

Unfit soldiers allegedly sent to Iraq

by UPI

DENVER - A U.S. Army sergeant was deployed to Iraq last year in spite of osteoporosis so painful that he was heavily drugged, The Denver Post reports. Staff Sgt. Jack Auble's medical status was changed from permanent to temporary disability, the report said. This month, he was assigned to an operations center in Baghdad. "I took Percocet, and I also took Vicodin," Auble told the newspaper. "The guy who worked next to me ... he noticed consistent grogginess, dozing off. I wouldn't catch something that he would say and lose track of the battle and all of that stuff." Auble was one of a number of soldiers allegedly sent to Iraq from Fort Carson in Colorado with medical profiles that were changed to allow the deployment. In other cases, soldiers say they were unable to wear body armor or to lift objects when they were deployed. The Government Accountability Office is expected to release a report in February on claims that medical records have been changed to allow deployment. The Army has been struggling to find the soldiers it needs for Iraq and Afghanistan. Auble has since been returned to the United States and has received a medical discharge.

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