

Three die in Mosul car blasts

by UPI

MOSUL, Iraq -- Two car bombs targeting checkpoints in Mosul, Iraq, exploded, killing three people and injuring as many as 30 others, U.S. military officials said. In Baghdad, meanwhile, police said they plan to lift vehicle bans in Sadr City and Shula, two neighborhoods where fighting has intensified recently, CNN reported. In the Mosul bombings, officials told CNN a police truck was destroyed and two buildings were set on fire because of the bombings aimed at police checkpoints. U.S. and Iraqi troops have stepped up operations in Mosul during the last few months against al-Qaida in Iraq, the predominantly Sunni militant group. Baghdad Operations Command said the vehicle ban in Shula will end 6 a.m. Friday and in Sadr City at 6 a.m. on Saturday. U.S. military officials say the five troop deaths so far this month indicate April could become the worst month for American forces since September, the Los Angeles Times said. The deaths announced Wednesday brought to at least 4,031 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the war began in March 2003. Military statements said three of the troops had died in separate roadside blasts, while two died of "non-combat" injuries, statements said, without giving details.

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