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VING Freedom Salute Ceremony for Military Police Kosovo Mission **Friday August 5 on St. Croix**

The Virgin Islands National Guard will conduct a Freedom Salute Campaign ceremony Friday, August 5 at 3p.m. at the St. Croix Educational Complex auditorium. The event recognizes deployment sacrifices of Soldiers and supporters of the 661st Military Police Company.

The VING's Military Police unit deployed in support of KFOR 12 Multi-National Task Force-East, a peace support mission at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. In August 2009, 102 V.I. Soldiers were mobilized in August 2009 on the year-long mission.

The US headquarters at Camp Bondsteel is in southeast Kosovo and built on 750 acres of former farmland. The 1,000-acre camp was established in June 1999 in Kosovo to be used as staging points for the bulk of US forces stationed in the Multi National Brigade-East.

The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard recognition endeavors. It is designed to publicly acknowledge Guardsmen and those who supported them during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

The leadership recognizes that how an organization treats its people is a direct reflection of the values held by the organization. Not only does Soldier recognition directly impact recruiting, but it affects Soldier retention as well.

Each Soldier will receive an encased American Flag, a sequentially numbered commemorative coin, a "Defender of Freedom" certificate, and a lapel insignia. If the Soldier has a spouse or young family member, the spouse receives a National Guard Team member lapel pin, and the child receives a Future Soldier Kit, which includes a board game.

For further information contact the Officer –in-Charge of 104th Troop Command Detachment 1st Lt. Pauline James at (340)712-7936 or email Pauline.Haywood@us.army.mil.

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