

Today's Issue...

- ▶ [Page One](#)
- ▶ [City](#)
- ▶ [Regional](#)
- ▶ [Sports](#)
- ▶ [Weather](#)
- ▶ [Obituaries](#)
- ▶ [World News](#)
- ▶ [Entertainment](#)
- ▶ [Town Hall](#)
- ▶ [Stock Quotes](#)
- ▶ [Health News](#)
- ▶ [Shopper](#)
- ▶ [Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [About Us](#)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Illinois Lottery](#)
- ▶ [e-mail](#)



**Search The
Web**

- [Travel Info](#)
- [Web Directory](#)
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- [White Pages](#)
- [Meet Someone](#)
- [My Page](#)
- [City Guide](#)
- [Lottery Results](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Movie Listings](#)
- [Maps/Directions](#)
- [Horoscope](#)
- [Greeting Cards](#)



Commander tells about car bombing that wounded five Galva Guardsmen

By *DAVE CLARKE* Of The Star Courier

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Five members of the Galva National Guard unit were injured Tuesday in a car bomb attack while they were checking an abandoned vehicle near the Green Zone, in Baghdad, according to the unit's commander, Maj. Michael Kessel.

The U.S. military revised the number of injured from Battery F, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, based in Galva, from four to five, Wednesday, after one soldier whose wounds were not initially deemed serious enough for treatment was added to the list, according to SSG Martin Gibson, the unit's rear detachment officer at the Galva Armory.

Four members of the unit were treated at the scene. A fifth member was evacuated to a military hospital by helicopter.

According to Maj. Kessel, members of Foxtrot (F) Battery were patrolling near the Green Zone, a secured area of Baghdad where government offices and housing is located, at approximately 3:35 p.m. Tuesdsay (Baghdad time), when they stopped all civilian traffic to investigate an abandoned vehicle. "A military convoy was passing and a civilian car pulled in right behind them and detonated," Kessel told the Star Couriery.

Kessel said the wounded include SSG Daniel Quimby of Henry, who sustained minor burns while working on another soldier; SSG David Jensen of Albany, who suffered a shrapnel wound to the thigh but stayed at the scene to evacuate the others and secure the scene

and later had to be ordered to the hospital; and SPC Lucas Siemers of Galva, who sustained shrapnel wounds and a dislocated elbow. All three of these soldiers have been returned to duty.

Kessel said 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, according to the commander. "He is being transported as I write this to Germany, then, if stable enough, on to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Brooke is the best burn center in the military and considered one of the best facilities in the world," Kessel said.

Kessel did not include the name of the fourth soldier injured and returned to duty.

In addition to the car bomber, Kessel said three Iraqi bystanders were killed and 15 injured by the blast.

Tuesday's incident was the third car bombing in which the battery has been involved in a four-day period, according to Kessel.

At approximately 3:45 p.m. Saturday a Galva Guard patrol 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 the patrol and an MP convoy that was passing through. The car detonated as it neared a Bradley fighting vehicle. There were four injuries, one of them serious, but all from other units.

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," said Kessel. There were 10 soldiers wounded, all but one serious, and two soldiers killed instantly in that attack. "Our soldiers were on the scene within 30 seconds as they were passing under the overpass at the time and assisted in securing the scene and treating the wounded," Kessel said.

"All of the soldiers in our unit 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," the commanding officer said.

"I consider myself very lucky," said Siemer's mother, Tami Siemers, who got the call from her son to say he was OK early Tuesday, followed by a call later that morning from National Guard officials in Springfield. "I had my intuition," she said. "When he called from the hospital, I wasn't at all surprised," Mrs. Siemers told the Associated Press. "I'm one of the lucky ones because I don't have to talk about my son in the past tense," the mother said.

In three previous attacks, six members of the Galva unit were wounded in action, three seriously.

Two attacks occurred during "The Battle of Holy Week," an uprising in early April by followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

On April 7, three members of the unit were wounded when their patrol came under attack by rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), rifle fire and a roadside bomb. They were SGT Jon Arenson, of Dixon; SPC Williams McDaniels, of Peoria; and SPC Jeremy Wrotny, of LaSalle. Wrotney was returned to the states for treatment.

On Easter, April 11, now referred to as "Bloody Sunday," SPC Mark Bomleny, of Atkinson, was wounded when the unit came to the rescue of a convoy under attack near the airport. He was returned to duty.

In mid-August, two members of the Galva unit were injured when their patrol was struck by a roadside bomb detonated by a cell phone. They are SPC Jason Baldwin, of Rochelle; and SPC Richard Douglas, of Prophetstown. Douglas required evacuation to the hospital.

All have been awarded Purple Hearts for injury in combat.

[[Home Page](#)] [[City News](#)] [[Regional News](#)] [[Sports](#)] [[Obituaries](#)] [[Weather](#)] [[Editorial](#)] [[Photo Gallery](#)] [[Classifieds](#)] [[Calendar](#)] [[Archives](#)] [[Shopper](#)] [[Illinois Lottery](#)] [[About Us](#)] [[Email Us](#)] [[Health](#)] [[Entertainment](#)] [[Town Hall](#)] [[World News](#)] [[Stocks/Market](#)]
