



UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah National Guard Joint Magazine

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Spring 2009

**Utah Guard Helps Iraqi Girls Get
Lifesaving Surgery**

**Embedded Training Team,
2-211th Aviation Battalion and
142nd Military Intelligence
Return Home**



The Adjutant General's corner

By MG Brian Tarbet

DRAPER, Utah — I had the opportunity to attend the Recruiting Battalion change of command a few days ago and had occasion to thank our recruiters for the superb job they have done over the past year in bringing great young people into our force. As I spoke with them it occurred to me that the young Soldiers and Airmen who come into our units today and who stay for a typical 30-year career will be in uniform to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the creation of the National Guard.

It is hard to imagine all the good that has been accomplished by our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen over the years in defending our country and in seeing to the welfare of our fellow citizens in time of challenge. They have fought and won the Nation's wars and been there in times of domestic emergency and have proven themselves to be the best of the best. I salute them and their families for all they have done and for what they will yet do to secure our liberty and safety.

We have reason to be grateful as we welcome home many units which are now completing their deployments in the warfight. The 116th SECFOR and Embedded Training Team have returned home, and we anticipate that the 2/211th Aviation Battalion and 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion will arrive home soon. The Air National Guard continues a relentless operational tempo with the 151st Air Refueling Wing undertaking multiple deployments and the ongoing remarkable efforts of the 169th Intelligence Squadron. I am grateful for the continued service of the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and 19th Special Forces' Group Support Company in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

In my opinion, the greatest ingredient in the success of the Utah National Guard over the past decade has been the superlative performance of our noncommissioned officer corps. They have held us together and led us to heights unimagined a decade ago. It is only fitting that this year has been declared the Year of the NCO by the National Guard Bureau. Our wonderful NCOs deserve this recognition and more. They have been and are marvelous.

We begin an ambitious season of training and exercises that will require continued support from our families and employers. Let's make this a year of tough, realistic and safe training. Thanks for all you do. 🇺🇸



Photo by Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet



Photo by Ileen Kennedy

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet on the steps of the Utah State Capitol prior to addresses the audience at Governor Jon Huntsman's inauguration ceremony.

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Cover Photo - 1LT Bradley Blunck, Utah National Guard Embedded Training Team, on foot patrol in Jar-e-syah, Afghanistan. *Photo by CPT Bruce Roberts*

Inside Cover Photos: TOP: SSG Christopher Caldwell with his newborn daughter. *Photo by Steve Wolfe*. BELOW: Members of the advance party of the 142nd MI return to the Salt Lake Air Base January 2009. *Photos by Ileen Kennedy*

Back Cover: 1LT William Biesinger, MSG Charles Durrant and SFC Dustin Wheeler raise the American flag while serving with the Utah National Guard Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan. *Photo by CPT Bruce Roberts*

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Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — **D**uring Sergeant Major of the Army Preston's Nominative Command Sergeants Major conference at Fort Bliss, Texas, last January, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren announced that 2009 would be "The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer." He said this is a time to thank and honor our NCOs, a time to tell their story and a time to highlight key initiatives being launched that will benefit our NCO corps and their families.

During the year, the Army and National Guard Bureau will accelerate NCO development of strategic initiatives; develop new initiatives that enhance the training, education, capability and utilization of the NCO corps; showcase the NCO story to the American people; honor the sacrifices and celebrate contributions of the NCO corps, past and present; and acknowledge the challenges in recruiting, retention, and leadership.

The Army's professional NCO corps has a proud history that continues today with their heroic service in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Our NCOs are the backbone of the Army and are the glue that has held this Army together through this period of protracted conflict. Geren continued with, "Even in an Army that is out of balance, stressed and strained from more than seven years of conflict, Army NCOs have managed to care for our troops and ensure that missions are accomplished on and off the battlefield."

Army Chief of Staff General George W. Cassey said the noncommissioned officer corps is what keeps the Army together. "As I travel around the Army and I look at what we've accomplished over the past seven years at war, it's clearer and clearer to me that it is our noncommissioned officer corps that is providing the glue that's not only holding this force together at a difficult time, but enabling us to accomplish the near impossible every day, and that is why we will celebrate their contributions to our Army."

As this program grows and develops we will get the information out to the unit leadership so they can recognize NCOs and their families and give them the credit they so rightly deserve.

It is an exciting time for families and friends to welcome home the following units from their very successful deployments: 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion, Kuwait; 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Afghanistan; 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Iraq; and the remaining Soldiers from the 116th Security Force (SECFOR) that volunteered to extend when their unit returned home last spring. Also thank the individual's that have augmented other units and States in their missions.

We wish to keep in our thoughts the Soldiers from the 197th Special Troops Company and 19th Special Forces Group who helped to fill the ranks of the 5th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan.

We also want to welcome home members of the 151st Security Force Squadron and the 169th Intelligence Squadron and thank them for their dedication and hard work. They always make us extremely proud of the roles they play in the War on Terrorism.



*Bruce D. Summers
Command Sergeant Major, Utah Army National Guard*

We need to keep in mind those Warriors who are assigned to the Warrior Transition Units across the country and the Warriors assigned to the Community-Based Warrior Transition Units. Leaders need to maintain communication with them to check on their progress and help them to understand that they are still part of our organizations and we care about them and their families.

Our medical system has made large improvements during the last few years, but with so many Warriors needing attention sometimes they don't have a lot to keep them busy while waiting for appointments or treatment. It can be a long and painful process to receive the care they need. When I have had the opportunity to visit them, they are excited that someone from their home state has taken the time to check up on them and make them feel appreciated. Our goal is to get them assigned to a CBWTU as soon as possible so they may continue to heal but heal closer to their families and loved ones. Our Soldiers and Airmen are our most important assets and they deserve our dedicated support and leadership to take care of them.

As units start ramping up for their Annual Training periods NCOs need to make sure we are conducting challenging and realistic training. We must do so without compromising the safety of our Soldiers and Airmen. This type of training will prepare them for the missions they may encounter. We owe them and their families that level of commitment.

It is an honor to serve with such an outstanding organization. Thank you for your dedication to serve this great State and Nation. **E**

Photo by Greg Cullis

Soldiers of the 142nd MI Return from Afghanistan

By LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — It was all about overcoming obstacles as Soldiers of the Utah National Guard's 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion crossed the threshold into their home state Feb. 27 after a year of service in Afghanistan.

For these Soldiers, it was more than accomplishing a difficult and challenging mission in a dangerous environment—a laudable feat in itself to provide the full range of intelligence support to include voice intercept, tactical interrogation, strategic debriefing, counterintelligence and intelligence analysis and processing in a combat theater of operations. But it was also enduring ten days at Fort Lewis, Wash., waiting their turn to outprocess, a military term for filling out paperwork, being seen by medical personnel and sitting through numerous and endless briefings, all while just a few hundred air miles from home.

Their families overcame similar challenges, not only outlasting the year-long wait to get their Soldiers back for good, but they also braved a below-freezing thermometer, strong winds, icy roads, snow and a heinous itinerary for their Soldiers, which brought wives, children and extended family to the Utah Air National Guard Base well in advance of the respective 5:45 and 6:45 a.m. scheduled arrival times.

Utah Guard officials, the Family Program team and local merchants did their best to soften the impact of these realities by offering up the 23rd Army Band's rock band doing due diligence to the likes of U2, Van Morrison, and Billy Ray Cyrus; providing food and drink and plenty of seating for waiting families; an oversized Home Depot mascot working the crowd; and yellow roses to hand to each "Johnny" who would finally come marching home.

The media did their part too, with several newspaper reporters and the four local television stations on hand, taking full advantage of each live hit during their respective morning shows by showcasing elated spouses and children anxious to get their Soldiers home.

Commander of the 142nd, LTC Derek Tolman, of Draper, and his senior enlisted man, CSM Lane Wayment, of West Point, waited several minutes at the open door of the Boeing 737, waving at the cheering crowd while airline and base employees



scrambled to get the stairs in place for the Soldiers' descent.

Once it was safe to deplane, Soldiers lost no time moving through the receiving line, which included MG Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General of the

Utah National Guard; assistant adjutant generals Brig Gen David Hooper and BG Jeff Burton; COL Val Peterson, Commander of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade; State CSM Bruce Summers and the Patriot Guard riders, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who formed a flag-bearing colonnade on both sides of the reception line from the aircraft to the hangar.

Tarbet, who himself in years past commanded the 142nd, praised the efforts of the Battalion and its worth to the U.S. Military and Coalition forces.

"This was a very challenging mission; they've been doing very dangerous and dirty work for a year," he said. "They are hardworking and innovative, and the fact that these guys are all home safe and sound is an extraordinary blessing."

"This is a top-flight unit; very well led by fine NCOs, officers and warrant officers," Tarbet added. "It's one of the best MI units in the Army."

Family reaction to the arrival was mixed; some shouting and waving flags and signs wildly, practically tackling their Soldier to the ground, while others were more subdued, waiting patiently and tearfully for their loved one to reach them.

The first reunion was just getting underway when the second charter plane arrived at 6:05, some 40 minutes early.

The deplaning and greeting process was repeated, with the second contingent coming up with new and improved ways to welcome their Soldier, based on what they observed during the first go-round. Regardless of the method of welcome, however, all were thankful for their Soldier's safe return.

"It was a daily struggle," said Carolyn Tolman, wife of LTC Derek Tolman. "I couldn't think of it in terms of a year. This is the day I've looked forward to for two years. It was so important to [Derek] to make this a successful mission and to





PHOTOS: Family, friends and fellow military members greet 142nd MI Soldiers at the Salt Lake Air Base Feb. 27 after their year-long deployment to Afghanistan, also pictured are 142nd MI Soldiers who returned Jan. 27 as the Battalion's advance party.

bring everybody home. It's a wonderful gift from God.”
 Now reunited with his family, LTC Tolman took a moment to reflect on the mission, the 80 Combat Action Badges and three Purple Hearts earned by his men and women and the fact that every member of the 142nd returned home.
 “Bringing all our Soldiers home was huge”, Tolman said. “It was one of the most important objectives for me personally. There were a lot of close calls out there; it's a huge relief to bring them all back.
 “I couldn't be prouder of these guys;” he continued, “they

were recognized by the battlespace owners and the 101st Airborne Division time and time again. People just made things happen. My Soldiers are my greatest credential by far.”
 SFC William Ibarra, of Provo, was welcomed home by his wife Yulia and their four children.
 “I think we definitely made a difference,” said Ibarra of the deployment. “Because of what our team did, Afghanistan is a better and safer place for Afghanis and the Coalition. The sacrifice was worth it.”
 Yulia agreed, having just completed her second deployment as a Guard spouse.
 “This time was a little bit easier,” she said. “We missed him for a year, and it was a sacrifice but I'm happy. They helped change lives in Afghanistan.”

Utah Guard Hosts Governor's Inauguration

By MSgt Burke Baker

Photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland, Ileen Kennedy and Greg Cullis

SALT LAKE CITY — **G**overnor Jon Huntsman took the oath of office Jan. 5 for a second term amid frigid temperatures on the Utah State Capitol's front steps.

The Utah Air and Army National Guard played a large role in the planning and execution of their commander in chief's inauguration ceremony.

Major General Brian Tarbet, the Adjutant General of Utah, hosted the inauguration and once again called upon his Soldiers and Airmen to assist with the event.

"Despite the cold, it was a pleasure to participate in this historic event, and continue the tradition as hosts to the governor's inauguration," said Col. Samuel Ramsay, 151st Air Refueling Wing vice commander.

Amid freezing temperatures, a joint color guard proudly held the colors as emerging pop star and Utah native David Archuleta sang the national anthem, accompanied by the Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band.

Both Utah Air and Army National Guardsmen escorted several distinguished guests to their seats, including the governor and his wife, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Thomas S. Monson, and of course, Archuleta.

Lt. Col. Lisa Berente, 151st ARW's chief of safety, was selected to escort Archuleta.

"My job was to keep him moving so that he wasn't inundated with fans so he would have time to perform his vocal warm-ups," she said. "He was even nicer than I thought he would be and he sang beautifully."

Ten Airmen from the 151st Security Forces Squadron were called upon to augment the Utah Highway Patrol's security detail at the event. Additionally, four Utah National Guard helicopters from the 1-211th Aviation Battalion performed a flyover for the occasion culminating with an address from the governor. The speech focused on the future of the troubled economy for the state.

"To the people of this great state, my message to you is a simple one: When times get tough our resolve is tested," he said. "It is only through adversity that we are sometimes able to appreciate the strength of our fellow citizens and the goodness of our communities." ■



Governor Jon Huntsman with his wife looking on takes the oath of office Jan. 5 for his second term. BELOW: With his family behind him, Gov. Huntsman signs the official oath. OPPOSITE PAGE: Utah National Guard Color Guard presents the flag as David Archuleta sings the National Anthem. Braving the cold January weather Utah school children participate in the inauguration. Utah National Guard Airmen and Soldiers are seated on the capitol steps during the governor's inauguration. MG Brian Tarbet salutes the flag.





Saving Shahad and Ruqaya: Utah Guard Helps Iraqi Girls Get Lifesaving Surgery

By Chaplain (MAJ) Clay Anstead

PORTLAND, Me. — **U**nexpectedly, members of the Utah National Guard have developed a unique skill during wartime deployments; one that is not taught in any Advanced Individual Training school: rescuing little children with congenital heart conditions.

It all started with a little girl named Noor back in 2005, who came to the attention of the 115th Engineer Group during their stay in Iraq. Noor had a heart with a congenital birth defect and faced a life of severe physical limitations and an almost-certain premature death. Noor was bright and willing, but there was no skilled physician or medical facility to provide her the treatment she needed in her native country. Her family was poor, and Iraq was in the middle of a bloody struggle for freedom—long odds, to be sure.

Fortunately for Noor, there is a predisposition in military members to face obstacles and overcome them with whatever resources at hand. While he was home on leave, Chaplain (MAJ) Joel Miller, a staff officer in the 115th, puzzled over what might be done to help this child. He attended Governor’s Day back in Utah, and not knowing what else to do, started telling colleagues about Noor’s case and asking for connections or leads to any possible source of assistance for her.

Serendipitously, one of the chaplains happened to know of a pediatric heart surgeon in Portland, Maine, who could possibly point the 115th in the right direction. Officials contacted Dr. Reed Quinn, a Utah native, and he was only too glad to inform the 115th that he would not only be pleased to perform the needed surgery for free, but he also happened to have created a charitable foundation for the very purpose of bringing in children from places where care was not available, covering all other expenses involved.

Arranging for the doctor turned out to be the easy part. Navigating the bureaucratic red tape involved in getting Noor and her father out of the country legally and making transportation arrangements turned out to be the real hurdle. With the bright hope of help



Photo by Tammie Anstead

ABOVE: A “family” picture with, from left to right, grandmother Halima, Shahad, Ruqaya and mother Siham. BELOW: Shahad, left, and Ruqaya at Ronald McDonald House in Portland, Maine.

awaiting, and with the life of a small child hanging in the balance, it wasn’t hard for those of the 115th involved to produce the dogged determination needed to succeed, and succeed they did. Noor came with her father to the U.S., and she received the needed life-saving surgery from Dr. Quinn.

When the 145th Field Artillery from the Utah National Guard deployed to Camp Bucca in 2007, a similar opportunity to help other children seemed unlikely. Camp Bucca is the largest detention center in the history of the U.S. Military, but it isn’t located in a densely populated area, and there isn’t much interaction with the locals, except by the small Civil Affairs unit that goes out doing whatever good they can in the surrounding communities. Despite these circumstances, an unlikely connection opened the door for Dr. Quinn to work some more magic on two more children.

Major Hucks, director of Civil Affairs at Camp Bucca, leads a team that provides community outreach and attempts to link resources to needs to assist the civilian population. He and his assistants, a translator named Noosh and Sgt. 1st Class Adam Kirschner, were attempting to get a boy



Left to right: Shahad and Ruqaya.



Shahad, left, and Ruqaya take a test drive in a motorbus exhibit at the Portland Children's Museum.

named Mohammed to Italy for heart surgery and running into great difficulty making travel arrangements from Southern Iraq.

As Hucks was about to go on leave he visited the chapel at Bucca to promote what Civil Affairs was doing and mentioned the boy's case. Mohammed's father was a detainee at Camp Bucca, which is how his case had come to their attention. This was a great opportunity to foster goodwill, but the situation was beginning to look rather bleak because of the distances involved in pushing the paperwork through. Because of Noor's situation, Chaplain (Maj.) Clay Anstead, of the 145th, was keenly interested in helping yet another child get the medical help they needed and volunteered to assist while Hucks was gone on leave.

Mohammed's case was successfully managed, and he was able to go to Italy and have the surgery. Because of the close working relationship Anstead developed with the Civil Affairs members, he was able to tell them about Dr. Quinn and the help he would offer to other children with similar needs. The Civil Affairs members put out the word, and a handful of cases came forward from the community. Now, six months after the 145th returned to Utah, the first of these cases, two little girls from Basra, Shahad and Ruqaya, have come to Maine to be treated by Dr. Quinn.

Shahad is ten years old, very cheerful and sweet, while

Ruqaya is a shy and strong-willed five-year-old. Anstead and his wife Tammie traveled to Maine just before the girls had their operations to meet them and treat them to a day out in Portland. They visited the Children's Museum there and then took them to see the Portland Head Lighthouse and their first close-up look at the ocean.

Just a few days later Shahad had her surgery. A hole between the lower chambers of her heart was patched closed, and the pulmonary artery was reshaped and reconnected for better function. The operation was approximately four hours long and was a complete success. Shahad can look forward to a full and long life now.

Ruqaya underwent her surgery Dec. 1. Fortunately for her, the procedure did not involve opening her chest. The doctors were able to make the refinements needed by instruments inserted through a vein in her leg, reducing her recovery time to only a few days.

Such miracles are so commonly available to us that they are easy to take for granted. For Shahad and Ruqaya, life depended on two miracles: the miracle of American generosity and medical technology. ■



Ruqaya, left, and Shahad, five and ten years old, respectively, await surgery in Portland, Maine., Dec. 1.



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Pioneer Day in Kuwait

Story by CPT Deborah Gatrell and CPT Ricardo Gonzalez

Photos by CPT Ricardo Gonzalez

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait. — **I**t could have been just another normal workday for Utah Soldiers of the Aviation Task Force in Kuwait. Instead, Soldiers of the 2-211th GSAB were treated to a visit by MG Tarbet and CSM Summers. The Adjutant General and Command Sergeant Major visited Utah Soldiers in the Aviation task force at three separate camps in Kuwait.

The day started early when Tarbet and Summers met a detachment from the task force for breakfast. All 12 members of the Movement Control Team assigned to Ali Al Salem had a chance to visit with the TAG and CSM. Tarbet took time to ask Soldiers about their families and employers back home, as well as their current jobs, the mission at the air base and living conditions. He told Soldiers how much he appreciated their contributions and encouraged them to do their best to cope with the heat. This time of year, temperatures were above 100° F every day. After breakfast, the CSM presented SPC Ballard, SPC Ellers and SPC May with CSM coins for their hard work and significant contributions during the establishment of the MCT mission.

At Camp Buehring, Tarbet and Summers were able to visit the main body of the task force. They spent some time with Soldiers of Delta Company in the aircraft maintenance hangar before traveling to the Echo Company motorpool. The task force command group, staff and Soldiers from each company joined Tarbet and Summers for lunch at Camp Buehring. Tarbet spoke briefly, emphasizing the importance of safety, and cautioned against complacency for the duration of the deployment. As he put it, “You’re not home safe until you’re home safe.” After lunch, the Tarbet and Summers returned to the flight line for a sensing session with enlisted Soldiers from the task force. After a short drive back to the air base, Tarbet and Summers visited with Air National Guard firefighters on Ali Al Salem.

From the air base, the Tarbet and Summers flew to Camp Arifjan with a crew from the Aviation task force to end the day with the smallest detachment—a group of liaison officers working at Amry Central Headquarters. Because of the presence required at the critical operational issues and criteria, only two of three liaison officers were able to join Tarbet and Summers for dinner at the Oasis dining facility. It was a pleasant evening and a fitting ending to a well-timed trip. What better way to spend Pioneer Day than with Utah Soldiers! ■



ABOVE: MG Tarbet visits with D Company mechanics at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, July 24, 2008. BELOW: CSM Summers with D Company Soldiers.



2-211th GSAB: One Over the World

Story by CPT Deborah Gatrell and CPT Ricardo Gonzalez

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait. — Utah's 2D General Support Aviation Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, aka Task Force Ghost rider, mobilized in February 2008 and moved to Fort Sill, Okla. They were joined by their attached flight company, A Co., 2-104th GSAB, for three months of additional training before deploying May 12 to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The transfer of authority ceremony took place May 24, where the 2-211th took over for the 1-168th GSAB. The Task Force was dispersed across three different camps in Kuwait: Camp Buehring, Ali Al Salem Air Base and Camp Arifjan. From May until the transfer of authority ceremony with 2-238th GSAB Jan. 30, 2009, the unit served with distinction and deserves credit for numerous significant accomplishments.

Task Force Ghost rider was the sole provider of aviation transportation for senior leadership and distinguished visitors in the Kuwait and Southern Iraq area of responsibility. Ghost rider crews and aircraft provided fast and secure movement and a literal bird's-eye view of the terrain for civilian leadership from the US and its Coalition partners including some of the most senior officers of the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy. Distinguished civilian visitors included then-Senator Barack Obama, governors, congressmen, and representatives from 15 different states and Guam as well as U.S. Ambassadors, their families, and Department of Defense civilians. Coalition partners from Great Britain, Australia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Tonga also utilized Ghost rider assets to move their senior leadership.

Supporting all these movements, Ghost rider personnel processed more than 794 mission requests; their air assets flew over 8,300 combat and imminent danger flight hours, carried 13,887 passengers and 1533 tons of cargo, and flew to 17 different countries. At the end of the deployment the Ghost riders returned

home with no casualties. Along the way they also reenlisted 34 Soldiers, promoted 49, and recognized 12 new noncommissioned officers. Three new pilots in command took charge of the aircraft they fly and more than 117,000 miles were covered on ground missions. Though not a part of their assigned mission, task force personnel were also able to facilitate the movement of over 300 emergency-leave Soldiers and Airmen.

