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PRESS RELEASE

CAR CHASE ENDS IN DRUGS SEIZURE

British troops based in Basrah seized drugs worth an estimated \$150,000 after pursuing a suspicious car through the city.

Six soldiers from A Squadron, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) spotted two cars travelling at high speed at around 7.45pm on 23 November and gave chase. One of the vehicles crashed a short time later and the driver was arrested. Unluckily, the other car escaped.

The patrol found 51kgs of cannabis in the boot of the crashed car, wrapped in cat food bags and disguised as coffee.

The incident, in the Az Zubayr area of Basrah city, follows continuing joint operations by Coalition Forces and Iraqi police to crack down on crime south of Al Basrah.

Patrol commander, Captain Matt Eyre-Brook, said the seizure was the latest in a series of successes against criminals in their area.

"This was very exciting and a great round-off to an excellent week," he said. "As well as this drugs find, we have arrested two hijackers and seized weapons and grenades.

"We were also the first to respond to a road traffic accident where we were able to administer first aid to the injured. Sadly, they passed away later in hospital due to their critical injuries."

Lieutenant Colonel Julian Free, the soldiers' commanding officer, said they would continue to target criminals in the area.

"This latest success is a result of well planned operations and the quick reactions of soldiers on the ground."

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