

SUMMIT

Information and Entertainment for the Utah National Guard



**Governor's
Day Feature**



**Governor's
Day Photos**

September 2012

Editor's Corner

Meaningful Symbols Resounding Change

Military ceremonies are traditions that ensure that force ideals and beliefs of protecting our great nation are perpetuated.

A Soldier alone in his/her uniform is, and has been, an embodiment of tradition and orientation of duty for more than two hundred years. Governor's Day ceremonies are an exposition of these many symbols and traditions.

Changes of command and responsibility are part of military business, which ensure that all Utah National Guard Soldiers and Air Guardsmen see this passing of command and responsibility ensuring that Soldiers are never without leadership.

Spouses of outgoing leaders are given red roses signifying full maturity and the incoming spouses are given yellow roses symbolizing youth and the commencement of new growth.

The pass and review is basically an inspection for the commander in chief or governor. Aircraft flyovers are conducted during the pass and review demonstrating military might and strength. Each unit from the state passes by carrying their own unique unit flag, and insignia on their uniform, pass and salute their governor.

It is my hope that you enjoy this summit, and that it will evoke a reflection of the importance to the many of our deeply symbolic traditions. ■

By Staff Sgt. Whitney Houston



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins

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128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020-1776

COMMANDER: Maj. Wencke Tate

FIRST SERGEANT: 1st Sgt. April Rylander

SENIOR EDITOR: Capt. Ryan Sutherland

MANAGING EDITOR: Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones

EDITOR: Staff Sgt. Whitney Houston

STAFF: Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins
Staff Sgt. John Etheridge
Sgt. Rebecca Hansen
Sgt. Mark Henderson
Sgt. Nicolas Cloward
Sgt. Scott Wolfe
Spc. Ariel Solomon

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GEN Frank Grass Now Chief of Guard Bureau

Courtesy of Department of Defense
Arlington, VA, United States

General Frank Grass became the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau in a change of responsibility ceremony Friday at the Pentagon.

"I'm very excited about the future," Grass said. "There's a lot of work to do." Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta hosted the ceremony.

Grass replaces Air Force General Craig McKinley as the chief of the National Guard Bureau. Grass received his fourth star during the ceremony. As chief of the National Guard Bureau, Grass serves as a military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council and is the Department of Defense's official channel of communication to the governors and adjutants general in all 54 States and Territories on all matters pertaining to the National Guard.

National Guard Photo by SFC Jim Greenhill



Army Seeks Input With Service Uniform Survey

Courtesy of U.S. Army
Washington, DC, United States

Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III is encouraging all Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers to take the Army Service Uniform (ASU) survey to help inform the Army's decisions regarding future uniforms and equipment.

The survey runs from Sept. 17 to Oct. 12, and is currently available online through AKO.

To date, more than 4,200 Soldiers have taken the survey.

Chandler said the Army needs continued support from Soldiers and leaders at all levels to ensure the Army gets maximum participation in the survey. He said the ASU survey is part of the Army's effort to solicit continuous feedback on the equipment it provides to Soldiers—Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve.

The survey is available at <https://asusurvey.natick.army.mil/> (AKO login required), or at <https://surveys.natick.army.mil/Surveys/asu.nsf>. **S**



97th Troop Command Changes Commanders

Sgt. Mark A. Henderson

Out-going commander Col. Milada A. Copeland passed command of the 97th Troop Command, Utah Army National Guard and the Utah National Guard Homeland Response Force to Lt. Col. Bradley C. Fuller in a change of command ceremony at Camp Williams today.

Col. Copeland took command of the 550 Soldiers of the 97th TC in 2010.

This brigade sized element presents unique challenges to commanders since it is made up of units with such different missions.

Learning about musical instruments, discussing the intricacies of photo and video journalism, being briefed about the engine component repair, answering late-night calls to identify possible chemical contamination and recruiting medical personnel were all part of a normal day, said Copeland.

"This has been a most amazing assignment. It has exceeded all of my expectations and was honestly the best assignment in my career," she said.

I'd like to thank Maj. Gen. Tarbot, Maj. Gen. Burton, Brig. Gen. Lichte and Command Sgt. Maj. Summers for giving me an opportunity to serve Soldiers, said Fuller.

He continued, "I'd like to thank the families, without them we are nothing."

"My promise to you (the Soldiers) is that I support you and your families," he said.