Task force Soldiers enjoyed tremendous support from the home front during the entire deployment. Operation Adopt-A-Ghost, organized by Linda Larsen, was a smashing success. Soldiers received regular letters and care packages from supportive citizens in Utah and across the country. Other organizations, such as Operation Gratitude, based in Encino, Calif., also participated in efforts to support the troops. Ghost rider Soldiers participated in the Larry H. Miller Christmas Carol Sing-Along via satellite from Kuwait. The 2-211 GSAB was well taken care of, which enabled them to focus on the mission and perform their jobs safely. After a successful deployment, Soldiers of the Task Force are looking forward to spending time at home. ■



Photo by CPT Gordon Pedersen

BELOW: SPC Skougard briefs visiting USO tour celebrities.
RIGHT: Members of the 2-211th GSAB display the U of U flag.



Photo by CPT Gordon Pedersen



Photo by CW3 John Lloyd

Cooperative Spirit 2008

Utah Guard Soldiers and NCOs Shine in International Exercise in Germany

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

HOHENFELS, Germany — **M**aking international headlines from Sept. 11 to Oct. 10 were nearly 1,800 active-duty Soldiers from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, training together in Germany as part of Cooperative Spirit 2008. This was an ABCA-sponsored exercise that tested the interoperability of the major English-speaking militaries of the world.

Significantly less visible—but equally important—cogs in the ABCA machinery were a few dozen Soldiers from the Utah National Guard, who augmented the mayor’s cell, the entity responsible for providing the logistical and maintenance support to the exercise.

The Utah contingent of approximately 60 Soldiers and officers, the majority of whom are assigned to Training Site Command at Camp Williams, formed the backbone of the operation, running the forward operating base at Hohenfels’ Camp Albertshof. Their responsibilities included housing, feeding, equipping, issuing ammunition, transporting, showcasing, offering gym and internet services, and providing medical care to the Soldiers of the five ABCA member nations.

Starting with just nine members of the Utah Guard’s advance party on the ground Sept. 3, officer-in-charge MAJ Stephan Jarvis, of La Verkin, and his team of miracle workers built a framework of goods and services that underpinned the entire operation.

“I brought some good people; they knew what they were doing,” said Jarvis. “There was a small number of us and a whole bunch of them. We had to do the work of 50 people, prep the ground for 2,000 more and clean up after 3,000 others who just left.”

It was a gargantuan task, but it was also one that was tailor-made for Utah’s Training Site Command, according to their commander, COL Robert Dunton.

“It’s a pure M-Day (part-time) organization that helps support Army Garrison Camp Williams,” said Dunton. “Our mission is warfight support, and a mayor’s cell is what Army Garrison Camp Williams basically is.”

“Working FOB operations has been one of their primary specialties,” said COL Gregory Berry, mayor (commander) of FOB Albertshof, a mobilized



TOP DOWN: The Cooperative Spirit “horse blanket” lists the training schedule of each member nation in the exercise. MSG Clair Hugie arranges for “beans, bullets and beds” for the Soldiers involved in the exercise. Kiwi (New Zealand) Soldiers prepare for another day in the field at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany, Sept. 24.



Australian Soldiers, as part of ABCA (America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) support Cooperative Spirit 2008. SGT Douglas Miller, left, and SPC Scott Young inspect and sort expended ammunition at the Ammunition Holding Area. Canadian Master Cpl. Martin Milot, right, reviews an ammunition request with SPC Scott Young, left, and Robert Linn.

Reservist assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army's G3/5/7 at the Pentagon.

"They hit the ground running, knowing that we were behind the proverbial eight ball," Berry continued. "We already had units on the ground, so they got everything up and running relatively quickly and efficiently."

Housing, Feeding, Equipping, Fueling

Ensuring that every Soldier in the exercise had "beans, bullets, beds" and whatever else they needed to survive in a training environment was MSG Clair Hugie, a 37-year veteran of the Utah Guard, from Ogden. Hugie is affectionately known as 'Innkeeper' at Camp Williams for his many years of service overseeing life-support operations there.

Hugie recalled "bouncing like a rubber ball from one end of the installation to the other" the first few days of the exercise as he and his staff sorted out a myriad of issues that exercise leaders needed solved:

- Arranging for delivery and installation of modified adapters on individual and crew-served weapons so that the Australians and New Zealanders (Kiwis) could use the U.S.-provided MILES gear in their training.
- Relocating fuel distribution points for the U.K. and Australians to make the most efficient use of vehicles, fueling equipment and travel time.
- Coordinating the pickup of Coalition Soldiers at Munich Airport when planned-for buses suddenly became unavailable.
- Receiving shipments of supplies and equipment at all hours, signing trucks in, unloading their cargoes and escorting them off post.
- Dealing with five different countries and their expectations for food and rations.

Being pulled in so many directions, Hugie quickly adopted this mantra: "You bring the problem to me, and we'll fix it or we'll find someone who can."

The measure of truth of Hugie's statement was borne out in the across-the-board accolades he received from all sides for his ability to solve problems. Senior leaders of the exercise lauded Hugie for his ability to find a way to get the job done.

One afternoon about midway through the exercise, Hugie received a call from Jarvis, telling him to come immediately to the briefing building. Upon arriving Hugie found LTG Gary Spear, deputy commander of U.S. Forces in Europe waiting for him. Spear told the packed room what a tremendous job Hugie had done in supporting the Cooperative Spirit exercise and presented him with his personal coin in appreciation for his efforts. 🇺🇸

Utah Guard Supports DEA in Massive Drug Bust

Operation Green Garden Seizes Marijuana Plants in Southern Utah

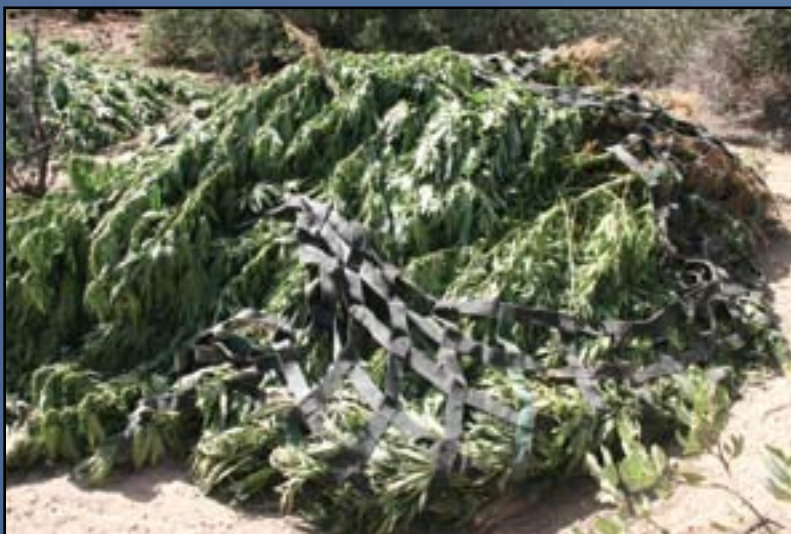
Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah Army National Guard supported the DEA's Operation Green Garden Aug. 28, along with more than 100 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, for the largest marijuana drug bust in Utah's history.

The operation targeted a large-scale outdoor marijuana cultivation operation located in the Dixie National Forest in Southern Utah. Officers spent the day cutting down marijuana plants, collecting evidence and removing trash, seizing tens of thousands of marijuana plants and arresting Mexican national Ignacio Rodriguez for drug and immigration offenses. Rodriguez faces federal charges for cultivation and distribution of marijuana.

Jeffrey Sweetin, special agent in charge of the Rocky Mountain Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, indicated that the DEA believes Rodriguez to be responsible for providing, organizing and supplying laborers for the numerous marijuana fields seized. Agents observed Rodriguez purchasing truckloads of fertilizer, large quantities of groceries and other necessities and then delivering the items to the remote grow sites.

The sophisticated operation was on federal and state lands where natural springs watered the plants. Growers weaved an intricate water system of black irrigation pipe extending more than a mile down the canyon. Dirt, rocks and branches camouflaged the pipe from being spotted by aircraft or unsuspecting hikers. In the lower canyon levels the pipe spread out in a grid to water the marijuana gardens.



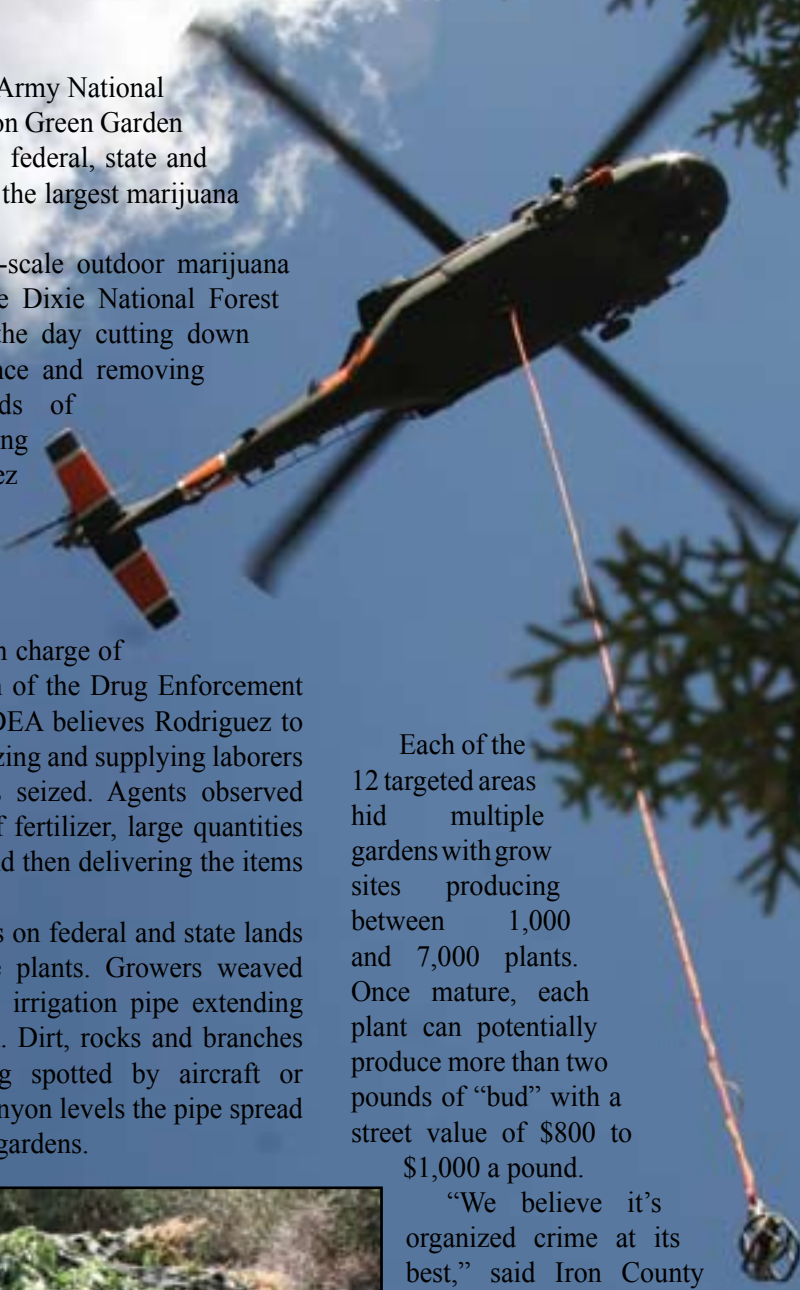
Each of the 12 targeted areas hid multiple gardens with grow sites producing between 1,000 and 7,000 plants. Once mature, each plant can potentially produce more than two pounds of "bud" with a street value of \$800 to \$1,000 a pound.

"We believe it's organized crime at its best," said Iron County Sheriff Mark Gower. "They're very sophisticated in what they do. They're serious about making a lot of money on this."

In addition to making a financial mark in the region, the presence of fertilizers, human waste, garbage and the diverting of the natural flow of water to native plants and animals create a tremendous environmental impact on Utah public lands.

"The damage caused to these pristine forest areas from the trash, chemicals and plastic pipe left behind was significant," said Sweetin.

At the garden sites, growers set up a camp with a





OPPOSITE PAGE: A Utah National Guard Blackhawk helicopter “threads the needle” with a long line and hook ready to be attached to an awaiting net full of marijuana plants. ABOVE: A Drug Enforcement Administration agent cuts a marijuana plant to remove it from one of the many groves. Heavy equipment was used to load the piles of cut plants off the mountain.

kitchen equipped with cooking stoves, propane tanks, cast-iron pans, bags of tortilla shells and coolers full of meat, cheese and vegetables. There were also sleeping areas, extra clothing and a latrine. One campsite included a large seven-foot pit containing multiple black plastic bags full of garbage suggesting prolonged living arrangements of growers in remote areas. All of these items were left behind in a rush to escape arrest and prosecution.

The growing mounds of marijuana plants, black pipe and garbage would take weeks to remove. That’s one reason why law enforcement agents requested the assistance of the Utah National Guard.

“The National Guard is crucial; they give us air support, they give us logistical support with maps and equipment,” said an unidentified DEA agent while he cut plants in the Bitter Creek area of Washington County. “Not all pilots have the experience to do slingloads. With bigger aircraft, we can cut the amount of loads. Without the Guard’s support, this operation would turn from a two-day operation into at least a two-week [operation].”

A limited number of helicopter pilots are trained for long-line extractions. Skilled pilots with the Utah Army National Guard flew a Blackhawk helicopter rigged with a long-line

cable, hook and net to haul the plants out of the remote canyons to designated drop locations.

“For most aviators in our organization, the long line is relatively new,” said CW2 Ken Hess, A Company, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion. “The only thing that really restricts us is we can’t fly too fast because if the load starts to trail behind the aircraft it could cause problems. So we are limited to air speed when we are flying the stuff out of the mountains.”

The pilots and crew chiefs flew multiple missions each day hauling thousands of plants, trash and pipe for evidence. In such conditions pilots must exhibit a tremendous amount of steady nerves to hover above the tree-covered forest. They “thread the needle” by dropping a long line between trees to be attached to a full net below. The loaded nets are then flown to open areas adjacent to dirt roads where front-end loaders wait to load dump trucks, which haul the marijuana away.

“It’s tiring, [and] it takes a lot of work to hover an aircraft 130 to 140 feet above the ground and not move,” continued Hess. “There is little reference, so you have to take a lot of commands from your crew chiefs. It’s difficult to hold that high hover and not drop the load on the ground or run it into a dump truck.”

“We couldn’t do this without the help of the Utah National Guard,” said DEA group supervisor Michael Root. “The National Guard’s expertise in flying in remote areas, low to the ground, providing slingloading and carrying up to 5,000 pounds of weight [is indispensable] versus trying to hike the plants out or putting them on ATVs. The difference is so much it basically ends up cutting the [overall] amount of manpower we need.”

“Through the work of these pilots we were able to identify several other grow sites that we might never have observed on the ground as they were flying in and out of the areas,” continued Root.

The long hours, working in 108-degree weather and cutting and hauling plants was challenging, DEA agents said, but well worth the effort of all agencies to get tens of thousands of marijuana plants off U.S. streets. 🇺🇸

TOP DOWN: A SWAT team member inspects the plants in one of the sites where thousands of healthy plants were growing. Harvested buds were cut, dried, bagged and ready to be transported by the growers. A Utah National Guard Blackhawk carries a full net of marijuana off the mountains of Southern Utah. (Left to right) Chief Ken Hess, CW5 Lynn Higgins and SGT Ron Isom detach the long line and hook from the Blackhawk.



Utah Air Guard Members Return Home for the Holidays

By Maj Krista DeAngelis

SALT LAKE CITY — “Warm up your hugs and kisses, they’re four minutes out,” announced the voice from the base loudspeaker as the long-awaited C-130 landed on the Salt Lake City tarmac Nov. 22.

After six months of separation from their family and friends, 25 members of the Utah Air National Guard’s 151st Security Forces Squadron (SFS) arrived home from their deployment to a cheering crowd, an arch of fire truck hoses, media cameras and a group of Patriot Guard motorcycle riders.

Some family members could hardly contain their excitement as they paced around in anticipation of Servicemembers’ return from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I miss him so much, and I’m very happy to have him back,” shouted nine-year-old Austin Davis as he eagerly waited to catch a glimpse of his dad, Master Sgt. Brent Davis. “We have a big banner sign in our yard saying, ‘Welcome Home, Dad.’ It’s just really exciting to have him back.”

The SFS Airmen deployed May 16, 2008, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During that time, they provided force protection for deployed Coalition and noncombatant forces, convoy security, base defense and law enforcement.

“We are very excited to have them home again,” said 1st Lt. Kevin Larsen, 151st SFS commander. “They performed their mission superbly, and their families are thrilled to have them back.”

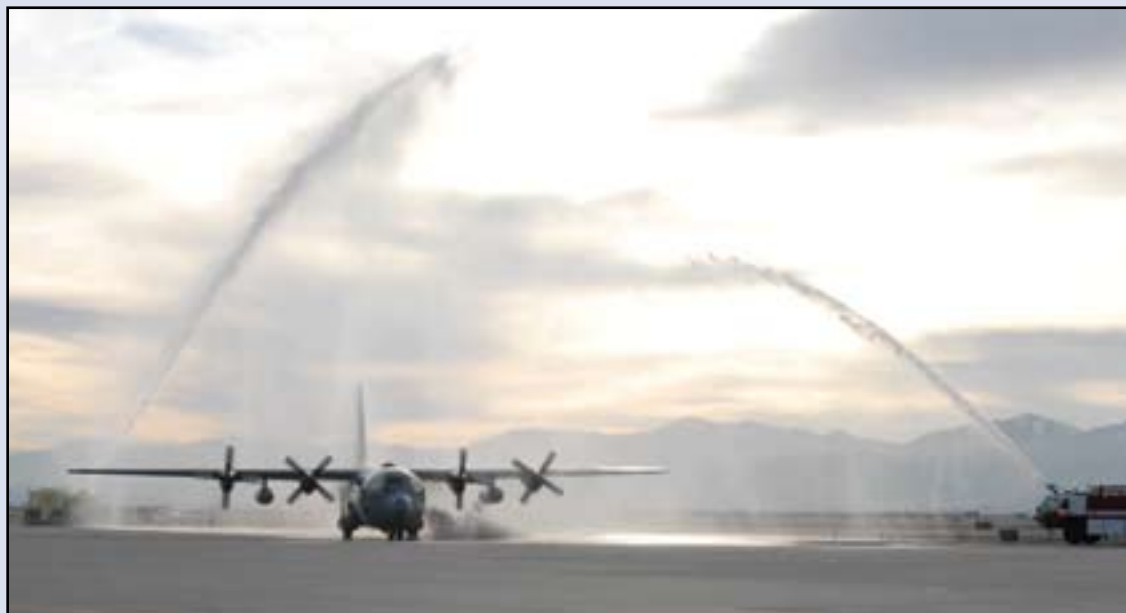
In preparation for their return, the SFS hosted fun events for the children of the deployed Airmen that included crafts and games. Some of the children even created clothing and posters to celebrate their family member’s arrival.

“Almost every kid whose dad is gone has a shirt with pictures of his or her dad on it,” said Austin Davis, as he modeled his white T-shirt stenciled with a photo of Master Sgt. Davis. “I also colored a banner and drew a big American flag on it.”

The group arrived home just in time for the holidays. **E**



By SSgt Emily Monson



TOP DOWN: Master Sgt Brent Davis hugs his children after returning from a six-month deployment to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Col Kelvin Findlay, 151st Air Refueling Wing commander, welcomes home MSgt Brian Gatherum. A Minnesota Air National Guard C-130 “Hercules” carrying 22 members of the 151st Security Forces Squadron passes under a water-cannan salute by the Utah Air National Guard Fire Department.

Utah National Guard's I Corps Artillery Becomes the 65th Fires Brigade

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah—**I**n a smartly conducted ceremony that mirrored the precision required of Soldiers firing the big guns on the battlefield, the Utah National Guard's I Corps Artillery was officially deactivated and transformed into the 65th Fires Brigade Sept. 14 on the Camp Williams parade field.

The clear and unusually windless morning at Camp Williams, combined with inspiring music from the 23rd Army Band and a 75mm cannon salute, set the stage for BG Michael R. Liechty, of Providence, to relinquish command of the Artillery Soldiers of the Utah National Guard to LTC Richard Miller, of Highland, who will lead them as the first commander of the 65th Fires Brigade.

Liechty had commanded I Corps Artillery since March 2007. Miller was commander of Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, when the unit deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005-2006.

Hundreds of Soldiers stood at attention in formation on the field as Liechty cased the familiar flag of I Corps Artillery and Miller unfurled the colors of the new 65th Fires Brigade.

In his remarks following the ceremony on the field, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, called the day's events a "bittersweet occasion," and praised the Soldiers of I Corps Artillery for their dedication to



Members of the new 65th Fires Brigade pose with the outgoing and incoming colors of their unit.

the mission.

"There is a special quality to the Artillerymen in this State," said Tarbet. "You've shown it throughout the world in difficult places and in difficult times. This same great quality will carry the 65th forward as you do great things in the future."

"These are the best two Artillery battalions in the Army—not just the National Guard," continued Tarbet. "The [new] brigade will give us an opportunity to further refine and demonstrate our commitment to the Country and to the State."

Liechty, who was awarded the Utah Medal of Merit at the ceremony for his service in leading I Corps and for preparing the unit for the transition to the new fires brigade, expressed gratitude to his Soldiers assembled on the field.

"Your performance is always outstanding and is always professional," he said. "It has been an honor for me to command this unit."

Liechty explained to his Soldiers that when the Army decided to field seven new fires brigades in the National Guard nationwide, Utah was selected "because of your performance."

"I was a little emotional when we rolled up the colors for I Corps Artillery, but the colors for the new 65th Fires Brigade look pretty good," confessed Liechty. "There is a lot of heritage in that unit patch. Remember your roots and where you come from."

