

**NEBRASKA ARMY GUARD SOLDIERS
TO BE WISHED FAREWELL FRIDAY
AS THEY BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR
UPCOMING AFGHANISTAN MISSION**

**RELEASED BY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – Sixteen Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers from a number of different Nebraska National Guard units will be formally wished farewell Friday afternoon, Feb. 9, as they prepare to begin training for a mission that will ultimately take them to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While in Afghanistan the Nebraska Soldiers will help train members of the new Afghan National Army.

The farewell ceremony is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. on Friday at the “Spirit of 1776” National Guard armory located at 1776 Military Road in Lincoln. Among the scheduled state and military speakers are Gov. Dave Heineman and Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general for Nebraska.

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

According to unit officials, the Soldiers – part of the Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team (ANA-ETT) – will be responsible for helping train Afghan soldiers to conduct staff and combat operations focused primarily at the company-level. This training will include focused training on command and control, offensive and defensive operations, as well as security operations.

The mission is expected to last one year.

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Note: The media is invited to cover the send-off ceremony. A public affairs official will be on hand to provide assistance.