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KEWANEE ILLINOIS



Local Guardsmen arrive in Kuwait

By *DAVE CLARKE* Of The Star Courier

GALVA -- The family of a Galva soldier got a phone call Sunday saying the Galva National Guard unit arrived safely in Iraq. The bulk of the 120-man Battery F, 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery left the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., early Thursday morning bound for at least a year's active duty in Iraq. Several members of the unit left earlier with an advance party.

Tom Wallenfeldt told his brother, John, and other family members in messages posted on the Galva Armed Services Page Sunday night that they will be heading to Baghdad near the end of the month. The unit arrived safely in Kuwait after stops in Maine and Germany.

Wallenfeldt said he was able to stand in line to use a satellite phone, but a bad connection left gaps of 30 seconds or longer and made communicating difficult. He hoped to call again later this month.

Wallenfeldt said it was already 84 degrees in Kuwait and that he had been out on convoy, including a trip to the Persian Gulf. He said he also has been providing escort to officers preparing for the last leg of the journey to Baghdad. "It was good to hear from him and he sounds like he is in good spirits," said one family member.

The Star Courier would appreciate hearing more from our Baghdad-bound troops and passing it along to our readers. Anyone wishing to share news from their loved ones now in Kuwait may e-mail it to the Star Courier at:

editor@starcourier.com

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