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News Release

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Huntsville Center contractor employees killed in Iraq Friday identified

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Two U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employees killed in Iraq Aug. 18 have been identified.

Brenton Thomas Gray, 34, from Southern Pines, N.C., and Edmund Bruwer, 37, from the Republic of South Africa were killed when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device.

Two other contractors who were wounded in the same incident have been transported to Germany for medical treatment.

Gray and Bruwer worked for Cochise Consultancy, which is headquartered in Tampa, Fla.

This brings the number of contractor casualties killed while working for the Coalition Munitions Clearance program since September 2003 to 30.

"Our condolences go out to the families," said Bill Sargent, program manager, Coalition Munitions Clearance Program. "Our personnel are highly trained and experienced and are doing a superb job, but it remains a very dangerous mission."

The incident is under investigation.

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Huntsville Center is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq. To date, more than 450,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq.

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