



**RAPID**  
*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## Weekly News Update

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified news coverage focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the IED/C-IED community. For additional information or to be added to the RAPID network, please email the RAPID team ([rapid@atsolutions.com](mailto:rapid@atsolutions.com)) from your government email account.



Example of an IED planted inside a culvert: Baghram, Afghanistan. (Musadeq Sadeq/AP, 2009)  
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## 1. Wisconsin Soldier Invents Device To Foil Bombs (JS)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/126096618.html>

Forward Operating Base Pasab, Afghanistan - The Taliban will use just about anything to hide bombs, and a perfect spot is a culvert underneath a road.

Now many of the culverts near this base in Kandahar province are no longer prime bomb-hiding locations, thanks to the ingenuity of a Wisconsin soldier.

Cpl. Eric DeHart, 38, of Birnamwood worked as a senior designer for Wausau Homes before deciding to join the Army for the first time at the age of 36, losing 80 pounds in six months to enlist. When his Army Reserves unit - Wausau-based 428th Engineer Co. - arrived in southern Afghanistan last fall, his platoon leader asked him to solve the culvert problem.

An engineer by trade, DeHart began to think about the best way to make culverts safe from roadside bombs, and soon he came up with a solution, which isn't surprising for a guy motivated to drop so much weight in a short time to become a U.S. soldier.

At first DeHart thought about building devices in a few sizes, but he soon learned that although culverts in the U.S. are uniformly sized, that's not the case in Afghanistan, where it seems every culvert is built differently.

Then he hit on a solution.

"If we used a cone, you could shove it in and it can fit anything from 12 inches to 36 inches," said DeHart, a 1992 White Lake High School grad.

His culvert-denial system - which looks like a screen across the opening - allows water and debris to pass through but doesn't leave enough space for improvised explosive devices.

His platoon leader, 1st Lt. Jeremy Crochiere, attended a class on IED threats in culverts before arriving in Afghanistan. When he met DeHart on this deployment, he learned the Birnamwood man was an engineer. Crochiere noted that previous U.S. military attempts at culvert denial systems didn't work because they plugged up with water and debris, especially during the rainy season.

DeHart's plan "was something that looked like it worked, and we tried it out," said Crochiere, 27, of Minocqua. "When we told (another unit) we had a homegrown system that works, they were pretty excited."

DeHart started working on his culvert-denial system in December, and by January had built his prototype from scratch, using half-inch and 5/8-inch rebar he scrounged from another unit and borrowing the tools he needed, including grinding wheels and welding rods.

He did all the cutting and welding of the initial devices and figures he spent about 50 hours of his free time - he drives a Buffalo road clearance vehicle and works in intelligence in the 428th - for the concept, initial construction and training. He also wrote a manual explaining how to install the device in the field. The rest of the culvert denial systems were built by a brigade support battalion.

The 428th installed four devices - now called the DeHart Culvert Denial System - and the 101st Airborne placed more than 30 in Kandahar province.

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No IEDs have been found in those culverts since they were installed last winter.

"To me, that's a success story," said Capt. Jim Servi, commander of the 428th. "The ingenuity and initiative guys like DeHart have - they're never satisfied. They want to make things better."

Engineering plans for DeHart's culvert denial system were sent to other units throughout southern Afghanistan. Aside from the 101st Airborne, no other units have yet used them. But DeHart, who is returning home to his wife and 11-year-old daughter next month, is hopeful his system will make roads safer throughout Afghanistan.

"It made my tour over here worthwhile," DeHart said. "I wanted to leave something permanent in Afghanistan."

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## 2. **Wisconsin Unit Clears Roadside Bombs In Afghanistan** (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

Friday, 22 July 2011

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/126048298.html>

Forward Operating Base Pasab, Afghanistan - By the time they end their tour, the soldiers of the 428th Engineer Co. will have driven the equivalent of a circumnavigation of the world. And they never even left Kandahar Province.

The Army Reserves combat engineer unit from Wausau is part of a critical and dangerous mission here in southern Afghanistan - keeping the roads clear of bombs.

That means constantly driving and looking for improvised explosive devices. They also work closely with an Afghan army combat engineer unit, teaching the Afghans how to do the job so Americans can someday leave. It hasn't been without cost. Ten soldiers received Purple Hearts, including two recuperating from serious injuries. Of the more than 120 members who deployed to Afghanistan in October, 71 were awarded Combat Action badges and all six of the unit's medics will receive the Combat Medic Badge.

Cpl. Justin Ross of Green Bay paid the ultimate price. He was shot to death in March while operating bomb-clearing equipment.

While the Wisconsin combat engineers have the latest in bomb-finding and -destroying equipment, they face a wily foe who constantly changes tactics, said the unit's commander, Capt. Jim Servi. Plus, the terrain makes their job difficult.

"It's like the area where we're from - we've got farms, we've got woods, we've got a river. It's nice as far as scenery but it's horrible when you're trying to fight a war," Servi said, because terrorists can easily hide and fire at the soldiers from close range.

As of Thursday, the unit had cleared 21,567 miles and handled 93 improvised explosive devices found on roads. By the time the 428th leaves next month, the unit's collective odometer likely will hit 24,000 miles.

