

From One Suburb to Another!

November 15, 2004

Family and Friends,

I have landed "safely" into Baghdad today after a brief leave to the U.S. My leave was very nice although short. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to contact or see everyone I wanted to. Actually, I did not expect to receive leave and even my parents did not know I was coming until I knocked on their door at 11:30 PM a few days ago! That was definitely a sight to see! After almost giving them a stroke, I realized I probably should avoid doing such things! After standing at the door staring with their jaws dropped to the ground, I politely asked them "can I come in now?".

Much of my time was spent hoarding good food, sleeping on a mattress, and showering. Ahhhh, luxury. It's amazing how much faster time flies by in the States than out here! After spending a few days in suburbia, I now return to the joyful land of Baghdad....

Lucky for me, here too I get to experience suburbia! In a matter of hours I will fly by Blackhawk to a "suburb" of Baghdad. I have been selected to provide forward medical coverage for ongoing missions in the streets of Fallujah. The fighting remains intense there. Although I will find out more after I arrive, I am told I will be living in tents and out of our vehicles with no showers, limited electricity, and no internet. We will not be able to receive mail from now either. You may not hear from me for some time possibly so please keep in mind at this point, no news is good news!

You are in my thoughts.

Sudip