

No. R-8. House concurrent resolution honoring the military service of the 300 members of the Vermont Air National Guard recently deployed to the Middle East.

(H.C.R.1)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, shortly before Thanksgiving 2016, Adjutant General for the State of Vermont, Major General Steven Cray, announced that several hundred members of the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG), 158th Fighter Wing, would be deployed on short notice to the Central Command, a geographic area that encompasses North Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, and

Whereas, the deployment, which may last several months, occurred on December 7, 2016, and at the departure ceremony Major General Cray referred to the Middle East while offering no further specifics, and

Whereas, Major Brian Lepine of Essex Junction is serving as a commander of the deployment, and

Whereas, approximately a week after the deployment, the Vermont Air National Guard released additional specifics, and

Whereas, some of the deployed VTANG personnel, who numbered 300 in total, flew a squadron of the 158th Fighter Wing's F-16 aircraft to the Middle East, and

Whereas, the Vermonters have been assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group that is under the command of Colonel David C. Lyons, and they will be engaged in combat missions, and

Whereas, all of these brave members of the VTANG sacrificed spending the holidays with their families in order to serve our nation in a dangerous military mission, and

Whereas, the General Assembly respects these Vermonters' dedication to serving our nation in combat and their readiness to go wherever duty calls, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the military service of the 300 members of the Vermont Air National Guard recently deployed to the Middle East and expresses the sincere hope they return home safely, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General for the State of Vermont, Major General Steven Cray, and to the 158th Fighter Wing Commander, Colonel Patrick M. Guinee.