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TROOPS SAFEGUARD THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD

British troops from The Light Dragoons and the Kings Own Scottish Borderers are guarding the British Embassy in Baghdad. The 36 soldiers have been made to feel very welcome by the local people.

British embassy staff left Baghdad recently after the bombing of the UN Building, but the troops have stayed on to look protect and maintain the building. Soldiers have established a good relationship with the local children, and their medic often treats children at the embassy gate who have minor injuries such as cuts and scrapes.

Troops have a good relationship with the local Baghdad resident; welcoming cries of 'Hello Britannique' are shouted when a British Land Rover passes through the streets. Troops even carry out foot patrols through the streets surrounding the embassy where they have a good working relationship with the local people. This even extends to the off duty soldiers playing a daily game of football with 18-20 year old men from the local area.

The Embassy is situated in four acres of land and is surrounded by high rise office blocks on three sides with the remaining side running along the side of the River Tigris. Embassy staff originally left in 1990 and for 13 years the building was cared for by the caretaker and his two sons. The embassy was reoccupied in late April 2003 when the original Union Jack was unfurled and raised again.

The soldiers were recently visited by General Sir Mike Jackson, the Chief of the General Staff during his recent visit to Iraq.

Flt Lt Jol Fall

ENDS

Media Details: STILLS (Cpl Dave Whittaker-Smith) and VIDEO (SAC Jon Ryder) covered by CCT + Interviews