Calling Miller "the right man, at the right time, in the right job to get this unit off to a good start," Tarbet expressed his confidence in Miller's ability to lead the 65th, which will be comprised of the following units in several states:



I Corps Artillery Soldiers provide a 75 mm gun salute to outgoing commander BG Michael Liechty Sept. 14.

- 1-145th Fires Battalion (Paladin) – Utah National Guard
- 2-222nd Fires Battalion (Paladin) – Utah National Guard
- 5-113th Fires Battalion (HIMARS) – North Carolina National Guard
- 1-178th Fires Battalion (PALADIN) – South Carolina National Guard
- 1-214th Fires Battalion (PALADIN) – Georgia National Guard
- 340th Brigade Support Battalion – California National Guard
- F/144 Target Acquisition Battery – California National Guard
- 156th Signal Company – Michigan National Guard.

The transition from I Corps Artillery to the 65th Fires Brigade is part of an overall Army master plan to restructure the fighting force to a more mobile, responsive and modular organization.

The new unit's history indicates perhaps why it was designated as the 65th Fires Brigade. Its lineage traces back to the 65th Artillery, which was mustered into service in 1917 for World War I. In 1936, the 65th Artillery Brigade became part of the Utah National Guard with Brig. Gen. William G. Williams as its commander, for whom Camp Williams is named.

The 65th was activated for service in World War II, serving under the 40th Infantry Division. In 1946 the 65th was redesignated as XLIII Corps Artillery and in 1950 was renamed XI Corps Artillery, later serving during the Berlin Crisis in 1961-62.

In 1984, XI Corps became I Corps Artillery, and its units and Soldiers served in support of Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As the last officer to speak at the ceremony, new commander Miller called for his Soldiers to do their best to measure up to their legacy.

“This is an opportunity to move forward to keep the traditions and standards set so high by our predecessors,” he said. “How fortunate we are to be Soldiers in this Fires Brigade. I challenge you to learn something each day, move forward, set high standards, and do the best we can do.”



ABOVE: LTC Richard Miller, left foreground, leads the first formation of the 65th Fires Brigade. LEFT: BG Michael Liechty, foreground, stands at the head of the I Corps Artillery formation for the last time on Camp Williams parade field. BELOW LEFT: LTC Richard Miller, right, unfurls the colors of the new 65th Fires Brigade with CSM James Liechty. BELOW RIGHT: BG Michael Liechty, right, cases the colors of I Corps Artillery with assistance from his brother, CSM James Liechty.

128th MPAD Soldiers Look Back on a Year Deployment to Baghdad

By 1LT Shawn Clark

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — It is usually at the end of a long journey that one looks back and, depending on the road traveled, might see it as a good experience or otherwise.

The 13 members of the Utah National Guard's 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, who were joined by four members of the Colorado 104th PAD and two Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers, look back on the deployment to Baghdad with feelings that are neither all good nor all bad, and feel like they have grown, both personally and professionally.

Anyone who has grown knows that it is neither fun nor easy, but well worth the effort, and such is the case with the Soldiers of the 128th MPAD who are keeping one eye on finishing their mission and the other toward home.

The 128th MPAD deployed to Fort Dix, N.J., in mid March 2008 for required deployment training, specific media operations training and individual Soldier readiness training. After approximately two and a half months of training at Fort Dix, they headed to theater, stopping in Kuwait for a few days to receive the necessary briefings and to ensure their weapons worked.

Upon arrival to Baghdad in the middle of June, unit members immediately dived into their jobs. Two Soldiers were sent to work at the Multinational Division – Baghdad Command Information Center; one became the editor of the 4th Infantry Division biweekly newspaper, *The Ivy Leaf*, and yet another became the media-embed coordinator. The rest of the MPAD worked at the Media Operations Center where they set up shop in their respective specialties: broadcast and print journalism.

The broadcast section was comprised of a unique and dynamic group of talented Soldiers from the National Guard, IRR and were supplemented with a few active-duty Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division. They were given a huge mission load from the first day on the job and surpassed expectations with their passion and professionalism.

"It has been a steep learning curve and we were busy all the time, but it was a good mission being able to tell the Soldier story... and we did that really well," said SGT Kyle



SSG Scott Wolfe, Tooele, Utah, takes a photo at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq.

Photos courtesy of 128th MPAD

Pflieder, a broadcast journalist from Wisconsin, and one of the IRR Soldiers tasked to deploy with the 128th MPAD.

The print section had many newly trained journalists and a few who deployed without the journalist military occupational specialty, but the section took the assignments that came their way, jumping into the refiner's fire with both feet.

"I love our unit, said PFC Lyndsey Dransfield, of Draper, Utah, and the most junior member of the unit who met the unit at Fort Dix straight from Advanced Individual Training. "Everyone made me feel welcome, made me feel like a part of the family and were very helpful to teach me things I did not know."

For the last month of the deployment, Dransfield was the editor of the Daily Roar, the daily 4th Infantry Division paper that was produced nightly. Being junior enlisted and jumping into a deployment early in her career gave Dransfield valuable experiences she may have not normally gotten with years as a traditional Guardsmember.

"Since I've been here I've gotten thrown into it. I had no experience except at DINFOS (Defense Information School)." Dransfield continued, "I've written at least 50 stories, taken over 10,000 pictures, I've gotten to do media escorting, layout and design... I've got to experience all different portions of the job over here and I think that's pretty unique for someone

who's as junior as I am."

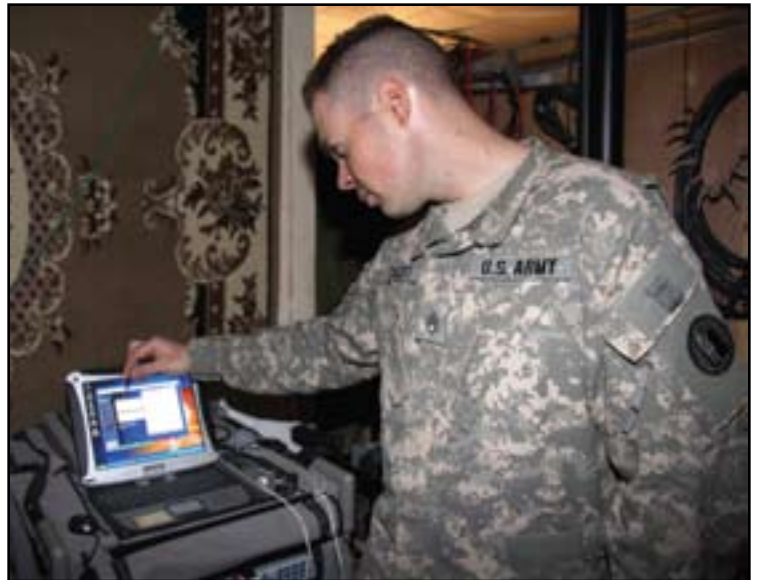
"There were plenty of stories to be told here, and we did the best we could to tell them and meet our other weekly requirements," said SPC Douglas York, of Magna, Utah, a print journalist with the 128th MPAD.

"No matter what, I will never forget some of the inspirational people I interviewed, but more importantly I'll never forget my friends in this unit; they truly kept me going," he said.

Often with a demanding workload and short turnaround time, the print section was required to maintain a high operational tempo and be the very definition of flexible.

"I had a great team of hard-working Soldiers who were dedicated to their craft and no matter the difficulties, I knew I could count on them to get the job done," said SSG Brock Jones, of Lehi, Utah, print section noncommissioned officer in charge, 128th MPAD.

Now, coming to the end of their deployment, the members of the 128th MPAD tired but have a feeling of pride and leave with the simple knowledge of a job well done, to return to their lives, their loves and their futures. 📧



ABOVE: SSG Kelly Collett, West Jordan, Utah, checks the Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) uplink which provides news, images, audio, video and publications from military operations around the world. BELOW: PFC Lyndsey Dransfield, Draper, Utah, talks to Iraqi girls while on a mission in Taji, a city north of Baghdad.



Utah Guard's 2-211th Aviation Battalion Returns from Kuwait and Iraq



By PFC Rebecca Hansen

SALT LAKE CITY — Anticipation was in the air Feb. 8 in a hangar at the Salt Lake Air Base as families waited out the final moments of deployment for their Soldiers, members of Second Battalion, 211th Aviation, Utah National Guard.

More than 150 Soldiers from the 2-211th had just completed 12 months of service in Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the inbound charter flight from Fort Carson, Colo., made its final approach, the hangar doors opened and the crowd moved en masse to stand just behind the safety line on the tarmac. Cheers erupted as the plane landed and was chaperoned by emergency vehicles to the hangar.

Once the plane came to a stop the cheering grew even more enthusiastic as Soldiers faces were visible in the windows and the door of the aircraft opened.

Families then saw their loved ones descend the stairs from the plane and walk through a pathway lined with American flags held by the Patriot Guard, motorcycle enthusiasts who share an admiration for those who wear the uniform of our Nation.

Passing the flag-lined corridor, Soldiers walked in into the arms of families and friends, reunited after a long time apart.

The 2-211th left Utah in February of 2008 to provide UH60 Blackhawk transport of Coalition equipment and personnel in Kuwait and Iraq. Most of the soldiers were on their second deployment, and for some their third.

Flying helicopters in the extreme heat, dust and wind is not the safest conditions to fly in, but despite that, all the Soldiers in the unit returned to their homes and families safely.

“There are no guarantees in this business,” said Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. “We have had Soldiers who have lost their lives during training. So to have them back from war safely, it’s just an extraordinary

achievement.”

For the families of deployed it is never easy to have their loved one gone, especially when they have children.

“It has been challenging, but we have had a lot of support and I think that it will just make us stronger,” said Summerlyn Brady, wife of Sgt. Kale Brady. “It’s been hard, but we are proud of him and glad that he was able to go serve our country.”

“It was hard not being able to see him and do the things that we used to do,” said Kristen Terry, daughter of 2-211th Aviation Crew Chief Spc. Brian Terry. “I am excited to be able to go see movies and ski with him again.”

In many cases families had to do the best they could for their





deployed Soldier with their finances in these difficult times.

“A lot of things happen in the world today with the economic situation, and we have tried to do things here at home to help him with that,” said Steve Terry, Spc. Terry’s father. “We tried to send stuff over there that he needs; other than that he has been getting along pretty good. He is self sufficient.”

Even though deployment took these Soldiers thousands of miles away from their loved ones, they were still able to keep in touch through letters, E-mail, and phone calls.

“Sometimes I felt like he called more while he was over there than when he was home,” said Michelle Liddell, wife of 1st Sgt. Russell Liddell of the 2-211th Aviation. “He called almost every day. We would see him on the camera, but it wasn’t quite the same as him being here.”

After being away from friends and family these Soldiers just wanted to spend time with their family, and some will be getting to know their own children.

“I was able to come home when [my son] was born. I have been gone a long time without him, so this is a new experience” said Staff Sgt. Kale Brady, an avionics technician with the 2-211th. “He is a lot bigger then when I left him.”

As time wore on, the hangar became less and less crowded as the Soldiers and their families departed the airport, anxious to be with each other after such a long separation.

“These aviators have deployed a great deal,” said Tarbet. “I am grateful for the families and employers for sticking with us. The citizens of this state need to know what extraordinary Citizen-Soldiers these aviators are.” ■

PHOTOS: After a year-long deployment more than 150 Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation return home to family and friends Feb. 8.



The 85th CST Gears Up with First Responders

Story and photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland

MIDVALE and WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah —

Combine the heat, HAZMAT gear, and the scope of the mission and the training doesn't get any hotter than this. The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) of the Utah National Guard conducted a three-day, joint-operations training exercise July 28-30 with local and regional first responders in the suburbs of Salt Lake City.

The 85th is a 22-person team comprised of both Army and Air Force personnel. Commander of the 85th, Lt. Col. Kevin Nuccitelli, stressed the importance this type of exercise gives to both the Guard and local responders.

"A lot of times we don't get the opportunity to train with such a large civilian emergency first-responder presence, so over the last year we've worked with several agencies, and we've been able to apply those lessons learned and how to integrate the Civil Support Team into the civilian structure so that we can best support them."

The exercise began Monday evening, July 28, in Midvale as an isolated criminal event, and from there it turned into a HAZMAT situation.

"We were called in to assist because the first responders ran into some things that they weren't familiar with from a HAZMAT perspective," Nuccitelli explained.

The unknown substance turned out to be a type of WMD, and the 85th was able to collect samples and identify what it was.

As the 85th was wrapping up the incident in Midvale, there was an exercise scenario going on simultaneously at Rocky Mountain Raceway in West Valley City. The second venue was the site of a sendoff for Utah athletes heading to the Beijing Olympics with VIPs, thousands of spectators and other activities. The scenario developed into coordinated attacks in both Midvale and West Valley.

At the raceway the 85th encountered multiple devices that disseminated WMD, as well as improvised explosive devices.

As with any HAZMAT incident to which the CST might respond, the 85th worked closely with local jurisdictions in support of the on-scene incident commander, Murray Fire Chief Gill Rodriguez. He explained how important this type of training is to the local community.

"If anything did happen of this kind of magnitude, there's no way that anyone in the county could handle it on their own, so cooperation is imperative," said Rodriguez. "Working with the different fire agencies, we've done that before, but we lack in resources with both personnel and equipment for this type of event, so working with the CST is invaluable." **E**



Members of the 85th Civil Support Team support local law enforcement during the July 28-30 exercise in Salt Lake valley.

Recruiting & Retention

By SFC Robert Cottle

DRAPER, Utah — On Jan. 14, 2009, LTC Adam Robinson assumed command of the Recruiting & Retention Battalion, taking on the responsibility of leading the charge in recruiting and retaining Soldiers in the Utah Army National Guard. For the past several years Utah has set the standard in meeting the goals set by the director of the National Guard Bureau and the Adjutant General of Utah. Utah is able to accomplish this task by having a quality Recruiting and Retention force, but more importantly by having quality units, leaders and Soldiers who set the standard in service to community and nation.

Recently, the National Guard Bureau has set limits on eligibility for those who can enlist into the Army National Guard based on aptitude scores. This has had a large impact on surrounding states. The impact to Utah has been marginal. Utah is known for enlisting high quality and competent Soldiers. While other states struggle, Utah is able to maintain its momentum by recruiting quality Soldiers and retaining Soldiers who have served several years and provide needed leadership and experience to a new generation of Soldiers.

Several years ago Utah implemented the Recruit Sustainment Program. This program has proven to be a catalyst of training new Soldiers and providing them with the skills needed to be successful during their initial-entry training and provides them a solid footing as they begin their military career. It is not uncommon for Utah Soldiers to be recognized as Honor Graduates at the completion of basic training. This is a direct reflection of the cadre who lead the Recruit Sustainment Program and those Soldiers who give it their all and represent Utah well in their abilities.

This year we have teamed up with the Boy Scouts of America and introduced a new program called “Road to Rangers.” With this program all young men/women are given the opportunity to learn and apply proven leadership skills. The young men/women are taught leadership skills, communication, vision, problem solving, listening, teamwork, planning and delegation. We look forward to working with the Boy Scouts of America and their youth.

Enlistment benefits have been phenomenal the past several years. As the National Guard as a force reaches its end-strength numbers, it is expected that some of the benefits may be reduced in the near future. While these benefits are essential and needed it is interesting to note that Soldiers when questioned about their reasons for serving in the Army National Guard, benefits and bonuses are generally not the first response, overwhelmingly, service to country and patriotism are mentioned without a second thought. It is attitudes such as this that makes the Utah Army National Guard successful.

The Army National Guard encourages recruiting support through the Every Soldier A Recruiter (ESAR) and Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). These programs provide an opportunity for Guard members, active and retired, to qualify for up to \$2,000 for assisting an applicant join the ranks of the Army National Guard. To learn more please check out the Websites, www.1800goguard.com/esar and www.guardrecruitingassistant.com. Your continued support of the Recruiting & Retention efforts of our state are greatly appreciated. 🇺🇸



The ETT is Dubbed “Team Spike”

Story and photos by MAJ Bruce Roberts

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **S**itting in the conference at the Officer’s club on Camp Williams last January the members of Utah’s Embedded Training Team (ETT) took a vote on a team name. “Team Spike it is,” said Officer in Charge (OIC) Major Tyler Smith. Newly dubbed Team Spike was about to embark on a year-long deployment to Afghanistan as combat advisors.

The environment of the combat advisor is unique in that it requires each individual to learn a variety of jobs and specialties. “If you are an ETT you can’t just focus on one skill set.” said First Lieutenant Brad Blunck. As the deployment progresses the members of Team Spike have all expanded their general military knowledge and found their niche. Despite the need for a wide skill set, as a consequence of this environment some have been guided towards certain areas and others have chosen to focus their efforts.

Major Chris Filoso was named as the executive officer of team spike and has also served as the team chief. After arriving in Afghanistan he became Team Chief for a combat service support battalion in Mazar-e-Sharif. When the team relocated to the Kabul area he finally began the job he was selected for on this deployment as the logistics mentor to a combat support battalion. Logistics is the greatest challenge of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Filoso has his work cut out for him.

In the area of supply and logistics the man that has kept Team Spike in business on the American side is Sergeant First Class (P) Brian Berry. In a theater that is admittedly second priority, coming up with the supplies or equipment to accomplish the mission is a huge hurdle. Since coming to Kabul, Team Spike stood up a new unit, which means they did not have an existing set of equipment to fall in on. They had to start from scratch and acquire everything. In addition to supplying Team Spike, Berry has also stayed busy teaching the ANA to do the same.

Team Spike has sometimes been confused as mentors to an Engineer Battalion. This is due to the missions they have accomplished on the strength of their engineer mentors. First Lieutenant Brad Blunck is the senior engineer mentor for the team and also the designated communications officer. The design

and construction of a forward operation base was the first mission that their ANA Battalion was given and it was up to Blunck and his ANA engineers to design and oversee the project.

Master Sergeant Ron Moody has been the workhorse behind Team Spike’s engineering success. As the NCO engineer mentor, MSG Moody had been involved in every aspect of the engineer effort at Naghlu Reservoir and Combat Outpost Zio Haq. Based on the strength of these endeavors, Team Spike has been tasked to build another Forward Operating Base as a part of a larger push by the ANA into the Tagab Valley. MSG Moody has also earned the moniker “the Gun Whisperer” for his uncanny accuracy.

When something needs to be found, the team turns to Sergeant First Class Mark “X-Man” Boyer. His ability to scrounge goods when the team is in need has been turned to time and again- a

fitting skill for the recon mentor. SFC Boyer has set the example when it comes to training the ANA and developing the repore needed to be a successful advisor. As a weapons specialist, SFC Boyer has been critical in keeping both the American and ANA weapons in good working order and his development of defensive plans has been vital to Team Spike’s security in the field.

Captain Jeff Middleton started off the deployment as the Battle Captain in the Tactical Operations Center of Camp Mike

Spann. Upon arrival in Kabul and Camp Blackhorse he took over duties as the motor officer mentor. Keeping the ANA vehicles on the road and mission capable is a full time job. Team Spike also named a ridge line after Middleton because of his actions during an engagement they experienced at their combat outpost at Naghlu Reservoir.

Jack of all trades accurately describes artillery mentor Sergeant First Class Kent “Steady” Steadman. SFC Steady is the example of the expanded skill set needed to be successful in this environment. He is the communications NCO, the Maintenance NCO and the Artillery mentor as needed. When something needs to get done Steady is Team Spike’s “go to” guy.

Newly promoted Sergeant Major Kent “Mac” McClure is



Soldiers with the Embedded Training Team meet with members of the National Afghan Army.



NCOIC of Team Spike. In the tradition of great NCO leadership he sets the example with his work ethic and adherence to standards. He has worked hard to keep the team in check and continues to provide solid guidance to the officers of Team Spike. SGM Mac is known for “going to the mat” for the team whenever the need arises.

The one member of Spike that did not end up in Kabul is 1LT Kris Carlisle. Because of experience as a Salt Lake County Sheriff he was chosen to become a police mentor for the Afghan National Police. He finished a very challenging stint as the OIC of his training team. His position as a trainer has taken him all over northern Afghanistan and provided him with a truly unique experience.

Captain Bruce Roberts had no idea when he volunteered to be the Interpreter Manager what a chore it would be. Tasked with managing the duties and needs of Team Spike’s Interpreters they keep Roberts very busy. As the team Public Affairs Officer he writes a few stories and takes a lot of pictures that sometimes find their way to team member’s blog sites. His official duty is as the officer mentor for the ANA Recon Company, which he sometimes does.

The first one to unofficially adopt an Afghan town was Major Marc Savageau. While the team was staying at COP Spike, the small town of Band-e Naghlu sat across the river and Savageau decided it would be his project to help the people there. He organized several Humanitarian Assistance (HA) events, temporarily employed some of the villagers, and is still working on getting a new school built. MAJ Savageau’s duty is as the Personnel mentor, but he has also served as S-3, Team Chief, and Band-e Naghlu benefactor.

Everyone wants to be known as the guy you want working beside you- on Team Spike; that guy is newly promoted Sergeant First Class Dustin Wheeler. Well versed on all the

maintenance, communications, construction, and operational issues that continually face the team, Wheeler has proven to be hard working and dependable. Combined with his good attitude and sense of humor, Wheeler is the guy everyone wants to be around and one of the most valuable on the team. He embodies the ETT skill set.

Master Sergeant Chuck Durrant is the Confucius of Team Spike. A news junkie who keeps everyone updated and entertained he is also the one that many on the team including the leadership go to for advice and perspective. “Master Chuck” as he has been dubbed, is moving “beyond the practice of the Army and into the theory” as he describes it. He is relied on to help tackle the problems that seem inherent in the ETT mission and never fails to deliver a good common sense solution.

The Intel mentor is a perfect fit for First Lieutenant Will “Beast” Biesinger. A smart and hardworking officer, Biesinger has demonstrated his ability to adapt to the ETT mission with his versatility and innovation. He has done everything from riding shotgun with Afghan Commandos on the first joint Air Assault mission to building a collapsible Tactical Operations Center for the ANA. Although handy with a Hammer or a map, Biesinger’s real contributions are his ideas and his drive to make a real contribution.

