



## Wyagnet man injured in Iraq

*By Clark Kelly Shaw News Service*

WYANET -- Private First Class Dustin Hill of Wyagnet was seriously injured in a car bombing Tuesday in Iraq. The incident involved members of Fox Company/202 Air Defense Artillery soldiers.

Fox Company is comprised of Illinois National Guard units from Dixon, Kewanee and Galva. They were deployed in November 2003, arrived in Iraq in March and are scheduled to return home in March 2005.

According to an e-mail sent by Major Michael Kessel, the company commander, five Fox Company/202 Air Defense Artillery soldiers were wounded after being involved in three car bombings throughout a four-day period.

Hill was the most seriously wounded. He was the gunner in the vehicle at the time of the attack, while the others were dismounted. He sustained serious injuries, including the loss of one eye and third-degree burns over about 33 percent of his body.

Hill was transported to Germany, and on Thursday afternoon, a spokesman for the unit in Galva said Hill was enroute to the burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The spokesman said the unit's Family Readiness Group and the Red Cross were working to transport Hill's family to Texas.

The commander said the incident occurred at 3:35 p.m. (Iraqi time) on Tuesday, when the unit was patrolling near the Green Zone in Baghdad. The unit had stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle. While they were stopped, the unit stopped all civilian traffic too, Kessel said. A military convoy was passing, and a civilian car pulled in behind them and detonated.

Four other soldiers were also injured in the bombing. SSG Daniel Quimby of Henry sustained minor burns while working on another soldier. SSG David Jensen of Albany suffered a shrapnel wound to the thigh.

He stayed at the scene to evacuate the others and secure the scene. Later he was ordered to the hospital. SPC Lucas Siemers of Galva sustained shrapnel wounds and a dislocated elbow. All three of these soldiers have been returned to duty.

A fifth soldier, Mark Stach of Dixon, did not report his injuries at first. The wounds were said to be minor, according to the National Guard spokesman in Galva.

The other two car-bombing incidents occurred on Sept. 18. At about 3:45 p.m. a patrol of F/202 ADA was on the highway that leads to and from the airport to the Green Zone.

"As traffic was merging from an overpass, a car pulled up between our patrol and a military police convoy that was passing through. The car detonated as it neared one of our Bradley fighting vehicles. There were four injuries, one of them serious. All the injuries were from other units," Kessel said.

About 25 minutes later, there was another car bombing on a bridge within a half mile of the first bombing.

"All of the victims were from our battalion, but not from F/202 ADA. There were 10 soldiers wounded, all but one serious, and two soldiers killed instantly," Kessel said.

F/202 ADA soldiers were on the scene within 30 seconds as they were passing under the overpass at the time.

The F/202 ADA soldiers assisted in securing the scene and treating the wounded.

"All of the soldiers have seen a great deal of tragedy over the past week. Your continued thoughts and prayers are appreciated, especially for the wounded, but also for the rest of the battery," Kessel said.

Hill's family could not be reached for comment.

BCR Reporter Barb Kromphardt contributed to this story.