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January 24, 2008  
PAO 01-24-08

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Thank you from Soldiers**

*A letter of appreciation by Major Kory Knight  
Commander, Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery*

Jan. 19, 2008

To the families, friends and communities of Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery:

On behalf of the Soldiers of Bravo Battery, I'd like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support that has been truly humbling and greatly appreciated.

The commitment of support displayed immediately upon Bravo Battery receiving its alert for mobilization, during the activation ceremony at the Sioux Falls Arena, and recently in giving the amazing gift of a chartered aircraft, which brought our Soldiers home for Christmas, has been nothing short of monumental.

We cannot thank you enough for the awesome Christmas gift of enjoying the holiday with family and friends. The Soldiers continue to be amazed and appreciative of your generosity and support. The memories of this past holiday will be treasured as we spend the next few months so far away from home.

Once again, on behalf of the Soldiers of the Bravo Battery, THANK YOU!

Major Kory Knight and First Sergeant Ty Holt  
Convoy Support Center Cedar II, Iraq

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

**NOTE:** Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, is currently stationed at Convoy Support Center Cedar II near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, which is approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. Since the unit's arrival in early January and for about the next 10 months, the Soldiers of Battery B will be conducting various security missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Traditionally the unit is a multiple-launch rocket system equipped artillery unit that provides a high-mobility automatic system capable of delivering precision counter-fire and suppression of enemy air defenses, light materiel, and personnel targets at ranges from 15 to more than 300 kilometers. The unit's mission in Iraq will not be the traditional mission of the field artillery unit as it is performing a security force mission.

The unit mobilized 180 Soldiers in October and reported to Camp Shelby, Miss., to begin the deployment process spending approximately 10 weeks training prior to deployment to Iraq.

This is the second mobilization for Battery B as the unit was activated in March of 2003 and spent approximately three months at Fort Sill, Okla., preparing for deployment to Iraq. The unit did not deploy due to a change in the requirement of field artillery units during the initial phases of the Iraq War.