

Community Supports Charlie Company Deployment



PHOTOS BY RODNEY EVENS/ZYEE IMAGES

BY JOHN McDONALD

It's hard to say goodbye.

We've all known the time was coming. We've been through this before when Charlie Company deployed to Iraq in 2010.

The soldiers are trained. The families are ready. But it doesn't make it any easier.

More than 90 soldiers traveled to Camp Rilea earlier this week to start the final phases of training for their Afghanistan deployment.

To help with the farewell, the Family Readiness Group and Douglas County Veterans Forum hosted a BBQ for Charlie Company last Saturday at

the Roseburg Armory.

"This is my first deployment so I'm a little nervous about it," said Specialist Robert Malone. "It's good to know there's a strong support group back in the states for my family while I'm deployed."

It was truly a community send-off. Douglas County Commissioners Joe Laurance and Susan Morgan were joined by State Representative and newly-elected commissioner Tim Freeman in wishing the soldiers a safe and speedy return.

The Douglas County Veterans Forum served hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, cookies and other treats. The Sutherlin Lions

Above: Charlie Company, ready to go and be heroes for US.

Left: Daddy getting lots of kisses from his little girl!

donated their mammoth grill to help prepare food. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Roseburg donated soda and bottled water. Sherm's Thunderbird graciously donated a gift card to purchase condiments and beverages. Oroweat Foods donated hamburger and hot dog buns. Umpqua Dairy provided chocolate milk.

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