

Sons of Iraq' Tips Lead to Weapons Find in Jabr Al Ansari

Sunday, 24 February 2008

By Spc. Ben Hutto

3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs



Soldiers from the 789th Ordnance Company (EOD), from Ft. Benning, Ga., currently attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, search for a weapons cache Feb. 19 in Jabr al Ansari, a small village southeast of Baghdad. The Sons of Iraq provided information that led Soldiers from Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment to a cache. Photo by Spc. Ben Hutto, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER — Acting on information provided by the 'Sons of Iraq' (Sol), Soldiers assigned to Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, confiscated a weapon cache in Jabr al Ansari, a small village southeast of Baghdad, Feb. 19. Sol is a citizen volunteer group, formally known as the Concerned Local Citizens.

The cache contained (21) 122 mm Russian projectiles and three 130 mm Russian projectiles. The munitions were buried approximately three feet deep in the backyard of a suspect. The suspect was detained and brought back to Combat Outpost Cashe for questioning.

"Every time the Sons of Iraq bring in or lead us to ordnance, it saves American lives," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Huell, from Miami, the command sergeant major of 3-1st Cav. Regt. "This act signifies that more Iraqis are on the side of peace."

Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, from Loudon, Tenn., commander of 3-1 Cav. Regt., believes his troops' effectiveness operating in the Jisr Diyala area is due to rapport developed with their Iraqi neighbors.

"This cache find serves as another example of how our Soldiers are winning the trust and confidence of the population," Kolasheski said. "By denying the extremists the use of these dangerous munitions, we collectively make Jisr Diyala and the surrounding areas a safer place for the people of the region. The Sons of Iraq continue to show their effectiveness in thickening our lines."

The Sol have played a significant role in most of 3-1 Cav. Regt.'s recent cache finds by providing information.

"The Sons of Iraq continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of local security by decreasing accelerants and extremist activities in our area of operations," said 1st Lt. Jamel Reese, a platoon leader in Headquarters Troop, 3-1 Cav. Regt.

The cache was destroyed by the 789th Ordnance Company (EOD), from Ft. Benning, Ga., currently attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The 3-1 Cav. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March.