The soldiers arrived in Afghanistan last fall during the surge ordered by President Barack Obama the previous December. Now as part of the drawdown, Obama said in June that he would pull 10,000 of the troops out this year and the remaining 23,000 by the summer of 2012. The 428th Combat Engineers will be among those leaving in the coming months.

From the unit's perspective, the surge has worked. Servi said the Wisconsin combat engineers have been able to push farther south than the area they patrolled when they first arrived, meaning many more roads and miles are part of the 428th road clearance missions.

During the winter months, when the fighting in Afghanistan typically takes a break because the Taliban and other terror groups don't want to go out in the rain and cold, the 428th was able to perform more dismounted patrols, visiting villages on humanitarian missions and talking to Afghans.

"We've seen a lot of change in the 10 months we've been here," said 1st Sgt. Derek Andrasic of Waukesha. "I think it's really been positive working with the locals. We got out and talked to them. Some thought we were Russians, and the Russians haven't been here" for many years, Andrasic said.

Now, though, the fighting has ramped up sharply, and the 428th can no longer get out of their vehicles to visit Afghans without bullets flying at them.

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This is the second deployment for the unit, which served in Iraq in 2006-'07 when it was called C Company of the 397th Engineers Battalion. Of those currently deployed, about 15% to 20% served in Iraq on the unit's previous deployment.

Half a dozen babies were born while the soldiers were deployed, including twins to a sergeant and student from Wausau, who was able to go home in April for the birth of his daughter and son.

The all-male unit ranges in age from 18 to late 50s and, as is common with Reserves units, includes construction workers, students, small-business owners, teachers, electricians, farmers, corrections officers and a utility lineman. Most are from Wisconsin, though the unit was filled out with volunteers from states ranging from Washington, Colorado and Ohio to Nebraska, Michigan and Texas.

While the road clearance missions performed by the 428th are a relatively new tactic to combat roadside bombs that strike without warning, the role of combat engineers remains the same, said Servi.

"Route clearance came about with Iraq and Afghanistan because of IEDs. But the core mission hasn't changed for combat engineers - it's mobility for troops just like it was in World War II."

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3. **Bomb Disposal Pair Clear Helmand IED Factory** (British Forces News)

Monday, 25 July 2011

<http://bfbs.com/news/afghanistan/bomb-disposal-pair-clear-helmand-ied-factory-49998.html>

Two members of the British Army's Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Task Force have successfully cleared an IED factory in Helmand Province.

Captain Nick Welby-Everard Torbet and Corporal Ed Williams spent two full days making safe the factory, that was found by British soldiers in the Nahr-e Saraj area.

Uncovered by members of 1st Battalion The Rifles, the compound contained enough components and equipment to make over 80 devices.

Captain Welby-Everard Torbet, from 521 Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps and Corporal Williams, from 22 Headquarters and Support Squadron, 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) were part of a four man team called to search the compound, make safe any devices and help 1 RIFLES collect any parts that could be exploited as evidence.

Capt Welby-Everard Torbet is the team commander and works hand in hand with his number 2, Cpl Williams. Since arriving in Helmand almost three months ago, the two men have deployed to various parts of the UK's area of operations to support ground companies who request assistance from the bomb disposal experts.

Often they can be out on patrol for up to 36 hours, carrying out their high pressure jobs in temperatures above 50 degrees. Capt Welby-Everard Torbet decides on the best course of action depending on the situation and Cpl Williams is responsible for operating the specialist equipment used to disarm the devices, such as Dragonrunner.

On their most recent operation, the team spent two full days searching through the compound to find and destroy the IEDs. Capt Welby-Everard Torbet says it was one of the biggest ones they've been involved in: "Some of the devices were very carefully hidden, and finding them was long and exhausting work because we have to be so meticulous and thorough.

"Despite being tired and sweating from the heat, there is no margin for error – we can't rush or skip through or it could be fatal. So as well as being physically tired, a big, long job like this can be mentally draining too." After two long days of work clearing the compound, the team focused their attention on setting up controlled explosions to dispose of all the material they found. Cpl Williams explains: "As well as removing the danger, we also want to make sure we remove the chance that the insurgents come back and try to make use of any of the component parts. So, if we can we take it away to do analysis but the rest of it is destroyed in a safe controlled way. It is hard work but rewarding to know that you are making a difference."

As well as dealing with numerous IEDs, Capt Welby-Everard Torbet and his team are also training the Afghan National Army in bomb disposal techniques to help them develop their own specialist capability. Capt Welby-Everard Torbet, who is 28 and originally from Guildford, said: The Afghans are very professional soldiers and during the time that we have been in Helmand, their skills have improved significantly. Compared to the last time I was in Afghanistan a few years ago, the difference in the ANSF is really noticeable. Locals here are also more confident in their own security forces and their ability to provide security. Things really are improving here."

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23-year-old Cpl Williams, who is from Chelmsford, said: “It’s important that they learn the skills needed to deal with IEDs because it’s likely the devices will continue to pose a threat. A lot of the soldiers are really eager to do well and the most difficult thing is teaching them patience – it really is a virtue in this job and they need to realise why it’s a case of more haste, less speed. But they’re learning and more importantly they want to learn so that helps.”

Nick and Ed are now half way through their six month tour. At the end of Operation HERRICK 14, they will return to their units in the UK – Capt Welby-Everard Torbet to Didcot and Cpl Williams to Wimbish and will then take a period of leave to spend with families and friends.

