

[Today's Issue...](#)

[Page One](#)

[City](#)

[Regional](#)

[Sports](#)

[Weather](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[World News](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Town Hall](#)

[Stock Quotes](#)

[Health News](#)

[Star Courier White Pages directory](#)

[Shopper](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[About Us](#)

[Archives](#)

[Illinois Lottery](#)

[e-mail](#)



KEWANEE ILLINOIS



Galva guard unit on their way overseas

By *DAVE CLARKE* Of *The Star Courier*

GALVA -- They're finally on their way.

Members of Galva's Battery F, of the 202nd Air Defense Artillery, Illinois National Guard, left Fort Polk, La., early Thursday and should be in Kuwait today preparing for their mission in Iraq as part of the largest troop rotation in U.S. history and the largest percentage of Guard and Reserve forces deployed to major combat in this century.

Sgt. Curt Rowen at the 202nd's Headquarters Company at the Kewanee Armory said he received an e-mail from one of the Guard members shortly after midnight Thursday saying they were about to board buses on their way to the airport for what was expected to be a 20-hour plane ride to the Middle East.

The unit included 122 men when it was ordered to active duty on Oct. 12, 2003, for the first time since the Korean War. Sgt. Rowen said most of the unit left Thursday. Some of the Galva Guardsmen are part of advance parties which left between Friday and Monday. Several also departed earlier in February escorting equipment being sent ahead by ship. Several members of the unit also have been delayed while they receive medical treatment for various minor problems, Rowen said. One member of the unit, Marty Gibson of Kewanee, will be returning to the Galva Armory where he will serve as point man, which is part of normal military procedure.

When everyone arrives in Kuwait, they will spend about a month making final preparations to convoy by truck into Iraq

Search The Web

[Travel Info](#)

[Web Directory](#)

[Yellow Pages](#)

[White Pages](#)

[Meet Someone](#)

[My Page](#)

[City Guide](#)

[Lottery Results](#)

[Weather](#)

[Movie Listings](#)

[Maps/Directions](#)

[Horoscope](#)

[Greeting Cards](#)

where they will be stationed on the southwest side of Baghdad for at least a year. Army engineers are building half a dozen camps on the outskirts of Baghdad for incoming troops so that palaces and other sites used as temporary quarters can be turned back over to the Iraqis.

The unit is comprised of 65 men from Galva's Battery F which was supplemented with 22 volunteers from Headquarters Battery in Kewanee and 34 from Battery E of the 202nd ADA in Dixon.

Battery F was mobilized Sept. 26, 2003, as part of the 39th Enhanced Infantry Brigade of the Arkansas National Guard.

They left Galva Sunday, Nov. 2, and arrived at Fort Hood, Texas, late that day where they trained for three months, transferring to Fort Polk, La., on Sunday, Feb. 1.

At Fort Polk, the unit took part in exercises at the Joint Readiness Training Center, preparing them for both urban warfare and peacekeeping. The JRTC focuses on training light infantry in low- to mid-intensity conflict using operational and tactical situations found in Iraq.

While at Fort Hood, members of the unit participated in the halftime show of the Dallas-Miami Thanksgiving Day football game with the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders and country singer Toby Keith. At Fort Polk, 11 were among a group of Guardsmen picked to have lunch with President George Bush, some sitting one table away. The rest attended Bush's speech in a hangar on base.

Last Saturday many families traveled to Fort Polk to see their loved ones one more time before departure during a two-hour family visit.

Now 4,000 strong, the 39th Enhanced Brigade Combat Team is part of the Army's 1st Cavalry which is being rotated into the Baghdad area to relieve the 1st Armored Division which has been in-country for more than a year. The 39th will replace the Fort Polk-based 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Commanding the Galva Guard unit is Maj. Mike Kessel of Champaign. The executive officer is Capt. Greg Reinhardt of Smithton and formerly of Kewanee.

[[Home Page](#)] [[City News](#)] [[Regional News](#)] [[Sports](#)] [[Obituaries](#)] [[Weather](#)] [[Editorial](#)] [[Photo Gallery](#)] [[Classifieds](#)]
[[Calendar](#)] [[Archives](#)] [[Shopper](#)] [[Illinois Lottery](#)] [[About Us](#)] [[Email Us](#)] [[Health](#)] [[Entertainment](#)] [[Town Hall](#)]
[[World News](#)] [[Stocks/Market](#)]



[TOP](#)

copyright 1999 Kewanee Star Courier