

U.S. probes if army deployed unfit troops

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Army is investigating allegations soldiers medically unfit for duty were deployed to Iraq from Alaska's Fort Wainwright, an army spokeswoman says.

The inquiry is the result of complaints that commanders deployed some soldiers before they completed tests for health problems, underwent necessary surgeries or recuperated from operations, USA Today reported Wednesday.

One of those soldiers, profiled by USA Today, was deployed despite a doctor's recommendation that he wear a heart monitor because of fainting episodes.

The newspaper says a handful of rear detachment soldiers worked with the GI Rights Hotline to draft a complaint that reached the office of the Army's Western Regional Medical Command.

The head of that command, Maj. Gen. Patricia Horoho, "immediately directed that inquiries into these allegations be conducted," said Army spokeswoman Sharon Ayala.

Fort Wainwright in Alaska is home to the Army's 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

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