



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2017

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TO SEND OFF 300 AIRMEN FOR DEPLOYMENT

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, announced approximately 300 members of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Airlift Wing are preparing for deployment in support of operations in the Middle East.

A send-off ceremony will be held at the Bradley Air National Guard Base Hangar in East Granby, Conn. on Saturday, February 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. Media are invited to attend.

Based in East Granby, the 103rd Airlift Wing will be responsible for supporting ongoing Expeditionary Combat Support operations in the Middle East – including tactical airlift, maintenance, security and logistics support.

The 103rd's rich history includes three decades flying the A-10 Warthog and 85 total years as a fighter group. This marks the Wing's first large-scale deployment since undergoing conversion to the C-130H Hercules air frame in 2013.

More recently, the unit has deployed members and equipment to support multiple missions in the Middle East, providing support in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

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"The Connecticut Air National Guard has come from a future shrouded in uncertainty to a large-scale deployment of troops in a weapon system with long term viability," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "This deployment is a testament to the years of hard work performed by our Airmen, and I look forward to their return from this momentous deployment."

This ceremony marks the second of two sendoffs of Connecticut Air National Guard personnel. In November 2016, 100 Airmen of the 103rd Air Control Squadron also deployed to the Middle East.

Media wishing to attend must coordinate for access to the base.

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Directions to 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT 06105:

From I-91, Northbound and Southbound: Take exit 40 (Bradley International Airport, 20 West). Follow Route 20, take 4th exit (20W, East Granby, Granby) bear right. At the first light, turn onto Bradley Park Road. Go to the end of the road and take a right on Nicholson Road. At the next stop sign you will be in front of the base. All vehicles are subject to search.

From the Northwest Corner: Take Rte. 318E (from Rte. 44 between Winsted and New Hartford) to Rte. 219N to Rte. 20E to Bradley International Airport. Turn left onto Bradley Park Road. Go to the end of the road and take a right on Nicholson Road. Watch for signs to the Air National Guard Base. Stop at the guard post and give your name. The guard will give you directions to the classroom.

Base Access/Media Parking: Available. Media wishing to attend **MUST** coordinate with Maj. Mike Petersen at 860-524-4857 or michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil.

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