



# NEWS RELEASE

Capt. Mike Petersen, Director of Public Affairs, Connecticut National Guard

OFFICE: 860-524-4857 CELL: 860-883-5336

EMAIL: [Michael.T.Petersen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Michael.T.Petersen.mil@mail.mil)

WEB: [www.ct.ng.mil/](http://www.ct.ng.mil/)



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 11, 2016

## CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT RETURNS FROM KOSOVO

*Marks the return of a third Connecticut Guard unit in the last three months*

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces the scheduled return of 90 soldiers from the 169th General Support Aviation Battalion after an 11-month deployment to Kosovo.

Soldiers are expected to be united with their families **Saturday, March 12, 2016, between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.** at the National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility, 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, Conn.

**This event is open to the media. Media will not be allowed on post until 1:00 p.m.**

The 1-169 GSAB, based in Windsor Locks and commanded by Lt. Col. Jeffrey LaPierre of Prospect, departed Connecticut in April and reported to Ft. Hood, Texas for further training and validation. The unit then deployed to Kosovo, responsible for transportation support and aerial medical evacuation while also providing maintenance and fueling capabilities.

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When southern Kosovo suffered from forest fires in Sept. 2015, the 1-169 GSAB provided support to local authorities by dumping buckets full of water to help extinguish the flames. According to reports, the fires in the mountainous region did not affect any homes or injure any local citizens.

“We are extremely proud of the work these men and women performed while away from their families, friends and careers for the past year,” said Martin. “It is plain to see the training they accomplished prior to their deployment really paid off.”

With the 1-169 GSAB’s return, the Connecticut National Guard now has nearly 60 Guardsmen mobilized and deployed around the globe.

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## **Media Advisory**

The arrival of the 169th GSAB at the **Connecticut National Guard’s Army Aviation Support Facility, 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks**, is open to the media. **Media are welcome to arrive any time after 1:15 p.m.** Please present identification at the main entrance gate and you will be further directed.

**Directions:** I-91N from Hartford to Exit 40 (Route 20/Bradley Airport Connector), then take the 2nd exit (Route 75), RIGHT at the end of the exit ramp. Follow Route 75 north to the Valero Service Station light. At that light, take a LEFT. Come to the stop sign and take a RIGHT. Follow the airport perimeter road for approximately a half mile to the Army Aviation Support Facility. The main entrance will be on your left, immediately past the Huey helicopter on static display.