Cpl Williams said: “I’ve served in Iraq but this is my first tour of Afghanistan and I’ve learnt a lot – it’s been a real experience. I am looking forward to returning to the UK and passing on the knowledge of what I’ve seen and been involved in to the other soldiers in the Regiment – many of who will be coming out here themselves in the near future.”

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**4. IED Detected, Defused On Poonch Highway (IBN Live)**

Thursday, 21 July 2011

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/ied-detected-defused-on-poonch-highway/759650.html>

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was today found by the security forces on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. During a sanitation operation by Road Opening Party of the army, the device was detected on the highway at Darah- Jallas area in Mendhar belt in Poonch district, officials said. The Bomb Disposal Squad rushed to the spot and defused the device safely, they said.

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5. **Tale Of Donkey-Borne IED Gives Dark Laughs Downrange** (Stripes)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

<http://www.stripes.com/tale-of-donkey-borne-ied-gives-dark-laughs-downrange-1.150016>

In the command center, the men were laughing. A donkey-borne IED. Who would do that? Who would load a donkey with explosives and send it tottering down the road, an unwilling, unwitting suicide bomber? But the soldiers also knew the Taliban, knew they might try anything. And the story was true, most of the way.

As the animal drew near to an Afghan police truck in Wardak's remote Day Mirdad Valley on July 18, someone flicked a switch, or called a cell number. The blast blew hair and bones and more into the truck, and a policeman was hit in the lower back by a piece of metal, U.S. Army officials said.

The story rolled through the American ranks gathering details and color. Soldiers told and retold it until, in the version I heard, the Taliban had shoved explosives into a place no living donkey would ever tolerate.

Long ago the Taliban proved themselves creative, capable enemies. They've escaped pursuers by wearing women's clothing, they've disguised themselves in stolen Afghan police and army uniforms during attacks. They have executed massive prison breaks, built enormous IEDs and regained ground against the world's best-equipped military. They've even had some success with these donkey IEDs.

Recently, news media, including this paper, reported on fears that terrorist groups might attempt to surgically implant explosives in human carriers. No vest, no cords, no bulky clothing. Just a strip of belly fat over a bomb.

Compared with all that, the donkey was hilarious. Somehow it was less intimidating, less technical. Hack work.

So the soldiers in the command center at Forward Operating Base Airborne laughed.

They laughed at the new term of art entering their vocabulary — the DBIED, the donkey-borne improvised explosive device.

I thought of historian and former infantryman Paul Fussell, who wrote that irony may have been born in the trenches of World War I, when the world appeared mad and there was no choice but to laugh or go mad along with it.

"Imagine being killed because someone thought it would be funny to put a bomb on a donkey," Marshall said.

"I remember in Iraq they used to put bombs in dead donkeys, you know, at the side of the road," Harris said. "But I never heard of putting one in a live donkey."

"It's just funny," Salako said. "I mean, it's [messed] up that a dude's bleedin', but ..."

Earlier that day, ISAF headquarters reported that three servicemembers had been killed by an IED in eastern Afghanistan. They didn't say where; they never do. A day or two before that, four Afghan policemen in Wardak were hit by an IED. The blast folded their truck in half. When it landed, two of the policemen were dead. The other two died later.

The bombs are everywhere, anytime. Rarely are they funny. So they laugh at the absurdity of the donkey — a desperate or stupid or ingenious delivery system. Laugh or it becomes one more heavy thing to carry around, to worry about.

The chocolate-milk complexion of the Kunar River pretty much tells you everything you need to know about drinking its water: don't.

But villagers who live near the churning tributary in Naray in eastern Afghanistan must survive without such luxuries as Brita filters, let alone municipal purification systems. For them, all water is potable by necessity, regardless of the health risks.

Finding a non-mechanized, dechlorinated solution to their circumstance has turned into a side project for Capt. Steve Nachowicz, support company commander for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division.

Stationed at Forward Operating Base Bostick in eastern Kunar province, Nachowicz, of Bolingbrook, Ill., is building a filtration tank that purifies water with the same natural resources that muddy the river — i.e., sand and gravel.

The tank will remove harmful microscopic particles through a simple process common in many developing countries that lack water treatment plants.

Slow sand filtration, as it is known, involves filling the bottom of the water tank with a layer of sand and gravel. Within a couple of weeks, as water passes through the layer, a jellylike biofilm made of “good” bacteria and fungi forms.

The biofilm acts as an organic filter, trapping upward of 95 percent of the hazardous bacteria found in water. Replacing the filter every few weeks involves little more than skimming off the film and waiting for a new one to grow.

Some villages in Afghanistan already make use of slow sand filtration. After he finishes building his tank, Nachowicz, 29, intends to show Afghan soldiers and workers on base how the process works so they can bring the idea to their towns.

“It's a process that isn't expensive, and it can be done almost anywhere,” he said. “That makes it ideal for Afghanistan.”

U.S. soldiers wary of drinking Afghanistan's water feel somewhat less nervous when natives offer them chai tea, the country's traditional drink, because the water has been boiled.

Tribal elders who visit Capt. Michael Kolton at Combat Outpost Monti, however, want neither chai nor bottled water.

