



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS
12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020
P: (801) 432-4407 - F: (801) 432-4677 - www.ut.ngb.army.mil
Twitter: @UTNationalGuard - [Facebook.com/utahnationalguard](https://www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard)

Press Release 12-002, 12 January 2012

Contact: Maj. Shane Manwaring, (801) 560-9969

For Immediate Release

First Battalion, 211th Aviation Soldiers Deploy to Afghanistan

DRAPER, Utah – The approximately 260 Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard's First Battalion, 211th Aviation (referred to as the First of the 211th), will depart Utah on the first leg of their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan Monday, January 16, at 9 a.m. from the Utah Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan.

Pilots of the 1-211th will leave West Jordan in their assigned AH-64D helicopters bound for Fort Hood, Texas. There they will receive several weeks of training and be validated as an AH-64D Attack Battalion. This validation is required due to the Battalion transforming from an AH-64A Battalion to an AH-64D Battalion. In Afghanistan they will be assigned the role of Attack and Reconnaissance for the U.S. Central Command area of operations. Non-pilots and other aircraft support soldiers will leave West Jordan by bus and flown to Fort Hood aboard chartered aircraft.

The 1-211th was scheduled to deploy to Iraq in September of 2011. With the decision to remove U.S. troops from Iraq the deployment was off-ramped. In November 2011 they were given official notice of their deployment to Afghanistan.

Media Notes: The Utah Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility is located at 7653 S. Airport Road (4470 West) in West Jordan. Events begin at 9 a.m. with a 10 a.m. scheduled departure of the helicopters. Media broadcast vehicles will be parked inside the gate on the helicopter ramp. This parking should allow for "line-of-sight" to the Oquirrh Mountains. Media will be given access to deploying soldiers, family members, AH-64D Apache Helicopters, and the ramp while aircraft are taking off. Please contact MAJ. Shane Manwaring at (801) 560-9969 for more information. Follow us on **Twitter** @UTNationalGuard for updates.