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2 N.J. soldiers killed in Iraq

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East Brunswick resident reported among 3 injured

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Two New Jersey National Guard members were among five U.S. soldiers killed in an ambush in Baghdad yesterday, state and federal officials said.

The soldiers are the first New Jersey National Guard members to be killed in the Iraq conflict. Three other New Jersey-based Guard members, including an East Brunswick resident, were wounded in the attack.

TJoe Liguori, a spokesman for the Carvill family of Carlstadt, confirmed late yesterday that Sgt. Frank Carvill was one of the two slain soldiers. The other soldier who died was from Brick.

The injured are from East Brunswick, Trenton and Newark, the sources said.

The soldiers' vehicles came under attack shortly after 1 p.m. local time on Palestine Street near the Shiite district of Sadr City. Video from Associated Press Television News showed the burning wreckage of a Humvee and a huge plume of black smoke rising from the mangled vehicle.

The troops were members of Task Force Baghdad, made up primarily of elements of the Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division,



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U.S. soldiers stand over a covered body following an attack by gunmen on a U.S. Army patrol near the district of Sadr City in Baghdad yesterday.

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said division spokesman Army Lt. Col. James Hutton.

"The loss of these two soldiers and the three others injured in the attack are the first casualties from New Jersey's National Guard," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. "These soldiers have given up full-time jobs and left their families to serve our country and assist the Iraqi people in their transition to a free nation -- their service will never be forgotten."

McGreevey will reach out to the relatives of the victims after they have been contacted by the military, Rasmussen said.

Flags across the state will be flown at half-staff in memory of the soldiers.

"We ask that you keep those soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers," McGreevey said at a D-Day remembrance ceremony in Trenton.

Before yesterday, 22 service members from New Jersey had been killed since the beginning of the war in Iraq in March 2003. They include Spc. Narson Sullivan of North Brunswick, Sgt. 1st Class Gladimir Philippe of Linden, 2nd Lt. Seth J. Dvorin of East Brunswick and Lance Cpl. Philip E. Frank of Cliffwood Beach.

Three others, including Maj. Steven Plumhoff of Neshanic Station, were killed in Afghanistan during the period.

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