

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Spring 2016

Utah Air and Army National Guard



5-159th Aviation, 19th SFG (A), Det 2-101st AD, and 116th Engineer Co. deploy overseas

2-222nd Field Artillery Soldiers search for Hildale flood victims

19th SFG (A) and 141st MI return from deployment

2-222nd FA Soldier awarded the Utah Cross for heroism

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Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

Citizen Soldiers and their families are the backbone of the nation. Your sacrifices set an example that is not only admirable, but is essential to our national defense. When you deploy, you bring hometown America with you and cement public support for the cause of freedom. Without your sacrifices and your demonstrated commitment, our nation would be isolated from its defenders and detached from their cause. As your commander, I applaud you for your work ethic and your excellence, both here, at home and overseas.

The Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller and I just returned from Central Command (Forward) in Kuwait. Our Soldiers there were, as they always are, innovative, courageous, and highly effective. Commanders on the ground commented on their positive attitudes and the great value they add by their presence. This visit, like all those since 9/11, solidified the notion that when the Utah National Guard takes the field, the "A" Team has arrived.

As we face an uncertain future, I would counsel that you remain prepared for any contingency. The world is a volatile place. Your personal preparedness, to include

a balanced life filled with positive physical, mental and spiritual fitness, is crucial to our success. Unit readiness and training proficiency is job #1 for every first-line leader and commander. Resources and time are more precious than ever, and we must not squander them. Use all of your intellectual power to train more vigorously and efficiently. When our citizens call, we must be ready, whether the mission is in response to natural or man-made disasters here at home, or in support of the war fight abroad.

Let us be mindful of those who are separated from their families and engaged in combat operations. Some are under fire as we speak, and their families need our love and our support in their absence. Demonstrate pride in the uniform and represent the values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage, Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. These are our core values. Live them in your personal lives and enforce them in your units. With your continued commitment and excellence we will rise to any challenge and fulfill the tradition of the Minuteman--Always Ready, Always There.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton meets with Engineers from the Utah National Guard 116th Engineer Company during his visit to Kuwait.

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Thrice-yearly magazine for members of the Utah National Guard

The Adjutant General

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Volume XII, No. 1

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Utah Minuteman is an unofficial publication produced thrice yearly by the Utah National Guard (UTNG) Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, nor are they endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, State of Utah, Department of Defense, or UTNG. All photographs and graphics are copyrighted to the UTNG unless otherwise indicated.

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Distribution: The Utah Minuteman is distributed online, free of charge, for all current UTNG Soldiers and Airmen. It is available at www.ut.ngb.army.mil.

Submissions: The Utah Minuteman welcomes contributions from Utah Guardmembers, their families and veterans but reserves the right to edit or decline use as necessary. Send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address to:

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UTNG Public Affairs Office
12953 S. Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020



Utah National Guard members from the 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion search through mud and debris for a six-year-old victim after a flash flood in Hildale, Utah Sept 16.

Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment



Command Sergeant Major Michael Miller Senior Enlisted Comments

The past few weeks have been a time to reflect on this remarkable last year. Yet the mission continues, and I am confident that together we will reach new heights this coming year. What we do today has a direct impact on our future, positive or negative. Fortunately, our contributions thus far have been consistently positive, contributions of action, of commitment, and of character. I have seen our leadership and our service members working toward a shared vision, one with our families always in our mind, accomplishing the mission to the fullest extent, and continuing to build a solid foundation for tomorrow.

Like with any strong, marvelous structure, the finished product wouldn't have been possible if not for the meticulous work of the builders from the bottom up. With our work in the National Guard there are many similarities. Whether it is through the planning, preparation, and supplies or the actual mission execution, it takes the entire team for the end state to equal success. Our profession is one that requires constant mentorship, training, and most importantly, leader development. As I have mentioned before, I am constantly reminded that I am able to serve in my position due to my leaders taking the time to build the

team, and pave paths which allow for opportunities. Most importantly, I learn from their example and the passion they have to develop the team through leadership, training and exercise.

Additionally, our future depends on the choices we make today that will provide opportunities for generations to come. That future is for our units, our team, our nation and the communities we serve. Most importantly, how we lead is the cornerstone to success, both collective and individual. This has been proven with all that we accomplished this past year. Our UTNG team is one that is recognized locally and globally. I am humbled to be a part of it, and I will continue to live our values and strive to pave the path for the future with mentorship, leader development, and by example. I would also ask that each of you do the same, so that together we may have the sacred opportunity to be giants that enable our force to continue the success we have today and well into the future.

Lastly, I want to thank each of our service members for your service and professionalism. In addition, I also recognize and firmly believe that none of our success would be possible without the untiring support, sacrifice and solid foundation our families continue to create. Thank you!



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller meet with 116th Engineer Company Soldiers from the Utah National Guard during their visit to Kuwait.



Medevac Soldiers Deploy to Support Operation Freedom Sentinel

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Soldiers of Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Utah National Guard, departed for a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan on Oct. 17, from the West Jordan Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF).

The mission of the approximately 20 service members will be to provide immediate medevac support to coalition forces throughout Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

“Medevac assets will always be in place as long as we send Soldiers in harm’s way,” said 1st Lt. William Grimshaw, 5-159th Aviation commander. “We train to take care of

Soldiers with Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment say their good-byes prior to boarding three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters they will fly for medical missions during their deployment to Afghanistan.



Soldiers on their worst day. When the call comes we are airborne usually within 10 minutes.”

Having a love of flying drew many of these Soldiers to the 159th, but being able to couple it with medical support is an added bonus.

“It’s a rewarding experience when you’re there saving someone or playing a part in that process,” said Spc. Josh Barsdorf, a crew chief with the 159th. “It’s going to be really rewarding if that tragedy happens and we can be there for it.”

A large group of family, friends and fellow Guardsmen gathered at the AASF to spend the few remaining moments before their Soldiers boarded one of the three Black Hawk medevac helicopters to begin their deployment.

“It’s a huge comfort to know that I’m going with such highly trained professional Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. Nathan Miller, senior flight medic. “I think what makes us really





unique is the broad-spectrum capabilities that we have with this platform and with the crews we have on board.” Miller leaves behind his wife, Janis, of almost six years and their young daughter.

“I’m excited for them—they have been looking forward to this for a long time and preparing for it,” said Janis Miller. “I know that now the day has finally arrived, it’s going to be a huge relief for them to be able to go and do what they have been planning to do. There is some emotion of sadness, but I think it is just in missing more than anything else. But I’ve been on board with the whole mission and him being a Soldier since day one. This is what he signed up to do and this is what I signed up to do with him.”

During the send-off ceremony Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general, gave some encouraging words along with a little advice to his departing Soldiers.

“These Soldiers, while they are downrange, they believe in each other and I would tell them, take care of one another, keep an eye on each other,” said Burton. “There is nothing more sacred than that battle-buddy concept. I’m very proud of you and will be thinking of you the entire time you’re gone. Be aware of what’s going on around you. Keep that razor’s edge.”

Following the send-off the 159th Soldiers departed en route to Fort Hood, Texas, for approximately a month, where they combined with the rest of their unit from Wyoming,





then will finalize training and load equipment for shipment overseas.

“I am extremely honored to be allowed to lead these Soldiers,” said Grimshaw. “As a small, specialized unit, I am lucky to be in a situation where I have a lot of freedom to choose the best people to fill each position. We are deploying some incredible medics, helicopter maintainers, and Black Hawk pilots. We have spent the last year extensively training and coalescing as a team. We are ready to do the mission we are so passionate about—saving lives. We look forward to coming back to our families when we are done.” 🇺🇸



19th Special Forces Deploys to Support USCENTCOM

Story by Staff Sgt. Ashley Baum

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — “It’s a hard day to say goodbye, but this is what we do,” said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Utah National Guard adjutant general.

Approximately 40 Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) embraced and kissed loved ones during their departure



ceremony at the Readiness Center in November, mentally and emotionally preparing themselves for a seven-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) will provide Special Forces capabilities throughout the U.S. Central Command vicinity. Several 19th SFG(A) elements have worked with various U.S. allies in the region, including Jordan and Morocco, collaborating in partnership training and exercises over the years.

“This is not some unfamiliar place,” said Lt. Col. Larry Henry, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) commander. “This is our partner. The mission of these Soldiers is to keep that rapport going and to train and work with our allies.”

Burton stressed to the deploying Soldiers to continue to personify the Army Values and remain confident in their unique skill sets as U.S. Special Forces and support elements as they carry out their missions.

The service members extensively trained and prepared for this mission over the past nine months, enhancing their unit readiness and honing their specific and unique skill set. A majority of the Soldiers have prior deployment experience.

“I can’t think of a better mission where they’re going to have so many opportunities to grow as non-commissioned officers and officers,” said Col. Mark Drown, 19th SFG(A) commander, during the departure ceremony. “This is a phenomenal experience.” 🇺🇸

Soldiers deploying with 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) meet at the Camp Williams Readiness Center auditorium with their family and friends for a departure ceremony as they prepare to deploy to support U.S. Central Command.

Photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn



Utah Guard Intelligence Soldiers Deploy with "Screaming Eagles"



As sequestration has forced down-sizing of our military structure, the 101st has become the first active-duty division headquarters in the Army to fully integrate Army National Guard and Army Reserves into its Modification Table of Organization and Equipment to close operational gaps.

Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, commander of the 101st AD, welcomed these Soldiers to the fold last June at an "Old Abe" patch ceremony conducted at Camp Williams. Following their induction, it was intensive training for the new unit in preparation for the planned deployment.

"I am so proud of this unit and all of the work you have done," said Col. Greg Hadfield, commander of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade. "What a tremendous amount of pressure and chaos you were under. The amount of time, in seven months spent with the unit, to not only stand up the unit, but to get you trained, to get you ready, is impressive."

The commander of DET 2, 101st AD, Capt. Mikel Jackson, acknowledged the hard work and strains of preparation stating, "We've had a lot of stresses. I think those stresses are good stresses. Stress is important to bring a unit together."

"Everybody in this room, sitting here today, is part of the profession of arms, and it is a difficult profession," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "We are called upon to do hard things. We are called upon to do those things for our nation that our citizens cannot do for themselves."

The unit, while newly formed, had significant votes of confidence in its professionalism and leadership. "Up and down the chain, we have the best Soldiers in this organization that I have observed," continued Burton. "And I know, for a fact, that you are ready for whatever the mission may be."

However, while trained and ready, the torment of separation from loved ones is a reality for these service members.

"Everybody is excited for the opportunities. With that said, there is one sore spot—and that's the families," said Jackson. "Being in the military for 15 years, and a couple of deployments, the hardest part is being away from our families. We are going to miss you."

Story by Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

DRAPER, Utah — Fifty-three members of the 300th Military Intelligence command had a departure ceremony Monday, Jan. 4, as they depart to Iraq for a planned, 12-month deployment.

While deployments are nothing new to the Utah Guard, this one, in fact, was. These members comprise the recently created Utah National Guard formation of Detachment 2, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) multi-component unit.



As the men and women of DET 2 wrapped up the departure ceremony by singing the 101st AD song, it rang true that this was not your standard deployment. They are breaking new ground and will set a precedent for reserve force integration with active-duty elements. There is no doubt that they will succeed and make their families and the Utah Guard proud.

“We are going to be able to make a difference,” summarized Jackson in his final comments. “We are Screaming Eagles, but we are Utah National Guard Soldiers—and that’s a pretty powerful thing.” 🇺🇸



Soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Screaming Eagles attend a deployment ceremony with their families at the Joint Force Headquarters building in Draper Jan. 4.

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

116th Engineer Company Deploys to Support U.S. Central Command



Story by Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

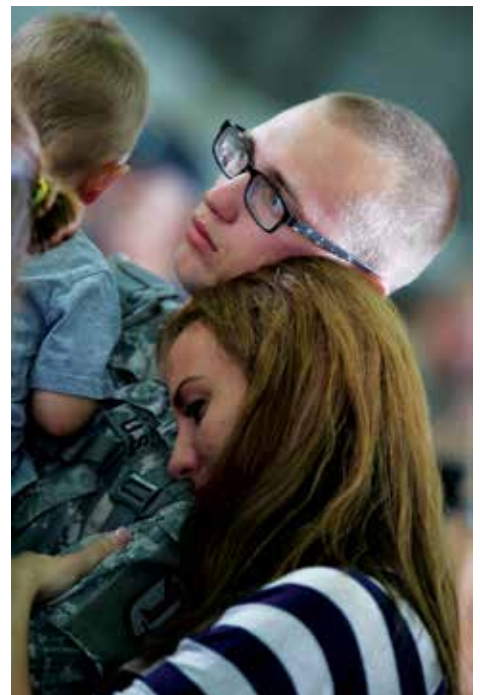
ROLAND WRIGHT AIR BASE, Utah — More than 1,000 family members, friends, and comrades in arms converged at the hangar on Roland Wright Air Base Oct. 4 to send off the mighty 116th Engineer Company (Horizontal) as it departed for the 12-month deployment to Kuwait to provide horizontal construction support to the U.S. Central Command region.

“It’s pretty awesome, actually,” said Staff Sgt. Cory Jackson, heavy vehicle driver for the 116th, when asked how it felt to deploy in his core engineering capacity. This will be the fourth deployment of his military career. “We’ve been training for this our whole career, some of us, and now we get to put it into play.”

Above: Soldiers with the 116th Engineer Company (Horizontal) give a final wave to spectators prior to boarding the aircraft Oct. 4.

Below: Construction engineer Soldiers of the 116th Engineer Company (Horizontal), enjoy final embraces with family prior to their 12-month departure at Roland Wright Air Base.

Photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Davis





Spc. Brian Nilson, horizontal construction engineer and unit guidon bearer of the 116th Engineer Company (Horizontal), stands tall before the deploying formation as hundreds of family and friends view the departure Oct. 4, 2015.

The atmosphere was a combination of pride and sorrow in the crowded hangar. Families and spectators showed pride in their citizen-Soldiers who were about to depart in the defense of our nation and way of life, but were also saddened, taking full advantage of the final minutes to hold their loved one close prior to their long absence.

“This is serious business. We are members of a profession of arms,” said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, in his formal comments to Soldiers and families. “Bottom line is that we love our country and we love our way of life. That is why we are wearing this uniform.”

Burton continued charging the leaders of the unit to take care of the men and women of the unit during the deployment. “This is what I expect of you and this is what you should expect of yourself.”

This deployment, with nearly 160 service members, represents one of the largest, single-unit deployments in recent years. While the raw number of members deploying was daunting, it also presented a great opportunity to take care of Soldiers with the unit deploying in its entirety.

