

Office of Public Affairs  
Main: 907-428-6031  
mvapublicaffairs@alaska.gov  
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali  
Ft Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800



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## MEDIA ADVISORY

Alaska National Guard  
Release 16-045

**For Today  
July 6, 2016**

### **Alaska Air Guardsmen return from deployment in Middle East**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** – Two aircraft and approximately 60 Alaska Air Guardsmen with the 144th Airlift Squadron, 176th Maintenance Group and several support units are scheduled to return tonight around 6 p.m. from a four-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Two additional aircraft and 40 other deployers returned yesterday.

Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve is comprised of more than 60 partners who contribute to the operation aimed at militarily defeating ISIL in Iraq and Syria. More information may be found here: <http://www.inherentresolve.mil/About>

Most of the returning Airmen either operate or maintain the C-130H “Hercules” tactical-airlift aircraft – an aircraft which may soon be divested from the 176th Wing.

Tactical airlift has been one of the 176th Wing’s core missions since 1957, when the Air Guard’s emphasis shifted from air combat to airlift. However, a current proposal at the national level has been put forth to divest the 176th Wing of its C-130H tactical-airlift aircraft.

The current proposal was put forward and recommended by retired Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, Director of the Air National Guard, to the Total Force Continuum (a board of Active, Reserve, and Guard members tasked to try to balance requirements, capabilities, risk and cost regarding strategic plans and programs). The Total Force Continuum is taking action to push forward Lt. Gen. Clarke's proposal. As such, this deployment could conceivably be the last for the 144th Airlift Squadron, at least in its current form.

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#### **Details:**

**What:** 176th Wing members return from deployment to Kuwait

**When:** **Wednesday, July 6, 2016, currently scheduled for 6 p.m. arrival**

**Where:** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

**Note:** Media interested in attending must call 907-552-3959 to RSVP no later than Wednesday, July 6, by 4 p.m. Please leave a message with name, affiliation, and a phone number for us to reach you if arrival time changes.

We will meet at the Boniface Gate visitor’s center at 5:20 p.m. for escort to the event.