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U.S. ARMY, EUROPE STRYKER SOLDIERS SEIZE WEAPONS CACHES AS OPERATION DRAGON TALON II CONTINUES

Multi-National Division – Baghdad release

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's Nomad Company, 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi security forces seized a number of weapons caches in the southern portion of the Iraqi capital Oct. 10-14 as part of Operation Dragon Talon II.

On Oct. 9, Soldiers from Nomad Company, 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, while conducting a combined patrol with Iraqi National Police in East Rashid, discovered the remains of a house that had been deliberately set on fire and burned to the ground. After talking with neighbors, troops learned that the house belonged to a local school principal, and that Al Qaeda members had destroyed the house the previous evening without warning. The principal and his family's whereabouts are currently unknown.

"Al Qaeda only represents evil, terror and all that is wrong," said Maj. Thomas J. Siebold, 3rd Squadron, 2nd SCR operations officer. "This (act) is an embarrassment to their countrymen and to all (law abiding citizens)."

Iraqi Security Forces, working in concert with Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers from the 4th "Dragon" Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division have aggressively pursued extremists throughout the Rashid District, confiscating weapons and arresting numerous suspects believed to be engaged in anti-coalition activities.

Seven caches have been seized and 34 detainees taken in operations across Rashid over the past 72 hours.

"We're sending a clear message to the terrorists that we will not be deterred in our efforts to improve the security situation here," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, the "Dragon Brigade" commander. "Our Iraqi security force counterparts have done a tremendous job of responding to enemy attacks and acts of intimidation by seizing sizeable caches of weapons and taking bad guys off the streets."

Highlights of the cache finds include multiple seizures of 107mm rockets, 76mm rockets, artillery and mortar shells of various calibers and numerous small arms weapons and ammunition.



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