“The team is the only way you are going to be successful,” said Utah National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller. “So I challenge each of you, from the commander and the first sergeant, all the way down to the private, to work as a team, and come home as a team.”

Capt. Ryan Johnson, commander of the 116th, exuded pride and confidence in his unit stating “The team we have has been put together through thought and prayer. It is the best team that we can put together for this deployment.”

In 2013 the company received the prestigious Itschner Award being selected as the top engineer company in the entire reserve component, has brand new engineer vehicles and equipment, and contains top-notch leadership.

“I have no doubt that we will succeed in our mission,” continued Johnson. “I am confident with the leadership and Soldiers of this unit.”

As Capt. Johnson and 1st Sgt. Jose Sudweeks, the last to enter the departing plane, turned around and waved one last time, the unit commander’s comment rang true with the overwhelming cheering and applause of the many in attendance.

“The 116th has a great atmosphere—it’s a family more than a unit.”

The Utah National Guard family knows that the men and women of the 116th Engineer Company will be successful on their deployment and looks forward to the day we can welcome them home after a job well-done. 🇺🇸



19th Special Forces Redeploy from Bahrain

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

SALT LAKE CITY — Balloons, banners, flags and smiling faces were about at Utah's Salt Lake International Airport Oct. 9, 2015, as family and friends waited to receive home the 50 Soldiers who deployed to Bahrain in the Middle East.

The six-month mission of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) element was to plan and coordinate special operations for the U.S. Central Command region. After a mission well accomplished, the men and women of the deployment were thrilled to reunite with family.

"The team we deployed with was absolutely fantastic," said Lt. Col. Paul Peters, commander of the 19th SF deployment element. "They were able to come together as an organization, assimilate into a very dynamic, fast-paced environment, learn their jobs, then make improvements to the processes and develop relationships that ended up setting the conditions for success for years to come."

The mission was challenging, but rewarding Peters described. High operational tempo and long days were the standard. The U.S. Central Command environment was fluid and changed on a weekly basis. Regardless, the dedicated Soldiers of the Utah National Guard dug in and spent the time needed for mission success.

"Everyone grew a lot in terms of understanding and experience," continued Peters. "Everyone filled a unique, but critical role. It is hard to point to a section or service member and say they weren't critical to what we were doing."

The members redeployed the former week to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to decompress and conduct required administrative and medical evaluations prior to coming home. The men and women then returned home to Utah on several flights that Friday.

Job well done and welcome home! 🇺🇸

Soldiers with 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) return from a deployment to Bahrain to excited family members and friends Oct. 9 at the Salt Lake International Airport.





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Soldiers returning from deployment are met by excited family and friends on Dec. 20, at the Salt Lake International Airport, just in time for Christmas.

Utah Soldiers Make it Home in Time for Christmas

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Photos by Ileen Kennedy and Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

SALT LAKE CITY — On a cold and snowy December morning, families and friends of Utah Guard’s 141st Military Intelligence Battalion made their journey to the Salt Lake Airport to greet their returning Soldiers just before Christmas.

“It was crazy, we didn’t think we were going to make it on time, it was stop-and-go traffic all the way,” said Amber Tuttle, wife of Staff Sgt. Samuel Tuttle. Amber and her three kids arrived minutes before the returning Soldiers arrived near the baggage claim.

Staff Sgt. Micah Slade’s five-year-old daughter held a large sign that read, “Best Christmas Present Ever!” When asked what the first thing she wanted to tell her Soldier-father she said, “I love you daddy.”

Loud screams and the scrambling of little feet erupted as children ran to their fathers for a first embrace.





“I’m overwhelmed, grateful, going to cry, just happy he’s home,” said Slade’s wife as she held their youngest son that turns one in a couple of weeks. He was eight weeks old when her husband deployed. “It’s been a long 10 months, but this is the best Christmas present.”

One wife wanted to rush her Soldier-husband to their son’s school in Saratoga Springs to surprise them with their father’s return, another said she kept it a surprise from her girls until they were in the car on the way to the airport.

“I told the girls right before we left this morning. They had no idea,” said Amber. “We just surprised them right before we left for the airport.”

The returning Soldiers were able to make it home just five days before Christmas after their 10-month deployment.

“It’s an amazing Christmas gift, my family feels very fortunate,” said Naomi Cash, Tuttle’s sister. “We know that not every family is going to get this Christmas treat, so we are just taking it in. It’s the best Christmas.”

The Soldiers were part of a counter-intelligence mission for the Bagram Air Base and several other bases around Afghanistan.

“Our 17 Soldiers provided counter-intelligence support, providing force protection to our troops stationed in Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. John Darrington, administrative officer for the 300th Military Intelligence Battalion. “They were taking care of the insider threat.”

“I’m just glad to be back and everybody made it home safely,” said Tuttle. “It feels good to be back and hug my kids and my wife. It’s good to be back.” 🇺🇸



Mobility Airmen Assist First Responders Following IED Blast in Kabul

Story by Capt. Bryan Bouchard

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Four Bagram Airmen from the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron sprang into action following a terrorist attack on a compound in Kabul, Afghanistan Jan. 4.

The Airmen were in Kabul as part of U.S. Central Command's material recovery element, inspecting equipment for air transport out of Afghanistan. While eating dinner at an eatery on the military side of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, they heard and felt a blast. Something wasn't right.

"We were done eating and sitting there then we heard (the blast) and we felt it," said Master Sgt. Matthew Longshaw, deployed from the Utah Air National Guard at Salt Lake City International Airport. "The building shook, and then Sergeant Huggins came in after that; he was pretty visibly upset."

Tech. Sgt. Chad Huggins, deployed from Dover Air Force Base, Del., was outside talking on the phone when he saw and felt the blast.

"You heard it, and saw the flash and the next thing it was like a movie," he said. "I got pushed into the wall and my phone went flying. I don't even know how to explain it."

Huggins said he picked up his phone and ran back into the restaurant to find his comrades. About a quarter-mile away, a 15-foot-deep crater sat where the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated.

"I was staring at these guys," Huggins said about the situation, "and they were staring back. Then they started speaking and I couldn't understand them; my ears were ringing. They asked, 'Are you okay,' and I said, 'Yeah, we need to go.'"

The team left the restaurant and went back to their temporary billeting, still reeling over what they had just experienced. Then came the call for help.

"One of the civilians came in from [Readiness Management Support] and asked for our help," Longshaw explained. "So we got up and started to help; did what we could and whatever we were asked to do."

Staff Sgt. Tobi Wagner, deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., had just lied down in his bunk. "Aradanas grabbed my ankle and said 'Hey, we need to help those contractors. C'mon, let's go.' So I got up, put on some shorts and went to go help. I was still a little out of it so I wasn't sure what was going on, but I knew I wanted to help."

Airman 1st Class John Michael Aradanas, deployed from McChord Air Force Base in Washington, is here serving on his first deployment. He said his adrenaline was "through the roof" at that moment.



(From left to right) Tech. Sgt. Chad Huggins, Staff Sgt. Tobi Wagner, Master Sgt. Matthew Longshaw and Airman 1st Class John Michael Aradanas, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, were at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated. The team stepped in to lend a hand in caring for the wounded.

"I was just trying to help," he said. "It went by quick, just watching all of these people come in and doing what I could to comfort them."

The four Airmen all pitched in to help set up the temporary area, where nurses constantly checked on the civilians, mostly contractors, who were injured in the terrorist attack. Then they stuck around for the next eight hours, sitting with patients and comforting them; doing whatever was needed of them.

"It brought you back down to reality real quick," Wagner said. "They came in and were covered in debris and they were hurt. You'd see fresh cuts and blood. Everyone was kind of disheveled because they couldn't get any of their stuff."

The team commented how one man was knocked from his bed when the blast occurred near his living quarters. He walked his hallway in bare feet on broken glass until someone was able to find him some boots to wear. Another man was saved by a treadmill, where it created a pocket in the rubble under which he was buried for three hours until a crane was brought in to sift through the debris.

While scenes like this aren't necessarily the norm for most Airmen deployed to Afghanistan, it's something which the Airmen felt prepared to support.

"When I was here two years ago they (terrorists) were much more active," said Wagner, on his second deployment. "It felt as if we were getting attacked constantly. So I was expecting a little bit of the same. Then I got (to Bagram) and there wasn't much of anything."

Service Before Self—Deployed

Story by 1st Lt. Steven Dillingham

That was the case for them until Monday, when the attack occurred and their reflexes and training kicked in.

“It’s human instinct that if you see someone worse off than you, that you’re going to help them,” Huggins said. “But the Air Force did help with the training to understand how to deal with it and what to do in certain situations.”

The team said they set up lodging for the victims of the blast, consisting of about 70 beds, then comforted the victims and assisted the medical staff with anything else that was needed.

“I think we did everything that we could’ve possibly done,” Wagner said. “You sit and you listen; which is really what we did. I think that helped a lot of people.”

Although the attack, which claimed one life and injured more than two dozen others, occurred just a few days ago, each of the Airmen has had a chance to reflect on the incident.

“I figure that the guys getting hurt are the ones kicking in doors or doing convoys and stuff like that,” said Longshaw, who’s deployed previously with the Air National Guard as well as the Marine Corps. “I didn’t really think about our contractors getting blown up on the civilian side of an airport. I didn’t expect that to happen.”

For Huggins, serving on his seventh deployment, he figured incidents like this happened to other people; not to him.

“I’ve been deployed a lot,” he said. “You know the dangers and reality, but you don’t expect to be put in that situation. ‘Oh, that ain’t going to happen to me.’ Now that it has, it’s a reality check. You look at things differently.” 🇺🇸

ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Many of us stayed up late on Christmas Eve preparing for Santa, leading to a short night as the kids get up early with high anticipation for what the day has in store. But as we sat around with our families and loved ones opening presents and celebrating the holidays, there were a select few not afforded the same opportunity.

Nearly 90 members from the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base volunteered for a deployment to Guam. The deployment was split in two rotations, comprised of members from the 151st Operations Support Squadron, 151st Maintenance Squadron, and 151st Medical Group. Those on the first rotation would miss Christmas while the second rotation would miss New Year’s.

The purpose of this deployment is to support aerial refueling in the Pacific Command or PACOM. This operation is called the Theater Security Package, or TSP, and meant to signify a continued commitment to regional stability and security, while allowing units to train in the Pacific theater.

“This was a great training opportunity because we refueled the Navy’s EA-6B and FA-18 planes,” said Col. Kristin Streukens, 151st Operations Support Squadron commander. “We have supported this operation for a long time and will continue to when it comes around in another 18 months.”

Capt. Jessica Mays, who recently separated from the active duty to join the 151st Operations Squadron and pursue her education, enjoyed the deployment. Mays is the chief of training for the intelligence shop and conducted pre-mission briefs to and post-mission debriefs from the flight crew. She volunteered for this deployment, which her fiancé wasn’t too happy about. She was still able to celebrate Christmas through video chat. She could have seen the new Star Wars before it hit the U.S. market but elected to wait and see it with her fiancé. On her down time, Mays instead took a tour of the island and was able to visit some historic sites from WWII.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Duncan, Aircrew Flight Equipment technician, also volunteered for this deployment. His job was to conduct a post-flight inspection of all the survival equipment on the plane to make sure it is still functional. This is his third deployment to Guam, but first time over the holidays. Duncan was able to video chat with his family and watch his children open gifts.

“It was a good deployment and I would go again,” Duncan said.

Senior Master Sgt. John Salazar, Superintendent of AFE, and 24-year military veteran, also made the deployment. “This was my 20 time deploying to Guam, but was my first time over the holidays,” Salazar said.

He is no stranger to service before self as he has deployed to Afghanistan, Africa, Al Udeid, and South America, to name a few. With all this he called the Guam trip “historic” because of what the group was able to do and accomplish.

This should come as no surprise though, because since its inception, members of the Utah Air National Guard have deployed in support of exercises and operations around the world. Currently, the wing has nearly 300 members deployed in multiple locations in the Middle East and Africa.

Regardless of a military member’s deployed location, one thing is universal... the strain on the family. Over the next holiday, may we all take a moment to remember those of the Guard family who put service before self by deploying around the world on our behalf. 🇺🇸

Iron Aviator

No one has flown an Apache more than Chief Ken Jones, but he says he's just one of many experienced pilots in the Guard.



Story by Ron Jensen

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he desk in the office of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken Jones is covered with three-ring binders. Others are stashed under the desk or rest on shelves. More are stored in cabinets.

They are the footprints of a military career about to end after more than 35 years and one that reached a milestone unattained by anyone else. The notebooks are filled mainly with the training and safety programs Jones developed for Apache units in the Utah Army National Guard, which he joined in 1992 after 12 years in the active component where he learned to fly the AH-64.

His impact has been great. He brought tactical operations to the Utah Guard. He has taught mountain flying to aviators throughout the Guard and the active component. He has mentored generations of Guard helicopter pilots. Along the way, his name has become synonymous with the Apache.

“He’s Ken Jones,” one young pilot says, struggling for words when asked to describe his older colleague.

The notebooks are the chronicle of Jones’ time in the Army.

“This is history,” he says of a document that dates to his early years in the Beehive State’s Guard.

Jones’ career soon will be history, too. He will remove his uniform for the final time at the end of January and leave the

10,000-HOUR CLUB

Jones stands in front of an AH-64D Apache belonging to 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan, Utah.

service as the most experienced Apache pilot ever. Over the summer, Jones, a standardization-instructor pilot for the 97th Troop Command, flew his 10,000th hour in an Apache, the only person to ever fly so many hours in the helicopter.

Boeing, the aircraft’s manufacturer, asked Jones to speak in September when the defense giant marked the 40th anniversary of the Apache in Mesa, Ariz., and honored him for his accomplishment.

To save you from contemplating how much time that is spent in the aircraft’s confining cockpit, we’ll tell you: It is roughly 416 days. About 14 months.

“I didn’t think about 10,000 until I got to 9,000,” says Jones, 59. “I hit 9,000 in Afghanistan.”

Three deployments to Afghanistan propelled him more rapidly to his five-figure standard. He has 2,270 combat flying hours.

“Deployments add a lot of flight time to your record,” Jones says.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Erik Price, another instructor pilot in the unit who has worked closely with Jones for 12

years, said, "It's just a phenomenal amount of time in the aircraft."

Jones was a small boy paying attention in 1962 when astronaut John Glenn circled the globe in a tiny capsule dubbed Friendship 7, the first American to do so.

"Around seven [years old], I knew that's what I wanted to do," Jones says. "I wanted to fly military aircraft."

