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Galva air defense artillery unit notified of mobilization

Tuesday, October 14, 2003 9:06 AM CDT

The Illinois National Guard received notification from the Department of the Army recently of the mobilization of Battery F, 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery of Galva to federal active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately 120 members of the Illinois Army National Guard unit are being called-up for up to 18 months of active duty in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) theater of operations. This period could be extended beyond 18 months at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army based on operational requirements.

"The men and women of the Illinois National guard have been actively involved in U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom," said Brig. Gen. Randal Thomas, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. This latest call-up illustrates once again the key role our soldiers and airmen continue to play in our national military strategy here at home and around the world. These soldiers are well trained, equipped and ready to answer the call to active duty. The Illinois National Guard has an outstanding reputation for getting the job done whenever they have been called to duty. I know they will continue that standard of excellence."

While on active duty, the Illinois Army National Guard air defense artillery unit will conduct stability and support operations and provide force protection to U.S. and coalition forces.

The Illinois National Guard was aware of the potential mobilization of this unit and has been preparing its soldiers and their family members for this possibility. The soldiers have gone through soldier readiness processing to accomplish all required tasks and training prior to leaving Illinois for the mobilization site. Soldier readiness processing includes such things as record checks, immunizations, equipment issue, physicals, dental screenings, family support activities and all other pre-mobilization administrative tasks needed to prepare them for mobilization. Once at the mobilization site, the soldiers will undergo further administrative processing and receive additional training prior to the unit's embarkation for the USCENTCOM theater of operations.

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