Fuller is a Hurricane, Utah native who returned in December 2011 from Operation New Dawn in Iraq where he commanded the UTARNG's 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery. **S**

Photo Journal Governor's Day 2012

Photos and layout by Sgt. Nicolas Cloward and Sgt. Scott Wolfe, 128th MPAD

On September 29, 2012, Utah Air and Army Guardsmen gathered on the parade field at Camp Williams to participate in the annual review of Utah military personnel. Governor Gary R. Herbert reviewed the readiness of Utah troops in a demonstration of drill and ceremony performed by the combined Air and Army arms of the Utah National Guard.



The End of One Era,
Another Begins

Governor's Day 2012

It's that time of the year again for the Utah National Guard. The climbing walls have been set up, smoke bellows from the Family Readiness Group food booths, and golf carts shuttle distinguished guests to the parade field stands. Approximately 7000 Soldiers and Airmen surrounded the parade field in their column formations as the late morning sun beat down on their wool berets. The troops stood silently waiting for their turn to march today in the annual pass-in-review for the governor of Utah, Governor Gary Herbert.

At first look, this may seem like a normal Governor's Day with the crowds of people, the exciting atmosphere, and the 19 volley cannon salute, but today there is a difference with this year's celebration. Today the Utah National Guard will end an era and begin another as they say goodbye to their beloved leader, Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet, and welcome their new commander, Maj.



Gen. Jefferson S. Burton. As Governor Gary Herbert said in his speech before the troops; "Today is a day of change."

As part of the change, there was a ceremonial passing of the organizational colors in front of the troops, from Tarbet to Herbert as the adjutant General relinquished his command. The colors were then passed from Herbert to the new commander, Burton, as he formally took command of the Utah National Guard.

With the passing of the colors from Tarbet to the governor, Tarbet ends more than just his 39 year military career and command of the Utah National Guard; he concludes a twelve year era for the Guard in which he oversaw multiple deployments of Utah Soldiers and



Airmen in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and many other operations that sent his troops to every continent on the globe in support of the war on terrorism.

As Burton received the organizational colors from Herbert, he was entrusted in shouldering the responsibility and care of the Soldiers and Airmen Utah National Guard and building upon the work of his predecessor.

"You approach a time in history when the guard will be needed as never before," said Tarbet to his troops in his emotionally charged speech. "Jeff Burton is the right man at the right time in the right place to take you into that future."

Burton brings his own impressive resume to his new position with over 30 years of military service. His most recent duty was as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard where for the past five years he oversaw and was responsible for the training and mobilization of more than 5,500 Soldiers.

"I think he's going to bring a vision and be able to build upon those that have gone before him and put his own mark on the National Guard and lead us into a new chapter. I think now is the right time for General Burton and I'm excited about the future," said Herbert in an interview after the ceremony.

Also at the Governor's Day event Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce D. Summers, the Utah National Guard Command Sergeant Major relinquished his position as the top enlisted person in the Utah Guard and handed over the responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller in a ceremonial passing of the noncommissioned officer sword.



"Sgt. Maj. Miller, I am confident that you are up to the task and you will well and faithfully lead these enlisted troops," said Gen. Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who was also in attendance.

"I'm extremely humbled and grateful to be given the opportunity from Maj. Gen. Burton and hopefully I can serve the great Soldiers and airman of this great state," said Miller in an interview after the event. "Command Sergeant Major Summers has done a fabulous job building a foundation and I want to continue on that foundation and build on character, build on commitment and build on the competence of our Soldiers and airman."

After the speeches commenced and awards were passed out, the attention was turned to the troops of the Utah National Guard who had been standing patiently at the position of attention for nearly an hour. As the marching band fired up, all 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen marched in formation passing the governor in a formal pass-in-review, each unit rendering salutes and eyes right to show their respect to their Commander and Chief. When the separate units passed the main stage they received cheers from crowds and a returned salute from their leaders.

As the last of the troops passed the main stage the pass and review came to an end. Although at last look this seems like a normal ending to Governor's day, this time as the troops marched off the field, they marched off into a new epoch for the Utah National Guard. **S**



Panther Strike's EXCON

Every military training exercise is like a puppet, it can't be accomplished without someone to pull the strings.

The exercise control group successfully facilitated Operation Panther Strike June 11 through 23. The exercise is an annual military intelligence exercise designed to provide collective and realistic training to soldiers of all military intelligence disciplines in a deployment-based scenario.

