



**RELEASED BY Col. Greg Hapgood
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SEND-OFF CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

A community send-off ceremony for Detachment 34, Operational Support Airlift Command (OSACOM) will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 3 at the Ankeny Airport, 3700 SE Convenience Blvd., Ankeny. Local officials and Iowa National Guard leadership will participate and the public and media are *welcome and encouraged* to attend the send-off ceremony.

Approximately 10 Soldiers with Detachment 34 OSACOM are being mobilized as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. These Soldiers will travel to their mobilization station at Ft. Bliss, Texas for additional training before deploying to the Central Command theater of operations. It is anticipated that these Soldiers will deploy for approximately one year.

Detachment 34 OSACOM is headquartered at the Ankeny Airport. The unit flies C-12 fixed-wing aircraft, with its primary mission to provide air movement of personnel in a theater of operation. The unit previously mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom/New Dawn/Iraqi Freedom from June 2010-May 2011, for Operation Enduring Freedom from March-November 2008, and for Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2002-April 2003.

For questions concerning this release as well as additional information about the operations, training, and activities of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard, please contact Col. Greg Hapgood, Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer by email at gregory.o.hapgood.mil@mail.mil or (515) 252-4582 (office) or (515) 971-6385 (cell), or contact Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden at duff.e.mcfadden.mil@mail.mil or (515) 252-4666 (office), or (515) 480-7647 (cell).

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