
Kewanee soldier now operating website from 'Beautiful Baghdad'

By *DAVE CLARKE* Regional Coordinator

For a "peek inside the trenches," one member of Battery F has now set up his own website.

SSG Jason DeSmit of Kewanee recently went on line with "Coming To You From Beautiful Baghdad!" at www.geocities.com/tojac/index.html.

It is also linked to the Galva/Kewanee Armed Services Page which was started in February by 1st Lt. Chris Doherty of Galva, an artillery officer with the 1st Cavalry now seeing action in Sadr City, and his father, Jim.

"Beautiful Baghdad" provides an excellent soldier's-eye view in photos and text of the world in which our local National Guardsmen now live. It's sort of a journal of the "Road to (and through) Baghdad" with entries dating back to when Jason first heard he might be going to Iraq, to a photo of one of the car bombs found by "Foxtrot" Battery being detonated, and a link to current temperature and weather in the Iraqi capital (Friday it cooled off a bit to 103).

Jason, a 1996 graduate of Wethersfield High School, attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where he was working at the Steak 'n Shake when he learned the Galva National Guard unit was being activated and that members of his unit, Headquarters Battery, of the 202nd ADA in Kewanee, were being asked to help bring Battery F up to strength. So he volunteered.

His younger brother, Cpl. Ben DeSmit, a 1998 graduate of WHS, a mechanic with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, was set to come home in April after a one-year tour in Iraq, but his unit's mission was extended six months after an increase in unrest which began in March and he also remains on duty there.

[Public hearing held to discuss future option on Stark County Highway](#)

TOULON -- A capacity crowd attended a meeting in Toulon Thursday night concerning the possible sale of the Stark County Highway Building in Toulon as a site for a new Dollar General store.

[Coroner's jury rules in two April 22 deaths](#)

CAMBRIDGE -- A Henry County coroner's jury ruled Thursday that Abby M. Dana, 18, of Kewanee, came to her death on April 22 accidentally due to massive trauma from a lacerated liver incurred in a car accident.

[Gorby named overall winner in regional competition](#)

KEWANEE -- The Kewanee Police Department's K-9 team -- officer Chuck Russell and canine officer Gorby -- won the Region 24 United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) patrol dog trial held recently in Lansing, Ill.

[Commander of Galva unit feels the whole story isn't being told](#)

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Baghdad, Iraq -- Major Mike Kessel is apparently fed up with the way the news media is covering the war in Iraq.

[Kewanee soldier now operating website from 'Beautiful Baghdad'](#)

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[Food program starts today](#)

The Housing Authority of Henry County (HAHC) is working to make sure that no children in Kewanee go hungry when school is out this summer.

[Police blotter](#)

Accidents