There were five different parts to the EXCON. First was the Command Control shop that was the headquarters element for the EXCON. Then there was the Operations Section who was responsible to make sure the training was happened and was facilitated. Also, there was the Movement Control cell that tracked all the movement of everyone that came and went from the Garrison to the field. The Ground Forces Tactical Operations Center knew every scenario movements of when and where a team left the forward operating base and when they returned

and controlled the FOB's front gate. Lastly, there was the Movement Control, who was in charge of how the different elements moved. They ran the buses and vans and made sure all vehicles were up and running properly.

"The EXCON is essential to make sure the operations are seamless for the trainees," said Master Sgt. Joseph S. Schmolke the operations noncommissioned officer of the 142nd Battalion and for panther strike, 300th MI Brigade who is from Eagle Mountain, Utah. "If there are any problems the trainees are able to go up to them and get help so they can focus of the MI missions that are going on rather than on outside problems."

As with any operation, issues can't always be anticipated and they need to be taken care of in order to have a successful mission.

"They identified and fixed the many aspects of the exercise. With the exercise being this big we couldn't have anticipated certain issues like buses and vans breaking down, communications issues, or us not being able to balance and coordinate where everyone is at," said Schmolke, "but they dealt with it accordingly."



When the EXCON members showed up for the exercise Schmolke told them what their job was and what he expected of them, but there was no exact procedure they had to map out their jobs.

"They have taken their jobs and ran with it even though they didn't have all the answers," said Schmolke. "They only had a 20 percent solution when they showed and they made up the other 80 percent."

Everyone of the EXCON accepted their jobs and ran with them making Operation Panther Strike a positive experience for the participants.

"I think they all did a phenomenal job. I think they all stepped up well above what was expected of them. They all took full ownership of each of their lanes," said Schmolke. **S**



Community bids farewell



"These soldiers are prepared. They are a combat force, and they are also an engineer force. They are the best that the Utah National Guard has," said Col. Robert T. Dunton, brigade commander of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade,

Vernal and its surrounding cities showed support of their local armory's soldiers of the 204th MEB, 624th Engineer Company's 3rd Platoon before they deploy to Afghanistan by throwing a community barbeque on June 11 at a local city park.

Before the soldiers, their families, and the rest of the community could dig into the food they held a short program for the soldiers. Chairs were designated for the soldier's front and center of a stage decorated in a patriotic manner and a large banner that read "We Love Our Troops". Many people of the community showed up to the barbeque that includ-

ed local citizens, veterans, patriot guard, Uintah County Commissioners, and Vernal and Naples city mayors along with their city counsels.

To kick off the program local boy scouts had the crowd stand in silence and the soldiers stood at attention they posted the U.S. flag and the Utah state flag on the stage. After the posting of the colors Dunton took the stage and addressed the platoon and the community.

"I don't think that there is more of an example of pride in the United States of America and the state of Utah of folks coming together to say we are thinking of you, we are praying for you, and we are here to support your families as you are deployed to Afghanistan," said Dunton.

When a unit deploys it is difficult for each soldier to be away from home, but it always helps to know people appreciate the sacrifice they make.

"I want to show gratitude to the people that are here today, the support that this community has given to us and show the world what soldiers we have raised here in the [Uintah] Basin," said Staff Sgt. Brett Harris 3rd platoon sergeant, 624th Engineer Company, when he addressed the community. "We are so honored to support our community and our country. These guys have taken an oath to serve their country to do what they need to make sure we all have freedom. To have this kind of support from a community is a great honor."

After the leaders addressed the soldiers and community the Uintah County commissioners and the city counsels and mayors from the cities Vernal and Naples signed the community covenant, which recognizes the sacrifice the soldiers are making and pledge to help them and their families while they are away.

"I have to thank the many freedoms that we enjoy and oft times take for granted are made possible by people like you, the

members of the 624th, and for that on behalf of Vernal city I hope that by signing this covenant what we're pledging remains true. I hope that in whatever way we can support your families as well as support you," said Vernal City Mayor Gary Showalter.

Marandy Massey, Utah National Guard, Vernal Family Assistance Coordinator took the stage and presented gifts from the community. The American Legion Women's Auxiliary made pillowcases that were then decorated by its junior members and state members from Union and Uintah High Schools for each of the deploying soldiers. Also, letters were written to the soldiers from local students from various kindergarten classes, a 6th grade class, and a 7th grade class from the county. Students from Ashley Elementary then sang, "You're a Hero" for the soldiers.

To conclude the program red, white, and blue balloons were passed out to all the people in the community, approximately 2,000, and they were all released to the air at the same time. Everyone then went and enjoyed the barbeque of food that was donated and cooked by various businesses in the community.

