

Search for soldiers missing in Iraq

by UPI

BAGHDAD - A group with ties to al-Qaida claimed responsibility Sunday for killing four U.S. soldiers and kidnapping three who remained missing.

The Islamic State of Iraq, an insurgent group, claimed on an Internet site that it fought Saturday with "Crusader" forces, killing some and taking others hostage, CNN reported. It was not clear if the missing soldiers were alive.

The posting appeared on Web sites previously used by the group but the authenticity of the claim could not be verified, CNN said.

The soldiers disappeared after a predawn attack that killed five others, including four U.S. troops 12 miles west of Mahmoudiya, a city south of Baghdad in a region known locally as the "Triangle of Death," CNN reported.

An intensive search was under way throughout the region and helicopters, drones and jets were being used in the search along with 4,000 soldiers.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Search for soldiers missing in Iraq by UPI