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## Guard members carry flag in Wrigley

*By Star Courier staff*

CHICAGO -- Six members of the Galva National Guard unit recently returned from a year in Iraq carried the American colors onto the field prior to the Chicago Cubs home opener on Friday.

The members of Foxtrot Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, also were interviewed on WGN-TV before the Cubs' game with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Presenting the colors Friday at Wrigley Field were be Mark Stach of Dixon, Todd Kavran and Jestin Squires, both of Sterling, Chris Lamb of Neponset, Bill McDaniels of Peoria, and Chase Price of Kewanee. Other members of the unit also attended the game.

For Stach, a sergeant in the Guard, the occasion was an opportunity for a second meeting with former Cubs player Gary "Sarge" Matthews, now a coach with the team.

After the unit returned from Iraq on March 19, Stach, a lifelong Cubs fan, went to Arizona to watch a month of spring training games before returning to work, according to the Sauk Valley News.

On March 27, he was one of three people picked from the stands to throw a pitch from the mound. After it was announced that he was a recently returned veteran of the war in Iraq, Matthews greeted him near the dugout and shook his hand.

The names of 16 members of the unit were read and a photo of the group posing with a Cubs banner outside their barracks at Camp Victory North was shown on WGN during a Cubs game last May. Members of the

unit followed Cubs games on Armed Forces radio while in Iraq.

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