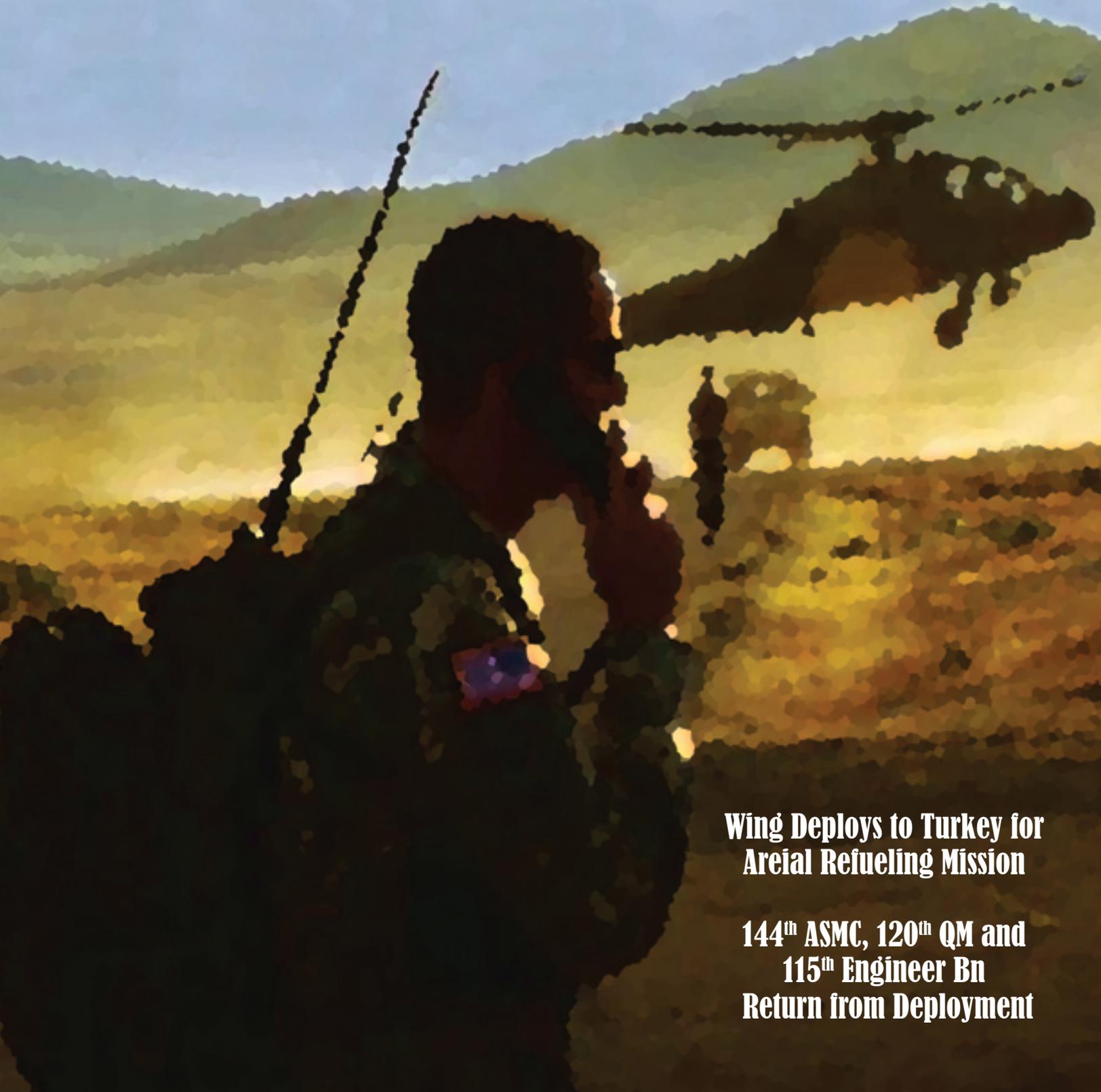


# **UTAH MINUTEMAN**

**Utah National Guard Joint Magazine**

**Volume VII No. 1**

**Spring 2007**



**Wing Deploys to Turkey for  
Aerial Refueling Mission**

**144<sup>th</sup> ASMC, 120<sup>th</sup> QM and  
115<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn  
Return from Deployment**



# The Adjutant General's Corner

By MG Brian Tarbet

DRAPER, Utah — **T**his has been a watershed few weeks in the history of the Guard. For many years, National Guard adjutants general have been pressing Army leadership about the inordinate amount of our Soldiers' time that has been spent at various mobilization sites around the country. Almost uniformly, my Soldiers have told me that many weeks could have been saved in the mobilization process with a huge savings in time and treasure.

Recently, Secretary of Defense Gates announced a change in the policy which has governed the mobilization of our Soldiers and Airmen for the past five years. Until now, troops could be mobilized for up to 24 months cumulatively. Now, all of our Soldiers and Airmen are once again subject to mobilization. This is difficult news—but not unexpected—for these Soldiers, Airmen and their families, . Our troops have long recognized that when they wear the uniform, they are truly subject to call-up at any time.

However, there is a truly positive development that has come with the recent policy change. Now, the total time for which a Soldier or Airmen will be mobilized will be one year, with approximately 9-10 months "boots on the ground." Now a unit will be alerted almost one year in advance for training, then mobilized for one year. We hope to accomplish nearly 75 percent of the premobilization training here in Utah during Inactive Duty Training drills and a 21-day Annual Training period. When federalized, units should spend only six to eight weeks at the mobilization stations en route to theater.

The Department of Defense is also considering changes to the "stop loss" policy, but that will probably have more impact on active units than on Guard and Reserve units. Obviously, some type of policy must be in place that will stabilize the personnel within alerted units.

Today, nearly 400 Utah Soldiers and Airmen are deployed, conducting missions as challenging and difficult as any we have faced to date. Nearly four out of five of our troops have deployed in the Global War on Terrorism. Nonetheless, the UTARNG completed the



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet

recent year as second in the nation in strength management and the UTANG increased its strength significantly to finish at 100 percent strength for the first time in nearly a decade. We have a force of wonderful patriots and more are joining our ranks each day in unprecedented numbers. My thanks to our great recruiting force, both green and blue.

On a personal note, Myrna Griffone, my administrative assistant retires in March after many years of devoted service to the National Guard. Her departure will leave a huge void here and she will be missed by many. She is representative of the wonderful civilians who are a vital part of our Utah National Guard family. I extend my thanks to Myrna and to all of our fine civilian employees.

Please accept my gratitude to you, your families, and your great employers—a great team, second to none, and a treasure to Utah and the Nation. 🇺🇸

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**Cover Photo** - Original photo courtesy of 211th Aviation Group,  
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**Inside Cover Photo** courtesy of 300th Military Intelligence Brigade.  
 Members of the 300th MI Bde in Iraq.

**Back Cover Photo** courtesy of 211th Aviation Group.

A special thanks to all who have contributed with articles and photos to make the Utah Minuteman a great success.

The Utah Minuteman is an unofficial publication of the Utah National Guard in accordance with AR 360-1. It is published by the Utah National Guard Public Affairs Office, Draper, Utah. The Utah Minuteman welcomes contributions from Utah Guard members but reserves the right to edit as necessary.

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# Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Dell Smith

DRAPER, Utah — **I** continue to be impressed and proud of the service of the Utah National Guard. The dedicated, selfless service provided by the Soldiers and Airmen of this organization is amazing. You should all be proud of the work you do for your country and for the people around the world. I am grateful to be a member of the Utah National Guard and to be able to serve with such fine Soldiers and Airmen. We continue to set the standard and example for other units to follow, especially under some very harsh and demanding circumstances.

It has been wonderful over the past several months to welcome home elements of both the Army and Air Guard. The 120th Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification), 144th Medical Company, and 115th Engineer Battalion have all returned from Iraq. The 151st Air Refueling Wing has returned from Turkey, and small elements from the Air Guard continue to deploy all over the world.

We still have many units deployed: I Corps Artillery in Afghanistan; elements of 2nd BN, 211th Aviation Group and 141st MI BN are in Iraq; Soldiers from 1st BN, 19th Special Forces Group in the Philippines; members of the 169th Intelligence Squadron are in South America; and small numbers of Airmen are serving in Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Germany, Antarctica, Kyrgyzstan, and various areas around the country. The Utah National Guard continues to proudly serve worldwide.

I had the opportunity to spend the week of Thanksgiving with I Corps Artillery in Afghanistan. It was



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

*Dell K. Smith,  
Command Sergeant Major of the Utah Army National Guard*

great to be able to travel around Afghanistan and visit the Soldiers who are working directly with the Afghan National Army. Our Soldiers are scattered all over the country and are doing some very difficult missions in some very harsh conditions.

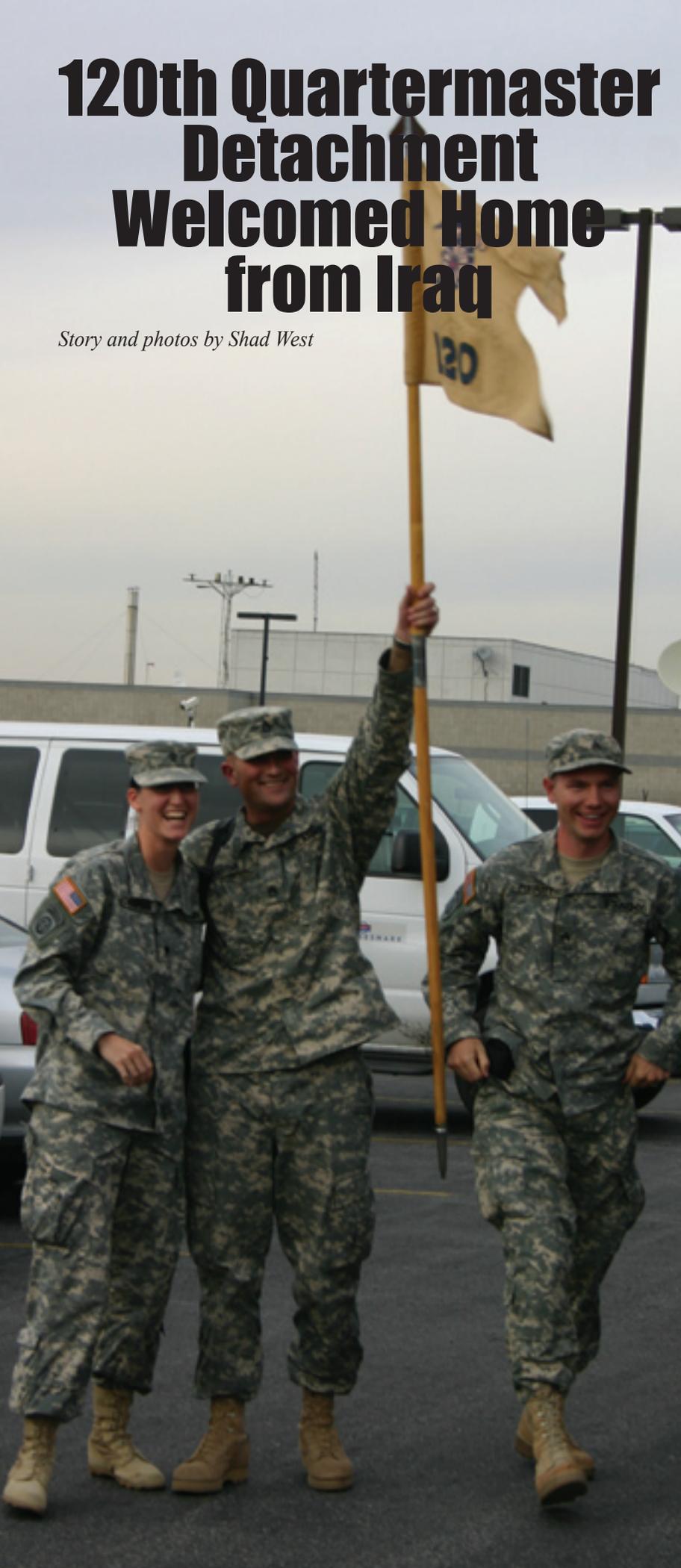
I was very saddened to hear of the death of 2LT Scott Lundell upon my return from Afghanistan. What a great Soldier and leader! Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lundell family.

I have had the opportunity to be a member of the Utah National Guard for the past 36 years. It has been a great opportunity for me to serve in this position, and I have friends and memories that I will always cherish. There comes a time in one's career when it is time to take off the boots and let another Soldier have the opportunity to serve as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Adjutant General. My time has come to retire and I will leave this position later in the year.

Thanks for all you do and thanks for the sacrifices that you and your families make on a daily basis. Keep up the good work and continue to excel in all you do. Your service is appreciated. 🇺🇸

# 120th Quartermaster Detachment Welcomed Home from Iraq

Story and photos by Shad West



SALT LAKE CITY — **D**uring their homecoming Nov. 2 at the Salt Lake Air Base, emotions were as pure as the water the Springville-based 120th Quartermaster Detachment treated in Iraq.

More than a dozen Soldiers were greeted by family and friends at the Base after a 15-month deployment in Southern Iraq. Tears and cheers erupted from the crowd of well-wishers as the bus arrived from Salt Lake International Airport and Soldiers disembarked en masse.

SGT Krystal Wilson, an Eagle Mountain resident, was greeted by her husband and other family members. For Wilson, the past 15 months were full of unique challenges. This was her first deployment to Iraq.

“It feels great to be home,” Wilson said. “It was tough being the only married woman in the unit. I was the only one with a husband at home instead of a wife. It meant less fresh-baked cookies, I guess.”

Emily Porritt, wife of SGT Joseph Porritt, Provo, couldn’t contain herself as he got off the bus.

“It was very exciting to see him finally come off that bus,” Porritt said. “I didn’t have anything else on my mind that day. I couldn’t believe he was finally coming home.”

Porritt said thoughts and questions just swirled in her mind all day.

“Is this really happening?” she said. “I went the whole time without seeing him (meaning that he didn’t come home on leave during the deployment). I’m grateful he was willing to go when he was called up; he didn’t complain. I’m very proud of him.”

For SGT Porritt, the homecoming was unforgettable.

“I was just picturing the whole time what it was going to be like to see Emily again,” Porritt said. “I was a little nervous and really excited. I couldn’t believe how many people were waiting for us. It was really great support.”

While deployed to Iraq, the majority of Soldiers of the 120th were stationed at a convoy support center. Their primary mission was to purify water for the camp and all its needs.

The 120th produced water for up to 1,500 military members and civilians for showers, brushing teeth, the Troop Medical Clinic, the

dining facility and the fire department. The source of water was a nearby canal that the U.S. military shared with local farmers. Soldiers purified the water using Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units, or ROWPUs.

According to Lehi resident SFC Carlyle Smith, commander of the 120th, his Soldiers took over for a unit that was producing at 45 percent capacity, and within two months they had increased output to more than 90 percent capacity, purifying an average of more than 70,000 gallons of water per day.

While a pair of teams provided for the water needs of the camp, another team from the 120th supported the Class I, or food and water, needs of convoys which constantly rolled in and out of camp. Their duties included supplying Soldiers and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) with their daily rations, and making sure convoys had the ice and water necessary to complete their mission.

The unit also strengthened relations with foreign workers by handing out MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and bottled water to them. TCNs came from all over the world including Pakistan, India, Fiji, Ukraine, Bosnia, the Philippines and many Middle Eastern countries.

Another important duty fulfilled by members of the 120th was convoy security. Of the five Soldiers dedicated exclusively to this mission, three became convoy commanders, supervising caravans of trucks and other vehicles traveling the entire length of the country from Turkey to Kuwait. All told, the team participated in more than 560 convoy missions during their time in Iraq.

“My guys are the best in the military,” said Smith. “They made it happen, and the NCOs made sure the equipment kept running at capacity the whole time. I couldn’t ask for a better bunch of Soldiers.”

And Soldiers weren’t the only ones who were stretched by their tour in Iraq; family members left behind say the deployment changed them as well.

“The whole experience has made me a lot stronger,” Emily Porritt said. “I was able to do things I didn’t think I could.”

*Enthusiastic family members greet members of the 120th Quartermaster Detachment at the Salt Lake Air Base.*



# Members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing Have a Turkey Christmas



*A Utah National Guard KC-135R prepares to depart Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for another refueling mission in December 2006.*

*By Shad West*

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**embers of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing—who have steadily trickled home since the New Year from a month-long deployment to Turkey—may have missed the holidays but not the importance of their mission.

Their KC-135R Stratotanker refuelers acted as mobile gas stations in the sky for aircraft deploying into and out of the Middle East. The aircrafts' mission was to give up their fuel to other aircraft referred to as receiver aircraft so that these aircraft could then carry out the mission of air supremacy and ground support for troops in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

Based at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, the Wing typically flew sorties over the Black and Mediterranean Seas where they supported aircraft flying in and out of bases in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Turkey is ideal because it is centrally located for both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom," Lt. Col. Kurt Davis said. "It is a great strategic location and the weather is good. Incirlik has been a well-established air base since the Korean War."

Davis was the 90th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron director of operations during the deployment.

## **Saving lives on the ground**

Air refueling has become a top priority for the Air Force. It cuts down on the amount of time an aircraft sits on an air field, allowing more flights in and out. Ground crews can concentrate on loading and unloading cargo, which can be done quickly without having to worry about refueling the planes.

"They don't have to sit on the ground for very long," Davis said. "Twenty or thirty minutes is the longest they need because they know they can get fuel in the air."

Air refueling also cuts down on the number of ground tar-

gets for insurgents. Not only does it eliminate a sitting aircraft as a target, but also the storage containers, trucks and personnel associated with ground refueling.

"Specifically, what [air refueling] does is eliminate the need to convoy fuel into these bases," said Lt. Col. Ron Blunck, 90th Expeditionary Air Refueling Maintenance Squadron commander. "It eliminates the risk that is associated with ground convoys."



*MG Brian Tarbet, right, is greeted at Incirlik by COL Murrell Stinnette, commander of the 39th Air Base Wing.*

*Photos courtesy of the 151st Air Refueling Wing*



*MG Brian Tarbet and Brig. Gen. Brent Winget, center, with members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing during their visit to Incirlik.*

### **Boomers at the controls**

Utah Air Guardsmen typically fueled C-17 and C-5 aircraft originating from European air bases. Support missions for both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom mostly originate from air bases in Germany and the United Kingdom. Ramstein Air Base and RAF Mildenhall have become giant staging depots for supplies needed by troops on the ground in both areas of operation.

In a little more than 30 days, the 151st flew 84 sorties and offloaded more than 4 million pounds of fuel. That's more than 700,000 gallons. Their sorties were receiver driven, meaning there had to be a request by another aircraft for fuel. Business was booming for the Utah-based unit.

"Most days we would get six to 10 missions scheduled," Davis said, "but with only four aircraft there was no way we could handle that many."

Operations on the ground and in the air can be fluid, and the tanker crews have to be flexible. Davis said they were the sole refueling unit flying out of Turkey in December. Operations both in the sky and on the ground were around the clock, depending on the flight schedules of the receiver aircraft.

"It all comes down to timing," Davis said.

Flying out of Incirlik, tankers would position themselves over the Black Sea for flights in and out of Afghanistan and Iraq, or over the Mediterranean Sea for aircraft flying in and out of other areas of responsibility. During a typical sortie, boom operators or 'boomers' would offload about 95,000 pounds of fuel.

"You could sit there a long time if you weren't offloading a lot of gas," Davis said.

When a receiver would pull up into position behind the KC-135, the boomers, who are enlisted flight crew members, would get to work. The 151st sent 16 of their boomers with the six flight crews on the deployment.

Boomers actually fly the boom into position and place it into the receiver aircraft's tank. Then another crew member turns on the pump and the fuel is transferred from the tanker's fuel tank into the other aircraft's tank. It's a challenging but rewarding job for those lucky enough to be called a Boomer.

"It is a very rewarding job," CMSgt. Doug Cline said. "Every situation is different. Our job can be difficult depending on the weather."

High winds, bad lighting and night operations add to the challenge. For the most part, Cline said they were paired up with C-17 or C-5 receivers.

"They really don't need our gas flying downrange," Cline said. "But they really don't like the idea of refueling down range. Flying the commodities downrange means there is one less convoy. If one air refueling mission saves one guy on the ground, then it is worthwhile."

### **Maintainers gear up before and perform during deployment**

The 151st Air Refueling Wing knew they would be "in the bucket" for this deployment almost two years ago. In the fall of 2005 the Wing received the first of eight 'new' KC-135R aircraft. In fact, their new aircraft were actually more than 40 years old. Maintenance crews knew they had their work cut out for them. Crews spent nearly a year upgrading the aircraft and preparing them for deployments just like the one to Turkey.

"These aircraft were in terrible shape when we got them from the Active-duty side," Blunck said. "We had been in conversion when this tasking came down. I knew we wouldn't have any trouble filling this tasking; our maintainers had worked too hard."

For every hour a flight crew spends in the air, there are maintainers performing at least 10 hours of inspections, repairs and routine maintenance on the aircraft. While deployed in Turkey,



*Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynn, second from left, receives a briefing from members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing.*

ground crews worked 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day.

Blunck said while deployed, ground crews only had to worry about the routine kind of stuff.

“The airplanes held up really well,” Blunck said. “We initially took only four of them, but six were involved when we swapped two at mid tour. We were 100 percent committed, and I’m ecstatic and extremely proud of our Airmen.”