“You know what they love? Rip It,” he said, referring to the high-sugar, caffeine-loaded energy drink popular among sleep-deprived troops. “That's their first choice. After that it's Mountain Dew, and then Pepsi and Coke.”

Kolton, 28, of Fairfax Station, Va., commands Company B of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division. At Monti, about 10 miles south of Bostick in the town of Asmar, he likes to meet with elders in a “shura room” furnished with floor mattresses, large pillows and a mini-refrigerator.

Before his guests show up, he turns the AC on high and stocks the fridge with Rip It and soda. “They get so relaxed in here they don't want to leave,” Kolton said.

Maybe he should invite Mullah Omar.

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6. **IED Strike Brings Father, Son Closer** (Military.com)

Monday, 25 July 2011

<http://www.military.com/news/article/marine-corps-news/ied-strike-brings-father-son-closer.html>

“By the time I had the radio to my mouth, the whole truck exploded.”

Lance Cpl. Frank Buchanan, a native of Jacksonville, N.C., didn't see the improvised explosive device until the last second. The 20-year-old was the lead of a four-vehicle convoy dispatched by Route Clearance Company to recover two downed vehicles in the desert of Nawa district, Helmand province. As his bomb-detecting Huskie rumbled over a sandy berm, he suddenly spotted the 80-pound IED but couldn't stop in time.

When his father, Master Gunnery Sgt. Frank Buchanan, heard about the strike, he feared the worst.

Ironically “Master Guns,” the communications chief of Regimental Combat Team 8, had been looking forward to a visit. When he received orders to RCT-8 and learned his headquarters would be less than an hour's flight from his son in Dwyer, he was happy.

This, however, was not the visit he'd hoped for.

The news was frightening. An IED blast blew off the rear wheels of his son's Huskie and damaged the cabin.

The only way out was through the roof, but because of neck and back trauma from the blast, Lance Cpl.

Buchanan couldn't get out by his own power. Sgt. Carlos Boquin, his squad leader, had to pull him out.

Buchanan Jr. doesn't remember much more about the scene of the strike. He recalls boarding a medevac flight, then waking up in a hospital bed, stuck with IVs and peppered by questions from an attentive medical staff.

When his father received the news, he quickly got permission to fly to Dwyer.

“I sit here and wait on that phone call all the time, and when it came, the life just drained out of me,” said Buchanan Sr., a Marine of nearly 23 years.

For the Master Guns, parental fear is a complex emotion. It's aggravated by the twinge of remorse that many military parents feel, for the former drill instructor missed much of his son's childhood while serving the Corps. He missed his son's birth while deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm -- in fact, he estimates that he's missed all but nine years of his son's life.

He used to be able to tell himself, ‘I'm doing this to keep my family safe,’ until an unexpected phone call three years ago. While he was “watching pirates off the coast of Somolia,” his wife explained that Buchanan Jr., who had a scholarship to become an automotive technician, decided to enlist instead.

“I was doing all the bad things so he wouldn't have to, and now here he is,” mused Buchanan Sr.

Anxiety abounded as the Master Guns caught a late night helicopter flight to Dwyer, but by the time he arrived, his son's situation had improved. Lance Cpl. Buchanan had been transferred to the Wounded Warrior Tent, where Marines rest after they have been deemed stable and no longer in need of urgent medical assistance.

Miraculously, Lance Cpl. Buchanan came away with nothing more than a mild concussion and neck stress. Master Guns found him resting on a green canvas cot, appearing tired but generally healthy. His neck brace, resembling a white foam collar, was the only indication that anything was wrong. He wore it when walking, but moved naturally, without any noticeable signs of pain.

“The sense of relief when the whole body was there ...” said Buchanan Sr., his voice trailing off. “The sense of relief -- there was no way to tell it.”

The ensuing conversation immediately convinced the Master Guns that his son was sound in mind and body. Lance Cpl. Buchanan recalled:

“He popped his head in [here] in the morning – asked me if I needed anything. The first thing I asked for was cigarettes. He had to jump through hoops [to get them], because they keep on running out at the [Post Exchange].”

After scrounging up smokes, Buchanan Sr. spoke to his junior Marine and firstborn son.

Who knows what was actually said. According to the Master Guns, Buchanan men aren’t much for expressing emotions. The father and son trail off when they get to close words like “love,” but according to Buchanan Jr., there was a time when they barely spoke to each other at all. He wryly recalls his father’s “drill instructor phase,” when his parents apparently functioned as a chain of command, and half seriously remarked that messages for dad had to be routed through mom.

“Now, I’m not only his son, but also his brother,” said Buchanan Jr. “There are things he can talk to me about now that I wouldn’t hear before.”

And although the Master Guns frequently worries about his son, he is rendered speechless by the swelling pride he feels when he sees a younger version of himself carrying on the Buchanan legacy.

Lance Cpl. Buchanan has made a full recovery and is now back with Route Clearance Company, supporting 2nd Combat Engineering Battalion here.

“I would rather get hit a million times than to see one of my guys get hit once,” said the Huskie driver. “You could take my left arm, and I would still want to get back in the truck.”

Editor’s Note:

Lance Cpl. Buchanan is a Huskie Driver for Route Clearance Company, 2nd CEB, which supports Regimental Combat Team 1 in Southern Helmand province. His vehicle was struck by an IED July 14.

