



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 16, 2018

## CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TO SEND OFF 30 GUARDSMEN FOR HISTORIC FIRST DEPLOYMENT

*Windsor Locks-based Medical Evacuation Detachment to deploy for first-ever overseas mission*

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, announced 30 members of the Connecticut Army National Guard's Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment are preparing for deployment in support of operations in Southwest Asia.

**A send-off ceremony will be held at the Windsor Locks Readiness Center in Windsor Locks, Conn. on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Media are invited to attend.**

Based in Windsor Locks and commanded by 1st Lt. Matthew Barringer of South Glastonbury, Conn., the detachment will be responsible for providing aeromedical evacuation, extensive en-route critical care and medical support while moving patients.

The detachment is also the Connecticut National Guard's newest unit, recently activated in September 2016 and providing the CTNG with a brand new capability. This will be the unit's first overseas deployment.

The detachment flies the HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter, an aircraft specifically outfitted for medical evacuation.

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"To receive your first medical evacuation aircraft in 2016 and be fully prepared for a deployment less than two years later is a testament to the hard work and dedication of those in our Aviation community," Maj. Gen. Martin said. "To be considered for selection to this unit is not easy, and I have full confidence that the time these Guardsmen committed to becoming fully qualified will pay off in defense of our nation."

**Media wishing to attend must coordinate for access. Please see below for details.**

**Directions to the Windsor Locks Readiness Center:**

**From I-91 N: Take Exit 40 (Bradley Connector), then take 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 one half mile to the Windsor Locks Readiness Center. The facility gate/entrance will be on your left. Contact the Guard Shack at 860-292-4515 for assistance in getting to the facility if lost.**

**Media Advisory Notes: Due to security concerns, prior coordination is required to enter the Windsor Locks Readiness Center. Those wishing to attend must notify Maj. Mike Petersen in advance in order to gain access. For security purposes, those who do not coordinate will be turned away. Maj. Petersen can be reached at 860-524-4857 or at [michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil).**

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