"We heard about a little com-



munity go away, we didn't know it was going to be a big thing as it was, but for all these people to show up has been awesome," said Spc. Tyson Breitweiser, interior electrician, 624th Engineer Company 3rd Platoon. "I know this community will continue to show its support, and if something happens while I am gone I have the peace of mind that it will be taken care of."

Overall, the barbeque was a good time for the community, soldiers and their families before they have to deploy to Afghanistan, and everyone looks forward for their homecoming celebration.

"We are going to go handle our business," said Harris "Vernal style, hoah!" **S**



By Sgt. Nicolas Cloward, Photos by 128th MPAD



Change of Responsibility

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – On Sep. 28, 2012, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller relinquished his responsibility as command sergeant major of the 97th Troops Command to Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Dimond at the Readiness Center on Camp Williams. Miller passes this responsibility to Dimond as he moves forward to fill the position of the Utah National Guard state command sergeant major. All units and personnel of the MACOM attended the ceremony and presented gifts to the outgoing command sergeant major. Lt. Col. Brad Fuller, Miller and Dimond had time to speak about the responsibilities and challenges they'll face as they move into the future of the Utah National Guard. **S**



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Observation Post

By Sgt 1st Class Nicole Bonham, 128th MPAD

Mentorship

I didn't receive a counseling statement, good or bad, for the first ten or more years I was in the Guard. I got occasional feedback comments – on the DA638's that came with an award, or on my annual evaluation – but most feedback was verbal and about past performance. Very little of it was guidance on how to move forward, how to start seeing myself as a leader or how to start being a leader. The first time a senior NCO gave me any mentoring outside of an NCO Academy, it was about a decade into my career.

At the time I didn't feel like I was missing anything. I was happy in my unit, had fun with my Guard family, and I knew they cared about me. Until I started working for the Guard full time though, I didn't really learn that much about what it means to be an NCO. Drill was a fun way to feel like I was contributing to my community, but not a serious forum for personal growth or developing my own leadership potential.

Then about eight years ago I started to notice a greater push toward developing young NCOs. Perhaps it was a result of the attacks on 9/11. Before then the Guard had earned, to a certain extent, the reputation it had for being more laidback, less stringent in its adherence to the letter of the regulations we followed, than the Regular Army. Then the Guard started deploying Soldiers at a high operations tempo, and I think we began to realize we had allowed ourselves to become a little too lax, too civilian.

The Guard will always have a different feel, different outlook, from the Regular Army. The lives our Citizen Soldiers lead are, for the most part, so different from the regimented life of a full-time Soldier that it can be difficult for them to adjust their viewpoint for one weekend every month. But I believe the Guard has come to recognize that allowing that civilian mindset to encroach too far into a unit's drill time can

lead to a certain amount of culture shock when that unit gets deployed.

We need to make it clear to our Soldiers and NCOs, especially the young ones just coming on board, that we still value their civilian skills and experience – those traits are a huge part of what makes the Guard so strong – but that we need them to spend just as much energy

developing themselves as NCOs and leaders. It's no longer good enough to sit back and let young Soldiers learn by example alone; to see who's interested enough to extend beyond their first enlistment; to wait for the best to rise to the top before we expend the energy to pass on our hard learned lessons. We need to be actively mentoring, spurring that interest and grooming those Soldiers to be the best they can be from the very minute we get them into our units.

From what I can see, the Guard has been moving in that direction for the past eight years or so. It's a good direction, and I'm doing my best to be a part of it, but now's the time I'm starting to feel that lack in training that I didn't receive earlier in my career. These kids are going to surpass me soon, but I'm thinking that's just the way it ought to be.


We need to make it clear to our Soldiers and NCOs, especially the young ones just coming on board, that we still value their civilian skills and experience...

Parting Shot

Today's Governor's Day event marks the end of Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce D. Summers career as Utah National Guard's lead enlisted advisor and the beginning of Command Sgt. Maj. Michael M. Miller's leadership to all the service men and women in the Utah National Guard.

The passing of the Noncommissioned Officer sword to the next NCO in charge during the Change of Responsibility ceremony has been a time-honored tradition. "The ceremony helps to reinforce NCO authority in the Army and highlights the support NCOs provide to the chain of command." FM 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies

It can often be sad and uncertain for a servicemember when one leader retires and another takes charge. With the symbolism exhibited by the leadership during the event there is a certain comfort gained by the Soldiers and Airmen that they and their families needs will continue to be met under the new command.



"The sword is the symbolic tool of the NCO to cut to the heart of the matter and to lead the charge. It is razor sharp and NEVER dull!"

Comment and Photo by Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins