



UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah Air and Army National Guard

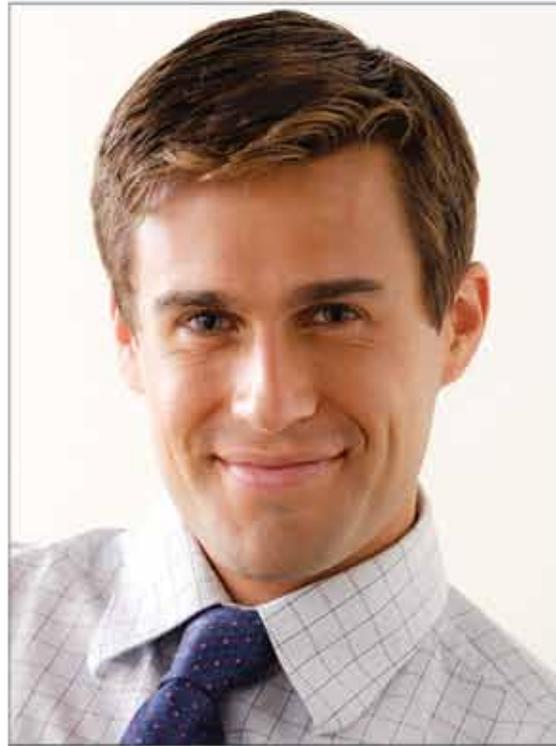
Volume XIII No. 2

Summer 2012

The Great Utah ShakeOut

**19th Special Forces Group Supports
Operation Enduring Freedom**

TAG and CSM Visit 1-211th Soldiers in Afghanistan



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Transition 1/12

The Adjutant General's Corner

Photo by Greg Cullis



*The Adjutant General
Major General
Brian L. Tarbet*

DRAPER, Utah —
This will be my last article in the “Adjutant General’s Corner” prior to the change of command in September. It has caused me to reflect on the past 11-plus years and on the rare privilege it has been to serve as the TAG (The Adjutant General).

First, to the Soldiers and Airmen who have served with me during this decade of war, you have my deepest and sincerest thanks. Your efforts during this period have brought additional shine to the already remarkable tradition of the concept of the Minuteman, the Citizen-Soldier. You have answered the question that has been asked since the time of the Vietnam War, “Is the Guard up to the challenge in combat?” The verdict is in and the answer is an unequivocal yes. You have led the Guard from its role as a strategic reserve to that of an operational force, a full partner in the Nation’s defense firmament.

Second, to the wonderful families of these Soldiers and Airmen, words cannot express the admiration and fondness I have for you. You have demonstrated great courage and resilience in the face of many demands. You have loved, prayed for, and welcomed home these troops after the completion of their many missions. You have felt fear, anxiety, depression and loneliness for many months during these deployments. Not all of our hopes were fulfilled; we have buried some of our fellow Soldiers and Airmen, and have seen even more with physical and psychological wounds, as you can see in the photograph on this page. We pledge to continue to stand by you through these difficult and challenging times.

Lastly, to the communities these troops call home and to those who employ them, thank you for your unstinting and unparalleled support. You have been absolutely vital in keeping these troops in the field and in caring for their families at home. I have truly been witness to a thousand points of light as neighbors and fellow citizens have gone the extra mile to support those in uniform. We are proud to serve and defend communities like ours—the best that America has to offer.

The Utah National Guard is one of the Utah’s most durable and revered institutions. In part, that is because of the tremendous legacy of service we inherited from those who have gone before and served with such pride and distinction. It is also due to the tremendous record of service that you have given over the past decade. From Iraq to Afghanistan, from Central and South America, from Europe to Asia, our Guardmembers have stood tall and accomplished all their country has asked of them. It has been an extraordinary honor to walk that path with you. God bless you all. 🇺🇸



*Top down:
Utah National
Guard Adjutant
General Maj. Gen.
Brian L. Tarbet and
Command Sgt. Maj.
Bruce Summers visit
with members of
the 2-211th during
their final trip to
Afghanistan, April
1-6, 2012.*

*Girl Scout cookies
are donated for
Maj. Gen. Brian
Tarbet, center, to
distribute to Utah
Soldiers serving in
Afghanistan.*



*Purple Heart recipient, retired Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Ewell, talks
with Col. Gregory Gadson of the Army’s Wounded Warrior
Program at the Generations 2012 and Utah Veterans and
Families Summit held March 28-30 in Salt Lake City.*

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UTAH MINUTEMAN

Thrice-yearly magazine for members of the Utah National Guard

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View additional photos at www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard/sets

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Cover Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephany Richards



Cover Photo: Soldiers from 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), conduct a high-altitude, low-opening parachute jump over Drop Zone Global One near Fairfield, Utah, March 15.

Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments



Photo by Greg Cullis

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

DRAPER, Utah — Major General Tarbet and I have had many great opportunities in the last few years to visit Soldiers and Airmen training and deploying in many countries around the world. The one thing that has always impressed me is the fact that these young Americans are all volunteers and serving their fellow Americans. I have watched them in the warfight in Iraq

and Afghanistan. I have watched them conduct humanitarian missions in Morocco and other places around the world. We have also sent units and individuals around the world to train other armies in how to conduct realistic and relevant training. Cambodia, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Georgia, just to name a few of the places we have sent units to train and support countries that are willing to make the world a safer and more secure platform for all of us. These missions are very important because they help build relationships that impact all of us.

As I get ready to retire and take off the uniform, I will forever be extremely proud of this organization and the accomplishments you have achieved. The history of the Utah National Guard is a proud one and needs telling. Our walls are covered with pictures

that tell the story of what you have accomplished for many decades. There are also many names on the walls that show the contributions of our units and individuals. Many of you have served in hazardous and dangerous places but you have always completed the mission and made an impact on the people you have come in contact with. Our units, both Soldiers and Airmen, have fought the War on Terrorism with dedication, sacrifice and with the goal of protecting your neighbors and countrymen. It has been very difficult, and we have had some in our ranks pay the ultimate sacrifice in doing so. We need to make sure that we never forget them and their families for that price.

During my time in uniform I have watched the Utah National Guard change in many ways. Uniforms have changed; weapons have changed as well as new and updated equipment. We are experiencing an exciting time of unprecedented new equipment that even changes the way we train and fight. The one thing that I hope never changes is the strength of our Soldiers, Airmen, Noncommissioned officer and Officer Corps. Even though technology is becoming more and more important in what we do, the strength of the NCO corps still makes us the backbone of the service. The NCO creed is more important today than ever before. We as NCOs must make sure that we are doing everything in our power to make sure the Officers do not have to do our jobs.

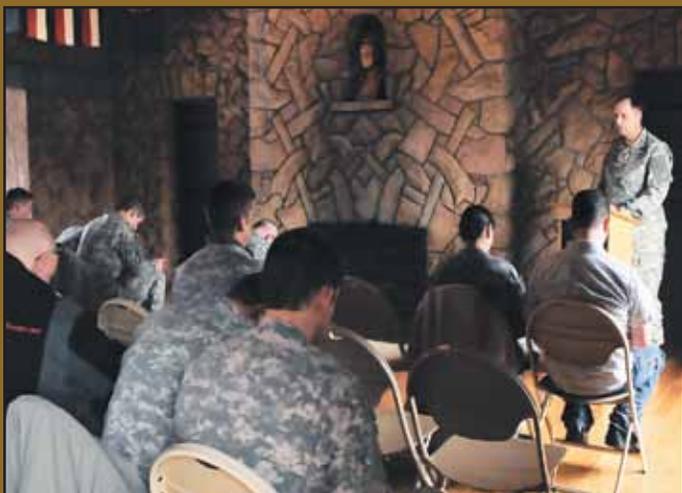
Thank you for who you are and what you do. I will never be able to thank you and your families enough for what you have accomplished. Many of your fellow countrymen can never identify with your sacrifice and what you have experienced.

Susan and I just want to say thanks for this great opportunity and to tell you how proud we are of you and your service. I will be watching from afar and expecting you to continue the great legacy you have written. "NCOs Own the Outcome" God Bless. 🇺🇸

Photos courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers



Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, right, talks with 1st Sgt. Thayne Randall in Afghanistan. Left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jay Bown, Sgt. Jeffery Stevens, Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, Spc. Kaitlyn Caldwell, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mike Plum. Summers spent time with Soldiers from the 2-211th during his final trip to Afghanistan April 1-6, 2012.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gerald White gives the invocation at the beginning of the farewell ceremony held for members of 19th Special Forces Group deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2012. A Soldier and spouse belonging to the 19th Special Forces Group attend a farewell ceremony before deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2012.

Members of 19th Special Forces Depart in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**wenty-five members of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) left Salt Lake City in March 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Special Forces take their operations security very seriously; therefore, more information regarding exact dates, names and descriptions of their destination and mission is withheld at their request. In fact, the members of this team decided against an official farewell at the airport when they left. They opted to have their departure ceremony a few days earlier at the Officer's Club at Camp Williams.

Colonel Steven Watt, commander of the 19th, which has elements in eight different states, spoke at the team's farewell event. He encouraged the group to strive towards the high expectations he has for their success as a team and reminded them to think safety at all times. He also spoke to them about stress management.

"Watch your buddies," he said. "It's stressful serving over there; no one expects you to be 'Sergeant Rock.'"

Watt advised Soldiers to keep in regular contact with their family and friends back home and highlighted the importance of that connection by turning the rest of the ceremony over to the Family Readiness Group.

