

Iraqi insurgent deaths, arrests announced

by UPI

BAGHDAD - U.S. and Iraqi troops announced Tuesday they had killed 23 insurgents west of Baghdad and arrested some senior rebel leaders.

The deaths were attributed to a weekend firefight in near Al-Ramadi, in western Anbar province, Kuwait's KUNA news agency reported.

A military statement said Iraqi troops had detained a senior official of the al-Qaida network in central Baghdad, but the man's name and nationality were not released.

A separate statement said coalition forces also detained the alleged commander of a rogue brigade of the Shiite Mehdi militia wanted in the deaths of U.S. soldiers.

U.S. commanders said the death toll of U.S. service personnel had risen to 3,578 with the deaths of eight U.S. soldiers and Marines Sunday and Monday, CNN reported.

During the weekend, an Iraqi Interior Ministry official said the number of Iraqi civilians killed in June dropped to 1,227, down from 1,949 in May, 1,501 in April and 1,872 in March.

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