Artillery is one of the most difficult tasks to teach due to its complexity and need for attention to detail. As the senior artillery mentor Major Chris Warner has the dubious task of teaching the ANA the formula for accurate indirect fire. In typical fashion for the Afghan Theater, Warner has not had the luxury of focusing on his Artillery task as he has had to pitch in all areas of the mission, going on recon missions and helping with engineer effort.

Spike OIC Major Tyler Smith has been challenged with managing all the hurdles inherent in the advisor mission as well

as standing up a new Battalion mentor team- all while looking after the characters of Team Spike. A daunting task for any leader, MAJ Smith has managed it all in stride and in the meantime Spike as become the “go to” team for the Brigade. As an Engineer officer, MAJ Smith has enjoyed taking on the engineering tasks handed Spike and their ANA counterparts- building roads and Bases, clearing obstacles, and destroying weapons caches and IED’s.

The Advisor mission in Afghanistan has been compared to playing a football game. You can’t expect to make a touchdown when you get the ball at the far end of the field. You simply have to work your hardest to move the ball down the field as far as you can. This mission has been going on since 2001. The ANA have come a long way but still have a long way to go. Team Spike will be turning their Kandak over to another team in January for them to move the ball down the field a little further. Someday we will score a touchdown in Afghanistan and then everyone can come home knowing that we made the world a safer place. **E**



Utah National Guard Family Assistance Centers

Air National Guard . . .	801-245-2524
Blanding	435-678-2008
Beaver	435-438-2262
Camp Williams	801-878-5037
Cedar City	435-438-2262
Draper	801-432-4902
Fillmore	435-743-5470
Logan	435-753-3155
Manti	435-835-6156
Ogden	801-476-3800
Orem	801-722-6811
Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
St. George	435-986-6705
West Jordan	801-560-0864
Richfield	435-896-4326

Utah Biathlon Wins Gold in Minnesota

By SFC Shawn Blanke

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. — **S**itting amidst sub-zero temperatures, tough competition and challenging conditions, the Utah National Guard Biathlon Team won both individual and team gold medals at the 2009 Combined Regional Biathlon Championships held Sept. 28 to March 1 at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Biathlon is a Winter Olympic sport which combines the disciplines of cross-country skiing and precision target shooting. Biathletes are required to ski over difficult terrain while carrying a rifle and then hit very small targets from both prone and standing positions. Athletes who miss targets are either required to ski an additional penalty loop per missed shot or are assessed a one-minute penalty per miss, depending on the race format.

In Western Conference action, Utah won its first gold medal when MSG Doug Bernard (19th SF) defeated a strong field in brutally cold conditions. Bernard combined one of the fastest ski splits of the day with solid shooting to win a gold medal against the Western Region’s best athletes. Other Utah athletes who finished in the top five included SFC Shawn Blanke (19th SF) and SPC Brandon Adams (19th SF), who was, remarkably, competing in his first-ever biathlon.

Utah’s second gold came in the team relay, in a much-anticipated rematch between Utah, Montana, and a very strong Minnesota team. Although technically not in the Western Region, the heavily favored Minnesota team is seen as one of the dominant forces in National Guard biathlon and has often stood between Utah and the coveted CNGB Biathlon National Championship.

Although Minnesota athletes occupied most of the top 10 finishing places during the previous day’s sprint competition, the Utah team borrowed a page from the University of Utah’s 2009 football team and stunned their favored opponents.



*The Utah National Guard Biathlon Team (top row left to right)
CW2 Lynn Adams, SSG Jon Carlson, MSG Doug Bernard,
SPC Brandon Adams, CDT Jesse Lang, SFC Shawn Blanke.*

Adams, as Utah's lead-off skier, combined very fast ski times with rapid shooting to keep pace with Minnesota and gain a significant time advantage over the other Western teams. In the second leg of the relay, Blanke hit all of his targets and took advantage of increasingly fast snow conditions to add an additional two minutes to Utah's lead. To seal the win, Bernard hit all five of his prone targets in rapid succession and then proceeded to ski one of the fastest times of the day. When the race was finished, Utah had increased its lead over rival Minnesota to four and a half minutes, with other Western Region teams far behind.

The next stop for Utah will be the CNGB Biathlon National Championships in late February at Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont. While in Vermont, Utah will square up against over 30 other state sponsored teams in 10 days of competition for the CNGB National Title. Although Utah has won at CNGB Championships

before, Both Vermont and Minnesota will field very strong teams consisting of many current and former Olympic and U.S. National Team biathletes. In spite of this, Utah will again field a strong team with the goal of bringing the CNGB National Championship back to Utah.

The Utah Biathlon Program would like to thank all those who have come together to support the Utah National Guard Biathlon program. Thousands of hours and many resources have been donated by many individuals and local organizations to train our athletes to not only represent the Utah National Guard but to improve the fitness and marksmanship of our Soldiers. 🇺🇸



TOP CLOCKWISE: Biathletes at the 2009 Regional Biathlon Championship begin the race for gold.

RIGHT: SPC Brandon Adams fires from standing position. SFC Shawn Blanke shoots from the prone position.

BELOW (left to right): SFC Shawn Blanke, MSG Doug Bernard, CW2 Lynn Adams, CDT Jesse Lang.



Utah National Guard Hosts Governor's Day 2008 at Rice-Eccles Stadium

By Maj Krista DeAngelis and PFC Rebecca Hansen

SALT LAKE CITY

— A sea of military uniforms filled the University of Utah's football field Sept. 13 as thousands of Soldiers and Airmen marched into Rice-Eccles Stadium for the 2008 Governor's Day parade of the Utah National Guard.

With AH-64 Apache helicopter and KC-135 Stratotanker flyovers, the 23rd Army Band and cannon fire provided by I Corps Artillery, the

audience cheered as members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard paraded around the stadium for the annual event.

Since World War I, the Utah Guard has held Governor's Day to provide an annual forum for the commander in chief to fulfill his statutory requirement to review his Troops. For decades this parade has been held at Camp Williams, but due to construction along Redwood Road the event was moved this year to the the University of Utah campus.

As one who has seen dozens of Governor's Days at Camp Williams, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, thought the change in location for this year was a good move.

"I think it worked out great [at Rice-Eccles]," he said. "It's a great venue and was easy to get to. With the road construction out at Camp Williams it was very problematic to get out there."

While Governor's Day was originally organized to kick off the Utah National Guard's Summer Camp, as Annual Training was known decades ago, it has evolved into a family event to recognize the dedication of Utah military members and their families.

During his speech to the troops, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman expressed his appreciation for Guard members and their loved ones.

"Today is your day; this is your family's day," he said. "This is the reminder of the price we pay for freedom and Liberty. You are very special people with very remarkable families and we are reminded of them this day."

"You are called upon locally, you are called upon nationally and you are called upon internationally," Huntsman continued. "You have great versatility in terms of what you offer. It is from humanitarian work to combat, from fighting fires to literally being the great role models in your individual communities."



Photo by TSgt Mike Evans

The forces of the Utah National Guard are arrayed on the field at Rice-Eccles Stadium for Governor's Day. BELOW: Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard present the guidons of their units at Governor's Day. Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, left, and MG Brian Tarbet render a salute during the playing of the National Anthem.



Photo by SPC Samantha Xanthos



Photo by SSgt Emily Monson

Although the governor himself typically figures prominently in the day's events as presiding officer and speaker, it's not the reason Huntsman enjoys the festivities.

"I love Governor's Day, not because it's named for the governor . . . but because it is a day where we recognize all of our Soldiers and their families," said Huntsman. "Life's greatest honor is to serve with the men and women in uniform."

In his remarks Huntsman indicated that the Guard has achieved many milestones this past year, including one Silver Star, 21 Bronze Stars, 10 Purple Hearts, and currently has more than 600 members deployed around the world.

During the ceremony Huntsman presented unit and individual service awards and decorations, and he recognized the top Airmen and Soldiers of the year:



Photo by LTC Hank McIntire

Members of the Utah Air National Guard pass in review at Rice-Eccles Stadium Sept. 13.



Photo by LTC Hank McIntire

MSG Scott Hansen, 19th Special Forces Group, right, receives the Legion of Merit from Gov. Jon Huntsman.

Joint Meritorious Unit Awards

- 116th Engineer Company, currently commanded by CPT Todd Christensen
- First Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, led by LTC James Bledsoe

Legion of Merit

- Colonel. Matt Clark, Joint Forces Headquarters
- Master Sgt. Scott Hansen, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Bronze Star

- Master Sgt. Miguel Jimenez, 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute

Purple Heart

- Master Sgt. Scott Hansen, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Top Soldiers

- Soldier of the Year, SPC Jeremy Whipple, 1-211th Aviation
- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, SFC Jennifer Butler, 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute
- First Sergeant of the Year, 1SG Eric Anderson, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion

Top Airmen

- Airman of the Year, SrA Michael Crosby, 169th Intelligence Squadron
- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, TSgt Benjamin Lauritzen, 169th Intelligence Squadron
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, MSgt Regina Campbell, 151st Operations Group
- First Sergeant of the Year, SMSgt Steven Schiele, 151st Mission Support Group

SFC Jennifer Butler was selected for Utah NCO of the Year for the Utah Army Guard and was very humbled by the selection.

"I've been in the Guard for 18 years. I love serving in the military and serving my country," she said. "Receiving this award is a humbling experience. I never expected it."

Senior Master Sgt. Steven Schiele, who has been in the military for nearly 30 years, currently serving as the 151st Mission Support Group's first sergeant, received the award for the Utah Air Guard's First Sergeant of the Year.

"This award is really a combination of serving as a first sergeant, and being noted for taking care of people," he explained. The first sergeant's main purpose is taking care of the unit's enlisted personnel.

When announcer MSgt Sterling Poulson declared the formal end to the parade, Guard members and their families were able to enjoy the many activities, booths, equipment displays, food court and music provided by Family Programs and local vendors as a thank-you for all the hard work and effort put forth by Airmen, Soldiers and families.

"[Governor's Day] was pulled off with military precision," said Huntsman, summing up the day's events. "I was very impressed." 🇺🇸

Utah Army Guard Soldiers Take Motorcycle Safety Seriously

By LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Dana Yetton



BG Jefferson Burton, foreground, takes his turn on the outdoor controlled training course.



A Utah Guard Soldier drives the controlled training course at BRC in August 2008.

DRAPER, Utah — **I**n its three years of existence, the Basic Rider Course (BRC), a two-day, motorcycle training event made available to Utah Army National Guard members, has been a resounding success, according to CW3 Andrew Jensen, director of the Utah Guard's Ground Safety Office (GSO).

To date, the GSO has provided this Motorcycle Safety Federation-certified training to more than 300 motorcycle owners and enthusiasts who are members of the Army Guard.

"The BRC is the first step in getting set up for a safe and enjoyable riding experience," said Jensen.

To understand the reason for the increased emphasis on motorcycle safety, one need not look any further than the 29 Army National Guard Soldier fatalities in 2008 that resulted from motorcycle accidents nationwide.

"Statistics show that automobile operators simply don't see motorcycles, so it's critical our Soldiers take BRC so they can be as safe as they can be," said BG Jefferson Burton, Assistant Adjutant General—Army of the Utah National Guard.

"Soldiers coming off deployment often feel invincible and go out and ride without protective gear or proper training," Burton added.

According to www.army.mil, "after-action reviews of non-duty and duty-related fatalities have found that in many of these tragic instances, both new and experienced riders displayed a lack of training and skill. This is especially concerning to leadership, as with the rising prices of gasoline at the pump and the improving weather, many Soldiers and other riders are heading out on the open road with their bikes."

So practicing what he preaches, Burton himself attended the

BRC this summer. He was an avid rider in high school and only recently rekindled his interest in motorcycles.

"The instructors were well trained and experienced," he said. "They helped us look for the pitfalls and problems that riders can face."

Students spent the first day of the course in the classroom learning about safety rules and regulations, protective gear and how to expect the unexpected.

The next day saw participants on a controlled training course, applying the skills and techniques they learned on Day One.

"More than anything, [the course] gives you practice in a controlled setting where you have an instructor who can see the little things you're not doing correctly," said Burton. "It's critical that a rider be as prepared as possible for what you come up against on the roadway."

The Utah Army Guard contracts with Salt Lake Community College to provide BRC free of charge to any member of the Utah Army National Guard.

According to Jensen, other free-to-Guard members courses are in the works for trail/enduro riders and adventure-motorcycle types (BMW-GS, KTM 950/990 Adventure). The GSO is looking into conducting a few off-road riding courses next spring.

"Emphasis will be on improving off-road riding skills and is not intended for the first-time, off-road rider or motocross racer," said Jensen.

And whether or not you hit the road or the trail, safety is the key to coming back in one piece.

"If you're going to ride a motorcycle," said Burton, "you owe it to those who count on you each day to be as prepared as you can be." ■



Instructor Ed Rosco, right, demonstrates a turning technique to course participants on Day Two of the BRC course. INSET: CPT DeAnne Trauba, right, aka 'Scooter Girl,' receives some pointers from instructor Ed Rosco.

299th RCS Retires 14 Members

By Lt Col Lisa Olsen and Maj Krista DeAngelis

Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — **T**he 299th Range Control Squadron of the Utah Air National Guard bid farewell to 14 Airmen at a retirement ceremony on Dec. 18 at Hill Air Force Base in preparation for the deactivation of the unit. The Squadron was established as a flight in 1969 and will be deactivated Oct. 1, 2009.

“The retiring members are a combination of operators and maintainers supporting the mission of air traffic control over 6,800 square miles of the Utah Test and Training Range,” said Lt Col John Teter, 299th RCS commander. “We have more than 350 years of experience that retired last month, and they will be greatly missed.”

In April 2008, the unit’s manning document changed from 108 members to three. Currently, there are five military members in the unit, but all military personnel will be transferred or retired by October. The remaining civilian members will be transferred to the 388th Range Squadron.

“Of the members leaving the organization, approximately one third retired, one-third separated and one third transferred to other units,” Teter said. “I would like to thank Colonel Findlay and the other commanders of the Utah Air National Guard for taking in the other members of the Squadron.”

Since 9/11, more than 75 percent of the Squadron’s Airmen have voluntarily deployed throughout the world serving more

than 6,000 man-days in support of the Global War on Terror.

The 299th RCS retirees include: Capt Matt Ruder, Chief Rich Greenway, Chief Randy Nichols, SMSgt Jeff Hamilton, SMSgt Mark Craig, SMSgt Teri Kirkland, MSgt Mark Prestrude, MSgt Rich Woodfall, MSgt Mike Keyser, TSgt John Radlund, TSgt Nate Bosen, TSgt Acelia Fannon, TSgt Scott McKinzie and TSgt Larry Durrant. 🇺🇸



Col Kelvin Findlay presents the Air Force Commendation Medal to MSgt Richard Woodfall from the 299th Range Control Squadron.



New Training Center Opens at Camp Williams, Memorializes Fallen Soldier

By PFC Rebecca Hansen

Photos by LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he audience sat in a reverential silence waiting for the man to speak. Just by looking at him, you could tell he was still hurting inside from the pain of loss. He had tears in his eyes and had to look away for a moment as he collected himself before addressing the group.

The man was Nathan Wood, one of the speakers at the Jan. 15 dedication of a new Total Army School System training complex at Camp Williams. Wood's brother, SFC Ronald T. Wood, a former instructor at the 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute, died in July 2005 when his humvee was struck by a roadside bomb near Kirkuk, Iraq. The complex is being named in memory of the fallen Wood.

"What an honor this is for a Soldier," said Nathan Wood. "What an honor this is for my family, and for the Utah Army National Guard. Most importantly, what an honor this is for Sergeant 1st Class Ronald Tanner Wood."

"He is our hero, our idol and a fine example of one of the Army National Guard's best," added Wood. "This training organization with the 640th RTI helped create my brother. He in turn helped create others he taught here."

Other speakers at the dedication included Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Utah National Guard Commander in Chief; MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general; COL Edward M. Willis, commander of the 640th; Jody Wood, mother of SFC Wood; and Ron Jones from WPA Architecture. Ron Wood, father of SFC Wood, sang a song he composed to the words of the poem, "One," written by Terri Irons.

Guests at the ceremony included members of the Wood family, existing and former members of the 640th Regiment RTI



and Soldiers and leaders of the Utah Army National Guard.

Built by Okland Construction and designed by WPA Architecture, ground was broken in July 2007 for the \$15.1 million, 80,000 square-foot, two-building complex .

“What we have here is a world-class facility and not many like it in the entire country,” said Huntsman in his remarks during the ceremony.

The new facility increases the number of classrooms, battle laboratories and computer systems available to provide training in leadership and other specialties. It will also function as headquarters for the 640th Regiment RTI.

“It is the hope of WPA that these facilities will be helpful in training military personnel, and better prepares them for their missions ahead,” said Jones.

“We are going to make great use of this facility. We will continue to be a center of excellence in the Army School System, and we will continue to train leaders who will be prepared to better serve their Nation in the Global War on terrorism and in future conflicts around the world,” said Willis. “We will just do it now with more style.”



TOP DOWN:

Many National Guard and civic leaders attended the opening and dedication of the new facility. This state of the art facility has numerous classrooms to train the anticipated 7,500 students each year.

“We recognize that the building is to be named for one who gave, as Mr. Lincoln said, that ‘last full measure of devotion’ and we can’t forget that,” said Tarbet.

“Ronnie was the type of soldier who was always there for his fellow Soldiers,” said Jody Wood. “No matter how great or low their rank, he treated everyone with respect, love, and kindness.”

At the end of the dedication ceremony, the audience packed into the TASS complex’s foyer and watched as SFC Wood’s closest comrades, SFC Eric P. Irons and SSG Daniel R. Whittaker, unveiled the plaque made in memory of SFC Wood.

“I can tell the Wood family that we are doing our best to fulfill our commitment to the great families of our men and women in uniform by first loving and respecting their service and second, giving them the best kind of training facility available,” said Huntsman. “There is no honor finer than having our legacy of service live on by carrying Sergeant Ronnie Wood’s name as we go forward.”

OPPOSITE PAGE:

The Army School System complex opens at at Camp Williams.

The new training center was dedicated in honor of SFC Ronald T. Wood who lost his life while serving in Iraq.

Jody and Ron Wood, parents of fallen Soldier SFC Ronald T Wood.

Artillery Soldiers Train at Camp Williams

Live-Fire Exercise

Story and photos by PFC Rebecca Hansen

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah —

“Mission!” the Soldier yells through the loud rumble of the Paladin’s engine. Other crew members load the howitzer with a round and take aim. Distance and direction are verified as a Soldier holding a lanyard anxiously waits for the magic word: “FIRE!”

The 13B Cannon Crewmember and 13F Forward Observer (FO) classes for Army Artillery Soldiers were held Nov. 14-16 at Camp Williams to conduct a live-fire exercise in order to qualify them to do their military jobs.

“Everybody works hard to give the students the best training,” said SIC Ralph Munson, 129th Illinois Regimental Training Institute, 13B30 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course manager. “The live-fire was just awesome!”

The live-fire is used by the 640th Regional Training Institute to qualify the 13Bs and the 13Fs for their jobs. The 13B has to fire rounds to become qualified, and the 13F has to direct rounds in on a target in order to become a certified Forward Observer.

A lot more goes into firing these weapons than just “point and shoot.” It starts with the when a Forward Observer picks targets in the impact area. Then, depending on what kind of mission they are shooting, they go through a procedure to bring the rounds onto the target.

Next, the FO calls the information in to the Fire Direction Center (FDC). Then the FDC takes the information and transposes it into numbers to be sent to the gun line so that the 13B knows where to fire.

When the 13B receives the numbers they get a shell fuze and charge and set off the deflection quadrant in order to get the round to



Artillery Soldiers take a break from their training at Camp Williams Nov. 14, where they brushed up on their 13B and 13F skills.

go where they want it to go and do what they want it to do.

This live-fire had very few problems, and the issues that did arise were fixed promptly.

“It went really great. We didn’t have any firing incidents,” said MSG David Nish, 3rd Battalion 640th RTI, Battalion Branch chief and noncommissioned officer in charge. “We did have some issues, but our maintenance support worked magic. Without maintenance support

we would have been hurting on the shoot.”

For this exercise, the 640th RTI invited VIP visitors from the local community to watch. Curtis Hagen and Mark Halliday came from Riverton High’s administration office, Brad Pitcher and Fred Christiansen visited from Salt Lake County Recreation, Vice President of Instruction James Taggart came from Ogden-Weber Area Technology Center and local contractor Fred Christiansen was also present.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Hagen. “It was something I never get to do. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. It was great!”

Not only did these VIPs attend the live-fire exercise, but they went to some of the classes to see how the school works. They also visited a Forward Operating Base (FOB) for the Warrior Leader Course and viewed training at the urban combat (MOUT) site.

“I’ve been involved in technical education for 15 years as an instructor and administrator. I was really impressed with the quality and quantity of training that occurs at Camp Williams,” said James Taggart. “I had no idea of the diversity of offerings and number of students training at Camp Williams from around the country.”

“The reason we had the dignitaries come out is for public relations and recruitment. People need to know what we do and what we are about,” said LTC Bryce Taggart, 2nd Battalion commander and administrative officer for the 640th.

“High school administrators have access to kids who are interested in the Guard,” said Hagen. “The closer the ties we have, the better we are able to allow access to buildings and students.”

At the live-fire, VIPs got an opportunity of a lifetime. With their Kevlar helmet on they got inside the Paladins, watched Soldiers load rounds and attach the lanyard. With careful instruction, they were allowed to pull the lanyard and fire off a round.

“It was a great experience to be able to climb into the howitzer, receive instructions and fire a 100-pound projectile over seven kilometers. The Soldiers were so cordial, and they answered every question I could come up with,” said James Taggart. “I guess the best way to describe being able to pull the lanyard is the fact that I couldn’t wipe the grin off my face for the next twenty minutes. It was a thrill that I will not soon forget.”

The weekend in general was a success for instructors and artillery students on the education front as well for informing the community of what the 640th does.

