

**Media Advisory**

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**Program Executive Office for Aviation, Public Affairs Office                             July XX, 2012**

**Redstone Arsenal, AL  35898-5020**

**For more information call 256-797-0607 or 256-425-4978**

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**Army Fields Three Light Utility Helicopters to Redstone Arsenal**

Redstone Arsenal, Ala. – The Army will field three Light Utility Helicopters for the first time on Redstone Arsenal on July 17.

The Product Office for Light Utility Helicopters that manages the life cycle of the UH-72A Lakota LUH will provide three aircraft to the Aviation Flight Test Directorate, part of the Redstone Test Center, and will use them as test aircraft and general support.

The twin engine aircraft features a glass cockpit with LCD displays, low-noise rotor blades, state-of-the-art communications package, and a multi-functional navigation package that includes duel GPS. The UH-72A has a payload capacity of up to 1107 pounds, can carry up to six passengers or 1500 pounds by a cargo hook, and can fly with speeds of up to 145 knots.

The Lakota is a version of the Eurocopter EC-145 with Army specific mission equipment. It is the newest helicopter to enter service with the Army and has being fielded to both the active Army and the Army National Guard. As of early 2012, over 200 have been produced.

In addition to supporting test and training facilities such as AFTD, the UH-72A provides flexible response to homeland security requirements, conducts support to search and rescue operations, supports damage assessment, reconnaissance and surveillance, and augments medical evacuation, medical evacuation missions.

The aircraft is also replacing aging UH-1 Hueys and OH-58A/C Kiowa Warrior aircraft and has freed up 23 UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft for use in the warfight. The Army has provided Lakotas to units in 20 states and 2 Territories. The Army will deliver 345 Lakotas by June 2016. Since its first operational flight, thefleet has already over 95,000 flight hours supporting homeland security missions, natural disaster assistance and border patrol missions across the globe.

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***Please RSVP to Randy Tisor at*** ***randy.tisor@us.army.mil*** ***or (256) 313-4558 if you wish to attend.***

***Media are asked to please meet at Gate 9 no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 17. Please bring your driver’s license, registration and proof of insurance in order to gain access.***