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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Utah Air National Guard's 109<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron Returns to Utah**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Approximately 70 Airmen of the Utah Air National Guard's 109th Air Control Squadron will return to Utah Thursday, Nov. 18, from support of the Global War on Terrorism. This has been the Squadron's fifth mobilization in ten years.

The 109th Air Control Squadron is a worldwide-deployable, battle-management platform. They provide radar surveillance, identification and command and control of Coalition aircraft for combatant commanders. The unit is manned by Maintenance, Operations, and Combat Support personnel providing 24/7 coverage of the battlefield and is equipped to deploy to austere remote locations. The fact that the 109th Air Control Squadron is one of only a handful of Air Control Squadrons in the Air Force keeps them busy in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Squadron's first activation was in 2000, when members deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch. In the days following Sept 11, 2001, the unit was mobilized again for almost a year for Operation Noble Eagle. They provided radar coverage and protection over the Western United States and for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. In 2003 the unit was again called to active duty and deployed over 60 members to three locations in Iraq for seven months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In September 2007 the unit deployed to southwest Asia for several months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 109th Air Control Squadron's current activation was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The squadron members supported the ground forces in the field by coordinating combat air support for troops in contact in Afghanistan. In addition to providing command and control in Afghanistan, the deployed 109th Air Control Squadron Airmen worked closely with Army Air Defense Units to provide persistent air defense of the Persian Gulf.

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Maintenance personnel played an indispensable role in the 109th Air Control Squadron's mission by maintaining the \$30 million facility and equipment. Absolutely none of the Operations would be possible without the warriors working in Materiel Control, Ground Radio, Theater Deployable Communications, Aerospace Ground Equipment, Maintenance Operations Center, and Radar. The outstanding Airmen working in these sections performed incredible feats to ensure the 109th maintained a 100% Operational rate.

Media desiring to cover the unit's arrival should arrive at the base by 5:30 p.m. for a 6:20 p.m. arrival.

For more information on the Utah Air National Guard, visit [www.151arw.ang.af.mil](http://www.151arw.ang.af.mil).