The RCT supports 2nd Marine Division (Forward), the ground combat element in Helmand. The mission of the division is to partner with Afghan National Security Forces to conduct counterinsurgency operations to secure the Afghan people, defeat insurgent forces, and enable ANSF to assume security responsibilities in the region. Ultimately, the partnered forces promote the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.

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**7. ISAF Assessing Incident In Sayyidabad, Wardak Province; 4 Killed (DVIDS)**

Monday, 25 July 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/74257/isaf-assessing-incident-sayyidabad-wardak-province-4-killed#.Ti2LiWF2HNs>

We are aware of an incident in Sayyidabad when a coalition patrol struck an improvised explosive device while conducting a road clearance operation in Sayyidabad District, Wardak province.

One civilian was killed and several coalition members were injured.

Following the IED explosion, coalition forces were engaged by insurgents with small arms fire. The patrol responded to this threat by returning fire on the insurgent position. Once the exchange ended, ISAF forces conducted an assessment of the area in which three civilian bodies were found and one wounded civilian was discovered in a vehicle. ISAF forces provided first-aid to the injured civilian.

At this stage it is unclear how the civilians in the small arms fire incident were killed.

ISAF are aware that government officials have initiated an investigation into the incident and will fully cooperate with this investigation. An ISAF Incident Assessment Team has also been sent to the area.

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**8. Insurgent Killed While Planting IED In Baghlan (Wakht)**

Sunday, 24 July 2011

<http://www.wakht.com/en/020775.php>

Afghan and Coalition forces have killed an insurgent who wanted to plant an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in a Northern Province of Baghlan, official said Sunday.

A German Military official told Wakht News Agency that the insurgent was killed by the joint forces when he was planting a roadside bomb at Baghlan-Kandoz Highways at Shahr e Khana area.

The official further said that the joint forces also unearthed and defused a landmine emplaced near Abu Muhammad School at Baghlan.

He also appreciated the residents of the area for their cooperation with the security forces.

No insurgent groups or any individual have claimed responsibility.

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9. **Houstonian Killed In Afghanistan** (San Antonio Chronicle)

Saturday, 23 July 2011

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/military/article/Houstonian-killed-in-Afghanistan-1561029.php>

Army Sgt. Jacob Molina, 27, of Houston was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's Kunar province Tuesday.

A father of two and the second-oldest of six siblings, Molina was the glue that held his large family together, said his brother Javier Ramirez, 18.

"He was the foundation of our family," Ramirez said.

That foundation was shaken Tuesday when Molina was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's Kunar province.

Also killed in the incident was Staff Sgt. James Christen, 29, of Loomis, Calif., the Defense Department said. Both soldiers were married. They were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Molina met his future wife, Stephanie Molina, in high school.

He was a big fan of mixed martial arts and such an action-movie fanatic that his mother, Janie Torres, nicknamed him Vin Diesel.

Ramirez said his brother had talked about joining the military since middle school, inspired by uncles who had served.

"We came from a strong military family, and he wanted to be part of something bigger than he was," the brother said. "He wanted to make a difference."

Molina enlisted in the Army on Feb. 15, 2007, as an infantryman. He served a tour of duty in Iraq before deploying to Afghanistan. He loved the Army "with a passion," his brother said.

"It made him happy," he said. "He enjoyed what he was doing, and he told me he wouldn't want it any other way. If he was going to go out, he wanted to go out doing what he loved."

Ramirez last talked to his brother Monday. They chatted online.

Molina asked Ramirez, a high school senior, about his plan to follow in Molina's footsteps and join the Army after graduation. The brothers had spent a lot of time talking about that, and Molina encouraged Ramirez.

"He said it would be the best life choice to make," Ramirez said.

The next day, Molina's mother was hanging laundry in her backyard when Army officers came to the house. "When he called me by my son's last name, I knew," said Torres, who goes by her maiden name. "I dropped everything and ran into the house."

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10. **Security Official Injured In IED Explosion** (Pakistan Daily Times)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\24\story\\_24-7-2011\\_pg7\\_10](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\24\story_24-7-2011_pg7_10)

A security official was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Chinari, Safi tehsil on Saturday. Security personnel were on routine patrolling when the IED planted along a roadside went off. As a result, one security official was injured, and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital. After the explosion, forces cordoned off the area and started a search operation. The local administration has registered a case against unidentified culprits and further investigation is in progress.

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11. **Pro-Govt Militia: One Killed In Sui Blast** (Express Tribune)

Saturday, 23 July 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/215022/remote-controlled-bomb-in-dera-bugti-injures-5/>

A man was killed when a convoy of a pro-government militia was hit by a remote-controlled bomb stuffed inside a motorcycle parked along its route in Sui on Friday.

According to officials, the device was detonated just as the convoy was passing through the Bugti Colony. The injured men were shifted to the Pakistan Petroleum Limited's (PPL) welfare hospital where one of them succumbed to his injuries.

Sources said that the attackers were most probably trying to target the peace force's leader Bhai Khan Bugti, who remained unharmed.

The Amn force works to maintain peace in the restive Dera Bugti area. But, Baloch militants consider the group to be an outfit sponsored by intelligence agencies.

