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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bravo Battery Soldiers now settled in Iraq

By Spc. Charles Butler, unit public affairs representative

CAMP CEDAR II, Iraq –After months of training and preparation, South Dakota’s Bravo Battery has finally made its way to Iraq. The long and awaited journey was complete when the last of the unit members made it to Camp Cedar II in mid-January.

“I’m happy to have finally made to Iraq,” said Spc. Tyson Humphrey of Canistota. “It is nice to have something besides a tent to sleep in and have a good meal at the chow hall.”

The Bravo Battery Soldiers were quite impressed with their living quarters known as “CHUs” or container housing units. Soldiers could not have been happier moving into their new homes after living out of duffle bags and sleeping on cots for the past three to four weeks. The CHU offer two-man rooms with a little area to stretch out.

“The CHUs are great,” said Spc. David Shepard of Pierre. “Living in these CHUs beats a tent any day.”

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, is currently stationed at the Convoy Support Center - Cedar II near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, which is approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The 180-member unit will conduct various security missions for the next 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After leaving the U.S., the Soldiers spent the first three weeks in Kuwait and brushed up on the skills that they learned earlier at Camp Shelby, Miss. Part of that training involved manning an entry control point (ECP), where all vehicles entering are searched and scanned for weapons and explosives.

“ECP training was the best training so far,” said Sgt. Darin Huwe of Dell Rapids. “There was plenty of time to acclimate to the weather but I didn’t expect it to be so cold.”

Expecting the desert heat, most were surprised when the temperature dropped one day to the mid 20’s.

Soldiers also practiced driving routes to ensure they were all clear of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and any other threats that they could encounter.

After moving from Kuwait into Iraq, the South Dakota Soldiers took over the mission held by A Company, 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Virginia Army National Guard, allowing these Virginia troops to return home to their families.

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Photo Cut Line: 20080105-A-0933B-001: Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, are briefed before going through route security training on Jan. 5 in Kuwait. (Army photo by Spc. Charles Butler)(Released)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080105-A-0933B-001.JPG>

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