

**Today's Issue...**

- ▶ [Page One](#)
- ▶ [City](#)
- ▶ [Regional](#)
- ▶ [Sports](#)
- ▶ [Weather](#)
- ▶ [Obituaries](#)
- ▶ [World News](#)
- ▶ [Entertainment](#)
- ▶ [Town Hall](#)
- ▶ [Stock Quotes](#)
- ▶ [Health News](#)



- ▶ [Shopper](#)
- ▶ [Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [About Us](#)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Illinois Lottery](#)
- ▶ [e-mail](#)

**Search The Web**



- [Web Directory](#)
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- [White Pages](#)
- [Meet Someone](#)
- [My Page](#)
- [City Guide](#)
- [Lottery Results](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Movie Listings](#)
- [Maps/Directions](#)
- [Horoscope](#)
- [Greeting Cards](#)



## Galva guardsmen may be nearing end of tour

By DAVE CLARKE *Of The Star Courier*

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- With the one-year anniversary of their send-off ceremony at Galva High School just a few days away, and seven months of active duty in Iraq under their belts, the light may be faintly glimmering at the end of the tunnel for the Galva National Guard unit.

Maj. Michael Kessel, commander of the unit, has announced a change of address for the 120 men of Battery F, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, Illinois National Guard, which will soon be moving to a new location north of Baghdad and is asking families and friends not to send large items for Christmas since they may be making preparations to head home after the holidays. Where they are moving and when cannot be released for security reasons.

Battery F has been based in Camp Black Jack, part of Camp Victory North, near Baghdad International Airport. According to Maj. Kessel, the unit will still be part of the 1st Cavalry Division and Task Force Baghdad, but will be returning to the 39th Infantry Brigade, Arkansas National Guard with whom they trained at Fort Hood, Texas, last fall. The unit has been part of the 4-5 Air Defense Artillery since arriving in Iraq.

The soldiers said farewell to their families and friends at a moving ceremony held Nov. 1, 2003 on the Galva High School athletic field before departing for Fort Hood.

Maj. Kessel also said deadlines for the mailing of

Christmas packages from the states to Iraq was just released by the Military Postal Service Agency.

The recommended deadlines are:

- Parcel post: Nov. 13
- Space available: Nov. 27
- Parcel airlift mail: Dec. 4
- Priority and First Class letters/cards: Dec. 6

Express mail is not available for Iraq.

Effective Monday, Nov. 1, the new address for members of the Galva National Guard unit will be:

Soldier's Name

F/202 ADA

Camp Cooke

APO, AE 09378

Kessel said current (emphasizing 'current') plans call for the unit to start preparations for movement back to the states a few weeks after Christmas, so he recommended not sending large items, "as there will probably not be sufficient room to pack them and the soldier will have to mail them back," Kessel said.

"Anything can change and it is possible we will be extended past the current planned time

of departure. And before anyone asks, no, I cannot tell you when that is," the commander said.

---

[ [Home Page](#) ] [ [City News](#) ] [ [Regional News](#) ] [ [Sports](#) ] [ [Obituaries](#) ] [ [Weather](#) ] [ [Editorial](#) ] [ [Photo Gallery](#) ] [ [Classifieds](#) ] [ [Calendar](#) ] [ [Archives](#) ] [ [Shopper](#) ] [ [Illinois Lottery](#) ] [ [About Us](#) ] [ [Email Us](#) ] [ [Health](#) ] [ [Entertainment](#) ] [ [Town Hall](#) ] [ [World News](#) ] [ [Stocks/Market](#) ]

---