



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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National Guard Medivac unit leaving for Afghanistan

NASHVILLE – Tennessee National Guard Soldiers from a 45-man Smyrna-based Air Medivac unit leave Saturday, Feb. 4, on the first leg of a journey taking them to Afghanistan on a one-year deployment.

A deployment ceremony for families and friends will be held at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna at 9 a.m. this Saturday at the Guard's Aviation Support Facility, Hangar 3. Six aircraft and crews are to depart at 10:00 a.m.

The Medivac unit will be utilizing 15 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters already in Afghanistan. Its mission is medical evacuation of US and NATO Forces as well as civilians.

The helicopter unit, nicknamed "Southern Comfort," is officially Detachment 1, Co. C, 1-169th Air Ambulance. They will travel to Fort Hood, Texas, for a period of specialized training before continuing on to Afghanistan.

Members of the Media are invited to attend the Saturday event.

CUTLINES:



Tennessee National Guardsmen from the Smyrna-based Air Medivac unit will be using UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters such as pictured here while deployed to Afghanistan.

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