



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Army National Guard Aviators Deploy to Iraq
Guard members will be transporting supplies and personnel during deployment

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—Thirty-three aviators from the Alaska Army National Guard will be deploying to Iraq for approximately nine months to provide logistics support as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A departure ceremony is set for April 3 at 10 a.m. at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Fort Richardson. The community is welcome to join friends and family in bidding the deploying Guard members farewell.

The Guard members, from F Company, 1/207th Aviation, will be transporting cargo, equipment and personnel across Iraq and Kuwait using the C-23 Sherpa fixed-wing aircraft, which the company flies here in Alaska. The Sherpa aircraft are able to take small loads and go to some locations where the larger aircraft of Air Force transports don't go.

“This is a proven company of Alaska Army National Guard aviators,” said Lt. Gen (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “The company most recently deployed for six months in 2007 and performed to the highest standards resulting in a successful deployment. We wish them another safe and successful overseas tour.”

During their deployment, they will be utilizing aircraft already in theater and do not plan on taking aircraft from Alaska.

The deploying Soldiers hail from Anchorage, Eagle River, the Mat-Su Valley, Juneau and Fairbanks.

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Reporters and Editors: You are welcome to attend the departure ceremony. Please be at the Fort Richardson main gate, off the Glenn Highway, by 9:30 a.m. and call 428-6031 ahead to arrange an escort onto Fort Richardson.