



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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DEPLOYING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
SOLDIERS TO BE WISHED FAREWELL,
SEPTEMBER 6, AT LANCASTER EVENT CENTER

Released by
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb.—Approximately 170 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers mobilizing for Operation Iraqi Freedom will be wished farewell September 6 beginning at 6 p.m., at the Lancaster Event Center, east parking lot, 4100 N. 84 St., Lincoln.

Due to space constraints the farewell ceremony is not open to the public.

The 755th Chemical Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company will be mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom and is located in O'Neill. The unit will be augmented by Soldiers from other chemical units in Omaha, Nebraska City, Seward, and Falls City, and by Soldiers from other National Guard units across the state.

Approximately 175 Soldiers will make up the enlarged company, which is commanded by 1st Lt. Vincent Dvorak of Sioux City, Iowa.

Normally the mission of the chemical unit is locating suspected chemical or biological contamination and decontaminating personnel or equipment, however the unit will be converted to a security force for this deployment. The unit has already undergone extensive security training and will receive additional training at Camp Shelby, Miss., before deploying. Following that training the unit will report to the Central Command area of responsibility for approximately one year. The unit's ultimate destination is not being released at this time.

Currently there are approximately 1,000 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers currently deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. That number is about 30 percent of the Army National Guard force in the state. More than 70 percent of the force remains available for homeland defense or other emergency response duties.

-30-

(Note: Due to space constraints, the send-off ceremonies will not be open to the public. The media is invited to attend the event. Public Affairs officials will be on hand to assist the media. The Lancaster Event Center is located at 4100 N. 84th St., Lincoln)