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Local community prepares for return of 202nd

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By [Kelly Hessedal](#)

KEWANEE - In just one week a Henry County national guard unit comes home from Iraq.

The 202nd Air Defense Artillery unit based out of Galva left for Iraq in late 2003. Friends and family spent the day hanging decorations all over Kewanee. Ribbons and signs are draped up and down Main Street to welcome the soldiers back home.

"I hope they appreciate it as much as we appreciate them," said Cindy VanDeGenachte. She's one of 50 people who dressed the city with yellow banners and ribbons today. Her son, Staff Sergeant Randy VanDeGenachte is among the soldiers coming home.

"We had one serious injury, several minor ones," she said. "We had no deaths which is unbelievable."

The unit spent much of it's time guarding Airport Road in the Green Zone. It's an area the Bush Administration has coined one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq.



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