

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2017

By Maj. John Callahan, 176th Wing public affairs

Release: 17-060

Alaska Air National Guard helicopter crew and maintainers deploy to support fight against ISIS

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Approximately 60 members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing are deploying to Southwest Asia this week to support Operation Inherent Resolve.

The deployers are helicopter pilots and aircrew with the wing's 210th Rescue Squadron, together with members of the wing's 176th Maintenance Group and 176th Operations Support Squadron. Those deploying this week will join with an advance team of 20 or so already in theater. The deployment is scheduled to last approximately four months.

The deployers will be attached to Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Upon arrival in theater they will join with partner forces in the fight against ISIS (the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria).

"For me, there's no higher calling than saving people's lives when nobody else has the focused training, resources and equipment to go," said Lt. Col. Matthew Harper, commander of the 210th Rescue Squadron. "I'm proud to be sending an elite team downrange to conduct combat search and rescue, potentially bringing back isolated personnel to their families."

The 210th Rescue Squadron flies the HH-60G "Jolly" Pavehawk helicopter, a version of the HH-60 Black Hawk modified to specialize in the recovery of personnel under hostile conditions, including search and rescue.

###

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.



Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Aerial Port Flight load an HH-60G Pave Hawk search-and-rescue helicopter into the belly of a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane here early in the morning of Sept. 26, 2017. Approximately 80 members of the 176th Wing deployed to the Middle East to join the fight against ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. John Callahan)



Lt. Col. Matthew Harper, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron, interview with media crews here early in the morning of Sept. 26, 2017. Members of the 210th, along with members of the 176th Maintenance Group and the 176th Operations Support Flight, deployed to the Middle East to join the fight against ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. John Callahan)