He started flying while in high school and worked as a "line boy" at the airport in Pratt, Kan., refueling airplanes and the like. He graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., in 1980 after attending on an ROTC scholarship, receiving a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army.

He learned to fly AH-1 Cobra helicopters at Fort Hood, Texas, and was a Cobra and Apache instructor pilot at Fort Rucker, Ala., from 1985 to 1989. He has 500 flying hours in the Cobra.

He left the active component in 1992 during the post-Cold War draw down when the Army was offering incentives for people to leave the service voluntarily and went hunting for an Apache unit in the Guard. "I had it narrowed down to Utah and Idaho," he says.

When a friend told him the Utah Guard needed experienced Apache pilots, he checked it out and bought a house up the slope of the Wasatch mountains where the aspens and pines grow and where he still lives with his wife, Julie. In 1994, he was hired as a full-time instructor pilot.

Jones has "been around a long time," says Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kelly VanDrimmelen, 28. "He learned from guys who were in Vietnam who sort of pioneered helicopter tactics."

VanDrimmelen is an instructor pilot who has known Jones for about 10 years and flew with him in Afghanistan. He says it is impossible to walk into any Apache unit in the Army Guard and not find someone who knows Jones.



Jones speaks to employees at Boeing's Apache assembly plant in Mesa, Ariz., Sept. 30.

"Everybody knows Ken," VanDrimmelen says.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brant Wayment, 28, says Jones is a skilled teacher.

"He knows about 100 different ways to do the exact same thing," Wayment said. "If something isn't clicking in your head for some reason, he'll find a new way to teach it."

Price is likely to try to fill Jones' considerable shoes within the Utah Guard. He called Jones a role model and a mentor.

"He's always been more than willing to share experiences and techniques that have made me a better aviator, a safer aviator," Wayment said. "So many of our programs and the way we do things have been shaped by his experiences ... Ken gave me every opportunity to grow and excel. That definitely has set me up for success."

Lt. Col. Ricky Smith, the commander of Utah's 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation, has known Jones since Smith was an enlisted man, calls him a mentor, and says, "You stick a pilot with Ken and you expect him to be trained quicker and to a higher level."

He calls Jones a tenacious teacher, and says he often sees flyers lined up waiting for a turn in the helicopter with Ken.

"The guy doesn't get tired," he says. "Not one time have I ever seen Ken turn down an opportunity to fly. He has a passion for it like no other."

Jones' retirement will be a loss to the unit, Smith says, "But his legacy will live here a long time."

So will his DNA. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones, 34, is Jones' son, a standardization-instructor pilot and the tactical operations officer for the unit. He's also the unit historian.

"The Apache has been a fundamental part of my life since my first memory," said Jared Jones.

In fact, he was too young to remember when his father sat young Jared on his lap and had him fly a Cobra simulator while at Fort Rucker. Jones did the same with a younger son, Jason, who is now a captain in the Air Force Reserve training new pilots at Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

Jared Jones joined the Guard in 1999 and quickly showed great skill in the Apache. "I never let the cat out of the bag at flight school that I was the son of an Apache pilot," he says.

His father grins and says, "Before he started flight school, I put him through 50 hours on the Apache simulator."

The career highlight for Jared Jones is now and may forever remain flying a mission with his father during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2005. "We told mom after the fact," Jared says smiling.

During a later mission, the Joneses went back-to-back to aid troops on the ground, with the senior Jones replacing his son on a mission near Kunduz. "Not many fathers get to do a battle airborne hand-off with their son," Jones says.

Jones welcomed the opportunity to deploy in 2004.

"You're thinking, I've been in 20 years and I haven't done anything," he says. "I wanted to participate. Nobody wants to be in the military their entire career and not be in the fight."

Asked about going into combat, he says, "The first fight,

you might be a little nervous. After that first mission, it's OK. They might shoot at you a little bit."

Plus, he had a pretty good aircraft around him, one he knows better than anyone who has flown it.

"The Apache is very intimidating," he says. "And it's very maneuverable. And its weapons systems are very accurate. So you have a lot of confidence in the equipment and the training."

Jones' description of combat is quite professional, noting the difference between responding to a request from ground troops under fire and getting a call from a highly trained joint terminal attack controller (JTAC), the service member on the ground who directs close-air support.

"I've had some E-3s on the radio and you've got to calm them down," he says.

He admits that if he was not certain of the target he sometimes would shoot into a "blank field," or empty space free of people and buildings, just to ease the nerves of the excited troops on the ground.

"The moment you begin to shoot, they go 'whew,'" he says, slumping his shoulders. "You can't tell them you're shooting at a blank field."

The troops, he says, will believe the Apaches did their job even if no enemy was truly engaged.

"That has long-term repercussions if you get a bunch of infantry guys thinking Apache guys are worthless," he says. "And so we taught blank-field shooting. 'Do this to calm them down.'"

With the JTACs, he says, that tactic doesn't work.

"He knows the exact situation," he says of a professional controller. "You've got to do exactly what they say."

In fact, it is the Apache pilot in that instance being measured for nerves and ability.

"These guys will pull you off target if you hesitate or don't do exactly what they say," he says. "And guess who they call in? The Air Force."

With this story, Jones points out a gap in Army training. The Navy has its Fighter Weapons School, also known as Top Gun. The Air Force has something similar.

"We have nothing," he says. "The Army does not have an advanced-tactics course in the same way the Air Force does, like the Navy does."

He's talked to Army leaders about creating this course, but the answer is usually that there is a lack of money.

"It's costing them a lot of money [to not have one]. It's costing them in aircraft accidents," he says. "Every time you crash an Apache, it's a lot of money."

The school, he says, would teach more than tactics, but also flying in mountains, how to land on a ship and more. "Total battle," he calls it.

Without such a school, he says, there is no "upper-level standardization on aviation training."

Not surprisingly, Jones has a view on the current head-



Chief Kenneth Jones (left) and son, Chief Jared Jones, pose in front of an AH-64 Apache during their deployment to Afghanistan.

knocking between the Guard and Army leadership over where Apache helicopters should reside in the future. The Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative would put all the attack helicopters in the active component.

Jones has testified before the National Commission on the Future of the Army investigating this and other issues regarding America's largest service, telling the panel that ARI is a bad idea and leaving them with many of the documents he's collected over the years to back up his talk.

Jones is flat-out certain that Apache pilots in the Guard are every bit as good or better than their active-component counterparts, thanks mostly to the continuity of people like him and his 23 years in the same unit. Active-component troops, he says, move on every three or four years.

"We may march forward at a slightly slower rate," he said. "But we always outpace them. It's kind of like the hare and the tortoise. We get better and better and better. That's the hard part to communicate."

He thinks the commissioners "got it" when he explained this and more to them. "They were actually very surprised at the things we are able to accomplish," he says.

It didn't hurt that he had some unique credibility with one member of the commission. Retired Gen. James D. Thurmond, the only aviator on the panel, was among Jones' flight-school students at Fort Rucker.

The congressionally created commission is to file its report to Congress by Feb. 1, 2016.

"We're going to get a decent look is my assessment," said Jones, but Jones has other bones to pick with the Army. He was shocked, he says, before his first deployment when the unit went to Fort Carson, Colo., for training.

"The guys who were training us had not been to Afghanistan," he said, still a bit puzzled. "It's been that way on all my deployments."

In some cases, Jones ended up training the trainers on what Apache pilots headed to combat needed to know. The creation of the advanced-tactics course he advocates would eliminate that, he said.

“Also,” he said, “Aviators headed to war should spend more time in-country with the folks they are replacing, that “relief in place” should be 30 days, not 10, so the people coming out can share the specific knowledge they have of the mission, the terrain, the enemy’s tendencies and more. They’re the experts, that’s the mistake the Army’s making.”

Jones won’t forget these issues after his retirement. He’s a sure bet to keep advocating for the Guard and its Apache units whenever and wherever he can. But he also expects to keep

flying and teaching.

“I like to teach so I’ll probably start teaching people how to fly fixed-wing aircraft,” he says.

He also hopes to do more surfing. He learned the sport when stationed at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in the early 1990s, and has surfed the big waves off Hawaii.

But he’ll miss turning a young Apache pilot into a savvy veteran.

“I love training pilots to do combat arms,” he says. “I never wanted to give it up. I’m giving it up because I’m hitting 60 and it’s time to move on.”

Story used by permission from Ron Jensen and National Guard magazine.

The 1457th Engineers Receive the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award

SALT LAKE CITY — The 1457th Engineer Battalion was awarded the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness award at the 2015 Association of the U. S. Army conference in Washington D.C., Oct. 12, 2015, by Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commanding general-U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).

The award is given by the U.S. chief of staff of the Army, delegated in this instance to the FORSCOM commander, for the outstanding battalion in the U.S. Army National Guard.

The 1457th Engineer Battalion has performed exceptionally in many areas to qualify them to win the award. They have created a legacy of superior readiness through serving the nation honorably both at home and abroad. From providing engineering expertise in support of natural-disaster-response operations, to conducting overseas deployment training in Germany, the 1457th has consistently shown its ability to be prepared for any challenge.

During a prolonged federal government shutdown in 2013, the 1457th Engineer Battalion provided an engineer task force in support of Operation Sapper Fury to repair damage caused by the massive flooding that occurred across Boulder and Larimer Counties in Colorado. Due to the severe devastation along the U.S. Highway 36 corridor, the state of Colorado entered into an Emergency Management Assistance Compact with the state of Utah, which authorized the Utah National Guard to activate the 1457th Engineer Battalion and stand up Task Force Pioneer.

With 378 Soldiers and Airmen and 284 pieces of equipment, the mission of Task Force Pioneer was to repair U.S. Highway 36 by Dec. 1, 2013 and provide mission command for all engineer units, both Army and Air Force, from participating states. Due to the expertise of the battalion’s staff and the overall readiness of the 1457th, Task Force Pioneer managed the repair of a 22-mile stretch of



Lt. Col. Micheal Turley, left, battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Turville, right, receive the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award on behalf of the 1457th Engineer Battalion from Gen. Robert Abrams, commanding general-U.S. Army Forces Command.

mountainous highway completely destroyed by flooding three weeks ahead of schedule.

In addition to the natural-disaster-response operations that the 1457th conducted, it also excelled in fulfilling its training exercise requirements. The battalion participated in collective training with its brigade that culminated in a highly successful, combined, annual-training event in Dugway, Utah. Furthermore, two companies of the battalion participated in a successful overseas deployment training mission to Hohenfels, Germany. Regardless of the mission, the 1457th could be counted on to accomplish it.

By meeting multiple, unit-training standards, the 1457th was able to display its high level of readiness. The duty military occupational specialty qualified (DMOSQ) rate was over 96 percent; battalion strength exceeded 100 percent; weapons qualification was at 85 percent; and the Army Physical Fitness Test pass rate was 91 percent.

Through its commendable actions at home and abroad, the 1457th Engineer Battalion has consistently brought great credit upon itself and the Army National Guard.

Utah Soldiers Search for Flood Victims in Hildale

Story by 1st Lt. Rory Mele

HILDALE, Utah — Twenty miles of wet sand, trees and debris became the search area of focus as Soldiers, first responders, a specialized urban search-and-rescue task force, volunteers and canine-search teams vigorously searched for six-year-old Tyson Black. Black was swept away with his family when a severe flash flood devastated the border towns of Hildale, Utah and Colorado City, Ariz., Sept. 14.

“Both Bravo Battery and our 213th Forward Support Company participated in the Hildale flood-search efforts,” said Capt. Brian Yardley, assistant operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery (FA) and officer in charge of the Soldiers during the search, “along with 10 Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery and 10 Soldiers from the 118th Combat Engineer (Sapper) Company giving us a total number of 46 troops, with a few replacements arriving midway [through] bringing us up to 51 Soldiers total.”

Gov. Gary Herbert activated Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard to assist in search and recovery efforts.

The Soldiers involved acted as a force multiplier allowing Utah Task Force 1 to break into multiple teams and cover more area as they searched for the missing victim.

“I think it was very helpful to the Incident Management Team to have 46 Soldiers that they could count on to be there day after day,” said Yardley. “It was hard to predict how many volunteers would come each day and how long they would stay.”

The state mission of Bravo Battery is firefighting and while this mission was different the process of interagency coordination was parallel.

“They were able to assimilate with Task Force 1, quickly learn their procedures and tactics, and effectively assist them throughout the search,” said Sgt. Austin Miller, B Battery, 2-222nd FA, who served as a team leader during the search.

The Hildale flood is a good example of why it is important to stay ready physically, mentally, and emotionally as Soldiers in the National Guard.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery assist first responders and search-and-rescue crews to locate victims of a flash flood that hit Hildale, Utah.

