

NEWS ALERT

(second notice)

**NATIONAL GUARD TO CONDUCT
STATE MEDICAL EXERCISE
MAY 21 AT CAMP ASHLAND, NEBRASKA**

**RELEASED BY
CAPT. KEVIN HYNES**

April 16, 2007

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska Army National Guard will conduct a major state medical training exercise, Saturday, May 21, at Camp Ashland, Neb., involving approximately 200 members of the Nebraska Army National Guard, the United State Air Force Reserve and Civil Air Patrol.

According to National Guard officials, the exercise – dubbed Operation Prairie Medic – is designed to help prepare members of the state military medical community for a wide variety of force protection and mass casualty situations.

In this particular exercise, casualties will be evacuated by both ground ambulances and helicopters from several different areas outside of Camp Ashland to a treatment facility located at a simulated forward operating base located at Camp Ashland.

Guard officials say the skills that will be tested at Camp Ashland and the remote sites are invaluable during both homeland defense and state emergency situations as well as at deployed locations such as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The exercise is scheduled to last throughout the day, concluding at approximately 5 p.m.

Along with the medical exercise, the Guard will also be hosting a “Guard For Life” near the exercise site designed to show potential recruits about the different medical fields the National Guard offers as well as the types of medical and other technical types of training a new Soldier can receive by joining the Nebraska National Guard.

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Note: The media is invited to cover the Prairie Medic Exercise at Camp Ashland. According to exercise officials, the best time to cover the event will be between noon and approximately 4 p.m.

As part of the exercise, both UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters will be used to transport “patients” back to the treatment facility at Camp Ashland. A number of seats will be available to the media. To request a seat on one of the helicopters, please contact Capt. Kevin Hynes at the National Guard Public Affairs Office at (402) 309-7302. To help expedite the process, please be prepared to give the names of any reporters and photo/videographers and their alternates. Requests must be given to the Public Affairs Office by 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 17.