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Eight Galva Soldiers Hurt by Car Bomb

By Star Courier staff

CAMP COOK, Taji, Iraq - Eight members of the Galva National Guard unit were injured when a car bomb went off near a truck in a convoy near Baghdad on Tuesday.

None of the eight were seriously wounded, according to an e-mail from one of the injured soldiers.

Local National Guard personnel said they were not authorized to release the soldier's names until families have been notified.

The soldier wrote:

"Well, my luck has run out. Yesterday my truck was hit by a VBIED (vehicle-borne improvised explosive device) and burned to the ground.

"As you can tell I made it out alive and with only minor injuries. I sustained flash burns to the right side of my face, neck and right ear, several cuts and puncture wounds to my right forearm and some hearing damage to my right ear.

"I am currently in the hospital in Baghdad where I am recovering and awaiting the audiologists on Thursday. I am in good spirits and very thankful that these are the only injuries that I received.

"We were heading back from a 24-hour mission when we passed an abandoned car on the right side of the road when someone remote detonated the bomb inside of the car. All I remember is the explosions and seeing the dash on fire and knowing I needed to get out of the truck before it blew up.

"I was successfully extracted from the truck before the fire got all the way into the cab and treated on the scene. I was then flown to the hospital here in Baghdad.

"They were concerned that my airway would swell shut due to the hairs on my face and in my nose were all scorched, indicating that I had inhaled some smoke and heat.

"There were eight of us total that were injured in the explosion and of the eight my injuries were the worst. I am sure that is because the explosion happened right next to the passenger front door where I was sitting.

"I should fully recover from the burns and lacerations but I am still uncertain on the hearing. It was a very close call and I am just thankful that my guardian angel protected me one more time."

The other seven soldiers were treated and returned to duty, according to information received by the family of a member of the unit.

No other details were available at press time today.