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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Guardsmen to be honored at deployment ceremony**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation, South Dakota Army National Guard, will be honored at an activation ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, March 28, at the Army Aviation Support Facility next to the Rapid City Regional Airport as they prepare to deploy for 12-month tour in support of NATO's Kosovo Force (K-FOR).

The public is encouraged to attend.

The aviation unit is based in Rapid City at the Army Aviation Support Facility. The 21 Soldiers that will deploy are pilots, flight medics, crew chiefs and flight operations specialists. The Soldiers will travel to Camp Atterbury, Ind., to complete the mobilization process prior to deployment to Kosovo. The unit will train for about two months at Camp Atterbury, one month at the Hohenfels Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany, and spend about nine months in the Balkans.

The detachment will provide medical evacuation support to units throughout Kosovo by responding with the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and onboard medical specialists. The unit plans on deploying with three of its six UH-60s and will be attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 106<sup>th</sup> Aviation, Illinois Army National Guard. Each aircraft is capable of evacuating up to four critically injured patients and can also be used to transport troops and haul cargo.

This will be the unit's third deployment to the Balkans since 2002 and its fourth deployment overseas in same time frame. In 2002, the unit deployed to Bosnia in support of NATO's Stabilization Force and successfully completed a tour in Kosovo in 2003 in support of the K-FOR mission. This past spring, the unit provided humanitarian support with its medical evacuation capability in support of Operation New Horizons in Nicaragua.

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

More than 230 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 4,000 National

Guard men and women are still 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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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721 cell (605) 431-8753.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 189<sup>th</sup> Aviation replaced the 1085<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance) during the recent transformation of South Dakota Army National Guard. The unit's mission and force structure is the same. Only the name has changed.

Federal call-up for South Dakota National Guard units as of March 19, 2008

### **Operation Joint Endeavor (1996-1997)**

129<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment    Bosnia

### **SFOR – KFOR (2003-2004)**

1085<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance)    Bosnia – Feb. 2002/Oct. 2002  
1085<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance)    Kosovo – Sept. 2003/Oct. 2004  
**Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 189<sup>th</sup> Aviation    Kosovo – Will deploy in April 2008**

### **Operation Noble Eagle**

665<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company    Ellsworth Air Force Base and Joe Foss Field – Jan 2003/  
Jan 2005  
Detachment 3, 665<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Co    Fort Sill, Okla. and National Training Center Feb. 2003/  
Nov. 2003

### **Operation Enduring Freedom**

155<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment    Kuwait - June 2002/March 2003  
HHC, 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group    Afghanistan - April 2004/May 2005  
147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade    Afghanistan – June 2006/June 2007  
129<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment    Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar, Atlanta, Tampa – July 2006/  
June 2007  
235<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company    Afghanistan – Oct. 2006/Jan. 2008  
**Det. 48, Operational Support Airlift    Afghanistan – Jan. 2008/ currently deployed**  
**S.D. Embedded Training Team    Afghanistan – Jan. 2008/ currently deployed**  
**114<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron    Kyrgyzstan – Feb. 2008/ currently deployed**

### **Operation Iraqi Freedom**

727<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company    Kuwait-Iraq – Jan 2003/June 2004  
109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion    Iraq – Jan. 2003/Aug. 2003  
740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company    Kuwait-Iraq – Feb. 2003/Oct. 2004  
1742<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company    Iraq – March 2003/Aug. 2004

Company B, 109 <sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion	Iraq – March 2003/June 2004
200 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Company	Iraq – Jan. 2003/June 2004
842 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company	Iraq – March 2003/Nov. 2004
235 <sup>th</sup> Military Police Company	Fort Carson, Colo. – Feb. 2003/Feb. 2004
129 <sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment	Fort Riley, Kan. - March 2003/July 2003
1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery	Fort Sill, Okla. - March 2003/May 2003
C Battery, 2/147 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery	Fort Campbell, Ky. - March 2003/May 2003
114 <sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron	Iraq - March 2003/Sept. 2003
196 <sup>th</sup> Regional Training Institute	Fort Sill, Okla. and Fort Bragg, N.C. – Feb. 2003/Feb. 2004
2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 147 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery	Iraq – Dec. 2003/Feb. 2005
153 <sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion	Iraq – Dec. 2003/Feb. 2005
216 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment (Firefighters)	Iraq – Nov. 2003/Jan. 2005
Det. 3, Company F, 238 <sup>th</sup> Aviation	Iraq – Nov. 2004/Oct. 2005
Det. 3, Company A, 249 <sup>th</sup> Aviation	Iraq – Dec. 2004/Jan. 2006
Battery C, 1/147 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery	Iraq - July 2004/Sept. 2006
114 <sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron	Iraq – Feb. 2006/Sept. 2006
114 <sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing	Iraq – Oct. 2006/Jan. 2007
<b>Det. 3, Company A, 249<sup>th</sup> Aviation</b>	<b>Iraq – Oct. 2007/ currently deployed</b>
<b>Battery B, 1/147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery</b>	<b>Iraq – Oct. 2007/ currently deployed</b>