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STRYKER SOLDIERS INVESTIGATE MASS GRAVE SITE, ELIMINATE ATTACKERS IN SEPARATE OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

Multi-National Division - Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and members of the Sons of Iraq discovered 14 bodies while investigating an Iraqi citizen's report of a mass grave near Muqdadiyah March 29.

The bodies appear to have been at the location for two to six months. Some of the remains showed signs of torture. The bodies were found 100 meters north of another mass grave in which 37 bodies were discovered March 27.

The graves were discovered in an area that had been controlled by al Qaeda in Iraq until the group was pushed out during Operation Raider Harvest earlier this year.

"Our enemy continues to show why they will be defeated," said spokesman Maj. Mike Garcia. "The local residents in Diyala have realized that working with coalition and Iraqi security forces is far more beneficial to them than working with an insurgency that uses deplorable tactics like torture and murder to achieve its objectives."

The same day Soldiers from the 2nd SCR's 1st Squadron patrolling northeast Baghdad encountered and engaged a three-man rocket-propelled grenade team, killing all three.

"These criminals show how little they regard the lives of innocent Iraqis," said Col. Allen Batschelet, Multi-National Division - Baghdad chief of staff. "We will continue, along with our Iraqi security force partners, to target individual criminals, criminal networks and anyone involved in violent crimes ignoring al-Sayyid Muqtada al-Sadr's cease-fire pledge."



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