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MEDIA ADVISORY***EIU ROTC CADETS PLAN FIELD EXERCISE***

Approximately 80 cadets from Eastern Illinois University's Department of Military Science are scheduled to participate in a **simulated air assault operation** during the weekend of April 25.

This field exercise is set to begin at 4 p.m. that Friday with a helicopter unit arriving near the south end of Lantz Gymnasium, just off Fourth Street. This aviation unit will transport EIU cadets to the official training site located elsewhere within Coles County. The EIU cadets will remain in that location for the remainder of Friday, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, and will return to campus -- via ground transportation -- Sunday afternoon.

This field exercise will prepare the cadets for Advanced Camp which takes place this summer at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

The helicopter unit is affiliated with the Illinois National Guard, and is using this local exercise as a training/practice opportunity for its soldiers, as well.

Eastern's department has indicated its willingness to work with any media wishing to cover this field exercise. Media representatives are welcome to be present at the loading site (although they will not be able to enter the helicopters), and escorts will be provided for any media wishing to visit the cadets at the weekend site.

Interested persons should contact Capt. Bradford Dean or Capt. Bradley Royle on or before Thursday, April 24, at (217) 581-5944, or Cadet Mauri Griffithe at (217) 348-0044.

Please note: Should a conflict arise and the helicopter unit be unable to come to Eastern, the local field exercise will continue as planned, with cadets being transferred via ground transportation.