



## **Ambassador Reeker Welcomes Home Returning Macedonian Soldiers**

November 23, 2010



*Defense Attaché Todd Brown welcomes Macedonian Army soldiers back from their mission in Afghanistan. (LP)*

**Ambassador Reeker:** "On behalf of President Obama, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, and to its brave soldiers who are returning home safely to their families today. These 79 soldiers have successfully completed the first ever 9-month combined deployment with soldiers from the United States' Vermont National Guard in support of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. These men are part of the Army of Macedonia's overall 242 soldier contingent supporting ISAF operations. Since March of this year, this group of 79 has

honorably served shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers of the Vermont National Guard, performing a variety of challenging and dangerous missions in Afghanistan. We in the United States and at the U.S. Mission in Skopje appreciate Macedonia's continued efforts to create a safe and secure environment for the people of Afghanistan and establish broader global security. And we extend that gratitude not only to these 79 soldiers, but to their families and loved ones for the sacrifices they have made to support this effort."