



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company returns from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

SMYRNA, Tenn. – Soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company stepped back onto Tennessee soil for the first time Saturday, as they returned from their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Family and friends joyfully welcomed home the company's 103 soldiers after they touched down at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna.

After their reunion, the soldiers loaded a bus headed to Lexington, Tenn., where the town held a homecoming celebration in their honor. Accompanied by Patriot Guard Riders and escorted by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Henderson County Sheriff's Department and Lexington Police Department, soldiers of the 251st came home to a reception of cheering neighbors and friends.

Lt. Col. Jennifer Steed, commander of the 168th Military Police Battalion, said the company performed admirably during their detainee operations mission in the heart of Afghanistan. Most importantly, she said, they brought their brothers and sisters home safely.

"They came home with everyone they went over with," she said with a smile as her soldiers reunited with their families.

Steed said units from her battalion, including the 251st, have been continuously deployed since the beginning of the Guard's efforts in Afghanistan. Their return now marks the end of this frequent deployment cycle.

"This is the first time in a long time the 168th has had all of our units at home," Maj. Russell Newbill, the battalion's executive officer said. "Having them home now finally makes the battalion complete."

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STORY BY:

Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood, 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

VIDEO: Tennessee National Guard Welcomes Home 251st Military Police Company

BY: Sgt. James Boyd, 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/320768/tennessee-national-guard-welcomes-home-251st-military-police-company>

CAPTIONS:

140201-A-XR807-001

SMYRNA, Tenn. – Lt. Col. Jennifer Steed, commander of the 168th Military Police Battalion, welcomes soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company as they arrive at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The soldiers arrived to a reception of family and friends welcoming them home after their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160017/251st-military-police-company-returns-afghanistan-homecoming-celebration-planned-7-pm-tonight-lexington-tenn>

140201-A-XR807-002

SMYRNA, Tenn. – A reception of family and friends waits to greet soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company as they arrive at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The soldiers returned home upon completion of their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160018/251st-military-police-company-returns-afghanistan-homecoming-celebration-planned-7-pm-tonight-lexington-tenn>

140201-A-XR807-003

SMYRNA, Tenn. – A reception of family and friends welcomes soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company as they arrive at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The soldiers returned home upon completion of their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood/RELEASED)

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<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160019/251st-military-police-company-returns-afghanistan-homecoming-celebration-planned-7-pm-tonight-lexington-tenn>

140201-A-XR807-004

SMYRNA, Tenn. – Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company arrived at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1, upon completion of their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160020/251st-military-police-company-returns-afghanistan-homecoming-celebration-planned-7-pm-tonight-lexington-tenn>

140201-A-ZZ999-001

SMYRNA, Tenn. – Emotions run high as a large gathering of family and friends welcome home soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company upon their touchdown at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The soldiers returned home after completing a nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua A. Spalding/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160126/tennessee-national-guards-251st-military-police-company-returns-deployment-support-operation-enduring-freedom>

140201-A-ZZ999-002

SMYRNA, Tenn. – A soldier receives a long-awaited embrace at a reception of family and friends welcoming home the Tennessee National Guard's 251st Military Police Company as they arrive at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The soldiers returned home after completing a nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua A. Spalding/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160127/tennessee-national-guards-251st-military-police-company-returns-deployment-support-operation-enduring-freedom>

140201-A-ZZ999-003

A soldier unburdens the weight of his comrades by loading their duffel bags for further transport at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The Tennessee Army National Guard's 251st Military Police Company returned home after completing a nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua A. Spalding/RELEASED)

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<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160128/tennessee-national-guards-251st-military-police-company-returns-deployment-support-operation-enduring-freedom>

140201-A-ZZ999-004

SMYRNA, Tenn. – The command staff of the 168th Military Police Battalion load the last of their soldiers' belongings for further transport at Volunteer Training Site – Smyrna, Feb. 1. The Tennessee Army National Guard's 251st Military Police Company returned home after completing a nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua A. Spalding/RELEASED)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/image/1160129/tennessee-national-guards-251st-military-police-company-returns-deployment-support-operation-enduring-freedom>

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