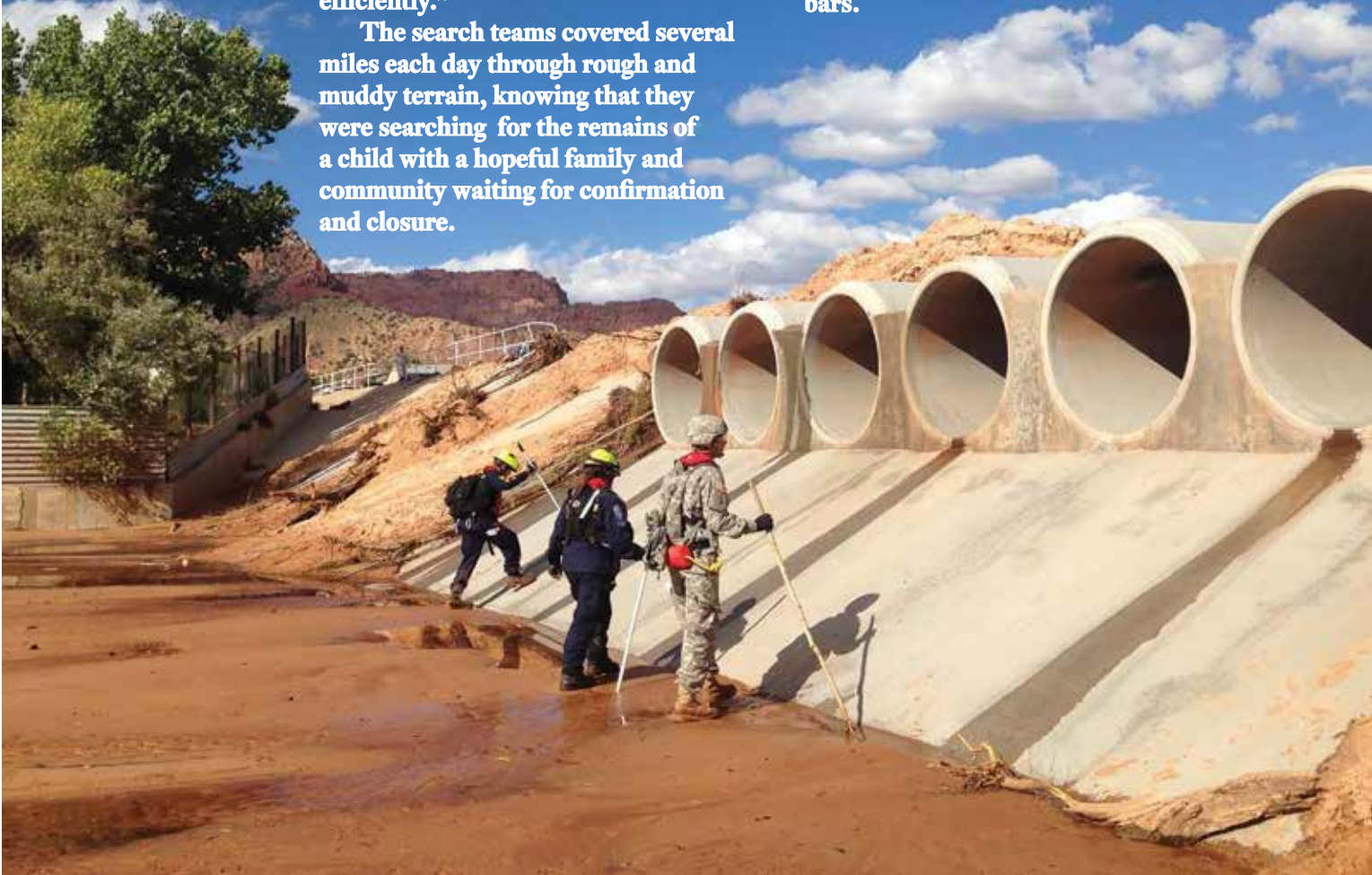




“We did not receive any specialized training for this exact incident, but as a trained and experienced combat unit we were able to be inserted into a situation and adapt to it,” said Miller. “Some of the Soldiers had deployed before and were accustomed to high-stress environments and they were able to teach other Soldiers so that our skills were implemented efficiently.”

The search teams covered several miles each day through rough and muddy terrain, knowing that they were searching for the remains of a child with a hopeful family and community waiting for confirmation and closure.

The terrain was very challenging. The searchers had to search dense thickets often by crawling. They had to dig deep holes in sand and silt to assist the Canine Search Teams and dismantle debris piles with shovels and wrecking bars.



“The searchers were initially slogging through mud and sand and hit holes that were over waist deep,” said Yardley.

“I was shocked by what I saw upon arriving in the affected area,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Caldwell, battalion commander 2-222nd FA, “This was truly a disaster-struck environment my Soldiers were working in.”

Impressed by what he saw during the search and recovery operation, Caldwell said couldn’t be more proud of the interagency efforts that took place during this response.

“This is exactly what we train for, whether in combat, in a joint environment, or during a disaster like this where you have many different agencies working together to achieve a common objective,” said Caldwell. “It is critical that relationships are formed early and often and that we capitalize on training opportunities where possible so that we are better prepared when disasters like this occur. Experiences such as these are often emotionally charged for everybody involved and providing ready and trained Soldiers is essential to the success of the mission.”

“Our Soldiers are professionals and carried themselves accordingly and the communities of Hildale and Colorado City were extremely hospitable and welcoming,” said Yardley. “There was a great deal of positive interaction between our Soldiers and the members of the local community as well as with State and County Emergency Management personnel.”

While it was difficult for many Soldiers to leave the area feeling like the mission wasn’t finished since Tyson had not been recovered, Yardley said it was comforting to know that they had done everything they could as they repeatedly searched miles of terrain with thorough coverage of a six-mile, high-probability area which was covered four times by the Soldiers and additional searching by other volunteers.

“While I know that this tragic event did and is still significantly impacting the communities of Hildale and Colorado City, it also brought out the best in everyone as we worked diligently in our search for Tyson,” said Yardley.

Others in the community remarked that the Soldiers held a high degree of respect throughout the community. They helped not only with their physical presence, but with their prayers of support for the families and community.

“The Soldiers from the Utah National Guard who assisted in the search for Tyson were a marvelous help to us in a time of crisis,” said Mayor Joseph Allred, mayor of Colorado City, “They were very professional and responded easily to directions. They were not afraid to get dirty or put in long hours.”

The flood claimed 14 lives in Hildale, seven in Zion National Park and one in Hurricane, Utah. Tyson Lucas Black was never found and is declared missing, said Allred.

The Utah Army National Guard troops continued searching until ending their mission Sept. 20. We offer our sincere condolences to the families and communities affected by this tragic disaster. 🇺🇸



Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, left, and Sgt. Austin Miller at the Utah Cross award presentation in St. George Jan. 10.

Utah Soldier Awarded the Utah Cross for Life-Saving Action

Story by 1st Lt. Rory Mele

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Sgt. Austin Miller, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, received the Utah Cross, a medal for bravery, in a ceremony at the St. George Armory, Jan. 10. The Utah Cross was presented by Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, assistant adjutant general, Utah National Guard.

Miller, a resident of Cedar City, was deployed with others from the Utah National Guard to support search-and-recovery operations following the Hildale flood when he responded to an accident Sept. 17, 2015, according to Lt. Col. Christopher Caldwell, battalion commander, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery.

“Sgt. Miller immediately took action and, after conducting triage on the victims, initiated life-saving measures on a 14-year-old boy who was unconscious and asphyxiating on his own blood” said Caldwell.

Miller quickly positioned the boy to clear his airway and gathered support from other Soldiers on the scene and gave them direction.

“Sgt. Miller epitomizes the words in the Non-Commissioned Officer’s Creed,” said Col. Todd Thursby, brigade commander, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, during the award ceremony. “Upon witnessing an accident, Miller gets out of his vehicle and takes accountability, he takes responsibility, he shows leadership and saved a young man’s life.”

“Miller remained with the victim and continued first aid until paramedics arrived on the scene,” said Caldwell.

The first paramedic on the scene commented that Miller's quick thinking, actions and tenacity under pressure saved the young man's life.

"Miller's heroic actions and decisive judgments demonstrate that he is a true professional Soldier," said Caldwell. "His ability to make quick and swift decisions that day will never be forgotten by the victims and their families."

Miller's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, his unit, the Utah Army National Guard, and the United States Army.

Atack recognized Miller's readiness to respond and expressed thanks to the battalion on behalf of Utah's Gov. Gary Herbert, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general, Utah National Guard, for their service to the state of Utah and the nation, and to those who participated in the most recent state emergency in Hildale.

"Every report that we received, whether through our chain of command, the state agencies or the incident management team, was positive in nature," said Atack. "The Soldiers that served on that mission did so with confidence and professionalism and for that, I thank each one of you who served."

"The young man's mother was impressed by the respect and sympathy shown by the National Guard personnel," said Mayor Joseph Allred, mayor of Colorado City.

She reported that her boys are doing really well, said Allred. They were all initially knocked out in the accident. One boy had his broken jaw wired shut to heal and lost some weight during that period, but has totally recovered with no permanent damage. The boys are back in school.

At the ceremony, the following awards were also presented to Utah National Guard Soldiers that assisted in searching for flood victims in Hildale: 28 Soldiers awarded Utah Army National Guard Emergency Service Ribbon, for outstanding service and volunteer duty in support of the Hildale flood relief; 10 Soldiers awarded Army Achievement Medal for Meritorious Service; four Soldiers awarded the Army Commendation Medal; and Miller also received a certificate of gratitude and recognition for his heroism from the office of Senator Mike Lee. 🇺🇸



Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, left, presents the Utah Cross to Sgt. Austin Miller at the St. George Armory Jan. 10.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery were recognized for the service and volunteer duty in support of the Hildale flood relief.



Photos by 1st Lt. Rory Mele and Staff Sgt. Kristen Calderwood

Joint Force Headquarters Participates in Yama Sakura 69

Story by CW3 Russell Johnson

CAMP ITAMI, Japan — Members of the Joint Forces Headquarters, augmented with Soldiers from the 97th Aviation Troop Command, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, and the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, participated in a bilateral, computer-based, Command Post Training Exercise as part of Yama Sakura 69. This is the eighth consecutive year that Utah Guardsmen have participated in this event.

The purpose of this exercise is to train command and staff elements of both the U.S. military and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) in bilateral operations. This year Utah Soldiers worked with JGSDF Soldiers from the Western Army, Kyushu, Japan. These Soldiers served as the opposition force (OPFOR) in an attempt to overtake Japan as part of the exercise.

While observing the battle, Sgt. 1st Class Dorian Williamson, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, spoke with a Japanese captain, asking him, “How goes the war, sir?”

His reply, “Today, I conquer Japan!”

This year’s contingent of JFHQ Soldiers was led by Col. Brent Stark and 1st Sgt. Linda Hohosh. They organized the effort to provide subject-matter experts in field artillery, engineering, military intelligence, air defense, and special operations. Their effort was supported by linguists from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade and 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

While the friendly forces were able to defend Japan, the OPFOR was able to provide a realistic battlefield exercise that was challenging for the JGSDF, as well as gain some small victories during the exercise. The OPFOR didn’t win the war, but their determined effort greatly enhanced the training for the Western Army (JGSDF) and the experience they gained will significantly prepare them for Yama Sakura 71. The Western Army will host Yama Sakura 71 in Kyushu in 2016 where they will serve as friendly forces in an effort to defend Japan.

“The OPFOR Yama Sakura 69 mission for the UTARNG has a great opportunity for UTARNG Soldiers to brush up on their tactical-skills training,”



Capt. Brent Taylor, opposition force intelligence officer for Yama Sakura 69, discusses an intelligence report with 1st Lt. Matsumoto, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force intelligence officer.



Maj. Erick Wiedmeier, left and Capt. Brent Taylor with Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members at Friendship Hall.

said Maj. Erick Wiedmeier, executive officer with Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and served as a field artillery advisor during the exercise. “The ability for UTARNG Soldiers to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the Japanese Self-Defense Force has an extraordinary opportunity to learn and grow technically and tactically. They were resourceful in figuring out ways to communicate with their Japanese counterparts. I had the opportunity to mentor some of the young Soldiers of the UTARNG and watch them grow their interpersonal relationship skills and their culture awareness.”

Utah Soldiers played a key role in many aspects of the success of Yama Sakura 69. Lt. Col. Coy Bryant, JFHQ G4 Plans, led a team of logistic and personnel professionals in movement control and personnel accountability. They were instrumental in moving several hundred U.S. Military personnel to and from the Osaka and Itami airports.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Tobin, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, reflected on the experience as follows, “The exercise was a priceless experience to all of us as we learned so much about the Japanese people and culture. We built lasting relationships with the Japanese Self-Defense Force that will help us work together in the future. But my personal, favorite part of the exercise is seeing the growth and development of our junior enlisted Soldiers. They were exposed to so many new and interesting experiences; from home visits and local tours but also being able to work with our foreign partners on a massive exercise. I could see the development and strengthening of their confidence throughout the exercise. My proudest moment was seeing Private 1st Class Monica Jenkins, JFHQ, participate in the closing of the exercise, calling “endex” on a live feed to the Pentagon. The Utah Army National Guard is better off for them having participate at the event.”

All who participated in Yama Sakura 69 came away with a greater appreciation for our Japanese counterparts. We learned as much from them as we hope they learned from us. JFHQ looks forward for many more opportunities to participate and serve in future Yama Sakura exercises. Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu! 🇺🇸

Photos by 1st Lt Jerrid Floyd and 1st Sgt. Linda Hohosh



Col. Brent Stark, U.S. Forces opposition force (OPFOR) commander, presents a Minuteman statue to Col. Yamaguchi, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force OPFOR commander.



1st Lt. Jerrid Floyd, battalion judge advocate, receives a coin from a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force general on the last day of the Yama Sakura exercise.

Utah Employers See Their Soldier Employees Prep for Deployment During Boss Lift

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Etheridge

SALT LAKE CITY — Twenty-seven civilian employers and supervisors participated in a Boss Lift, Oct. 22-24, 2015, and were flown from the Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City to visit their employee-Soldiers at Fort Bliss, Texas, serving with the 116th Engineer Company of the Utah National Guard as they prepared for a future deployment to the Middle East.

The Boss Lift was sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves. It is a program designed to build and maintain employer support for the Guard and Reserves by showing employers the training that their employee-Soldiers go through when called to active duty.

“Approximately 48 percent of the U.S. Armed Forces are Guardsmen or Reservists,” said retired Army Col. Kim Watts, the program’s coordinator for the Utah chapter of ESGR. “Building employer support through the Boss Lifts helps to make our military much stronger.”

The bosses were treated to a full schedule of military training to participate in and watch that started on the flight down in the KC-135 aircraft. During the flight, the employers observed while Airmen with the 191st Air Refueling Squadron from the Utah Air Guard conducted a refueling operation with a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft in the skies above the Utah desert.

After their arrival on Thursday, the events included a welcome brief by Capt. Ryan Johnson, the commander of the 116th Engineers, and a tour of the Fort Bliss Museum. The employers also dined with the leaders of the Utah National Guard, the 116th Engineers, and the 5th Armored Brigade, from Fort Bliss, who hosted and escorted the bosses during the visit.

The group spent all day Saturday with their employee-Soldiers and the 116th Engineers. The Engineers had several events scheduled to show the employers what kind of training they have been doing and what their mission will be on their deployment.



Soldiers with the 116th Engineers Company of the Utah National Guard perform a vehicle extraction while their civilian employers watch during a Boss Lift Oct. 25, 2015 outside of Fort Bliss, Texas. The Boss Lift was sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves and is a program designed to build and maintain employer support for the Guard and Reserves by showing employers the training that their employee-Soldiers go through when called to active duty.

“We are trying to give the employers an idea of what we do in a typical day. Our main mission is basically to move large quantities of dirt,” said 1st Lt. Nathan Griffin, the executive officer of the 116th.

Some of the activities included a mission brief around a sand table by the 116th commander, a static display of military rifles and machine guns, and a tour of the Soldiers’ living quarters.

One of the highlights of the day included a vehicle recovery demonstration, where Soldiers from the 116th maintenance platoon extracted one of their combat vehicles that was submerged in about four feet of mud and water.

Lee Perry, a lieutenant with the Utah highway Patrol was impressed to see his employee-Soldier, Sgt. Jerry Hardy, a Utah State Trooper who also works as a supply specialist with the 116th maintenance company, work as part of the team that extracted the vehicle from the mud.

