

James Earl Rudder Normandy Program

Study WWII and European Politics in France and Germany Summer II

Informational Meetings:

Wed, Nov. 19, 5-6 pm, Rudder 502

Thurs, Nov. 20, 5-6 pm, Rudder 407

For more information, please contact: Study Abroad Programs Office, First floor Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544, studyabroad.tamu.edu

Summer European Academy Summer Session I 2004

Informational Meetings

Monday 17th 5:45-6:45pm

Tuesday 18th 5:45-6:45pm

502 Rudder

Study Abroad Programs <http://studyabroad.tamu.edu>

Study European current affairs and politics in Germany, France, Belgium & Luxembourg

U.S. troops raid neighborhood in Baghdad

By Slobodan Lekic
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Mortar and tank fire lit up the night sky over Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit Monday in a show of force to intimidate the resistance, while troops angered residents by mounting their biggest-ever hunt for weapons and explosives in a middle class Baghdad area.

Meanwhile, in the town of Ramadi west of Baghdad, troops announced they had arrested an organizer a leader of the Fedayeen guerrillas responsible for bomb attacks and ambushes on U.S. forces. The suspect, Kazim Mohammed Faris, who was a "high value target," a military statement said.

U.S. forces have reacted to the increasing attacks in which dozens of Americans and their allies have died by mounting a massive show of force in central and northern Iraq.

Buildings factories and other facilities believed used as staging areas for guerrilla attacks have been bombed from the air and blasted by artillery barrages. Troops have carried out dozens of raids aimed at apprehending suspects and seizing weapons and bomb-making materials.

One such "cordon-and-search" raid early Tuesday in Baghdad's middle-class

Azamiyah district netted 21 suspects along with 30 Kalashnikov AK-47 automatic rifles, about a dozen shotguns and 10 handguns. Most suspects had violated a one weapon per house rule.

Some 2,000 troops of the 1st Armored Division — backed by tanks, armored vehicles and low-flying helicopters took part in the nighttime raid, sealing off a 20 block area and searching every single building inside it.

Col. Charles Sexton, commander of one of three participating battalions expressed satisfaction that the massive searches had gone off without incident.

But many citizens of the neighborhood next to the Tigris River said they were puzzled by the choice of target, because the area — which is home to bureaucrats, lawyers and other professionals — has not seen any rebel activity. Saddam was last seen in public in the neighborhood in April.

Some also were furious that troops were arresting men who had more than the single AK-47 now allowed by the coalition forces. At least a dozen of those taken away were

detained after the army confiscated revolvers or bird guns that could not be presented a serious threat to the security of the occupying forces.

"Of course everybody has weapons," said Samir al-Hadith, an engineer who works in Saudi Arabia and had returned Baghdad to check on his home. "There are so many thieves now that we have to defend our families."

"Under Saddam Hussein there was much more security and we could own guns."

— Samir al-Hadith, engineer in Saudi Arabia

"Under Saddam Hussein there was much more security and we could own guns," he said.

Zuheir Ali, 26, was detained after troops found a snub-nose .38 Smith & Wesson revolver in his bag along with an AK-47. He left the automatic rifle confiscated the handgun.

"I don't understand why we're not criminals, we only want to defend our homes from looters," Ali said.

Journalists accompanying the troops during the bitterly cold night were offered tea by several of the residents.

"But no tea for the soldiers," said Lam Shaheen Ahmed who stood on the sidewalk with her mother and two sisters after they had gone through their house.

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