



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2015

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AVIATION UNIT TO DEPLOY

Aviation unit is the third Connecticut National Guard Unit to deploy in six weeks

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, announced that the 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion will physically ship out to mobilization station on Wednesday.

The unit will fly from the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and depart for Fort Hood, Texas, for further training and validation.

The 90 soldiers of the 1-169 GSAB will then follow on to Kosovo to provide aerial medical evacuation, transportation support and fuel testing. The unit will also provide maintenance and fueling capabilities. Based in Windsor Locks, the unit is commanded by Lt. Col. Jeffrey LaPierre of Prospect.

"The experienced leadership and motivated soldiers of the 1-169 give me the highest confidence that they will excel in Kosovo," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "For two years, the unit has trained at a high level to prepare for this opportunity, and I have no doubt they will perform at the same high level."

In their training leading up to mobilization, the unit had the opportunity to train with Army Reserve units from California and Florida who will be deploying alongside the 1-169 GSAB.

This ceremony marks the third Connecticut Army National Guard unit to deploy in less than six weeks, and brings the number of soldiers deployed around the world to 185.

This event is open to the media starting at 10 a.m.

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CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD



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Directions to the Army Aviation Support Facility:

From I-91 N: Take Exit 40 (Bradley Connector), then take 2nd exit (Route 75), RIGHT at the end of the exit. Follow Route 75 north to the Valero Service Station light. At that light, take a LEFT. Come to stop sign and take a RIGHT. Follow the airport perimeter road (Light Lane) for approximately ½ mile to the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF). The facility gate/entrance will be on your left. Contact the AASF Guard Shack at 860-292-4515 for assistance in getting to the facility if lost.

Media Advisory Notes: Any media outlet interested in broadcasting live from the AASF, please contact Capt. Mike Petersen at 860-524-4857 or 860-883-5336 in advance for coordination.

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