

# **“A Special Thank You”**

**August 1, 2011**

A Marriott hotel in Jacksonville, FL. hosted a special sendoff party Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> for some of our nation's finest.

Marriott's Fairfield Inn & Suites Jacksonville West/Chaffee Point honored the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 111<sup>th</sup> Aviation with an afternoon BBQ.

The National Guard Members who live out of the Jacksonville area were staying at the Fairfield Inn & Suites one weekend a month for the past few months while performing their duties at Cecil Field in preparation for deployment.

“The hotel and staff wanted to sendoff the troops with a special thank you,” General Manager, Shannon Dearin, said.

The extended luncheon consisted of hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken with all the fixins'. Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 111<sup>th</sup> Aviation stopped by throughout the day to enjoy the festivities and grab a bite to eat.

Dearin and her staff will be adopting the 111<sup>th</sup> Battalion while they are away, and will send them care packages.

The care packages will consist of small items to make their stay away from home a bit easier. The care packages will be filled with items donated from local companies and the community.