



State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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For immediate release

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WyMD-11-03

Deployment ceremony for Wyo. Army National Guard Soldiers

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Army National Guard will deploy 31 Soldiers and three UH-60 helicopters to Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 13. The unit's deployment ceremony will be held at the Joint Force Readiness Center Auditorium, located at 5800 Central Ave., at 3 p.m., on Jan. 11.

The mobilization order for C Company, 5th Battalion, 159th General Support Aviation Regiment, is for a 12-month deployment, including two months of predeployment training at Fort Hood, Texas, and 10 months in Afghanistan. They are deploying with elements from F Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment located in Rhode Island and Delaware. This is the third of three annual rotations for C Company.

Lt. Col. Steve Alkire, Wyoming Army National Guard mobilization officer, said "The second rotation returned in June from assisting with operations in Afghanistan. Twenty-two Soldiers deployed in August 2009 for the second rotation."

The 31 Soldiers mobilized for the third rotation will be on federal active duty orders for 400 days. The period of active duty can be extended, based on the U.S. Army's requirements.

The Soldiers to include pilots, crew chiefs, medics and maintenance personnel, are from the Wyoming communities of Cheyenne, Casper, Glenrock, Green River, and Laramie; the Colorado

communities of Clifton, Golden, and Windsor; the Nebraska communities of McCook and North Platte; and Manhattan, Kan.

Charlie Med, as the unit refers to itself, is the most deployed unit in the Wyoming Army National Guard. Among the unit's recent mobilizations are for Operation Noble Eagle, the country's homeland security effort; Operation Iraqi Freedom; Operation Enduring Freedom and the United Nation's mission in Bosnia. The unit has also been activated for fire fighting missions, search and rescue missions and other emergencies in Wyoming and around the world.

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Media planning to attend the event should call 307-772-5253 by noon, Jan. 10, for access to the facility.