### Downtime

It wasn’t all work and no play for members of the 151st while deployed in Turkey. There were days when the unit was lightly tasked. And for some, the holidays were even shared with family. Deploying with the 151st was a husband and wife, four fathers and sons and several brothers.

Blunck was able to spend the holiday with his son, who is also an Air Guardsman. “It was actually a memorable Christmas for us,” Blunck said. “It was somewhat unique to spend the day with him and not the whole family.”

On New Year’s Eve the Wing enjoyed barbecue ribs from Tony Roma’s. The restaurant gave the ribs to the unit at cost and threw in the sauce for free. The ribs were flown over during a mid-tour swap.

### Distinguished visitors

During the deployment, Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynn and Air Mobility Commander, Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, paid a visit to Incirlik Air Base and met with several Utah Airmen. McNabb had lunch with Airmen and answered their questions one on one.

The 151st also refueled both aircraft that incoming Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and outgoing Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld were on. It was a unique piece of trivia not lost on the Airmen.

“It was neat to hear the pilots say the Secretary of Defense is on the plane you are refueling,” Cline said. “It’s also pretty funny to hear that he is busy taking pictures of the process with his digital camera.” 📷



*Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynn shares a laugh with 151st Air Crew members at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.*

# 2006 Hamilton Award Winner: A Btry, 2-222 FA

*By LTC Richard Miller*

SALT LAKE CITY — **A** Battery, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery of Richfield, Utah, Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG), part of I Corps Artillery, has won the Hamilton Award for the best ARNG Field Artillery Battery for 2006. The Battery was deployed to Iraq from July 2005 to June 2006. CPT Shawn M. Fuellenbach commands the Battery with NCO leader 1SG Michael M. Miller.

Named for Alexander Hamilton, a Revolutionary War Artilleryman and American statesman, the Hamilton Award was established in 2002. It annually recognizes a high-performing ARNG battery based on specific criteria and a narrative.

The Battery deployed to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2005. Ar Ramadi is the capital of the volatile Al Anbar province located in the seething heart of the Sunni insurgency.

There were three primary missions during the Battery’s deployment: Manning three observation points (OPs) along three main and alternate supply routes, providing counter-fire and direct support fires for the 2-28th Brigade Combat Team and conducting base defense for Camp Ramadi.

The Battery deployed to Iraq with 104 Soldiers. Of those Soldiers, 54 received combat action badges, and seven Soldiers received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during combat operations. The Battery redeployed all Soldiers and suffered no accidental or combat deaths during the deployment.

During the Battery’s nonstandard OP and patrol mission, they manned three OPs in the 2-28th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) area of operations (AO). The Battery conducted 110 combat patrols and drove more than 88,000 kilometers (54,600 miles) during a three and one-half month period in the late summer and fall of 2005. There were 12 improvised explosive device (IED) attacks and one land mine attack on the patrols. Three IEDs and a land mine also were found during the patrols.

During this time, supply routes remained open and were traveled by Coalition forces, Iraqi forces and Iraqi civilians with minimal interruption.

The Battery then transitioned back to its “roots” in November 2005. The Battery was assigned the artillery mission

for the 2-28th BCT. The Battery was split into two platoons and located on two forward operating bases. This allowed the Battery to range the entire brigade AO.

During a three and one-half month period, the Battery processed 236 fire missions and fired 1,464 rounds in support of combat operations. Several mortar teams were destroyed, and more than 15 insurgents were confirmed killed in action from the Battery's fires.

The accuracy of artillery fires improved during this period. Special emphasis was placed on meeting the five requirements for accurate, predicted fires. The Battery calibrated all powder lots, and crews constantly practiced drills to improve the consistency and timing of the fires.

The efforts paid off. The accuracy of fires improved, and maneuver units began using more artillery while they were in contact with the enemy. Among other missions, they used artillery fires to destroy enemy sniper positions or

fix the enemy and keep Coalition forces out of harm's way.

For the last three months of the Battery's time in Ar Ramadi, the unit transitioned to base defense for Camp Ramadi. This included manning the entry control points (ECPs) into Camp Ramadi and towers located along the perimeter. The unit also oversaw the reconstruction of the main ECP. During this time, enemy combatants did not breach the camp's perimeter.

While deployed, 33 members of the Battery reenlisted in the National Guard. The unit had only 12 percent attrition after coming off stop-loss. All but 12 eligible members of the Battery took advantage of the large tax-free bonuses available, and reenlisted.

The Battery redeployed to Camp Shelby, Miss., in June 2006, arriving in Utah on June 22. The Battery redeployed with no accidents and no loss of any sensitive items. The Battery currently is reconstituting and resetting in preparation for the next mission the Army assigns it. 



Photo by MAJ Sterling McMurrin

Members of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery.

# 144th Area Support Medical Company Returns from Iraq on Veterans Day

By Shad West

Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

SALT LAKE CITY — While communities across the state honored Veterans Day with celebrations, concerts and parades on Nov. 11, Soldiers of the Springville-based 144th Area Support Medical Company arrived at the Salt Lake Air Base where Governor Jon Huntsman and hundreds of family and friends eagerly awaited with American flags, yellow roses and welcome-home signs.

It was the ideal Veterans Day celebration for the Utah County Guard members and their families and a stark contrast to their Veterans Day last year. Just a year ago, they landed in Kuwait en route to Tallil, Iraq. There they were greeted by vast desert sands and the knowledge that those sands would be their home for the next year.

The 80 medical technicians, doctors and support personnel were comforted in knowing that their collective 350 years of training would get them through their tour of duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Many family members waited hours in a nearby aircraft hangar that Saturday morning for the contract airliner to arrive. When the Miami Air jet landed it was escorted to the tarmac by security and support vehicles with lights and sirens blaring, passing through streams of water launched by the Air Base fire department in a show of respect.

Dark, overcast and rainy skies were outshined by the cheers, warm smiles and anxious looks of well-wishers waiting to embrace their loved ones—their Veterans.

For 10-year-old Kellie Leavitt, her father, SGT Jeffrey Leavitt, like the rest of the 144th, was deployed for the past 15 months and it seemed an eternity.

“I’m very excited and I’m very happy to have my dad

home,” Leavitt said. “It was too long. It felt pretty long, but it wasn’t as long as it could have been.”

Leavitt, like many children of military members serving overseas, is maybe a little too mature for her age. She understands the importance of family and community support for military families while their mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers are deployed.

“We spent a lot of time with our grandparents and other family,” she said. “Our church helped us with our yard, and others would make us cookies and other things. It was really nice.”

Tiffany Stefl was extremely proud of her husband, CPT David Stefl, and his mission in Iraq.

“We were proud to have him there,” Stefl said. “But there is nothing like having him home and being a family again.”

Stefl who has traveled abroad herself said their family’s sacrifice was well worth the 15-month investment.

“I’ve seen what it is like to be in a third-world country without a government,” Stefl said. “I’m very proud to have him go and help better their standards of living. It’s a good sacrifice, but it really isn’t a sacrifice to have him help other people better their lives.”

SFC Jason Talcott said the deployment and subsequent homecoming helped him see things in a completely different way.

“It was awesome to see everyone there,” Talcott said. “As a Soldier it is one of the most awesome experiences to have. That feeling is one of the reasons we do what we do. You can feel that support.”

*The Air Base fire department pays tribute to the arriving Soldiers of the 144th as the aircraft approaches the hangar.*





Seeing his children again, Talcott said he felt a physical and emotional change.

“I was happy, really happy to see my kids again,” Talcott said. “When I saw them I knew the stress was gone. The petty nuances of life melt away. It gives you a new perspective on life.”

This was the second deployment to Iraq for SGT Donald Ferguson. Just a couple of years ago he deployed with the 1457th in a combat role. He said this deployment was better for both him and his family.

“The first night in Iraq I had a tent,” Ferguson said. “Everything was already set up for us. The living conditions were a lot better for us. We even had the Internet in our rooms. I think my family was comforted with the knowledge that this mission wasn’t [as much of] a combat role. They worried a lot less than last time.”

For Ferguson the mission of the 144th tested his abilities in a new and rewarding way.

“As far as the mission, it was a whole different ballgame,” Ferguson said. “This time it was a lot more thinking work. It really stretched me and my abilities.”

For Ferguson, coming home to his family a second time was just as special as the first one.

“It was great. There really is no way to describe that feeling,” Ferguson said. “To wake up at home is the best feeling in the world.”

The 144th spent most of their time providing on-site

*Family members with American flags, welcome-home signs and flowers have a joyous reunion with Soldiers from the 144th ASMC at the Salt Lake Air Base on Veterans Day.*

emergency care. They operated a medical clinic and provided ambulance services to Coalition forces and Iraqi nationals in southern Iraq.

Guard members will take about two weeks off to adjust to life on the home front before returning to work. And every one agrees that that is a great idea.

“We haven’t thought past the next two weeks,” said Tiffany Stefl. 🇺🇸

# Marriage and Relationship Enhancement

*Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy*

**T**he Utah National Guard offers the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) for Services members and their families to provide the tools to enhance marriages and help lower risks and raise protection for marriages.

PREP is marriage and relationship education presented by members of the Utah National Guard Unit Ministry Teams, including chaplains, chaplain candidates, chaplain assistants and sometimes spouses. All have been trained to lead PREP.

During the seminar couples who attend are given a book, *Fighting For Your Marriage*, and the PREP couple's workbook, both of which were authored by PREP developers. Couples are encouraged to participate fully in the program and activities in order to get as much as possible out of the information presented. Even if you are not having problems, all marriages can be more enriched!

Just as a skilled mechanic loads his toolbox with the tools he needs to do his best work, PREP provides the tools needed to enhance marriages to be their best.

"The first time we came we didn't have the mindset to use the tools we were taught this time we plan to utilize them," said SSG William Reyes, C Co., 141st MI.

PREP is research-based approach that has been enhancing relationships for over 20 years. This educational program identifies risk factors and teaches filters or keys to help prevent serious problems.

"No matter where you are in your marriage I think every marriage could use improvement," said Heidi Dimond, wife of 1SG Derek Dimond, B Co., 1457th Engineer Battalion.

PREP teaches a speaker-listener technique that helps understanding of deeper issues. All marriages deal with issues, events and problems, and developing the tools to deal with these through the speaker-listener technique opens dialogue that provides a way to communicate safely on tough topics.

Often in the flow of an argument, key issues or hidden issues get lost when they are not addressed openly. Through fun, interactive activities, participants are coached as they role-play privately with their spouses. Once taught a new tool, it is put into practice to help participants become comfortable implementing it to enhance their relationship.

The Utah National Guard is dedicated to strengthening Guard members, their spouses and families. Over the past two years more than 16 seminars have been offered, helping to educate and train Soldiers and Airmen to enhance and maintain a healthy marriage.

Chaplains plan to offer more seminars as money becomes available. On the current schedule they will try to offer them at least quarterly this year.

"We'll hold them as often as unit commanders want. We hold them for units coming back from Iraq and for units before they deploy. We try to get two to three hours of training in." Chaplain (COL) Lynn Humphreys explained, "Commanders can contact chaplains at State Headquarters when they would like an event scheduled."

Couples can come, relax, and enjoy the seminar and time together. Two nights of lodging are provided at no cost (up front or otherwise) to couples who attend. Mileage from your home to the event is reimbursed and spouses' food is reimbursed. 🍽️

*Couples participate in workshops offered during the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program held at the Salt Lake Hilton Hotel in February.*



SALT LAKE CITY — LTC James A. Brown relinquished command of Recruiting and Retention Battalion (Recruiting) to MAJ Mark D. Drown Feb. 1. Recruiting continues to provide quality personnel to achieve Utah's strength-maintenance goals. We recruit quality personnel, assist units to retain 85 percent of End of Term of Service-eligible personnel and assist units with attrition management.

Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) has established a motivational training environment to prepare new enlistees mentally, physically and administratively for success throughout initial active-duty training (IADT). Currently there are over 500 Soldiers in RSP, and our success rate at Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training has improved to over 90 percent.

Four training companies have been established in key locations throughout the state. The senior cadre at these locations are SFC Ray Sanchez, Brigham City; SFC Brent Portwood, Camp Williams; SFC Dorian Williamson, Spanish Fork; and SFC Bryan Smethurst, St. George. Utilizing these training companies has improved retention of new recruits and helped maintain a high-ship success rate for the number of Soldiers who have gone through the program successfully.

Recruiting and Retention Battalion received the Director's Strength Maintenance Focus Award for the lowest training pipeline loss rate at the National Guard Bureau's 2006 Strength Maintenance Conference.

The RSP provides a safe training environment that focuses efforts toward successful completion of IADT. We provide a forum for passing information pertaining to Soldier skills and experiences in Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Training will be realistic and disciplined to improve each Soldier's readiness and ability to excel in their IADT. Administrative tasks, physical training and common Soldier skills will be executed.

Upon completion of IADT, Soldiers complete administrative tasks ensuring eligibility of all incentives in their contract. A battle-handoff ceremony passes the newly qualified Soldier to the unit representative in a professional and positive manner. 

# Director's Strength Maintenance Focus Award to Recruiting

By MAJ Coy Bryant



TOP: New recruits stand in formations as part of the Recruit Sustainment Program. BELOW: Recruits work on requirements needed to complete Basic Training; The Strength Maintenance Focus Award presented to Recruiting and Retention Battalion.



Photos courtesy of Recruiting and Retention Battalion

# Utah National Guard Soldier Dies in Action in Afghanistan

By Shad West

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah — Utah National Guard Soldier, 2LT Scott B. Lundell, 35, was buried at the Benjamin City Cemetery with full military honors Dec. 2 after services were held at a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in West Valley City.

Nearly 600 people attended the funeral to say goodbye and to pay their last respects to the Utah National Guard Special Forces and Artillery Soldier. His sacrifice was a sorrowful reminder of the inevitable costs of war.

The services were also a chance for the community to show its gratitude. Many of those who turned out for the memorial had never even met Lundell, yet they felt it was important that his family realize they weren't alone.

Lundell leaves behind his wife and children. He and his wife first dated while attending Granger High School, and they married in 1993 after Lundell returned from serving a mission for the LDS Church in the Philippines. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Utah.

"He did not die doing what he loved—he died doing what he was passionate about," said Clint Lamb, Lundell's brother-in-law. "He knew without a doubt this is what he wanted to do. It was not easy for him to do—to leave his wife and children."

That passion, family members said, stirred in Lundell ever since the terrorist attacks of 9-11. It took three years for Lundell to wrestle with the idea of joining the military. He struggled with what that choice would mean to his family. After discussing the career move with his wife, Lundell enlisted in the Utah National Guard in 2004 with the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Relishing in his new career, Lundell quickly rose through the ranks. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 2005 and Engineer Officer Basic Course in 2006. Upon his return from training he volunteered for duty in Afghanistan and transferred to I Corps Artillery.

2LT Chad Pledger, who served with Lundell overseas, spoke "with a humble and wounded heart" and described the man he had come to know in just a few short months.

"When I first met Scott, I could see the fire that burned inside him. His motto was 'practice makes perfect,'" said Pledger. "Not many people could keep up with his pace.



Photo courtesy of I Corps Artillery

*2LT Scott Lundell served with I Corps Artillery in Afghanistan as a trainer for the Afghan National Army.*

His standards were always high. Scott will always be remembered as a warrior on the battlefield."

"Scott was tremendous; he was a leader of men. He is a perfect example of selfless service. Above all, he was a dedicated husband and father," Pledger added.

Another fellow Soldier, 1LT Tyler Jensen, recalled the circumstances and the depth of character that led Lundell to pay the ultimate price to save others.

"The day he was killed, he was leading a group of more than 100 Afghans," Jensen said. "It was his first firefight and it lasted more than four hours. Scott was only concerned with getting his men back home safely. That was the type of man Scott was."

Jensen said that he and Lundell would often go on training hikes together, which allowed them to get better acquainted.

"Scott would say that the best way to tell a man's character is to throw an 80-pound rucksack on his back and run with it. It was during those long marches that I got to know him. He was a fearless and courageous leader," said Jensen.

“Within the four short months that he served in Afghanistan, Scott was loved by the Soldiers he served with,” Jensen concluded. “He was respected by both American and Coalition Soldiers. They loved Scott and many looked up to him. Scott gave everything so we could be free.”

Against the advice of family and friends, Lundell’s wife Jeanine also spoke at the funeral and recounted their life together, his decision to join the military and the faith they shared.

“He didn’t have to go; he chose to go,” said Jeanine. “He felt very strongly about what he signed up to do in the United States Army. He was determined to do it. It was an opportunity for him to share the gospel with many people.”

“Together, we had an incredible relationship on this earth,” she said. “And the glory of it all is the happily ever after. I will miss him more than words can express.”

She knew they would be together again. 🇺🇸

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Scott Lundell



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

PHOTOS TOP LEFT DOWN: 2LT Scott B. Lundell deployed with I Corps Artillery to Afghanistan in June 2006; The Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard fires ceremonial volleys in tribute to 2nd Lt. Lundell; The Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard prepares to fold the flag to present to Lundell’s family; Honor Guard standing at parade rest in tribute to 2LT Scott B. Lundell at the Benjamin cemetery; West Valley City Police escort the funeral cortege from the chapel in West Valley to the Benjamin cemetery; MG Brian Tarbet presents the flag to Jeanine Lundell, wife of 2LT Scott Lundell; Members of the American Legion pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of 2LT Scott Lundell.

# Two Units Deploy to Middle East

## Transportation Experts Serve in Kyrgyzstan

By SrA Ben Evans

SALT LAKE CITY—Members of the 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed to Manas Air Base near Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in August to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

The six Utah Airmen rounded out a team of Guard members from Oklahoma and West Virginia whose mission was to provide base transportation and move cargo for Air Crews during their six-month tour.

Before deploying, MSgt. Jerry Turner, superintendent of transportation at the air base, said the mission's success depended on troop morale.

"The mission will be accomplished through working with people and taking care of their needs," Turner said. "If their needs are met, they will meet the needs of the mission."

This deployment marked the longest since four members of the unit deployed to Diego Garcia for four months in 2004. It is also the largest deployment for the motor pool staff in recent history. More than half of the staff deployed, including the only technician.

Airmen were excited for the opportunity to deploy.

"This is what it is all about," said TSgt. Honorio Cordero, who leaves behind a wife and nine-month-old baby. "This is what we train for and why we drill. Now it's here. Things like this give us an appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy in this country." 

## Firefighters to Train then Head to Iraq

By SSgt. Christiana Eliason

SALT LAKE CITY—On Aug. 25 nine firefighters from the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron began a journey to Iraq.

The men, all volunteers, are part of a team that will respond to emergencies involving United States military personnel in areas "outside the wire," said CMSgt. Larry Hall, fire chief for the 151st CES.

First, he said, they were at Camp Shelby, Miss., for 30 days of combat survival training. The team will next transition to Kuwait, where they will spend another month training for their mission.

After two-months of additional training they proceeded into the theater of operations and began their 120-day tour of duty.

"They are all volunteers," said Hall. "They volunteered for the training as well as the deployment. For four of them it's their second tour in the last two years."

The men represent a cross-section of the civilian world ranging from students to L3 employees. Six are married. Two of which had children born a few days before leaving, and three are single. And all but one are on their first enlistment with the Utah Air National Guard.

"(They are) good guys. Just good kids," said Hall. "We're proud to have them on board."

The men are expected back in February. 

## 109th Bears Comfort Children



Photo courtesy of 109th ACS

By SrA Andrew Howells

Members of the 109th Air Control Squadron has taken the core value of "Service before Self" to heart.

Airmen in the Air National Guard unit recently participated in several service projects that have impacted communities in the Salt Lake Valley. Airmen collected more than 100 stuffed animals and donated them to the West Jordan Police Department.

For years, police officers have used the bears to help children through stressful situations. The bears act as a friend that the children can hold onto and act as a support during the healing process.

"It is always helpful for us to have the stuffed animals in times of crisis," said Capt. Gary Cox, spokesman for the West Jordan Police Department. "They help relieve feelings of disaster these children may experience."

The idea to collect stuffed animals for the program came about after MSgt. Pamela Hamburg saw the program highlighted on a nightly newscast.

"It just looked like such a great idea, I knew we could help out," Hamburg said.

Other members of the unit made quilts and donated them to local hospitals.

And for the third time, Hamburg cut and donated her hair to "Locks of Love." The foundation uses hair to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy.

Hamburg said she plans on continuing with this tradition as long as her hair keeps growing at the rate it has. 

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# HQ, 115th Engineer Bn Returns from Iraq

By Shad West

*Home!*

SALT LAKE CITY — After a 14-month deployment, the Draper-based Headquarters, 115th Engineer Battalion, returned to Utah Dec. 2. All 40 Soldiers returned without serious injury, much to the relief of waiting family and friends at the Salt Lake Air Base.

The unit deployed in October 2005 with the latest training techniques and equipment to battle the number-one killer of Coalition, U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians. Personnel of the 115th Engineers are experts in improvised explosive device (IED) awareness and avoidance and in the use of mine detection equipment.

An IED is characterized as a low-technology exploding mine, “homemade” from explosives designed for other purposes. In Iraq, IEDs have been hidden in or beside roadways and set off using a variety of trigger mechanisms.

The unit’s main mission was to train Coalition personnel and provide equipment for IED detection and response.

“This unit helped Allied forces to track ordnance and deploy the latest tactics in finding roadside bombs,” 115th Engineer Group commander Col. Don Summit said, “They were responsible for training people on how to find IEDs using Buffalos and Huskies. These tools are used to find and defeat IEDs.”