The 19th SF Group's Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader, Sarah Sorenson, spoke about the importance of the FRG program. She shared with the group some experiences from her family's last deployment, where they faced many

difficult challenges, including the birth of a child and the death of a family member. The support of the FRG team was invaluable in helping the family through those changes.

"You have a mission to complete," Sorenson explained to deploying Soldiers, "and so do we. That's what these [FRG] resources are for."

The resources offered by the state's Servicemember and Family Support Office include youth programs, education scholarships, discounted utility bills, and other programs designed to keep deployed families functioning while their Soldier is away. Sorenson and her team, supported by representatives from the state office, gave families an overview of many of these programs.

Sergeant Maj. Steve Wooldridge, a Special Forces Soldier attending the farewell in support of deploying Soldiers, commented that the support for this team from the state's Yellow Ribbon and FRG offices was the best he had ever seen.

Deploying Soldiers from the 19th SF Group were ready and enthusiastic for this deployment. Their senior-ranking NCO said he was confident in the training the team had received and described the mood of the group as very positive. One young family, on their first deployment, commented that the Soldier was so excited it made the spouse excited too.

The team is scheduled for an extended tour and will return in the spring of 2013. 

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A Family Tradition: Aviation Soldier Follows in His Father's Footsteps

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones

BLANDING, Utah — **W**hen making comparisons between parents and their children, old sayings abound: A chip off the old block. Like father, like son. He's the spittin' image of his father. Such clichéd expressions have become a sort of descriptive shorthand, a means of quickly communicating some exact detail shared by child and parent that one may not be able to communicate otherwise.

To describe Pfc. Tyler Moos, an aviation operations specialist currently mobilized with 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, as the “spittin’ image of his father” certainly wouldn’t be incorrect, given that he looks just like his dad, according to some. To say that Tyler is “a chip off the old block” would certainly be an apt comparison to him and his father, given their choosing to both serve in the aviation world. But to describe Tyler in the regular clichéd ways we often do when comparing a son to his father, and then to leave the description at that, wouldn’t fully illuminate the depth of commitment he has shown to both his father, the late Master Sgt. Austin Moos, and the Utah National Guard.

At the time of his death, then Sgt. 1st Class Austin Moos was serving full time with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, as an aviation operations noncommissioned officer. His had been a notable career in the aviation world having deployed with the 211th to Kuwait in 2001-2002 and to Afghanistan in 2004-2005. He had spent time in both 1st and 2nd Battalions over the years, working with both Black Hawk and Apache helicopters.

“Austin was a fun guy,” said Maj. Matthew Badell, commander of the Utah State University Reserve Officer Training Corps, who also deployed to Afghanistan with the 211th in 2004-2005, and worked as the battalion personnel officer with 2nd Battalion at the time of Austin’s death. “He was the guy who would organize ultimate Frisbee or volleyball games over lunch, the guy everyone rallied around.”

“Austin was a Soldiers’ Soldier...He would have been one of the shining stars out in aviation, without a doubt...He had made a real name for himself,” Badell said.

On Jan. 26, 2008, while longboarding with his son, Kyle, in their hometown of Santaquin, Austin fell and suffered a head injury that caused excessive swelling in his brain. Kyle was also injured in the accident, but not seriously. Austin was initially

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*Major Matthew Badell, commander of the Utah State University Reserve Officer Training Corps, swears in Tyler Moos Oct. 1, 2010. Pfc. Tyler Moos at his pinning ceremony at the West Jordan Army Aviation Facility.
Photos courtesy of the Moos family*



*PFC Tyler Moos, (center), 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, with his family and friends at the West Jordan Army Aviation Facility for the unit's deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 16.
Photo by Ileen Kennedy*

taken to Payson Hospital in southern Utah County and then transferred to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo where Austin was placed on life support. Badell and a group of Soldiers gathered with the Moos family in a show of support.

“We were all just standing in the hallways. I remember looking in and seeing him, and his head was all wrapped up tight, and there was just one spot on his cheek that was open and Lisa, his wife, was stroking his cheek and crying.”

He died Jan. 27, 2008.

Assigned by battalion leaders to be the casualty assistance officer to the Moos family, Badell helped them with the difficult task of planning and conducting a funeral and guided them through the process of receiving the survivor benefits from Austin's death. It was while serving in that role that he witnessed Tyler, the family's oldest son, begin to step into his father's shoes.

Austin's death was hard on the whole Moos family, as well as the tight-knit aviation community. Whether or not he was ready, at the age of 14, Tyler had to step into a new role.

“Tyler, who looks just like his dad, stepped up and was kind of the man of the family,” Badell said.

Even Tyler's friends were taken by his maturity in taking the role at such a young age.

“Tyler handled it pretty well,” said Caleb Barnes, a friend of the Moos family through the Utah National Guard Youth Program. “He definitely had a lot of extra responsibilities after his father died.” Barnes said that Tyler had often talked to him about joining the Army after high school.

“I think [his father's death] might have pushed him to join a little earlier to get into his father's shoes,” Barnes said. “It was definitely tough on him, but he was really mature.”

Less than three years after his father's death, at the age of 17 Tyler enlisted in the Utah Guard on Oct. 1, 2010, something he had looked forward to since his father would take him to the armory to see the helicopters when he was a boy.

“My father's death made me want to join the Army more,” Tyler said. “His influence is the reason I love helicopters, love aviation. As soon as I could start talking, I wanted to be just like my dad.”

Anxious to follow his lifelong dream, Tyler finished high school early and shipped out for Basic Training to Fort Jackson, S.C., in June 2011. Tyler finished Advanced Individual Training in October that same year, officially becoming an aviation operations specialist. He was then assigned to the 2-211th, the unit his father had been assigned to at the time of his death.

When Tyler first got to the 2-211th a number of Soldiers came up to tell him that

his father was one of those people who genuinely cared for others, not just in word only but in deed also—someone who would actually be there to help a fellow Soldier whenever they needed him.

“He was the guy everyone wanted to be,” Tyler said. “He was just a natural-born leader.”

Tyler's time in the 2-211th didn't last long, however. He volunteered for a deployment to Afghanistan with the 1-211th, which left Utah in January 2012, and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Moos acknowledges that everywhere he goes, his father left big shoes to fill, a challenge he is willing to face.

“I feel like I have to meet or exceed his expectations,” Tyler said. “I feel like that's what he would want. I take it as a challenge.”

It's just a joy to see a son want to follow the footsteps of his father in the service of his country, Badell said.

“In the Utah Guard, and particularly in Aviation, Austin had made a real name for himself,” Badell said. “Tyler is seeking to live up to the legacy.”

Master Sgt. Austin Moos's death was no doubt a loss to the Utah National Guard Aviation community, an NCO who will never be replaced. But Tyler, his son and one of the newest members of that community, continues to take on the challenge of stepping into his father's boots and continuing the family legacy of dedicated service to the Utah Guard and the nation. As hard as we may try, it's difficult to compare a son like Tyler Moos to his father, Austin, without falling into the old clichés we have become accustomed to. But maybe in this case the old clichés, no matter how overused, are finally dead-on accurate: Like father, like son. 



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in the Persian Gulf.
By my dad.**

Joseph O., future USAA member

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Bearing Witness: Two Wars Through the Eyes of a Soldier

Story by Capt. Ryan Sutherland

DRAPER, Utah — On April 1-6, 2012, Utah National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet and Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers made their final trip visiting Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in a war zone.

Such trips offer a unique perspective from men who for 10 years, have overseen the deployment of Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen for the duration of two wars, with Afghanistan being America's longest war.

When Tarbet was appointed to lead the Utah Guard in October 2000, the world was a different place.

"When I look back on the last 10 years, it's been an extraordinary time for the Utah National Guard," said Tarbet. "We've seen an unprecedented time of deployment and level of commitment. I think it's unparalleled in our history."

Tarbet's first trip to visit Utah Guardmembers in a war zone was in the summer of 2003.

"I think I was the first adjutant general, if not one of the first to get in. I got lucky," said Tarbet. "I got in on the coattails of some of the Military Intelligence folks that I knew. The 142nd was deployed, the 1457th was deployed, and then there were elements of other units. The 141st was also deployed but scattered from hell to breakfast."

"I went back a couple of times to visit the Triple Deuce and other times to visit other units. I consistently felt, especially after the turn in Anbar Province, that I thought the situation in Iraq was getting better. Each time, we were a little freer to travel. We got out a little bit more the last time we went into the Green Zone. So I felt that over time, it was an improving situation."

"The first unit I visited in Afghanistan was the 19th

Special Forces when it was deployed in 2004. Then it was the 211th [Aviation] and then the 142nd [Military Intelligence Battalion], and I've been back a number of times to visit folks in Afghanistan."

"There are a thousand vignettes that you see. You know the pride you take when you see our Soldiers: the Triple Deuce in Ramadi, when they took what I think was a difficult battle situation and improved it; in motor pools, running detention facilities in Bagram; running prisons at Camp Bucca in Iraq—our guys have done a lot of work there and done a lot of great work. And they should be very proud of what they have done."

Utah National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers accompanied Tarbet for their third trip together to Afghanistan.

"This was my third trip with General Tarbet after visiting the 142nd MI Battalion in 2009 and with the Air Guard in December 2010 to see a few members of the 144th ASMC (Area Support Medical Company) and transport wounded warriors from Afghanistan to Germany," said Summers. "To observe them work in spartan conditions, far away from home, family and friends without complaining, and then listening to them describe what they do and see how well they do their jobs to support the fight, I personally bring home the feelings of pride and respect for these great Americans."

