



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 25, 2018

## CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD TO SEND OFF 80 DEPLOYING GUARDSMEN

### *Groton-based Aviation Maintenance Group second unit to deploy this summer*

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, the Adjutant General and commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, announced 80 members of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group are preparing for deployment in support of operations in Kuwait and Afghanistan.

**A send-off ceremony will be held at the William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, Conn. on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Media are invited to attend.**

Based in Groton and commanded by Col. Raymond Chicoski, the group will be responsible for providing theater-level, rotary-wing maintenance in support of Operations Spartan Shield, Inherent Resolve and Freedom Sentinel.

The unit last deployed in 2015, with 65 Guardsmen conducting a similar mission also requiring a split of forces between Afghanistan and Kuwait. Only four TASMGS exist in the nation, and Connecticut's is responsible for providing technical and mechanical support to the rotary-wing assets of 14 states.

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"Over the last ten months, we have seen nearly 200 Connecticut Army National Guardsmen deploy after having every single unit home for almost a year," Maj. Gen. Evon said. "Our Guardsmen used that time wisely, training hard for potential future missions to remain prepared and at the ready. I have extreme confidence that the 1109<sup>th</sup> will proudly represent Connecticut while deployed."

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

**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 Maj. Mike Petersen at 860-524-4857 or [michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil).

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