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VING Deployment Farewell Ceremony for Second Unit
(104th Troop Command RAID)
August 29 & 30, 2011

The Adjutant General for the Virgin Islands Major General Renaldo Rivera announces the deployment of a second unit from the territory. The V.I. National Guard Family Program Office will host a Yellow Ribbon Farewell ceremony for the 104th Troop Command Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) Team.

The unit is comprised of more than 30 soldiers from two island districts and includes soldiers experienced from multiple deployments. Seven soldiers deployed on other missions in the past; five personnel deployed once, one soldier deployed twice and one deployed three times.

A farewell ceremony will be held **Monday, August 29** at 5:30 p.m. at the UVI Great Hall on St. Croix. The St. Thomas Farewell Ceremony is **Tuesday August 30** at 5:30 p.m. at the Sergeant First Class Leonard B. Francis Readiness Center (armory) in Estate Nazareth.

VING's 104th RAID unit deploys to Afghanistan in support of Operation New Dawn. RAID systems provide essential situational awareness for improved security and daily operations. They are currently fielded in Iraq and Afghanistan to safeguard forward operating bases (FOB), improve surveillance in day and night operations and accelerate response to evolving threats. Over the past six months, the unit trained on more than 100 warrior tasks, battle drills and mission-specific tasks.

The V. I. National Guard unit will depart from the territory for Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will be mobilized for the year-long mission. The VING unit will depart the territory **Thursday, September 1** at 6 a.m. from the Henry Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix. Unit members from St. Thomas will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the Cyril King Airport.

On Saturday August 13, D Company 126th Aviation departed the territory for pre-deployment training at Fort Benning, GA. The unit completed the training and departed the U.S. last Friday for its mission in Iraq.

Proof of identification is required for access to military installations. You will be screened by security personnel at the installation access gate. For more information on the Yellow Ribbon Farewell Ceremony contact Merlisa George-Plante, Family Readiness Support Assistant at (340)712-8012 or Master Sergeant Karen Williams at cell (340)332-5541.

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