

FAMILY READINESS GROUP and INFORMATION

As of 13 SEP 2003

Centurion Families,

You will be pleased to hear that all members of 1-34 Armor Battalion arrived safely in Kuwait. The soldiers in the battalion flew to Kuwait on many separate flights after a final send-off speech by various members of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) command group.

After arriving in Kuwait, the battalion was sent to a Forward Staging Area out in the Kuwaiti desert. This staging area is familiar to many soldiers from their last deployment for Operation Desert Spring in 2001 and has been established for many years. The soldiers are housed in climate controlled tents, have access to showers, running water and dining facilities that have been serving three hot meals a day. Temperatures have been in the 110s during the day and 90s at night with no precipitation.

During our stay in the Forward Staging Area, the soldiers have been conducting a multitude of tasks. They have been preparing their vehicles and equipment for movement to Iraq, conducting additional weapons training, and executing small unit level training in preparation for executing their missions. They have performed well and you should be proud.

The battalion will soon begin its movement to our area of operations in Iraq. Communications other than normal mail will be limited. We will attempt to establish better communications from Iraq based on available resources, time and ongoing missions as soon as we can.

Centurions—Duty First!

LTC Jeff Swisher
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