Personnel of law-enforcement agencies have so far taken 12 suspects into custody for questioning. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

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12. **Bomb Kills Four Pakistan Oil Workers: Police** (Associated Free Press)

Thursday, 21 July 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hr1Q1f8iBwP0VXeMib0HVkCo7lCw?docId=CN.G.454ffc5a0460a3378f12993e4765f06d.1a1>

A bomb attack on Thursday killed at least four Pakistani oil workers in a remote town in the country's troubled southwest that borders Afghanistan and Iran, police said.

The blast hit a convoy of Pakistan's government-run Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDCL) in the mineral rich province of Baluchistan, where rebels are fighting for autonomy and demanding a greater share of natural resources.

Police said the bomb was fixed to a motorbike and parked on the roadside about 170 miles (275 kilometres) southeast of the provincial capital Quetta.

"It was a remote-controlled device which hit the oil and gas officials' vehicle," Mohammed Tariq, a senior police official said, adding that one person died on the spot while three others later succumbed to their injuries.

Siddiq Ahmed, a doctor, earlier told AFP by telephone from the local district hospital in the town of Jafarabad, where the attack took place, that two people had been killed and seven wounded.

Baluchistan is riven by Islamist militancy, sectarian violence between majority Sunnis and minority Shiite Muslims and a separatist insurgency.

Baluch rebels rose up in 2004 demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the region's wealth of natural resources. Hundreds of people have since died.

Separately a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of a vehicle of a military contractor in Kotkai village of the troubled South Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan on Thursday, security officials said.

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13. **Bombings Target US Patrols In S. Iraq** (Press TV)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

<http://www.presstv.com/detail/190471.html>

An explosive device detonated in the early hours of Saturday near the main road between the city of Diwaniya and the shrine city of Najaf, ripping into a US army vehicle on the road, the Aswat al-Iraq news agency quoted a police official as saying.

Another bombing targeted a US army patrol in the al-Kheil area, in central Diwaniya, on Friday night, the police source added.

There were no reports on the number of casualties in the two bomb attacks.

Following the blasts, police and ambulance sirens could be heard throughout the city as US helicopters flew low overhead, witnesses said.

In a statement issued on Friday, the commander of the US armed forces in Babil province acknowledged an escalation in the US forces' activity near the US bases in Babil, Diwaniya, and Wasit provinces.

The US commander said the measures were taken to protect the bases and local Iraqi citizens from militant attacks and were in line with the security treaty signed by Iraq and the United States.

Meanwhile, the governor of the southern province of Maysan, Ali Dawai, said on Friday that a special parliamentary committee has been formed to investigate the shelling of two areas in the provincial capital al-Amarah by US forces.

Dawai said the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi armed forces has been asked to take the measures necessary to prevent the repetition of such violations of the Iraq-US security pact.

On Monday and Tuesday, US warplanes pounded the al-Ufiya and Abu-Rumma areas in the center of al-Amarah, claiming that armed groups were using the sites to launch rockets at the nearby Buteira military airport, north of al-Amarah.

The US announced an end to its combat mission in Iraq at the end of August 2010, but left behind about 47,000 troops, ostensibly to advise and train Iraqi security forces -- a mandate they have gone beyond on a number of occasions.

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**14. Violence Kills 3, Injures 9 In Iraq** (Press TV)

Monday, 25 July 2011

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/190634.html>

A roadside bomb blast in the southern city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province and 110 kilometers west of Baghdad, killed a policeman and wounded three others, one of them civilian, Xinhua reported a provincial police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as saying.

In a separate attack in Baghdad, unidentified assailants in a car gunned down a traffic policeman in the central district of Karrada, according to an anonymous Interior Ministry source.

Also in Nidhal Street in the same district, the police reported the wounding of two policemen and a civilian in a roadside bomb explosion on Sunday.

Meanwhile, there were police reports of a civilian having been killed and three other people injured in separate roadside bomb and gunfire attacks in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala.

Bombings and other forms of violence escalated in Iraq soon after the US-led invasion of the country in 2003. Washington said the military action was carried out to discover the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) of the former dictator Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime. However, no WMDs have ever been found in the country.

Over one million Iraqis met violent deaths as a result of the 2003 invasion, according to a study conducted by the prestigious British polling group, Opinion Research Business (ORB).

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15. **IED Kills 2 Hawaii-based Soldiers In Kunar Province, Afghanistan** (Associated Press)

Thursday, 21 July, 2011

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5bd2ac362c7948abb48f19912ce7c005/HI--Soldiers-Killed/>

Two Hawaii-based Army soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks have been killed in Afghanistan following an attack on their vehicle with an improvised explosive device.

The Department of Defense said Thursday the two soldiers died Tuesday in Kunar province.

They are 29-year-old Staff Sgt. James M. Christen of Loomis, Calif., and 27-year-old Sgt. Jacob Molina of Houston.

They were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Christen was serving his third overseas deployment following two previous tours in Iraq.

Molina was serving his second overseas deployment following a previous tour in Iraq.

Both were married and had numerous awards and decorations.

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16. **Six Injured In Baghdad Explosion** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143918&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143918&l=1)

Four elements of the Installations Protection Force and two civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in central Baghdad's al-Nidhal Street on Sunday, a security source reported.

“An explosive charge blew up al-Nidhal Street, close to the building that previously housed the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research in central Baghdad on Sunday.

