

## Marines destroy al-Qaida unit in Iraq

*by UPI*

BAGHDAD - U.S. Marines wiped out a suspected al-Qaida cadre this week outside the Iraqi town of Karmah. The Multi-National Force said Friday that artillery fire and precision bombs dropped by a pair of Harrier jets killed a dozen insurgents who were reportedly loading weapons and bomb-making materials into three trucks. The incident took place Wednesday night in an area known to be a hiding place for insurgent arms. Coalition forces were also on the offensive in the Tigris River valley Friday. The Multi-National Force reported five al-Qaida fighters killed in a firefight southwest of Balad. Special Forces commandos also captured a suspected al-Qaida emir Thursday. The suspect was identified as a Sunni extremist who targeted Iraqi civilians.

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