



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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Wisconsin Guard joins Rhythm and Booms for Tribute to Armed Forces

When Madison celebrates Independence Day at the annual Rhythm and Booms fireworks show June 28, Gov. Jim Doyle, the Wisconsin National Guard, and the Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. will join together to honor America's men and women in uniform.

This tribute will include a 21-gun salute by Army National Guard 105 mm howitzers. The salute will honor 193 U.S. servicemen and women who have lost their lives in and around Iraq since March 19th. Two active duty Wisconsin servicemen, a Marine Corps sergeant and a U.S. Army major, are among those killed in Iraq and among those who will be saluted.

Taking part in the armed forces tribute will be Gov. Doyle, who is the Wisconsin National Guard's commander-in-chief, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Fred Sloan and Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson of the Wisconsin National Guard, and Terry Kelly, president of the Madison Fireworks Fund and organizer of Rhythm and Booms.

The Wisconsin Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing is planning a flyover by four F-16 fighter aircraft at the conclusion of the National Anthem. This will be the 10th year Madison's F-16s have flown over the Warner Park event. Since 9-11, Madison's F-16 fighters have been either in the air or on alert 24 hours a day to protect major U.S. cities, including a two-month mission to guard the skies over the nation's capital.

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The Guard will also display one of its UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters on the Warner Park grounds during the afternoon. The Madison-based 147th Aviation Battalion Black Hawk will land at about 2:00 p.m. and be available for tours until around 4:30 p.m. The 147th was ordered to active duty in early February, and most of the unit's aircraft and 205 soldiers are currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

The Guard's support of Madison's Rhythm and Booms event is especially fitting because nearly a quarter of the state's National Guard soldiers and airmen are assigned to Madison units, and 432 Madison-based Guard members are currently serving on active duty.