The most common IED is an artillery shell which has been wired with a remote triggering device, such as a cell phone or garage-door opener. When a Coalition vehicle nears it, a spotter, working from a distance, detonates it. Though considered low-technology, these devices can be very high-powered.

Members of the 115th deployed in satellite teams to every region of Iraq to ensure Soldiers and Marines already deployed in the war-torn country had the latest in detection techniques.

“Our mission was important,” 1LT Lyle Black said. “It was to help the other forces better counteract the IED threat in theater. We had satellite teams stationed in the three regions of the country. Our job was to help fight the IED threat.”

Black stressed that nobody in Iraq is safe from insurgents’ primary weapon of choice.

“It’s important to realize that this threat isn’t just targeting military,” Black said. “They are also being used to kill Iraqi civilians.”

The struggle in Iraq is closely associated with IEDs. These devices come in all shapes and sizes which range from soda bottles to vehicles laden with explosives driven by insurgents determined to kill themselves and take Coalition troops, Iraqi Security Forces or innocent civilians with them.

Coalition efforts to decrease the threat of IED devices are monumental. Special equipment and techniques have been developed and employed to locate and defuse them before they can harm intended targets.

The 115th also trained Coalition forces coming into the country to detect and properly react to IEDs. This training was conducted for troops entering the theater through Kuwait. Officials say the training is saving Soldiers’ lives. Each time an IED is detected prior to detonation and Soldiers react properly to clear and secure the area around the device, they are keeping themselves and civilians safe.

The training teaches Soldiers about the dangers of the different types of IEDs, how they are hidden, how to detect them and how to adjust their own actions to be less vulnerable to IED attacks.

Coalition forces recognized the efforts of the 115th and appreciated the units efforts while in Kuwait and Iraq.

“It was neat to have others who received training come and give their thanks,” Said COL John Moore, commander of HQ, 115th. “They were impressed by the dedication and professionalism of our Soldiers. I’m convinced that our guys have done an outstanding job and added to the reputation of Utah Guardsmen.

Moore said the importance of their mission wasn’t lost on the Utah Guardsmen.

“IEDs are the number-one [threat to] our Soldiers,” Moore said. “Training Soldiers on the detection techniques and equipment is hugely rewarding for our Soldiers. It has a direct impact on their safety.”

Family members were proud of their Soldiers’ accomplishments in Iraq but were relieved to have their loved ones home after more than a year.

For Terra Ewell, having her husband SFC Gordon Ewell return, wrapped up a 14-month emotional rollercoaster ride.

“I think the day he left was surreal,” Ewell said. “It was almost like he was leaving for work. The deployment didn’t hit and sink in right way. We have been looking forward to today for a long time. There was a lot of anticipation leading up to today.”

Terra said she was proud of her husband’s service but isn’t looking forward to another deployment anytime soon.

“I would miss him and wouldn’t want him





Photos by MSgt. Burke Baker

*115th Soldiers are welcomed home by family and friends Dec. 2, after 14-month deployment to Iraq.*

to go,” she said. “But I’m very proud of his service and would support him.”

Eva Black said sending her husband back to Iraq after a two-week furlough in July was easier than when he initially left.

“At first there was a very emotional feeling of the unknown and fear,” Black said. “It was hard to send him back after the two-week visit, but what made it a little easier was knowing where he was going. There wasn’t that fear of the unknown.”

For Lyle Black, coming home to family and friends at the Air Base set a tone for what the future holds.

“I’ve heard a couple people describe coming home as surreal,” he said. “It is a little surreal. There is a little trepidation as to how long it will take to put the past in the past. It was a good way to put a period at the end of sentence. Having this experience helps kind of kick off the future on the right note.”

In a time where many units don’t have the luxury of having all their Soldiers return from Iraq, Summit said the Engineers were very fortunate.

“I’m just very proud of them,” Summit said. “Having them all come home to their families is a wonderful thing.” 🇺🇸

# Utah Air National Guard Provides Support Mission for Super Bowl

By Jed Boal, reprinted courtesy of ksl.com

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah Air National Guard performed an important support mission for the Super Bowl. They didn't handle the coin toss, transport teams or even secure the stadium. But, they made sure some key performers arrived in Miami.

You may know the US Air Force's elite demonstration squad known as the "Thunderbirds." They fly in death-defying formations at air shows. We sent a crew up with the Utah Air National Guard as they pumped up the Thunderbirds for the Super Bowl.

Their thunder is deafening. As the National Anthem concluded, right before the kickoff of Super Bowl XLI, the US Air Force Thunderbirds roared over Dolphin Stadium. Flying only 500 feet above the crowd, the six red, white and blue F-16 fighter jets flew by at 450 miles per hour.

But their fuel tanks don't hold enough gas to make it from Las Vegas to Miami, so they got help from the 151st Air Refueling Wing of the Utah Air National Guard.

"I've refueled F-16's hundreds of times but never the Thunderbirds, so this is exciting," said Maj. Mark Pehrson, pilot, 151st Air Refueling Wing. "Once they plug in, it's just like driving down the freeway with the car next to you."

The Guard's KC-135R Stratotanker refueled the fighter jets in the air over Texas, roughly halfway from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to South Florida.

Pehrson continued, "We're going to give them about six thousand pounds of fuel each, and then they'll be on their way."

A second air tanker later refueled the jets over Florida. After a lot of preflight planning, the tankers keep a constant air speed as the fighter pilot moves in so the boom operator can refuel the aircraft.

MSgt. John Salazar, Boom Operator, 151st Air Refueling Wing: "We'll be coming from one way, they'll be coming from the other. (How fast will you be going?) 315 knots."

The Thunderbirds will have a busy schedule this year as they celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force. 🇺🇸



Photo by MSgt. Sterling Poulson

Photo by George Frey



Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos



Photo by MSgt. Sterling Poulson



Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

# Changing of the Guard for

# Highest-Ranking Air Commander

By Christie Dalley

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**lpine resident David M. Hooper was installed as the Assistant Adjutant General—Air commander of the Utah Air National Guard Jan. 6.

At the elaborate change-of-command ceremony Brig. Gen. Brent E. Winget, a 32-year veteran from Murray, officially relinquished his command to Hooper after he conferred on him the rank of Brigadier General.

Being the highest ranking officer in the Utah Air National Guard was not something Hooper ever thought he'd become.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would attain this rank,” he said. “It was a combination of being in the right place at the right time.” However, he does admit to being willing to step up to the challenges may have helped. “I guess I got a reputation of being willing to participate when it came to a deployment. I liked to take the challenge and do the job.”

He spent seven years on active duty in the United States Air Force where he became proficient flying the T-37, a jet trainer and C-130, a turbo-prop transport plane. When he retired from the Air Force he got a job with Northwest Airlines where he has been a pilot for more than 20 years.

Although he then moved to Northwest's home base in Minneapolis, Minn., he joined the Air National Guard in Cheyenne, Wyo.

“I joined up in Wyoming because the unit there flew the C-130,” he said. “I commuted to Wyoming each month for about a year.”

He then transferred with Northwest to Salt Lake and at the same time transferred into the Utah Air National Guard where he learned to fly the KC-135, an airborne



Photos by TSgt. Michael Evans

refueling aircraft. His last deployment was to the Mediterranean in 2002. He then became director of operations.

“We have sent small portions of our various squadrons to Iraq,” he said. “The way it works is when the Air Force has a requirement for someone qualified to do a specific job, the word goes out and those with the qualifications needed are asked if they are willing to go. Most of the assignments have been voluntary.”

He said they have pulled small numbers from some of the Utah Air National Guard units.

“For instance, we have sent a half dozen of our members who specialize in fighting fires on airplanes.”

While most of the Guard meets once a month to train, Aircrew members typically fly three to four times a month. “The crew, which consists of a pilot, co-pilot and boomer, need to keep proficient and ready to go at all times,” he said.

As the Assistant Adjutant General, Hooper will be an advocate to the governor for his organization. He will work with the Adjutant General of Utah, MG Brian Tarbet.

He said his most important duty will be to make sure his organization has the tools and people it needs to do the job.

“In today’s environment there is a great deal of pressure to decrease funding,” he said. “Most of our money comes from federal funding. Surprisingly, people think with the billions being spent on the war, we would have enough money, but most of that money is spent in Afghanistan and Iraq. I need to make sure we get our piece of the pie. I will also be concerned with keeping our people trained and proficient so they are ready to go to any theater of war.”

Story courtesy of The Provo Daily Herald

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN: *Brig. Gen. David Hooper has his shoulder insignia changed by his wife and father at the change-of-command ceremony Jan. 6; BG Patrick Wilson presents Brig. Gen. Hooper with the command flag signifying the change of command; BG Wilson stands with the incoming and outgoing Air commanders, Brig. Gen. Brent Winget and Brig. Gen. David Hooper.*

TOP DOWN: *Brig. Gen. Winget speaks to the assembled crowd for the last time as the Assistant Adjutant General--Air; Brig. Gen. Hooper addresses the audience as the new commander of the Utah Air National Guard.*



# Governor Huntsman Shares His Perspective on Utah Troops in the Middle East

By Shad West

Photos courtesy of Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr.

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., returned from a trip to Afghanistan in December. The state's chief executive, who is commander in chief of the Utah National Guard, is often referred to as a "hands-on" commander by his Airmen and Soldiers.

The year 2006 was a busy one for Huntsman. Between March and December he traveled to Iraq twice, visited Afghanistan, Kuwait and went to the U.S.-Mexico border with a specific purpose: To meet deployed Utah Service members and thank them in person for their service to our State and Nation.

Just two weeks after his State of the State address Jan 16, hosted by the Utah Air National Guard, Huntsman shared his perspective on the Utah National Guard's progress made in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

***What did you hope to accomplish with your trip to Afghanistan?***

To thank our troops. Many are there for the second and third time. I just wanted more than anything else to express the gratitude of the State and all of its citizens for all the work that is being done and has been accomplished by members of the Utah National Guard.

***Now that you have been to both Iraq and Afghanistan, what is your assessment of the media coverage of both countries?***

There isn't enough coverage of Afghanistan. There is much in the way of improvements being made in Afghanistan. It largely stems from a government that is largely functional. With a president in Hamid Karzai and a cabinet that is actually doing things as opposed to Iraq where you have a central breakdown in governance with Maliki. So there is a difference in the two of them in the sense that Afghanistan has a functioning government and is making progress in terms of nation building and capacity building and its commitment to democratic institutions. It isn't a country beset by sectarian conflict. You have the Taliban which is largely the result of the uncooperativeness of Pakistan. And they are there, but they won't be forever.

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***You attended the memorial service for 2LT Scott Lundell while visiting Afghanistan. Can you describe some of the emotions you felt?***

It was an extraordinary experience. It was the deepest emotionally I felt so far as governor. You can't help but have deep respect and admiration for our Armed Forces when you walk into a room that is standing at attention paying tribute to one of their fallen colleagues who happens to be a Utahn. It was an extraordinary experience sitting on that stage in front of literally hundreds of troops who were there to pay their respects to Lt. Lundell and then to have the opportunity to stand up and say something expressing our State's gratitude and thanks for all that they were doing—particularly to a family who sacrificed all; Scott's family, his wife and his loved ones. Our troops are going out and doing what I think is largely misunderstood by a lot of people in this country and that's fighting the War on Terror. There is not any place in the world that represents the front lines more so than Afghanistan in the War on Terror.



***LEFT: Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr., addresses troops at 2LT Scott Lundell's ceremony in Afghanistan.***

***RIGHT: Rifle detail which provided the 21-gun salute for 2LT Scott Lundell's memorial in Afghanistan.***

***What did you see in the faces of Lt. Lundell's fellow Service members while you were sitting there on stage?***

I saw the look of commitment. I saw the look of fatigue. I saw the look of a deep respect for a fallen comrade and a commitment to carry on despite what sometimes are difficult odds arrayed against them.

***President Karzai attended the memorial as well. What was his reaction to the service?***

His reaction was very warm. I explained to him what had happened a couple of days before I left for Afghanistan. I explained I would be carrying some personal items with me, and what did he want in terms of expression from the people of Afghanistan. He said he wanted to write a personal note to Jeanine Lundell. And he did along with a little gift. I hand-carried Scott's personal items as well as that note from President Karzai and gave them to Jeanine. I thought it spoke volumes as to the kind of person Karzai is. He takes personally every Soldier that is lost, because he knows exactly

the kind of mission and the purpose that is served there. He understands what it means to have the United States there as a stabilizing force in his country. And they would be in difficult straits if we weren't there. So he was very moved by the sacrifice and certainly let it be known by the expressions in his letter.

***You mentioned the recent surge of troops to Iraq under President Bush's plan. We already had to tell some Utah National Guard families that their loved ones would be staying in the region a little bit longer. Do you have a message for those Soldiers and their families?***

Yes. Thank you for your continuing sacrifice and sense of duty. Now it is incumbent upon the powers that be in our country to move as quickly as we can once Baghdad is secured and more Iraqi forces have been trained to move it more into the hands of the Iraqis. But they need trained forces in order to do that. We saw over the weekend what trained forces are able to do. (Coalition and Iraqi security forces killed terrorists and discovered multiple weapons caches throughout Iraq over the weekend of Feb. 3-4.) Again, a real vote of thanks to our troops and their families that support them for the extraordinary sacrifice that is being made. And my deep focus that we could couple this last surge, this last enhancement of military personnel, with a political solution that will somehow bring this to a sensible end.



***You have been a very "hands-on" commander in chief. You've visited troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and along the border in Arizona. You were also at Camp Williams when the Guard housed Katrina and Rita evacuees. Are you planning on any other trips to Utah National Guard Units serving overseas?***

You know I wasn't necessarily planning the other two (Iraq and Afghanistan) trips. The opportunities came around and I jumped at those opportunities because I want to—whenever possible—express a continuing sense of appreciation and gratitude of our State to those who are putting life before anything else. It's the ultimate sense of courage that is on display by our citizens, and I want to make sure they understand the deep gratitude we have as a people. And in return I want people in our State to understand the sacrifices made by those people in the field. I talk about it wherever I go. If there is another opportunity to go over at some point maybe later in the year, I'll always look favorably at doing that just to maintain this dialogue between our State and members of our Guard. But I hope by the end of the year we have political settlement that is worked out. We have not only a surge in terms of numbers that are helping to provide security for the peace, but a political solution that is being worked out as well that will ultimately put an end to the sectarian violence that we are seeing. The first thing that needs to happen, clearly is additional security and that's being addressed and the next part of that is a political solution of some kind. So, I hope by the next opportunity that I have which would be by the end of the year; we would be well into some sort of political solution. And if by having governors over there we can somehow help in driving home the importance of a political solution--as in we can't commit in an open-ended fashion our members of the National Guard, I'd be happy to be a part of that. 🇺🇸

LEFT: Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr. views damage to U.S. equipment and vehicles during his trip to the Middle East.

BELOW: Governor Huntsman with members of A/2-211 in Iraq.



# Candy Bomber Brings Joy From Above

By MAJ Peter Adams

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — **N**early eleven months ago Alpha Company, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (A Company) deployed the tip of their spear, after less than six-months of being established as a unit. A Company deployed as one of the least experienced yet highly motivated units ever to deploy from Utah. After several months of validation and train-up at Ft. Hood, Texas, A Company was eager to prove that regardless of the circumstances, the cream always rises to the top.

Although the majority of the unit looks as though they still live at home and draw an allowance from their parents, there are several key veterans who have all the “T-shirts” of past conflicts. These exceptional Soldiers have mentored, trained and demanded the full attention and cooperation of younger Soldiers. Their hard work has paid off.

Of all the clichés in the Army, being the “go-to” unit is perhaps the most overused and overinflated pat on the back that can be said about an organization. However, on this rare occasion, it is true! A Company has developed a reputation for being on time, reliable and safe. All these things are coveted on the battlefield.

In addition to their reliability and safety, their compassion further sets them apart from all other flying units in theater. When the unit flies complicated missions to retrieve teams that have been in the field for extended periods of time, they make it a point to fill coolers with sandwiches, cookies and cold drinks for exhausted Soldiers to enjoy. Knowing that a helicopter was inbound to transport them back to the security of their home base is joy enough; then to see a cooler full of treats makes even the most combat-weary Soldier smile.

Not only does A Company provide treats to the Soldiers they transport out of harms way, they also provide treats to the children of Baghdad in the way of “Candy Bombs”. No air-raid sirens are necessary for this bombing run! Members of A Company are only interested in bringing “Joy From Above” by dropping dozens of candy-filled tubes suspended by small parachutes.

Rarely does a unit of any experience level come together with the pride and sense of purpose as has A Company. There are no longer any rookies in this organization. From the youngest to the oldest, all of them are professionals of the highest caliber and competence. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of A Co., 2-211th AV

Candy Bomber; CW2 Lloyd Nelson, packaging the “bombs” and getting them ready to be dropped.

# Utah Guard Goes High Tech to Teach Students about Freedom

KEARNS, Utah — **C**onviction. Courage. Ambition. Freedom.

These are a few of the themes touted by a new presentation for young teens, which is finding its way into junior high and middle schools around the state.

Produced by Motivational Productions and provided through the Utah National Guard, the three-screen multimedia package entitled “Freedom Calls” is catching the attention of 12- to 14-year-olds as they face decisions about drugs, alcohol and fitting in.

On Feb. 13 at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School in Kearns, Utah National Guard Family Programs director CW2 Annette Barnes began a special assembly by thanking students and teachers for their attendance. Barnes also drew attention to students with a parent or family member in the military by asking them to stand.

“Military kids serve too, right alongside their folks,” Barnes told the crowd. “You rub shoulders with these heroes every day and perhaps didn’t even know what they’re going through.”

And to the students with military ties Barnes said, “You are not alone. Look around. You have a support network even in your own school.”

Presenter TSgt. Paul Dedrickson of the Utah National Guard’s Drug Demand Reduction program then explained the purpose of the presentation.

“We’re not here to recruit you,” said Dedrickson, drawing a chuckle from the students. “We are here to help you learn about freedom—for your country and for yourself.”

Students were then treated to a 45-minute high-tech video experience which emphasized freedom, both national and personal.

Video host Sonny Kelly explained that national freedom is what others have provided to all of us as citizens of our county. He also highlighted the role of the military and the National Guard in securing and safeguarding that freedom.

Then Kelly talked about the freedom that individuals provide for themselves through wise and careful choices, often in the face of peer pressure and challenging circumstances.

Punctuating these points in the presentation were the stories of Megan Hakeman and Ashley Tang.

Hakeman, from South Dakota, struggled in her early teens in the aftermath of a sexual assault and became addicted to inhalants through an activity called “huffing.”

With the support of friends and family—and through Hakeman’s own realization that she determines the outcome of her life—she got into a treatment program, straightened her life out and graduated from high school.

Ashley Tang, from Arizona, first lost her mother and then her father to cancer. An orphan at 14, Tang refused to leave her home to move in with relatives. Living alone and clinging to the memory of her parents she completed high school and reached her goal to become valedictorian of her class.

At the close of the presentation, the crowd cheered and applauded enthusiastically. And students and teachers came away both impressed and better educated about freedom and choices.

Ninth-grader Alex was moved by the experiences of Hakeman and Tang.

*Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire*



“The stories hit me really hard. It was very touching that they went through all this stuff and were still strong in the end,” she said. “If kids watch this, they should really apply this in their own lives.”

Given, an eighth-grade student at Jefferson, will remember the principles of freedom he learned about in the presentation.

“I realized that freedom is not free,” he said. “I need to make smart choices so that I can be free.”

Teacher Chad Martin was in attendance along with his seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade Spanish and ESL students.

“I hope my students will take away that what they do does matter and their choices change their lives, either for good or bad,” Martin said. 

ABOVE: TSgt. Paul Dedrickson speaks to students at Jefferson Junior High School prior to the video presentation. BELOW: Students at Jefferson Junior High School meet for the “Freedom Calls” assembly Feb. 13.



# Winter Fun With Youth Programs

*Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy*

MIDWAY, Utah — **M**embers of the Utah National Guard, their families and Youth Council members enjoyed an entertaining morning of tubing at Soldier Hollow, one of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games

venues.

Family Programs offers family activities throughout the year for all Guard members and their families. This year's winter activity was a

fun-filled day of tubing.

Visit the special events calendar on the web page at [www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family](http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family) to find more fun activities scheduled for this year. 



# In the Sights - Combat Readiness

By SGT Levi Boardman

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS) has completed another year of supporting units with marksmanship and weapons-readiness training. Unit training performed by SARTS covered tasks from Primary Marksmanship Instruction, weapons familiarization and weapons qualification to Military Operations Urban Terrain and Close Quarters Battle.

SARTS specialized training supports the unit's missions, improves Soldier marksmanship skills and weapons knowledge and also provides a platform for the entire unit to participate and focus on the training with minimal distractions.

SARTS team members represent almost every unit in the Utah Army National Guard. SARTS teams conduct training one weekend every month; this is in addition to their drill weekends with their units of assignment. SARTS is the resource that is designed to assist and support the units and Soldiers by providing instruction that adds value to the unit's level of combat readiness and confidence, as well as knowledge to individual Soldiers.

The Training Section hones training skills each month by having skilled instructors give classes on specific weapons, tactics, or marksmanship topics. Then the team is provided time and mentorship to learn and advance the skills and knowledge on the subject that was taught.

