



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 26, 2016

## FORMAL WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR TWO CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces two Connecticut National Guard units will be welcomed home in a formal Freedom Salute ceremony at the William A. O'Neill Armory, Hartford, **Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.**

The 143rd Regional Support Group, based in Middletown, Conn. and commanded by Col. John Wiltse of Berlin, deployed approximately 35 soldiers to Afghanistan. The unit was responsible for commanding a diverse, multi-coalition organization of over 500 soldiers and civilians on a base comprised of more than 2,500 NATO personnel from 38 nations.

The 192nd Military Police Battalion, based in Niantic and commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Deal of Hampton, deployed approximately 55 soldiers to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of detainee operations, responsible for administrative, operations and training support while also conducting detainee movement operations.

The deployment of the 143rd RSG was unprecedented. Traditionally, a National Guard unit has 18 to 24 months to prepare for a mission, but an immediate need placed the unit, its soldiers, families and employers on a truncated timetable.

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"The paths that led to these two missions were drastically different, but the results were the same: success from professional Guardsmen," said Maj. Gen. Martin. "It is a testament to the hard work of the men and women who, for nearly a year, left behind their families, friends and careers. The results speak for themselves, and I could not be prouder of their efforts."

Over the next several months, the Connecticut National Guard is preparing to host another Freedom Salute Ceremony for the men and women of the 1-169 General Support Aviation Battalion, who returned from Kosovo in March and the return of the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, currently deployed to 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).