

Dixon man among those injured

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There were conflicting reports over the number of people injured in a car bombing Tuesday in Iraq involving members of Fox Company/202 Air Defense Artillery soldiers.

Fox Company is comprised of Illinois National Guard units from Dixon, Kewanee and Galva.

According to Maj. Michael Kessel, the company commander, four Fox Company/202 Air Defense Artillery soldiers were wounded after being involved in three car bombings over a four-day period.

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

The most seriously wounded was PFC Dustin Hill of Wyanet. 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 approximately 33 percent of his body.

Kessel said Hill was transported to Germany, then if stable enough, to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Kessel said Brooke Army Medical Center is the best burn center in the military and considered one of the best facilities in the world.

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. He later had to be 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.

Mother not surprised

Tami Siemers, mother of Lucas, told the Associated Press that her son informed her there were five injured in the incident. The identity of the fifth soldier has not been released.

"I had my intuition," Tami Siemers said. "When he called me Tuesday morning from the hospital, I wasn't all that surprised."

The commander said the incident occurred at 3:55 p.m. Iraq time Tuesday, when the unit was patrolling near the Green Zone in Baghdad. They stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle. While they were stopped, they had all civilian traffic stopped, Kessel said. A military convoy was passing, and a civilian car pulled in behind them and detonated.

Other attacks

Kessel said there were two other incidents. At approximately 3:45 p.m. Saturday 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.

"Approximately 25 minutes later there was another car bombing on a bridge within a half mile of our 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," said Kessel.

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.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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