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Kewanee soldier's wounds treated

By *DAVE CLARKE* Of The Star Courier

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Kewanee soldier serving with the Galva National Guard unit in Iraq was released from a U.S. Army combat hospital in Baghdad Sunday after being treated for wounds sustained Friday night from a roadside bomb.

Nathan Kull, 28, was returning from patrol with other members of the unit when the cell phone-activated bomb went off, according to his mother, Rebecca Kull.

Kull and three other wounded soldiers were evacuated to the Baghdad military hospital where he was treated for shrapnel wounds to his shoulder, elbow and right arm. The ordnance also struck his thigh and knee cap and "skinned" his nose and eyebrow, Mrs. Kull said.

Within an hour a chaplain had given Kull a cell phone to call home. Knowing both parents -- Rebecca and Phillip -- were at work, he called his grandparents, Leonard and Ruth Kull of Kewanee, to tell them he was OK.

"I talked to him later that night and he was in good spirits, sounded upbeat and was pleased with the treatment he was receiving," Mrs. Kull said. She said her son's elbow injury was of most concern to the doctors who considered shipping her son on to the next stage of medical treatment at medical facilities in Germany, but decided that everything that could be done was done in Baghdad and returned him to his barracks. Mrs. Kull said Nathan had surgery on his arm and elbow while hospitalized in Baghdad.

She did not know the identities of the other three soldiers injured in the blast.

Kull's unit, Battery F, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, Illinois National Guard from Galva, is scheduled to head home next month. The 120-man unit has been stationed near Taji, just north of Baghdad, since last fall.

The unit arrived in Iraq last March and has been performing security and stabilization duties with the 1st Cavalry Division in the Baghdad area.

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