Summers said seeing a friendly face from home was a pleasure while deployed, and he realized what an effort it was for the TAG, with all his responsibilities and busy schedule, to come visit.

"I remember when I was deployed with the Triple Deuce to Ramadi in 2005-2006; Tarbet visited us twice during the year

Photos courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers



we were in country,” said Summers. “This is an example of caring leadership, and I hope that when the boss and I visit units overseas that they feel the same sense of pride and satisfaction that I did as a deployed Soldier.”

From a leader’s standpoint, these trips are valuable opportunities to understand the challenges Soldiers and Airmen face while deployed, to find out if anyone is having pay or promotion issues and to try and resolve those issues when they return home.

“It’s important for us to go out to see how Soldiers are doing, to see how Airmen are doing,” said Tarbet. “I have my own measuring sticks that I use when I go out; I want to make sure that our Soldiers are being treated like active-component Soldiers, no better and no worse, to see where they’re living and working.

In 2003, it was apparent that Utah National Guard Servicemembers weren’t being equipped with the same body armor as their active-duty counterparts.

“We were wearing Vietnam-era, flak-jacket kind of body armor,” said Tarbet. “We were able to come home and work on fixing the problem.”

“We’ve had to adapt to a lot of equipment that we don’t see until we get to a mobilization station: first, the up-armored Humvees, then the MRAPs—all of the equipment you use to detect IEDs,” he explained. “We need to be very proud of the flexibility that all of our Soldiers—Active, Guard and Reserve—have demonstrated. We’ve had to do a lot that we’re not school-trained to do.

“We’ve had to do a lot that’s not second nature to us. In other words, an artillery unit is driving trucks or running a prison facility, units that are engineers being called upon to do security forces, keeping roads open, and a host of different applications

for our skills. We’ve done point defense, we’ve done route clearance, and we’ve also shot artillery. You saw that with the Triple Deuce back in ‘05 and ‘06 as they rotated through all three of those assignments.”

“On the Air side, if you look at just the pace of this on the Air Guard, I want you to take the 10-year period and amp it up to 20. That’s how long they’ve been at war, because we’ve been doing the Southern Watch and all of the air missions to keep the peace before the wars, and the Air Guard has been setting this pace, really, for the entire career of some people. Some of those are yearlong, year-and-a-half deployments. It’s amazing the pace that our guys have kept up.”

For Tarbet and Summers, the risks and sacrifices our Soldiers and Airmen continue to face were evident from this final trip to Afghanistan, as the Ohio adjutant general and command sergeant major travelling with their group learned that three of their Soldiers had been killed, a sobering reminder of the life-threatening circumstances many of our Soldiers and Airmen face on the front lines.

“Your thoughts immediately turn to your comrades and to their families who have to deal with their loss,” said Tarbet. “She (the Ohio adjutant general) was able to change her trip so that she was able to escort those boys home, which I think will be the highest honor she’ll ever have in uniform.”

When asked what he personally brought home from these trips, Tarbet paused before offering a genuine and candid response.

“I’ll take away a hundred memories,” he said. “But each time when you leave, you feel like you’re leaving them behind, like you’re deserting them. It’s a bad feeling when you leave a combat zone. I’ve been affected by that each time. It’s not been a happy few minutes when that plane lifts off.”

Left to right: Utah National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet is greeted by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth Hess in Afghanistan. Major Gen. Brian Tarbet and Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers visit 2-211th Aviation Soldiers during their final trip to Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet is transported in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, center, met with Soldiers from the 2-211th April 1-6, 2012.



President Honors Utah Air Guardsman and Others at White House Dinner

Story by Airman 1st Class Emily Hulse

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**aster Sgt. Kevin Bullivant, a member of the 151st Civil Engineer Squadron, was one of two Air National Guardsmen from across the country invited to attend a White House dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Obama Feb. 29. The event entitled “A Nation’s Gratitude Dinner,” was held to recognize the significant contributions of the men and women in uniform who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and/or New Dawn, and the families who supported them.

Bullivant, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, was the recipient of two Bronze Stars and has been submitted for a Purple Heart. Bullivant served in Iraq in 2007-2008, and in Afghanistan in 2011, where he was wounded.

During the event, Bullivant attended a reception, toured the White House, took photos with dignitaries, including President Obama, and met with Servicemembers from all branches of the military. Of the many highlights of the night, one that stands out was having the opportunity to hear stories from other Servicemembers.

“The coolest part of the event was getting to meet other Servicemembers and hearing their stories, as well as hearing the words of the president and vice president in person, commemorating the end of the war and celebrating and remembering the sacrifices that everyone has made,” he added.

He also said that comments from keynote speakers and higher authorities cast things in a different light for him.

“When you hear the numbers that 4,500 people have died, and 30 thousand were wounded, it puts the overall impact into perspective,” said Bullivant.

“I also spoke with the Army chief of staff and heard his vision on how things are going to press forward through budget cuts and other trials...which was very interesting and rewarding to hear.”

Overall, Bullivant said that the experience was a great opportunity, and he was glad to have the chance to go.

“It was definitely an experience,” he added. “I’ve never done anything like that in my career.”

Eight Air and Army National Guardsmen attended the event, along with more than 70 other members of the active-duty military and Reserves. Bullivant was one of two Utahns to attend the event. 



Master Sgt. Kevin Bullivant, 151st Civil Engineer Squadron, and his girlfriend Kathy Blanchard, pose with U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at a White House dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Obama Feb. 29, 2012. More than 70 Servicemembers who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and/or New Dawn and their families were recognized at the event entitled, “A Nation’s Gratitude Dinner.” Bullivant was an explosive ordnance disposal specialist who received two Bronze Stars in Iraq and was also submitted for a Purple Heart. Bullivant was one of two Air National Guardsmen recognized at the event.

Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

The Great Utah ShakeOut



The Tactical Operations Center for the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, was set up in Butterfield Park in Herriman during the Great Utah ShakeOut April 17-19. Photo by Staff Sgt. DaleAnne Maxwell

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Walden

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard participated in the Great Utah ShakeOut April 15-19, an exercise designed to get Utahns, along with local, state and federal agencies, prepared for a major earthquake.

The National Guard assisted local and state authorities in response to a hypothetical, but plausible, magnitude 7.0 earthquake that could strike the Wasatch Fault and cause severe damage throughout Utah.

Within the scenario, Utah Governor Gary Herbert reported that in the earthquake, which struck at 10:15 a.m.

Sergeant Maj. Ron Dooley explains to Pfc. David Woodward, both of the 65th Fires Brigade, how to attach the tent support lines.



Photos by Staff Sgt. DaleAnne Maxwell, Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg and Ileen Kennedy

April 17, it is estimated that 2,000 people would die, and 30,000 others would be injured. More than 10,000 buildings would collapse, and 285,000 buildings would be damaged. About 160 fires would have broken out throughout Salt Lake County, and many portions of the valley would be without water and electricity for not just days, but possibly weeks. The estimated cost of damage would be more than \$30 billion, and 350,000 people would become homeless.

“Rather than wishing the threat away, we want to prepare for the potential of having a serious earthquake,” said Herbert.

Staff Sgt. Brandon McFarland sets up the communications satellite for the 65th Fires Brigade at Sandy City Park April 15.





Lieutenant Gov. Greg Bell, center, and Brig. Gen. Jefferson Burton, right, speak to members of the 65th Fires Brigade during the Great Utah ShakeOut exercise at Sandy City Park.



Members of the 65th Fires Brigade assemble a floor inside the Tactical Operations Center set up at Sandy City Park during the Great Utah ShakeOut exercise.

“You can’t just talk about it or think about it. We are doing something to be better prepared for whatever the future may bring.”

When Guard units are activated for state emergencies they do not take the lead role, but rather stand ready to assist the governor and the Division of Emergency Management.

Missions for the National Guard in response to a natural disaster come from the governor, who is the commander in chief, explained Brig. Gen. Jefferson Burton, assistant adjutant general of the Utah Army National Guard.

“The Guard has a long history of assisting civil authorities in time of crisis, and will assist for as long as necessary,” said Burton.

“This is a collaborative effort,” said Col. Scott Fuller, commander of the 65th Fires Brigade. “The main goal is to be able to mesh with city, state and federal government agencies and to provide proactive support to their efforts. We will

provide civil relief by mitigating suffering and minimizing property loss.”

“We have divided ourselves into four task forces in the valley,” explained Fuller. “Each task force has liaisons with the cities and counties in their area. We also have representatives at the state level.”

Some of the resources available to the governor from the Guard include explosive ordnance-disposal, aerial support and transportation, search and rescue, crowd or riot control, communications, central command, engineers, security and ground transportation, explained Fuller.

“We will be involved with logistics; we can move medicine and supplies,” said Burton. “We can use our air assets with helicopters to reach places that may be inaccessible from the ground due to bridges collapsing or other obstacles.”

“We know how to do the command-and-control element,” said Burton. “We know how to organize and track missions

Members of the 65th Fires Brigade assemble a Tactical Operations Center across from the Sandy City offices April 15.

Staff Sgt. Jessica Cutler and CW3 Thayne Turgeon attach an air hose during setup for the Great Utah ShakeOut.





Utah National Guard members work in the Joint Operations Center at the Draper Headquarters during the exercise.



Utah National Guard senior leaders are briefed at the Joint Operations Center as part of the Great Utah ShakeOut exercise.

that are coming in, and their status all the way through to completion. It doesn't matter if Soldiers are in Artillery, or Military Intelligence, or Engineers, we can set up a command post and tailor it to whatever area we are in, to handle whatever troops we have."

