



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 19, 2016

## CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD OFFICIALLY WELCOMES HOME AVIATION BATTALION FROM KOSOVO DEPLOYMENT

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces a Connecticut National Guard unit will be welcomed home in a formal Freedom Salute ceremony at the William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, **Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.**

The 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion, based in Windsor Locks, Conn. and commanded by Lt. Col. Jeffrey LaPierre of Prospect, deployed 90 soldiers to Kosovo in April 2015. The unit provided aerial medical evacuation, transportation support and fuel testing during their nearly year-long deployment.

Among the unit's numerous accomplishments, it provided support to local authorities when forest fires broke out in southern Kosovo. Dumping water from UH-60 helicopters to help extinguish the flames, the unit contributed significantly towards preserving human life and limiting property damage.

"Welcoming home a third unit in less than three months is reason enough to celebrate," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "This is our chance to thank and formally recognize each Guardsman and their families for all of the hard work, dedication and effort put in to making this mission a success."

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The return of the 1-169 GSAB reduces the number of deployed Connecticut National Guardsmen to the nearly 40 members of the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group currently stationed in southwest Asia.

**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). Parking for television production vehicles must be coordinated with Capt. Mike Petersen at 860-524-4857 or [michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil).