



*Serving Our Heroes...One Family at a Time*

*A Non-Profit Organization Proudly Serving Massachusetts National Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families*

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### **Military Friends Foundation Helps National Guard Soldiers Reunite With Family**

*Trip Home is Last Chance to See Family Before Heading to Afghanistan*

BOSTON – The Military Friends Foundation, a non-profit proudly serving Massachusetts National Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families, welcomed home dozens of members of the Massachusetts National Guard's 181<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion at Logan Airport yesterday. These soldiers are part of the more than 150 soldiers who the Military Friends Foundation flew home to reunite with family and loved ones before a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The 181st Infantry Battalion is made up of Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers from Worcester, Hudson, Agawam, Cambridge and Greenfield.

Luz and Carlos Ramos of Douglas, the mother and brother to PFC Kenny Ramos, waited eagerly at Terminal A for his arrival from Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Ramos is a medic in the 181st and serving his first tour of duty.

“The Military Friends allowed our family to have a little more time together, time we otherwise wouldn't have had. It is very important for a soldier's morale to be with family,” said Carlos Ramos, who recently returned home from a tour of duty in Iraq with the Massachusetts National Guard.

The Military Friends Foundation assists eligible Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families in times of need. The Foundation proudly administers the *Massachusetts Military Family Relief Fund* which was created by the state legislature to recognize the unique contributions and sacrifices made by Citizen Service Members. Taxpayers can directly support the *Mass. Military Family Relief Fund* on their Massachusetts state income tax form under voluntary contribution check-off box Question 32E.

“We appreciate the overwhelming support from those across the state who support the Military Friends Foundation programs. It means a great deal to our soldiers to be able to fly home to the family members before we head over to Afghanistan,” said Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Couture, Battalion Commander for the 181<sup>st</sup>.

Through generous donations, the Foundation has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to Massachusetts military families. For more information on our grants and support programs, please visit [www.militaryfriends.org](http://www.militaryfriends.org) or call (617) 733-7994.

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**[www.MilitaryFriends.org](http://www.MilitaryFriends.org)**