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BRITISH SERVICEMAN KILLED IN BASRAH

A British Army serviceman was tragically killed today (Thursday August 14) following an attack in the outskirts of the city of Basrah, southern Iraq.

He was travelling in a military ambulance, when the vehicle was attacked with what is believed to be a remote-controlled explosive device hidden beside a nearby lamp-post.

Two other soldiers in the vehicle received non life-threatening shrapnel wounds.

The ambulance, which was clearly identifiable by a red cross, was on its way from Basrah to the army field hospital at Shaibah.

Major Charlie Mayo, British spokesman for the HQ Multi National Division (South East), said:

“It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of this serviceman today. His family are currently being informed and our thoughts are with them at this time.”

He added: "This was a direct attack on a clearly marked ambulance, without any justification whatsoever. We will work closely with the police and local community to identify and track down those responsible.

"The British Army and our multi national partners are working closely with the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi people to maintain order and rebuild the country after Saddam. Incidents such as this, carried out by a small minority of those who do not want peace, will not deter us from that aim."

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Interview bids for Major Mayo should be made to the Press Information Centre in Basrah, telephone 00965 9113370.
2. Photos of a vehicle similar to the one attacked are available on the Op Telic web site www.operations.mod.uk/telic/