

Report: Iran still training Iraqi fighters

by UPI

BAGHDAD -- A U.S. military commander in Baghdad said insurgents backed and trained by Iran aren't slowing down violence as other groups have done in recent months. Speaking to Voice of America, U.S. Army Col. Don Farris, who commands coalition forces in the volatile Baghdad neighborhoods of Sadr City and Adamiyah, said such "Special Groups" planted nine Iranian-designed and supplied deadly bombs last month and show no sign of slowing. "While the (overall) violence is down, I remain very concerned in our sector about these Special Groups," he said. "And I have not seen that their operations have declined or diminished in any way, shape or form here in the last several months." The Iranian government has repeatedly denied any involvement in training or arming mostly Shiite militia groups in Iraq, although U.S. military officials have shown ordnance fragments or captured bombs of Iranian origin.

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