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For Immediate Release

Utah Air Guardsmen Return Home from Operation Enduring Freedom

SALT LAKE CITY – More than 100 Airmen from the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing will return home to Utah this weekend after being deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deployed Airmen, who were deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey provided critical air refueling operations to U.S. cargo/personnel aircraft in support of the operation.

The Wing initially deployed over 150 members during the last week of February, later swapping personnel out on a standard rotation schedule. The unit deployed a total of more than 260 personnel and four KC-135 air refueling tanker aircraft during the 60-day period. The Airmen will redeploy over a three-day period.

The 151st ARW deployed as part of its normal Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation. The AEF concept, first implemented in the 1990's, was designed to help build predictability and stability into the way the Air Force schedules its people to respond to contingencies. The AEF rotations take full advantage of the contributions made by the Total Force Initiative, seamlessly integrating the active duty, Guard and Reserve components into cohesive deployable force packages.

ANG personnel maintain full-time employment in the civilian sector and standard AEF rotations, which schedules the affected units well over a year in advance, allow employers ample notice of when their citizen Airmen will be deployed.

Media Notes: The Salt Lake Air Base is located at 765 N. 2200 W. (just east of Salt Lake International Airport). On the day of arrival please contact Lt. Col. Lisa Olsen at (801) 245-2446 for additional information.