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Galva, IL

More Local Troops Coming Home

Maria Wallenfeldd has been waiting patiently for the day when her 21 year-old son Tommy will step off an Army bus and into her arms. Now that day is about to arrive.

The Foxtrot Battery of the 202nd Air Defense Artillery of the Illinois National Guard is currently debriefing in Oklahoma, just hours from home.

"He's coming home and I'm so happy and excited," says Maria. "I think the town is too. We're just thanking God for him coming home safe."

The unit based in Galva, Illinois deployed back in November of 2003, reaching Iraq last March where they've been serving for the past year. They've dealt with some of the toughest assignments working right in the Iraqi streets. But now, Mayor Don Hagaman says, the whole town is ready for their return.

"I think it's relief, it's excitement, it's anticipation all rolled into one," says Mayor Hagaman.

Galva's mayor has encouraged everyone to put up ribbons and signs to show these heroes what their service means to citizens back here in the states.

The best estimate on the battalion's arrival is this Sunday although the unit's leaders are still waiting on official word.



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