



*Always Ready  
Always There*

# *The Gem State Guardian*

The official newsletter of the  
**Idaho National Guard**

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## **Idaho Air National Guard deploys to Middle East**

Idaho National Guard Public Affairs

(BOISE)—The Idaho Air National Guard is preparing to make its first major deployment in the U.S.-led fight against the Islamic State group.

More than 500 members of the 124th Fighter Wing based at Gowen Field will depart for the Middle East this spring and summer as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The mission will include multiple aircraft, pilots, maintenance personnel, security forces, medical personnel and various other support staff.

Deployments typically last up to 180 days, with multiple departures spread out over the next several months.

“This deployment highlights the dedication of the 124th Fighter Wing and its members, as well as the community of families, state and local leaders, neighbors and employers who have demonstrated once again their steadfast and unwavering support of Idaho’s service members,” Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said.



An A-10C Thunderbolt II from the 190th Fighter Squadron at Gowen Field, Idaho, performs a fly over while preparing for an austere landing at Delmar Lake Bed near Alamo, Nevada Jan 26, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Winn/Released)

“The impact on the community is recognized and their sacrifice is deeply appreciated.”

The Idaho Air National Guard is celebrating its 70th year of flying fighter aircraft in defense of our nation. The 124th Fighter Wing has always answered when called upon, and this deployment is the embodiment of what it means to be an Airman and an Idaho Air National Guardsman.

With ever-increasing threats both locally and nationwide, the Idaho Air National Guard continually trains to support not only its state mission within the

State of Idaho, but also in support of its federal mission of addressing threats around the globe.

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