

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE  
643RD MILITARY POLICE COM-  
PANY OF WESTBROOK, CON-  
NECTICUT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 643rd Military Police Company of the Connecticut National Guard, based in Westbrook, Connecticut. Over the weekend, I joined Connecticut's Adjutant General, MG Thaddeus Martin and other elected officials as a "Freedom Salute" in honor of the 643rd's recent return from a deployment in Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the longest of any Connecticut National Guard unit in support of ongoing military operations.

In February 2006, 130 members of the 643rd MP, commanded by Captain Santo Pizzo of Glastonbury, deployed to Germany where they provided security and military law enforcement at U.S. military facilities in Hanau, Darmstadt, and Baumholder. While there, the unit helped track terrorists suspected of planning attacks against military facilities, including the military barracks in Hanau.

In addition, the 643rd MP also tackled other challenges, such as drug and alcohol related crimes and domestic disturbances. Specialist Ryan Maynard of Franklin, Connecticut, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for saving a 2-month old child from choking. While this is a notable achievement worthy of praise, Specialist Maynard noted in the New London Day that: "It's not one individual that makes a unit. It takes everyone coming together to make the mission successful."

Any military deployment is hard not only on our men and women in uniform, but also on their families and loved ones waiting at home for them to return. The 643rd's deployment was especially tough, as they saw their deployment in Germany extended twice—leaving them abroad for nearly 3 more months than they expected.

Extended deployments such as this have real consequences for our National Guard, not only in their readiness to respond to threats at home and abroad, but also in the strain it places on the families who selflessly support our men and women in uniform. This weekend's "Freedom Support" was a testament to their strength during this long deployment and their continued support for their loved ones in uniform.

I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the men and women of the 643rd MP home, and congratulating them on a safe and successful deployment.