Competition is another arena where SARTS serves as a venue for weapons proficiency and combat-arms training. Most of the current competitions revolve around combat shooting and tactics instead of bullseye target competition. The focus of these events is to sustain and improve the level of training and proficiency.

At these events, Soldiers have the opportunity to compete against other top combat marksmen locally, nationally, and internationally.

Utah Army National Guard can lay claim to two new Distinguished Rifle shooters. SFC Brett Leggett and 1SG Dale Sellers both earned their Distinguished Rifle badges at the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region VII Championship conducted at Camp Williams, Utah, in 2006. Not an easy feat, as less than one-tenth of one percent of all of those who have ever served in the United States Military have ever achieved this high level of recognition. 1SG Dale Sellers is not only a Distinguished Rifleman, but he is also the recipient of the Distinguished Pistol Shot. This is known as being "Double Distinguished," and just over 370 National Guardsmen (Army and Air) have earned this honor.

SARTS would like to invite Soldiers and commanders of the Utah Army National Guard to continue to take advantage of the available expertise of SARTS to continue to improve their unit's level of marksmanship training and combat readiness. 🇺🇸



Photo by MSG William Phillips

*PFC Hyrum Chamberlain, SGT Dustin Waite, and SGT Jon Carlson compete in the Combat Distance Marksmanship at the Winston P. Wilson National Matches.*

# Governor's Day at Camp Williams

By MAJ Patrick Osmond

Photos by TSgt. Michael Evans, SFC Gordon Hyde, SSG Cavett Ishihara and SGT Brock Jones

DRAPER, Utah — **G**overnor's Day 2006 saw attendance reach a record high as both Service members and their loved ones attended this annual event. The Utah National Guard Commander in Chief, Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., presided over the event and personally reviewed his troops.

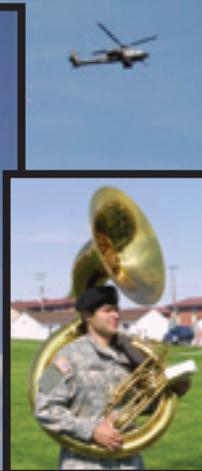
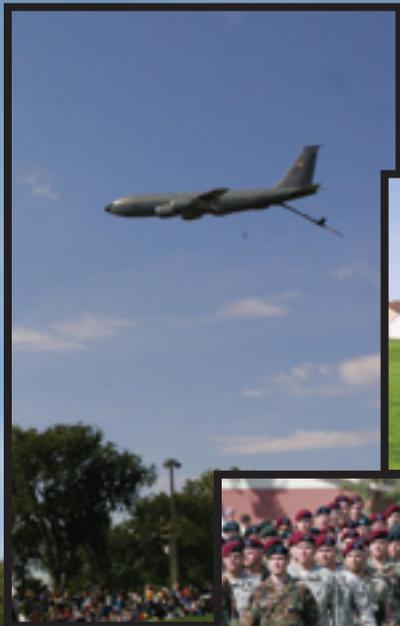
At an awards ceremony, the following individuals were recognized for their accomplishments:

- Outstanding Soldier of the Year, Army National Guard SGT James Carlson, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion
- Outstanding Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, SFC Wyatt Davis, 640th Regimental Training Institute
- Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year, MSG Kevin Martinez, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion
- Air National Guard Airman of the Year, SrA Mark Craig, 299th Range Control Squadron
- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, TSgt. Gregory Taylor, 130th Engineering Installation
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, MSG Robert Wright, 299th Range Control Squadron

Congratulations to these outstanding members for their dedication and professionalism! Other awards included the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion and the Outstanding Air National Guard Unit, the 109th Air Control Squadron.

After the ceremony, Huntsman offered an inspirational speech and told those in attendance: "This tradition is a very important one. It not only honors those in uniform, but it honors the families as well. We have thousands in this state, and we can't forget that for every person who deploys overseas there is a loved one left behind. Those who are manning the home front are the unsung heroes of today's modern conflict."

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# Three Major Changes of Command

By MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **T**hree major commands of the Utah National Guard underwent a change in leadership to start the new year. The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, the 115th Engineer Battalion and the Recruiting Battalion all had new commanders take the reins in February.

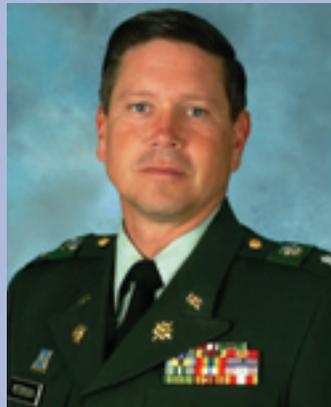
## 300<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade

“Die deutsche Herrschaft ist vorbei.”

COL Jeffrey Mitchell, a German and French linguist, officially relinquished command of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist), Utah National Guard, to LTC Val L. Peterson during a change-of-command ceremony Feb. 10.



COL Jeffrey F. Mitchell



LTC Val Peterson

A Preston, Idaho, native and resident of Centerville, Mitchell has led the 300th since October 2004. His Soldiers have served in numerous locations throughout the world in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle. Mitchell commanded Task Force Utah, the contingent of more than 500 Utah Guard Soldiers and Airmen sent to the Gulf Coast region to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Peterson, of Orem, joined the Utah National Guard in 1984. He is a Spanish linguist and among his many military assignments within the 300th has served as a company and battalion commander, training officer and executive officer.

Peterson, whose full-time civilian employment is as vice president for administration and legislative affairs at Utah Valley State College, will assume command of more than 1,200 Soldiers from Utah, California, Florida, Louisiana and Washington state.

## 115<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion

The 115th Engineer Battalion’s change-of-command ceremony was held Feb. 11 at Camp Williams.

At the ceremony, COL John P. Moore relinquished command of the Battalion to LTC Milada A. Copeland.

A resident of Sandy, Moore has led the 115th since December 2003.

Moore is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his 22-year military career he has served as platoon leader, detachment commander, executive officer, director of Camp Williams public works and group operations officer.

In December 2006, Moore returned from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where his Soldiers trained Coalition forces in improvised explosive device awareness/avoidance and in the use of mine-detection equipment.

Copeland, also a Sandy resident, joined the Utah National Guard in 1985 and was commissioned through Utah State University ROTC in 1988. Among her many military assignments she has served as a company commander, executive officer, logistics officer and operations officer.

A full-time employee of the Utah National Guard, Copeland currently serves as comptroller for the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in Draper. She will assume command of approximately 300 Soldiers.



During the change of command ceremony, LTC Milada Copeland receives the 115th Engineer Battalion’s flag.

Photos by SFC Greg Cullis

Photo by MAJ Chris Patterson

# Purple Heart Recipient 1SG Steven Cochran

By Shad West

DRAPER, Utah — **A** Utah National Guard member was awarded a Purple Heart Feb. 10 for wounds he sustained while fighting in Iraq more than three years ago.

Looking just a little bewildered at all the attention, 1SG Steven Cochran dutifully stood at attention while the citation for his medal was read. Utah Guard Adjutant General Brian Tarbet then pinned the medal on Cochran's uniform and shook his hand while members of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade cheered.

The Herriman resident admitted he was more comfortable in his role as a Soldier—preferably out of the limelight—and shrugged off the hero label that local media insisted on using.

"I prefer to stay behind the scenes," Cochran said after the ceremony during an impromptu press conference. "I'm not a hero. I was just doing my job."

Cochran, a member of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, was wounded in August 2003 in Fallujah, Iraq, after he came under fire by enemy rocket-propelled grenade, small-arms and automatic machine-gun fire. He was wounded in the head and right hand from flying shrapnel fragments.

Despite his injuries Cochran took immediate action to protect his fellow Soldiers and secured the area for the evacuation of one severely wounded Soldier by returning fire and neutralizing the threat. He was treated for his wounds and quickly returned to duty. He still carries shrapnel embedded in his right index finger as a result of his injuries.

Cochran said he was appreciative of the efforts of everyone involved in straightening out the paperwork.

"I know they have been working on this for a long time," Cochran said.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. 



Photo by MAJ Hank McIntire

MAJ Mark Drown receives the Recruiting and Retention Battalion flag from MG Brian Tarbet at the change-of-command ceremony.

## Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Recruiting and Retention Battalion of the Utah National Guard held a change of command Feb. 7 in which MAJ Mark Drown took over for LTC James Brown.

Under Brown, who was at Recruiting's helm for nearly two years, the Utah Army National Guard saw its ranks swell to over 5,200 Soldiers, an all-time high; and Utah finished as the number-two recruiting state for 2006.

Brown also received the National Guard Bureau Director of Recruiting Command's Award for the lowest level of pipeline training losses for medium-sized states.

At the ceremony, MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general, praised Brown and his staff for a job well done.

"You are outstanding people with a very difficult job," said Tarbet. "In many instances you have a harder job than I do."

Acknowledging that Brown has raised the bar for his successor, Tarbet also gave Drown some tongue-in-cheek guidance.

"Don't screw it up. You guys are running out in front of the pack right now," said Tarbet.

During his remarks, Brown thanked his family, Utah Guard leaders and his staff.

"This has been a great honor for me to take this command. It's been a fun ride," said Brown. "I thank you and applaud you for your values and your professionalism."

Drown, who served previously as a detachment and company commander in the Special Forces, as well as operations officer in Recruiting, recognized that he has big shoes to fill.

"Don't screw this up' will be my war cry," Drown said with a smile. "I'm privileged to come back to a great group of people, and I look forward to working with each of you." 



Photo by MAJ Hank McIntire

MG Brian Tarbet pins the Purple Heart on 1SG Steven Cochran at a ceremony Feb 10.

# Utah Guard Legislative Liaison Takes the Hill



By Shad West

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**mid the give and take of lawmaker and lobbyist in the State Capitol when the Utah House and Senate are in session, you will find COL Scot Olson, legislative liaison for the Utah National Guard.

As a representative of the Guard, which is part of Utah's executive branch, he is not pushing an agenda or a particular piece of legislation; rather, he is simply there to ensure that Guard interests are understood and protected by legislators.

## Representing the Guard's Interests

While most on the Hill do their business in suits or skirts, Olson stands out in his ACUs, or Army Combat Uniform, and it is just the way he wants it.

Olson says wearing the uniform is a conscious decision for two reasons. The Utah National Guard has troops serving in combat, so consequently the uniform of the day is the appropriate one to wear.

"I am a Soldier representing Soldiers," Olson said. "The ACU serves as reminder that we have troops in the field. Besides, this uniform stands out. If I were in a suit and tie I would blend in and so would our issues."

A simple decision like the one to wear the uniform has benefited the Guard and its visibility on the Hill.

With Utah's legislative session lasting just 45 days, Olson has to compete for face time with legislators.

"They really have a finite amount of time," Olson said. "And we have a lot of issues that need to be brought to their attention."

## Working the Issues

For legislators like Sen. Sheldon Killpack, R-Syracuse, a hectic schedule means issues sometimes muddle together, and often the first time he hears about a bill is when it's on the Senate floor for debate.

"It makes a big difference to have the Guard represented here," Killpack said. "There is so much going on that you don't see the issues until they are right in front of your face. At that time if I have a question I can grab COL Olson and get the clarification I need."

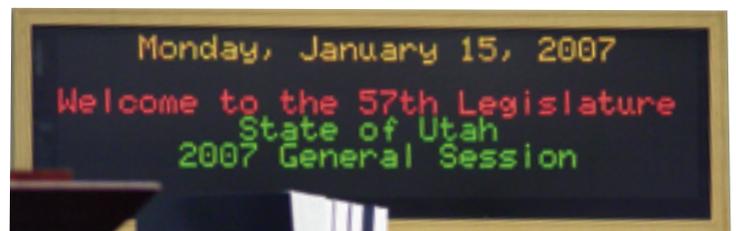
"This year the Utah Guard's adjutant general's number-one concern is maintaining educational benefits for retention and recruiting of Guard members," Olson said. The Guard is also trying to secure funds for facilities and veterans affairs issues that include a nursing home and various outreach programs. Funding for the military museum at Fort Douglas is also provided by the Guard.

While the Utah National Guard gets about 96 percent of its funding from the federal government, the other four percent it relies on is provided by the State and is vital to keeping the Guard on the ready for both civil emergencies here and deployments abroad.

"We are only trying to get four percent of our working budget from Utah," Olson said. "National Guard Bureau provides the rest. However, when it comes to facilities, the split is 75 percent federal and 25 percent state. So as we plan for the maintenance and construction of our facilities, that requires legislative action."

Olson says the key is to present reasoned, planned replacement and extended life cycles of facilities and project reasonable growth to legislators.

"What it comes down to is credibility, and that boils down to knowledge and trust," Olson said. "The more reliable and trustworthy my information is, the more [legislators] will listen to me on other issues. With that type of relationship they will seek out our input on issues."





### Understanding the Process

When he isn't providing testimony for various committees or briefing legislators on Guard issues, Olson is giving other Guard officers a crash course in Utah politics.

One of the essential tenets of senior leadership is understanding the relationship between the National Guard and the State. Many Utah Guard officers haven't experienced that working relationship.

"I think it is important to demonstrate to our young officers how the branches of government work together and what our role is in state government and how we are responsible to civil authority for funding and programs," Olson said. "I decided that it was time to educate mid-level officers and let them experience and participate in the process."

The program has been a success. What was originally planned for a single morning during the session stretched into two days each week.

"I was very surprised by the response," Olson said.

Olson said his students went through an orientation where they tracked bills of interest and talked to legislators.

"It's kind of a Civics 101, but it should help provide a foundation of knowledge to build on," Olson said. Spending a day at the capitol helped LTC Matt Price understand the Guard's relationship with Utah legislators. His experience has even led him to follow the progress of legislation important to Utah's military and their families.

"The most significant thing for me was watching the Lundell bill," Price said. "COL Olson sat down with those involved and explained how many people

the bill would affect. He was really good on communicating the issue with the different people involved in the process.

"This program gives you a chance to look behind the curtain," Price added.

### A Balancing Act

Because the Guard's legislative liaison isn't a lobbyist, but rather an employee of the executive branch, Olson spends quite a bit of his time strengthening Guard ties with the Utah Legislature.

"It's the most important thing I do up here—build relationships," Olson said. "I'm gaining confidence and trust with legislators both as individuals and the group as a whole. They know that they can take what we say at face value and trust that we are not overstating our needs."

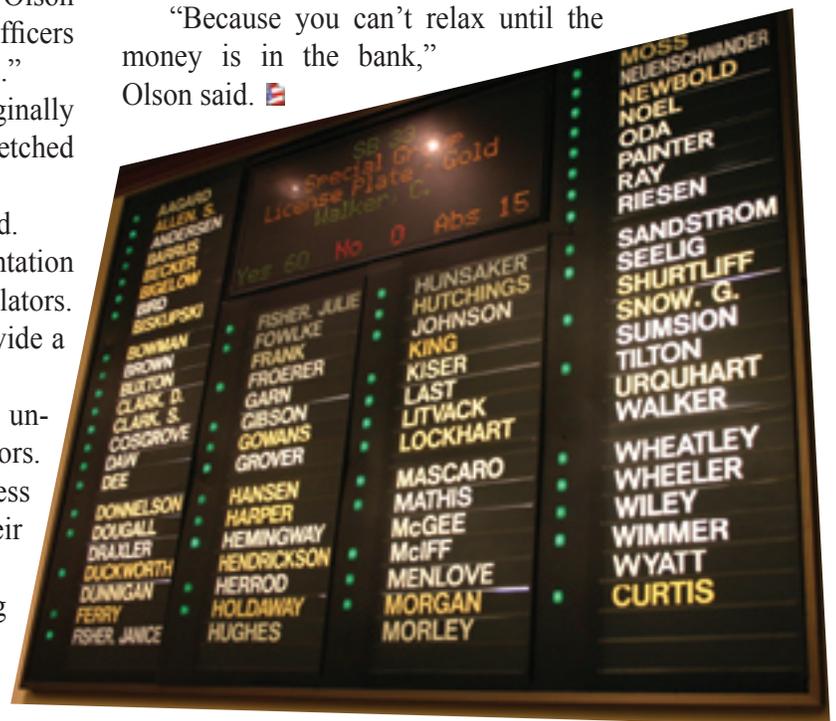
Olson says credibility and trust helps legislators see the Guard's requirements in a whole different light. "They know there is realism to our needs,"

He says he is optimistic about how the Guard has been treated this session, but he isn't backing down on the Guard's issues.

"Everyone loves you until they have to write the check," said Olson, grinning. "The very last bill is the appropriations bill. It will be voted on at midnight on Feb. 28. I'll be there to ensure we are fairly represented."

Olson said he'll continue to secure the interests of the Guard's budget as well as provide resources for the legislators. The one thing he won't do is slow down.

"Because you can't relax until the money is in the bank," Olson said. 🇺🇸



OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN: SSG David Mabey, left, leads the Utah Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance Jan. 17; Marquee welcoming members of the Legislature on Jan. 15, 2007; ABOVE TOP DOWN: COL Olson addresses a group of Gold Star families for the Fallen Heroes Citation; Marquee showing the unanimous vote in favor of the license plates representing Utah's Fallen Heroes.

# Utah National Guard Continues Support of Salt Lake's Parkview Elementary

By Shad West

SALT LAKE CITY — Donations made by Utah National Guard employees to a Westside elementary school are helping students learn a valuable lesson about money, and the interest is paying dividends for the community at large.

For the second year in a row the Utah National Guard Construction Facility Management Office (CFMO) adopted Parkview Elementary School as their annual Christmas project. In 2005, CFMO collected more than 400 books for the school's library. This year, CFMO decided to support the school's Behavior Buck Store by spearheading the collection of items that students could buy with "money" they earn with good behavior.

Parkview, a Title I school, has students who speak 17 different native languages. Their parents, many of whom are immigrants to the U.S., speak little or no English. More than 90 percent of the children enrolled are on the reduced or free-lunch program. The Westside neighborhood is an eclectic mix of nationalities from all over the world: Sudan, Somalia, Mexico, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Italy and beyond. Parkview has become the heart of the community, and its store is a much-



Deputy CFMO Director LTC Jerry Oyler, center, with Parkview Elementary students.

Photos by Shad West

needed lifeline for many students' families.

"I think the store provides a unique way for the children to be able to purchase items for themselves or their family that they normally wouldn't be able to," said Mary Beverly, an administrative assistant in CFMO.

"It's so nice to help give these students the opportunity to buy things for their families," CFMO accounting technician Elaine Gomez added. "The program is a great way to encourage students to do better in school."

The Guard collected and donated hairbrushes, lotions, watercolor paints, notebooks, magic markers, coloring books, puzzles, footballs, basketballs, jewelry and snack foods for the store.

The store itself is divided into two sections: "Needs and Wants." The "Needs" section is stocked with school supplies, backpacks, diapers, baby wipes, baby blankets and pajamas; while the "Wants" half of the store is full of sports equipment, beanie babies, toys, Hacky Sacks and donated knickknacks like small jewelry boxes.

Turning in their homework on time, helping to clean their classrooms and reinforcing the school's values are just a few ways students can earn Behavior Bucks. They can earn up to \$100 in scholar tender for use in the store. Each student may earn a visit to the



Rebecca Castrillon, a fifth-grader at Parkview Elementary, checks through the vast selection of goods at her school's Behavior Buck Store.

store once every six weeks.

While the store is built into the school's math curriculum, Parkview Elementary Principal Janine Smith says it also teaches students life skills.

"Sometimes our students choose to save their bucks for a bigger purchase," Smith said. What they wanted to purchase may not always be available when they have saved enough. It may have sold just like in a real store. It's a life lesson."



*The well-worn entrance to Parkview Elementary's Behavior Buck Store.*

The store is also a lifeline for many families, but school officials are quick to point out the store can only be used by students, not faculty or families. Yet, they are cognizant of the needs of the students and their families.

"Many of our students come from families with such low incomes, yet their purchases at the store show they have such generous hearts," said Parkview Volunteer Coordinator Judy Rausch. "These children will come into the store and might get one little thing for themselves, but quite often they come in to buy for their siblings or their parents. These children seem to know what their families' needs are."

In December, students spent nearly \$17,000 in Behavior Bucks in the store. Their purchases even surprised some of the faculty.

"We are trying to teach so many concepts to our students," Rausch said. "We ran out of baby pajamas, diapers and blankets. This shows we don't need to teach them about generosity and compassion."

It's those actions and the attitudes of the students at Parkview that won the hearts of Guard employees who know they made the right choice to reach out to the school.

"There are so many things about these children that impress me," Beverly said. "They are truly appreciative of their school and of the community support they receive."

When CFMO Deputy Director LTC Jerry Oyler ac-

companied Gomez and Beverly to the school last week, fifth graders swarmed him, excited to meet a real-life Soldier. Oyler said the feeling was definitely mutual.

"It was interesting for me to just listen to the children," Oyler said. "They come from such diverse backgrounds. There are so many different languages that are spoken and their different cultures and backgrounds. Each and every one of these students has a fascinating story."

One student, Rebecca Castrillon, age 10, says the diversity of her school is what makes it special. She was quick to point out her own heritage, Peruvian and Iranian.

"It's something I love to talk about," Castrillon said. "Kids at other schools are missing out on learning about other cultures first hand."

As for using the store, Castrillon said she works hard to earn Behavior Bucks so she can buy things for her family.

"I think it's cool," Castrillon said. "It's a good chance for us to get stuff for our parents. We don't have the money to get things from a real store."

Castrillon recently bought her grandmother a little glass dog. She is saving to buy something for her mother and little brother and sister. Not once did she mention saving for a trinket for herself.

