



For Immediate Release

1 September 2009

## **Alaska Air National Guardsmen Deploying to Afghanistan**

*Two-hundred citizen-Airmen will provide airlift support to region*

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska**— Approximately 200 Alaskans will deploy this week to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deploying Guardsmen are citizen-Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, based at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. The group comprises flight crew members and support personnel from the wing's 144th Airlift Squadron; maintenance specialists with the 176th Maintenance Group; and a variety of support personnel from other wing units. From September 2009 through January 2010 they will deploy in stages, rotating through the Middle East area of operations in "shifts" of 30 or 60 days, and will provide airlift, via C-130, ferrying people, equipment and supplies throughout the region.

The deploying Airmen are primarily "traditional" Guard members -- that is, they train and serve with the Air Guard on a part-time basis. For the remainder of the time, they are members of the civilian workforce and part of the fabric of our communities.

The first group will depart Friday from Kulis Air National Guard Base. These departures typically provide good still and video imagery. We would love to have media there to cover our highly trained men and women leaving to put their skills to use in the service of our country. Media members will have the opportunity to interview deploying Guardsmen and the 176th Wing Commander.

Media should arrive at the front gate of Kulis Air National Guard Base (5005 Raspberry Road) at 8 a.m. Friday.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP:**

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