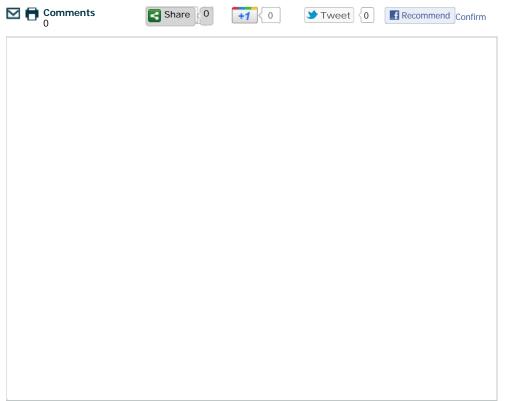


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AVIATION CENTER: Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held Tuesday for a \$2.1 million Iowa National Guard Aviation Readiness Center in Davenport



WHO Staff Writer 3:59 p.m. CST, February 21, 2012

The Iowa National Guard is celebrating the official opening of a new and improved Aviation Readiness Center in Davenport.

The center is used for guard sendoffs and homecoming ceremonies. But its main purpose is to train and educate soldiers in the Quad Cities area.

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Officials say this new facility will allow them to be better prepared.

Tuesday morning the Guard along with community leaders cut the ribbon on the \$2.1 million project. It includes a renovation of the original 1972 building, along with a 7,800 square foot addition. Congressman Bruce Braley helped secure funding for the project in 2009.





"I have been to Iraq, I've flown on these, I've been to Afghanistan, with increasing dependency on troops, it's absolutely necessary they have facilities like this to do their jobs, and to do them well," said Braley.

About 200 soldiers are based at the facility.

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