“I teased him about the fact that now I know he has the capability of doing that, he’ll be the guy I call when we have cars go in the river,” said Lee.

Down the road from the vehicle recovery demonstration, Soldiers from the 116th taught their employers how to drive and use the unit’s heavy equipment. Under guidance from the Soldiers, the bosses all took turns driving backhoes and excavators around a quarry that is used for training.

Jeff Newman of Newman Construction watched as his employee, 1st Sgt. Jose Sudweeks, the 116th’s first sergeant who is also a heavy-equipment operator as a civilian, coordinated his Soldiers during the demonstrations and was impressed by his leadership abilities.

“I can see that he has a big job training all these guys and taking them to a foreign country and then bring them all back. I’m confident he can do it,” said Newman.



Sgt. 1st Class Phillip McClure, 116th Engineers Company explains the capabilities of the .50-caliber machine gun to employers during a Boss Lift



Lee Perry, a lieutenant with the Utah Highway Patrol, sits in a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle during a Boss Lift where 27 employers and supervisors from Salt Lake City were able to visit their employees serving with the 116th Engineer Company of the Utah National Guard as they prepare at Fort Bliss, Texas, for a future deployment to the Middle East.

Newman also said that he was very impressed with the teamwork that the Soldiers displayed and how tidy all the work areas and vehicles were.

The day's events and activities offered the bosses a chance to see their employees in a different light as they worked in their military roles.

"I had no idea what he did in the military," said Jason Walker a shop manager for Teraflex, about his employee-Soldier Spc. Corbin Black, a signal specialist with the 116th. "I thought he just went and played in the desert."

Walker added that he and his company has always been very supportive of their Reserve and Guard employees, but the Boss Lift gave him a better idea of how the military worked.

"Everyone here has been super polite and it's been great. It's been fun. It has definitely changed my perception of the military," said Walker about the Boss Lift.

Saturday morning, some of the employers shared their feelings about how the Boss Lift had aided them in seeing the importance of their employee-Soldier's military roles.

"As I was sitting there talking to my Soldier, I realized that it's tough being away from someone you care about for just for a couple days, and these guys and gals are gone for a year. It makes you think about that sacrifice and service," said Lee. "That's when it dawned on me how important it is for us as employers to make sure they know we care about them and that we want them back. And more importantly I need to make sure his family knows that he is an important part of our department and that they will be taken care of."

After a farewell breakfast Saturday morning the bosses were flown back to Salt Lake City. 🇺🇸



Josh Broderdorf, a manager for Modern Display, dons his employee-Soldier's combat gear during a Boss Lift.



Soldiers with the 116th Engineers Company teach their civilian employers how to drive the unit's heavy equipment during a Boss Lift Oct. 25, 2015 outside of Fort Bliss, Texas.

Morocco Exchange 2015 with Public Information Officers

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg

RABAT, Morocco — Members from the Utah Army National Guard, Salt Lake County Emergency Management, and Utah Unified Fire Authority met with members of the Moroccan USS (Unit De Secouret Sauvetage) search-and-rescue battalion for a basic, public-information exchange Aug. 24-28, 2015.

The goal of the event was to improve the understanding of the importance of public affairs in disaster response, and increase the number of public-affairs personnel with a fundamental skill set for public information techniques.

“Originally, the disaster preparedness program was intended to be an exchange of information in a CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) environment, but as it developed it became evident that the plan would be more effective if designed with an ‘all-hazards’ approach,” stated Capt. Tamba West, Utah Army National Guard lead planner

and operations officer from the 97th Troop Command and Homeland Response Force.

The PIO exchange took place in Rabat, Morocco, with Capt. Ryan Sutherland, UTNG Public Affairs Specialist; Steve Sautter, Salt Lake County Emergency Management Joint Information Center manager; and Battalion Chief Brian Anderton, Unified Fire Authority, presenting information and strategies used by Utah to address and manage dissemination of public information to a battalion-level group of Moroccan military members.

“I am honored to have been a part of such an important exercise and amazing experience,” said Anderton.

The PIO exchange is a critical step toward the Maghreb Mantelet, an annual emergency-preparedness-training event in Northern Africa. It is the final step in a five-step model, leading to the two-week exercise. The PIO exercise has been planned with the focus of sharing disaster-management plans and readiness between Utah and Northern Africa in an effort to learn from each other and individually design a more effective and successful strategy.

Topics discussed were focused on improving coordination and communication between civilian and military entities, becoming familiar with the procedures used by Utah and local community players during an incident and

Capt. Tamba West presents an all-hazards approach during an exchange in Rabat, Morocco.

Steve Sautter asks questions during a mock interview with a Moroccan military member.

Capt. Ryan Sutherland addresses the audience during the basic public information exchange.



developing different techniques to use in order to communicate effectively with the public.

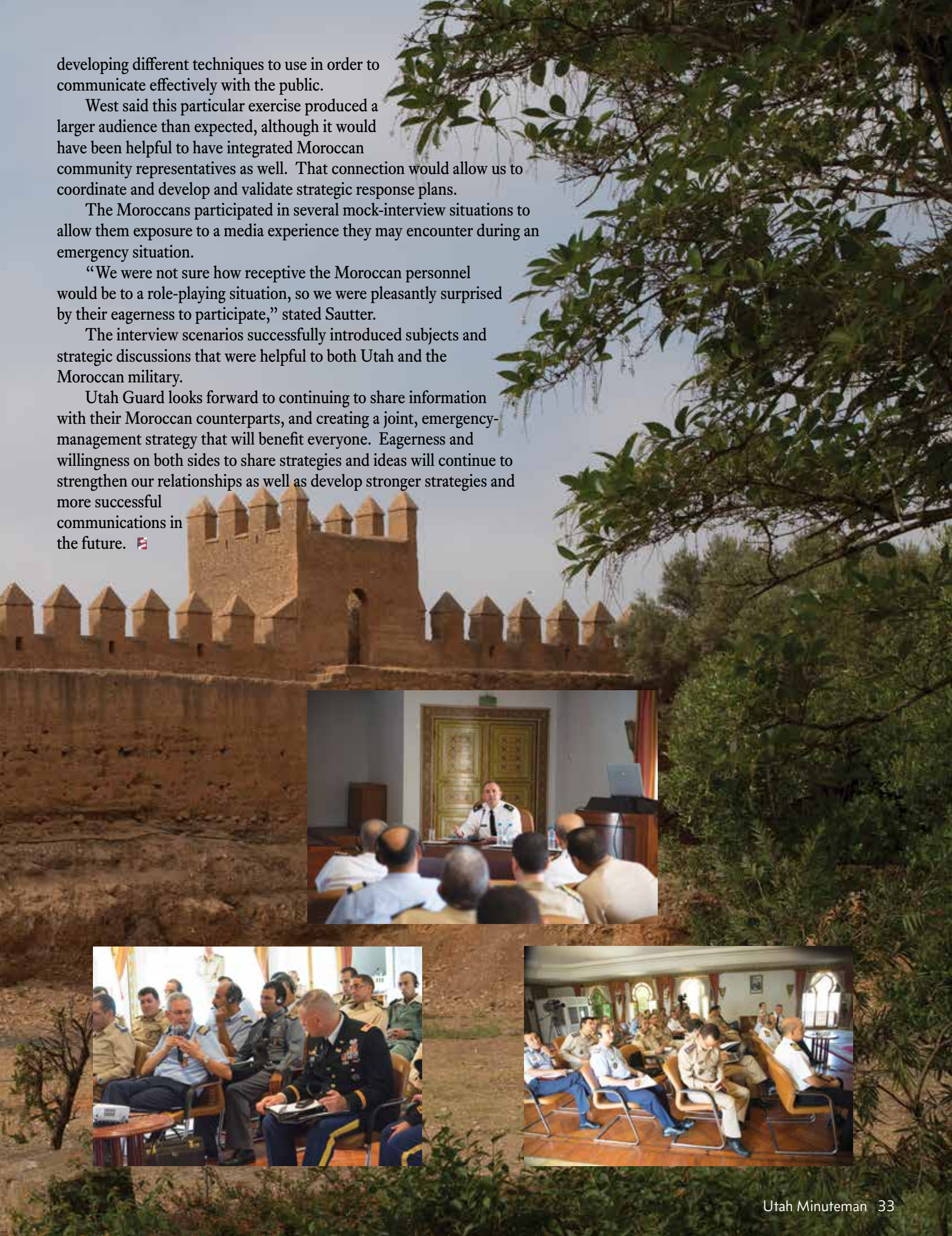
West said this particular exercise produced a larger audience than expected, although it would have been helpful to have integrated Moroccan community representatives as well. That connection would allow us to coordinate and develop and validate strategic response plans.

The Moroccans participated in several mock-interview situations to allow them exposure to a media experience they may encounter during an emergency situation.

“We were not sure how receptive the Moroccan personnel would be to a role-playing situation, so we were pleasantly surprised by their eagerness to participate,” stated Sautter.

The interview scenarios successfully introduced subjects and strategic discussions that were helpful to both Utah and the Moroccan military.

Utah Guard looks forward to continuing to share information with their Moroccan counterparts, and creating a joint, emergency-management strategy that will benefit everyone. Eagerness and willingness on both sides to share strategies and ideas will continue to strengthen our relationships as well as develop stronger strategies and more successful communications in the future. 🇲🇦



Utah National Guard Members Support Warrior Transition Mission

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham

PARK CITY, Utah — A warrior in transition is a Soldier with an illness or injury caused or aggravated by military service, who is receiving care from a Warrior Transition Battalion, or WTB. The mission of a warrior in transition is to heal as he or she moves toward a new phase of service—whether that’s back to military duty or as a veteran in their community.

If a member of the Utah National Guard (UTNG) is going through this transitional period, they are sent to Fort Carson, Colo. Maintaining connections between a Soldier’s command and a WTB in a different state can be a challenge. Lt. Col. Tammy Manwaring of the UTNG said that the commander of the Fort Carson Community Care Unit, Capt. Jennae Pitts, and her team, do “an awesome job.” Manwaring first encountered the WTB team as the G1 Plans and Actions Branch Chief assisting Capt. Pitts with coordination between her team and the UTNG.

“[The WTB is a] key element in helping Soldiers transition into the civilian world or back into uniform,” said Manwaring.

Manwaring assisted in establishing good connections and a solid relationship between the UTNG and the Fort Carson WTB and was recognized at the National Ability Center in Park City, along with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gerald White and Lt. Col. Charles Koon, for their efforts with Utah Soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, the Adjutant General, and the state command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, were also in attendance at the closing ceremony for what had been a full week of activities planned around the needs of the warrior in transition.

Burton and Miller both expressed encouragement to the Soldiers and their families, asking them to stay positive as they work through this transition and to know they would always be Soldiers and could be proud of their service, both what they had accomplished before and what they would accomplish in the next phase of their lives.

Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham, education office in the Joint Force Headquarters, describes firsthand how the warriors-in-transition program benefited her directly.

“I had the opportunity to speak to the warriors in transition at the Park City National Ability Center, as a Soldier, with first-hand knowledge, who had recently experienced exactly what they were going through.

“I had been assigned to the WTB in October 2014 because of pain and loss of mobility as a result of a degenerative-joint disorder. This disorder had gotten bad enough that I was unable to function in my daily life, let alone maintain my military duties. I belonged to the Fort Carson unit for about a year while I underwent and recovered from two surgeries. I believed I would not recover enough to continue military service so I participated in all aspects of the transition process, getting ready to return to civilian life. Ultimately, I was declared fit for duty and since have returned to a



full-time job in an active-duty status with the National Guard.

“As I spoke to the WTB group in Park City and shared my story with them, I could see they understood all the fears, uncertainties, and loss of self-reliance I had experienced along the way. I saw nodding heads as I talked about how not being able to move around or do basic activities started to eat away at my confidence in all areas of my life. I was afraid of moving into a civilian-job market where I wasn’t even sure my skills were relevant or would be recognized. I really wanted to express how grateful I was to be asked to speak and share how helpful the Fort Carson WTB had been in getting me past that dark period of my life.

“The WTB program helped me find an internship so I could get civilian-work experience, which helped put to rest my fears that I didn’t have anything significant to offer outside of the military. I felt supported in my efforts to get back to school and encouraged to develop a new career, not just

Opposite page photos top down: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller addresses Warrior in Transition Soldiers at the Park City National Ability Center. Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham shares her personal experience with the Warriors in Transition. Warriors in Transition and Utah National Guard Soldiers listen to a speaker in Park City. Warriors in Transition and their family members participate in a volleyball game working on reconditioning activities to each mobility level.

finding whatever job would take me. I attended hands-on seminars to work on my resume and develop interview skills. I sat with a financial advisor and got a better grip on my finances than I’ve had in years. I participated in the WTB’s adaptive reconditioning program, finding ways to adjust sports activities to my mobility level. And the WTB showed me how to do all this in and around my surgeries, physical therapy, and recovery—proving to me that I was capable of far more than I had realized, even if it was at a slower pace than I used to move.

“As the warriors in transition listened to my story I could see that they knew exactly what I meant. My visit with them came at the end of a very busy week. Each of them had sat with their families and the WTB cadre in strategy sessions to develop their transition plans. They attended classes and seminars much like I had done, participated in volleyball, yoga and a biathlon to their own ability level, and even tried therapy with horses for the calming effect they can have on a person’s spirit.”

“They really work toward healing the whole Soldier,” said Manwaring.

“I would have to agree,” said Bonham. “As a Soldier who benefited greatly from this program and from the strong communication they maintained with my home state and unit, I can definitely say this was the right group of people, doing the right things, in the right way, at the best possible time.”

Family Assistance Centers

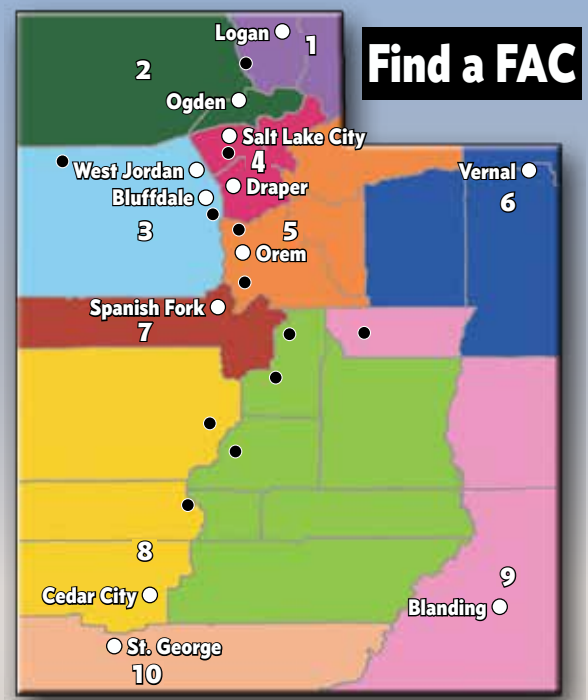
Utah Family Assistance Centers (FAC) assist Servicemembers and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. FACs are open to all branches of the military: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components. Contact your local FAC for any questions or issues you may have.

