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News Release NEWS RELEASE

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American Red Cross Honored to Host Deployment Ceremony

ENDICOTT, NY

The American Red Cross was honored to host the 827th Engineer Company Deployment Ceremony and Luncheon at the Wings of Eagles Museum over the weekend. The event was for members of the 827th Engineer Company and their family members. The soldiers were deploying to Afghanistan immediately after the ceremony ended.

160 soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion, comprised of soldiers from Buffalo, Binghamton, Horseheads, and Walton, consolidated to form the 827th Engineer Company. Once in Afghanistan, the Company will be working to build a highway there.

The American Red Cross sponsored the event and the Red Cross was on hand to provide counseling services to military members and their families. Also attending was the Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides reintegration services such as marriage counseling to soldiers upon their return. The Family Readiness Group, founded by spouses of soldiers, was also there to provide support.

The American Red Cross offers multiple services to the military, including emergency communications (delivers messages such as illness or death in the family to service members), and emergency financial assistance, including no-interest loans in emergency situations. In addition, the American Red Cross, Southern Tier Chapter is an administrator of the Project Share program, which provides assistance toward utility or heating bills for families with active military members and disabled veterans. For services that the Red Cross does not provide in-house, it partners with many community agencies to provide referrals.

The American Red Cross, Southern Tier Chapter would like to thank the 827th Engineer Company for the services it provides to our country. We were proud to assist the soldiers and their families with the event and with any additional services they may need in the future and we look forward to continuing to partner with the Family Readiness Group to support the families during the coming year.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.