Smith believes a good school will also be a community center for their neighborhood. With help from sponsors like the Utah National Guard, Parkview Elementary is able to make a difference for students and their families.

"We are the hub of the community," Smith said. "We are really the only safe environment for these families. They come here with their problems and they know we are the one place they can come for help. They know they can depend on us." 

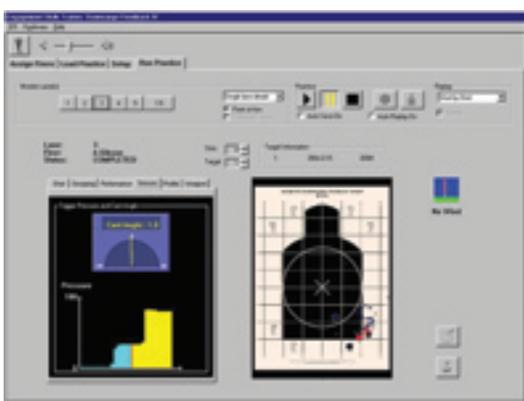


*COL Scot Olson, CFMO director, center, poses with Parkview Principal Janine Smith, left, and Volunteer Coordinator Judy Rausch.*

*Photos by Rachael Neal*

# Troops Training Maximized in Any Weather Condition

By SGT David Ray



Photos by CPT Wenke Tate

*UTARNG Soldier trains with an M9 and M4 on FATS in Draper, Utah; Engagement Skills Trainer screenshot of advanced feedback for an individual firer; invisible to coaches on the range; EST screenshot showing progress of five firers.*

Utah's Amy Garrison Camp W. G. Williams' extreme temperatures and terrain easily qualifies as the piece de resistance of training centers. Also to its credit, the quality of the small arms ranges at Camp Williams have always met and exceeded the Army's standard "to train and maintain." What more could a commander ask for their Soldiers?

How about free unlimited ammo, zero logistical concerns, no time loss between ranges and central air climate control for focusing on qualification training, just to name a few?

The Engagement Skills Trainer (EST 2000) and Firearms Training System (FATS) update training at Camp Williams to the 21st century. Besides convenience and comfort, the simulators at Camp Williams offer real world training.

If you can operate a computer mouse, the EST 2000 instant setup is ideal for training for qualification in marksmanship techniques for the following Army MTOE: assault rifles (M16 and M4), 9 mm pistol (M9), 40 mm grenade launchers (M203 and MK19), machine guns (M249 "S.A.W.," M240, M60 and M2 ".50 Cal"); even the AT4 (M136) and shotgun (M1200).

The EST 2000 trains basic squad level techniques such as staying in lanes and communicating while engaging "live" computer generated targets. Even individual thinking process is evaluated and built upon with the "Shoot/Don't Shoot" scenarios which offer rules of engagement training against video of real people in real situations.

For advanced squad and platoon training including map reconnaissance, OPORD, 9 Line and ACE/SALUTE reports, "fire for effect" and more, while advancing and engaging the enemy; the FATS operator controlled, interactive scenarios allow for maximum effective training.

These simulators truly train the Soldier through each phase of crawl, walk, and run so they can not only lethally wield their weapon as a warrior, but efficiently practice teamwork to annihilate the enemy, as a disciplined Soldier.

"As a commander, the FATS and EST allows me the flexibility to test my Soldiers' abilities before sending one bullet down range" explained CPT Matthew Jones, commander of HHC 142 MI.

Since Utah Army National Guard units are so spread apart, remote FATS systems have been set up in Ogden, Draper, Camp Williams and St. George. Remote systems can potentially link together to conduct synchronized attacks or force-on-force scenarios without having to be physically near each other.

Never tired of being on the cutting edge, in the very near future Camp Williams will soon offer the Vehicle Convoy Operations Trainer featuring 360-degree viewing and weapon response to engage any enemy from any direction including suicide vehicles, RPG and IED attacks.

Simulators will never replace the sensation of actual bullets, in fact they are not intended to; however the better that the Soldier becomes through detailed training on simulators, the better the Soldier will be when it's real. 

## New Dixie State College Scholarship for Triple Deuce

By The Spectrum

ST. GEORGE, Utah — **T**he Washington County Republican Women and Dixie State College of Utah (DSC) announced Monday the creation of a new scholarship to honor veterans of the Iraq War and the Utah National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Unit.

The Washington County Republican Women National Guard Unit 222 Scholarship, for which the organization donated \$1,280 to begin, will provide financial assistance with college expenses, including tuition, books and college fees to veterans who qualify.

According to the organization's president Christine Blum, the scholarship is to show appreciation for Iraq War veterans. The scholarship may be used for one or more persons, as financially needed. The DSC financial aid office will determine the financial need. DSC will then inform the Washington County Republican Women when and to whom the scholarship is awarded.

To qualify for the scholarship, the potential recipient must be a registered Republican, live in Washington County, be a veteran of the second Iraq War, must have a 3.00 or higher academic grade point average and be in financial need.

If not enough students at DSC fill these criteria before the end of the 2007 calendar year, then DSC will contact the Washington County Republican Women for a decision on how to disburse any remaining funds. 

Story courtesy of The Spectrum originally published Jan. 29, 2006.

## Kimberly Gauer Becomes a Utah Guard First to Pioneer New Age Limits

By SGT Kelly Collett

DRAPER, Utah — **R**ecruiting has achieved a first for Utah. Kimberly Gauer, 40, enlisted in the Utah National Guard as the first female over 40 since the Army raised the age limit for enlistees to 42. She is also one of the first ten females over 40 to ever join the military.

"I tried before I turned 36 and it just didn't happen. Ever since then, I've been really upset that I didn't get in before the cut-off date," said Gauer. "So when they lifted the age limit, I wasn't going to let that happen again. I just have the opportunity right now in my life and my kids are older."

Gauer entered Basic Training one day after the fifth anniversary of 9/11 and traveled to Ft. Jackson, S.C. She will attend initial entry training for her new Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), 42A (Human Resource Specialist).

"[I'm] excited and scared to death!" said Gauer, on her feelings about attending Basic. "I'm just a little bit worried about the physical stuff, but on the other hand I think I have the determination and the willpower to get through it."

Gauer is the mother of three. She has an 18-year-old daughter and twin boys who are 16.

When asked how her children felt about her decision, Gauer said they are a little nervous about it but they support her 100 percent.

"They're already saying, 'Go kick some butt Mom'," said Gauer.

When asked about the possibility of being deployed, Gauer didn't hesitate.

"If I do, I do. I know the consequences and I totally support my country. That's just part of being a part of this," she said.

"I have always loved the tradition and the discipline and I have always wanted to be a part of the military," Gauer added.

The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade welcomed Gauer into Headquarters Company after her return from initial entry training in South Carolina. 



Photo courtesy of Utah National Guard

Kimberly Gauer after getting sworn into the Utah National Guard.

# Utah Biathletes Win **Gold**

By SFC Shawn Blanke

Photos by SSG Jesse Peterson

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. — **D**espite injuries, deployments and new team members, the Utah Army National Guard Biathlon Team won team gold last December at the National Guard Bureau Western Regional Biathlon Championships in West Yellowstone, Mont.

Biathlon is an Olympic sport which combines the disciplines of cross-country skiing and precision target shooting. Biathletes are required to ski over difficult terrain while carrying a rifle and then hit very small targets from both prone and standing positions. Athletes who miss targets are either required to ski a 150-meter penalty loop for each miss, or are assessed a one-minute penalty per missed shot, depending on the race format.

At the 2007 Western Regional Championships, Utah biathletes faced the largest group of competitors in an NGB-sponsored regional event. Approximately 90 athletes from five different countries representing Olympic, national and collegiate athletes competed under conditions that included sub-zero temperatures, heavy snow and fickle wind-conditions that made shooting and skiing very difficult.

Utah faced tough competition from state-sponsored National Guard teams that included perennial favorites Vermont and Montana. During the team relay, California, Vermont and Montana raced off to an early lead. By the last leg of the relay, it appeared that Montana had built a big enough lead to win easily. Unexpectedly, Montana struggled to hit targets on the final shooting. Utah's SFC Gerald Robinson (640th RTI) countered by hitting four out of five targets in rapid succession. He then proceeded to out-ski the leader

who was now only 45 seconds in front. Robinson closed the gap and overtook Montana 200 meters before the finish line to seal the win for Utah.

When asked about the team's success, Utah coach CW2 Ryan Runk said, "With some of our strongest athletes either deployed or injured, we didn't realistically expect to win the whole thing. But the relay team was patient, and Robinson was there with a key performance when we needed it."

In regional competition, Robinson posted the team's best individual result by winning a silver medal in the 10K and gold on the relay team. SFC Shawn Blanke (19th SF), in only his second year of biathlon, dropped six minutes off of his time last year to finish in 6th place in the individual race. Blanke also raced the first leg for the winning relay team. Team veteran SSG Ben Dahl (RRC), skied the second leg for the gold medal relay team but was pursued relentlessly by newcomer WO1 Lynn Adams (211th AVN). Adams and Dahl finished within seconds of each other in the relay and both placed well in the individual races. SGT Jesse Lang (I Corps) experienced nordic skiing for the first time one day prior to participating in his first ever biathlon race. Lang not only finished both the individual and relay races, but proved to be one of the most consistent shooters on the team.

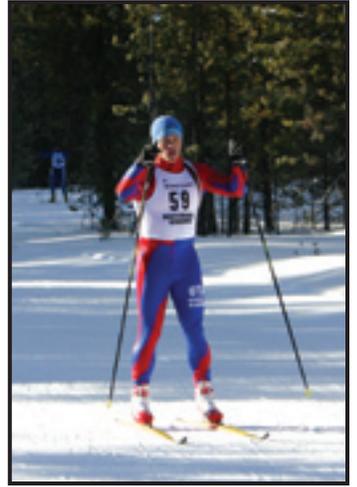
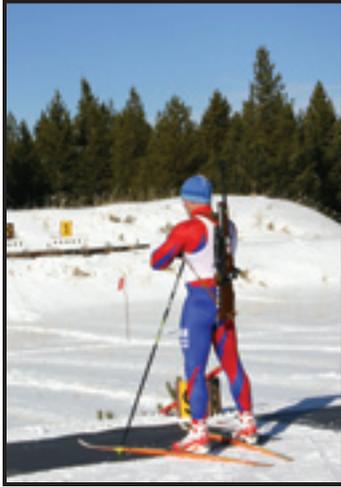
The next stop for Utah biathletes will be the CNGB Championships in late February at Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont. Approximately 30 other state teams are expected to participate in 10 days of competition. Utah will again field a strong team with the goal of bringing the NGB National Championship back to Utah. 🇺🇸

BELOW: WO1 Lynn Adams aims for his last target during the standing portion of the race.

OPPOSITE PAGE: SGT Jesse Lang enters, shoots and leaves the range for prone shooting.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP RIGHT: SFC Jerald Robinson skates the last leg of the gold medal relay teams victorious finish.





# Former Utah National Guard Adjutant General Passes Away

By Matthew LaPlante

SALT LAKE CITY — **H**e defined his life by service.

Maurice Watts, former adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, was remembered Nov. 25 in Cottonwood Heights.

Watts died Nov. 17 at the age of 89, ending a life crowned by his 16-year term as Utah's top soldier, though not solely defined by it. Many knew Watts not as a decorated warrior but as advocate for disabled children, volunteer at the ballet and champion for the cause of eliminating cancer.

While Watts understood service to others could be individually and spiritually fulfilling, he also understood personally the sacrifices it could entail.

His military career began in 1941. Three years later he participated in the amphibious landing at Lingayen Gulf on the Island of Luzon - an early battle in the retaking of the Philippine Islands, a task for which thousands of U.S. and allied troops gave their lives.

Decades later, Watts would bury his own son, Cory, after the young missionary died in an accident while serving a church mission in California.

Watts' son, Brad, remembered his father as a man who understood that service was hard, yet pushed ahead regardless - always with a positive attitude toward the task at hand and never seeking recognition or gratitude.

"He worked hard doing simple things to make life beautiful," Brad Watts said. "He did many things, in his community, to strengthen and to build."

Photos by MAJ. Hank McIntire

Another son, Todd, said that although his father's military stature was impressive - Maurice Watts was the only Utah National Guard soldier ever to hold the rank of lieutenant general - he was not content to allow that to be his only legacy.

After his retirement from the Army in 1980, Watts sought out other ways to improve the welfare of his family and community, taking the directorship of the Utah Society for Crippled Children and Adults and volunteering at Ballet West and the American Cancer Society.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he served in local and regional leadership roles and as a mission president in Sydney, Australia. Though he never sought recognition for his service, he often thanked others for theirs.

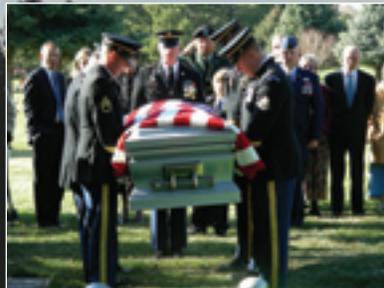
His last known words, to a 12-year-old girl who came to visit him, were words of thanks, family members said.

In a prayer offered during the service, grandson Zane Watts suggested his grandfather would best be remembered by those who took up his cause of selfless service.

"We can honor him," Zane Watts said, "by doing the things he did in this life: serving others and filling up those around him." 🇺🇸

Reprinted courtesy of the Salt Lake Tribune

*BACKGROUND PHOTO: Three AH-64 Apache helicopters from the 1-211th Aviation Battalion fly over the graveside proceedings of retired MG Maurice Watts; LEFT TO RIGHT: The Utah Air National Guard Honor Guard prepares to fire the ceremonial volleys in tribute to Watts; The Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard places the casket over Watts' final resting place; The Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard prepares to fold the flag to present to Watts' family; MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard Adjutant General, presents a flag to Todd Watts in honor of the senior Watts' military service.*



# Utah Division of Veterans Affairs Outreach Programs

By Berni Davis

**T**he Utah Division of Veterans Affairs is a humble operation with anything but humble goals. Having been under the present structure for only the past fifteen years, this four-person team has grown and will continue to grow to reach and inform Utah's Veterans.

One of the main goals of the State Veterans office is to reach and inform Utah's 161,000 veterans all across the state. This is done through several outreach programs, one of which involves individuals traveling to the far reaches of this vast state from Kanab to Brigham City to provide assistance and answer the questions of Veterans and their family members on everything from enrolling for care at the George Wahlen Medical Center (VAMC) to filing a claim for disability compensation.

Another outreach program is designed to inform the State's new Veterans mainly represented by the Reserves and National Guard returning from deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These individuals represent a group that has traditionally received the least attention and amount of benefits from the VA because of the limited role they had in past conflicts. However, the changing tide of this current conflict and the mass mobilizations of these largely college-age Soldiers has created a new class of Veterans who need to be informed of their benefits. That is what these programs aim at.

The final Outreach program that is a joint effort between the Utah Division of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Workforce Services is designed to assist homeless Veterans. Individuals are working to assist this group of Vet-



*At the Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony, May 2006. From left to right, Terry Schow, Director of Utah Division of Veterans Affairs with Frank Maughan, State Commander Military Order of the Purple Heart; Governor John Huntsman Jr.; Thad Jensen, State Commander American Legion; Dennis Parizek, State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and BG Bruce Frandsen, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Utah National Guard.*

erans with finding and maintaining housing and employment. Veterans are also encouraged and assisted with obtaining the VA benefits that they are eligible for, such as care from the VAMC and service-connected compensation or pension.

In 2006, outreach representatives saw 746 Veterans, briefed over 3,000 Reserve and National Guard personnel returning from deployment and assisted 836 homeless Veterans.

Other endeavors that the State Veterans office has pursued are its goal of reaching all of Utah's Veterans by publishing a biannual newspaper, the *Veterans Voice*. The office would also improve its Web site, [www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov), to make it more user friendly. The office will continue fundraising efforts by holding an annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament, hosting a Veterans business workshop, working jointly with the VA and other organizations for the annual Homeless Veterans Stand-down, lobbying the State Legislature for funding for programs and an additional Veterans nursing home and coordinating a multitude of programs and events targeted toward the recognition and appreciation of Veterans. In addition to these activities, the office, located in Salt Lake City, has a full staff available to answer questions and assist Veterans with claims and issues.

Above all, the office is focused on the average veteran and their needs. If you, or someone you know is interested in receiving more information regarding any of the above programs, have any questions regarding benefits or is interested in volunteering to help, please call 1-800-894-9497 or visit our Web site at [www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov). 

# 142<sup>nd</sup> MI Extended Four More Months in Iraq

By SGT Christopher Bell

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – **I**t all started on a crisp November day of 2005 when we arrived at the Hattiesburg, Mississippi Airport. Seven Silent Warriors from Company the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion Linguist, only one of whom was an Arabic speaker, all preparing for what would be a long deployment to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Also in the group were an Italian/Persian Farsi linguist, a Tagalog linguist, a Japanese linguist, a Chinese linguist, an Arabic linguist, a Spanish linguist and a Portuguese/Russian/Spanish linguist. We were the small group the Utah National Guard had sent to support the 34th Infantry Division, from Minnesota—the Red Bulls. For all of us, this would turn out to be one of the longest times of our lives.

Upon arrival at Camp Shelby, Miss., we commenced our Soldier Readiness Processing at the Med Station and the Readiness Building. Our initial training consisted of 10-12 hour days where we went from tent to tent doing such tasks as Common Task Training and Land Navigation.

The first part of December we finally started our training on the Prophet system. Three instructors came out to Camp Shelby and gave us a quick 10-day course on the capabilities of the equipment we were to take to war with us.

We arrived on March 25, 2006, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Kuwait was hot, sandy, hot and hot. We spent approximately two weeks in Kuwait going to the range and attending a few counter-IED classes.



Members of C Co., 142nd MI Bn, pose with Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., during his 2006 visit to Iraq. TOP LEFT: SGT Christopher Felt, SGT Christopher Bell, Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., SGT Robert Harward, 1LT Aaron Barrera. BOTTOM LEFT: SGT Nathan Malmboerge, SSG Jeffrey Lyons. Missing from the photo is SGT Ammon Cox.

In April we arrived at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, near Balad, Iraq, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. Our job would be to man the Joint Intelligence Center.

But before we were even to see our workplace or our fellow Soldiers from Utah whom we were replacing, the insurgents of Iraq welcomed us the very night of our arrival with indirect fire attacks, consisting of a number of munitions.

The next two days were given to us as days to “adjust,” but mostly it was to let it sink in to all of us who had never been to war that we were finally in a combat zone, somewhere that people die every day from heinous acts of violence.

Our first encounter with our Utah counterparts, 1LT Price and SFC Hulet, and their crew of other Utah Soldiers was a good one. They, of course, were more than ecstatic to see us, knowing their time to return home was nigh. We initiated our handover with our counterparts which lasted for almost two weeks. On April 28, 2006, we said goodbye to our fellow Utahns and took over the Joint Intelligence Center.

Unfortunately, some of us were not going to be working in the SIGINT world for quite some time. SGT Bell, one of our full-time Guardsmen, took a battle noncommissioned officer position, which is typically filled by a staff sergeant or higher. 1LT Barrera, another full-timer, took a battle captain position, which is generally filled with a captain or higher. SSG Jeffrey Lyons took over as the SSO, normally a sergeant first class position. SGT Cox was put in charge of the SIGINT section. Thus commenced what would be our 16-month “vacation in the sandbox.” However, a few more trials awaited us...

In June 2006, the Alpha Company commander and first sergeant informed 1LT Barrera and SSG Lyons that SGT

# 2007 Family Programs Conference

The 2007 Family Programs Conference held in Park City, Utah, is open to volunteers, families, commanders, and military POC's. It will be a great source of information for all that attend and will include the following courses:

Cox would be heading down to Brigade headquarters in Talil, Iraq. This came as a shock to all of us as SGT Cox was our one-and-only Arabic linguist working in the SIGINT section. Although we did have two interpreters, they could be pulled from us anytime if their company so desired; and so without SGT Cox we felt our mission capabilities would be hindered. Our interpreters remained and SGT Cox went his way to Talil.

As September approached, SSG Lyons and SGT Bell were working hard to submit the E-5 promotion packets of SPCs Harward, Felt, Malmborg. They had all performed well during our train-up time at Camp Shelby and the Joint Readiness Training Center and rose to the occasion in Iraq as well. On December 21, our three old—and experienced—specialists received their promotion to E-5. Our battle to get all promoted, except for three of us, had been won.

It was early January 2007 when we heard the news the 34th would be extended in Iraq. We were heartbroken. Most of us had already begun plans with our significant others to celebrate our return home in April 2007. We all knew the possibility to get extended was looming above our heads. The unofficial word of the extension, given by the Minnesota governor to the media back in the States, reached us before official orders had been put out.

Wives cried, ranted, raved and comforted one another on the phone, from Hawaii to Texas to Utah to North Carolina. We war-experienced Soldiers were down for a few days, but soon the PX had restocked their supply of Xbox 360s and other items which help Soldiers make it through extremely long deployments. A few of us, after the “boss” at home gave the go-ahead, bought 360s, while others bought various study materials online. It was going to be another long wait from the time we heard the news in January until the time when our feet hopefully touch ground in the good ol’ US of A sometime in the fall of 2007. 🇺🇸

Military Personnel Training

Challenges of Reintegration

Replenish and Revitalize Your Volunteer Treasure

Resources Around You

7 Habits of Highly Effective Guard Families

Marriage Enhancement

FRG Toolkit and Creating Newsletters (Friday)

Operation Military Kids

Presentation by Elaine Dumler

**April 27, 2007**

Volunteer General Session, Social and Youth Symposium

**April 28, 2007**

Family Readiness Conference and Youth Symposium

We are honored to have Elaine Dumler as the keynote speaker. Elaine is the author of two books, “I’m Already Home” and “I’m Already Home... Again.” She will be presenting information on how to help our Service members and their families cope with the readjustment issues that may arise following a deployment.