One of the initial tasks for Guard units during the exercise was to establish lines of communication from their operation centers to the Joint Operations Center where they will receive their mission.

"Communication is a priority, but not our only focus," said Burton. "Most of us are accustomed to cell phones and being able to easily make a phone call from wherever we are. If they go down, we need to be able to use radios and other means in order to communicate. If needed, we could even use couriers, pony-express style."

Many Citizen-Soldiers would be personally involved in a disaster of this magnitude and may not be able to respond.

"We have several hundred Soldiers who are considered first responders," said Burton. "The guidance to those guys is

to stay and respond. If you're police, medical or firemen, go to work." Burton continued, "There will be a loss of capability or manpower in the Guard because so many Soldiers will be involved as first responders, or be personally involved in the disaster and unable to come. In order to counter this loss, we have a relationship with Northern Command, which can provide additional Soldiers from across the nation to support our state's Guard."

"The people of Utah need to be aware of the potential for this type of disaster," said Herbert. "Families should ask each other in case of disaster, 'How will we make sure everyone is safe? How will we communicate with each other?' Each family should have at minimum a 72-hour kit with enough supplies for their family, including food, water, medication and clothing."

"This drill has exposed areas where we need to improve," said Herbert. "We will take what was learned during this exercise and make improvements to our procedures so that if an earthquake hits Utah, we are prepared." 🇺🇸

Governor Gary Herbert, center, holds a cabinet meeting and press conference at the Utah National Guard Salt Lake Readiness Center during the Great Utah ShakeOut exercise to practice running government departments in the event of a real earthquake.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg

204th Participates in Great Utah ShakeOut

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. DaleAnne Maxwell

HERRIMAN, Utah — **M**embers of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade participated in the Great Utah ShakeOut April 17-19, at W. and M. Butterfield Park.

The Great Utah ShakeOut simulates the realistic outcome of a hypothetical but plausible magnitude 7.0 earthquake that strikes the Wasatch Fault. The governor activates the National Guard to help deal with the emergency, and the Guard deploys to designated locations and begins assisting state and local authorities with logistical, medical and communications needs.

The 204th MEB, Utah Army National Guard, is actively supporting the Utah Department of Emergency Management with state disaster-relief efforts from the simulated earthquake. During the exercise, members of the 204th were able to respond to requests from the state to provide personnel and heavy equipment to remove debris, transportation of personnel, equipment and supplies and general-support operations.

“We have been tasked with several missions so far,” said Maj. Kirk Silver, a resident of Bountiful and the operations officer for the 204th during the exercise. “We have debris-clearing missions, logistical missions and humanitarian-assistance missions.”

The exercise provided the 204th with valuable training opportunities.

“When you are going through a live exercise, especially of this scale,” said Spc. Jareth Greeff, a resident of Holladay, “we are given the benefit to be able to walk through something that may

very well happen in this state. We are able to work through the kinks, see what we will need to look at, what we will need to know.”

Overall the ShakeOut training was a success for the members of the 204th.

“This exercise has been a great opportunity to practice our communication controls,” added Silver. “We have been able to gain and track missions and personnel like we would in a real situation. It’s a chance for us to practice our command and control.”



Sergeant Maj. Stephan Vogl, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, and Capt. James Beard, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, make a satellite phone call April 17 in front of the 204th MEB Tactical Operations Center.



Major Kirk Silver, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, leads a group of local residents to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Butterfield Park in Herriman April 18.



Colonel Robert Dunton, commander of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, gives a tour of the 204th's Tactical Operations Center to Moroccan military visitors.

Homeland Response Force Participates in ShakeOut

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard's Homeland Response Force participated in tandem with several civilian, state government and military agencies during Operation ShakeOut April 17-19.

Different entities worked together during the three-day exercise in order to test their capabilities during a natural disaster—in this case a simulated, high-magnitude earthquake. The agencies involved were Unified Fire, Task Force One-Unified Fire's premier FEMA-certified Search and Extraction Team, Heber City, Weber County, and Western Zirconium, among others. Wyoming and Utah National Guard HRF teams coordinated training with possible real-world events.

"Out-of-state units assisting is valued. You can never fight it by yourself, and it is essential to pull in your buddies," said Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner, the adjutant general for Wyoming. "This is a big deal. We appreciate the bringing in of sister states."

The Wyoming National Guard sent a Joint Task Force to conduct Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, a multifaceted communications system, to Camp Williams. The 84th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) from Wyoming also worked directly with the Utah HRF, conducting tests for potential biohazard contamination in a scenario designed by UTNG's own 85th WMD-CST.

The HRF, a separate task force for this operation, provides support to the Incident Command System in accordance with the National Incident Management System. They support civilian first responders in lifesaving efforts, to include Search and Extraction from collapsed structures or confined spaces; medical triage and initial treatment prior to movement to civilian hospitals or other care givers; decontamination of chemical, biohazards or radiological/nuclear hazards, explained Lt. Col. Melvin Anderson, Utah HRF deputy commander.

"All of this is in support to and under the direction of a civilian authority of the ICS." Anderson added, "Every member of the Homeland



Response Force belongs to a unit in the Utah National Guard. Those units sacrifice that Soldier or Airman when the HRF is training or

operating. The unit does not get a replacement Soldier to fill that responsibility, nor do the unit's mission requirements reduce in any way. Because of this, all major commands in the Utah National Guard participate in the HRF's success in a direct way. From the adjutant general down to the company commander and first sergeant, every affected leader in the state is raising his or her hand in support of the CBRN Response community by helping us succeed."

Preparation for this exercise had been in the works for 15 months. Establishing the organizational structure, personnel taking online courses, and participating with other states during their exercises were some of the steps taken to facilitate this operation.

"This has been challenging building from the ground up," said Staff Sgt. Jessica Hyde, a personnel operations noncommissioned officer for the UTNG HRF. "We have had a lot of section training. A database was created specifically for the HRF, which enables the tracking of personnel for our purposes, and we trained with Wyoming during their 'Teton Tony' exercise."

"The HRF's Search and Extraction element has trained with Utah Task Force One, a FEMA certified, special-operations unit composed of firefighters with special skills and training in S&E that belong to Unified Fire Authority of the Salt Lake area," said Anderson. "Many of our medical providers are actual doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians, etc., that have recently been recruited into the Air National Guard's 151st Medical Group."

The many agencies working together presented numerous challenges from tracking personnel properly,



Members of the HRF participate in Operation ShakeOut April 17-19.



Staff Sgt. Jessica Hyde, left, and Maj. Tammy Manwaring work in the Homeland Response Force Command Center at Camp Williams.

working around communication situations, having the supplies needed for an operation of this size and simple coordination strategies.

“The Great Utah ShakeOut is a very dynamic exercise that requires coordination across a broad front of civilian, business and government organizations. The communications requirements alone are very taxing. Every bit of planning has been done around everyone’s already full schedules,” said Anderson. “The most challenging part of this operation has been staying ahead of the snowball effect. Once the operation is going, our people adapt and improve processes quickly to meet the needs of our higher headquarters and those we support.”

“This presents interagency challenges, which are very important for everyone to learn to work hand in hand,” said Reiner. “This is new in domestic response and it is good to see

the common operating picture. We can all see the same thing at the same time, and we can learn to operate efficiently.”

“It was a great learning experience for HRF personnel to work with them (civilian agencies), enhancing our understanding of civilian authority and business needs,” said Anderson.

The Utah HRF covered a vast geographical area by dispatching teams across the Wasatch Front and providing support from Heber City to the Salt Lake Metropolitan Area.

“Those Airmen and Soldiers who have been tasked with the HRF mission are proving time and again what we have always known—Utah National Guardsmen are the best among us as a nation,” stated Anderson. “We still have so much to learn to develop the best tactics, techniques and procedures, but this exercise gave us the opportunity to merge into the fast lane for a couple of days as we learn to drive on the highway.” 🇺🇸

Dancing the Night Away at the Military Ball

Story by Spc. Ariel Solomon

SANDY, Utah — Sun rays clung to the western mountains as night fell on April 28. Through the doors of the South Town Expo Center, Servicemembers in uniforms and gowns strode into the annual Military Ball.

For 47 years Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have enjoyed this event held in their honor. Each year has had its own theme, and this year’s theme was the 1950s.

Utah National Guard’s 23rd Army Band played brassy, big-band music, and several Army rock bands rocked dancers to music from the early days of rock and roll.

Specialist Gary Maddox, of the 1457th Forward Support Company, said that attending the ball had been a lifelong dream for his wife and has since become her annual birthday present.

“I took her the first year,” said Maddox, “and it’s been a tradition ever since.”

“I’ve been in the Guard for 15 years and I’ve only missed twice: one time I was deployed and the other I was just out of town,” said CPT Kris Carlile, 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute, as he and his partner paused from their spirited dancing. He commented that his fondest memories happened while it was held at the Capitol, though he enjoys the ball wherever it is held.

“It gives us a chance to come out and listen to the band and enjoy the dancing. It’s a lot of fun,” Carlile said.

“I think it’s a great tradition,” said Staff Sgt. Brady Taylor, 141st Military Intelligence. “They’re always doing esprit de corps. It’s a lot easier for active-duty units, but in the Guard we don’t get a lot of opportunity to do stuff like this.”

The ball came to a close and people began filtering out. Each individual was heading off into the night, possibly with new fond memories and a desire to return the next year. 🇺🇸



Servicemembers attend the 47th annual Military Ball held at the South Town Expo Center. The Utah Guard’s 23rd Army Band performs at the 47th annual Military Ball April 28.

