



## Contact

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**Troops arrive home:** Tuesday, 22 December, between 5PM and 8PM

**Troops leave for Mississippi:** Sunday night, 27 December, midnight

**Where:** Okemos Park-and Ride (exit 110)

## National Guard Unit 1073 Holiday Homecoming in Okemos

Lansing, MI - "I'll be home for Christmas, ..." For the 1073<sup>rd</sup> National Guard Unit out of Greenville, MI, this Christmas will have a dream come true: a week of holiday leave to spend at home with their families.

The 1073<sup>rd</sup> is currently training in Mississippi before being deployed to Iraq in a few weeks, for many this is their second deployment. The unit has leave this week, but most of the 145 soldiers could not afford to fly home for the holidays.

When the mid-Michigan community heard about their situation, they sprang into action and tens of thousands of dollars poured in to the VW 4406 post.

Dean Transportation is providing buses both ways at rock-bottom pricing, and community donations have more than covered the transportation costs. The 1073<sup>rd</sup> can now come home for the holidays, free of charge.

*But that's not all.*

The local Mid-Michigan Red Cross is coordinating donated snacks and beverages for the families and troops at the homecoming from local businesses like Tim Horton's (coffee), Dunkin' Donuts (coffee and donuts), Biggby's (hot cocoa) and Panera Bread (box lunches for the return trip).

The Red Cross' team of dedicated Services to Armed Forces volunteers will be there to meet the troops and keep the families warm until the buses arrive. The volunteers also made sure that the buses going to Mississippi were filled with snacks and Red Cross blankets.

The Red Cross used donated gift cards from Sam's Club and Wal-Mart, to purchase snacks and Dollar Tree provided playing cards, crossword puzzles, and magazines for the 18 hour bus ride.

A gift box will be waiting on each seat of the buses when they arrive in Mississippi to pick up the troops.

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One bus is going to Greenville, the other will be at the Okemos park-and-ride (exit 110) Tuesday, December 22, around 6pm. They will be leaving again for Mississippi late Sunday night, around midnight, December 27<sup>th</sup>, from the same locations.

All community members are encouraged to come and show their support and gratitude to the troops.

To learn more about the Mid-Michigan Red Cross Services to Armed Forces, or to support the cause, visit [www.MidMichiganRedCross.org](http://www.MidMichiganRedCross.org), or call Rachele Wood at (517) 702-3336.

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**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](http://www.redcross.org).*