



AP PHOTOS

People look at the aftermath of a car bomb in the town of Mahmoudiyah, Iraq, south of Baghdad, on Wednesday. Two car bombs exploded almost simultaneously near a gas station in

Mahmoudiyah, killing two civilians and setting several cars on fire, police said. Police reported 92 deaths from attacks throughout the country on Wednesday.

U.S. soldier had been diagnosed as homicidal threat

Army private charged in death of an Iraqi family in March

By RYAN LENTZ

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.

An Army private charged with the slaughter of an Iraqi family was diagnosed as a homicidal threat by a military mental health team three months before the attack.

Pfc. Steven D. Green was found to have "homicidal ideations" after seeking help from an Army Combat Stress Team in Iraq on Dec. 21, 2005.

Green said he was angry about the war, desperate to avenge the death of comrades and driven to kill Iraqi citizens, according to an investigation by The Associated Press.

The treatment was several small doses of Seroquel, a drug to regulate his mood, and a directive to get some sleep, according to medical records. The next day, he returned to duty in the particularly violent stretch of desert in the southern Baghdad suburbs known as the "Triangle of Death."

On March 12 Iraqi police reported a break-in at the home of a family in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles from Baghdad. The intruders shot and killed the father, mother and two young daughters. The older girl, 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi, was raped and her body set afire.

The carnage first was assumed to be the work of insurgents. That changed in late June when two members of Green's unit told their superiors of suspicions that soldiers were involved in the killings. Now the Army believes Green and four other soldiers are responsible. One of them has confessed and provided information to prosecutors; in testimony at his court-martial, the soldier identified Green as the ringleader.

If the charges are true, the attack would be among the most horrific instances of criminal behavior by American troops in the nearly four-year-old war. It also would represent a worst-case scenario for the military's much-criticized practice of keeping mentally and emotionally unfit personnel in the killing fields of Iraq.

Col. Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, psychiatry counsel to the Army Surgeon General, would not specifically discuss Green. She defended the military's policies regarding the treatment of emotionally or psychologically distressed soldiers.

"If unresponsive to treatment and/or a persistent danger to self or others, they will be evacuated," Ritchie told said in an e-mail.

The 101st Airborne Division also declined to comment, noting it is an open federal case.

The Army and the Marines, who have the most personnel on the ground in Iraq, have been faulted for the manner in which troops

"If unresponsive to treatment and/or a persistent danger to self or others, (patients) will be evacuated."

Col. Elspeth Cameron Ritchie
On military policy for treating emotionally or psychologically distressed soldiers



GREEN

with mental and emotional difficulties are being treated.

Sending troops already in Iraq who have been diagnosed with mental illness back to combat duty — often under medication that has not been prescribed long enough to have provided relief — has been a particular criticism.

Green has been charged with the murders and rape and pleaded not guilty in federal court in Kentucky. He is being tried in federal court because his arrest came after he had been discharged from the Army. Three others face the same charges and will be court-martialed.

From interviews with people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized by the military to discuss the case, and from viewing the Army's medical and investigative records, the AP also has learned:

- Three months passed without Army doctors and clinicians from the Combat Stress Team having any contact with Green. He was summoned for a second examination on March 20, 2006 — eight days after the killing of the family. Green was diagnosed as having an anti-social personality disorder and declared unfit for service. The process of discharging him began a week later and he was sent home.

- The Army's own investigation of Green's initial treatment, prompted by concerns he and others would use mental health problems as a defense in trial, is highly critical. Among the most salient findings from a July review of Green's treatment: "Although a safety assessment was conducted, there is no safety plan addressing how Soldier (Green) will keep from acting on his homicidal thoughts."

- Lt. Col. Elizabeth Bowler, a psychiatrist and Army reservist from California who took over the Combat Stress Team with Green's unit in January, recommended his discharge after the second examination in March. Yet she wrote a final evaluation that said Green exhibited no traits that would indicate dangerously erratic or homicidal moods, according to documents viewed by The AP.

Green deployed to Iraq in September 2005 from Fort Campbell with a battalion from the 101st Airborne Division's 502nd Infantry Regiment. The unit was charged with security operations and assisting Iraqi army units in the "Triangle of Death."

Iraqi prime minister threatens militiamen

Attacks kill 92 people, including Shiite Muslim pilgrims

By STEVEN R. HURST
AND QASSIM ABDULZAHRA
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

BAGHDAD, Iraq

Iraq's prime minister has told Shiite militiamen to surrender their arms or face an all-out assault by U.S.-backed Iraqi forces, senior Iraqi officials said Wednesday, as American and Iraqi troops prepared major military operations aimed at ending sectarian warfare in Baghdad.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, head of Iraq's Shiite-led government, previously had blocked several U.S. attempts to crack down on fighters controlled by his most powerful political ally, Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical Shiite cleric.

"Prime Minister al-Maliki has told everyone that there will be no escape from attack," a senior Shiite legislator and close al-Maliki adviser said.

"The government has told the Sadrists: 'If we want to build a state, we have no other choice but to attack armed groups.'"

Al-Maliki on Saturday announced that his government would implement a new security plan for Baghdad, which consists of neighborhood-by-neighborhood sweeps by Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops.

In the past, the Iraqi government has tried to prevent American military operations against the Mahdi Army, while giving U.S. forces a free hand against Sunni militants.