Please see our website for more details or to register online.

[www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family](http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family)



# Southern Utah Mom Supports Her Four Guard Kids

By Shad West

**T**he 11-foot Christmas tree is decorated with red, white and blue ornaments, stars and carved wooden words. One says “Peace” and another says “Believe.” An angel rests at the top holding an American flag with three white doves.

The doves represent three Soldiers: one deployed in Afghanistan, another at Fort Bliss, Texas, waiting to catch up with her unit in Kuwait; the third is for the Marine who recently returned from Iraq. There is room on the tree for two more doves, but Shari Gillins hopes she won’t have to add them.

Gillins knows what sacrifice is; all four of her children are Soldiers. Sons Adam, Brady and Cory Ashworth are serving in the Utah National Guard, while her daughter Tara Delewski is a member of the Arizona Guard. Tara’s husband Jesse is a Marine. Gillins says the tree reflects a passion to find an outlet for the true meaning of Christmas.

“It is truly sacred to the meaning of Christmas and my children’s sacrifices,” Gillins said. “Christmas will be very precious and dear this year. Material things have a much lower priority for us.

“This is a time of gratitude and sacrifice from all of us to truly appreciate what Adam is giving in Afghanistan and Tara at Ft. Bliss,” Gillins added. “What must they and every Soldier be sacrificing this Christmas? It kind of makes ‘things’ seem trivial.”

“We thank God that Tara’s husband Jesse returned safely from Iraq and is with us this Christmas,” Gillins continued. “As a family we pray not for material things but for gifts of safe returns, freedoms ensured, countries stabilized, strong military leadership to resolve war and return peace to the Middle East.”



Photo by SGT Kelly Collett

*CPT Adam Ashworth gets a lasting hug prior to his departure for Afghanistan June 9 where he is serving with I Corps Artillery (Forward) with the mission to train members of the Afghan National Army.*

## Adam Goes First, A New Family Tradition

Beaver is far removed from the ravages of war. A war where her oldest son is fighting on one front while the second front is calling for her daughter’s service. A war her son-in-law

just returned from. A war that could still call upon her two youngest sons to serve.

This average-sized family from rural Utah is patriotic to say the least. With Adam in Afghanistan, it’s easy for Gillins to reflect on where her family is today and what motivated her children to serve their country.

In 1984 Adam Ashworth was a 6-year-old boy who wanted to be an Army guy for Halloween. He tried to sit patiently as a real Soldier applied the green, black and brown camouflage paint to his face.

That Soldier was SGT Bart Whatcott, and the few minutes he took to paint a little boy’s face for a Halloween costume left an impression and started a life-long friendship between the Ashworths and Whatcott.

Eleven years later, Adam asked his mother and father to sign his enlistment papers into the Utah National Guard. While Adam was in Basic Training, his younger brother Cory who was six at the time, wore BDUs, refusing to take them off. Gillins said she eventually had to hide them.

It was just a few years later when Gillins’ daughter Tara joined the Guard, and with her enlistment a family tradition was born: loading up the remainder of the family and driving to Fort Sill, Okla., for Basic Training graduation. It wasn’t long after that when the car would be emptier but heading for the same destination. The family would have another Basic Training graduation; this time for Brady. Cory, 17, heads to Basic at Fort Benning, Ga., in May 2007.



LEFT: *Shari Gillins, second from left, with her family at Adam's departure for Afghanistan.*

BOTTOM LEFT: *CPT Adam Ashworth says goodbye to a young family member.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: *CPT Adam Ashworth serving in Afghanistan with I Corps Artillery (Forward).*



Photo courtesy ICA

## Adam in Afghanistan, Family Supports from Afar

This year, CPT Adam Ashworth is spending Christmas in Afghanistan. It is the second deployment of his 11-year career. Ashworth is assigned to the 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion. He says his experiences in the Guard and now in a combat zone strengthen his resolve to make a difference.

"I have been in Afghanistan for four months now and have experienced everything expected in a combat zone," Ashworth wrote in an Email interview.

"As I work with the Afghan National Army Soldiers—sleeping, eating, fighting, and training with them every day—I have developed a brotherhood-type bond when events are experienced, such as war. Mostly I have had to learn a lot of patience. But I have welcomed the opportunity to help these Soldiers better their warfighting and help them achieve freedom," Adam wrote.

Adam credits his family with the success he has had in the Guard, especially his wife Tessa who has unconditionally supported his career.

"My wife is the most positive and supportive woman I could ever imagine," Adam wrote. "The National Guard has required much time spent away from her and my little girl, but knowing that Tessa supports me 100 percent and is as strong as she is has made this deployment easier."

Tessa knows that deployments come with the job of a Soldier's wife. She has accepted that role, supporting Adam, though she says it isn't always easy.

"Adam is proud to serve his country and he feels it is his duty," Tessa said. "I support him in that. It takes prayer, family support and a lot of hope. I don't know how to explain it, but our love and security in our relationship has made me realize that whatever happens, it will be all right. I think it takes a strong relationship to survive a deployment."

Soldiering is the family business and Adam says he is proud

of his brothers and sister for following in his footsteps.

"I think my siblings saw what the Army did for me and how proud my parents were, and they wanted that same feeling of accomplishment. I have the utmost respect for my siblings for joining the Guard," he wrote. "Brady and Cory joined despite all the turmoil going on in the world. When I joined there was a very slim chance of going to combat, but now a Soldier is almost guaranteed to deploy."

He says that pride is especially true for his sister Tara whom he says chose a profession in a "male-dominated society."



Photo courtesy of Shari Gillins

*SPC Tara Delewski salutes her older brother, CPT Adam Ashworth, after she reenlists in the Guard.*

## Sister Act: Early Intermission for Tara

As Christmas approaches, Tara Delewski is at Fort Bliss, Texas, waiting for an operation on her right knee. While she thinks about her family, she also thinks about her fellow Soldiers at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 222nd Transportation Company of the Arizona National Guard is performing convoy missions from Kuwait to Northern Iraq. They are moving Soldiers and supplies into the combat zones of the struggling democracy.

"I was really excited to go to Iraq even though my husband had just returned from Iraq himself," Delewski said. "My unit is just like a family, and we are very close."

Delewski said she didn't want to let her fellow Soldiers down.

"I am determined to go to Iraq," Delewski said. "I had come too far to give up. When I hurt my knee and was told I wasn't going, it broke my heart. I had completed all of my training and was



SPC Tara Delewski waits to have her right knee operated on at Fort Bliss, Texas.

validated to deploy. All the blood, sweat and tears for this deployment were put on hold.”

Delewski said there is still a chance for her to catch up with her unit this spring. While she is close to the Soldiers in her own unit, there is nothing like the bond she shares with her brothers.

“I am extremely proud to serve with my three brothers,” Delewski said. “We all have a sense of fulfillment and pride when we are in uniform. Out of uniform that bond is unexplainable. It’s a bond that most siblings do not share and there is an understanding of the sacrifice it takes to be a Soldier.”

### **Brady and Cory March to the Same Drum**

For Brady and Cory Ashworth, joining the Guard meant more than serving their country; it completed and sealed a bond between the Ashworth siblings. However, Gillins was apprehensive when her youngest, Cory, came to her in September 2006 and said he



Photo courtesy of Shari Gillins

Brady Ashworth, center, is the fourth Ashworth sibling to join the National Guard. Brother Adam, left, joined more than 11 years ago.

joined,” Gillins said. “When Cory came to me and my husband Mitch right after his seventeenth birthday, I broke down and cried. I told Cory he needed to talk to his father Mike. Mike and his wife Heather have been involved and supported the children and their decisions.”

Cory had talked to his father, telling his mother it was his own decision, and she had to sign the enlistment paperwork.

“I called Mike immediately,” Gillins said. “He said we had to continue to support the kids and their decisions. Cory’s enlistment was a hard one for me. But I know now that he made the right decision, just like his brothers and sister.”

Ashworth, whose birthday is September 11, said it wasn’t a hard decision for him. The events of 9-11 strengthen his resolve to serve alongside his siblings.

“I take great pride in serving my country,” Cory Ashworth said. “I also joined because of Adam. He was the first one to join in our family. I wanted to complete the sibling tradition.”

As Gillins looks at the Christmas tree with the white doves in her home, she thinks back to a hot summer afternoon in Minersville, Utah. That Fourth of July, Gillins, her husband Mitch, Adam, Tara and Jesse were attending the city’s Independence Day celebration. The event was honoring veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and local Triple Deuce Soldiers deployed in Iraq.

“I was busily chatting with Adam, Tara, and her husband Jesse,” Gillins said. Suddenly the three of them stopped talking. They were focused on the American flags being carefully brought to the podium. All three of them stood at attention and faced the colors. Nothing distracted their gaze, attention and stance in any way. Other people were laughing, talking, eating and hardly noticing the flag. But Adam, Tara and Jesse never moved until the flags had been posted.”

Gillins said she simply observed them and absorbed the moment.

“It was at that moment that the full meaning of what my children’s service meant to them—and me,” she said. “It became as crystal clear as anything I had ever experienced with them. My immense pride in my children’s choice to serve their country is an understatement. I am very proud to be a Blue Star Mom.” 

## Honoring Those Who Served

By SPC Samantha Xanthos

RIVERTON, Utah — **H**onor plays a part in everything we do in the military and is the motivation behind the Utah Veterans Honors program. Rendering military honors is the final tribute to those who have served our country. The goal of this new program is to standardize Army funerals for the State, ensure they are done professionally and give Soldiers the opportunity to serve those who have gone before.

Retired CSM James Slade heads the state program and is currently accepting participants who would like to become part of our funeral teams. A military honors training course will be given to each new team member or a refresher course as needed. Retirees, technicians and M-Day Soldiers will receive a day's pay or a stipend of \$50.

"Our commitment is to honor those who have served our Nation, to recognize their sacrifice and contributions and to provide the most proficient and professional funeral honors possible," Slade said, concerning the new program.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please call Utah Veterans Honors at

(801) 878-5791

or Email

samantha.xanthos@us.army.mil. 

## In Memoriam

SPC Leroy Verald K. Hunt,  
115th Maintenance Company

2nd Lt. Scott B. Lundell,  
I Corps Artillery

SPC Bradley John Sisitki, Jr.  
B Co., 1457th Engineer Battalion

SGT Greg Mark Taggart,  
A Co., 1-211th Aviation Battalion

# Thank You Fire Station 53

By Shad West

**W**EST JORDAN, Utah — When Airport No. 2 lost its crash rescue team a few years ago, it left the Utah National Guard's 211th Aviation looking off the tarmac for support. The Blackhawk battalion found the support it needed from the West Jordan Fire Department.

On Feb. 6 the aviators officially thanked the city and its fire department for their support during a city council meeting.

At the ceremony, MAJ Pete Adams, executive officer for 2nd Battalion of the 211th, presented Fire Chief Brad Wardle with a token of appreciation for the station's support of the unit's training events for the past two years.

"What they have done is gone above and beyond," Adams said. "We no longer have a crash rescue team here at the airport. So we have relied on them and trained with them. We have built a great relationship with them and want to continue that relationship."

Adams presented Wardle and Station 53 with a plaque and a letter to show the Guard's appreciation.

"The professionalism that your team display[s] provide[s] us with the utmost confidence in your ability to respond," wrote Adams in the letter. "Like firefighters, aviators assume a significant risk every time we do our job. Knowing that . . . the West Jordan City Fire Department is there . . . gives us the confidence to maximize our training efforts."

Also present at the ceremony was West Jordan Mayor David Newton. He expressed appreciation for the Guard's presence in his community.

"We are very pleased to have the Guard in our city," Newton said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for our fire department to train with the Guard. We are more than pleased to work with them, and they are absolutely great neighbors."

While the majority of firefighter support has been with crash rescue training, Adams said the fire department has also honored some of the unit's retirees during their final flights. The West Jordan Fire Department has participated in cross-cannon water salutes—firing water from their engines over the helicopters as they landed. Cross-cannon water salutes have been a long-standing military tradition for retiring aviators in all branches of the Armed Forces.

"They have been very gracious to work with us, even on short notice," Adams said.

"We wanted to thank them in a public manner; we wanted the community to know how much their fire department has done for us." 

*MAJ Pete Adams presents a plaque to Fire Chief Brad Wardle in appreciation of Fire Station 53's support at Airport No. 2.*

Photo courtesy of A Co., 2-211th Aviation



# “Remembering You”

By SSgt. Christiana Elieson  
Photos by SFC Greg Cullis

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**oe-tapping. Inspiring. Thought-provoking.

These words describe the night of spoken words and music at the Utah National Guard’s 51st annual Veterans Day concert held at the University of Utah’s Huntsman Center Nov. 11.

The theme for this year’s event was “Remembering You,” and it called up thoughts of veterans past and those currently serving. Renditions of “Bring Him Home,” “Taps,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “America the Beautiful” and many other patriotic-themed numbers were presented by the Utah Guard’s 23rd Army Band, the combined Granite School District High School Choir and soloists Jerry Floor and Don Fredley.

MSgt. Sterling Poulson and retired Lt. Col. Kent DeMars served as masters of ceremonies, and they provided a perfect mix of serious and lighthearted narration and commentary during the performance.

Of particular note was the playing of “Light Eternal,” a musical portrayal of the sinking of the troop ship U.S.S. Dorchester in the North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1942. Struck by two Nazi torpedo blasts, the tragedy turned legendary when four Army chaplains on board gave up their life vests to save other Soldiers. As lifeboats pulled away from the doomed vessel, survivors saw and heard the chaplains, joined arm in arm, praying and singing in a final declaration of faith as the ship went down.

MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general, keynoted the program with some to-the-point observations on the conflict in which the world is engaged today.

“We are locked in mortal combat with an enemy that thinks in terms of decades and centuries. It is an open ques-

## 51st Annual Veterans Day Concert

tion whether or not we will prevail, but it will be a question of our citizens—and not of our Soldiers—who will make that determination,” said Tarbet. “Your military will not fail you. We will fight and win our Nation’s wars as long as we have your support.”

The program also included concert staples such as the playing of each military Service’s song while veterans stood to the delight and applause of the audience. The closing number was John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

CW3 J. Mike Cottam, leader of the 23rd Army Band and veteran of 40 of the 51 Veterans Day concerts, turned in another charismatic and versatile performance as he directed several numbers and then gave the baton to SSG Denny Saunders. Cottam then moved over to the drums and provided percussion accompaniment.

“I hope that all who listened and viewed were lifted. That’s what the object is: to touch hearts and lift spirits,” Cottam said.

Concertgoer Owen Denison confirmed that Cottam’s goal was reached.

“It was excellent,” Denison said.

Justin Harris, a Kearns High School senior and member of the Madrigals is a veteran of the Veterans Day concert, having sung at the 2005 event.

“I was more nervous last year and this year was more fun. I have relatives in the military. It’s a great feeling to be able to honor them,” Harris said.

Fellow Kearns student Shannon DeLaMare added, “It was a cool experience.”

“It’s wonderful to hear the tribute to our veterans and Service members,” said Tarbet after the concert. “Every year tops the others.” 



# *Concert brings community, military together for tribute*



LEFT: The 23rd Army Band performs before a crowd of 3,000 at the Huntsman Center; TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Honor Guard posts colors at the Veterans Day Concert; SGT Randy Cox on the trombone with 1SG David Krueger in background; Clarinet soloist and former member of the Utah National Guard Jerry Floor delights the audience with "Sing Sang Sung"; Concert violinist and Utah National Guard member MSG Ron Stevens accompanies the 23rd Army Band; Soloist SSG Benjamin Jacobson performs with the 23rd Army Band; Granite School District combined choir members wave flags during the playing of "Stars and Stripes Forever."; MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general, keynotes the Veterans Day concert; The combined choirs of 12 high schools from Granite School District provide music at the Veterans Day concert.

# SUU ROTC Completes Another Successful Semester

By CPT Robert Warden

CEDAR CITY, Utah — **M**uch has taken place since the start of Fall Semester 2006. The Military Science level four cadets (seniors) that returned from Fort Lewis, Wash., did a fine job developing and supervising the other cadets. At the opening social, the program welcomed about 70 cadets and finished the semester with 67. The program will lose a number of these as it starts the next semester, which is typical.

The Department of Military Science was excited to have such support from new Athletic Director Ken Beazer who allowed the military to be the theme of the opening home football game. All military personnel, former and present and their families, were able to eat free at the tailgate party and were given free tickets to the game. Former head of Southern Utah University (SUU) ROTC LTC Richard Miller and retired SFC Wes Peterson were present for the coin toss.

SUU ROTC Alumni MAJ Gregory Hartvigsen and 1LT Ryan Mundy landed an Apache for the tailgate party and then buzzed the stadium just after the National Anthem was sung by Ashley Anderson and Katie Warden, daughters of MAJ Brent Anderson, who is currently serving in Afghanistan and CPT Robert Warden the current SUU ROTC Officer in Charge (OIC). The 2-222nd Field Artillery was able to bring a Paladin howitzer for the tailgate party.

Just in time to see the leaves changing color up Cedar Canyon, SUU cadets were given the opportunity to fly on a Blackhawk, thanks to the support of the Utah National Guard. The lab was a great success, and cadets gained some great experience. A few campus representatives who play important roles in the success of our program, gained experiences too.

The Army ROTC entry in the homecoming parade placed a deserving first, and the club received a plaque and \$100. This is the second time in the last three years, the club has taken first place.

The Fall Semester dining out was a huge success this year. Ryan Mcleod was Mr. Vice and there were a number of humorous points of order. The Ranger Challenge team was awarded along with the high achievers in the Army Physical Fitness Test. There were a number of local leaders and distinguished guests. Among them were LTC Richard Miller who was the guest speaker, MAJ Ted Leblow, Battalion OIC from BYU, Dean Carl Templin from the SUU business department and the program was very pleased to have Michael Bensen, the new SUU President, in attendance.

Two of the nine cadets who will commission for 2007, commissioned on Friday, Dec. 15, 2006. The oath

was administered to 2LT Brady Jensen and 2LT Matt Moody. The ceremony went well.

SFC Mark Loria will be the training noncommissioned officer. The Training and Recruiting officer position has recently been filled by 1LT Jeremy Williams.

SUU's Army ROTC program is approaching the spring semester with much enthusiasm. The cadre at SUU are not only working hard preparing cadets at SUU to be commissioned but are preparing to expand their training and influence to St. George as they open a new Army ROTC program on the campus of Dixie State College beginning Fall Semester 2007. This will give more opportunity for students to become commissioned officers with a focus on increasing the number of Army nurses. The year 2007 looks to be a very busy one for SUU Army ROTC. 



Photo by Cadet Eric Jones

LEFT: Former and current military members and SUU ROTC attend SUU's homecoming game, which had a military theme.

BELOW: SUU ROTC cadets exit a Blackhawk after a flight.



Photo by CPT Robert Warden

# West Jordan Eagle Scout Presents Baby Quilts to Utah Military Families

To the newborn of a United States serviceman,

I would very much like you to know why you have this patriotic blanket. This blanket, as well as 69 others, was made by over 120 volunteers as part of my Eagle Scout Service Project. This is something I am very proud of, and I hope you will find warmth and comfort in using it.

This isn't the only reason I did this. This blanket was made out of respect, gratitude, and admiration for you and your family. I respect and admire your family for the time that they have given for protecting this country and this country's freedom. Please accept this blanket as well as my thanks.

I want you to know that you are not alone. There are children just like you that are born or raised without their father, and some who never knew their father because they were serving or killed over seas fighting for our freedom. When life seems tough or unfair, take comfort in this blanket, and please remember all of us who are counting on our servicemen to keep our country free and safe.

Thank you. Thank you for all that your family has sacrificed.

With great respect and admiration,  
  
 Michael Duckworth  
 Life Scout – September 2006  
 Troop 1510



By Shad West

DRAPER, Utah — **A**n Eagle Scout project is touching the lives of deployed Utah Service members and their families.

Michael Duckworth, 12, of West Jordan, presented 70 hand-made quilts to Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet in a ceremony Nov. 1 at the Utah National Guard headquarters. The quilts, all with an American flag in the patchwork, are wrapped in yarn along with a personal letter from Duckworth. They will be given to the families of deployed Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers.

To make the quilts Duckworth gathered supplies through donations. More than 120 volunteers donated more than 280 man-hours to the collecting and quilting of the blankets in two months.

While the quilting was primarily left to those who know how to sew, the heartfelt letter was written by Duckworth himself.

“I want you to know that you are not alone,” he wrote. “There are children just like you that are born or raised without their father, and some who never knew their father because they were serving or killed overseas fighting for our freedom.”

Before the presentation, Duckworth said he wasn't sure how families would react to his gift, saying he felt nervous.

