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MEDIA ADVISORY

Alaska National Guard
Release 16-066

For August 13, 2016

Alaska Air Guardsmen return from deployment in Middle East

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska –More than 20 members of the Alaska Air National Guard from the 168th Wing are scheduled to return August 13 from a two-month deployment to Qatar in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. Also returning is one KC-135 aircraft belonging to the unit.

Most of the returning Airman either operate or maintain the KC-135 “Stratotanker” aerial refueling aircraft – an aircraft that the 168th Air Refueling Squadron has flown for more than 30 years.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan formally ended its combat mission, Operation Enduring Freedom, on January 1, 2015, and then commenced its new mission, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. In Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the United States works with its allies and partners as part of NATO's Resolute Support Mission to continue training, advising, and assisting Afghan security forces.

Members of the 168th Maintenance Squadron and other support personnel also deployed in support of this mission.

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Details:

What: 168th Wing Guardsmen return from deployment to Qatar in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel

When: **Saturday, August 13, 2016**

Where: Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

Note: Media interested in attending must call 907-377-8734 to RSVP no later than Friday, August 12, by 4 p.m. Please leave a message with name, affiliation, and a phone number for us to reach you if arrival time changes. We will meet at the Eielson AFB Main Gate visitor’s center at 8:20 a.m. for escort to the event.