The Bush administration has pushed al-Maliki, who took office in May, to curb his militia allies or allow U.S. troops to do the job.

Although al-Maliki withdrew political protection from the Mahdi Army, there



Iraqi women pass a traffic police post destroyed by planted explosives in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday.

was no guarantee the Shiite fighters would be easily routed from the large and growing area of Baghdad under their control.

The militia has more fighters, weapons and sophistication today than it did in 2004, when it battled U.S. forces to a standstill in two strongholds, the Shiite holy city of Najaf and Sadr City, Baghdad's sprawling Shiite slum.

Sunni militants, meanwhile, have put up fierce resistance in the five days since al-Maliki announced his new security initiative for Baghdad.

Iraqi and U.S. troops have battled Sunni insurgents along Haifa Street in central Baghdad in two major battles.

The neighborhood is only about 2½ miles north of the Green Zone, site of the Iraqi government headquarters, the U.S. Embassy and base for thousands of American soldiers.

Eighty suspected insurgents were killed in the fighting — 50 of them on Tuesday

alone, in an assault backed by U.S. troops, fighter jets and attack helicopters.

Elsewhere in Iraq, police on Wednesday reported that at least 92 people had died violently or been found dead across the country.

In a single deadly attack, Sunni gunmen opened fire on a convoy of buses carrying Shiite Muslim pilgrims home from the hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Muslim holy places in Saudi Arabia, according to police and Akeel al-Khazaali, the governor of the southern province of Karbala.

At least 11 people were killed and 14 wounded. Al-Khazaali told Iraqi state television that some of the slain pilgrims had been severely burned in the ambush, which occurred about 75 miles west of the Shiite holy city of Karbala.

Police said 60 bodies, many of them victims of torture, were found in Baghdad on Wednesday. Seven more were discovered in the northern city of Mosul. Shootings, mortar attacks and bombings at various places around Iraq claimed another 14 lives.

The U.S. military announced Wednesday that four more American soldiers died of combat wounds in Iraq.

A Task Force Lightning soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division died Tuesday from a gunshot wound sustained in the Diyala province northeast of Baghdad.

Two more soldiers died the same day in Iraq's western Anbar province. One was assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, and one was assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

A 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) soldier was killed by a roadside bomb outside of Fallujah.

Leader: U.S. strikes targets 20 militants

By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGADISHU, Somalia

Ethiopia's prime minister said Wednesday the U.S. military targeted 20 high-level members of an Islamic movement linked to al-Qaida in an airstrike this week in southern Somalia, attacking quickly before the Islamists could escape.

The chief of staff for the Somali president claimed that a senior al-Qaida figure was killed in Monday's airstrike, although U.S. officials did not confirm it.

The air assault has been criticized internationally, with the African Union, European Union and United Nations among those expressing concern. But British Prime Minister Tony Blair told lawmakers it was right to stand up to extremists who were using violence to "get their way" in Somalia.

Somali lawmaker Abdulrashid Hidig said the U.S. launched a new airstrike Wednesday around Ras Kamboni, a rugged coastal area a few miles from the Kenyan border where Monday's attack took place. He cited the Somali military as the source of the information.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi told reporters in his country's capital, Addis Ababa, that eight suspected terrorists were killed in Monday's airstrike, five were wounded and taken into custody by Ethiopian forces, and seven escaped.

He said Ethiopia and the U.S.

have been cooperating on intelligence, and that most of the information has come from the Americans. He also said the Ethiopians did not provide any intelligence that led to Monday's airstrike.

However, a U.S. military official based in the region said the Ethiopian military had provided the intelligence that led to the strike. "We acted on time-sensitive intelligence and made the strike in cooperation with the Ethiopians," said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity surrounding U.S. special operations missions.

In Washington, an intelligence official said the U.S. killed five to 10 people Monday in the attack on an al-Qaida target in southern Somalia.

A Somali lawmaker said 31 civil-

ians died Tuesday when helicopter gunships attacked suspected al-Qaida fighters in the south.

Abdirizak Hassan, the Somali president's chief of staff, said at least three U.S. airstrikes have been launched since Monday and that more were likely.

The al-Qaida suspect believed to have been killed Monday was Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, who allegedly planned the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Hassan said. He cited a U.S. intelligence report that was given to Somali authorities.

In Washington, U.S. government officials said they had no reason to believe that Fazul had been killed. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity.

CIDER & APPLES

Fuji, Ida Red, Stayman Winesap, Mutsu, Melrose, Red & Yellow Delicious Apples

Amish Peanut Brittle • Popcorn, Honey & Sorghum • Straw

WINTER HOURS - Friday & Saturday 9am - 6pm
Closed Sunday thru Thursday

WHITELAND ORCHARD

1/2 mile north of Whiteland Rd.
on Road 225 E, east of Whiteland 535-8495

ELVIS

Live & On Stage
at
Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria
(Located right off of Interstate 65, Exit 99 in Greenwood)

Bruce Borders is
"The Mayor of Rock-N-Roll!"

"The absolute best Elvis Impersonator I have ever seen!" - Jonathan Byrd II

A Tribute to Elvis Presley
Saturday, January 13, 2007
\$30 per Ticket, Includes Dinner & Concert
Dinner 7pm - Concert 8pm - 10pm
For tickets, call 317-881-8888

Buy it. Sell it. Find it. Call Classified: 736-2700