NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD
NEWS RELEASE

Public Affairs Office - 1300 Military Road - Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-1090
Phone: 402 309-7300 - Fax: 402 309-7306

NEBRASKA ARMY GUARD SELECTS BEATRICE AS SITE FOR NEW ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

RELEASED BY LTC BOB VRANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska National Guard announced today that Beatrice, Neb., has been selected for a new $11-13 million Armed Forces Readiness Center scheduled to be built in 2008.

"This new facility will benefit all of Southeast Nebraska by providing a variety of opportunities for those interested in military operations," said Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general for Nebraska, in making the announcement.

The new Armed Forces Reserve Center will replace three aging Nebraska Army National Guard armories in Beatrice, Fairbury and Falls City, and a similar U.S. Army Reserve armory in Wymore. The armory closings were recommended in the 2005 Base Realignment And Closure commission report, released in September 2005, as a way to transform reserve component facilities in Southeast Nebraska, thereby enhancing military value and homeland defense capability, while also improving training and deployment potential.

According to Nebraska National Guard officials, the new, 63,000-square-foot Armed Forces Readiness Center will house 10 full-time Guard and Reserve staff members and approximately 280 part-time Soldiers who are currently assigned to the four affected armories.

"The Nebraska National Guard offered communities in the region the opportunity to propose locations and benefits," said Lempke. "Beatrice was selected primarily on the basis of its proximity to secondary education and recruiting potential."

Guard officials expect to break ground on the new facility in mid-2008 with completion of the facility expected in late 2009 or early 2010.

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