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MEDIA ALERT

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Arkansas Helicopter Rescue Team training Tuesday, Wednesday *~ Tuesday at Beaverfork Lake, Conway; Wednesday at Lake Wedington, Fayetteville*

WHO: The Arkansas National Guard's 77th Theater Aviation Brigade

WHAT: Will conduct routine helicopter rescue training with Central Arkansas Task Force 1 and Northwest Arkansas Task Force 1 as part of the Arkansas Helicopter Rescue Team

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 20; and Wednesday, Oct. 21; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day

WHERE: At Beaverfork Lake near Conway on Oct. 20, with Central Arkansas Task Force 1, and at Lake Wedington near Fayetteville on Oct. 21 with Northwest Arkansas Task Force 1.

WHY: "For the training occurring on Tuesday and Wednesday, we don't want the public to be alarmed or to perceive that a mishap has occurred. It's routine monthly training with each Task Force," said Lt. Col. Brian Mason, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs officer. "This is vital training that ensures the state is ready to respond if disaster strikes to prevent or minimize loss of life."

The Arkansas Helicopter Rescue Team is a joint partnership between the Arkansas National Guard, Central Arkansas Task Force 1, Northwest Arkansas Task Force 1, and the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management.

The Arkansas Helicopter Rescue Team is a highly specialized aerial search and rescue team that provides air assets to Arkansas for response to natural and man-made disasters. Team members receive technical training that prepares them to operate in hostile environmental conditions in both urban and wilderness areas.

Central Arkansas Task Force 1 is based in Pulaski County Emergency Management in Little Rock. Northwest Arkansas Task Force 1 is based in Washington County Emergency Management in Fayetteville. Each team is highly specialized and operate as a state disaster resource under the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management.

The Arkansas National Guard is responsible to provide hoist capable helicopters and crews for AHRT missions and training. All Army and FAA regulatory requirements will be complied with by the flight crews.