Utah Employers Visit Citizen-Soldiers Training for Afghanistan



Employers of members of Utah National Guard's 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion pose for a photo in front of an AH-64 Apache helicopter at Fort Hood, Texas.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tony Foster and Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg

FORT HOOD, Texas — A group of civilian employers from Utah traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to visit their Citizen-Soldier employees of the 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion during the unit's premobilization training Feb. 28-March 1.

"It's an opportunity for the National Guard to bring in employers of our traditional part-time Guardsmen to see what their civilian employees do while on military status while preparing to deploy to theater," said Lt. Col. Greg Hartvigsen, 1-211th commander.

The Utah unit is training with Division West's 166th Aviation Brigade at Fort Hood before deploying to Afghanistan.

"We will be an aviation task force," Hartvigsen said. "We will provide aviation resources to friendly ground forces to include aerial resupply, medevac and aerial reconnaissance and security with the Apache."

The event was organized by the Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a national organization that promotes support by civilian employers of National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers.

"The ESGR mission here is to acquaint all employers that have Soldiers about what they do and what their requirements are in order to get ready to deploy," said Bart Davis, Utah ESGR chairman. "It gives them a much larger appreciation for what Soldiers know and do."

This event is known as a "Boss Lift," a program that the ESGR uses throughout the country to familiarize, educate and promote military and civilian employer relations. It provides a way for the employers and business leaders to connect with their employees who are also members of the Armed Forces.

The first day of the Boss Lift consisted of transporting employers and business executives from Utah to Fort Hood in a KC-135 air-to-air refueling tanker. During the flight, passengers witnessed an actual refueling, providing another chance for employers to gain a better perspective of military operations.

"It was awesome," said Margarita Angelo, an executive with Zions Bank in Utah. "I can't even express with words how precise the refueling was."

The second day of the Boss Lift, employers met with their employees in the 1-211th and viewed Soldiers' actual training. At the unit's hangar on Robert Gray Army Airfield, employers first received briefings and then were taken on a tour of the hangar, where they met with their employees.

"I almost feel like going on my knees and saying 'Thank you for doing what you do,'" Angelo said. "We see a lot of movies about what military people do, but when it comes down to it, by coming here and seeing what you do makes me appreciate it even more."

In the hangar, many of the 1-211th Soldiers showed their employers the Apache AH-64 helicopters the unit will fly during their deployment. While business leaders showed great enthusiasm for what Soldiers do, for some employers their interest was more personal.

"This is the first time I get to personally see what one of my sons does for the military," said Joel Harmon, owner of Harmon's Hardware Company. Harmon has four sons in the U.S. Armed Forces; Sgt. Jesse Harmon of the 1-211th is one of them.

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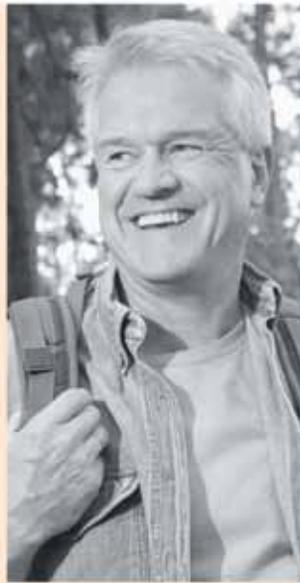
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Soldiers of the 1-211th eat lunch with their civilian employers during a “boss lift” sponsored by the Utah ESGR at Fort Hood, Texas.



Coincidentally, the Harmons were not the only father-son duo in attendance. Davis was there to see his son, Chief Warrant Officer Four Brett Davis.

“I was deployed to Vietnam when he was born,” Davis said. “I’ve said goodbye to many fathers’ Soldiers, but when you say goodbye to your own, it’s something you can’t explain.”

Soldiers and employers traveled to the Crittenger Range on North Fort Hood to view the AH-64 Apache engaging in live-fire exercises. The focus of the 1-211th during this training was to be certified with their helicopters by the 166th Aviation Brigade.

“It’s been very enlightening,” said Brian Allred, with A and B Glass, a resident and fire captain of South Jordan, Utah. “To see the equipment and really see the leadership skills and training they are getting gives me a whole new understanding and respect for the sacrifice that they are making and what they do for the military.”

Some employers also had a chance to try on equipment such as Kevlar protective helmets and vests with weights inserted, allowing them to experience the extra weight a Soldier carries in combat.

“This experience has made me more aware of the sacrifices and challenges



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Lieutenant Col. Greg Hartvigsen, 1-211th commander, talks with Utah employers during their visit to 1-211th employee/Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas.



Sergeant Jesse Harmon, left, a 1-211th helicopter mechanic and crew chief, gives his employer, who is also his father, a tour of an AH-64 Apache helicopter at Fort Hood, Texas.



A 1-211th AH-64 Apache helicopter lands after its iterations of live-fire exercises at Crittenger Range Feb. 29.



Brian Allred spends some time with his employee/nephew, Sgt. Erin Malone, during a Boss Lift on Feb. 29. Malone works for A and B Glass on the civilian side and re-arms Apache weapons as his military duties.



Bart Davis, left, Utah ESGR chairman, poses for a picture with his son, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon Davis, 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, at Robert Gray Army Airfield.

back home,” stated Kevin Thacker of the Sandy Police Department. Thacker is the employer of Capt. Jesse Frampton, an Apache pilot in the 1-211th, who is also an officer with the Sandy Police Department.

“You see Soldiers here focused on their mission with other Soldiers, while families are having to take care of everything back home: pay the bills and do everything they are used to having help with while that Soldier is gone,” said Thacker.

Before returning to the hotel that evening, Lt. Col. Hartvigsen reiterated the importance of employers’ support and personally expressed his gratitude for each employer who took the time to visit Soldiers.

Major Gen. Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general expressed deep appreciation for the employers’ support of their troops and emphasized the importance of that support to the success of the deployment for each individual Soldier. 🇺🇸



National Guard, ROK Army conduct artillery exercise in South Korea.

Utah National Guard, Republic of Korea Army Conduct Artillery Exercise Foal Eagle

Story and photos by Maj. Erick Wiedmeier and Walter T. Ham IV

RODRIGUEZ LIVE-FIRE COMPLEX, South Korea — South Korean and U.S. Army units unleashed a precise barrage of 155mm self-propelled artillery rounds during a live-fire exercise March 15 at a training range close to the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

The Utah Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and the Republic of Korea Army's 628th Artillery Battalion conducted a combined artillery live-fire exercise as part of the Foal Eagle exercise.

Lined up together, the American artillerymen shot numerous rounds from their 155mm self-propelled Paladin M109A6s, and the Republic of Korea, or ROK, Army unit shot 155mm K-55 self-propelled rounds.

Lieutenant Col. Adam Robinson, commander of the 1-145th, said the exercise gave his Soldiers the chance to hone their skills.

"This live-fire exercise was a great opportunity to come to Korea and train with our ROK allies," said Robinson. "The best way to ensure peace is to be ready to defend it."

According to U.S. Army officials, bringing a National Guard unit to Korea demonstrated the ROK-U.S. alliance's ability to quickly integrate units from the continental United States into operations on the Korean Peninsula.

"This exercise highlighted the flexibility, responsiveness and strength of our alliance," said Eighth Army Public Affairs Officer Col. Andy Mutter. "These battalions came together, overcame communication and language barriers and flawlessly performed their mission."

Occurring around the same time every year, Foal Eagle maintains the readiness of the Combined Forces Command to deter or defeat aggression against South Korea and to maintain stability in Northeast Asia.



The Utah National Guard's 1-145th Field Artillery and the Republic of Korea Army's 628th Artillery Battalion conducted an artillery live-fire exercise in Korea.

This year Foal Eagle ran from March 1 - April 30. The annual field-training exercise is defensive in nature.

The defensive position of South Korea conducted missions with 628FA-C/2nd ROK Division. The opportunity provided a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which rarely if ever happens between U.S. and ROK forces today. The batteries from the battalion along with Charlie Battery, 628th Field Artillery, rehearsed a time-on-target mission into an impact area the approximate size of four football fields. The exercise allowed the battalion to qualify its batteries in their artillery certification tasks.

The battalion arrived with its main body March 3, moving and becoming operationally ready within three days from Daegu to Pochon City. The battalion, including Field Support Company, conducted small-arms qualification, convoy live fire, dismounted patrols and fire missions in support of their own troops in a simulated convoy ambush. In conjunction with direct fire operations, logistical convoy operations were coordinated from Seoul through Uijeongbu to areas southeast of Yeoncheon to areas around Jangdan, concluding with the Soldiers having the opportunity to visit some historical sites in the area. Soldiers were able to see some of the same areas where their artillery forefathers fought 62 years earlier. One of the most significant opportunities for Soldiers was being able to shoot alongside their South Korean artillery counterparts. 🇺🇸



Lieutenant Col. Adam Robinson, 1-145th Field Artillery commander, presents a recognition plaque to Lt. Col. Kyong Soo Kim, commander of the Republic of Korea Artillery Battalion.

Family Assistance Centers

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) are located throughout Utah and are designed to assist Servicemembers and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. Centers are open to all branches of the military—Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components. FACs are divided up into regions to better serve you. Locate and contact your local FAC. Visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family.



