



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Media Advisory
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Ohio National Guard's Operational Mentor & Liaison Team (OMLT) to deploy

COLUMBUS - Approximately 30 Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade are scheduled to mobilize for active duty this month in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The public is invited to the unit's 10 a.m. call to duty ceremony Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at The Blackwell Hotel & Conference Center, 2110 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, OH

The 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is the newest Brigade in Ohio, activated on November 2nd, 2008. Soldiers and units of the 174th Brigade have deployed throughout the world from Kosovo to Iraq, Washington, D.C. to Germany, and most recently, to Egypt and Afghanistan.

The Operational Mentor & Liaison Team (OMLT) program is a key NATO contribution towards the development of the Afghan National Army (ANA).

OMLTs' mission is to provide training and mentoring to the ANA forces. The unit will begin the initial training period in Hungary and Germany and then deploy to Afghanistan.

The Ohio National Guard personnel will be training the ANA forces jointly with members of the Hungarian Armed Forces. The joint Ohio-Hungarian mission is a continuation of a relationship formed in 1993 between the Ohio National Guard and the Republic of Hungary as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP). The SPP encompasses all 54 state and territory National Guards and relationships with 56 foreign countries, including the Ohio National Guard's partnership with the Republic of Serbia, inaugurated in September of 2006.

This mission is the first of four follow-on missions that the Ohio National Guard will be supporting in the upcoming year.

“These Soldiers are extremely professional, have been training hard and will continue to prepare for this unique mission,” said Maj. James Eriksen, the unit commander.

-30-

EDITORS NOTE: News media are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes in advance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Capt. Marshall Jackson at 614-496-3813.