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QUEEN'S LANCASHIRES CLEAN UP IN BASRAH

Soldiers from 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment made a number of arrests recently after dawn raids on businesses dealing in smelted copper and aluminium stolen from southern Iraq's power lines.

The raids carried out in Al-Jumeat region of Basrah were also designed to reassure the local population of Coalition Forces efforts to stamp out criminal behaviour.

Stolen power lines have been causing problems in Iraq's electricity supply, as they are smelted down into ingots and sold on the black market.

The operation was conducted in three phases, firstly, the raids on the smelting businesses, where copper and aluminium power lines were found and arrests were made.

Then around 120 soldiers went on patrol with Iraqi police in the local area to reassure locals of the Coalition Forces commitment to provide security. Troops spent time chatting to local business owners and families.

The final phase was literally to clean up the streets! In conjunction, with the local council leader, the soldiers organised a Quick Impact Project (QIP) to clean the streets of several years' rubbish build up. Money donated to this project will employ a number of local citizens for a couple of months, and has already made a huge impact on the standard of living and in the happiness of Al-Jumeat people.

1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment have been providing stability and security for the Multi National Division area which is under UK command.

Their specific duties include patrolling local communities jointly with Iraqi police.

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