

## U.S. helicopter downed south of Baghdad

*by UPI*

BAGHDAD - Four people were injured Thursday when a U.S. military helicopter crashed 25 miles south of Baghdad in Iraq.

The U.S. military did not specify the cause of the crash, but witnesses reported hearing weapons fire from the ground and an Iraqi official speaking anonymously said the helicopter is believed to have been brought down by insurgents using an anti-aircraft machine gun, the BBC reported Thursday.

A minimum of nine U.S. helicopters have been brought down by Iraqi insurgent attacks since the start of the year and the increase in helicopter attacks has raised concerns that militants may be studying flight patterns and using more advanced weapons against U.S. troops.

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