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KEWANEE
ILLINOIS

Troops invited to NFL game

By TAMMY WILKINSON *Of The Star Courier*

DALLAS -- Army officials from the 39th SIB Public Affairs office at Fort Hood, Texas, have identified a group of 20 soldiers from Battery F, 2002nd Air Defense Artillery, headquartered in Galva, that will be taking part in the halftime show at the Dallas Cowboys-Miami Dolphins game on Thanksgiving Day.

Staff Sgt. Rebekahmae Bruns of the public affairs office at Fort Hood said the soldiers are part of a group of 220 soldiers who received tickets from the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders to attend the game.

Soldiers from the 39th Brigade and the 1st Cavalry Division will be in the halftime show.

On Nov. 2, 120 soldiers from Battery F in Galva were mobilized to Fort Hood with the 39th Brigade and the 1st Cavalry Division.

Local soldiers attending the game will be Sgt. Jason Adams, Toulon; Sgt. Nolan Anderson, Rantoul; SPC Adam Blakeslee, Sterling; Sgt. Thomas Brock, Bloomington; Sgt. Michael Finney, Sterling; Sgt. Derrick Glisan, Galva, PFC. Joseph Graham, Streator; Sgt. Paul Hanway, Andover; Sgt. Joseph Hardin, St. Louis, Mo.; Sgt. Bruce Hartman, Prophetstown; SPC Bobby Cibodeaux, Rockford; SPC Jeremy Kobbeman, Sterling; SPC Paul Lilley, Polo; SPC Chase Price, Kewanee; Sgt. Christopher

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Rodgers, Oneida; SPC David Rodriguez, Rockford; Sgt. John Taylor, Galesburg; Sgt. Ranal Vandeganachte, Kewanee; SPC Jason Wittenauer, Amboy; and SPC Larry Wolf, Kewanee.

Toulon mayor Al Hill shared an e-mail he recently received from Jason Adams about the game:

"The other night, my platoon sergeant stopped by our room and asked for a word with me.

Immediately, I wondered what I had done wrong. He informed me that I have been selected along with five others from my platoon to attend the Thanksgiving Day football game between the Cowboys and the Dolphins in Dallas. We were chosen based on job performance, marksmanship scores, appearance and military bearing.

"We get to go to Dallas the night before the game, stay in a hotel and party in Dallas the night before, then attend the game the next day.

"If that in itself is not awesome, all expenses are paid! Travel to and from, hotel and game ticket. But wait, there's more! We are to attend the game in uniform and we will be on the sidelines, and on the field at some point during the game! Rumor is that we will be presenting the colors. But if rumors could fly, this place would be an airport. I about wet my pants when SPC told me about this. I have never been so openly recognized before in my life! What an honor!"

Staff Sgt. Larry Comer of Galva said even though he was not selected to go to the game, he and six other soldiers at Fort Hood plan to celebrate their Thanksgiving with a tailgate party in the parking lot at Texas Stadium.

Comer and Sgt. Jason Wittenauer, of Amboy; SPC Eric Werkheiser, of Galva; Sgt. Shawn McClure, Oswega; Sgt. Tracy Doubler, Des Moines, Iowa; Chris Hess, Aledo; and Capt. Greg Reinhardt, of Smithton, had rented a vehicle and purchased tickets for the game.

Comer said the group's Thanksgiving meal would consist of a

grill and a cooler being put to use in the parking lot. Hot dogs and brats are to be the main course.

He said the adventure would begin at 4 this afternoon with the end of their scheduled training before the holiday. The soldiers are being given Thursday and Friday off for the holiday.

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