○ Armory and FAC	● Armory
1 Logan	801-476-3811
2 Ogden	801-476-3811
3 Bluffdale	801-878-5037
3 West Jordan	801-816-3577
4 Draper	801-432-4902
4 Draper	801-432-4522

4 SLC	801-715-3708
5 Orem	801-722-6913
6 Vernal	435-789-3619
7 Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
8 Cedar City	435-867-6513
9 Blanding	435-678-2008
10 St. George	435-986-5417

Regardless of location, services provided by FACs include:
 TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance • Financial assistance/
 counseling • Legal and pay issues • ID card referral • Community
 support • Emergency-assistance coordination • Counseling support/
 referral • Family/household emergencies • Family Care Plan
 information • Family communication • Casualty assistance information,
 referral, follow-up and outreach • DEERS information (Defense
 Enrollment and Eligibility System) • Family Readiness Group programs.

Utah FAC and Armory Locations and Regions



We are here to serve you! 🇺🇸

Visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family

United In Music

60 Years of Honoring Utah's Veterans with Annual Concert

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard hosted its 60th annual Veterans Day Concert Nov. 11, at the University of Utah's Jon M. Huntsman Center, with the theme of "Sixty Years Honoring Veterans."

Utah's Gov. Gary R. Herbert provided the keynote address and concluded the concert by conducting *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

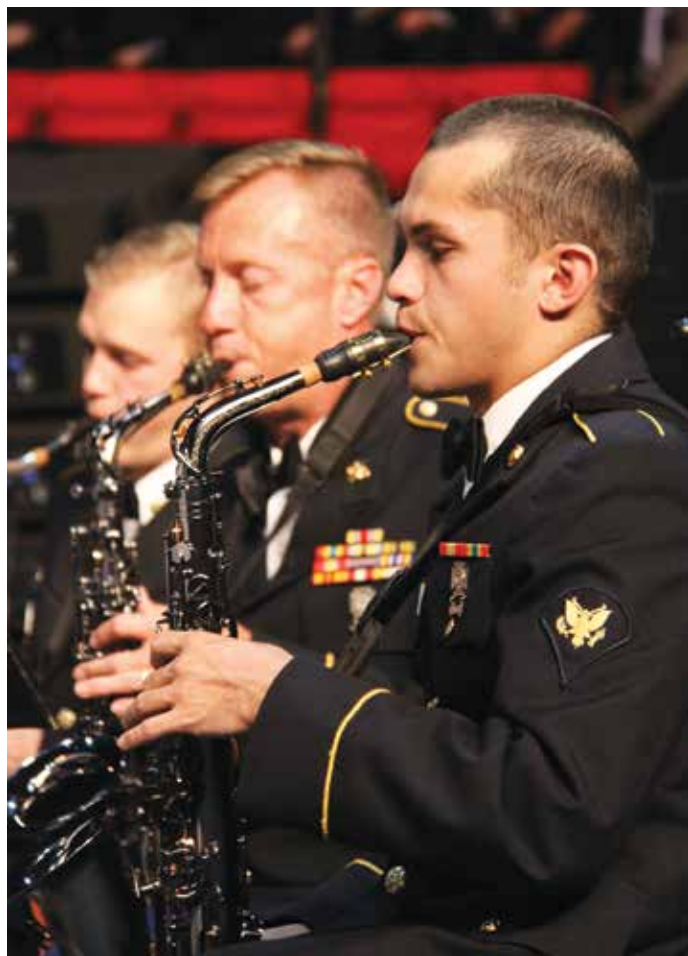
"We celebrate Veterans Day today and recognize those who have shown patriotism, valor and commitment to God, family and country," said Herbert. "We pay tribute to those service men and women today, not only to those who have served in uniform, but to those family members who also serve and sacrifice and provide an opportunity for their loved one to go away and participate in service."

This year's concert included performances by a 680-voice Granite School District high school combined choir; the Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer Denny Saunders; and featured special guest conductors, three of which were former band commanders, Chief Warrant Officer 2 (Ret.) Ralph Vanderlinden, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Norm Wendel, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Ret.) Mike Cottam.

"This concert has reached thousands and thousands of people for many, many years. And as a result, there are a lot of students who've gained a much better appreciation for veterans and what they have done for them," said Wendel.

Throughout the years, numerous conductors have come and gone, and thousands of students have performed in honor of Utah veterans.

"This will be my 21st year participating in this concert, seventh as commander," said Saunders, commander of the 23rd Army Band. "In addition to this, I couldn't tell you how many concerts I have done with the band; well into the hundreds I am sure. This concert has always been the highlight of my year. When the concert ends each year



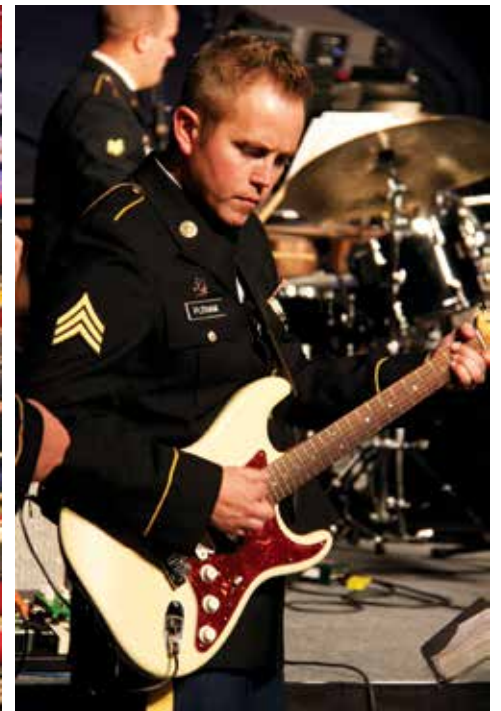
Foreground to Background (right to left): Spc. Alex Romero, Staff Sgt. Chad King, and Spc. Anthony King, all playing saxophone.

and members of the audience come to me to thank me for the concert, often with tears in their eyes, it fills me with a tremendous sense of gratitude for what they have done for me and the opportunity that I have to participate in this event that honors them."

When Saunders took the reins from his predecessor, Mike Cottam, in 2009, he felt a great sense of responsibility to uphold the standards and traditions of the concert. "For my first concert as commander, I remember the tremendous sense of responsibility I felt to carry on the tradition of this great concert in a manner that paid a proper

A 680-voice Granite School District high school combined choir joins the 23rd Army Band for the 60th annual Veterans Day Concert.





Sgt. Katherine Adams on the bassoon.

Left to right: Spc. Chelsea Jenkins, Sgt. Gregory Wendel, and Sgt. Amie Johnson stand, performing the prominent piccolo obbligato in John Phillip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever.

Sgt. Tyler Putnam on guitar.



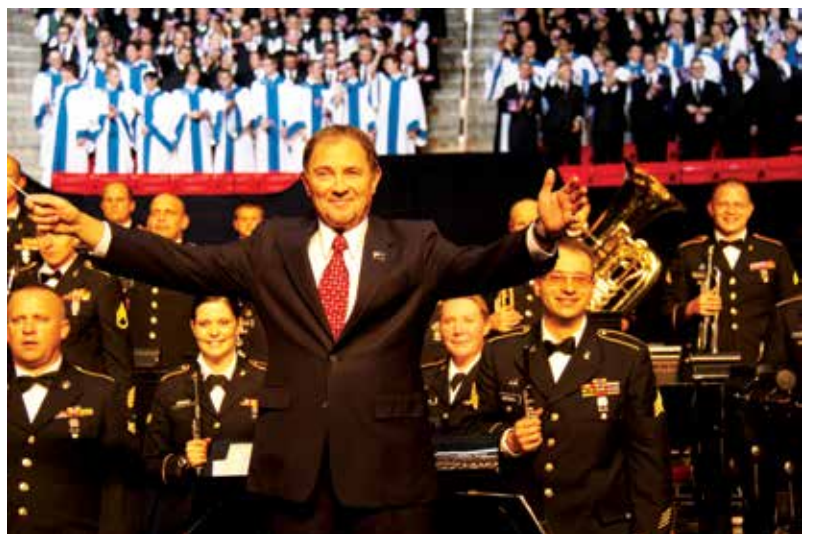
Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band Conductor, Chief Warrant Officer Denny Saunders, center-right, and featured special guest conductors, three of which were former 23rd Army Band commanders.

tribute to the veterans and maintained or exceeded the quality of the concerts that had gone on before," said Saunders.

"This is one of the largest Veterans Day Concerts put on by a military band. I am not aware of any other National Guard band or even active-duty band that puts on a Veterans Day concert of this magnitude. Although I have become a little more comfortable with my role as commander since then, I still feel that same sense of responsibility as it pertains to this concert each year."

When asked if there was a specific Veterans Day Concert that stood out to him, Saunders didn't hesitate with his response. "The greatest memory of this event for me was the year we did the theme 'Stories Untold' and we did spotlights of veterans from each of the branches of the armed forces," said Saunders. "For the Army, we did a spotlight on my grandfather who served in WWII. I had the privilege of reading his story and it is certainly a memory that means much to me. I know the experience meant much to him as well. Since we have begun doing spotlights at our concerts, I think it has really added a personal touch the concert." 🇺🇸

Utah's Governor Gary R. Herbert concludes the Veterans Day Concert by conducting the last number, Stars and Stripes Forever.



Utah Engineer Soldiers Move Sand in Kuwait, TAG Visits Prior to Holidays

Story by Staff Sgt. Aubrey Hill and Staff Sgt. Travis Thomas

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — While serving as an equipment operator on an engineering mission at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, per-mobilization training became very real Jan. 5, 2016.

Spc. Dallan Butterfield, a member of 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, 116th Engineer Company, had been tasked, along with other platoon members, with a sand-removal project that was nearing completion. While conducting quality-control, job inspections, Butterfield noticed something out of place. Upon closer inspection he identified what he thought to be an anti-tank mine. He immediately got everyone back and notified his noncommissioned officer in charge. The five Cs (confirm, clear, call, cordon, and control) were implemented; an unexploded ordnance report was sent and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team responded. The EOD sergeant confirmed that it was an Italian anti-tank mine.

“I am not surprised it was Dallan [Butterfield] that found it, he has always been a great Soldier. He pays attention during training and applies what he learns,” said Sgt. 1st Class Russell Shields, 116th Engineer Company. “He always keeps safety first on the job. Finding that mine and how he handled himself after was a good example of that.”

Butterfield’s situational awareness and cool head prevented a potentially serious incident. His actions bring credit upon himself, the 116th Engineer Company and the 682nd Engineer Battalion.



Utah’s Spc. Dallan Butterfield, 116th Engineer Company, uncovers and reports an anti-tank mine while removing sand as part of his engineering mission in Kuwait.



Utah National Guard 116th Engineer Company Soldiers build an anti-tank ditch as part of the force protection in Kuwait.

Also, the 116th Engineer Company, 1st Platoon, has been tasked with an anti-tank ditch mission, working directly with the Kuwaiti 11th Engineer Battalion. It is one of the highest priority missions currently in Kuwait dealing with force protection.

This was a previous mission from the 338th Engineer Company that the 116th replaced. There is about 32 miles left of the anti-tank ditch to complete.

The first day on mission the Kuwaiti army invited the U.S. Soldiers to have a traditional Kuwaiti meal. Eating with only hands, in a circle, the Soldiers were able to experience a bit of the culture while strengthening the ties between the U.S. and Kuwaiti forces.

Recently the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller had the opportunity to travel to the Army Central Command in Kuwait, to visit the 116th Engineer Command, as well as celebrate the National Guard’s 379th birthday.

“What a great experience and opportunity the trip was,” said Miller. “We were able to spend a couple of days with the Soldiers of the 116th. In addition, we were afforded the chance hear from the ARCENT staff, as well as other command elements about the mission and specifically



how our units and Soldiers fit into the mix. It was no surprise that the Utah National Guard elements were achieving excellence in their efforts and performance.”

The work Utah Soldiers were doing and will be tasked to do once all their equipment shows up from stateside shipment is important locally and strategically.

“Being able to see and talk with the Soldiers face-to-face is irreplaceable,” said Miller. “Their accommodations are suitable, but just like anything else, our Soldiers are always working to improve and make their surroundings better.

“The one thing that consistently stood out and simply made me most proud was the fact every Soldier had a smile on their face. They were all motivated, positive, and eager to accomplish their missions. The unit is well-lead, well-trained, and well-equipped to handle any mission they’re assigned.”

Burton and Miller were afforded the opportunity to travel around the camp and visit each platoon and many of the Soldiers, plus get a mission status. Another great experience was sharing meal-time in the dining facility each meal. On Dec. 13, they shared lunch with Soldiers and celebrated the National Guard’s birthday, which included cutting a cake with the Texas National Guard adjutant general and senior enlisted leader. In addition, the camp hosted a 10k birthday run that many Soldiers of the 116th proudly participated in.

As the visit was closing out, TAG hosted a town hall for the entire company in the camp theatre. Again, what a tremendous group of Soldiers.

“Having the opportunity to see them and visit with them was very motivating and inspiring,” said Miller. “Like any Utah element, our Soldiers are professional and really set the mark high—the 116th is one of the many.” 🇺🇸



Soldiers with Utah’s 116th Engineer Company enjoy a traditional Kuwaiti meal prepared by Kuwaiti engineer forces while building an anti-tank ditch in Kuwait.



Left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and members of the Texas National Guard participate in the National Guard birthday celebration while visiting troops in Kuwait.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, left, with 116th Engineer Company Soldiers run in a 10k birthday run.

Photos courtesy of the 116th Engineer Company

Students Receive Diploma at USASMA as First to Graduate From Master Leader Course

Story and photos by David Crozier

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — For every educational or training course the Army teaches there has to be a first class. In November 2015, the 32 students of the first Master Leader Course 15-day pilot class completed the 108 hours of rigorous coursework and received their diplomas during ceremonies held at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy's Cooper Lecture Center.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese, commandant of USASMA, addressed the graduating students and asked them if the course was challenging, to which he received a rousing "hooah." He followed that with, "Was it too challenging?" To which he got only a couple of hooahs.

