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Irak – Special Republican Guard

Fråga: Finns information om Special Republican Guard, en militär elitstyrka verksam under Saddam-tiden? (Ej att förväxla med Republican Guard)

Svar: Global Security uppger att Special Republican Guard (SRG) fungerade som en livvaktstyrka till Saddam Hussein och ansvarade även för säkerheten i Bagdad. I händelse av försök till statskupp eller uppror skulle SRG sättas in. SRG hade också ansvaret för större delen av Bagdads luftförsvar. SRG var den enda militära styrkan av betydelse som tilläts verka i Bagdad, undantaget underrättelsetjänstens militära gren. För mer information om uppbyggnaden av SRG, se Global Securitys sammanställning (länk nedan).

SRG tros ha varit bland de militära enheter som längst höll stånd mot amerikanska trupper under invasionen 2003, enligt Jane's Information Group. F.d. medlemmar i SRG antas även ha deltagit i striderna mot de amerikanska trupperna kring bl.a. Falluja 2004, enligt en artikel i New York Times som bygger på en Pentagon-rapport.

Det arabiska namnet för Special Republican Guard är Al-Haris al-Jamhuri al-Khas. Ibland översätts namnet till Republican Guard Special Protection Forces. Global Security uppger att medlemmar i SRG i stor utsträckning rekryterades från Saddams egen stam al-Bu Nasir och andra närstående stammar.

SRG nämns flera gånger i boken "The Iraq War: strategy, tactics, and military lessons" (Anthony H. Cordesman). Delar av boken är tillgänglig via Google Books:

<http://books.google.se/books?isbn=0892064323>

Sök på "Special Republican Guard" i sökrutan uppe till vänster.

Källor

Although US forces moved through much of the capital city unimpeded, resistance continued to break out in areas of Baghdad. US officials said they believed Iraqi Special Security Organisation, Special Republican Guard and other fighters may still be in the city.

Källa: Jane's Information Group. Is it all over? 2003-04-10.
http://www.janes.com/security/international_security/news/jdw/jdw030410_1_n.shtml
 (Non-Subscriber Extract)

Within Baghdad the coalition estimates that some 50,000 ultra-loyal troops are positioned to defend presidential palaces and the other sites crucial to the regime's hold on power. The most important of these is the Special Republican Guard (SRG) force with three brigades of mechanised infantry and a tank brigade of 100 T-72 main battle tanks (MBTs). It also controls most of the air defences in the centre of the Iraqi capital, which over the past several days toned down their response to coalition air raids, possibly in a bid to save themselves to counter any US airborne assault on the city.

Källa: Jane's Information Group. Republican Guard form core of Iraqi defence. 2003-03-31

http://www.janes.com/security/international_security/news/jdw/jdw030331_4_n.shtml
(Non-Subscriber Extract)

The Special Republican Guard, (al-Haris al-Jamhuri al-Khas)

Al-Haris al-Jamhuri al-Khas (The Special Republican Guard) is also referred to as the Republican Guard Special Protection Forces. As the Republican Guard expanded rapidly during the Iran-Iraq War, the Special Republican Guard was created to serve as a praetorian guard. Qusay heads this unit, which provides protection for all presidential sites, including offices and personal residences, as well as escorting Saddam when he is traveling within Iraq. The Special Republican Guard usually has around 15,000 men, but some estimates state that it has up to 13 battalions with 26,000 men.(104) The Special Republican Guard is organized into four brigades, with three brigades guarding the northern, southern and western routes into Baghdad. Additionally, it has an artillery and air defense command. Special Security exercises operational control over the Special Republican Guard.(105)

Källa: Middle East Review of International Affairs. "Iraq's Security and Intelligence Network: A Guide and Analysis. Volume 6, No. 3 - September 2002
<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2002/issue3/jv6n3a1.html>

Special Republican Guard:

Based: Baghdad

Personnel: 15,000

Units: Four infantry brigades, an armored unit and an air defense unit.

Weapons: Armored units operate T-72 battle tanks.

Duties: The elite SRG is the only significant military unit allowed inside Baghdad, and nearly all of its members are from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's al-Bu Nasir tribe. The SRG's 1st Brigade provides security for Saddam, and the 2nd Brigade protects presidential palaces and the northern approaches to Baghdad. The 3rd and 4th brigades defend palaces and the southern approaches to Baghdad, and are organized as full combat units capable of mounting counterattacks. The armored unit consists of two tank regiments.

Källa: CNN. War in Iraq. Forces: Iraq/Army.

<http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/iraq/army/>

A Pentagon intelligence report has concluded that many bombings against Americans and their allies in Iraq, and the more sophisticated of the guerrilla attacks in Falluja, are organized and often carried out by members of Saddam Hussein's secret service, who planned for the insurgency even before the fall of Baghdad.

The report states that Iraqi officers of the "Special Operations and Antiterrorism Branch," known within Mr. Hussein's government as M-14, are responsible for planning roadway improvised explosive devices and some of the larger car bombs that have killed Iraqis, Americans and other foreigners. The attacks have sown chaos and fear across Iraq.

Officials who have read the study said it concludes that in Falluja, which is currently encircled by the Marines, an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 hard-core insurgents, including members of the Iraqi Special Republican Guard who melted away under the American-led offensive, are receiving tactical guidance and inspiration from these former intelligence operatives. "We know the M-14 is operating in Falluja and Ramadi," said one senior administration official, speaking about another rebellious Sunni Muslim city nearby.

Källa: NY Times. Hussein's Agents Are Behind Attacks in Iraq, Pentagon Finds. 2004-04-29

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/29/politics/29ENEM.html>

The praetorian Special Republican Guard (SRG) was responsible for protecting the president and providing a military response to any attempt at a rebellion or coup. The SRG was the only significant military unit allowed in central Baghdad, apart from the intelligence services' military branches.

Key regime protection assets, such as the Special Security Organization and the Special Republican Guard, largely recruited from Saddam's al-Bu Nasir tribe and other nearby tribes that had good relations with the al-Bu Nasir. The SRG was filled with recruits drawn from Tikrit, Baiji, al-Sharqat and small towns south and west of Mosul and around Baghdad, areas and clans noted for their loyalty Saddam's person and regime.

The Special Republican Guard was responsible for, among other things, the security of the capital, Baghdad, as well as Saddam's family palaces and other vital facilities of the regime.

Initially, the unit consisted of some 15,000 young troops, composing thirteen battalions of 1,300-1,500 men each. Subsequently this force grew to upwards of 26,000 troops in thirteen battalions. Units were deployed to guard Saddam's palaces, to escort Saddam on his travels, and others as 'emergency response' forces. As of 1998 the SRG was estimated to include about 15,000 troops. As of 2002 the SRG was estimated to include about 12,000 troops, reportedly with armor, air defence and artillery units. These were variously reported to consist of as many as 14 battalions, apparently organized into four Special Republican Guard brigades of up to 2,500 troops each.

Källa: Global Security. Special Republican Guard (SRG).
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/world/iraq/srg.htm>