



## **Winery Honors Military with Custom Wine Labels**

*Press Release - 02/10/09*

WAMEGO, Kan. – A local, Kansas winery is supporting nearby troops by customizing wine labels in honor of their service.

As part of welcoming home the 3-1 Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment (3-1 AA), from a 15-month deployment to Iraq, the Oz Winery, located in Wamego, Kan., created special- made labels for red and white wine bottles. The labels paid tribute to the 3-1 AA's "Nightmares" call sign, as featured on their crest – a cloaked, dark knight atop an armor-clad black stallion.

Oz Winery co-owner Brooke Balderson said she felt honored by the opportunity to provide the battalion with such a unique souvenir for their welcome home ball.

"It's the first request of its kind we've had since we opened, and it meant a lot to me to be able to provide them with a commemorative wine label honoring their service to our country," Balderson said. "I hope at the end of the day, each soldier knows how happy we are to have them home."

The 3-1 AA flew about 250 missions during their deployment in Iraq. They recovered their first 15 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters via the port of Beaumont, Texas, Saturday, January 24, and then piloted them home to Kansas. Less than a week later, the soldiers joined their loved ones in homecoming celebrations at their battalion military ball held in Manhattan, Kan., Friday, January 30, where the commemorative wine was served.

The 3-1 AA "Nightmares" are part of Fort Riley's Combat Aviation Brigade, which currently has 2,300 soldiers assigned to Fort Riley, Kan. Wamego, Kan., is located about 30 miles northeast of Fort Riley, Kan., and is home to many soldiers (active and veteran)