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CALIFORNIANS WHO HAVE DIED THIS MONTH IN IRAQ - JULY, 2007

... WE REMEMBER ...

Monday, July 02, 2007 6:25 PM -



Victor A. Garcia, 22, of
Rialto, California

The DoD [has also identified the soldier](#) who died in a small arms fire attack in southern Baghdad on Sunday, July 1st: Specialist **Victor A. Garcia, 22, of Rialto, California**. His unit, the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment (4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, WA) has been known to be operating recently in the West Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Tuesday, July 03, 2007 7:13 AM -

The DoD [has identified](#) the two soldiers who died from enemy action in Al Anbar Province on Sunday, July 1st:

Sergeant 1st Class Raymond R. Buchan, 33, of Johnston, Pennsylvania



Michael L. Ruoff Jr., 31, of
Yosemite, California

Staff Sergeant **Michael L. Ruoff Jr., 31, of Yosemite, California**

Both died in Ta'meem, a small enclave on the outskirts of Ramadi, in a small arms fire attack. Ruoff's unit, the 1st Battalion of the 77th Armor Regiment (2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division out of Schweinfurt, Germany), is known to be operating in the Ramadi area.

Saturday, July 07, 2007 4:57 PM -

The DoD [has announced three new deaths](#), not previously reported by CENTCOM. All three were with the U.S. Navy and were assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team. They died in the vicinity of Baghdad on Friday, July 6th:

Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Dale Lewis, 30, of Brookfield, Connecticut

Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Richard McRill, 42, of Lake Placid, Florida

**Photo
not
available**

Petty Officer 1st Class **Steven Phillip Daugherty, 28, of Barstow, California**

[According to an article](#) in the Hampton Roads Virginia-Pilot, and [also an article](#) from Hampton Roads station WTKR, the three were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated under their Humvee.

Daugherty enlisted in the Navy in 1991. In 2000 he attended Naval Intelligence Training in Pensacola, FL, before shipping out on the USS Oscar Austin. From March 2004 to February 2007, he served in Norfolk, VA, at Naval Security Group Activity as a cryptologic technician. His latest posting was to a tactical communications unit with the special warfare community under the Navy Information Operation Command. He is survived by his parents and a son.

Sunday, July 08, 2007 2:18 PM -

The DoD [has identified](#) the two Multi-National Division - Baghdad soldiers who died in an IED blast in a southern neighborhood of Baghdad on Thursday, July 5th:



James M. Ahearn,
43, of Concord,
California

Major **James M. Ahearn, 43, of Concord, California**

Sergeant Keith A. Kline, 24, of Oak Harbor, Ohio

Both were with the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Fort Bragg, NC.

The Concord (California) Contra Costa Times [is carrying a brief article](#) on **Ahearn** in which they report that he lived in Concord as a child between 1977 and 1982, graduating from Clayton Valley High School. His mother still resides in Concord. Ahearn had served a total of 18 years in the military, earning a college degree while serving. He had been awarded two bronze stars for valor in the battle for Baghdad in 2003. Ahearn was married and had a 1-1/2 year old daughter.

Monday, July 09, 2007 4:08 AM -



Roberto J. Causor
Jr., 21, of San Jose,
California

The DoD [has identified](#) the Task Force Lightning soldier who died in Salah ad Din Province on Saturday, July 7th. Specialist **Roberto J. Causor Jr., 21, of San Jose, California**, died when insurgents attacked his unit with an IED and small arms fire in Samarra. The San Jose (California) Mercury News [is carrying a brief article](#) on Causor. He enlisted in the army in August 2004, reporting to the 82nd Airborne Division in February 2005. He is survived by his parents, both of Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Wednesday, July 11, 2007 6:55 AM -

The DoD [has identified](#) the two Task Force Marne soldiers who died in a roadside bomb blast south of Baghdad on Friday, July 6th:

Corporal Kory D. Wiens, 20, of Independence, Oregon



Private 1st Class **Bruce C. Salazar Jr., 24, of Tracy, California**

They died in the vicinity of the village of Muhammad Salth which is located on the Tigris River in Babil Province due east of Arab Jabour where Salazar's unit, the 1st Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment (3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, GA) is thought to be currently posted.

Sacramento (California) [station KXTV reports](#) that although Salazar spent part of his youth in Corona in Southern California, he attended high school in Modesto and is referred to in the article as "a Modesto soldier". He joined the army one year ago and was deployed to Iraq on May 11th for his first tour of duty there.

Thursday, July 12, 2007 6:10 AM -



Faoa L. Apineru, 31,
of Western Samoa

[A lengthy article](#) that appeared in the Deseret Morning News, and [also another](#) written by Salt Lake City (Utah) station KUTV, are reporting the death of Marine Staff Sergeant **Faoa L. Apineru, 31, of Western Samoa** on July 2nd. Apineru, who came to the U.S. in 1996, was a veteran of 10 years' service in the Marine Corps. In May of 2005, he was on his second tour of duty in Iraq patrolling the border when a roadside bomb detonated near him. The shrapnel injuries he received were horrific, requiring the reconstruction of this throat, his nose and his shoulders. Worse, shrapnel pierced his brain, sending him into a coma. When he eventually awoke, he couldn't remember anything or anyone and was like a child again having to re-learn basic tasks like eating and walking. As the months went on, he was bedeviled by PTSD, nightmares and emotional distress. And yet his progress over the course of two years of treatment was nothing short of remarkable. **Unable to live on his own, he had been staying at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, CA, where he was known as "the mayor" because of his kind treatment of everyone there.** Sadly, on July 2nd, Apineru died in his sleep. The exact cause of death is not yet known, but his family is attributing it to his Iraq injuries. He will be buried in the Salt Lake City area because so many of his Samoan relatives have come to live in Utah.

CALIFORNIA DEATHS IN IRAQ, JULY 1-12, 2007

Death Date	Name	Age	Cause of Death	Place of Death	Service Branch	Home Base	Hometown
1-Jul-07	Garcia, Victor A.	22	Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire	Baghdad (southern part)	U.S. Army	Fort Lewis, WA	Rialto
1-Jul-07	Ruoff Jr., Michael L.	31	Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire	Ta'meem [a district of Ramadi]	U.S. Army	Schweinfurt, Germany	Yosemite
2-Jul-07	Apineru, Faoa L.	31	Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack	Vet's Admin. Hospital, Palo Alto, CA	U.S. Marine		Western Samoa
5-Jul-07	Ahearn, James M.	43	Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack	Baghdad (southern part)	U.S. Army	Fort Bragg, NC	Concord
6-Jul-07	Salazar Jr., Bruce C.	24	Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack	Muhammad Salth	U.S. Army	Fort Stewart, GA	Tracy/Modesto
6-Jul-07	Daugherty, Steven Phillip	28	Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack	Baghdad (vicinity of)	U.S. Navy		Barstow
7-Jul-07	Causor Jr., Roberto J.	21	Hostile - hostile fire - IED, small arms fire	Samarra	U.S. Army	Fort Bragg, NC	San Jose

36 Total coalition deaths in July 2007 to date

7 California deaths in July 2007 to date

USWarWatch data is compiled by **Pat Kneisler**, co-founder of [Iraq Coalition Casualty Count](#); **Evan D.**, historian and researcher; **Chet Borowski** of [Coalition Memorial](#); and presented on [USWarWatch.org](#) by webmaster **Roger Straw**.