



Dragon' Soldiers Seize, Destroy Bomb Factory

By Multi-National Corps-Iraq
Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

BAGHDAD — Baghdad soldiers seized a bomb-making factory, along with another large weapons cache while on patrol in the eastern portion of the Rashid District of the Iraqi capital June 11.



Electrical wiring and other components used to make improvised explosive devices were discovered by troops from the Multi-National Division – Baghdad in a bomb-making "factory" in Baghdad's East Rashid District June 11. Components seized were enough to build 300 IEDs. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ben Washburn.

"This is tremendous work by our soldiers to take more than 300 (improvised explosive devices) off the streets," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander of 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Troops from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, and Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 4th IBCT, discovered the factory, a complex of small buildings deep in the thick palm groves of East Rashid, after receiving word of the objective's location from other Coalition Forces.

The find consisted of one vehicle wired and loaded with explosives as a vehicle-borne improvised explosive

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Airmen receive first AF Combat Action Medals

by Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force Office

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley awarded six Airmen the Air Force Combat Action Medal during a ceremony June 12 at the Air Force Memorial. These Airmen were the first in the Air Force to receive the new medal.

Recipients of the award were Maj. Steven A. Raspet, Capt. Allison K. Black, Senior Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, Master Sgt. Charlie Peterson, Master Sgt. Byron P. Allen and Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Paxton.

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Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley awards an Air Force Combat Action Medal to Master Sgt. Byron Allen at the Air Force Memorial June 12 in Arlington, Va., June 12. Sergeant Allen was one of six Airmen to receive the medal, awarded to Airmen who have been directly in harm's way, engaging enemy forces. Sergeant Allen was serving as an MH-53 aerial gunner was conducting a combat resupply mission when his aircraft came under enemy fire. Sergeant Allen is from the 1st Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla. U.S. Air Force photo by Donna Parry.

CENTCOM PODCAST

The deputy commander of the Civilian Police Assistance in Iraq talks about a new Iraqi police academy, U.S. Servicemembers make friends on the streets of Baghdad, and a French Navy frigate stops in Tampa, Florida.

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EXPOSING THE ENEMY

SHI'ITE CLERIC MUQTADA AL-SADR PLACES BLAME OF GOLDEN MOSQUE BOMBING



Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr issued a statement to a website of which he is affiliated, commenting on the bombing today, Wednesday, June 13, 2007, of the Al-Askariya Shrine, or Golden Mosque, a revered Shi'ite shrine in Samarra, Iraq, which destroyed two of its minarets. The site was also bombed in February 2006. Sadr declares that no Muslim, Shi'ite or Sunni could possible commit such an act

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WARFIGHTER STORIES

THE LION OF FALLUJAH: MARINE CORPS MAJ. DOUGLAS A. ZEMBIEC



"If you took 100 Doug Zembiecs to war with you, you could conquer the world." That is how Maj. Zembiec's high-school wrestling coach characterized him – though the men who served with him captured his spirit more succinctly: He was reverently called the "Lion of Fallujah." A magnetic commander, an "unapologetic warrior," Zembiec believed in leading by deeds rather than words. As a result, his men would tell you that they would follow Zembiec to the gates of hell – or, at the very least, into the treacherous urban battlefield of Fallujah.

In early April of 2004, Zembiec's company was sent in to help pacify Fallujah and restore order in a city where violence had spiraled out of control.

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