The charge wounded 4 elements of the Installations Protection Force, along with 2 civilians,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The security source gave no further details, but said that the police forces have imposed a cordon around the venue of the blast.

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17. **Police Officer, Civilian Killed, 8 Wounded In 2 Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 22 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143888](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143888)

A police captain was killed and eight wounded in two consecutive explosions near alcohol shop west of Baghdad, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the first bomb exploded near alcohol shop, but no human damages.

When a police patrol arrived into the explosion scene, another bomb took off that resulted in killing the police captain and a civilian, as well as wounding four cops and four civilians.

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18. **Iraqi Soldier Injured In Explosive Charge Blast In Mosul** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 25 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143934&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143934&l=1)

An Iraqi soldier has been injured in an explosive charge blast west of Mosul, the center of Ninewa Province, on Monday, a Ninewa security source reported.

“An explosive charge blew off on Monday morning against an Iraqi Army patrol in west Mosul’s 17<sup>th</sup> July district, injuring a soldier, who was among the patrol members,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency, giving no further details.

Mosul, the center of Ninewa Province, is 405 km to the north of Baghdad.

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19. **Explosive Charge Blows Up Against U.S. Patrol, Six Wanted Men Detained In Basra** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 25 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143933&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143933&l=1)

An explosive charge blew off against a U.S. Army patrol in southern Iraq's City of Basra on Sunday night, but losses were not known, whilst police forces arrested six wanted men, One of them wanted for terrorist acts, a Basra police source reported on Monday.

“An American patrol, heading for Shueiba, 35 km to the west of Basra, has become target for an explosive Charge on its road, but results were not known,” the policed source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

In another incident, the same source said that Iraqi forces have detained six wanted men, one of them charged with terrorist acts.

Basra, the center of the Province carrying the same name, is 590 km to the south of Baghdad.

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20. **Five Iraqi Policemen Injured In Diala Explosion** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 23 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143891&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143891&l=1)

Five Iraqi policemen have been injured in an explosive charge that blew off in a car, belonging to an unknown armed group that attacked a police checkpoint in Baaquba, the center of northeast Iraq's Diala Province on Friday, a security source reported.

“An explosive charge blew off inside a car, left by a group of unknown gunmen in new Baaquba, the center of Diala Province, after their attack on a police checkpoint that killed 5 policemen, but blew off to injure 5 other policemen, who approached the car that blew off against them on Friday,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The security source said that “an armed group, using a civilian car, have attacked a police checkpoint in new Baaquba, opened fire that killed 5 policemen and wounded a fourth cop, whilst the gunmen flew away to an unknown destination.”

Baaquba, the center of Diala Province, 57 kms to the northeast of Baghdad, had witnessed continued armed attacks and had been a venue for al-Qaeda organization from 2006 to 2009.

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21. **Police Officer, Civilian Killed, 8 Wounded In 2 Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 22 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143888&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143888&l=1)

A police captain was killed and eight wounded in two consecutive explosions near alcohol shop west of Baghdad, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the first bomb exploded near alcohol shop, but no human damages. When a police patrol arrived into the explosion scene, another bomb took off that resulted in killing the police captain and a civilian, as well as wounding four cops and four civilians.

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22. **Seven Injured In 2 Baghdad Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 22 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143883&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143883&l=1)

Seven people , all members of one family, were injured due to two bomb explosions directed against their home north of Baghdad, police sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that two bombs exploded late last night in Tarmiyah area, north Baghdad, injuring seven persons, including women and children.

No other details were given on the site of the explosion and the identity of the residents.

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23. **Iraqi Citizen Killed, Two Others Injured In Kirkuk Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Thursday, 21 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143870&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143870&l=1)

An Iraqi civilian has been killed and two others were injured in an explosive charge blast west of northern Iraq's oil-rich city of Kirkuk on Thursday, Kirkuk's Police Director reported.

"A rocket was launched on the house of Police Officer, Colonel Imad Murshid in a village close to al-Riyadh township, 45 km to the southwest of Kirkuk, causing severe damage to the house, but no human casualties," Lt-Brigadier, Sarhad Qader told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that an explosive charge blew off against a police patrol, when an al-Riyadh police patrol arrived at the venue of the house attack, killing a civilian and wounding 2 others, but none of the police patrol men was injured.

The oil-rich city of Kirkuk is 280 km to the northeast of Kirkuk.

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24. **Child Hit By Bomb In North Mosul** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 20 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143869&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143869&l=1)

A child was hurt in bomb blast targeted against the Iraqi army east of Mosul, security sources told Aswat al-Iraq here today.

No other details were given.

Mosul, the center of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

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25. **Two Civilians Hit By Bomb In Northwest Baghdad** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 20 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143861&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143861&l=1)

Two civilians were hit by a bomb blast in Amiriya district, north west Baghdad, security sources disclosed today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb was planted on the road side.

"The explosion resulted in material losses.

Security authorities have launched an immediate investigation," the source added.

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26. **Alert For 'Perfume Bottle' IED At CSIA** (Indian Express)

Friday, 22 July 2011

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/alert-for-perfume-bottle-ied-at-csia/820669/>

Airport security officials are now watching out for passengers carrying perfume bottles following an intelligence alert that warns of a "threat from a perfume bottle-based improvised explosive device (IED)."