“Support from UTES (Unit Training Equipment Support), the Regiment, the subject-matter experts and the safeties on the gun line were good,” said Nish, “I think it was a good training environment for the students. We shot 550 rounds in two-and-a-half days, and all the students were able to get the certifications they needed to get done.”

PHOTOS TOP DOWN: A National Guard Soldier prepares to load a 155 mm artillery round into a Paladin howitzer Nov. 14 at Camp Williams. Each M109A6 Paladin howitzer carries a unique name selected by its crew--generally one that involves pain and suffering for the enemy. Punisher, a Utah National Guard Paladin howitzer, fires off an artillery round downrange from the 200-series firing point at Camp Williams. A Paladin driver puts the howitzer in place to prepare to fire a round during the artillery exercise at Camp Williams.



Artillery Soldiers Train with Navy

By SGT Robert Walden

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **D**uring the month of January 2009, Soldiers from the 65th Fires Brigade headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah, participated in a Fleet Synthetic Training Joint Exercise (FST-J), at the Naval Amphibious Base on Coronado Island, Calif.

The 65th FiB had 30 Soldiers participate with Marines, Sailors and Airmen from different locations around the world. During the exercise, Soldiers worked in a tactical operations center and utilized a network of computers and simulation systems that created a modern force-on-force conflict. The simulation portrayed a realistic area of operations without actually being on a battlefield. Everything from logistics, personnel, equipment, intelligence and unmanned aerial vehicles were simulated into the exercise.

The objective of the 65th FiB in attending the FST-J was to provide the commander and his brigade battle staff an opportunity to gain further experience in their roles during a joint-service conflict. The 65th accomplished this goal by coordinating with other branches and providing fires and effects to the simulated battlefield.

“Training such as this gives us an opportunity to exercise our tactics and refine our standard operating procedures,” said CW3 Scott Palfreyman, a senior targeting warrant officer from HHB, 65th FiB.

This training is especially important because of the unit’s recent transformation from a Corps Artillery to a Fires Brigade. The FST-J simulation helps leaders and Soldiers think through events or scenarios they could face in a real conflict and become proficient in our their new roles.

One main highlight of the FST-J is the joint aspect. When Soldiers understand there are other forces out there with their own capabilities, all can work and integrate together to more effectively affect battlefield targets.

“We quickly learned that it is important to coordinate with the other forces,” said SPC Thomas Blunk, a field artillery tactical data systems specialist from HHB, 65th FiB. “We have to think about how our shells travel and what effect their route can have on friendly forces operating in the area.”

When fire missions come in, they generate coordination of targets with many other forces to include the Air Force, who would approve or postpone artillery mission while they clear the airspace.

“Targets don’t usually stay still for very long so the quicker we can get the mission fired, the better chance we have of successfully killing or affecting the target,” said Lunceford.

“I love joint fires,” said Palfreyman. “I think it’s really neat



Photo by MCI Michael Moriatis

A 34-foot Dauntless Sea Ark patrol boat assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 3 conducts a training exercise off San Diego. In the background is the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George.

The Military Sealift Command fast combat support ship USNS Supply (T-AOE 6) conducts a vertical replenishment with the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall.



Photo by Specialist 2nd Class Katrina Parker

being able to do them. As a targeting warrant officer, I really like having more than just our guns to kill or affect the enemy. I've got access to assets above the brigade level such as naval gunfire or aircraft support from the Air Force."

"We can request support from other branches to affect a target not suitable or out of range of our artillery," continued Palfreyman. "There are processes to gain access to these resources and during the FST-J we learned how to utilize them."

This exercise was a valuable building block for the 65th's sustainment as a Fires Brigade. The Brigade will be used in combat as a fires-and-effects element of many different joint organizations. An exercise of this type will only make this unit better. The Soldiers who participated in this exercise left with a better understanding of Joint Fires and Operations. ■

Utah Air Guard Receives CFC Award

By Maj Krista DeAngelis

SALT LAKE CITY — Lt Col Lisa Olsen, 151st Air Refueling Wing Community Manager, and CMSgt Kyle Dillingham, 151st ARW Command Chief, receive the Utah Air National Guard's Combined Federal Campaign Award for "Large Organization in Utah" on January 28. The award recognizes a Utah federal agency with the highest percentage of participation in the program, and has more than 300 people in the organization. The CFC operates in more than 300 locations and is the only authorized fundraising entity for federal government employees. ■



Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

A GREAT END TO A GREAT YEAR



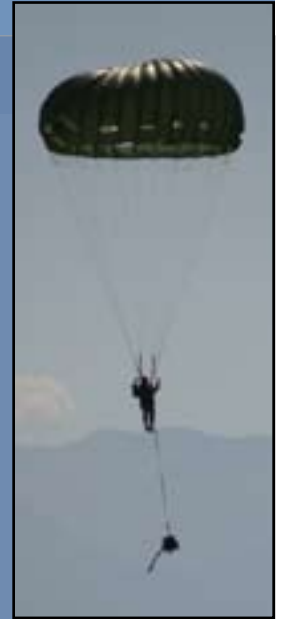
Story by SSG Eric Jones

FORT HARRISON, Montana — First Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, conducted its annual training event, Operation Mammoth Glacier, at Fort Harrison, Mont., from Aug. 11-23, 2008. This training event mobilized the Battalion to a distant location, tested all communication nodes and logistical muscle, and also tested the Battalion staff through Battle Command exercises in Special Operations Task Force skill sets. This was the Battalion's first Annual Training since returning from Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines in 2007 and was one of the most challenging and rewarding events in recent history.

The Battle Command Exercise Division (BCED) from the John F. Kennedy United States Army Special Warfare Center and School was utilized giving our staff a crawl-phase simulation in preparation for the next deployment. The initial planning through completion of the Annual Training went smoothly. The training's AAR yielded valuable insights, such as pertinent updates of our Standard Operating Procedures in all staff sections, hard-battle tracking and configuration suggestions for the operations center to enable us to respond rapidly to Troops in contact.

Participants of Mammoth Glacier unanimously said it was the best, most realistic Annual Training any had experienced. The Special Warfare Center's BCED presented scenarios occurring just days prior, in the theater, where the 19th SFG is expected to next deploy. This short exercise did more for the Battalion staff than previous JRTC rotations. The primary staff and commander were new to the Battalion since our return from the Philippines. Even with the new staff, our collective combat experience was obvious to the BCED facilitators, and by the end of the short exercise, our centers (Operation Center, Support Center and Signal Center) were neither crawling nor walking, but running. LTC Watt's warrior-centered guidance gave the staff clear avenues to train and execute. In the end, the BCED stated emphatically that the 19th SFG was one of the best staffs they've evaluated in the 18 exercises they have conducted to date—most staffs being Active Duty, including Group level.

A GREAT END TO A GREAT ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT. ■



Utah Artillery Soldiers Awarded Another National Honor

By LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Lacy Nielsen

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — **T**wo members of the Utah National Guard's 65th Fires Brigade were honored recently with the 2008 Bilo "Support Forward" Award at a ceremony in the nation's capital for their achievements and exemplary performance as junior leaders in the Army National Guard's Artillery community.

Captain Gerald Williams, of Tooele, and SFC Spencer Nielsen, of Spanish Fork, received the award presented by the Minuteman Cannoneers and named for BG William C. Bilo, a career Artillery officer who served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard from 1964-1999.

Williams and Nielsen were selected from a pool of candidates from both active-duty and Army National Guard Artillery units for making the most significant contribution in 2008 to the ARNG Field Artillery and/or Air Defense Artillery and for personifying the traits of the ideal leader such as tenacity, decisiveness, precision, vision, competence, pride, commitment, confidence, loyalty, ingenuity, and a family-oriented leadership philosophy.

It's pretty amazing that two Utahns were able to receive [the Bilo Award] in the same year," said COL Richard Miller, commander of the 65th. "It's a great tribute to them individually for their hard work and dedication."

Williams has served two overseas combat tours, most recently with I Corps Artillery (Forward) in 2006-2007 as a trainer and mentor to the Afghan National Army. He currently serves as the plans and operations officer for the 65th Fires Brigade.

Nielsen, as a member of First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, deployed to Iraq in 2007-2008, where he served as the noncommissioned officer in charge and local-national liaison of Dar-al-Hikmah Juvenile Reconciliation Center and School. Upon his return from deployment he was assigned as the senior targeting noncommissioned officer of Headquarters, 65th Fires Brigade.

Williams and Nielsen continue a proud tradition of 65th Fires Brigade Soldiers and officers who have been recognized in recent years at the national level for their accomplishments and professionalism.

In 2006, Soldiers of the Richfield-based Alpha Battery, 222nd Field Artillery, received the Hamilton Award for being the best Artillery battery throughout the Army National Guard. In 2008, CPT Shawn Fuellenbach, of Richfield and also of Alpha Battery, 222nd, received the General Douglas MacArthur Award for his leadership, discipline and achievements as one of the top 14 company-grade officers in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard.

"These honors simply indicate the caliber of Soldier we have in the 65th, to include our subordinate battalions, the 145th and 222nd," added Miller. "It shows that we have professional, dedicated and deserving Soldiers within the command." ■



Left to right; BG James Nuttall, National Guard Bureau, presents CPT Gerald Williams (center), and 65th FiB; SFC Spencer Nielsen, 65th FiB with the Minuteman Cannoneers during a ceremony at the nation's capital.

(Second from left) BG James Nuttall, National Guard Bureau, honors both military members and civilians during the 2008 Bilo "Support Forward" Award ceremony.



2009 The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer

Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

With more than 200 years of service, the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Historical and daily accounts of "life as an NCO" are exemplified by acts of courage, and a dedication and a willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, the Secretary of the Army established 2009 as "Year of the NCO."

Throughout 2009, the Army honors NCOs through initiatives and events that:

Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.

Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership-development initiatives.

We invite you to join the celebration of one of America's greatest assets, the NCO Corps, the backbone of the American Army.

<http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>



Benefits and Education

The Utah Army National Guard Education office oversees four major programs to assist Soldiers and Airmen with meeting their educational goals:

Montgomery GI Bill is an educational program run by the Veterans Administration. The Utah National Guard provides all Soldiers with a Notice of Eligibility that provides eligibility for students to receive their monthly educational payment. The new Chapter 33 has not been implemented at this time. Our office is waiting for guidance and policy from the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau.

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) is a program run on a fiscal-year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) basis. Each Soldier who applies for funding is eligible for \$4,500 per fiscal year, \$250 per credit including fees. Funding is limited each year to first come, first served.

State Tuition Assistance (STA) mirrors the FTA program except that the fiscal year is from July 1-June 30 each year. Every member of the Utah National Guard is eligible to receive STA. This program cannot be combined with the FTA program in excess of \$4,500 nor used in connection with the State Tuition Waiver, except for the payment of fees only. Funding is limited each year to first come, first served.

State Tuition Waiver (STW) is a scholarship program authorized by 53B-8-101. The program authorizes the presidents of each state university or college to set aside 2½ percent of their scholarship money for National Guard members. Utah National Guard members can apply for the STW program Jan. 1 through May 31 for each prior year. This program is limited to Utah state colleges and universities only.

Apply using the following Web sites:

FTA/STA/STW www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2

Members of the Utah Army National Guard team:

- ESO/State Tuition Waiver Manager; MAJ Gerald White, gerald.white2@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4537
 - State Tuition Assistant, Richard Campbell, rich.n.campbell@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4534
- Federal Tuition Assistant Manager, PFC Michael Edde, michael.edde@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4185
- FTA Manager/Account Payable, Christopher Tarbet, christopher.tarbet@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4504
 - Montgomery GI Bill, Marilyn Antipolo, marilyn.antipolo@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4545
 - SRIP Bonus/Student Loans, Clarence Peters, clarence.peters@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4184
- SRIP Bonus/Student Loans Assistant, Jason Lyday, jason.lyday@us.army.mil, (801) 432-4415

Camp Blackhorse Soldiers Help Build Afghanistan's Future

Story and photos by MCI Shawn Graham

KABUL, Afghanistan — **A**cross Afghanistan, wherever U.S. forces are deployed, whether conducting combat operations alongside Coalition forces in the east and south or security and stability operations in the west and north, they do so from forward operating bases.

Captain Bruce Roberts' team of senior noncommissioned officers from Camp Blackhorse, trains and mentors the Afghan National Army's (ANA) 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, in the construction of an unnamed FOB, located near the Naghlu Reservoir in lower Kapisa Province.

"Our job is to train and advise the Afghan National Army in all aspects of FOB building," explained Roberts, who is the rotational Embedded Training Team (ETT) officer in charge. "Our job is to train the leaders and NCOs so that they understand how to build and defend forward operating bases themselves."

"My team has truly been embedded with the ANA," Roberts said. "For nearly two months, we've lived on a combat outpost with a platoon of their soldiers. The ETTs

were the only U.S. presence on our makeshift compound."

The team members are all from the Utah National Guard. In civilian life they are teachers, self-employed business owners and full-time students.

The 4th Kandak is a combat engineer unit, with three companies, a weapons company and a headquarters company. An additional line company is located at the site that is being constructed.

"Generally, classes in the morning are taught by the ETT, and classes in the afternoon are taught by the ANA," said MSG Charles Durrant. "We typically meet with the kandak commander after formation to discuss any issues or problems. Throughout the day, the trainers are meeting and working with their companies."

"But one thing to remember," Durrant added, "no day is a typical day with the ANA. It can change dramatically from day to day."

Afghan soldiers operate large excavators and bulldozers, flattening the terrain, making it suitable for future buildings and placing large sand-filled barriers. Operating on the top of a

Soldiers of the Utah National Guard's Embedded Training Team stop to rest and enjoy an Afghani sunset at Naghlu Reservoir.



plateau, equipment operators are always mindful that there is no room for error. Every time machinery moves, it is only several yards from a 1,000-foot drop.

“The ANA have faced all the challenges in stride,” said MSG Kent McClure, the project’s senior noncommissioned officer in charge. “This FOB will help bring stability to the entire region. We’ve merely shown them the way; they are the ones doing the work.”

Kandak soldiers are also building roads in the area and conducting leader engagements, where they meet with local elders and chiefs of police to discuss security and development projects. They also assist Coalition troops in locating and destroying established enemy fighting positions.

“Every mission that we go on is augmented by the ANA,” Roberts said. “This allows the citizens of Afghanistan to see members of their army working professionally with Coalition forces. It contributes to a sense of overwhelming pride in their government and they see their army progressing and succeeding in stamping out the Taliban.”

Their progress was evident July 26, when Afghan soldiers



Afghan National Army soldiers, assigned to Afghan National Army’s 4th Kandak, 3rd Brigade, mesh portions of a barrier together during construction of a new expeditionary forward operating base. The base will be built and maintained by the ANA.

from the 4th Kandak accompanied the combat engineer unit on a combat mission that destroyed five enemy fighting positions. The ANA soldiers assisted in the preparation and detonation phases of the operation.

“Many of the soldiers in 4th Kandak learn combat skills fast. Training them and letting them handle explosives and teaching them to respect it will help strengthen their ability and national perception,” Durrant said.

“We are getting the ANA to a point where they can be self-sufficient,” Roberts said. “We pass all our experience and knowledge on to them. They do for themselves, and it is working.” ■



Soldiers and Marines, along with Afghan National Army soldiers assigned to Camp Blackhorse, detonate explosives near an enemy fighting position during combat operations near the Naghlu Reservoir in Kapicia Province.



Afghan National Army soldiers assigned to 4th Kandak, 3rd Brigade, place barriers during construction of a new expeditionary forward operating base.

Utah Air Guard Marksmen Take Home National Shooter Awards

By Maj. Krista DeAngelis

SALT LAKE CITY — **F**our Utah Air National Guardsmen recently returned home with national shooting awards after competing in the Winston P. Wilson National Match in Little Rock, Ark.

Six members from the Utah Air Guard Marksmanship team, along with 12 Utah Army Guard members, traveled to Arkansas to compete Oct. 13-16 against more than 300 shooters throughout the Nation. Participants competed in 17 different events, including rifle and pistol matches.

During the competition, SSgt Caleb Owenby from the 151st Maintenance Squadron took first place in the Rifle Reflexive Fire match, novice division.

“The reflexive-fire match is a close-quarters drill (25 meters) consisting of three different stages of fire,” said Owenby. “The preparation for this particular match came from shooting other matches with similar demands on time management, shooting position and simple repetition.”

The Excellence in Competition (EIC) badges are awarded to individuals in recognition of an eminent degree of achievement in target practice firing with the standard military service rifle or pistol. The following Utah Air National Guard members were recognized at the national competition:

- 2nd Lt Jesse Reeves, 101st Information Warfare Flight, received a Bronze Pistol EIC badge
- Master Sgt Bryant Buttars, 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron, received a Bronze Pistol EIC badge with wreath and a Silver Rifle EIC badge
- Chief Master Sgt Brent McNee was recognized nationally for being inducted into the “Association of Marksmen in the National Guard” Shooting Hall of Fame, a very prestigious honor recognizing his many years of shooting excellence.
- Staff Sgt Owenby, received a first place trophy in the Rifle Reflexive-Fire match, Novice Division

Master Sgt Ray Miller, 151st MXS and MSgt Rocky Shaffer, 151st LRS, also competed on the team.

The purpose of the Guard’s marksmanship team is to provide advanced marksmanship training to Soldiers and Airmen as well as increase camaraderie between the Air and Army Guard.

“I saw the team as an opportunity to get more firearms training and meet people with similar interests and hobbies,” said Buttars. “I have made many new friendships through the marksmanship program and that is the true benefit of shooting with the team.”

The shooting team is always on the lookout for new members and encourages military members to consider it.

“You don’t have to be an expert marksman to shoot with the team...that’s why the team exists,” said Shaffer. “If you want to learn how to shoot better, come join us!” **E**



TOP DOWN: Master Sgt Bryant Buttars (right), competes in a pistol match Oct. 13. Chief Master Sgt Brent McNee, helps score a competitor’s target during a machine-gun event. Master Sgt Rocky Shaffer (center), 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron, fires the standard-issue M-16 during a rifle match.

Photos courtesy U.S. Air Force

Dealing with Post-Combat Issues: Mental Health Resources for Utah Guard Members and Families

Photo courtesy of TriWest Healthcare Alliance



Coming home from deployment is not easy, and there is help available for those coping with depression, PTSD or other post-combat struggles.

By Shari Lopatin

DRAPER, Utah — **W**hether gone for two months or two years, returning from combat is grueling.

Utah National Guard members readjusting back into society need time to recover from the stress of a highly charged war zone. Most will adapt well after some time; however, if problems continue and interfere with daily activities, it's time to seek help from a healthcare professional.

If these Guard members don't find help when they or a family member suspect a problem, their symptoms may worsen, causing a spiral of reckless or self-destructive behavior, domestic problems, career challenges and even death.

TRICARE offers behavioral health benefits for eligible Utah Guard members who need it.* Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime may receive the first eight behavioral healthcare outpatient visits per fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) from a TRICARE network provider without prior authorization from their regional contractor.

Active-duty Servicemembers (ADSMs) should always seek care first at a military treatment facility (MTF) when available. ADSMs must have a referral from their primary care manager (PCM) and have prior authorization from their regional contractor before seeking behavioral healthcare services outside the MTF. ADSMs enrolled in TRICARE Prime Remote may call TriWest to help obtain authorization for civilian behavioral health care.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance offers a number of additional resources for Guard members and their families throughout Utah who are coping with depression, PTSD or other post-combat struggles:

- “Help From Home” Video Series: Available at no cost via streaming video or as a 2-DVD set on www.triwest.com, this series offers advice from behavioral health experts who are also combat veterans and military families that have coped with effects of PTSD. Find it at www.triwest.com>beneficiaryservices>behavioralhealth>HelpFromHome.

- Behavioral Health Portal at www.triwest.com: Find articles and links to additional resources on a variety of topics spanning from children's behavioral issues to dealing with depression or suicide. Find it at www.triwest.com>beneficiary>behavioralhealth

- TriWest Crisis Line (1-888-284-3743): Accredited by the American Association of Suicidology and staffed with specially trained clinicians, this support line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for anyone struggling with depression, PTSD or thoughts of suicide, including family members concerned about these signs in a loved one.

- Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) USA Brochure: What You Need to Know about Warning Signs and Getting Help: Information about the signs of depression or other concerns that may lead to suicide. Find it at www.triwest.com>beneficiary>handbooksandbrochures.

Here are a few additional places to find help, separate from TriWest:

- The National Resource Directory: Links to resources for recovering Service-members, veterans, their families and caregivers at www.nationalresourcedirectory.org.

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (273-8255).

- Military One Source: 1-800-342-9647

*This is not a detailed list of benefits. For more comprehensive information about behavioral health support or benefits, visit www.triwest.com or call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378). 📄



“Help from Home,”

a two-DVD set, is available at no cost at www.triwest.com.

Utah Soldier Named Army National Guard Soldier of the Year

Story and photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Specialist Jeremy Whipple, of Utah's Echo Company, 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, was named the 2008 National Guard Soldier of the Year during a competition held August 11-13 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Whipple, along with twelve other finalists, had to qualify at the unit, major command, state and regional levels to reach this national competition.

Competitors quickly found that the events were much more physically demanding than what they had experienced at the regional level. The grueling three-day competition was designed to physically wear the competitors down before testing them on common soldier skills.

The competition began with a modified Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by waterborne events, warrior tasks and drills which included performing a functions check on an M16A2 rifle, calling for artillery fire, emplacing and recovering an M18A1 Claymore mine and evaluating and treating a casualty. The contest also included events that were new to the competitors, such as the stress shoot, combative training and urban operations.

For Whipple, that preparation involved becoming combat-lifesaver and Level-one-combative qualified, additional PT, foot marches, weapons training and long nights of studying for the board.