“In my mind's eye I don't know what their reaction will be,” Duckworth said. “It's kind of exciting to think about their reac-



TOP: Michael Duckworth, center, presents baby quilts to members of the Marine Corps Reserve and Utah Army and Air National Guards. LEFT: Michael Duckworth, center, and his Scouting-oriented family at the blanket-presentation ceremony in Draper. RIGHT: Michael Duckworth surrounded by many of the baby quilts he presented for his Eagle Scout project.



Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

tion. I hope they will cherish it and keep it forever.”

One of the first families to receive a quilt was Marine Sgt. Robert Renova and his wife Debbi. Both were awed by the gift, and the young man who provided it.

“I can't say enough how much I appreciate this,” Sergeant Renova said. “It's hard to say how much it touched me when I actually read the letter. It's really impressive and I can't wait to share it with my son.”

Duckworth's family is impressed by their son's maturity, too. Ken Duckworth said his son organized the project, taking ownership from the outset.

Duckworth is already working toward his next goal, an appointment to the Air Force Academy after high school.

“He's in school working toward that,” Ken said. “He's mature beyond his years.”

The quilts are available to families with service members deployed overseas who are expecting or have newborn babies. For more information, contact the Utah National Guard Family Programs office at (801) 523-4080. 

# U.S. Special Forces Soldiers Conduct Holiday Operation for Filipino Kids

Story and photos by SGT Tim Meyer

CAMP BAUTISTA, Jolo Island, Republic of the Philippines — A few days after Air Force SSgt. Fred Grant settled into his job as Special Operations weather noncommissioned officer here, he made a cardboard donations box and an announcement.

The soft-spoken Mississippi native had a simple wish: to provide Christmas gifts for Filipino children who live on the camp here and whose parents are members of the Philippines armed forces.

“I thought it would be good for morale and it supports the mission,” said Grant. “That’s why we’re here—to help people.”

Grant, who is deployed with the Joint Special Operations Task Force—Philippines (JSOTF-P), first met the kids while jogging.

“They would come up and say hello, and you could tell they were sincere,” he said. “I noticed that they didn’t have a lot of toys, but they were having a good time.”

Grant said he wanted to do something for the kids, and donations began to appear in the box. But then he was transferred to work at JSOTF-P headquarters in Zamboanga City.

In stepped Army SGT Brian Bochat, an administrative NCO from West Jordan, and Air Force SSgt. Austin Stephens, an agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, who kept tabs on the box as donations continued.

The generosity of JSOTF-P personnel based both here and at task force headquarters in Zamboanga City resulted in more than \$500 being raised in about six weeks. Other U.S. military members, such as Army SGT Danny Mitchell, a legal administrative assistant, and SPC Sean Defoer, a personnel administrative assistant, helped by coordinating the event and purchasing gifts.

The big day for the presentation of gifts to the children came on Dec. 14. While waiting for Santa to arrive, CSM Scott Morgan, the senior enlisted member, led the group in singing “Jingle Bells.”

“This is the best thing we’ve done since we’ve been here,” Morgan said.

More than 100 children received gifts and



*Santa, played by PO2 Will Rioseco, SEAL Team 5, and assisted by SGT Brian Bochat, left, 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, and Air Force SSgt. Fred Grant, 181st Weather Flight, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, deliver gifts to local Filipino children.*

*TOP LEFT OPPOSITE PAGE: SGT Brian Bochat, 19th SFG, assists Santa with gifts at Camp Bautista, Jolo Island, Philippines.*

a special visit from Santa Claus, played by Petty Officer Will Rioseco, a gunner’s mate with Seal Team Five from Coronado, Calif.

According to Grant, donations were also encouraged by his civilian employer, Baker Hughes Drilling Fluids in New Orleans. He has participated in many charity events over the years. Grant is a Texas Air National Guard weather forecaster for the 181st Weather Flight, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas.



Bochat's home unit is the 1-19th Special Forces Group, based at Camp Williams, Utah. Soldiers from the 1-19th are in the midst of a nine-month rotation in the Philippines.

Stephens, the AFOSI agent, is based out of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

The task force draws military members from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and from both active-duty and reserve components. The unit's mission is to advise and assist their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines in counterterrorism activities. 🇵🇭

## Hero Flight Honors Veterans

Story and photos by SrA Andrew Howells

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**t a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love and the lessons of the workaday world, they were fighting in the most primitive conditions possible across the bloodied landscape of France, Belgium, Italy, Austria and the coral islands of the Pacific,” said author and reporter Tom Brokaw in his book *The Greatest Generation*.

A group of Utah World War II veterans were given an opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., to visit the monument erected in their honor. The operation dubbed “Hero Flight” was organized by many local businesses in Utah.

Business owners donated money to send these heroes to the World War II Memorial, said event organizer Paul McSweeney of Nephi, Utah.

Inspired by his late father who was also a veteran, McSweeney wanted to honor the generation that many have called the “Greatest Generation.”

One of the members of this generation was Keith Davis from American Fork. Davis, an Army veteran, was assigned to 11th Field Artillery Division.

“I remember it was so cold and foggy that you couldn’t tell the difference between an Allied or German tank only a few feet in front of you,” said Davis who was present during

the entire Battle of the Ardennes, which became known as the Battle of the Bulge. It took place on one of the coldest, snowiest days in the Ardennes Forest, which occupied about 80 miles from the German and Belgian border.

“When the fog lifted, there were dead bodies all over the place,” said Davis.

“Before the Bulge, we were liberators; after we became conquerors, invading the heart of Germany.” Davis said. “I am just tickled that we have this opportunity to see this memorial.” This will be his first visit to this landmark in the heart of Washington, D.C.

While walking the memorial it reminded Davis of difficult memories of the war fought years ago.

Davis helped liberate the first concentration camp at the end of World War II.

The Ohrdruf death camp was the first Nazi concentration camp to be liberated by the American Army on April 4, 1945.

“Their bodies were so thin, we couldn’t believe it,” said Davis regarding those rescued from the camp. “A lot of bodies were shot up, but no blood came out, just yellow ooze. It was like something from a movie.”

“I just have so much admiration for them,” said Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, who lost his brother Jesse in the war. “I feel so deeply about what they’ve gone through.” 🇺🇸

*“Greatest Generation” travels to war tribute*



Members of the Utah chapters of the American Legion await takeoff of “Hero Flight” as they travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in Veterans Day celebrations at the World War II Memorial.

Photo of the WWII Memorial Stars by Richard Latoff

# Communication Issues Addressed at Signal Conference

By WO1 Adam D. Crenshaw

DRAPER, Utah — **S**ignal leader development and Army-Air Guard collaboration were just two of the main topics discussed at the semiannual Signal Conference held Jan 6 and 7.

The two-day event provided Utah National Guard Airmen and Soldiers a venue to facilitate the free flow of information regarding communications support and address concerns from Guard communication shops.

LTC Matt Price, Deputy Chief Information Officer discussed the need to create an identity and career path for all Signal, commissioned, warrant and noncommissioned officers that can be tracked and command directed.

“We have Military Intelligence, Engineers and Special Operations headquarters, but there isn’t a Signal Corps headquarters,” Price said. “So really there is no identity for Signal personnel. In order to meet the mounting mission requirements we are going to have to figure out a way to meet those demands. Unfortunately, right now, there isn’t a Signal unit in Utah.”

However, there are plans to have a Signal Company established within one of the Major Commands. Until the unit is created, the Guard is creating new positions across the board and trying to fill vacant Signal slots at unit levels.

The Utah National Guard’s Emergency Operations Team used the conference to introduce new mobile communication kits. The purpose of these kits is to provide units with the means of interoperability for Military As-

sistance to Civilian Authorities (MACA) operations. All of the components in the kits give units both voice and data capabilities during any emergency or training operation when there is a need to communicate with civilian authority.

“I’ve wanted to see this for six years,” said SFC Joe Parker, 84th Civil Support Team. “The vision of the radio kits being prepared and deployed throughout the state was just incredible. We now have increased readiness in case of a disaster.”

The mobile kits include a variety of radios, phones and computer equipment including a portable satellite configuration. All of the components will give Guard units both voice and data capabilities during any emergency or training operation. The kits were fielded geographically to eight units in Utah.

“We all get too focused on our individual unit missions,” said MSgt. Brian Carter, 109th Air Combat Squadron. “The information presented at the conference really showed me the variety of experience and equipment that is available during an emergency operation.

Future conferences will involve topics such as, lessons learned from deployed Signal personnel, civilian-agency speakers, as well as breakout sessions to discuss tactical military communications and civilian emergency operations.

The next Signal Conference is scheduled to be held in May 2007 at the Salt Lake Air Base. 



LEFT: LTC Matt Price speaking to the audience at the J6 semiannual Signal Conference.



# Benefits and Education

## Scholarships

State Tuition Waivers (Scholarships) are now being accepted. All Utah National Guard Soldiers attending or planning to attend the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters may apply for tuition waivers. These waivers are good at any State university or college. Apply now, before the deadline of March 31, 2007, and get your schooling paid for. For more information and the application, see the following Web site: <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2>.

## Chapter 1607

The VA is processing applications for Chapter 1607 for those Soldiers who were mobilized in support of GWOT under Title 10, USC.

Soldiers who may be eligible need to go to the VA Web site – [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). They then need to click on Benefits and Education. That will bring up the location to find information about Chapter 1607. If applying for Chapter 1607 Soldiers will need to enclose a copy of their mobilization and demobilization order as well as a copy of DD Form 214 releasing them from a mobilization status.

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

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

Sponsored by:  
The Utah National Guard Association

Underwritten by:  
ING/Reliastar Life Insurance Company  
AFBA/5 Star Life Insurance Company

### LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

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

### MEMBER COVERAGE

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

\* Non Tobacco-User Rates

### SPOUSE COVERAGE

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

\* Non Tobacco-User Rates

### PLAN FEATURES

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

### DEPENDENT COVERAGE

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

### BENEFICIARY

Your primary beneficiary will be eligible for an immediate death benefit of up to \$25,000 within 24 hours of notification. This benefit is designed to help with the immediate expenses surrounding the death of a member.

To obtain more information or to schedule a unit briefing please call

# 1-800-462-7441

# A R M Y P R

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Harwood, Albert Keith

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Christensen, Clark John  
Diaz, Orlando  
Hunter, Quentin Eugene

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Campbell, Corby Glen  
Harris, Travis Laverl  
Holliday, Rodney Clyde  
Martin, Jeffery Allan  
Palfreyman, Scott M  
Sackett, Byra G  
Scovil, Lewis Bryant  
Smith, Alan Wayne  
Snowball, Devin Jay

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Gardner, Richard Russell  
Gonzales, Ronald Bradley  
Johnson, Richard Matthew  
Petersen, Craig Lynn  
Shepherd, Sean Douglas  
Thompson, Brenda Lee  
Warner, Reed Ched

## COLONEL

Long, Russell John

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Blair, Lamar Jr  
Fisher, Thomas Charles  
McKay, Gary James

## MAJOR

Anstead, Clay Robert  
Brown, Kevin Michael  
Burt, Darcy W  
Calder, Steven Richard  
Caldwell, Christopher Aaron  
Carpenter, Larry Renn  
Christensen, Dallen H  
Crosby, Thearon Dee  
Filoso, Christopher Mark  
Geisler, Steven Bret  
Horlacher, David Stephen  
King, Ryan Michael  
Mercer, Jeffrey Jay  
Patterson, Chris Leroy  
Peters, Paul Stephen  
Spencer, Jethro Maxwell  
Wood, Brian Reeve

## CAPTAIN

Allen, Jacob Jedediah  
Artega, Juan Manuel Jr  
Ashworth, Adam Robert  
Boyd, Shawn Michael  
Budge, Kimberly Kaye  
Cammack, David Earl  
Christensen, Todd Steven  
Fontenot, Ronald Dante  
Haws, Patrick Howard  
Helco, James Dee  
Hofheins, Bryan Bernell  
Horning, Ryan Rick  
Horton, Catherine Alice  
Kawai, Russel Paul Hideo  
Kelley, Lee Lawrence III

Mckay, Jennifer Lee  
Meinecke, Ryan Ismael  
Mellor, Corey James  
Morgan, Tod B  
Nelson, Shaun Robert  
Richardson, Jon David  
Sanford, Camille Mary  
Smith, Kimberly Kay  
Smith, Phillip Michael  
Sodergren, Timothy Lee Jr  
Steff, David Paul  
Tate, Wencke Leigh  
Taylor, Eric Sean  
Triplett, Charles B  
West, Ryan Jonathan  
Wilde, Jason Todd  
Williams, Gerald Elden

## LIEUTENANT

Berry, Robert Carl  
Cerchio, David Anthony  
Denning, Christopher Lee  
Emery, Troy William  
Ence, Choli Camil  
Green, Matthew Karl  
Grimes, Scott Richard  
Gunnarson, Egan Neal  
Jensen, Justin Michael  
Johnson, Gregory Frederick  
Matthews, Todd Brian  
Miller, Chris Robert  
Satalino, Curtis Matthew  
Warby, Bryce Edward  
Webster, Steven Benjamin  
Wikle, Troy Daniel

## SERGEANT MAJOR

Fowler, Cheryl Kaye  
Hamilton, David Mark  
Kingston, Bradley Carl  
Waters, Michael Lynn

## MASTER SERGEANT

Anderson, Eric Walter  
Baggerly, Lyron Otis  
Colvin, Bret Stacey  
Major, Gary Joseph  
Peterson, Kim Shane  
Rackham, Charus Richard II  
Wardle, Brian Dee  
Whatcott, Steven Lamont

## SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Allman, Wade Leslie  
Barlow, James Verl  
Berge, Anthony Michael  
Bess, Kevin James  
Biggerstaff, Frank Scott  
Brant, Michael Richard  
Brown, Matthew Richard  
Curtis, Jeffrey Steven  
Davis, Derek Brian  
Goldsmith, Willard Leroy IV  
Hardenbrook, Jeffrey Lee  
Jackson, Jay Lynn  
Jensen, Joel Gray  
Kelley, Perry Wayne  
Kirby, Michael Brian  
Litster, Jill Marie  
Mietzner, Brent Wade  
Murdock, James Craig  
Nichols, Jerriah Michael

Oakeson, Greg Richard  
Olsen, Wade Lee  
Orton, Roger Lynn  
Perkins, Randall Alan  
Peterson, Don Joseph  
Pullin, Shawn Robert  
Reber, Jared Byron  
Ross, Wyatt Boyd  
Rundell, Craig Brandon  
Schultz, Peter Steven  
Smith, Kimberly Edwin  
Spencer, Douglas James  
Villalona, Miguel Vladimir  
Waldron, William Montgomery  
Wall, Brian Lee  
Willden, Dirk Allen  
Williams, Christopher Alan  
Wintle, Jeffery Don  
Wuolukka, Frank Adolf  
Youell, Christopher Eugene

## STAFF SERGEANT

Anderson, Brian Robert  
Atkinson, Thomas Joseph  
Austin, Wayne Given Jr  
Bennion, Jamie Christopher  
Black, Glen Elsworth  
Blackburn, Michael Lee  
Bonham, Nichole  
Brenchley, Jeffrey Taylor  
Brinkerhoff, Walon K  
Brown, Patrick Mark  
Buckner, Sean Marc  
Butler, Jeremy Dale  
Campbell, Scott Richard  
Chatwin, Scott Anthony  
Chipman, Christopher Joe  
Clark, Christopher James  
Clark, Garrett Bryan  
Courtney, Alexander Sherwood  
Crookston, Thomas David II  
Davies, Michael Rob  
Davis, Elizabeth Anne  
Davis, Robert Kenneth  
Day, Chevonne Aimee  
Dellinger, Ford Brian  
Deskens, Travis Mark  
Dimond, Jeremy Mark  
Dizo, Vincent Carl  
Doxstader, Michael Grant  
Everett, Jordan Spencer  
Fajardo, Alejandro Jose  
Flanagan, Patrick Edward  
Fraughton, Jason Max  
Garcia, Pedro Alanis  
Gardner, Glen Micheals  
Grammer, James Stephen  
Green, Christopher Harry  
Hammond, Ronald Baer  
Harris, Daniel James  
Hessler, Harold Leroy Jr  
Hilton, Aaron Ty  
Holland, Eric William  
Holman, Greg Weston  
Hone, Jerald Morris  
Jacobsen, Adam Wayman  
Johanson, Ryan Michael  
Johnson, James Vernon  
Johnsson, Ryan J  
Jones, David Elias  
Jones, Landon Richard  
Jones, Scott Lyle

Jonkman, Ryan Benjamin  
Kitson, Carl Jonathan  
Koka, Brian Matthew  
Koltermann, Troy Richard  
Kotter, Rachael Marie  
Larrabee, Rick Warren  
Larsen, Kal Thomas  
Larsen, Steven Dean  
Larson, Landon James  
Lejeune, Desiree Lee  
Leseberg, Richard Thomas  
Linthalath, Pone Amphone  
Loftus, D Nathan  
Lowe, Kevin Scott  
Luker, Nathan Andrew  
Marsh, Spencer Kimball  
Mcclure, Sean Patrick  
McNiven, Thomas Charles Jr  
Miller, Edmund Jay  
Molgard, Malone Hunsaker  
Moncada, Roberto Eduardo  
Moon, Keith Richard  
Narramore, James Watson  
Orton, Brandon Jerome  
Pack, Fredrick John Jr  
Palmer, Ryan Alan  
Perry, Stephen Richard  
Potts, Thomas Patrick  
Rasmussen, Andrew King  
Rasmussen, Cody Lonn  
Ricks, Jarom Michael  
Rose, Cory Mitchell  
Samudio, Marya Rose  
Sherman, Aaron Matthew  
Shreve, Timothy Wayne  
Sim, John Houston  
Smith, Jeremy Marlin  
Solie, Eric Lee  
Spencer, Ryan Marlo  
Stagge, Christopher Paul  
Tatton, Brian Ernest  
Teeple, David Royal  
Thompson, Dominic Christophe  
Tilley, Aaron Joseph  
Tubbs, Alan Joel  
Tullis, Cortney Daniel  
Walton, Zachary Durham  
Warby, Andrew Guy  
Ward, Matthew Karl  
Watson, Scott Michael  
Weber, Heath Dylan  
Womble, Adam Thomas  
Yocum, Jason Bryce  
Young, Jeremy Craig

## SERGEANT

Allred, Steven James  
Anderson, Kurt Michael  
Atsitty, Vincent Natani  
Begaii, Michael Ladell  
Beveridge, Zachary Kay  
Bishop, Bryan Don  
Blackmer, Owen Justin  
Bojorquez, Sergio David  
Bowden, Christopher Dean  
Braithwaite, Adam Michael  
Brinkerhoff, Corinne Marie  
Brown, Jerry Wayne  
Bunten, Kelley William  
Burton, Jason Sears  
Carlson, Jonathon Joseph  
Carrick, Benjamin Thomas

Case, Tucker Lundy  
Cave, Steven John  
Christensen, Michael Lorenzo  
Corwin, Marshal Harston  
Crandall, Justin Bryant  
Crane, Andrew David  
Crofts, David Leon  
Crosby, Joshua A  
Crowther, Jeremy Bingham  
Cuff, William Ward  
Curtis, Devin Deon  
Davis, Lance Steven  
Ellison, Brandon Kent  
Famulary, Adam Joseph  
Fegley, Blanden Todd  
Felt, Christopher Frederick  
Fifield, Caleb Kyle  
Foster, Joshua Alan  
Fugal, Brigham Brady  
Gadd, Jacob Larry  
Garcia, Edmundo Israel  
Gardner, Christopher Randall  
Garrett, Trevor Clark  
Goodrich, Benjamin Arthur  
Griffin, Jesse Gene  
Gurule, David Jacob  
Haddock, Leslie Ann  
Hale, Charles Boyd  
Hampton, Andrew Robert  
Hardy, Jerry Lee III  
Harris, Christian Lawrence  
Harward, Stephen Robert  
Hassan, Yousaf  
Hendricks, William Thomas  
Herrick, Nathan William  
Hill, John William II  
Hoopes, Austin Kimball  
Johnson, Damarques Andre  
Johnson, Jeremy Ray  
Jones, Joseph William  
Judkins, Jeffrey Scott  
Lara, Samuel Enrique  
Larson, Travis John  
Livingston, Curt Quintin  
Malmborg, Nathan Charles  
Mangelson, Gavin Clark  
McCulloch, Nathan Harry  
McKay, Taylor Brandt  
Mellor, Jason Neil  
Mills, Douglas Edwin  
Mitchell, Darren Matthew  
Mons, Quentin Maurice  
Moon, Nathan Robert  
Nelson, Merrell Alan Jr  
Palmer, Jesse Benjamin  
Peterson, Christopher Allyn  
Quinton, Carl David  
Ramsay, Kole Eugene  
Rasmussen, Stuart Leigh  
Reid, Michael Anthony  
Richards, Marie Hull  
Rogers, Melissa Lee  
Rohbock, Shaun Linn  
Saybolt, Shawn Thomas  
Scott, Jason Alexander  
Sengpraseut, David Douangmal  
Sharpe, Dezerae Maria  
Shippee, Adam Lee  
Smith, John David  
Smith, Justin Day  
Soto, Ernest Richard  
Spackman, Adam James

# O M O T I O N S

Sprague, Susan Marie  
 Staheli, Casey Alan  
 Taylor, Bryan David  
 Tobler, Gregory Kyle  
 Tripp, Justin Clay  
 Underwood, David Alfred  
 Vaughan, Glen Andrew  
 Vorwaller, Kurt Reinholt  
 Warburton, Robyn Denise  
 Whitaker, John Eric  
 Williams, Dustin Scott  
 Withers, Jacob Theran  
 Workman, Kyle David  
 Yates, Isaac

