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### U.S. ARMY EUROPE STRYKER SOLDIERS FIND TWO WEAPONS CACHES IN BAGHDAD STADIUM

**By Spc. Alexis Harrison**

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office

**BAGHDAD, Iraq --** Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's Troop P, 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment found two caches of weapons and explosives while on patrol in Baghdad's Ramaniyah neighborhood Nov. 5.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

A Soldier from U.S. Army Europe's Troop P, 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, checks part of a weapons cache the troop's Soldiers found buried in a soccer stadium in Baghdad Nov. 5.

Buried under the bleachers of a soccer stadium in two locations, the Soldiers found 45 blocks of C-4 explosive, 33 mortars, almost 2,000 rounds of ammunition, a rocket-propelled grenade and launcher, 2 Dragunov-style sniper rifles, 2 protective vests and a grenade.

Troop Commander Capt. Marcus Melton said the cache find was quite uncommon for the area he and his men patrol on a regular basis.

"We've found random weapons during cordon-and-knocks, but never a bulk cache like this before," he said. "The area is checked often, and we're still trying to figure out how they got [the weapons and explosives] in there."

The soccer stadium was checked just a few weeks ago, thus implying that the cache had been recently placed.

"This will definitely have an impact on whoever's operation this was," Melton said.

"Someone isn't very happy with us right now, that's for sure."

Sgt. Chris Meyering, Spc. Danny Lee and Staff Sgt. Elliott Davis found the first cache buried under the bleachers after tamping the ground with a shovel. Meyering heard it hit something hollow-sounding and began to dig immediately.

"As soon as the shovel hit, I knew what it was," he said. "I was pretty happy knowing that weapons were getting taken off the street."

The first cache was the smaller of the two, and was buried in a wooden box. After it was found, the troops began searching the stadium more thoroughly and came upon the second cache, which was slightly larger and buried in what looked like a chest freezer.

Melton said many of the mortar rounds and explosives found were in brand-new condition, still wrapped and in original containers with date stamps as recent as earlier this year.

Meyering, a combat engineer during the Gulf War, said the amount of explosives found could've been used to make "vicious" improvised explosive devices, even more powerful than ones made out of mortar rounds.

Melton said he was very proud of his troops, especially the three Soldiers who found the cache, who may be recommended for medals for finding the weapons.

"Regardless -- medals or not -- this takes weapons off the streets, and that means more to me," Meyering said.



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