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## Early word: Saturday may be day for National Guard's homecoming

*By Star Courier staff*

GALVA -- Plans can change, but it looks like Saturday will be the big day for area families awaiting the return of Foxtrot Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, now going through demobilization at Fort Sill, Okla., after a year in Iraq.

Local families have received word from Maj. Michael Kessel, commander of the unit, that the current plan calls for "wheels up" in Oklahoma at around 11 a.m. Saturday.

Estimating an hour-and-a-half in the air, Maj. Kessel said they should arrive in Moline at approximately 12:30 p.m. "They should be able to have us in Galva in about 45 minutes," Kessel speculated.

That would bring the bus caravan down Interstate 80 to Annawan, and down Route 78 through Kewanee to Route 34 and on into Galva where arrival at the armory would be about 1:15 or 1:30, depending on travel time.

Area residents are asked to line streets and highways as the buses pass to welcome the troops home. Facilities at the armory in Galva will be limited to immediate family members due to space limitations.

The troops will debark from the buses, line up in a brief formation, then be dismissed to reunite with their families.

Kessel said the flight plans should be confirmed by the end of the day today.

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