

Longbow Apache Helicopters To Visit Taylor and Hutto



In response to encouragement from U. S. Congressman John Carter and in a neighbor-to-neighbor collaborative, the cities of Taylor and Hutto have joined together in the *Adopt A Unit Program* sponsored by the Central Texas-Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). Joined by each city's Chamber of Commerce, Ministerial Alliance, School

District and City Council, these two communities have adopted the 1st Battalion, 4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion which is a component of the Combat Aviation Brigade assigned to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Hood, Texas.

Our adopted unit, consisting of nearly 400 soldiers, will be deploying to Iraq in June of this year. With 24 Longbow Apache helicopters, the Dragon Battalion's primary mission is to support the ground forces wherever they are deployed through reconnaissance and engaging specific targets. An advanced helicopter with two pilots, the Longbow Apache has navigation, targeting and acquisition systems that provide a unique capability for every mission. Both by day and night, the Longbow Apaches provide 24-hour quick response airborne security to ground forces.

To kick off the *Adopt a Unit Program*, a Longbow Apache Helicopter will be visiting each city on Saturday, April 26. Citizens will have the opportunity to come out to Hutto High School between the hours of 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to see up close and personal this unique Attack Recon Helicopter, visit with some of the troops we will be supporting and find out more about how they may participate in the *Adopt a Unit Program*.

Other activities being planned by the Team Taylor-Hutto *Adopt a Unit* Committee include a picnic for our unit in May, a donation drive of specific items our soldiers have requested, care packages, letters and birthday cards to our troops, deployment/welcome home events, supportive calls to family members and sponsoring social gatherings. There will be many opportunities for all to participate in the program.

"I have seen many "yellow ribbons" in our community in support of our troops. This program will allow the entire Hutto community to get involved in giving to the troops and their families. This will be an on-going program" stated Councilmember Dave Begier, Co-Chair of the Adopt a Unit Committee for the Team Taylor-Hutto.

Other Williamson County cities that are adopting units include Georgetown, Leander, Liberty Hill, Cedar Park and Round Rock. The headquarters of the Combat Aviation Brigade has been adopted by the Williamson County Commissioners Court.

For additional information regarding the *Adopt A Unit Program*, please contact Patti Gilmore at the City of Hutto, 759-4034.