"I prepared the same way as I did for the state and region competitions," he said. "I prepared for a standard PT test, a five-mile road march, a standard rifle qualification, etc. I was a little concerned when I heard that the WPFT (Warrior Physical Fitness Test), which includes pull-ups and a five-mile run instead of the usual



Specialist Jeremy Whipple, E Company, 1-211th Aviation competes and wins the 2008 National Guard Soldier of the Year competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

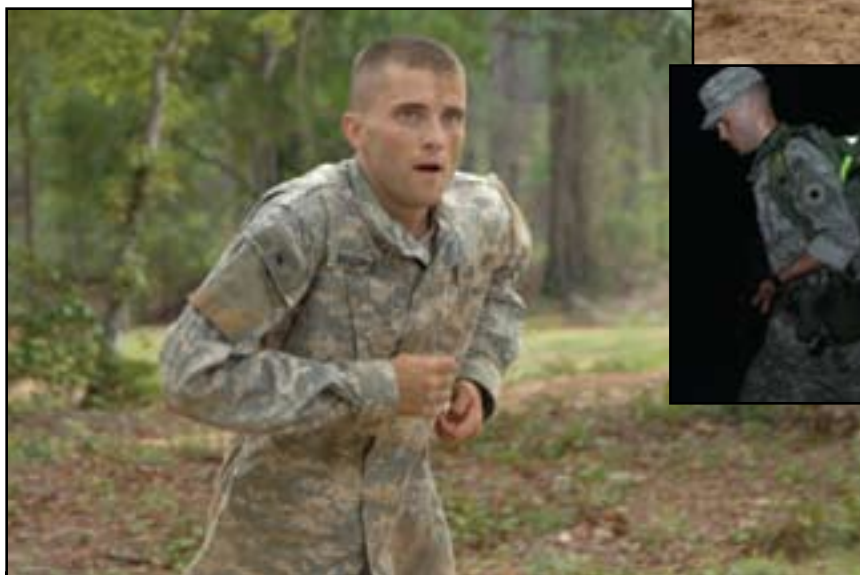
two miles, a 12-mile road march up the “Stairway to Heaven”, a stress-shoot rifle qualification, and a Combat Water Survival Test thrown in as well. I hadn’t prepared for any of that.”

Whipple entered the competition with a chronic hamstring injury, and suffered a foot injury midway through the events, making his win all the more remarkable.

“I might have hurt my foot while overcompensating for my hamstring and calf during training,” he said. “I lost a lot of points in the road march and land-navigation course due to the injury. What kept me going is that, frankly, I’m my own worst critic. I more than made up for the lack of pressure to win, by putting more pressure on myself to not quit, fail or embarrass myself or my unit.”

Despite losing points in events he considers are his greatest strengths, Whipple excelled throughout the majority of the competition, which in the end established him as the total package.

He credits the training his unit provided him and the support of his family and sponsor for his success.



“Whatever it took, they made it happen,” Whipple said. “My battalion CSM, readiness NCO, and first sergeant were all involved from the very beginning and made sure the required paperwork was done, range time was provided, weapons and combative instructors were found and the list goes on.”

The winners of the Soldier and NCO of the year were announced during the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States’ 37th annual conference.

“When we were standing on the stage and the command sergeant major of the Army National Guard announced my name, I was blown away,” Whipple said. “I’m still not completely sure it’s sunk in. What I do know is that it was absolutely humbling to receive a standing ovation from a huge crowd comprised of that caliber of Soldiers and Airmen.”

Whipple’s next test is to represent the Army Guard’s more than 323,000 enlisted men and women in October 2008 at the Department of the Army’s Soldier and NCO of the Year competition held at Fort Lee, Va. 🇺🇸

Mass Reenlistment at Camp Victory, Iraq

By CPT Deborah Gatrell

Photos by CPT Ricardo Gonzalez

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — **F**or 12 Soldiers from the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, Independence Day 2008 was a day to remember. These Soldiers were privileged to participate in what may have been the world's largest Army mass-reenlistment ceremony, held in the Al Faw palace rotunda at Camp Victory in Baghdad.

Late at night on July 2, a C-23 Sherpa flight arrived at the Baghdad International Airport carrying reenlistees, the battalion retention noncommissioned officer, battalion historian and Soldiers company commanders.

The airport was abuzz with activity—Blackhawks, Chinooks, Sherpas and Air Force cargo jets constantly coming and going. Hundreds of Soldiers were moving about and the level of activity approached chaos. We found a shuttle to Camp Victory where we were assigned tent quarters.

The next day, all reenlistees went to the palace for photos and a rehearsal. Soldiers had time to explore, take pictures and enjoy the scenic view of three forward operating bases and with Baghdad proper in the distance.

The reenlistment ceremony was held the morning of the 4th. The main floor was overflowing with reenlistees—1,215 Soldiers in all. As GEN Petraeus eloquently stated, their presence and participation sent a powerful message to both friend and foe.

The total combined future-service contracts for the reenlisted in attendance was more than 6,000 years.

The second and third floor galleries were filled with spectators and media. It was a moving ceremony, with participants coming from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. In conjunction with the ceremony, reenlistees were awarded a coin from GEN David Petraeus or CSM Marvin Hill (Soldier choice) a photo with the commanding general; a flag flown over Al Faw palace and a reenlistment certificate.

After the ceremony, reenlistees were treated to lunch. A pizza parlor in Chicago, Lou Malnati's Restaurant, shipped handmade deep-dish, Chicago-style pizza to Iraq as a treat for the Troops. Pizzas were assembled and baked on Camp Victory and served to the Troops as a small taste of home. After lunch, reenlistees were encouraged to visit the Camp PX to participate in drawings. Several 2-211th Soldiers won phone cards, cases of Red Bull, and T-shirts.

There were moments when some of the 2-211th Soldiers heard gunfire or explosions outside the wire, but the Camp itself was not unlike their home on Camp Buehring. The main differences were the number and size of convoys coming and going and the blast walls. It felt just as hot as Kuwait. There were palm trees and water—the lake around the palace even had



fish in it! The PX on Camp Liberty, a shuttle ride away, was larger than the one on Camp Buehring, but many of the shelves were bare. In the final estimate, most 2-211th Soldiers preferred their accommodations in Kuwait.

We left Camp Victory for BIAP on the night of the July 4 and saw the arrival of a Marine Osprey—the first many of us had seen up close. A Sherpa flight brought us home to Kuwait, then it was a short bus ride back to Camp Buehring.

It was a great opportunity and a great trip. Most of the

Soldiers who reenlisted at Al Faw Palace would not have another opportunity to go to Iraq during deployment. As a bonus, they can now truthfully report they have “been there.”

Reenlistees from 2-211th GSAB included SGT Joseph Janes, SGT Joshua Romig, SPC Benjamin Parker, SPC Meredith Donovan, SPC Christopher Goodwin, SPC Scott Russell, SGT Dallin Walkenhorst, SSG Raymond Musser, SGT Andrew Richardson, SSG Sean McClure, SGT Travis Smith and SFC Tyler Smith. 🇺🇸

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mass Reenlistment Ceremony with GEN Petraeus at Al Faw Palace, Bagdad, July 4, 2008. LEFT TO RIGHT: GEN Petraeus speaks during the ceremony. During the reenlistment program SGT Odekirk, SPC Donovan, SSG McClure, SGT Smith, SFC Smith, and SPC Parker, all six from the 2-211th AV were on the floor as participants. The reenlistment ceremony was held at Al Faw Palace.



LDS Church Official Offers Message of Peace

Story and photos by MSgt Burke Baker

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**ore than 400 members of the Utah Air National Guard assembled in the south hangar to hear President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, speak during an early-morning devotional Feb. 8.

President Uchtdorf was extended a special invitation to convey a universal message of peace to Guardsmen.



President Dieter F. Uchtdorf greets Col Kelvin Findlay, commander of the 151st Air Refueling Wing.

During opening remarks, Chaplain (Lt Col) Greg Clark of the 151st Air Refueling Wing said he hoped this would be the start of a series of annual devotionals bringing prominent members of the local religious community out to the base to speak to the members of the Utah ANG.

“The purpose of the devotional was to have a religious leader present a universal message that could benefit, in various ways, all members of the Utah Air National Guard,” said Clark. “I knew that President Uchtdorf’s current membership in the LDS First Presidency would appeal to many of the LDS members of the Guard, but I also felt that his background as a German aviator who had trained with the U.S. Air Force would also appeal to people of all denominations and backgrounds.”

President Uchtdorf’s talk focused on peace being a worldwide desire.

“As we assemble this morning in such a peaceful congregation, we know that peace is not just absence of war,” he said. “Peace is much more than that. ... You, as Citizen-Soldiers, have a special peace in your hearts, even the peace of God. I think that is what the peace of a Soldier is.”

“Peace is something we must try to protect. First of all, we need to have it in our hearts. Of course, we all know that even out of war great things can come about.”

President Uchtdorf said he liked the definition of peace as “harmony with one’s self and with God and man.”

President Uchtdorf served six years in the German Air Force as a fighter pilot. He was senior vice president of German Lufthansa Airlines flight operations and chief pilot at the time he was called as a General Authority in the LDS Church in 1994. As a pilot, he said, he traveled to almost all parts of the world, and completed his flying career behind the yoke of the Boeing 747.

“As I did, I tried to draw close to the people of the world regardless of culture, regardless of language, regardless of religion,” he recalled. “I had the privilege to do that all over the world. I learned that we all have similar desires. We desire security for self and family. We desire prosperity, happiness, and especially peace.”

President Uchtdorf attended undergraduate pilot training in 1959 at Webb Air Force Base in Texas while serving with the Luftwaffe.

“There was an Air National Guard F-102 squadron there,” he said. “I always thought, ‘Boy, that is the best of two worlds. They work in their civil lives during the week and then on the weekend they have a chance to fly beautiful planes and do something great.’”

“Of course, there is always a serious background. Perhaps in the past we might have thought of National Guard service as piling up sacks when a flood is coming or flying humanitarian help somewhere. It is really being called into hot war. The Utah National Guard has had a large share. Thousands of you have served and are serving overseas and seeing the difference between peace and war.

“The anchor in our life — especially for you who are serving your country and are ready and able to go any place in the world and have taken an oath to protect the liberty of your country — the anchor of your life and the ability to do what you need to do is, I believe, your strong faith and confidence that there is a living God, that He is there to be with you.”

President Uchtdorf said peace of mind and heart comes in



Members of the Utah Air National Guard fill a hangar to listen to President Dieter F. Uchtdorf speak Feb 8.

“knowing our true identity as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. Understanding these principles can help us to answer the often-asked question, ‘How do we live with each others’ deepest differences?’”

He spoke of having witnessed “democracy in action” at the inauguration of President Barack Obama, where he saw the peaceful transfer of power.

“Even with great differences in political views, there was graciousness and a unity of peace there. I would like to congratulate you for your country, for the wonderful way this democracy is being practiced and is being shown to all throughout the world. That is what liberty is all about.”

“I think his message was timely”, said MSgt Jeff Kennecott, a member of the 169th Intelligence Squadron. “We have been at conflict for such a long time that we are all a little war weary. However, in the midst of being at war, it was comforting to hear a message about peace and achieving inner peace in one’s self.”

During the service Chaplain (Lt Col) Bruce Brewer, 151st ARW chaplain, offered the invocation and TSgt Jack Sommer from the 151st Maintenance Group offered the benediction.

Among those in attendance were MG Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard; Brig Gen David Hooper, Commander of the Utah Air National Guard; Brig Gen Scott Harrison, Joint Forces Headquarters Deputy Commander; and Col Kelvin Findlay, 151st ARW Commander, as well as other top command and enlisted leadership.

President Uchtdorf said service is what makes life satisfying and worthwhile.

“You are people who render service,” he said. “A commitment to service, whether in wartime or in time of peace, is the hallmark of the Citizen-Soldier. You are such a hallmark. I honor you. Citizen-Soldiers, whether they render service in time of war or peace, make a sacrifice by extending helping hands to all. As you do this, in your hearts and minds you will record the richest memories.”

“I feel like the devotional was a phenomenal success,” continued Brewer. “President Uchtdorf’s message was incredibly inspiring. Many people attended, but more importantly, individual Airmen were touched, excited, and motivated by the message; several of them talked with me afterward and provided a great deal of positive feedback. As a chaplain, I will always feel like any event, irrespective of numbers, is a success if somebody receives a spiritual or emotional boost.” ■



TOP DOWN: MG Brian Tarbet (center), The Adjutant General for Utah, listens as President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, addresses members of the Utah Air National Guard at the Utah ANG Base in Salt Lake City on Feb. 8. Uchtdorf delivered a message of peace during the one-hour non-denominational devotional and reminisced about his time in the German air force.

Aggie Lineman and Utah Guardsman Succeeds on Gridiron and Battlefield

Michael Green, of West Jordan, a member of 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, is also an offensive lineman on the Utah State University football team.

Green was recognized at halftime of the Utah State-Hawaii game in Logan Nov. 1 as part of the school's Military Appreciation Day. The Soldier-Citizen-Athlete received the Army's Meritorious Service Medal in front of thousands of USU fans for exceptional service during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2003-2004.

The award citation, which was read by Romney Stadium announcer Rob Flygare, states: "For outstanding meritorious service while assigned to First Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, serving as Forward Operating Base 191 intelligence noncommissioned officer. Corporal Green's experience, technical and tactical proficiency greatly contributed to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom. Through his leadership the battalion's intelligence section shaped and dominated the battle space. Corporal Green's actions reflect great credit upon himself, the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan and the U.S. Army."



SGT Michael Green, right received the Army's Meritorious Service Medal in front of thousands of USU fans for exceptional service during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2003-2004.

By Ashley Schiller

Photos by LTC Hank McIntire

LOGAN, Utah — **O**beying orders. Making split-second decisions. Perseverance. A physically demanding camp. Are we talking about football or serving in the military? Both, actually. According to senior Mike Green, the two have many similarities. He would know. The 6-foot, 4-inch, 300-pound offensive tackle served for nine months in Afghanistan prior to coming to Utah State to pursue a master's in political science.

He described several other parallels.

"Communication is huge in the military. You've got to communicate with other units as you coordinate efforts, just like you have to communicate here as you coordinate on the offensive line," Green said.

Both create a feeling of camaraderie among the men and require precise planning and intensity.

"You should play every play like it's life or death, which is the same as in the military," Green said.

Although he faced some life-threatening situations in Afghanistan, like his second day in the country when a suicide bomber attacked the base, Green was mostly away from the direct combat. He served as an analyst, receiving and processing reports from intelligence collectors on the ground and in the sky.

"I would read the reports and try to figure out what each one meant and what was going on," he said. "I'd plot them on a map or on a computer and then look for patterns, similarities or dissimilarities. It was taking all the pieces of the puzzle and putting them together. We had to find where the intelligence gaps were and then focus efforts to try to find out that information."

"Many military personnel become desensitized to the danger surrounding them," Green said.

He compared the experience of leaving the base to driving on the freeway.

"The freeway is very fast paced, with a lot of moving things," he said. "It's very dangerous, but you have control with your steering wheel so you feel like you mitigate the risk. It's the same thing as going outside of the wire. You have controls with your helicopters, other units, and you have your gun with you. You're focused on the mission at hand, so you ignore some of the dangers.

"But there are times when you'll feel it, just like when you see a car accident and you hear on the news that someone died. Sometimes it will be closer to you; you'll be in the car accident and the person next to you will die. That's kind of how I correlate it," Green said.



Aggie fans at Romney Stadium give SGT Michael Green a standing ovation as he receives the Meritorious Service Medal Nov. 1.



SGT Michael Green stands at attention as the award citation is read by Rob Flygare, Romney Stadium public-address announcer.



MG Brian Trabet, left, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on SGT Michael Green.

His time in Afghanistan made Green more grateful for simple things such as paved roads, flushing toilets and comfortable beds. His mother sent him baby wipes to use as toilet paper.

“I also got a real good appreciation for white bread and soft Wonder Bread,” he said.

Despite the sacrifices, “serving in the military was worth it, just like playing football is worth it,” he said.

And football is worth it whether he plays or not. Although Green has not yet played in a USU game, he fills an important role on the team as a scout player. He prepares the defense for the games by studying and then running the opposing team’s plays.

He has dressed for several games over the past few years, thus fulfilling his childhood dream of running through the tunnel onto the field. Last fall’s season-opener against UNLV especially made an impact on him.

“It was indescribable. The game brought a pretty big crowd. When you practice in the stadium, you don’t realize how big it is. But when you go out in a game and you see all the people out there, you’re like ‘Wow.’ It’s a whole different experience,” he said.

Whether or not he gets the opportunity to run through the tunnel again this season, Green feels he has had a fulfilling experience.

“I love the game,” he said. “It’s pretty cool to come out every day and put on the helmet and play when I’m almost 25 years old. It gives me something to do so I don’t get into trouble.”

He also appreciates the “instant friendships” he was able to develop upon coming to a new school where he knew hardly anyone.

In addition to the friendships he’s made, Green has also helped the Aggies with his leadership, something that hasn’t gone unnoticed by USU head coach Brent Guy.

“It’s a unique situation to have a player who has served his country. Mike brings a different maturity that you normally don’t have and with that comes added leadership,” Guy said. “It is a different experience for some of our younger players to be playing with a military veteran, especially with the theater of serving in Afghanistan.”

Green is now nearly finished with his master’s degree. His thesis focuses on government regulation, specifically the Federal Aviation Administration. A pilot himself, he’s always had a passion for aviation.

Green’s next stop will be law school. He is applying to a variety of schools all over the country, but he would ideally like to stay in Utah. He would also like to one day run for public office. ■

Story reprinted courtesy of Utah State University Athletic Media Relations.

Utah Guard's Senior Leaders Visit 128th MPAD Soldiers in Iraq



Utah Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet, center, administers the oath of reenlistment to SGT Shana Henline, left, of Tooele, and SGT Whit Houston, of Cedar City, both of the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, July 22 in Baghdad during Tarbet's visit to Iraq.

By SGT Whit Houston

Photos by SSG Kelly Collett

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — **S**oldiers from the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Utah National Guard, attached to the 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – Baghdad, received a surprise visit from their state adjutant general, MG Brian Tarbet, and the state's senior enlisted leader, CSM Bruce Summers.

The visit was unexpected for Soldiers because when Tarbet visited them at their mobilization training site at Fort Dix, N.J., he had expressed regret that he would probably not be able to see them during their tour in Iraq for various reasons.

"It's really hard to get justification to see a small amount of people who are thousands of miles away, and it also takes a higher level of security to transport a general," said 1SG Robert Logan of the 128th MPAD.

Tarbet was able to come out to see Soldiers of the 128th MPAD as part of a tour to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan in order to visit and assess needs of Utah National Guard Soldiers in their battle spaces throughout Southwest Asia.

"He was checking up on [his] troops at multiple locations in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan to provide support and determine if there were any issues that needed to be worked out, either at home state or here in theater at his level," said MAJ Lorraine Januzelli, commander of the 128th MPAD.

A visit from the state's senior officer and senior noncommissioned officer creates a sense of stability for Soldiers and lets them know that they are appreciated back home.

"Whenever your two-star comes down to see you it's

an honor. It's a big deal for him to travel [over] 5,000 miles to come and see us," said Januzelli.

Not only was the event great for the troops, but it was rewarding for the visitors as well.

"This was a special treat for us, because I didn't think we were going to get up here to see you. But the guys at the National Guard Bureau made it happen for us," said Tarbet to members of the 128th, reflecting his gratitude for those who helped make the visit possible.

Tarbet praised the Utah Soldiers and their work. He also expressed his desire for them to adhere to safety guidelines, with the end in

mind of getting the troops home to their families unharmed.

"This trip has given me a great opportunity to say thanks to some great Soldiers who are doing outstanding work and telling a marvelous story. Every time you leave the wire telling Soldiers' stories, you are subject to the same dangers as every other Soldier, so please be careful," said Tarbet. "We want to see all of you home safe and back with your families."

While in Baghdad, Tarbet participated in an awards ceremony, presided at a reenlistment, and even attended a birthday celebration for some of the Soldiers whose birthdays had passed, leaving the MPAD Soldiers with renewed spirits for the appreciation and praise supplied by their state leadership. **E**



The Utah Guard's CSM Bruce Summers speaks to Soldiers of the 128th MPAD, currently attached to the 4th Infantry Division and Multinational Division in Baghdad.

The 21st Annual Adjutant General's Cup Golf Tournament

By Lt Col David Osborne and MSgt Wayne Ormond

Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

EAGLE MOUNTAIN, Utah — Another fine year of fun competition, camaraderie and esprit de corps was had at the 21st annual Adjutant General's Cup golf tournament this year. With a field of more than 90 players comprised of both Air Guard and Army Guard members, the stage was set and the anticipation was high. When the dust settled and the scores were all tallied, SFC Matt Rhinehart and SSG Brent Robertson had come out on top on the Army side after shooting a 64; and for the Air side Lt Col David Osborne and MSgt Wayne Ormond took the top spot, they also shot a 64. As for the overall team winner, for the second year in a row, the Army National Guard came out on top. Congratulations, Army!

The Utah National Guard would like to thank The Ranches Golf Club for hosting the AG Cup for the third year in a row. The golf course was in top shape (to include the rye grass). Military members in Utah are lucky to have a community that supports us in the way The Ranches does and we want them to get the thanks they deserve. Not only did the Ranches give every player a card which entitled them to a free round of golf, but they went to all of their vendors and got door prizes worth more than \$2,000 to give away to our members! On that note, we would like to give a special thanks to two of the major contributors for their support: Best Buy for donating a Nintendo Wii gaming system and Doug Smith Auto of American Fork for putting a

Suzuki SX4 car as a hole-in-one prize. Another great thing that The Ranches does every day is give a 20 percent discount to all military members on rounds of golf and anything in the pro shop!

When asked why they are willing to do so much for the military, The Ranches general manager Jodie Neff responded, "We love you guys!! The things you do for us, we cannot put a price tag on, and this is just a small way for us to say thanks."

The AG Cup is an annual event sponsored by MG Brian Tarbet. It is held on the first Monday in August. We only use the top ten scores for each branch to determine the overall winner, so come out and have a good time regardless of your skill level. To those of you who have played in the AG Cup before, thank you for your support of this event and we look forward to seeing you next year.

We would like to extend a special thanks to MG Tarbet for his continual support of this event and of our troops in general.

