

U.S. links Iran to Iraqi arms, militants

by UPI

BAGHDAD - Iran has maintained ties with Iraqi insurgents by providing both weapons and arms training for militants, U.S. military officials said Wednesday.

A U.S. military spokesman said that two months after the United States asked Iran to stop providing Iraqi insurgents with weaponry, coalition forces on Tuesday found a large amount of Iranian-made weapons in Baghdad, CNN reported.

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell said the discovery of the weapons cache shows that Iraq's Mideast neighbors have remained highly involved in the nation's growing problems.

"The death and violence in Iraq are bad enough without this outside interference," he said. "Iran and all of Iraq's neighbors really need to respect Iraq's sovereignty and allow the people of this country the time and the space to choose their own future."

The Iranian government has denied any involvement in the Iraqi situation.

Caldwell also said several Shiite militants have been receiving weapons training inside Iran's borders before returning to Iraq to battle Sunni insurgents.

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