"We wanted this to be challenging, right to that line," Defreese said. "We never want anyone to fail. That is not the goal. The goal is to learn something.... The goal is to help you learn how to critically think and solve problems." Defreese explained that literally one year ago Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey called him and said the chief of staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, wanted an E-8 level course; he wanted it quickly and asked how long would it take.

"So the answer is, about one year, that's how long it takes and the nonresident version of this may take until next summer to get it done because that takes even longer to do," he said. Defreese lauded the students for being the first, putting up with the long academic days and for providing their comments and feedback.

"The feedback we get from you is absolutely vital to the second pilot we are going to run in Utah," Defreese said. "From there we will do a little bit more refinement and do the final pilot at the Reserve center at Fort Knox (Kentucky) and then sometime in Fiscal Year 17 it will be totally vetted (intermediate operating capability). So you are an integral part of that and it should be something that you are proud of."

Charles Guyette, director of the Directorate of Training, lauded the efforts of the training developers and staff who put the MLC together.

"When the chief of staff and the Army leaders say, 'Hey go out and make this thing happen,' and ... it comes to fruition today after these 15 grueling days of academia



Students of Master Leader course, pilot class number 1, pose for a graduation photo on the academy grounds before attending their ceremony. The 32 students were selected from across the regular Army, National Guard and Reserve component, and represent professional NCOs from a wide range of career-management fields.

that we had to put these Soldiers through, the outcome is fully credited to you," he said.

Asked what he thought about the creation of the MLC, graduate 1st Sgt. Thomas Hughes, regularly assigned to Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, said he thought it was the right move.

"I personally haven't been to an NCO professional development course since 2007. That's eight years," he said. "So I think there is tremendous value-added to have a Master Leader Course that kind of bridges the gap between the Senior Leader Course and the Sergeants Major Course."

Hughes noted the course's rigor and tight schedule, but also believed if he had attended it earlier in his career he would have been a more successful senior NCO.

"I believe this course really sets up a senior sergeant first class promotable, or master sergeant who is going to go onto a staff, to assist more than anything," Hughes said. "We briefly covered a lot of the stuff a first sergeant would do, but as a first sergeant you still need to understand what [occurs] on a staff so you know how your company will be required to support whatever decisive action that you will be engaging in."

Fellow graduate Master Sgt. John Itzin, senior operations NCO at the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and who will be one of the instructors for the third pilot class, said the course is a little

more oriented towards staff functions than first sergeant duties and he believes it is on target.

“Being able to integrate ourselves onto a staff and be more valuable to the commander and other staff officers is something NCOs really need to be cognizant of. The ability to be able to be brought back in and have a more meaningful role I believe is very important,” he said. “As a promotable sergeant first class being able to back off from that tactical outlook of task management and to step back and get the big picture is something that is brought into this course.”

The 108 hours of instruction is broken down into three modules- Foundation, Leadership and Army Profession and Army and Joint Operation, said Sgt. Maj. William Gentry, the Curriculum Development and Education Division sergeant major.

“It provides the Army with senior noncommissioned officers who are self-aware and NCOs of character, confidence, and presence with the skills necessary to shape the joint operational environment, overcome the friction created by uncertainty and operate in an ambiguous environment,” Gentry said. “So I believe this course is geared for the sergeants first class and the newly promoted master sergeants to enable them to perform the duties of a senior staff NCO or operations master sergeant in the S-3.”

The first pilot class was taught using two different instructional strategies—one using essays assessments, the other using a research project that enhances the collaboration between the students. Gentry said based on the educational outcomes from those two strategies will determine the way ahead for the next two pilot classes.

“The desired outcome is an operational leader that has the talent, ability and confidence in himself or herself to be a creative and critical thinker, to not just worry about beans and bullets, but to actually be able to think on line with that company commander or that field grade officer on the staff,” Gentry said. “Right now I give this course two thumbs up. Because it is only going to get better from here.”

The MLC consists of topics such as Army and joint doctrine; interagency capabilities and considerations; plans, orders and annexes; decisive action; military justice rules and procedures; a command inspection program; servant leadership; personnel readiness; the military decision making process; public speaking; military briefings and writing.

The MLC prepares sergeants first class for the increased leadership and management responsibilities required of all senior NCOs. The MLC is the fourth of five NCO Professional Development Courses beginning with the Basic Leader Course and culminating with the Sergeants Major Course. The makeup of the first pilot class consisted of 32 individually selected regular Army, National Guard and Reserve component professional NCOs from a wide range of career management fields. 📧

Utah Army National Guard Soldiers, Master Sgt. Shawn Blanke, Master Sgt. Norman Rentschler, 1st Sgt. Tamara Sower, and Mater Sgt. Jared Gale receive their certificate of graduation from Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese, commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, during ceremonies at USASMA.



Utah National Guard holds Annual Military Ball with the Help of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah

Story by Sgt. Ariel J. Solomon

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — With the sponsorship of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah, the Utah National Guard held its annual Military Ball on Camp Williams in the Regional Training Institute on Sept. 19, 2015. The ball is a formal setting for service members from all over the Guard to come together in celebration of service.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Joe Guimond, the president of EANGUT said, “We, as an association, can acquire private funding that the Guard couldn’t. If we continue to assist in future years we’ll try to find different venues and see what we can do differently to continue to make this a worthwhile and fun event.”

The ball allowed Guard members a chance to mingle in a relaxed environment with service members from all ranks and units across the state.

“It’s fun that we can be all dressed up, but also be relaxed, and talk and laugh without worrying about work or an operation order,” said 1st Lt. Jed Christensen, a platoon leader with the 489th Brigade Support Battalion and native of Orem, Utah. “It also gives me a chance to show off my wife and dance with her.”

Sarah Christensen said it was a fun opportunity to join her husband Jed in a formal occasion and mingle with Guard members and their families.



The ball is also a chance for service members to bring loved ones to a formal occasion. Spouses, family members and significant others get a chance to help participate in a military activity.

“This is the first ball I’ve been to. It’s been fun,” said Carle Jones, a civilian invited by Pvt. 1st Class Gavin Hansen of B Company, 19th Brigade Support Battalion. “I was expecting it to be much more formal. It’s been really good, especially the dancing.”

The Utah National Guard’s 23rd Army Band performed the music for the ball. The band played several musical numbers throughout the night and demonstrated the versatile talents of its members.

“When I heard the music and I thought they had hired a band to play,” said Gavin, who is a native of South Weber, “I was amazed that it was our own band playing jazz and rock.”

Guardsmen often only have a few days a month to come together for training. The 40-year tradition of the ball continues to be an event that brings Soldiers and Airmen from all over Utah, and their families, together to mingle and get to know each other. 📷



Military members and their guests enjoy dancing to music played by the 23rd Army Band at the Utah National Guard’s annual Military Ball.

Legion of Merit Awarded to Utah Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Anderson

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Is he retiring? This was the common question asked regarding the announcement that Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson was to receive the prestigious Legion of Merit award.

The Legion of Merit, sixth in the order of precedence of the U.S. military awards, is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. Due to the high degree of achievement required for an award of this degree, it is most commonly awarded, if at all, at a service member's retirement.

However, in the view of the 640th Regional Training Institute leadership, his contributions warranted this recognition now. Anderson, amongst his many outstanding achievements during his three-and-a-half-year assignment, made direct contributions toward the acquisition and construction of TASS Phase II and new physical fitness facilities at Camp Williams and oversaw successful graduation of more than 9,000 Soldiers.

"Very seldom do you see this given to somebody who isn't retiring. And you [Command Sgt. Major Anderson] are not retiring... just yet," said Maj.



Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "This is well-deserved and well-earned."

Anderson humbly begs to differ as he stated during the ceremony Nov. 2, 2015, "I know deep down that this has nothing to do with me and everything to do with you [to the members of the 640th]."

"At the end of the day, really, this is all about you guys and what you do for the nation," continued Anderson. "I will always be grateful for my time serving with you."

The Utah National Guard thanks Command Sgt. Major Anderson for his dedicated service, and looks forward to many more years of his exemplary contributions. 🇺🇸



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, right, pins the Legion of Merit Award on Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson at Camp Williams.



Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson with his family after the Legion of Merit award ceremony Nov. 2.



Artist Emily Pugmire's painting of a praying Soldier is one of three paintings donated by Taylor Yardley.



Taylor Yardley presented one of his photographs of the Christus entitled, "Come Unto Me."

Utah Photographer Donates Art for the Camp Williams Chapel

Story by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — Utah photographer Taylor Yardley says the Utah Guard made a big impression on his life. His father, retired Master Sgt. Al Yardley, was a role model for him as he watched his father serve.

As a senior in high school, Yardley had the opportunity to attend Freedom Academy and it had a huge impact on his life so he wanted to give back to the Utah National Guard for its mentorship in his life.

Yardley chose three pictures to present to the Utah National Guard's Chaplains for display at the new chapel at Camp Williams, Sunrise Hall on Jan. 5.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, left, listens as Taylor Yardley donates three pictures to the Utah National Guard Chaplains to be hung in the new Camp Williams chapel, Sunrise Hall.

Left to right: Chaplain, Lt. Col. Clay Anstead; Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton; Taylor Yardley and Chaplain, Lt. Col. Gerald White with the three donated pieces of art at the Utah National Guard headquarters auditorium Jan 5.



Air Promotions

COLONEL

Sharp Richard K
Townson Walter R

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Henrie Jason L
Lock Christina M

MAJOR

Drennan Kirk B
Nilson Zachary D
Waugh Andrew L

CAPTAIN

Arnold David M
Berry Alexander J
Cooper Spencer L
Durfee Cameron Robert
Munden Jeffrey Lane
Starley Steven M

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Metzger Jeremy Richard
Pitzer Enoch Methuselah
Roberts Mark Alan

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Batura Nicholas M
Hendrickson David M

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Allred Mark L
Hamburg Alan L
Taranto Joseph R
West Darren G

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Baxter Lance Eric
Bell Rodney K
Dedrickson Paul Alan
Fransen Heather
Goff Barry Ray
Greene Carl E
Lilya Sandy S
Wagster Robert E

MASTER SERGEANT

Bojorquez Sergio D
Dix Fredric Bahey
Durtschi Walter Morris
Eicher Daniel Evan
Hall Jacob J
Lagiglia Brendan M

May Robert L Jr
Nelson Nicholas Donald
Stong Seth M

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Barr Gregory James
Bo Tyler W
Class Lamont M
Creek Derrin Joseph
Foreman Bobby E II
Harper Christopher E
Mayfield Tyson Lyn
Phelps Brandon J
Sparr Michael A
Wahlen Dustin Robert
Williams Vinson Thomas
Willmore Justin D
Young Casey J

STAFF SERGEANT

Bell Zachary J
Brown Camn W
Clark Miranda
Class Corbin M
Gale Scyler A
Griffin Kayla Ashley
Hale David M
Hamilton Adrian S
Healey Chyane J

Jones Mavin Dee
Lewis Jennelle Caitlynn
Lucero Michael A Lance
Rodriguez Jeremy R
Roundy Forrest C
Sagato Milan Natalie
Stettler Alan Russell
Thorson Andrew C
Topham Adam S
Treseder Kelsey N
Vigo Marie F
Young Amy Pearl

SENIOR AIRMAN

Anderson Ian U
Briggs Taylor L
Brunt Johnathan A
Burt Desirae A
Carlin Tyler J
Escalante Wesley R
Forbes Brandon R
Gallagher Brenton K
Gibson Christopher C
Gibson David A
Groom Jacob M
Hardimon Chantelle Diamond
Harris Ethan Anthony
Harvey Chad B
Herman Trevor R

Higbee Michael S
Johnson Dalten M
Leakehe Talon M
Lister Randall C
Morillo Anfred J
Parkin Broden J
Rice Collin J
Rieck Taylor L
Sheftick James R
Wingert Thomas L Jr

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

Atwood Matthew T
Bambico Connor R
Cragun Benjamin J
Harris Jami C
James Tyler K
Jones Tanner R
Larsen Amber M
Mecham Tate C
Richardson Amanda L
Tegart Rachael L
Tingey Zachary F
Yates Shawn K

AIRMAN

Carroll Amber E
Ross Kennedy A

Army Promotions

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Badell Matthew Thomas
Manwaring Tammy Ellen
Miner Woodrow David
Taylor Timothy Loy
Trauba Deanne Anderson

MAJOR

Adamson Jason Ryan
Austin Michael Darin
Harvison Byron Earl
Holland Eric William
Mundy Ryan Dustun
Pagoaga Steven James
Vazquez Noe Saucedo
Ward Brian Thomas

CAPTAIN

Lecroy Adam James
Curtis Alex James
Grimshaw William R
Jeppson Joseph Keith
Tucker Christopher Thomas

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Anderson Brian James
Eckersley George Teasdale
Fudge Leland Shaun

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Finan Colton Dee
Wright Whitney Shea

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Buckley Neil Edward
Hunter Quentin Eugene

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Haag Deena Deann
Leggett Breton James
Walker Cory Williams

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Allred Jacob Kevin
Christianson Shane Wright

WARRANT OFFICER

Arnold Richard Norman
Fraughton Jason Max
Hilton Steven Albert
Jensen Lance Martial
McVay Russell Joel Tony
Munteer Tyler James
Ott Matilde Idania
Wilson Andrew Douglas

SERGEANT MAJOR

Blanke Shawn Allen
Hansen Gray Karry
Legler Jason Roy

FIRST SERGEANT

Myers Jason Kenneth
Nagata Bryan Minoru
Silcox Heath Neal

MASTER SERGEANT

Bergener Brent Tearle
Bowden Curt Leigh
Call Kevin James
Dixon Laurisa Dawn
Hosier Steven Chester
Jackson Allen Eugene
Johnston Garrad Jay
Morrill Cory Cline
Romero Marcelino Ruben
Williamson Dorian Gentry

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Allen Colter Thomas
Bartholomew Jed Day
Cline Aaron Neil
Cox Randy James
Crow Jeremy Clyde
Curtis Nathaniel Richard
Etheridge John Garland
Gubler Charles Harmon
Johnson James Vernon
Lewis Darrell Charles
McWain Derek Warren
Nasfell Derek Allen
Smith Jeremy Clarence
Stone Jesse Bryan
Udy Brian Lynn
Warnock Jacob Andrew

