

**WELCOME HOME FOR RETURNING
GUARD UNITS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT
11 A.M., SUNDAY, JUNE 24, AT HAYMARKET PARK**

**RELEASED BY
CAPT KEVIN HYNES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN – The welcome home ceremony for approximately 250 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers is scheduled to begin at approximately 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 24, at Haymarket Park.

According to Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general for the Nebraska National Guard, members of the 1-167th Cavalry and 134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) are expected to arrive in Lincoln at approximately 10 a.m. on Sunday after being bussed from Fort McCoy, Wisc., where they are currently undergoing demobilization processing.

Lempke said the plan calls for the Guard busses to depart Interstate 80 at the Wavery exit and travel west on Cornhusker Highway to 84th Street. The busses will then move up 84th Street to “O” Street, “O” Street to Sun Valley Blvd. and then on into Haymarket Park. Guard officials say members of the Patriot Guard will be part of the escort bringing the Guard Soldiers back into Nebraska.

Among those expected to welcome the Guard Soldiers home after completing the longest tour to date by any Nebraska Army National Guard unit are Gov. Dave Heineman, Sen. Ben Nelson, U.S. Representatives Jeff Fortenberry and Adrian Smith, Lempke and other state, local and military officials.

The Guard Soldiers were first mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2005. After spending several months training for their mission, they deployed to Iraq in March 2006 and were stationed primarily at Camp Anaconda, Iraq, where they were involved in providing base defense. The Soldiers were originally scheduled to return to Nebraska this past March however they had their stay in Iraq prolonged by an additional three months due to the troop surge.

The Soldiers are primarily from units stationed in Lincoln, Beatrice, Fairbury, Fremont, Wahoo and Crete however Soldiers from other communities were also affected by the deployment.

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NOTE: The media is invited to attend the welcome home ceremony for the 1-167th Cavalry and 134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) scheduled to be begin at approximately 11 a.m., Sunday morning. Due to the expected large crowds, the media is asked to park to the west of the softball stadium. A public affairs official will be on hand to assist the media.