

Albany soldier 'OK' after car bombing

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ALBANY — Staff Sgt. David Jensen, son of Marvin and Deborah Jensen of Albany, was among those injured in a car bombing Tuesday in Iraq.

"He had injuries to his thigh where he caught some shrapnel from a car bomb," his father said Thursday morning. "As far as we know he is doing OK. He called us about 1:30 in the morning Wednesday from the hospital; that was the last time we talked to him. At that time he was still being checked for some things at the hospital."

Marvin Jensen said his son was expecting to be released back to duty after the hospital was done checking him out. He said that, as far as he knows, his son still can walk.



"The dear Lord willing, the metal was hot enough that it cauterized itself so he did not have a loss of blood," Marvin Jensen said.

According to a press release, David Jensen stayed at the scene to evacuate the others and secure the scene. He later had to be ordered to the hospital.

"That's what we heard," his father said. "He did not talk about that when we talked to him, but we heard it second-hand from someone in the same unit who came upon the scene."

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The other man had relayed the story to his wife, who the Jensens know, and she told them.

David Jensen and the others injured were 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, arrived in Iraq in March and are scheduled to return home next March.

David Jensen is a Fulton High School graduate and had been in the Guard for quite a while before going to Iraq, his father said.

"They paid for his college and got that out of the way," Marvin Jensen said. "He left for training late last year."

David Jensen was not married, and this is the first time he has been injured in the service. His father said he has a lot of friends and family in the area, and "the phone has just been ringing off the wall."

The Jensens have one other child, a daughter.

The soldiers were wounded after being involved in three car bombings over a four-day period. According to Commander Maj. Mike Kessel, the incident occurred at 3:35 p.m. (Baghdad time) when a vehicle patrolling near the Green Zone stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle. While they were stopped they had all civilian traffic stopped. A military convoy was passing and a civilian car pulled in right behind them and detonated.

Four soldiers, including Jensen, were wounded. The most seriously wounded was PFC Dustin Hill of Wyand. 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's report said Hill was transported to Germany, then if stable enough, to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. The other wounded are SSG Daniel Quimby of Henry, who sustained minor burns while working on another soldier, and SPC Lucas Siemers of Galva, who sustained shrapnel wounds and a dislocated elbow.

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