When asked to share his feelings about this year's event, Tarbet had this to say, "It was a picture-perfect day and a great occasion for fine Soldiers and Airmen to enjoy each other's company. I did all I could to inflate the Army score, but other and better golfers saved the day for the green. I'm looking forward to next year and breaking 100." 🏌️



LEFT TO RIGHT: MG Brian Tarbet, Jodie Neff, manager of The Ranches, Lt Col David Osborne and MSgt Wayne Ormond.

A R M Y P R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Giles Daniel Timothy
Hanson Jeffrey B
Jones Alvin Francis

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Lloyd John Melvin
Williams Thomas John

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Crenshaw Adam Doyle
Curtis Craig Charles
Jensen Heather Lynn
Koon Deena Deann
Milner Joseph Edward
Payne Joshua John
Renaud Tatiyana Alex
Riedel Eric Lance
Robertson Brent Russell

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 1

Bishop Bruce Alan
Blackham Paul Marion
Boyer Travis Lee
Busk Bryan Richard
Case Tucker Lundy
Estes Nathan Clark
Garrand Matthew Leonard
Hunter Karl
Jeffs Barton Anthony
Johnson Bartley Gordon
Read Jason Thomas
Vandrimmen Joseph P K
Wayment Brant Matthew
Witt Jared Lee
Zesiger Michael Paul

COLONEL

Atack Dallen Spencer
Miller Richard Gary

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Adams Peter Edward
Anderson Brent Fife
Fredley Donald Brian
Jonas Ronald Nelson
Montoya Jill Kay Jensen
Robinson Adam Leland

MAJOR

Bello Craig Lyndon
Brockman Bernadette Ethel
Cassat Gregory Alan
Chambers Peter Constantine
Clark Branden Fred
Graves Brian David
Grider Jason Alan
Hall Alex Gerber
Koon Charles William
Larsen Chris Rawlin
Springer Gaylan Royal
Vogrinc Budd Joseph

CAPTAIN

Austin Michael Darin
Banks Sarah Elizabeth
Ditto Michael James
Eissinger Che Charles
Gunnarson Egan Neal
Henrie Scott Cameron
Lee Jackson James
Lowry Phillip Edward Jr
Mills Julia Maria
Vazquez Noe Saucedo
Whitmore Gene Lindsay

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Adamson Jason Ryan
Eldredge David Asa
Gunter Jacob Spencer
Hyatt Robert Preston
Kadariusman Bill Praseria
Kattelman Robert Mark
Kelley Timothy Hanson
Lyon Michael Adam
Potts Thomas Patrick
Tukuafu Don Robert Waiono

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Ashton Thomas Scott
Berta Martin Andres
Burgin Michael David
Carpenter Nathan Scott
Curtis Alex James
Delmege David Scott
Goddard Brett Lawrence
Grimshaw William R
Harmon Leisly
Johnson Jerry Alan
Otis Jonathan David
Pierce Garland Lamont
Quarnberg Jeffery Warren
Randle Spencer Alan
Staheli Casey Alan
Thurgood Aaron Lee
Tigert Lisa Katherine
Wolfe Kevin Charles

SERGEANT MAJOR

Anderson Eric Walter
Barnes Gary Winter
Judd Myles Aldon
Mcclure Kent Rhys

FIRST SERGEANT

Bird Bryce Cary
Bowden Curt Leigh
Hulet John Michael
Lee Allen Blair
Mitchell Kevin Alan
Olsen Douglas Verlyn
Pierce Vincent Edward
Shurtz Kerry Dean
West Joseph Glen
Wintle Jeffery Don
Wooldridge Steven Brian

MASTER SERGEANT

Allman Bryan Lee

Anderson Scott Allen
Bernard Douglas Payne
Berry Brian Grant
Colledge James Craig
Coverstone Bart L
Curtis Jeffrey Steven
Dean Eric Russell
Eckles Robert Dan
Evans Andrew Scott
Fischer Jennifer June
Hall Daryl Robert
Hansen Bradley Allen
Harrison Brady Mark
Hird Christopher Paul
Hodgkinson Clint K
Kennedy Kevin John
Lasson Mark Lane
Lebaron Merrill Sutherland
Mckinnon Steven Dean
Moore Kirk Eugene
Morse Jeromy James
Rapich Christopher Scott
Restad Larry John
Rhinehart Matthew Shane
Sauer David Craig
Sower Tamara Lyn
Stewart Clint James
Taylor Troy Lane
Willard Carl Jason
Wiscott Jason Michael

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Argyle Wade Bernell
Berg Stacey Ann
Blodgett Lisa Steadman
Bonham Nichole
Brunson Robert Merrill
Bulloch David Cattle
Bybee Corey Roderick
Carter Byron Dwayne
Crockett Wade Allen
Cunningham Barry L
Daniels David Gary
Dimond Jeremy Mark
Eliason Mark Thomas
Evans Lucas Steven
Files Leslie Gordon
Gomes Albert Rodrick
Irons Eric Paul
Jabilles Richard Nodalo
Johnson Jeremy Jennings
Klimack Paul Wilbert
Kramer Scott Philip
Liddle David Stevens
Lister John Kyle
Logan James Hyrum
Maldonado Victor Daniel
Maxfield Steven Mel
Mcdonough Evan Padraic
Moreno David Larry
Murray Andrea
Nichols Jerriah Michael
Nicholson Frank Allen
Olsen Jason Val
Pack Fredrick John Jr
Peacock Sherrill Steven
Sallee Kerry Dean
Shelley Devin Carl
Sivertsen Erik Peter
Smith Arin Michael
Smith Thomas William

Taylor Martin Buck
Tillett Lucas Ryan
Vehnekamp Timothy Jeffery J
Walker Aimee Lynne
Watters Karl Eugene
Wheeler Dustin J
Wolverton Michael Alan

STAFF SERGEANT

Ahcolt Robert Fuga
Allen Colter Thomas
Allred Russell Gene
Ancira Camille Rochelle
Andersen Erik Owen
Andrus Clinton Blaine
Annis Gregory Lee
Archer Jared David
Archuleta Craig Michel
Babcock Jarod Terry
Barney Michael Joseph
Betancourt Delilah
Blizzard Richard James
Brady Patrick Kale
Branam Steven Clinton
Branin Cody William
Brinkerhoff Corinne Marie
Brizzi David Lee
Brown Daniel Kent
Bullock Michael Joel
Byington Bruce Richard
Caldwell Christopher Daniel
Campbell Brett Ryan
Campbell Craig Richard
Carlson Jonathon Joseph
Chapman Brent David
Christensen Mckay
Cole Tamaron Marie
Cornwell Brian John
Countryman Phillip Glenn
Cross Kyle Christopher
Doll Kelly Jo
Elliott Vanessa Lynn
Erickson Floyd Dean
Felt Matthew David
Frandsen Bernard Howard
Garcia Edmundo Israel
Garrison David Hubert
Gonzales Michael David
Griffis Roger Lee
Hanks Simeon Reed
Hansen Riley Rod
Harden Darren C
Harmon Joshua Lee
Hartley Cameron Mackay
Haynes Ryan Eldon
Hendrix Wayne Allen
Heston Ronald Lee
Hill Levi Bryon
Hill Ronald Raymond
Holgreen Sheldon Wayne
Huerta Jorge Orlando
Johnson Keith Marvin
Jones Christopher Forrest
Keeley Christopher Aagard
Kerr Nolan Layne
Knavel Phillip Grant
Kofford James Douglas
Lance John Michael
Lara Samuel Enrique
Larsen Allen
Larsen Justin Dean

Larson Curtis Gene
Lazenby Rory David
Lemke Andrew Scott
Lofgren Stephen Anthony
Malmborg Nathan Charles
Martin Anson Barrett
Mayberry Brent Thatcher
Mcclure Phillip Dennis
McCulloch Nathan Harry
Mckinnell Thomas Hugh
Mecham Michael Robert
Merkley Joseph Royal
Metzger Jody Marie
Miller Douglas Allen
Morris Candida Marie
Nelson Merrell Alan Jr
Obannon Skyler Drake
Oldroyd John Wayne
Oswald Braeden James
Ott Matilde Idania
Pantone Spenser Maun
Parry Stewart
Pellegriin Joshua Aaron
Perez Jaime Ricardo
Perkins Bryan Joseph
Peterson Jeremy James
Pickering Jack Christopher
Ramsay Kole Eugene
Rice Kevin Ira
Richards Marie Hull
Ricker Randal Floyd
Ricks Marc Douglas
Roberts David Michael
Rubio Emmanuel
Sandberg Steven Blake
Schafer Stephanie Renee
Shepherd Mary
Sherratt Michael John
Short Jason Grant
Simondi Mark Ryan
Skillman William Andrew
Slaughter Aaron Douglas
Smith Jordan Michael
Soderquist William Daniel
Talamantez Manuel Junior
Tarum Shane Thomas
Thatcher Christopher Douglas
Tirado Jose Ramon
Vanduren Lorin James
Vigil Allan Raymond
Ware Jeremy Ryan
Webber Joseph Johnson
Welch Joshua Ty
Welcker Martin Wade
Westover Chad Kevin
White Tyler John
Wilson Andrew Rex
Withers Jacob Theran
Wood Nathan Austin
Workman Lucas Leonard
Wylie Gist Miller Jr

SERGEANT

Andersen Shane Robert
Anderson Joshua Wood
Andrews Scott Michael
Armstrong Ryan Scott
Bailey Zachary Andrew
Barney Beau Zachary
Barth Jason Michael
Bates Matthew Morrison

O M O T I O N S

Beagley Shane Thomas
Beal Andrew James
Beams James Bryant Scott
Beatty Brittany
Beck Brent Chad
Bell Cole Louis Von
Berg Jesse Ray
Beveridge Zachary Kay
Bible James Lewis II
Bills Donald Ole Jr
Blake Brady Douglas
Blankenstein Cory John
Blizzard Katherine Miriam
Booth Shane Eric
Bovard Thomas James
Bowler Benjamin James
Bradley Ladd J
Brady Jeffrey Mark
Brady Noah Paul
Brakke David Eugene
Buck David Allen
Buckwalter Christopher Lynn
Bullock Jason Tyler
Campbell Jared Alan
Church Nathon Steve
Clark Lawrence Jay
Condie Cory Lorin
Cook Beau Thomas
Cook Moises Filomeno
Covington Randy L
Cox Wayne Merrill
Curtis John Riley
Dahl Tyler Adams
Davis Michael Timothy
Day Drew Allen
Degreef Meredith Lynn
Deleeuw Adam
Dooley Keith Brian
Evans Andrew Lance
Flitton Daniel David
Francis Luke Glen
Gale Wesley J
Gillespie David Frank
Gregson Jacob John
Grover Alex Neil
Haag Camron Eric
Hansen Gray Karry
Hansen Jerod Edward
Harris Jeffrey Allen
Harris Nathan Joseph
Hart Deena Rae
Hastings David Danielsen
Hatcher Jeffrey Steven
Heise Julio Estuardo
Hendleman John Wilson
Herman Jared Thomas
Hill Tyler John
Hinson Frank Keller
Hodgson Kyle Wayne
Holbrook Daniel Mitchell
Hopkinson Justin Allen
Huchel John Allen
Hurd Heber James
Jacobsen Lane Oscar
Janes Andrew Michael
Jenkins Brian Ray
Johnston Brett Robert
Jolley Trevor Christian
Jones Mitchell McClellan
Jones Steven James
Kapetanov Casey Allen
Kiter Kiel Andrew

Konery Aron Vincent
Kruse Nathan Jeremy
Lagiglia Gino Joseph
Lai Jay Arthur
Liebel Patrick Scott
Lieske Albert Charles III
Lindquist Benjamin Cory
Lopshire Benjamin Lyn
Loveless Sheldon James
Lydon Cristopher Lawrence
Macfarlane Brandon Leroy
Marin Christian Valentin
Maxwell Daleanne Elizabeth
Mcarthur Robert Jared
Mccall Trenton Lee
Mccullough Cassidy Quinn
Mckee Jason David
Mcnulty Richard Sean
Mcnutt Matthew John
Mele Rory Jacob
Merlette Nicole Ann
Milian Henry Ronaldo
Miller Michael Wayne
Miller Scott Douglas
Mock Darrel Ray
Moreno Edgar
Morrill John Stephen
Morris Mathew Tim
Mower Benjamin Ralph
Mullan Kenneth Paul
Murtha Ryan Frederick
Nelson Lloyd Hyrum
Nelson Michael Richard
Nessen Michael Lynn
Nielsen Michael Li
Nielsen Matthew Charles
Ocana Joe Xavier
Orozco Rafael Gabriel
Orton Amber Louise
Ostler Jake Richard
Packer Gary Lynn Betsill
Padgett Meredith Leigh
Passey Alexander James Jr
Patterson Mitch Layton
Pena Jesus Abimael
Pickett Mark Howard
Reel Micah Paul
Reese David Edward
Richins Michael David
Rigby Benjamin David
Riley Brian Michael
Rinehart Kenneth Paul
Ritzert Phil James
Rohwer Fred Eno
Russell Branden Michael
Russell Scott Deming
Salvesen Steven Brock
Sehy Christopher Corey
Shepherd Trenton Thomas
Shurtz Royden Phil
Skelton Mark Timothy Jr
Smith Edwin Stephen Robert
Smith Joshua Morgan
Snider William Travis
Sorensen Shane Tucker
Starwalt Melissa Ann
Stewart Nicholas Spencer
Stone Wayne Lucian
Takamine George Masayoshi
Truex Sterling Jay
Tullis Ryan Michael
Vacovsky Joseph Michael Jr

Velasquez Yvan
Walker Jeffrey Paul
Walker Ryan Porter
Walters Brian Daniel
Ward Chistapher Vincent
Weatherspoon Carrie Elizabe
Weidner John Joseph
Welch Jacob Edward
Weyburn Aaron Michael
Whetton Bryan David
Whipple Jeremy Clayton
Wilson Harper Dustin
Wright Scott Thomas
Xanthos Samantha
Young Scott Ivor
Youngblood Meggan Suzanne

CORPORAL

Ashton Jeffrey James

SPECIALIST

Aaron Tyrell Douglas
Adams Joseph Malcolm
Adams Matthew Brady
Affeltranger Mark Van Jr
Alston Stephen Anthony
Anderson Michael Robert
Anderson Ryan Ray
Archuleta Elicia Rose
Auvaa Christina Naomi
Batts Aaron Joseph
Bissell Aaron Patrick
Blake Robert Joseph Jr
Blunk Thomas Turner
Bouy Michael Glen
Boyer Robert Darel
Bracewell Frank Brian
Burrows Robert Leon
Cardon Richard Louis
Carlson Cody Wayne
Carter Jeffrey Hall
Casillas Antonio Eric
Chapman Patrick Michael II
Christy Shane Andrew
Cordova Ruben Kaid
Crofts Christopher Kelly
Crofts Jonathan Lawrence
Cronin Daniel Eric
Dahl Justin Clint
Dardon Nathanael Ernesto
Darelli Michael Andres
Dean Travis James
Dew Eden Noelle
Diviney Edward Craig Jr
Drollette Matthew Wayne
Dumas Lindsey Jean
Ebmeyer David J
Ecevedo Adam John Samson
Egan Christopher Buckley
Ellsworth Adam Reed
Ferguson Glen Scott Jr
Fotheringham Tadd C
Fowler Robert Leon
Fui Denapoli Mu
Furtney Eric Russell
Garcia Ray Jr
Garcia Thomas Arthur Jr
Gardner Brent Lee
Gibson Steven Edward
Gifford Ian Ray

Gilchrist James Duncan
Gingrass David Morgan Jr
Glad James Neil
Gonzales Anthony Arthur
Hack Jordan Victor
Haley Marcus Caius
Hammond Merrill Brian
Harmon Jarediah Elias
Harris Erica Carmen
Hess Robert Morgan
Hicks Charles Bronson
Hills Daniel Lyman
Hornsby Jacob Ray
Howell Matthew James
Hubert Lloyd Walcott
Irons Colby Bret
Issa Brandon Tyler
Jacobs Troy David
Jaramillo Harold Eduardo
Jenkins Hugh Rdell
Jeppson Holton Bruce
Jessop Levi
Jessup Jordan Michael
Johnson Beau Dwayne
Johnson Kevin Lee
Kaaihue Masami Alofipo Kuih
Kendall Jason David
Kittell David Lawrence
Lee Anthony John
Lee Joseph Lepage
Lindsey David Price
Lisonbee John Gillette
Long Jesse Paul
Malichanh Chandler Douglas
Manning John Merrill
Mansfield Christopher James
Martinez Jesse Ray
May Jacob David
Mayer Michael Daniel
Mcgonigal Michael Francis
Mcwilliams Kenneth John
Mellor Guy Melvin
Mellor Taylor Melvin
Musselman Kedric James
Nebeker Zachary Tyler
Newport Gareth Charles
Nichols Eric Spencer
Niewiadomski Joshua Ryan
Norris Ryan Lyndsey
Nydegger Isaac Roy
Olsen Nicholas Conley
Ostler Phillip Eric Earl
Pahl Christopher Michael A
Peterson Dolyn Jack
Pettit Daniel Robert
Phillips Major Victor
Poindexter William Aaron
Pope Robert Russell
Puffer Lenzy Jared
Reams James Michael
Revy Brannan Iver
Riddle Andrew Blair
Ringler Mathew Rodney
Riordan Daniel
Roberts Bryce Jay
Robertson Mark Steven II
Robinson Joseph Eugene III
Robinson Scott Wayne
Robles Manuel Jesus
Rogers Tyler Thomas
Rowley Russell Gordon
Sander Richard Allen Ii

Savala Emmanuel Joseph
Scott Daniel Raye
Shell Amber Dawn
Shupe Aaron Anton
Shurtleff Joseph Clyde Mart
Sidhu Jonathan Warren
Slade Micah Shaun
Slagowski Matthew Vaughn
Smith Brandon Edward
Smith Clark Eugene
Smuin Jeremy Hyrum
Sommerfeldt Aaron Quin
Spencer Lance England
Spendlove Jamie Jeff
Staheli Rustin Merlynn
Staton Eddie Dale Jr
Stocks Kacy Ray
Streeter Mark Alan
Terry Brian James
Thomas Barbara Jean
Tibbets Kristopher Charles
Torlos Miranda Renee
Tracy Lewis Andrew
Trujillo Nathan Charles
Varney James Robert
Velis Pete III
Watson Michael Gordon
Wells Joshua Robert
White Brian Kent
Whitney Ryan Fremont
Wilcox Benjamin J
Williams Michael Homer
Winder Angela Leslie
Woodcox Cameron Leif
Ziebert Paul Francis

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Abbott Kenyon John
Abbott Stephen Nicholas
Acheson Lawrence Wain III
Adams Shaun Ryan
Albrethsen Timothy Mark
Allen Cooper Owen
Allen Robert Lynn
Anderson Darrell Allen
Anderson Robert Kenneth
Anderson Spencer Todd
Anusiem Francis Ebere
Arcia Ammon Alvin
Ashworth Cory Paul
Bartholomew Jerel Bert
Baxley Justin Benjamin
Beatty Taylor Lyman
Bell Benjamin Taylor
Benally Trevor Loren
Bertele Philip Michael
Berthold Brigham Siegfried
Boden Nathan Ellis
Bradshaw Kyle Lee
Breitweiser Tyson Joseph
Brown Jason Don
Brunsvik Christian Cosmin
Buenning Jason Charles
Busenbark Todd Garrett Jr
Caldwell Brett Cale
Campbell Gregory Charles
Carter Shane Michael
Case Glenn Charles
Celaya Nick
Chapman David Matthew
Childs Colby Lavoy