## SPECIALIST

Adams, Kyle Jacob  
 Allen, Ian Jeffrey  
 Andelin, Marvin Chad  
 Andersen, Jared Ian  
 Ashworth, Brady William  
 Atamanczyk, Joel Nelson  
 Atkin, Kody John  
 Baschke, Jeffrey Thomas  
 Beck, Brent Chad  
 Beck, Shawn Lee  
 Belliston, Reyn Kelly  
 Benson, Cassidi Linn  
 Berriochoa, Zachary Jay  
 Bishop, Brad Douglas  
 Black, David William  
 Blake, Brady Douglas  
 Broadhead, Michael Levi  
 Brown, James Christopher  
 Burton, Landon Ronald  
 Carter, Craig William  
 Chamberlain, Hyrum James  
 Christensen, Brandon Oliver  
 Christiansen, Daniel James  
 Christiansen, Jens Jeppa Lee  
 Christofferson, Kindy  
 Cook, Christopher Lynn  
 Day, Drew Allen  
 Deems, Ryan Mitchell  
 Deleeuw, Adam  
 Donovan, Meredith Anne  
 Dunn, Jared Michael  
 Fleischman, Ryan Lee  
 Floyd, Dustin Kent  
 Fonua, Sunia Max  
 Foote, Douglas Alan  
 Fowles, Jared Richard  
 Francis, Luke Glen  
 Furst, Samuel James  
 Futch, Joshua David  
 Garcia, Felipe  
 Gillespie, David Frank  
 Gold, Austin Joel  
 Green, Steven Greg  
 Guity, Juan  
 Hall, Jasper Norley  
 Halsted, Kier Michael  
 Hancock, Clyde Jay  
 Hardman, Andrew David  
 Hartley, Cameron Mackay  
 Hatcher, Jeffrey Steven  
 Haworth, Shannon Jeremiah  
 Heath, Mitchell Adam  
 Hendrickson, Arthur Dylan  
 Henline, John Raymond  
 Hickman, Daniel Joe  
 Higgins Benjamin Howard

Hill, Aubrey Lynn  
 Hill, Ronald Raymond  
 Hoffman, Charles Shupe  
 Howard, Michael Brandon  
 Hunt, Geoffrey Thomas  
 Jensen, Amy Sue  
 Jeppsen, Colby Jay  
 Johnson, Aric Marshall  
 Jones, Theo Randall  
 Jurgens, Kurt Joshua  
 Kelley, Robert Adam  
 Kelly, Brett Robert  
 King, Nathan Forrest  
 Kinross, Tyler William  
 Kleparek, Camille Gray  
 Kofford, James Douglas

Langenbacker, Levi Cary Jose  
 Larson, Curtis Gene  
 Lawrence, John Gordon  
 Lennon, Bryan Jonathan  
 Leon, Moises III  
 Lessing, Randon Cade  
 Lewis, Joel Nathaniel  
 Lieber, Jasen William  
 Lingmann, Blake John  
 Lofgren, Stephen Anthony  
 Lydon, Cristopher Lawrence  
 Malufau, Amaya Lehualani  
 Mantz, Kurt James  
 Marble, Jacob Glen  
 Marshall, Tiffany Joann  
 McCormick, William Robert  
 Meinzer, Nathan Blake  
 Merz, Martin Andrew  
 Milberger, Anthony Wayne  
 Mitchell, Kasy Reed  
 Montgomery, Mark Daniel  
 Mordido, Sarah Jean  
 Morris, Brian Paul  
 Murphy, Austin Clark  
 Murray, Andrew Mcgee  
 Nixon, Zackary Scott  
 Omer, Joshua Mark  
 Ostler, Jake Richard  
 Overton, Todd Dorsey  
 Peiffer, Kenneth Raymond  
 Pentico, Richard Alan  
 Platt, Lyman Dee  
 Raby, Carter Dean  
 Record, Kurt Waters  
 Richards, Joshua Darrell  
 Richins, Michael David  
 Riley, Brian Michael  
 Rinck, Zachary Isaac  
 Rodriguez, Joel David  
 Santome, Adam Cameron  
 Schmidt, Darren Frederick  
 Sharette, Matthew Keith  
 Shumway, Adam Hollister  
 Shurtz, Royden Phil  
 Simper, Nathan Raymond  
 Singer, Casey Jones  
 Slade, Joshua Travis  
 Smith, Cole Wayne  
 Smith, Matthew David  
 Sorensen, Kendall James  
 Stephens, Dustin Winn  
 Stevens, Justin Jay  
 Stickney, Travis Julius  
 Stocks, Jonathan Jake  
 Taylor, Micheal William  
 Thompson, Trenton Charles

Tingey, Kendall Francis  
 Tyner, Glen Martin  
 Valadez, Isaac James  
 Vallen, Jacob Aaron  
 Vigil, Damian Kc  
 Walters, Brian Daniel  
 Warner, Carol Courtney  
 Warren, Tyler Bryon  
 Weber, Elliott Martin  
 Westenskow, Travis Clair  
 Wiggins, Michael Allen  
 Wilkes, Cody Michael  
 Willette, Joshua Eric  
 Williams, Bryan Christopher  
 Wilson, Harper Dustin  
 Yates, Michael  
 Young, Clay Brock

## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Abbot, Dwayne Allen  
 Aitken, Nicole Elizabeth  
 Allen, Travis Ray  
 Allred, Justin Tyler  
 Alston, Stephen Anthony  
 Andersen, Shane Robert  
 Anderson, Jason James  
 Angelos, Anthony Micheal  
 Archibeque, Stephanie Mary  
 Ballard, David Jay  
 Bartholomew, Benjamin Hunter  
 Blackham, Jessie Lee  
 Brown, Melissa Jean  
 Butcher, Brandon James  
 Call, Lucas Will  
 Cavender, Joseph Lee  
 Chambers, Matthew T  
 Chesnut, Mark Allan  
 Cleveland, Joseph Charles  
 Cleveland, Kristin Lee  
 Cossey, Jeffery Mel  
 Cunningham, David Charles  
 Delgado, Matthew  
 Dennison, Christopher Steven  
 Dew, Eden Noelle  
 Dickey, Joshua Reed  
 Draughn, Joseph Patrick  
 Ellsworth, Phillip Scott  
 Evans, Andrew Lance  
 Farmer, Chase Robert  
 Felshaw, Robert Daniel  
 Flitton, Daniel David  
 Ford, Tyman Taylor  
 Fratto, Gregory Wayne  
 Fui, Denapoli Mu  
 Gardner, Howard Paul  
 Gauer, Kimberly  
 Gilbert, Daniel Lance  
 Gillespie, Andrew James  
 Greer, Phillip A  
 Hales, Michael Robert  
 Hardman, Brandon Clair  
 Hart, Adam Jacob  
 Heise, Julio Estuardo  
 Herrera-Ortuno, Manuel Omar  
 Higgins, Bruce Emery Jr  
 Hutchings, Derek Quey  
 Irving, Samuel Edward  
 Jensen, Andrew Robert  
 Johnson, John Cory  
 Kuhlman, Donald Wayne  
 Lambe, Christopher Jason  
 Langi, Paul Michael

Larson, Matthew Craig  
 Lizzio, Justin David  
 Macfarlane, Brandon Leroy  
 Mantz, Albert Paul Iv  
 Marsh, David Le Grand  
 Marshall, Lorenzo Brent  
 Mccoy, Seth  
 Mcphee, Matthew Wade  
 Merlette, Nicole Ann  
 Merrick, Daniel James  
 Mitani, Zackery Taylor Issam  
 Montgomery, Jullienne C  
 Morrill, John Stephen  
 Nesbit, Jason Lisiate  
 Nielson, Matthew Charles  
 Ocana, Jose Xavier  
 Okeef, Daniel Glen  
 Orozco, Rafael Gabriel  
 Pahl, Christopher Michael A  
 Patterson, Mitch Layton  
 Pittman, Thomas Jeffrey  
 Powell, Weston James  
 Price, William Joshua  
 Quan, Alfred Anthony  
 Reid, Seth Douglas  
 Robinson, Heather Diane  
 Rogers, Katie Lyn  
 Romrell, Jerry J  
 Roper, Jacob Bruce  
 Ryan, Timothy John  
 Sanchez, Eduardo  
 Sandoval, Joshua D  
 Scarlet, Martin Eli  
 Schlichte, Joshua Benjamin  
 Sepeda, Jonathan Frank  
 Serrano, Christopher Lewis  
 Skinner, Christopher Blake  
 Southworth, Bryson Cody  
 Steen, Kimberly Ann  
 Stevens, Alan Michael  
 Stocks, Kacy Ray  
 Swenson, Nathan John  
 Taylor, Andrew John  
 Taylor, Brady Snow  
 Tela, Christina  
 Valentine, Aaron Gregory  
 Vandrimmelen, Joseph P K  
 Veylupek, James Edward  
 Villamil, Bon Benedict Valer  
 Vorhies, Jason L P  
 Walker, Jeffrey Paul  
 Ward, Chistapher Vincent  
 Webb, Jordan Loy  
 Whipple, Jeremy Clayton  
 Williams, Michael Homer  
 Witte, Bryan Paul  
 Wolters, Christina E  
 Woods, Jonathan Scott  
 Zoutomou, Tonette Lucette

## PRIVATE

Alvey, Kansas  
 Anderson, Adam Alan  
 Applegate, Tyrone Jason  
 Aragon, David Omar  
 Barnett, Jeremiah Michael  
 Barton, Cortny Marie  
 Bates, Edward Bruce II  
 Behrmann, Bryan Lee  
 Bills, Jessalynn Lisa  
 Birch, Rikilyn  
 Bowers, Jeremy C

Bowler, Jonathon W  
 Boyer, Travis Lee  
 Brennan, Jeremiah Paul  
 Brown, Jason Don  
 Burningham, Eli Andrew  
 Camp, Michael Patrick  
 Carr, Timothy Peter  
 Carson, Chad C  
 Cly, Audrey Lea  
 Coville, Alexander S  
 Curtis, John Riley  
 Davis, Benjamin Tyler  
 Davis, Layne Lewis  
 Dawson, Chelsy Lynn  
 Day, Kory Max  
 Dayzie, Michael Tisi  
 Durfee, Jesse Jay  
 Ebmeyer, David J  
 Evans, Mitchell James  
 Farnsworth, Shaun Allen  
 Feola, Heather Leigh  
 Ferguson, Ryan Banner  
 Finnegan, Brandon Michial  
 Forsberg, Jared Daniel  
 Franco, Luis Angel  
 Gonzales, Victor Ray  
 Goudy, Hayden Borgeson  
 Gregory, Paul Michael  
 Guindon, Joseph Edward Jr  
 Healey, Joshua David  
 Henderson, Spencer William  
 Hendricks, Pun  
 Hepworth, Dylan Wayne  
 Hippach, Stephanie Glenn  
 Huffman, Damein Michael  
 Hull, Joseph Brian  
 Husbands, Krystal Diann  
 Hyer, Trisha Renee  
 Irons, Colby Bret  
 Jimenez, Fatima Liliana  
 Johnson, Jordan Nicolas  
 Johnson, Travis Jay  
 Johnson, Tyler Aaron  
 Juarez, Chad Kenneth  
 Judge, Bradley Allan  
 Keller, Justin Greg  
 Kerans, Amber Lynn  
 Keyte, Sky Lowell  
 Knop, Mallory Beth  
 Lai, Jay Arthur  
 Lambert, Andre William  
 Lanier, Jared Wright  
 Lelle, Jeremy Brian  
 Loy, Jordan Chase  
 Maher, John Douglas  
 Matyas, Kristopher John  
 May, Christina Marie  
 May, Jacob David  
 Mayne, Jacob Roy  
 Mcgray, Matthew Nmn  
 Mendoza, Abel Jesus  
 Miller, Michael Wayne  
 Miller, Tyler John  
 Moore, Cody James  
 Neto, Alberto Nahid  
 Newkirk, Justin Dewayne  
 Onuska, Matthew George  
 Packer, Gary Lynn Betsill  
 Paul, Joshua Jay  
 Pelletier, Christopher M  
 Perez, Nina Michelle  
 Perry, Jacob Michael

Peterson, Justin Peter  
Peterson, Kelly Orion  
Phillips, Major Victor  
Piereder, Michael William  
Poppitz, Kyle Andrew  
Poulsen, Jay R II  
Privett, Jami Robert

Robinson, Scott Wayne  
Ryan, Christopher Michael  
Sala, Russell James  
Salas, Joshua John  
Samek, Joseph Marcus  
Sandoval, Alberto Javier  
Sargent, Benjamin Lee

Sehy, Christopher Corey  
Smith, Chad Woodland  
Smith, Edwin Stephen Robert  
Smith, Justin Carl  
Smith, Rebecca Marie  
Sparks, Brian Ellery  
Spencer, Toby Jay

Spendlove, Jamie Jeff  
Stocks, Joshua Jack  
Taylor, Aja Desiree  
Taylor, Jesse Daniel  
Taylor, Rodger Alan Jr  
Thorne, Kenlan Richard  
Thornley, Michael Newell

Torgerson, Richard Knighton  
Verwer, Justin Scott  
Wack, Cody Clark  
Whitaker, Mark Philip  
Wood, Daniel Adam  
Woods, Nathan Andrew  
Young, Nelson Tyler

# AIR PROMOTIONS

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Hamilton, John R.  
Morris, Robert M.  
Weaver, Bruce

## MAJOR

Burke, Steven  
Binks, Jason  
Farmer, Mark

## CAPTAIN

Ferguson, Jared

## FIRST LIEUTENANT

Earl, Christopher  
Larsen, Kevin  
Lewis, Bruce

## CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Loeser, George  
Neel, Douglas  
Powell, David L.

## SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Fernelius, Neil  
Johnson, Steven

## MASTER SERGEANT

Adams, Josh M.  
Baxte, Lance  
Bullard, Kathy  
Campbell, Regina L.  
Castleton, Jon C.  
Choate, Michael  
Cook, Raymond  
Gatherum, Bryan R.  
Jenkins, Stephen  
Lamborn, Jason  
Marstella, Hugh  
Miller, Richard  
Putman, Christopher  
Sheriff, Russell  
Sparto, Joseph  
Wright, James  
Wade, Michael

## TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Adams, Melissa J.  
Batura, Nicholas  
Blanchard, Emery  
Bosen, Nathaniel  
Christie, Trevor  
Clausen, Jacqueline

## CORDERO, HONORIO

Despain, Deric  
Duffield, Barry  
Farr, Michael  
Gehring, Melody  
Henrie, Craig  
Jensen, Greg  
Jensen, Adam  
Jonkman, Christina  
Jurkowski, John  
Martinez, Jason  
Milya, Sandy S.  
Mulder, Mary  
Muniz, Jeffery  
Nielson, Aimee D  
Northrop, Teddy  
Perretta, Andrea  
Rickers, Jerome  
Shaffer, James  
Shaffer, James N.  
Thomas, Robert  
Umphries, Tina J.  
Valentine, Kendra

## STAFF SERGEANT

Alexander, Robert

## BARLOW, JOHN

Barney, Daniel  
Boog, Joseph  
Brown, James  
Burns, Scott  
Butterfield, Donald  
Clayton, Matthew  
Cooper, Joshua  
Dillingham, Steven  
Eckersley, James  
Geest, Tracy  
Gines, Kenneth  
Johnson, Jeremy  
Key, Roger  
Mecham, Jeremy  
Monson, Emily  
Morton, Sean  
Munden, Jeffrey  
Nichols, Benjamin B  
O'Brien, Kelly  
Olsen, Tyler  
Rich, Jarod  
Scovil, Chandler  
Smellie, Steven  
Stong, Seth  
Talbot, Erin

## THOMAS, MICHAEL

Thompson, Micheal  
Thornton, Nathaniel  
Trent, Luke.  
Wade, Adrian  
Wall, Brandon  
Wiscombe, Benjamin  
Wright, John

## SENIOR AIRMAN

Bailey, Jared  
Ballif, John  
Durtschi, Walter  
Farnsworth, Don  
Fuchs, Brent  
Hooper, David  
Jenkins, Stephen R.  
Jensen, Alex  
Madsen, Michael  
Margulies, Sandra  
Prawitt, Douglas G.  
Price, Sean  
Sheriff, Russell G.  
Taylor, Justin  
Whitlock, Danny  
Wilson, Andrew

## Utah National Guard Youth Brings Utah Issues to a National Audience

By CW2 Annette Barnes

DRAPER, Utah — **B**en Omer, son of Julie Omer and MSgt. Mark Omer, 169th Intelligence Squadron, stepped up three years ago to sit on the first Utah National Guard Youth Council.

While on the Youth Council, Ben caught the eye of National Guard Bureau leaders and they requested that Ben apply for a position on the National Teen Panel. After the application process was successfully completed, Ben was happily welcomed to the national stage. He attended the National Youth Symposium in Philadelphia as a Teen Panel delegate. Ben has also met with the National Teen Panel in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix to bring National Guard Youth issues to the forefront.

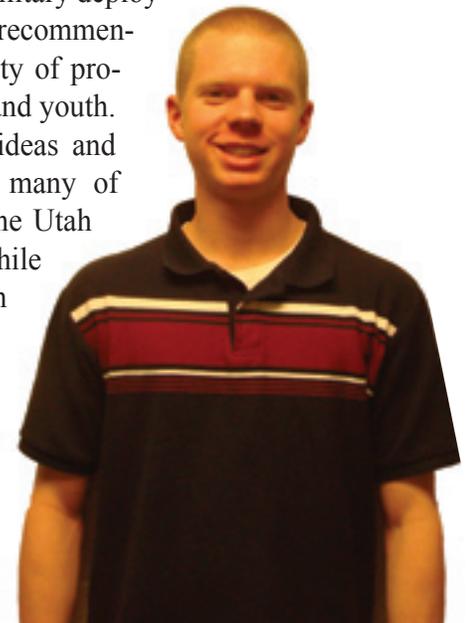
The Guard Teen Panel consists of two teens from each geographic region representing both Army and Air. Teens interested in a position on the panel must complete an application process which reveals their experience,

dedication and willingness to speak on behalf of National Guard children and youth.

Members of the Guard Teen Panel participate in four meetings per year in various locations. Their primary responsibility is to bring to the forefront the unique challenges of military deployment with the intention of making recommendations that may improve the quality of programs for National Guard children and youth.

Ben is a go-getter with great ideas and initiative. He helped brainstorm many of the wonderful things going on in the Utah National Guard Youth Program. While volunteering as a member of the Utah National Guard Youth Council, he helped set in motion many events such as the Great Utah Road Tour, Youth Symposium, and the Moroccan Youth Exchange.

Thank you, Ben, for your volunteerism and patriotism! 



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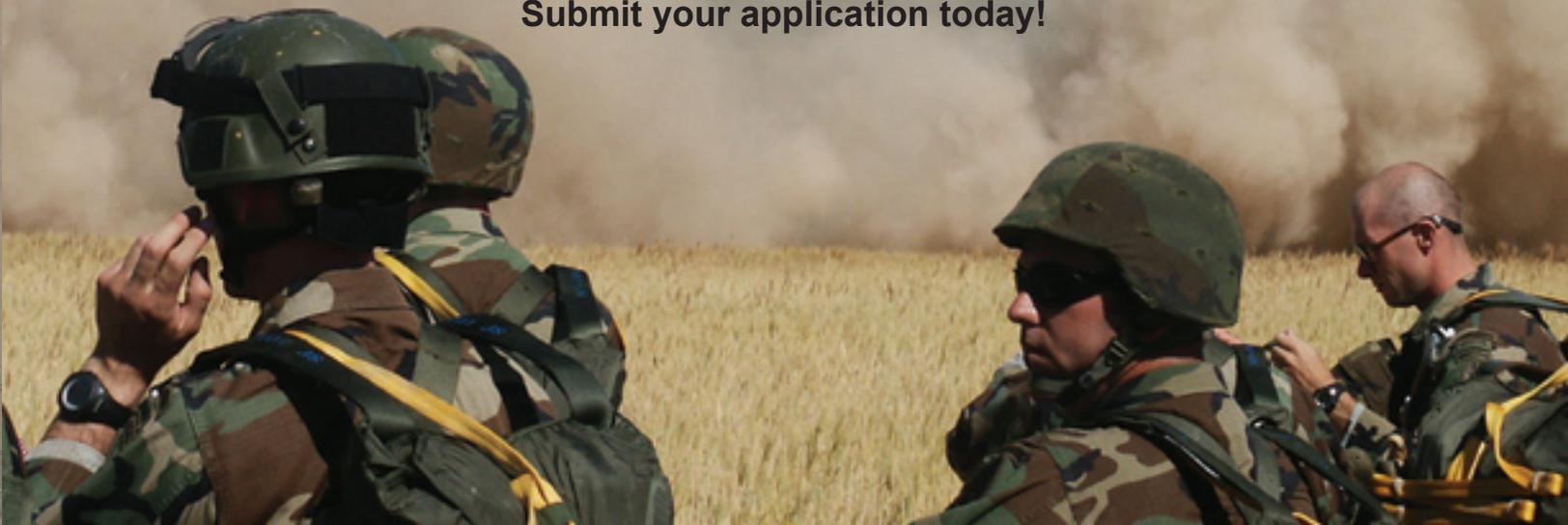
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