



Guard Support of Massachusetts

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guard Support of Massachusetts Announces Support to the 747th Military Police Company in Ware, Mass. as the National Guard Unit Prepares for Mobilization

August 11, 2009 - Guard Support of Massachusetts (GSMA) has awarded a \$2,300 grant to the 747th Military Police Company to help cover transportation costs for unit members while on four day leave prior to deployment. The National Guard unit based in Ware, Mass. is currently preparing for mobilization and is training at Ft. Dix, N.J. The 747th MP Co. unit members were granted a four-day pass from August 13 – August 16 so that they could spend time with their families prior to deployment overseas.

The 747th MP Co. falls under the 211th Military Police Battalion which falls under the 26th “Yankee” Brigade Command. Brigade leadership expressed gratitude and appreciation for GSMA’s transportation grant. Lt. Colonel Steven Fernandez, Deputy Commander had this to say: “Thanks to Guard Support of Massachusetts for helping our soldiers get home to their loved ones at no cost before they deploy. It is caring citizens such as yourself that make our family support system that much stronger.”

Command Sergeant Major Bill Davidson said, “I can’t thank Guard Support enough for their generous donation to the 747th Military Police Company. It’s organizations like GSMA that lessen the burden on soldiers and their families.”

About Guard Support of Massachusetts (www.guardsupport.org)

Guard Support of Massachusetts was founded in July of 2007 to help the families of the men and women serving in the Massachusetts National Guard. Since September 11, 2001 the Massachusetts National Guard has deployed over 6,000 soldiers and airmen in support of the global war on terror. Families frequently need emergency financial

assistance after one spouse deploys overseas, and Guard Support was originally founded to help meet this need.

To date, approximately 60% of Guard Support grants have been for direct emergency assistance to the families of the men and women of the Massachusetts National Guard. Examples include rent payments, electric bills, car payments, gas and heating bills. The remainder of GSMA grants awarded support unit Family Readiness Group meetings, programs and family events, including send-off ceremonies and homecoming events; as well as links between the men and women of the Guard and their families, examples include, subsidized transportation on leave, subsidized internet links and internet phone links for units in Iraq.

In 2009, Guard Support is in the process of expanding the services offered to meet the needs of the returning troops by adding entrepreneurship training and support (especially in the current economic environment of unemployment, and underemployment), job training, and other education programs.

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