The alert dated July 20 comes a week after the CSIA was put on high alert after the serial blasts and directs all airport, aircraft and cargo operators to keep a special watch on mail scanners, parcel and X-ray scanners to identify perfume bottles.

"According to an input, a perfume bottle-based IED has been devised by Pakistan-based terrorists. Since these bottles are supposed to be sent through couriers as gifts appropriate counter measures need to be undertaken immediately," the alert issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) said.

In Mumbai, the CISF has been asking passengers to fish out their perfume bottles and use it on themselves to prove that they are safe. Officials are also keenly implementing an existing advisory that prohibits passengers from carrying perfumes or deodorants exceeding 100 ml.

Last month, airports were warned about extremists who could be "surgically implanting explosives or explosive components in humans and animals to conduct terrorist attacks". This prompted the BCAS to instruct officials to watch out for passengers who might be have difficulty "standing, bending, moving or walking". "We always keep an eye out for passengers behaving abnormally," said a CISF officer.

On July 13, soon after the serial blasts, the BCAS issued an alert to enhance every screening conducted at the airport, especially of passengers, their baggage and vehicles entering car parks. The alert called for all anti-sabotage measures and "strict access control" to entry into the airport premises.

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27. **Three Congress Workers Killed In Raipur IED Blast** (The Hindu)

Wednesday, 20 July 2011

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article2277280.ece>

At least three Congress workers were killed and four others injured when Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee president Nand Kumar Patel's road convoy was struck by a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Raipur district. While Mr. Patel's vehicle escaped unscathed, a trailing vehicle carrying party workers was destroyed in the blast.

Police officials said three or four men had been killed in the blast, but were awaiting confirmation of the final death toll. The banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) is believed to be behind the attack, but is yet to claim responsibility.

In May this year, Maoist cadres killed nine police officers including an Assistant Superintendent of Police in an ambush in the same area. Police officers surmise that the operation was probably carried out by an Orissa-based faction that crossed the border to conduct the attack.

The incident occurred at about 5:30 p.m. at Udanti puliya, about 180 km from State capital Raipur. Mr. Patel was returning from addressing a farmer's meeting in Durvagudi village when his convoy was attacked.

"The blast occurred 12 to 15 minutes after Mr. Patel's vehicle had crossed the spot. Maoists also opened fire on the trailing vehicles," said Assistant Director General of Police Ram Niwas. It is believed that at least one of the deaths was caused when a passenger in a trailing vehicle was struck by a bullet.

In a television interview, Mr. Patel expressed disbelief at the lack of security and said the police was informed of the Congress's intention to stage a farmers' gathering in the area.

"Naxalism has reached the doorstep of the State capital. The State president's convoy has been attacked," said PCC member Shailesh Trivedi, "This is the first time that the workers of a democratic party like the Congress have been attacked while returning from a rally."

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28. **Bomb Blast In Maiduguri Again** (Nigerian Tribune)

Friday, 22 July 2011

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/front-page-news/25496-bomb-blast-in-maiduguri-again-borno-to-screen-preachers-for-ramadan>

AN explosion at London Chiki ward, in Maiduguri, has again threatened the return of normalcy in the Borno State capital, as people around London Chiki area, who had said that they had no intention to relocate, are now having a rethink.

The explosion, which occurred on Thursday around 9.00 a.m., however, did not record any casualty. But in a text message to newsmen in the state, the spokesman for the Joint Task Force on Operation Restore Order in Borno State said that the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was targeted at men of the JTF patrolling the area.

According to Lieutenant-Colonel Hassan Mohammed, no arrests had been made so far, adding that the JTF was on top of the situation.

He urged members of the public not to panic as the JTF was doing everything possible to ensure return of normalcy in the state.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Ramadan fast, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, stated on Wednesday that the state preaching board was taking necessary steps to screen some Islamic clerics and preachers for the Ramadan message.

The royal father, who spoke to newsmen at his palace shortly after a meeting with officials of the Borno Emirate Council, Ministry of Religious Affairs and clerics who normally conduct preaching in various mosques, said unlike what obtained before, there would be adjustment in the time for preaching during this year's fasting period.

Alhaji El-Kanemi said stakeholders at the meeting had agreed that in response to the security situation in Maiduguri and its environs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs should decide on the timing of Ramadan preaching (Tafsir) and night prayers (Tarawih and Kiyamul Lail).

“A guideline for preaching will be issued to all accredited preachers,” said the Shehu, who is also the vice chairman of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) and the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (SCIA).

According to him, a preaching permit was given to clerics last year and the same process would be used this year, adding that recommendations made by the stakeholders on the appropriate time for preaching and other religious activities during the Ramadan would be forwarded to the state government for approval.

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29. **Car Bombs Kill 8 Soldiers In Yemen** (Associated Press)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/world/8276644/car-bombs-kills-8-soldiers-in-yemen>

Security officials say a car bomb has killed at least eight army soldiers and wounded scores in Yemen's coastal city of Aden.

The officials say the blast occurred on Sunday near the gate of an army camp as a column of vehicles packed with troops and supplies was preparing to leave for the nearby province of Abyan to take part in fighting against al-Qaeda-linked militants.

The officials say al-Qaeda militants were likely behind the attack.

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