

Virginia National Guard



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1710th Trans. Co. Departs for Camp Atterbury

**By Maj. Cotton Puryear
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EMPORIA, Va. — The Virginia National Guard's 1710th Transportation Company held a departure ceremony March 11 to recognize the start of their federal mobilization for duty in Iraq. After the ceremony, Soldiers from the company traveled by bus to board planes that will fly them to Camp Atterbury, Ind., where they will train for about six weeks before deploying to Iraq.

In addition to families of the Soldiers, community members packed the Greenville Elementary School auditorium for the send-off ceremony.

The 1710th headquarters is in Richmond and the unit also has elements from Emporia, Va. Detachment 2 of the 1173rd Transportation Company from Onancock will also deploy as part of the 1710th.

The unit's mission in Iraq will be to provide line haul truck support and move critical supplies from logistical support areas out to different forward operating bases in theatre. The unit is organized with about 170 Soldiers in a headquarters section that provides administrative, maintenance and logistical support, and three truck platoons each equipped with 20 M915 tractor trucks and 40 flatbed trailers. The unit's trailers are 40 feet long and can haul up to 64,000 pounds of cargo.



Soldiers of the 1710th Transportation Company march from the Greenville Elementary School auditorium to the buses that will transport them on the first leg of their journey to Iraq March 11 in Emporia. (Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard Public Affairs)

