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CONTACT: Chris Warner 706-545-4591 | Nate Snook 706-545-2238 | After hours: 706-545-2218

MEDIA ADVISORY: Fort Benning Soldiers to redeploy from West Africa

DATE: March 20, 2015

FORT BENNING, Georgia – Soldiers from the 463rd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service Support), 14th Combat Support Hospital, assigned as part of the Response Support Force for Operation United Assistance, will celebrate the return from their deployment to West Africa at 5 p.m., March 23 at Freedom Hall.

The RSF supported the U.S. Agency for International Development, the lead federal agency in West Africa responding to the Ebola virus outbreak. The RSF mission was to help the Liberian government contain the Ebola virus, establish and synchronize Ebola treatment units across the country, train health-care workers and establish logistical centers to support this effort.

The 463rd is one of eight active Army veterinary detachments in the United States, Europe and Asia. The unit has a dual mission of animal medicine and food and safety inspection support. The team deployed to the area was led by a veterinarian and food inspectors. All Soldiers who deployed to Liberia received specific medical training developed in conjunction with U.S. Army Public Health Command, and used specialized personal protective equipment to prevent exposure to the virus.

During their four-month deployment, the 463rd participated in over 250 missions, inspected over \$4 million in operational rations, conducted over 90 dining facility sanitation assessments, inspected five warehouses, conducted three sanitation audits, conducted five disease outbreak epidemiological investigations and logged over 5,000 road miles across Liberia and Senegal.

The 463rd Medical Detachment has spent the past three weeks in “quarantine” at a facility in Virginia where they executed a strict redeployment protocol for units returning from deployments in Western Africa to support Operation United Assistance. Their primary task was to clean equipment, conduct redeployment and integration classes and be monitored for any health issues prior to returning to Fort Benning.

Media interested in covering this homecoming event should contact the MCoE Public Affairs Office to coordinate a media escort.

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