

**South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota National Guard units receive alert notification

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and 147th Forward Support Company received an alert notification on Friday, Feb. 22, in preparation for possible mobilization and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The notification does not constitute an official mobilization as the official order to deploy has not occurred. When the official mobilization order is received, it will be published by the South Dakota National Guard.

The purpose of the notification is to provide units with adequate time for training prior to possible mobilization.

If deployed, the South Dakota Army National Guard units will mobilize more than 460 Soldiers in the summer of 2009 to conduct a security force mission in Iraq. This mission will not be the traditional mission of the field artillery unit, which is to provide high-mobility automatic systems 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 alert notification of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company supports the Army Force Generation Model that directly supports the Army's new force structure and is designed to achieve a sustained, more predictable posture to generate trained and ready forces. The model is designed so National Guard and Reserve forces can expect to deploy for up to a year once every five years. This new model will bring more predictability to Soldiers, their families and their employers.

Units and Locations

- Headquarters and Headquarters Section, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Watertown and Sisseton.

- Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Aberdeen.

- Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Salem and Sioux Falls.
- Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Yankton.
- 147th Forward Support Company is located in Mitchell, Sioux Falls and Webster.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 730 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

More than 250 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas throughout Southwest Asia. 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.

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