Utah FAC and Armory Locations and Regions

○ Armory and FAC

● Armory

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| 2 Ogden (801) 476-3811 | 7 Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011 |
| 3 Riverton ... (801) 878-5037 | 8 Cedar City (435) 867-6513 |
| 4 SLC (801) 715-3708 | 9 Manti (435) 835-5241 |
| 5 Orem (801) 722-6913 | 10 Blanding (435) 678-2008 |
| | 11 St. George (435) 986-6705 |

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

Please do not hesitate to contact your local FACs for any questions or issues you may have. We are here to serve you! 🇺🇸

204th MEB and JFHQ Battle During Yama Sakura

Story by Staff Sgt. DaleAnne Maxwell

CAMP ITAMI, Japan — Soldiers from the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) and Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), spent two weeks training in Japan and Fort Lewis, Wash., in support of exercise Yama Sakura 61, Jan. 23-Feb. 5.

The annual Yama Sakura exercise is one of the foundations of U.S. and Japanese defense cooperation and is U.S. Army Pacific's premier bilateral command-post exercise. Yama Sakura 61 provided the unique opportunity for Utah National Guard units to battle each other via a computer-generated exercise, as the 204th represented the friendly/blue force (BLUFOR) while

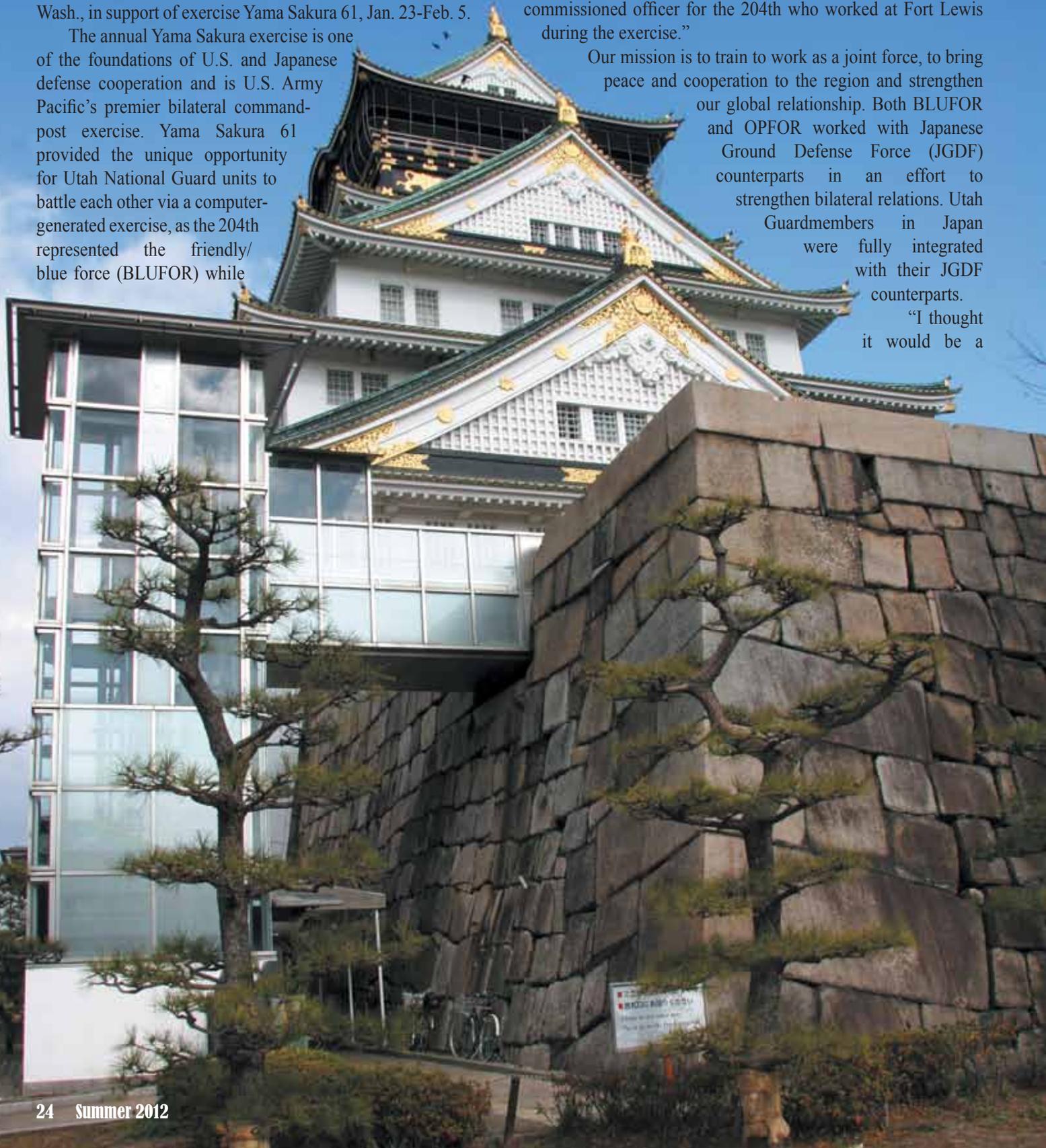
Photos by Staff Sgt. DaleAnne Maxwell and Maj. Bruce Roberts

JFHQ fought the battle as the opposing force (OPFOR).

"Yama Sakura is a joint training exercise with our friends in Japan," said Staff Sgt. Matt Pace, the human resources non-commissioned officer for the 204th who worked at Fort Lewis during the exercise."

Our mission is to train to work as a joint force, to bring peace and cooperation to the region and strengthen our global relationship. Both BLUFOR and OPFOR worked with Japanese Ground Defense Force (JGDF) counterparts in an effort to strengthen bilateral relations. Utah Guardmembers in Japan were fully integrated with their JGDF counterparts.

"I thought it would be a



challenge as an integrator of the two staff sections, U.S. and Japanese self-defense force,” said Lt. Col. Victor Sarkozi, the officer in charge of the JFHQ OPFOR. “This was not the case; both teams brought with them highly motivated and open-minded Soldiers, who wasted no time getting to know and working very well with their counterparts.”

The exercise was also important for members of the 204th to train together from a distance and learn how to utilize systems they do not currently use.

“We use one system, and our allies use another system. We have to work through the differences and find a way to communicate,” said Capt. Bryan Wood, the day-battle captain in Japan for the exercise.

Although some of the communication assets have given them trouble, the 204th found a way to work through the bugs.

“We use a software system that allows us to use headsets,” added Wood. “We go into a chat room and use it like a voice-over Internet system. Although we can’t see each other, we can still communicate.”

Working through the problems that occurred helped improve the skills of the 204th. The OPFOR had its own set of challenges, but communication wasn’t one of them since they managed to bring five people with Japanese language skills.

“We discovered that language barriers are very important to try to overcome. With the help of ground forces interpreters and our own UTNG linguists, we were able to engage with our counterparts and successfully complete the mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Ryan of JFHQ.

“The stresses of constant change, difference in time zones and communications problems have all been great learning tools,” added Pace. “We have been able to strengthen our skills to adapt and overcome obstacles.”

Another obstacle for JFHQ and the OPFOR was the computer simulation did not allow their intelligence assets to actually gather information. In order to make up this shortfall, the presence of an OPFOR White Cell was needed to provide the results of intelligence-gathering assets and missions to the OPFOR.

Ryan explained the role of the White Cell. “We were the central point for disseminating critical information which the Japanese ground forces needed in order to shape the battlefield. Our ability to see the whole picture also gave us a great perspective of the battle in its entirety for our own education.”

This type of exercise not only sharpens the skills of the staff in overseas missions, it also helps them with domestic missions.

“This is the exact same product we would take on a domestic mission,” said the commander of the 204th, Col. Robert Dunton. “Except in a domestic mission we will have real task forces responding to our directions, not just someone at a computer.”

Overall the exercise was a success for both the 204th and JFHQ.

“The TOC (Tactical Operations Center) was able to function the way it was supposed to,” said Dunton. “We (the 204th) are sharpening our tools for domestic responses back home.”

Sarkozi summed up the experience: “We completed the mission with exceptional marks, made new lifelong friends, and Soldiers immersed themselves in the culture throughout [the exercise].”



Members of the 204th MEB begin training in the Tactical Operations Center for exercise Yama Sakura 61.



Major Paul Rogers, operations officer for the 204th MEB, talks on the phone in the Yama Sakura 61 Tactical Operations Center Jan. 26.



Yama Sakura is U.S. Army Pacific's premier joint bilateral, command-post exercise with the Japan Self-Defense Force. Yama Sukura 61 marks the largest bilateral exercise between the USARPAC and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force since the Great Tohoku Earthquake on March 11, 2011.

UTARNG Conducts Operations in Morocco During African Lion 2012

Story and photos by Sgt. Nicolas Cloward

DRAPER, Utah — **M**embers of the Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) conducted missions throughout the kingdom of Morocco April 7-18 during African Lion 2012. African Lion 12 is an annual, bilateral military operation where U.S. and Moroccan forces work with one another to build cohesiveness and understanding of each other's military operations, security and procedures. This is the UTARNG's 12th year being involved with African Lion operation.

Utah Guardmembers from Joint Forces Headquarters, 97th Troop Command, Utah State Medical Command (MEDCOM), 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, and 640th Regional Training Institute performed missions involving humanitarian aid, an Intelligence Capabilities-Building Workshop (ICBW), command-post exercises (CPX) and language interpretation.

According to Maj. Reece Roberts of 97th Troop Command and lead planner for African Lion 12, the majority of Utah Guardmembers participated in the medical civic-action operation. Members from MEDCOM and the 300th worked together to provide humanitarian aid to Moroccan villagers.

