

## Group claims to have missing soldiers

by UPI

BAGHDAD - A Sunni insurgent group in Iraq Monday warned U.S. troops to stop searching for three missing soldiers.

"Your soldiers are in our hands. If you want your soldiers' safety, do not search for them," said the Internet posting from Islamic State of Iraq, an umbrella group that includes al-Qaida, CNN reported.

Four-thousand U.S. troops have been searching for the missing American soldiers. The soldiers were on patrol in the insurgent stronghold of Mahmudiyah south of Baghdad when they were ambushed in an attack that killed four U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi army interpreter

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell announced the 4,000 troops had been dispatched at a news conference on Sunday.

"We have a soldier's creed that says 'I will never leave a fallen comrade.' ... We believe in this deeply and will make every effort available to find our three missing soldiers," Caldwell said, CNN reported.

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