



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2016

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT RETURNS FROM MIDDLE EAST

Marks the return of the last Connecticut Army National Guard Unit Serving Overseas

HARTFORD, Conn. - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announced the scheduled return of 65 soldiers assigned to the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group after a nearly yearlong deployment to the Middle East.

Soldiers are expected to be reunited with their families **Friday, August 26, 2016, between 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.** at the National Guard's Windsor Locks Readiness Center, 85-300 Light Lane, Windsor Locks, Conn.

This event is open to the media. Media will not be allowed on post until 1:30 p.m.

The 1109th TASMG, based in Groton and commanded by Col. Vincent Vannoorbeeck of Prospect, departed Connecticut in October 2015 and conducted rotary-wing maintenance in support of NATO's Resolute Support Mission. Much like the unit's last deployment in 2012, this mission required a split of forces that saw deployed Soldiers work in both Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Only four TASMG's exist nationwide, and Connecticut's is responsible for providing technical and mechanical support to the rotary-wing assets of 14 states.

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The return of TASMG is significant. It marks only the second time since the 2003 start of Operation Iraqi Freedom that all Connecticut Army National Guard units find themselves on United States soil.

“We take great pride in the excellent work Col. Vannoorbeeck and his Soldiers did throughout this deployment,” said Martin. “The fact that their return means we have every unit home, even if for just a short period of time, is a great feeling.”

The Connecticut Air National Guard is expected to deploy nearly 400 Airmen to the Middle East later this year.

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Media Advisory

The arrival of the 1109th TASMG 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 1:30 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.