"They medically treated more than 1,000 civilians every day," Roberts added. They also supplied nearly 4,000 sets of eyeglasses to Moroccan civilians.

One of the highlights of the medical mission was help that came from unusual source. Peace Corps volunteers serving in the surrounding Moroccan villages gave assistance to military

healthcare providers by helping Utah Soldiers and Moroccan civilians overcome language and cultural barriers.

"The Peace Corps workers were very helpful in that area, as were our own translators," remarked Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Gaerte, administration and operations noncommissioned officer for MEDCOM. "There are a lot of our Soldiers who are very impressed with the dedication and motivation that Peace Corps members displayed."

In addition to the medical mission, Guardmembers participated in the ICBW as preliminary training for the CPX. The ICBW was a way for U.S. and Moroccan forces to learn from one another on how they collect and process intelligence through the hierarchy of command authority. Once they completed the workshop they moved onto the CPX, where they operated as a brigade-level headquarters to work through realistic, command-based scenarios generated by Marine Forces Africa.

"The goal and intent there is that we're more closely tying in with our allies and improving our interoperability," Roberts said.



Soldiers from Utah Army National Guard's State Medical Command, provided medical aid for many Moroccan villagers gathered around the humanitarian civil assistance site in Sidi Mussa, Morocco, April 13.



This year, the CPX was conducted under the Moroccan military decision-making process. The CPX staff learned how the Moroccans perform problem solving and course-of-action development to give an operations order to subordinate units.

Aside from all the operations that Utah Guardmembers were involved in during African Lion 12, one of the main points Roberts addressed was the relationships they formed during their involvement in



Morocco. Utah Soldiers across the board have experienced firsthand the cohesiveness with Moroccan forces.

“I was surprised at how many of them remembered those of us who had been there in previous years,” added Gaerte. “They are very hardworking people.”

U.S Forces and the Royal Moroccan Military work side by side to learn each other’s tactics and operational procedures.

Utah TAG Makes Farewell Visit to Morocco

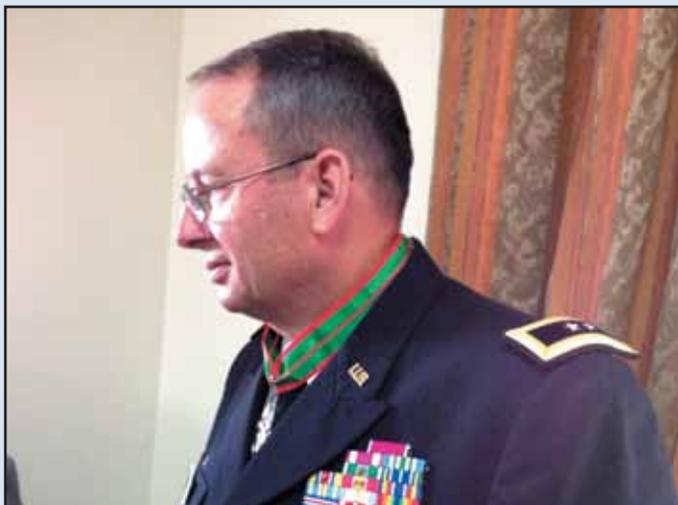
Story by Master Sgt. Gary Rihn

AGADIR, Morocco — **M**embers of the Moroccan military bid a fond farewell to Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet, the adjutant general (TAG) of Utah, during his annual visit to their country April 9-15. Tarbet has been an integral part of Utah’s State Partnership Program (SPP) with the Kingdom of Morocco, and he is scheduled to retire later this year.

Thirteen members of the Utah and South Carolina National Guards accompanied Tarbet on his final visit, including Maj.

Photos by Master Sgt. Gary Rihn, Col. Lawrence Schmidt and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Heber Hyde

Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Jr., the adjutant general of South Carolina, whose state is providing support for the F-16s Morocco purchased recently. The F-16s also receive air-refueling support and training from KC-135 Airmen and tankers from the Utah Air National Guard.



Major Gen. Brian Tarbet was presented with The Order of Ouissam Alaouite. The distinguished decoration is bestowed by the King of Morocco for meritorious service to Moroccans.



Major Gen. Brian L. Tarbet, the adjutant general for the Utah National Guard, talks to an ear specialist at a medical clinic during his visit to Agadir, Morocco, April 15.



Since 2003, the Utah TAG has made annual visits to Morocco to celebrate and strengthen the SPP. The SPP is one of 63 programs throughout the globe, one of only eight in Africa and was the first with a Muslim country. Utah's partnership with Morocco has been one of the most active partnerships on the continent, and the Utah National Guard has conducted more than 120 significant SPP events since its inception.

A highlight of this year's trip was the presentation of The Order of Ouissam Alaouite to Tarbet. This distinguished decoration is bestowed by the King of Morocco upon those civilians and military officers who have displayed heroism in combat or have contributed meritorious service to the Moroccan state.

"General Tarbet has made incredible advancements in the partnership program during his tenure as TAG, and has earned great respect from the Moroccan military and government," said Maj. Rod Erickson, Utah bilateral affairs officer in Rabat, Morocco. "His alliance with the Moroccans has opened countless doors with a valuable ally. Morocco is one of the U.S.'s oldest allies, which is important in that they are not a member of NATO, which gives us a friend in the Muslim world."



Chief Master Sgt. Denise Rager holds one of the numerous orphans while visiting a Moroccan orphanage in April.

During this year's visit, Tarbet met with Mr. Samuel Kaplan, the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, where they discussed the role, capabilities, cost advantages, and importance of the National Guard and their contributions to Morocco. One of those contributions praised is an annual exercise called Operation African Lion, where the Utah National Guard deploys teams that provide medical, dental, and veterinary support to Moroccans in the Agadir region. This year's team treated approximately 3,000 people per day and provided immunizations, dental care, eyeglasses, prescriptions and personal care to a very appreciative populace, at no cost to them.

Chief Master Sgt. Denise Rager, Utah Air National Guard State Headquarters command chief, noted, "Our medical teams at African Lion benefit Moroccans with needed health care that they wouldn't otherwise receive. Local Moroccan doctors wanted to close early each afternoon, but our team talked them in to staying open longer to assist the endless lines."

Tarbet also coordinated a tour of a large local orphanage that the Utah Guard has supported for years. Thirty years ago, a young woman named Rita Zniber noticed a woman carrying her grandchild for miles just to get milk. This spawned the inspiration to create the Le Nid orphanage, which has grown to house more than 300 children without families who are in various stages of the adoption process. The NG contingent spent time at the orphanage playing with the children and delivering much-needed supplies and toys obtained through generous donations by Utah Guardmembers and families.

"It is such a wonderful opportunity to be able to travel here and spend time with these children," said Staff Sgt. Guy Mellor, the Department of the Army 2011 Soldier of the Year. "While I don't have any children of my own yet, I just love being able to play with these kids."

While in country, Tarbet also met with several Moroccan generals to further strengthen the ties between the two countries. He spent time emphasizing that the program would not suffer

after his departure, and that his successor would not only continue the partnership, but would strive to strengthen it.

“I have never been prouder of him, and all that he’s been able to accomplish over the years. I wouldn’t trade it for the world,” said Mrs. Mary Tarbet, the general’s wife, when asked by Ambassador Kaplan about her husband’s upcoming retirement.

“Moroccans’ admiration and affection for General Tarbet was very evident during this farewell visit,” added Capt. Jill Jimenez, Utah SPP director. “Honor guards lined the roads as he would enter the installation, and at one meeting, every top general in the Moroccan military was assembled, including the equivalent of all the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to welcome him. We know he will be greatly missed.”

“Moroccans are a very personable people, who place a high value on personal relationships,” added Erickson. “They develop bonds that are lifelong, and General Tarbet now has an entire family of friends for life in the Kingdom of Morocco.”



Major Gen. Brian Tarbet meets with General de Brigade Mohammed Brouk.

Guardmembers Help Scouts Collect Food

Story and photos by Sgt. Mark Henderson

SALT LAKE CITY — Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard helped Boy Scouts across Utah as part of the 26th annual Scouting for Food drive March 24.

Thousands of Boy Scouts and approximately 100 Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah Guard participated in the event with a goal of collecting two million pounds of food in Utah for those in need.

Servicemembers helped receive donations with the Scouts at collection points, provided drivers to bring donations to food banks, and aided food-bank employees receiving the food.

“Helping with Scouting for Food was a great opportunity to lend a hand and give back to people who don’t have much food,” said Spc. Jonathan Bumstead, a forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 65th Fires Brigade.

“It’s a great event,” Bumstead said, “one that hopefully continues for a long time.”

“The mission of the Utah National Guard is to protect and serve



Boy Scouts sort donations at Scouting for Food Great Salt Lake Council District 13 collection point, March 24.

the state, so assisting with programs like Scouting for Food is a great chance for Guardmembers to serve their neighbors,” said 1st Sgt. Jeromy Morse, plans and training first sergeant with Utah National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters.

“I don’t mind volunteering because at the end of the day you know you helped somebody,” said Morse.

“I think it’s great for Scouts to work with the Guard because it gives them (the Scouts) preparation to be outstanding citizens,” said Dale Walker, a retired Army colonel and now the District 13 commissioner for the Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

“I really appreciate the Guard’s participation, especially being a former Guardsman myself,” said Walker.



1st Sgt. Jeromy Morse, Joint Forces Headquarters, briefs Soldiers in preparation to receive Scouting for Food donations at the Salt Lake City Food Bank.