Churchfield Raymond Earl	Keller Daniel	Solomon Ariel Jonathan	Close Ryan Patrick	Lopez Andrea Maria
Clary Ian Sean	Kelly Jordan Lee	Sorensen Jacob Lawrence	Cluff Tanner Mckay	Lopez Bryan Oswaldo
Clayton Leon Thomas	Kelly Lee Don	Sorensen Samuel Alan	Collins David Bradley	Lopez Jesus Nmn
Clements Brock Carlton	Kinyon Brittney Nicole	Sorenson Samuel Leonard	Cornejo Christianne Sharlen	Lopez Jr Carlos Adrian
Cook Christopher Joseph	Klein Joshua Raymond	Staley Leaanda Elaine	Cox Tyler Lee	Lowry Jordan Levea Allen
Cooper Jon Steven II	Klindt Dustin Lee	Stapley Joseph Robert	Daines Mark Christian	Maldonado Jose Humberto
Cope Joseph James	Kremer Kenneth Christian	Stephens Bronson D	Daroczi Mitchell Laszlo	Maloy Richard Anthony
Couraud Jeffrey Dwayne	Kunz Kyle Bartholomew	Stewart Rusty Cleon	Day Patrick Keith	Mangum Tyson James
Cox Garin Steven	Lake Spencer Robert	Stinger Chelsea Brienne	Degraw Stephan David	Marquiss Jay Stanford
Cummins Bradon Michael Lee	Lebaron Jacob Dewey	Stream Ryan Andrew	Deis Brett Thomas	Matheson Casey Cooper
Cummins Jonathan Andrew	Lefevre Dusten Michael	Strebel Logan Shane	Desantiago Jessica Rubio	Matthews Kevin Christopher
Daley Brandy	Lewis Stephanie Elaine	Sullivan Raymond Jay	Desouza Rosenilda A	Mcarthur Michael
Daniels David Wade	Long Matthew Lee	Tall Jordan William	Deubler Tracee Lee	Mccormick Kurt Edward Jr
Davis Jason Victor	Love Bridger John Steve	Tanner Nichelle Ann	Doll Christopher John	Mcdonald Jeramiah Hogan
Davis Robert Ryan	Lowe Eric Daniel	Tarbet Bourke Dewain V	Dougherty Michael Reid	Mcdonald Kyle Travis
Dawson Stephanie Brooke	Lowe Zachary David	Teare Ian James	Dredge Jesse David	Merrill Zachary
Demontigny Alexander Bebris	Lucero Chance Alex	Thompson Nathaniel Page	Duke Taylor Hatch	Meryhew Kurt W
Dujardin Justin Lynn	Ludlow Michael Jay	Thompson Taylor Wynn	Durrant Ian Aric	Millward Mercedes
Dumas William II	Luke Christopher Aubin	Tolman Jared Joseph	Edwards Jessie Charles	Mitchell Joshua Jeffrey
Edde Michael Scott	Lundquist Ryan Jay	Tramposh Nathan Robert	Eldertsajala Bronson Kohuko	Mitchell Kyle Lynn
Edwards Chad Scott	Lunnen Brady Mckay	Tramposh Noah Reed	Eldredge Colton James	Moore Jaimee Carole
Erickson Jonathan Odell	Marble Seth Steven	Trombly Shane Michael	Ellenberger Mathew Scott	Morgas Robert Michael
Erickson Kami Kristine	Marshall David Troy	Tucker Micheal Anthony	Erhart Dominic Carl	Morris Brandon Don
Evans Ryan Tanner	Martineau Steven Joseph	Tuckett Paul Landon	Eversole Jeffrey Kenneth	Morris Russell Nelson
Flick Jonathan Hales	Martinez Justin Alexander	Turner Christopher Wayne	Ewell Preston Ray	Morrison Paul Andrew
Freeze Zane Erin	Mealy Daniel Richard	Turnerdrown Catherine Jeann	Faletto Andrew Paul	Moultrie Clay Thomas
Frenza Shaun David	Merkley Brett Calvin	Vance Brendan Jay	Fallows Joshua David	Moxon Joseph William
Frew Chance Scott	Merrell Joshua Jerome	Wainwright Kyle James	Flegal James Alan	Moyers Spencer William
Furse John Heath	Miller Austin Richard	Walker Kyson Wesley	Fort Rosanna Kay	Myrin Tyra Chenee
Galbraith Michael Atine	Moore Ricky Bryon Jr	Watkins Kevin Raymond	Franco Luis Angel	Nance Justin Michael
Garrett Reg Spencer	Moultrie Kevin Randy	Whaley Joseph Lee	Garner Jacob Nephi	Naumann Erik John
Garrison Ethan Jess	Mower Joshua Damon	White Justin Lamar	Gherisi Monica Avelina	Newkirk Evan Lane
Gawthorp Kevin Michael	Moxon Dennis Scott	Whitehead Mitchell Quinn	Green Adrian Mackay	Nicholson Dylan Robert
Gerety Duane Edward	Mursener Gonzales Gary Mich	Willburn Michael Len	Gressmen Bradley Alvin	Norton Anthony Allen
Gerfen Jason Lee	Nelson Jeffrey David	Willenborg Jessica Juree Ka	Gubler Sarah Asenath	Olsen Joshua Jeffrey
Gesell Sean Michael	Newsome Antion Chavez	Woods Elden Glenn	Handrahan Cameron John	Owen Sam Daniel
Gilbert Danny Ray Jr	Nielson David Eric	Woodstock Jonathan Scott	Hansen Zachery Weston	Parkin Shandra Nichole
Gilbert Myles Thomas	Norman Martin Allen	Workman Jason Loney	Hanson Andrea Danielle	Pfau Eusebius Jacob
Glad Michael Trent	Nuehring Kile Stephen	Worthington Alma Andrew	Harding Nicholas James	Pratt Robert Earl
Goatz Thomas Richard Dale	Okoemu Joshua	Youd Shane Glen	Harris Brady M	Prounh Chanda
Goldhardt Nathan Taylor	Olsen Devin James	Zimmerman Zachary Mark	Harris Nathan Wesley	Rasmussen Bryan Jeffrey
Goold Andrea Lynn	Olsen Justin Dean	Zinn Dale Cannell	Hastings Alisha Eleen	Reese Charles Brent Jr
Greeff Jareth Remi Hendricu	Olzack Dustin Robert		Hatch Ryan Kyne	Ricks Jonathan David
Green Zachary Steven	Ott Daniel Robin	PRIVATE (PV2)	Hatch Steven Milton	Ries Christopher Arron
Grimes Christopher Kyle	Pack Lance Richard	Aitken Robert Travis	Hatch Stewart Quentin	Rigby Jonathan David
Grisham Colton Earl	Pack Tyler Dunsdon	Albrecht Colten Virgil	Hawkley Bleu Marcus	Rivera Jose Alberto
Gurr Joshua Heber	Pantos Joshua Mitchel	Alcantara Ericson Antonio	Hayes Brian Allen	Roberts Jared Michael
Hall Michael Stephen	Parker Chason Jonathan	Aldridge Adam James	Heap Bryan Glenn	Rogers Frank Anthony
Hall Nathanael Golden	Parr Charles Jordan	Aldridge Adam James	Hemsley Aaron Thomas	Rollins James Allen
Halliday Lachelle Lynn	Patterson Walter Joshua	Amidan R Daven Kelsey	Henderson Brad Andrew	Rosenquist Richard Floyd
Hansen Daniel James	Patton Russell Lee	Anderson Rio J	Hendricks David Leon	Ross Niklas Sebastian
Hansen Rebecca Ruth	Pearce William Garrett	Anderson Tyler D	Hickman Elliot James	Roundy Alma Roy
Harding Jared Nash	Perea Matthew Thomas	Artiglio Frank Eugene	Hill Benjamin Thomas	Rowley Colton Nephi
Hawkins Sarah Elizabeth	Peterson Derek Daniel	Ayers Aubree Ann	Hill Malcolm D	Schear Jesson Ray
Haycock Taylor Vance	Pettit Logan Matthew	Ayers Ronald Paul Jr	Hoffman Jacob Paul	Shanks Cody William
Hicks Paul Brian Jr	Pierce Jeremy I	Baize Nathan David	Hunt Rachael Kay	Sharp Mathew Mikel
Higgins Bruce Emery Jr	Posner Kimberly Michelle	Balderree Thomas Ian	Hunter John Michael	Shumway Drakkar Jordan
Hollingsworth Daniel Ray Jr	Price Walter James Jr	Balling Tyson Jack	Hutchason Kendal Shane	Simmons Anton Maurice
Hustead Braiden Robert	Pugh Janiece	Batt Jordan Ulrich	Ivory Kyle Ronald	Simmons Trevor Jay
Hutchings Travis Jay	Radle Steven Gregory	Beals Alexander Stephen	Jackson George Kendall	Smith Colin Clark
Hutchinson Reuben Thomas	Ramirez Annie Marie	Beery Timothy Lowell	Jarrett Bryce Collier	Smith Kyle James
Iorg Lane B	Rawson Raymond Ford	Bice Shaylee Ann	Johansson Charles Erik	Smith Truman Anothony
Isom Aaron Jonathan	Record Amy Shirin	Bishop Christopher Ryan	Johnson Mark Amadeo	Smith Zachary Bruce
Isom Matthew Michel	Reimann Jacob Daniel	Black Michael Edward	Johnson Mathew Thomas	Sneddon Russell Thomas
Ivie Shelby Lynn	Roberts Erin Lydia	Bowens Lance Xaver	Jones Adam Ryan	Snow Benjamin Charles
Jackson Christopher Scott	Rogers Blaine Trevor	Bracken Wesley Kirk	Keener Gary Austin	Snowden Allanna C
Jacobs Rusty Blu	Rogers Michael James Jr	Bradley Christopher Rex	Keller Marson James	Sorenson Luke Collin
Jacox Tyler Brent	Romero Dustin Joseph	Bradsby Larry Devaur	Kester Joshua Aaron	Spires Trient Boyd
Jairala Tatiana Ashley	Saavedra Omar Francisco	Brennan Patrick Simon	Kish Robert Michael	Stanworth Ian Cord
Jensen David Ralph	Shaw David William	Broadhead Colton Grant	Knudsen James Verlin	Stapley Justin Woodrow
Jepsen Rick Nmi	Shiley Owen James	Brockbank Jarom Paul	Krulisky Richard Anthony Jr	Stark Austin James Forreste
Jiles Tyler J	Sievers Dawnie Mae	Brown Jared Clah	Larsen Bryce Owen	Steadman Dustin Max
Johnson Garth Larry	Simmons Kyle Reed	Brown Nycole Ann	Lemon Brandon James	Steffen Kristina Faith West
Johnson Olaf Craig	Smith Bert Deloy	Camargo Pedro Soares Jr	Letters Calvin Brant	Stephenson Robert Benjamin
Jourdain Linda Nmn	Smith Solomon Carter	Cherry Benjamin Tyler	Lewis Cara Lena	Summit Eddie Vern
Judd Breck Knapp	Smith Tyler James	Christensen Bryce James	Lister Jon Robert	Sweet Ashley Dawn

Tidlund Riley Craig
Turner John Allen
Twitchell James Anthony
Tyler Erik Hunter
Walker Kyle Dean
Wallace Tearsha Bralynn
Wallingford Stephen Mac
Wanlass Matthew Robert
Wilkinson Christian Nils
Wilkinson Clifford Allen
Willis Kyle Andrew
Wilstead Brandon Steven
Wood Nathan Zachariah

PRIVATE (PV1)

Abner Corey Ray
Alvarez Steven
Angel Rudy James
Arnold Jordan Levi
Arnold Kevin Maxfield
Barnes Chloe Amanda
Barnes Kevin Michael
Barney Shana Elyse
Barton Alex Justin
Batty Justin Michael
Bawden Scott Thomas
Beckstrand Christopher W
Bennett Michael Edward
Best Shane Alan
Bishop Levi Del
Black Gregory Adam
Blackwell Joshua Ray Olan
Bluemel Kelsey Sheree
Bonar Blake Wesley
Bowcut Porter Thomas
Bowers Andrew Jacob
Bowler Angelia
Bradford Lisa
Bradley Justin Terry
Breitling Lisa
Brown Nathan Miles
Brown Richard Eric
Brown Ricky Corey
Bruhn Jillian Rebecca
Bugg Richard Edward
Burch Jonathon Stuart
Burningham Cassandra Emily
Card Jason Erik
Carter Kolton James
Cheney Brett Alan
Christensen Jacob Kelly
Clark Mark Inez
Clawson Ronald Craig
Cloward Nicolas Adam
Coates Cade Stephen
Cole Seth Jason
Connolly Ray Lynn Jr
Cook Dallin Craig
Corry Kimberly
Cox Jeffrey Thomas
Cruise Ashley Lenae
Cuevas Oscar
Daimaru Alan Robert
Daly Jacen Todd
Davidson Shannee June
Davis Randy Kevin Jr
Dean Talin Micheal
Decker Alexander Jonathan
Diaz Linda Patricia
Draney Justin Lee
Dunford Ian Miles
Dunham Joseph Jay
Durham Justin Cardelle
Duty Jeremy Shayne
Edwards Tyson Merrill

Elliott Katherine Elizabeth
Ellsworth Bethany Jo
Fitz Tyler Vernon
Flamm David Michael
Ford Evelyn Mae
Forsgren Nicholas Glen
Freeman Allan Ray
Gaisford Jenny Dee
Galloway Dustin Laurence
Gardiner Damon J
Gardner Joseph Michael
Gillett Breyden Scott
Glessner Donald Allen
Gonzalez Andres Emilio
Gonzalez Benjamin Santiago
Goodwin Sheldon Bradley
Gowen Dennis Edward
Granado Freddie Anthony
Green Colin Mcleod
Green Sierra
Gunderson Angela Annarie
Halbert Jordan Mitchell
Hall Skyler Cole
Hammer Brock William
Hamner Samantha Ella
Hansen Christopher Talbert
Hansen Reese Lynn
Hansen Steven Donald
Hansen Tye Arden
Harkins Richard Mitchell
Harkness Joshua David
Harper Cody Wade
Hart Ari Addison
Hastings Patrick Hamilton
Hatch Derick Elwood
Hatfield Robert Dean
Higgs Austin Lee
Hillock Justin Christopher
Holbrook Shawn Edward
Holt Jordan David
Howlett Justin Samuel
Howlett Lessa Roberta
Jacobson Alessandra Thomazi
Jaramillo Daniel
Jensen Anthony John
Jensen Tony Lee
Johnson David Ryan
Jolley Matthew David
Karren Brandon L
Keate Jared Jeffs
Kennedy Patrick Thomas
Kevern Myles Carl
Kibler Rebecca Anne
Kramer Jessica Ann
Lacy Roy Guy
Langford Spencer Paul
Lawrence Skyler John
Lindsay John Andrew
Lloyd Bryan Dustin
Lloyd Steven Michael
Louhinejadian Yoseph Bryon
Luke Conlee Ted
Lux Adam Jeffery
Magana Amy Catherine
Mahfood John Paul
Mann Christopher Michael
May Shane Derek
McCormack Ian Robert
McLaughlin Nathan Shawn
Mench Sarah Elizabeth
Midgley Derick William
Midgley Steven King
Miller Samuel Aaron
Moeller Scott Michael
Molnar John Paul
Montroy Adam Benjamin

Moore Macade Spencer
Morris Jordan David
Nelson Justin David
Nestman Richard Mark
Nixon Zachary Dean
Novosel Joseph Michael
Nutzman Robert James
Ogden Robert Garratt
Olsen Jordan Jeffery
Osborne Warren Alexander
Owens Ronald Errol III
Perkins David Allen
Peterson Corbin Robert
Peterson Jeremy Dean
Prisbrey Hayden Blaine
Pullan Kyle Kevin
Ramirez Roger Jerome
Richardson Aaron Michael
Richardson Chase W
Rico Neiro Fernely
Rivera Jason Nuriah
Rodriguez Jessica Marie
Rowley Nicholas Paul
Russon Cody Jared
Ryder John Charles
Rylander Raven Shelise
Sams Travis Jay
Sanchez Joshua Benjamin
Saupan Paul Robert
Schmidt Charles Brian Jr
Scow Todd Curtis
Seeley Janae Evelyn
Sexton Matthew Thomas
Shelton Daniel Keith
Sherratt Dustin Loraine
Sifuentes Noah Japheth
Slaughter Leland Hardin
Smart Christopher James
Snarr Trinity Donald
Snyder Andrew Martin
Sorensen Nathan Gardner
Sorenson Jason Ron
Spencer Jessica
Sprake Daniel William
Steed Dustin Ryan
Stephens Anthony Wade
Stevens Jessica Lynn
Stewart Joshua Pratt
Stewart Michael Lawrence
Suso Nonnie
Talanova Hemaloto Falanisi
Taylor Brady Lee
Tharp Cody William
Toledo Luis Felipe
Tolman Jacob Michael
Topham Howard Del
Tripp Casey Lee
Trujillo Mark Aaron
Turkington Lucas Bradley
Tyson James Nielson
Villanueva Hugo Rolando
Waggoner Jason Robert
Wally Kevin Reed II
Washburn Keith Thomas
Weatherford William Grant
Webster Samuel Kirk
Welch Brooklyn Donna
Wenzl Christopher Michael
West Katherine Inez
Williams Dustin Ray
Williams Lamar Richard
Wilson Grant Thaddeus
Wunderlich Kirsten Jean
York Chase Dillon

**Utah National Guard Association's
Group Term Life Insurance Program**

Sponsored by: The Utah National Guard Association
Underwritten by: ING/Reliastar Life Insurance Company and
AFBA/5 Star Life Insurance Company

All active Utah National Guard members receive
\$1,000 of coverage plus up to \$260,000 optional
life insurance benefits and dependent coverage

Under this program \$1,000 of coverage is provided to all active Utah National Guard members. During your initial enrollment period, \$10,000 of term life insurance may be applied for without furnishing evidence of insurability. Coverages in excess of \$10,000, as well as coverage applied for after your initial enrollment period, are subject to evidence of insurability.

LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

\$1,000,	\$10,000,
\$15,000,	\$20,000,
\$25,000,	\$110,000,
\$160,000 or	\$260,000

BENEFICIARY

Primary beneficiary is eligible for immediate death benefit of up to \$25,000 within 24 hours of notification. This benefit helps with the immediate expenses after the death of a member.

PLAN FEATURES

- No war clause
- No aviation clause
- No terrorism clause
- No overseas clause
- No Hazardous-Duty or Civilian-Occupation Restriction
- Premium deducted directly from drill pay
- Group coverage available until age 70
- Coverage and premium remains the same when member leaves the National Guard

MEMBER COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$10,000	\$3.66
\$15,000	\$5.33
\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67
\$110,000*	\$10.66
\$160,000*	\$13.66
\$260,000*	\$19.66

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

SPOUSE COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$5,000	\$2.00
\$10,000	\$3.66
\$15,000	\$5.33
\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67
\$105,000*	\$10.66
\$155,000*	\$13.66

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

DEPENDENT COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$5,000	\$3.66
\$10,000	\$6.66

For more information or to schedule a unit briefing call

1-800-462-7441

AIR PROMOTIONS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Collins, Michael P
Enges, Mary A
Nackowski, Cecilia A
Nelson, Nathan V
Townson, Walter K

MAJOR

Apking, John J
Drennan, Troy A
Harrison, William E
Jones, Nathanael T
Nuccitelli, Karen L
Oswald, Jason K
Steenek, Douglas B

CAPTAIN

Earl, Christopher L
Estrada, Robert
Johnson, Jacob Chandler
Juergens, Andrew L II
Lee, Wayne L
Lewis, Bruce J
Stahl, Kathleen M
Zimmerman, Bonnie

FIRST LIEUTENANT

J Cronk, Eric Christense
Jensen, Jeremy L

Loveridge, Kevin Carl
Delamare, Timothy Aaron
Stookey, Kendall R
Smith, Brandon Michael
Topham, Daniel D
Vantassell, Travis J
Wade, Keith A

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Gorringe, Barry L
Jessop, Vainuupo R
Riding, Seth T

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Jaecke Michael B
Johnson Steven R
Rager Denise M
Savage Mark E
Seely Earl J
Vance Barry L

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Johnson Richard
Johnson Bradley W
Maakestad Patricia A
Moyer Trent S
Robles David
Samsen Max L
Whitney Douglas

MASTER SERGEANT

Austin Mark E
Bird Nathan R
Chamberlain Alexandria
Dedrickson Paul D
Farr Michael P
Jensen Lisa M
Nistler Wesley E
Rasmussen Eric M
Reeve Mario Z
Rossmango John
Speed Jermaine D
Stock Ryan A

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Anderson Eric E
Barber Jesse R
Baxter Stewart A
Boyer Patrick D
Call Douglas O
Ceser Michael R
Fish Gaylen H
Hall Larry B
Jaramillo Christina J
Jenkins Stephen R
Jenson Matthew D
Johnson Thomas T
Kelly Ronald D
Lapine Steven G

Lurker Timothy P
Marlow Raymond D
Martinez Ann
Mollman Jeremiah H
Moss Brian S
Nawrocki Erik
Nielsen Lalani
Northrop Teddy L
Rodriguez Sebastian R
Salazar John S
Serrano Sandra
Smellie Steven D.
Thompson Nicholas A
Thornton Nathaniel
Waters Michael J.
Watts Michelle Lynn
Wood Kyle

STAFF SERGEANT

Anderson Garren D
Ballif John W
Bollschiweiler Nicholas
Butterfield Jason T
Decoito Lydia M
Dominguez Daniel
Dowdin Wesley A
Eddins Jason J
Endemann Kayleigh P
Gatherum Adam S

Gout Josh D
Hollingsworth Daron J
Jensen Leo B
Mcfadden Robert J
Menlove Alicia I
Moriarty-Dobson Brenda
Nichols Brian A
Parker Patrick N
Pitzer Enoch M
Riebe Brian A
Roberts Spencer R
Rodriguez Cindy
Sumi Eric
Uberti Jeffrey J
Wardell Justin M
Willis Jason R
Woods Warren S
Zepeda Robert

SENIOR AIRMAN

Craig Parker D
Dagley Kiele L
Fallows Mark A
Harrell Ryan C
Lamb Tayva J
Spencer Melissa N

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

Leetzow Landon K

Wing First Sergeant Promoted in Historic Ceremony

By MSgt Burke Baker

Photo by Tech Sgt Michael Evans

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — In an historic ceremony Nov. 2, SMSgt Denise Rager, the 151st Air Refueling Wing's new first sergeant, was promoted to the rank of "chief" in front of a standing-room-only crowd in the base auditorium.

Chief Master Sgt. Rager was hired in October 2008 for the position after serving as the 169th Intelligence Squadron's first shirt for five years. She holds the distinction of being the 151st ARW's first-ever first sergeant promoted to the rank of chief.

"We are excited to have Chief Rager on the Wing staff to add her positive attitude, high energy and fresh outlook to the team," said Col. Sam Ramsay, 151st ARW vice wing commander.

Before her present assignment, Chief Rager was a traditional member of the 169th since joining the Utah Air National Guard (ANG) in 1995 as an airborne cryptology linguist. Prior to signing with the Utah ANG she served on active duty for nine years.

"I feel that taking on this new leadership role allows me to carry out not only the responsibilities as a chief enlisted member, but foremost, to remain dedicated to taking care of people," said CMSgt. Rager. "Everyone has the ability, potential and opportunity to make chief if you practice the Air Force's core values and good customer service skills, without regard to what type of a job you perform and care about people and understand that at times, it can be frustrating, but rewarding. Military service is not an eight-to-five job and will at times cause you to juggle schedules, but again, it is rewarding. It's ultimately about your commitment."



Staff Sgt Erin Nielsen and A1C Ainslee Rager-McIlwaine pin the new rank of Chief Master First Sergeant on their mother, SMSgt Denise Rager.

Chief Master Sgt. Rager was "pinned" by her two daughters, who are also fellow Air Guardsmen, SSgt Erin Nielsen and A1C Ainslee Rager-McIlwaine.

"Several years ago, I posed the question to them [my daughters] on the possibility of joining the military in some capacity, but they didn't want to hear a word regarding the subject. Several years later, things obviously changed, because they are both in...not in my wildest dreams would I have thought this would have happened this way. I'm so proud of them." ■



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On Veterans Day in Alganistan 1LT William Biesinger, MSG Charles Durrant and SFC Dustin Wheeler raise an American flag.

