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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Air National Guard unit will mobilize**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Members from the 114<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, South Dakota Air National Guard, will mobilize on Jan. 3, 2008, for up to one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 114<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron will send 31 members to Fort Lewis, Wash., in early January for mission training prior to deployment. Upon completion, the Airmen will return to Sioux Falls and will be recognized with a formal ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Joe Foss Field.

The unit will then deploy to Southwest Asia for about six months to perform a variety of security, force protection and law-enforcement duties for U.S. and allied forces.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

More than 150 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are serving in a non-active duty status in South Dakota and continue to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.

About 180 Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery are currently preparing for deployment at Camp Shelby, Miss., and will deploy to Iraq in early 2008.

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