



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2016

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TO SEND OFF 100 AIRMEN FOR DEPLOYMENT

First Air National Guard unit to deploy in Fiscal Year 2017

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, today announced that 100 members of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Air Control Squadron are preparing for deployment in support of operations in the Middle East.

A send-off ceremony will be held at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

This deployment marks the sixth time that the 103rd ACS has been activated to support contingency operations since September 11, 2001. Based in Orange, the unit is commanded by Lt. Col. John Sorgini of Boston, Mass., and will be responsible for the command, control and air battle management of the coalition airspace in the region.

The unit was formed as the 103rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&W), first organized in Hartford in September of 1946. It is the oldest unit of its type in the United States.

The unit has deployed to nearly every corner of the world in support of military air operations. First activated for the Korean War in 1951, the unit also supported the Berlin Wall Crisis in 1961.

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More recently, the unit has participated in every major air campaign of the last two decades, deploying members and equipment to Turkey, Colombia, Germany, Portugal, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Hungary before focusing efforts on Middle Eastern operations in support of the Global War on Terror.

"Time and time again, the men and women of the 103rd Air Control Squadron have shown why they are the premier ACS in the United States Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "These are airmen who look forward to the opportunity to serve their state and country, and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishment upon their return."

This ceremony marks the first of two sendoffs of Connecticut Air National Guard personnel. Another 300 Airmen are set to deploy to the Middle East over the next six months, marking the largest deployment of Connecticut National Guard troops since 2011.

This event is open to the media.



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Directions to 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105:

Going East on I-84: Take the Capitol Ave. Exit 48B. Take a right at the end of the ramp, and your first right on to Armory Street Extension. The Legislative Office Buildings will be on your right.

Going West on I-84: Take the Asylum Street Exit 48. Turn right at the light, then immediately take the left fork, which is Farmington Avenue. Turn left at the next light onto Broad Street. After one light, the State Armory will be on your left, take the next left into the Legislative Office Building driveway and continue left to park alongside the east side of the building (between the State Armory and LOB Garage)

From I-91, Northbound and Southbound: Take the Capitol Area Exit 29A. Follow the Whitehead Highway; go halfway around the rotary onto Elm St., left onto Trinity St., and bear right onto Capitol Ave. Take the first right after the I-84 on/off ramps and continue straight to the State Armory.

Parking: Limited parking is available on the EAST side of the Armory (between the Armory and LOB Parking Garage). Television production vehicles must be coordinated with Capt. Mike Petersen at 860-524-4857 or michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil.

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