

Kuwait update

January 17, 2004

Hi everyone!

Still in Kuwait. Sorry I have not had a chance to respond to emails....13,000 people at this camp now with about 15 computers. Very limited access. Access should be better from Baghdad. Around end of this month we will convoy into Baghdad. We are very anxiously anticipating this convoy as it will almost inevitably result in the first casualties from our unit. Supposedly a very dangerous hostile convoy due to IED's (improvised explosive devices) and gunfire. I will be the one doctor for about 150-200 vehicles on the convoy. I will have 2 physician assistants and medics to help me.

On the first day of arrival the outside perimeter of our camp was attacked and exchange of gunfire occurred! A very warm welcome indeed! Since then we have been dressed in full battle gear....a new look for me....some of you may not recognize it :)



Also enclosed is a picture of our luxurious tent. Home sweet Kuwait!



Now we have a water shortage as well. Thus showers are rationed. If our weapons do not kill the enemy....our body odor definitely will!!!

Otherwise been busy preparing/training the medics. The assigned trauma surgeon for this camp had to go on emergency leave so I am also carrying the trauma pager for 13,000 people here. Also qualifying on my M16. The other day we went to the firing range but had to cancel because all the camel got in the way. Kind of comical.

Take care everyone!

Will send more pictures from Baghdad....