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Star Courier

Regional

KEWANEE
ILLINOIS



Galva soldier finds Iraqis friendly

By Star Courier staff

GALVA -- Amanda Doherty, wife of 1st Lt. Chris Doherty of Galva, received additional information from her husband in a phone call from Iraq on Thursday.

Mrs. Doherty is pursuing her master's degree in political science at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where the couple met in 2000.

They were married last December in the Florida Keys.

Doherty, an artillery officer with the 1st Cavalry Division, arrived in Baghdad earlier this week.

Mrs. Doherty said her husband told her he made it to the FOB (Forward Operating Base), which is still "under construction".

She said, "He has been sleeping on a cardboard box, but thought that they were going to be getting a tent soon."

The Galva native also reported on his first patrol in the Baghdad area.

"The Iraqis that surround his FOB are receptive to the soldiers and are glad that Americans are here to help," Mrs. Doherty said.

She said one of the doctors asked for supplies since all he has is a stethoscope.

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Another man asked that his field be cleaned up so that he could put his cows out to pasture again. Apparently the war has left some huge craters in his yard.

Doherty also talked to his new wife about the kids he's seen. "He said that they were very nice and happy to see them. They call all of the soldiers 'Mister, Mister!' Chris didn't have any candy so he gave them paper, pencils, and quarters. He has requested Starbursts. I'll be sending some over this week.

"Chris says that these people have nothing, their kids have no shoes and some of them run around half naked.

"He said there is sewage everywhere, but this is what the war, to him, is about -- helping people who need it. He is in his element. He sees people that can use his help and he does all he can to help them."

"He doesn't want us to worry (though I know, for me, that isn't too likely), and he wanted me to tell everyone hello," she said.

[New name for Toulon facility](#)

TOULON -- After 27 years of health care services to Stark and Henry counties, Toulon Health Care Center's name has been changed to Toulon Rehabilitation and Health Center.

[Toy show planned in Walnut](#)

WALNUT -- The Walnut Chamber of Commerce will present the 18th Annual Buy, Sell or Trade Toy Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, at the Bureau Valley North School gym.

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