STAFF SERGEANT

Ashworth Brady William
Beckstrom Ronald Sean

Bench Blair Albert
Brinton Robert Samuel
Cloward Nicolas Adam
Crawford Dexter Robert
Eaton Lee Daines Iv
Egbert Alma Jedediah
Evans Jedediah Alma
Fellingham David Gilbert
Grant Marty Allen
Hale Jonathan Leland
Harmon Jesse John
Henderson Brad Andrew
Henderson Matthew Curtis
Hinds Jonathan William
Houston Hashim Benjamin
Jones Chelsea Kathleen
Keele Blake Lee
Kennington Kyle Phillip
Larson Eric Bradley
Loy Jordan Chase
Lyday Amanda Joy
Marshall Travis James
Meryhew Kurt W
Moody Samuel Young
Muramoto Kami Kristine
Ott Daniel Robin
Regan Jeremy Michael
Richens Joseph Earl
Summers Amanda Mae
Thorne Ryan Daryl
Tucker Micheal Anthony
Valenzuela Jason Oliver
Woodard James Anthony

SERGEANT

Berg Katrina Ashley
Bigelow Jesse Ivan
Black Michael Edward
Blanchette Ian Warren
Braun Anthony Johnston
Bryant James Michael
Bushman Carter David
Carlson Josiah Nils
Christensen Cole Jerry
Clements Brock Carlton
Condie Ron Rex
Cottle Garrett Thomson
Creekmore Mitchell Gerald
Emery Jordan Richard
Fenn Darryl Regan
Fuller Brandon Scott
Garry Christopher James
Grenko Ross Karl
Gutierrez Abraham
Halowell Taryn Shay
Harvey Briana Antoinette
Hilton Jonathan James
Iarochen Yahia
Jensen Matthew Ryan
Kirkland Dent Temples
Larsen Andrew David
Lewis Kevin Leon
Lovatto Rebecca Marie
Matkin Christopher Ryan
McNeil Skyler Mitchell
Murdock Joshua Raymond
Putnam Elijah Kevin
Ramirez Jessie David

Army Promotions Continued

Rapich Jeremy Steven
Ruiz Felix Juan
Sampson Jason Neil
Smith Weston Charles
Solomon Ariel Jonathan
Soto Amilkar Jiovanny
Spinhirne Aaron Joseph
Steed Dustin Ryan
Thongdy Viengpathane Kendo
Upshaw Danae Nichole
Walker Jacob William
Wilhoite Justin Trevor
Wright Connor Scott
Zavala Jorge Alberto

SPECIALIST / CORPORAL

Adams Brian Williams
Adamson Darrell James
Alfred Scott Russell
Allen Morgan Renae
Arvig Joseph Anthony
Ascione Justin Patrick
Ashmore Ryan Anthony
Barker Brandon Joe
Barker Brantley Beaux
Bergeson Sean Dan
Boyer Adam Leo
Brommer Michael Henry
Brown Spencer Allan
Carlson Zachery Matthew
Carr Arizona Audrey
Chipman Jeffrey Renwick
Christensen Colby Lynn
Clausell Aquionde Imere
Cooper Dalton Allen
Cooper Jesse Thomas
Corliss Jonathan Nhc
Dalton Ryan Scott
Davis Douglas Wade
Degraw David Lance
Dietz Broderick Joseph
Dolan Justin Ted
Elison Ammon Aaron
Evans Benjamin David
Evans Tarren James
Florian Blaine Justin
Fotheringham Austin J
Freed Leaman Marinus
Gantt Jared Michael
Gootee Joshua Trevor
Green Nicholaus Kasey
Griffin Dustin Cole
Hallsted Breton Keith
Hampton Cody Lee
Hansen Gavan William
Hardy Chanson Kenneth
Hartvigsen Tyler Gregory
Hilyard Quinn Edward
Holdaway Joseph Anthony
Holmes Grant Michael
Howell Christopher C
Jensen David Tyler
Johnson Carlson Jody
Johnson Garett Scott
Johnstun Brandon Scott
Kempe Devan Andrew
Kenner Christopher Dwayne
King Tyler Wayne

Laws Jeffery Scott
Lebaron Corbin Lee
Lewis Andrew Gregory
Maher Brandon
Mangum Bryant
Maughan Thomas Floyd
Maycock Donald Leighton
McCarl Jonathan Ryan
McCurry Caleb James
Mears Jordan Aaron
Memmott Jacob Remington
Mendezbaiza Andrea Vanessa
Morgan Luke Young
Motter Riley Lewis
Mulitalo Raymond
Muller Dylan Taylor
Nelson Chelsea Angel
Ng Spencer Siu Kan
Nguyen Ngoc Hieu Thi
Okafor Camila Cecilia
Okland McKinley Golder
Olmedo Omar
Osborn Smokey Layne
Oswald Travis James
Pace Candace Nicole
Palacios Antonio Miguel
Palacios Joseph Samuel
Palmer Steven Mark
Parkin Daniel Alan
Pendleton Zachary B
Peterson Michael Curtis
Petty Brandon Ted
Rebaza Jaime Marco
Rich Keaton Andrew
Robinson Christopher J
Rodriguez Alexis Marie
Rogers Jayden Ray
Rowe Andrekus Marqale
Schaumkel Timothy Kilisimas
Seiuli Patrick Lorenzo
Sells Jeremy Jay
Shay Dakota Scott
Shirra Colton Dean
Sirriner Tanner J
Slivers David Nokoni
Smillicole Christopher A
Smith Alexander Bruce
Sowards Thomas Kelly
Spencer Meagan
Spencer Robert Glenn
Spoerri Jordan Lee
Staples Michael Brent
Stephenson Jack William
Stocks Joshua Jack
Taylor Kaydee Lynn
Thomas Devin Connor
Thomas Tyler Shayne
Thompson Bret Arlin
Truitt Brian Ray
Ungor Fofoaivoese Alexandri
Uribe Oscar Omar
Valdez Anthony Mario
Vandyke Kayden Delmar
Walters Joshua Patrick Maka
West Stetson D
Whipple Chase Michel
White Natasia Sue
Wiley Ryan Joseph

Williams Trevor James
Wood Rhett William
Wright Shelby Aloha
Zimmerman Ashtyn Leigh
Zupan Colton Davis

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Acree Montana James
Alford Colton Jake
Arencibia Antonio Ramon
Arteaga Angel Anthony
Barker Jacob Ronald
Bates Addison J
Bennett Jason Garn
Binschus Kameron Fredrick
Black Nelsine Christa
Bloxham Natalie Stoddard
Brinkerhoff Jacob Grant
Christiansen Michael Lee
Churchill Denai Raquel
Churchill Trevor Mackenzie
Cline Jordan Daniel
Davis Kyle Philip
Davis Michael Shannon
Day Warren Tyler
Dayton Christopher Richard
Downward Shadrick Shawn
Dunn Connor Willis
Elliott Avi Django
Evans Dakota Richard
Flores Marc Anthony
Gailey Jeffrey Glenn
Garcia Thomas Arthur Jr
Garita Jose Ernesto
Grant Tanner Martin
Hancock Trevor David
Hanks Samuel Wyatt
Haslam Reyn Scott
Helm Kolton Russ
Higley Justin Mayne
Hodges David James
Horlacher David Joseph
Houchin Wade Loren
Humphrey Antonia
Hutchings Garrett Reece
Inglet Ashton Tyrell
Jessop Derek Cole
Johnson Austin Elden
Johnston Jordan Scott
Jolley Alan Francis
Joseph Jeric Alex
Keele Joshua Edward
Kelly Kole J
Kurtz Alexander Paul
Lambson Jeremy Edward
Lona Graig Leon
Lopez Diquan Joseph
Marlow Seth Craig
Matthews Elle Magnusson
McFadden Ian Randall
McGee Kaitlin Elizabeth
Miner Daniel Isaac
Miyasaki Matthew Thomas
Nelson Eric Dean
Nkiere Wawa Serge
Peterson Travis Lee
Pope Dalton Lance
Prothero Eddie David

Read Gabriel Duane
Robb Zachurey Myles
Roberts Tyson Ray
Rollins Braeden Rance
Ruesch Logan Grey
Sadler Spencer Dee
Slagowski Benjamin Leo
Staheli Jacob Rex
Stewart Kyle Wayne
Strait Jarred Boyd
Swartz Miranda Josephine
Tarma Mijail Benjamin
Taylor Alex Leroy
Tew David Wayne
Thomson William Issac
Vesely Jared Michael
Ward Marshall Ray
Wells London James
Whittaker Richard Dean
Williams Andrew Michael
Young Kawika Alma James

PRIVATE (PV1)

Calkins Cheyenne Alexis
Canedo Ivan
Chamberlain Jordan James
Chidester Trace Richard
Clemence Ethan Joshua
Cluff Philip James
Conger Bryson Kerry
Conkling Alexander James
Cowles Orion Scott
Dearinger Shane Carlton
Eastin George Ryan
Eccles Jarred Brandon
Fitzpatrick Brian Dean Jr
Florian Madeline Kate
Gowen Tevin Dale
Gregerson Dallas James
Grierson Sumner Alexander
Harris Austin Matthew
Hunt Baylen Richard Jensen
Keough Edward Sean
Kezior Jared Paul
Kunzler Matthew Crosby
Lauti Poukei Ngauamo
Leavitt Tyler Thomas
Lopez Juwan Joseph
Lunt Payton Kyler
Murphy Joshua David
Myers Lucero
Naccarato Garry Lynn
Nalder Jake Ray
Perry Austin Albert
Pierro Randall William
Prounh Pang
Pulsipher Chelsea Delaine
Ruizcamacho Melissa A
Shepard Cole
Smith James Thomas
Smith Patience Iziegbe
Sombath Alex
Sprague Kimberly Ann
Stones Bryson Kenneth
Sundles Jacob Michael
Torrezspicer Angel Capri
Tuai Sione Vaoletti
Tullis Spencer Adam
Wyatt Ebbin Snow

PRIVATE (PV2)

Adams Mack David
Allen Chance Eric
Anderson Cade Dutson
Anderson Jacob Ray
Anderson Joseph Dale
Arana Daniel Jonathan
Barnes Joseph Smith
Biddinger Gage Richard
Bone Rayven Joanna Pauline
Bowen Ty Jeremy
Brown Chasen Daniel
Bushnell Sean Michael
Carroll Kamber McKay
Carter Dallin Reid
Castro Ayslin Delora
Cebrowski Benjamin B
Cheney Ammon Michael
Childers Colton Lee
Christiansen Caroline E
Christiansen River David
Comp Molly Jane
Connor Daniel Joseph
Cosgrove Andrew McKay
Curtis Jase Nathen
Demetropoulos Nicholas H
Dewart Derek Korbin
Drechsler Derek Anderson
Drouet Antonio Dante
Edwards Hayden Wilfred
Ferguson Taylor Isaac
Hammond Zackary Oberon
Heino Jeremy Robert
Hellon Meshell Shauri
Horrocks Kyler Aaron
Hudson Skyler McKay
James Devin Louis
Johansen McQuade Ryan
Jolley Rachael Dee
Juarez Christian Legrande
Juarez Marcelo Manuel
Kern Ryan Daniel
Lowder Quenton Scott
Maw Gregory Scott
McKinlay Bo D
Medinarivera Yaritza Sarahy
Montgomery Levi Reavis
Moomey Mark Thomas
Nield William Cody
Overson Joseph Spencer
Owens Dilan Ray
Perry Paul Daniel
Poindexter Dallin Ty
Riddle Robert Lloyd
Shute Gordon Eric
Smith Levi Thomas
Smith Noal Scott II
Stock David McKay
Stokes Parker Duncan
Thompson John
Toledo Nicole Soutsada
Tuuhetaufa Alfeleti Sione
Uhl Zachary Thomas
Wade Chase Arnell
Warren Cody Dallas
Willard Dexter Rex
Willoughby Brian Chance

EXPERTS NEEDED!



With the right MOS, you may qualify to become a Warrant Officer!

WOMOS	Warrant Officer Title	Enlisted Feeder MOS
120A	Construction Engineer Technician.....	12H, K, N, P, Q, R, T, W
125D	Geospatial Engineering Technician.....	12Y, 35F, 35G
131A	Field Artillery Targeting Technician.....	11C, 13B, D, F, M, P, R, T
140A	Command and Control Systems Technician.....	14G, 14H, 14S
140E	Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Tactician/Technician (Patriot Systems Technician)	14E, 14H, 14T, 94S
150A	Air Traffic Control Technician.....	15Q
150U	Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS) Operation Technician.....	15E, 15W
151A	Aviation Maintenance Technician.....	All CMF 15 MOS (Excluding 15P & 15Q)
153A	Rotary Wing Aviation.....	All MOS's
170A	Cyber Operations Technician.....	Preferred CMF 25 & 35 MOS
180A	Special Forces Warrant Officer.....	All CMF 18 MOS
255A	Information Services Technician.....	All MOS's (must have 4 years IT experience IAW prerequisites)
255N	Network Management Technician.....	All MOS's (must have 4 years IT experience IAW prerequisites)
270A	Legal Administrator.....	27D
290A	Electronic Warfare Technician.....	29E, 25B, 25E, or 13F with ASI 1J
311A	CID Special Agent.....	31D
350F	All Source Intelligence Technician.....	35F
350G	GEOINT Imagery Technician.....	35G
351L	Counterintelligence Technician.....	35L
351M	Human Intelligence Collection Technician.....	35M
325N	SIGINT Analysis Technician.....	35N, 35P, 35Q
325S	Signals Collection Technician.....	35S, 35Q
353T	Military Intelligence Systems Maintenance/Integration Technician.....	35T
420A	Human Resources Technician.....	42A/42F
420C	Bandmaster.....	All CMF 02 MOS's (All CMF 42R and 42S)
640A	Veterinary Services Food Safety Officer.....	68R, 68S
670A	Health Services Maintenance Technician.....	68A
740A	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Technician.....	74D
880A	Marine Deck Officer.....	88K
881A	Marine Engineering Officer.....	88L, 12P, w/ASI S2
882A	Mobility Officer.....	88N, 88M, 88H
890A	Ammunition Warrant Officer.....	89A, 89B, 89D
913A	Armament Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91F, 91A, M, P, S
914A	Allied Trades Warrant Officer.....	91E
915A	Automotive Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91A, B, C, D, H, L, M, P, S, X
919A	Engineer Equipment Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91B, C, D, H, J, L, X
920A	Property Accounting Technician.....	92Y, 68J
920B	Supply Systems Technician.....	92A
921A	Airdrop Systems Technician.....	92R
922A	Food Service Technician.....	92G, 68M
923A	Petroleum System Technician.....	92F, 92L, and 92W
948B	Electronic Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	94D, E, F, H, M, R, W, Y, & Z (25S/with waiver only)
948D	Electronic Missile Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	94A, M, P, S, T, X, & Z

Additional details on qualified MOSs, please visit
<http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>

For more information contact your
Warrant Officer Strength Manager.
801.432.4900



I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations.

So help me God. "



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