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West Tennessee Guardsmen arrive in Kuwait

NASHVILLE – Almost 200 Tennesseans from the National Guard's 1174th Transportation Company, from Memphis, arrived in Kuwait on June 3 to begin their final phase of training before moving into northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the past week, the soldiers were being briefed on current missions, receiving updated intelligence reports, conducting advanced weapons training and acclimating to the desert environment.

“All the training received in Kuwait is challenging due to the weather and time change,” said 1st Lt. Daniel Isley, from Spring Hill, Platoon Leader for the 1174th. “Soon we’ll leave for northern Iraq to conduct final transition training with the unit we’re replacing, then we’ll execute our wartime mission.”

Before deploying to Kuwait, the unit conducted 44 days of training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. “We received a lot of good training preparing us for what we could encounter in Iraq,” Isley said. “It culminated in a final training exercise that pushed the unit to its limits.”

The unit feels fully prepared for the mission ahead.

“We’ve already completed some outstanding training at home and in Indiana,” said Capt. Chris Kirkman, from Cordova, commander of the 1174th. “That training has been tough and realistic, and we’re ready to get into Iraq and begin our missions.”

The 1174th is a medium truck unit whose primary mission is transporting fuel and cargo. It is composed of soldiers primarily from the Memphis area, with 60 volunteers joining the unit from throughout Middle and East Tennessee.

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