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Four area Guard members hurt in car bomb attack

By The Associated Press and Star Courier staff

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) -- Four members of the Galva National Guard unit were reportedly injured, one seriously, when a car bomb exploded on Baghdad's airport road Tuesday as a U.S. military convoy was passing by, wounding the four soldiers and destroying an armored Humvee.

Around 10 civilian vehicles were also wrecked in the blast on the highway leading to the capital's international airport, a police official said. He said there were civilian casualties but did not immediately have an exact figure.

One of the injured from Battery F, of the Illinois National Guard was Lucas Siemers, according to word received by his mother in Galva. Siemers was home on leave in July.

The names of the injured were not released by the U.S. military.

Ambulances rushed at least two women, a child and three wounded men to a nearby hospital, doctors said.

Maj. Phil Smith of the 1st Cavalry Division said four Task Force Baghdad soldiers were wounded. One of them was evacuated to a military hospital while the three others were treated on the spot.

Troops sealed off the area of the explosion as helicopters hovered overhead.

The treacherous stretch of road is the site of frequent attacks against U.S. troops and their supply convoys.

In a travel warning issued last week, the U.S. State Department described the airport road as among the country's most dangerous.

The Galva National Guard unit, stationed since March at Camp Victory North near the Baghdad airport, has been patrolling a section of the four-lane highway since their arrival.

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