



GUARDSMEN of A Troop 1/278 Armored Cavalry Regiment move out for training before deploying to Iraq.

More than 3,000 Guardsmen deploy for combat training

National Guard units from throughout Tennessee, including the state's largest unit, have reported to pre-mobilization training sites as the first leg of a deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Their departure represents over 3,000 men and women and brings the total number of Tennessee Guardsmen deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, to nearly 20,000.



A TROOP 1/278 Armored Cavalry will train in near Hattiesburg, Miss, for two months before Iraq duty.

The 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee's largest unit, is at Camp Shelby, Miss., for its pre-mobilization training. They will remain at the Mississippi post for about two months before deploying to Iraq.

Although headquartered in Knoxville, the 278th has more than 3,000 soldiers in units across the state. The massive deployment will affect 45 cities and towns across Tennessee from Memphis to Kingsport including Waynesboro, Henderson, Selmer, Huntingdon, and Parsons in this area.

The A Troop 1/278 Armored Cavalry Regiment held a Christmas family day for the deploying soldiers and their

families with Waynesboro Mayor Jimmy Turnbow speaking.

The Waynesboro High School Marching Band played for the soldiers and families during the boarding process.

Soldiers called up from Savannah are 1LT Charles Anthony Stewart, SGT George Anthony Gibbs and SPC Tyler Dean Sanderson.

Waynesboro Guardsmen are PFC Coty Blaine Anderson, PV1 Jeremy Edward Berry, SPC Vincent Salvatore Cotromano, CDT Charles Joseph Crosslin, PFC Richard Franklin Evans, PFC Daylan Ray Kyle Gilbert, SGT Jesus Javier Merino, SPC Joshua Taylor Moore, PFC Matthew

Michael Moser, SPC Daniel Scott Plunkett, PFC Billy Talmadge Ray III, PFC Coridon Nicholas Staggs and PV1 Kenneth Howard Wick Jr.

From Collinwood are SSG Shawn Jerel Caperton, PFC Reuben Elliott Smith Jackson, SGT Rodney Ladale Johns, SPC Brice Edward Martin, SGT Matthew Wade Patterson, PFC Anthony Blake Thompson and SGT William Brandon Whidden.

The 1171st Transportation Company is at Fort Bliss, Texas, and will go on to Iraq.

A Regional Corps Advisory Group is at Camp Atterbury, Ind. on the first leg of their deployment to Afghanistan.



Country Christmas gives again

Volunteers for Country Christmas' 2009 shopping event welcomed area students as they entered Savannah's Walmart location at about 8:30 a.m. the morning of Dec. 7.

Larry Harrell, board member for Country Christmas says volunteers guided 439 children between Dec. 7 and Dec. 9, each given \$60 to spend on presents for themselves and family members.

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First United Methodist Church Savannah Arts Commission

George Frideric Handel

MESSIAH

A Sacred Oratorio
Part I - Prophecy and Nativity

Performed by
First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Guest Community Singers
with Members of the Eroica Chamber Orchestra

Guest Soloists
Jacob Will, bass • Melissa Campbell, soprano • Nick Campbell, tenor
Angela Canestrari, alto • Dr. Lee Weimer, trumpet

Conducted by Dr. Gregory W. Long

Sunday, December 20, 2009 • 6:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church • 270 Main Street • Savannah, Tennessee

The Public is Cordially Invited • Admission is Free

This community-inclusive production is supported, in part, by a grant from the Savannah Arts Commission.