@defencemediaops.co.uk)

Date of issue: 15 Feb 04

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

**HEME TO CLEAN UP BASRAH**

A \$200,000 project has been launched to clean up the streets of Basrah.

Piles of trash litter the streets and neighbourhoods of Iraq's second city, where there has been no regular rubbish collection for several years. While the problem is a terrible eyesore, more importantly the mounds of rotting garbage pose a serious health risk to locals.

37 Armoured Engineer Squadron, part of the British 35 Engineer Group, have spearheaded the latest campaign to help clean up the streets. At the start of February a group of Iraqi contractors was selected to collect rubbish and transport it to a temporary solid waste facility on the outskirts of Basrah.

The scheme has been disposing of 25,000 cubic metres of trash a week, and has so far earned the contractors over \$200,000.

Staff Sergeant Wayne Alcock, from 35 Engr Grp, said Basrah was long overdue for a crackdown on rubbish.

"Local people have been asking for a clean-up campaign for a very long time," he said. "They have been coming out and thanking us on the streets."

The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) has already agreed to fund a \$3.2 million permanent waste disposal facility for Basrah.

The team are currently removing rubbish from the streets in Basrah's Al Hywaniya district.

ENDS

Images are available from Reuters or AFP. Also, the website [www.operations.mod.uk/telic](http://www.operations.mod.uk/telic) contains a library of images that you can download free of charge.