

# NorthStar GUARD

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**Destination  
unknown**

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*The war  
on terror*

# MN JOINS WAR ON TERROR

## With less than 1 week to prepare, 152 guardmembers say goodbye to friends and family to defend the nation

By 2nd Lt. Anna Lewicki  
State PA

In late January the Minnesota National Guard said farewell to 145 members of Company C, 142nd Engineer Battalion, based at Camp Ripley, and seven members of the 798th Transportation Detachment, based in Roseville.

The 142nd headed to Fort Carson, Colo., to prepare for deployment to Southwest Asia. The 798th went to Fort McCoy, Wisc. and will likely be stationed within the continental United States. While the exact length of these

missions is unknown, both units have been activated for up to one year and will be operating in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

More than 600 soldiers, families and friends gathered at the deployment ceremony to say goodbye.

Minnesota's new governor, Tim Pawlenty, spoke at the deployment ceremony.

"To the soldiers, to the families, to

the employers; thank you. Thank you very much for your service to our country and state. We are very grateful, and we stand behind you in

every way that we possibly can," Pawlenty said.

Pawlenty commended the soldiers for their ability to be flexible and ready to deploy after only a week's notice.

"The call is about freedom, liberty and equality," he added. "Godspeed. May God bless you and may you know that we support you."

Minnesota's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, also spoke at the ceremony.

“The call is about freedom, liberty and equality.”

- Gov. Tim Pawlenty



Photos by 2nd Lt. Anna Lewicki, State PA

**Soldiers from Company C, 142nd Engineer Battalion, based at Camp Ripley, load onto a C-13- before to departing to Fort Carson, Colo. to prepare for their depolyemnt to Southwest Asia.**

"You know what you need to do," he said. "Our job has a very important role in combating terrorism."

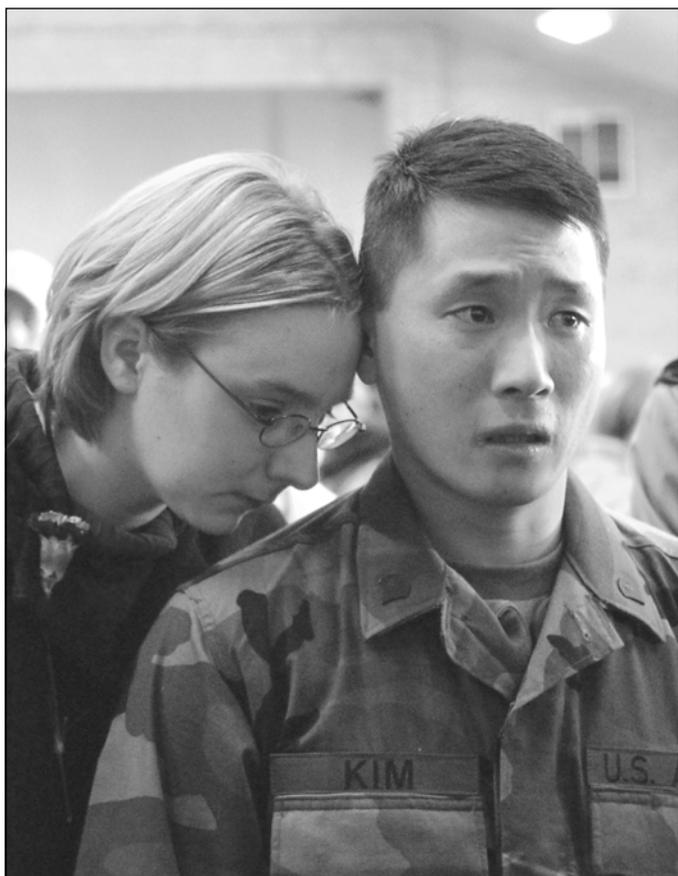
One of the soldiers in the crowds, Spc. Nathan Thome, 24, agreed. Although he admitted he was getting more nervous as the time for departure neared, Thome said potential deployments were one of the reasons he signed up.

"Some people are in for 20 years and never get to go anywhere, so I'm excited."

For Pvt. Rachel Loscheider, 19, deployments are becoming a family affair. When she was 7, Loscheider's dad, Ron, deployed with the Gulf War.

"She's in a really good unit," said

**Spc. Ryang Kim of Bemidji listens to well wishing from Gov. Tim Pawlenty and during a deployment ceremony for the engineers. More than 600 soldiers, families and friends gathered at the ceremony to say goodbye.**





Pvt. 1st Class Timothy Dauk of Walker, listens to comforting words from loved ones before shipping out to support Operation Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

Ron. "I think she'll be safe, but I think she'll come back a changed person because of the experiences she'll go through."

Although her mother, Kathryn, is not a member of the armed forces, she is proud to be "a veteran at saying goodbye."

"I think Rachel is going to be just

fine," she added. "Looking around, I feel worse for the soldiers who are leaving small children."

As a member of the 142nd Engineer Battalion, Loscheider is not allowed to tell her parents exactly where she will end up in Southwest Asia, but she said their support is very important.

"I was overwhelmed at first,"

Loscheider said. "I had to move out of college only a week after I got there, but now I'm looking at it as a new adventure."

**Minnesota's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, watches a C-130 take off, carrying his soldiers as they begin their deployment.**