Best Warrior Competition Held at Camp Williams

Story and photos by Sgt. Ashley Baum



Specialist Joshua Vazquez, Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group, earned the title of Utah Army National Guard 2012 Soldier of the Year in the annual Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams in Riverton, Utah, March 23.

19th SFG Soldier Takes Title of Utah Soldier of the Year

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **S**pecialist Joshua Vazquez, a small-arms and artillery repairman who serves with Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group, earned the coveted title as the Utah Army National Guard's 2012 Soldier of the Year in the Best Warrior Competition.

The BWC took place at Camp Williams March 22-24, where Vazquez and three other Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) Soldier competitors participated in numerous assessments and events including day and nighttime land navigation, weapons qualification, a physical fitness test, written exams and Army Warrior Tasks.

"I had no idea I was going to win," said Vazquez. "I've done Soldier of the Month in Advanced Individual Training, and I've done about three of these competitions while I was in Iraq back in 2011, so I had a pretty good idea what I was going to be doing here."

Vazquez said the hardest part of the BWC was the appearance board where he went before a board of three command sergeants major, who asked numerous questions pertaining to current events, Army history and general knowledge.

"Winning this competition is a pretty big deal," said Vazquez. "Especially for the 19th Special Forces Group to have someone representing them and the State of Utah."

Utah Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, explained what makes a great Soldier of the Year is someone who "is never satisfied with the minimum standards" and "always reaching out to do more than what's expected."

Vazquez will participate in the 2012 Army National Guard Region 7 Best Warrior Competition in April in San Luis Obispo, Calif., where he will compete against Soldiers from Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado and Guam.

Vazquez has been a Soldier in the UTARNG for six years and deployed with elements of the 19th in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2011.

204th MEB NCO takes title as Utah's NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Matt Pace of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, snagged a prestigious title as Utah Army National Guard's 2012 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in the Best Warrior Competition.

The 37-year-old human resources NCO from Lehi bested six other UTARNG competitors during the three-day event March 22-24 at Camp Williams.

"I didn't want to get overconfident," said Pace. "I know my job as an NCO. I try to be proficient in all of my tasks and the things I need to accomplish. I just put that to the test and luckily I won."

The BWC NCO competitors participated in numerous soldiering tasks and activities ranging from written exams about



Utah Army National Guard Soldiers participate in land navigation and first aid for the annual Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams in Riverton, Utah March 23.

Army knowledge and history, to weapons qualification with an M16 assault rifle, day and nighttime land navigation and Army Warrior Tasks including employing hand grenades, evaluating a casualty and creating and requesting a medical evacuation for that casualty.

Pace's mentor and 2011's BWC Soldier of the Year winner, Sgt. Alessandra Jacobson, administrative NCO with the 204th MEB, guided Pace throughout the competition by teaching him what worked and what didn't work for her as a past BWC competitor.

"I tried to pass to him all the information, as well as help build his confidence," said Jacobson. "He had a couple of steps along the way where he stumbled, and he was focusing on that instead of forgetting about it. But I feel pretty good he won because he put a lot of work into it. This [competition] means a lot to him."

Pace, who deployed with elements from the 204th MEB to Iraq from 2005-2006, went on to compete in the 2012 National

Guard Region 7 Best Warrior Competition in San Luis Obispo, Calif., in April. He worked at increasing his physical fitness and furthering his training in weapons qualification and Common Warrior Tasks.

Pace joked about Jacobson's taking the role as his "new drill sergeant."

"We have a schedule," said Jacobson. "Training, working out twice a day, with some specific workouts to help him improve his speed, pushups and sit ups. He studied the Army Study Guide, read it, downloaded it to his MP3 player and worked out while listening to it."

Summers said he had high expectations and knew Pace would perform well in the regional BWC.

"I'm extremely proud at what these guys have accomplished in the last five years," said Summers. "And it's historically the kind of Soldiers we've had in the Utah National Guard. They're just great young men and women. I'm very proud of them." 



Utah Army National Guard Soldier conducts a vehicle search during the Best Warrior Competition. Best Warrior participants conduct rifle qualification March 23.



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Utah Soldiers Compete in 2012 Region VII Best Warrior Competition

Story and photos by Sgt. Ashley Baum

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — Utah Army National Guard Soldiers battled against the best of the best at the 2012 Region VII Best Warrior Competition (BWC).

California National Guard hosted the five-day event at Camp San Luis Obispo, April 22-26, where Staff Sgt. Matthew Pace, Human Resources noncommissioned officer (NCO), 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and Spc. Joshua Vazquez, small-arms repairman, Group Support Command, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), represented Utah and competed against NCOs and Soldiers from California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii, and the territory of Guam, all vying for the title as Region VII Best Warrior.

Vazquez and Pace participated in numerous events, which pushed their mental and physical strength to their limits, including day and night land navigation, shooting an M4 assault rifle and M9 pistol under duress, new physical readiness training test, water survival, a combatives tournament and a nearly six-mile foot march, which was mostly uphill.

To prepare for the physically and mentally demanding competition, Pace found strength within to push himself to perform to the best of his ability, regardless of how exhausted he was.

“I just had to focus,” said Pace. “You can make yourself quit. It can get so hard that your muscles are burning; you’re sweating and you’re dehydrated. You want to stop and take a rest, but you just have to drive on.”

With a deployment to Afghanistan looming over him, Vazquez viewed the Region VII BWC as a training exercise to prepare him for future missions.

“A lot of us [in the 19th] are expected to be able to competently perform the tasks in the competition. I look at these competitions as a training opportunity: to see where I’m at and what I need to work on. So when we prepare for deployment, I’ll not only know how to improve my own skills but also how to incorporate what I learned into pre-deployment training.”

Although the Utah competitors didn’t win the Region VII Best Warrior title and move on to the Army National Guard national competition, Pace and Vazquez both won first place in an event. Vazquez won the M4/M9 fire event where he alternated between the two firearms in a move-and-shoot scenario, which tested his ability to control his breathing, aiming and firing in the timed event. Pace won the Unknown Distance Foot March, completing the event in one hour and 24 minutes while carrying a 35-pound rucksack and an M16 assault rifle.

“I just tried to keep the same pace the whole time,” said Pace. “I always focused on the guy ahead of me and took as many steps as possible to catch up to him. [Once I passed him,] I’d focus on the next guy and then the next until I passed everyone. Then I pushed myself to gain distance ahead of everyone.”

Both Pace and Vazquez say it was an honor to represent Utah as the Soldier and NCO competitors in the Region VII BWC.

“I think it’s a great motivator for NCOs and Soldiers [to participate in these competitions],” said Pace. “Not only do you get to represent your state, you’re representing your chain of command and your leadership. I think it’s important to showcase the abilities of the National Guard and show Big Army that we can compete at their level.”

Utah Army National Guard Soldiers participate in the 2012 Region VII Best Warrior Competition at San Luis Obispo, Calif.



Utah Units in Mali Participate in Atlas Accord

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins

SEVARE, Mali — Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard's 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and 300th Military Intelligence Brigade supported Operation Atlas Accord 2012, a multinational, humanitarian-partner training mission in Sevare, Mali, during February 2012.

The government of Mali invited troops from Uganda, Burkina Faso, Canada, Nigeria, Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal and the United States to participate in an exercise with their own defense forces. This event was designed to help the different nations train, trade experiences and work together on aerial delivery methods used to bring water, food and medical supplies to remote areas during times of need.

"Atlas Accord is here to build talent, exchange ideas and more importantly, strengthen partnerships," said Army Col. Reginald Sanders, deputy task force commander and Henderson Harbor, N.Y., native with the 369th Sustainment Brigade, based in Harlem, N. Y.

Several French linguists from the 300th MI were on site and assigned to dignitaries and training stations to help aid in communication among personnel from varied nations. Soldiers from the 300th worked with 128th MPAD personnel by translating for interviewees.

Soldiers of the 128th MPAD covered events of Atlas Accord 12 by taking photographs and video of the event and producing multimedia products for the Malian embassy and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

Sergeant Lyndsey Prax, a public affairs broadcaster with the 128th MPAD from Draper, Utah, said, "My job was to tell the their story through video to the American people so they could see what our Soldiers were doing in Mali."

Partnerships and capabilities of participant nations expanded as the aerial-resupply training mission commenced, using both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. Participants trained with riggers, fuelers, pathfinders, Signal Corps personnel and medics from the different nations.

"It was amazing to see how people from completely different parts of the world, who can't even speak the same language, learn so much from each other and build relationships in such a short period of time," said Prax.

Atlas Accord 2012 gave National Guard Soldiers the opportunity to train in real-world situations with different nations.

"As a National Guard Soldier, I rarely get the opportunity to spend so much consecutive time using the camera and

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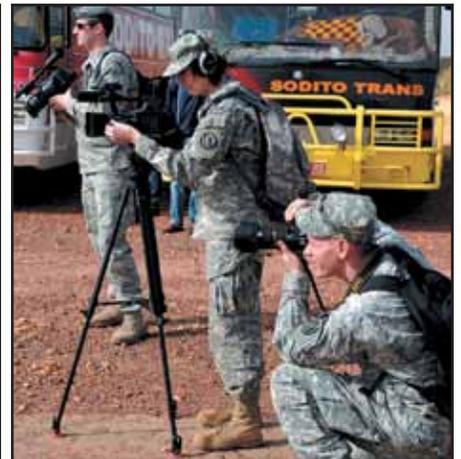


Captain Choli Ence, 128th MPAD public affairs officer, monitors an interview between a civilian reporter and an Army Soldier regarding the mission. The mission is designed to promote partnership with the host nation, U.S., Canada and five other African nations.

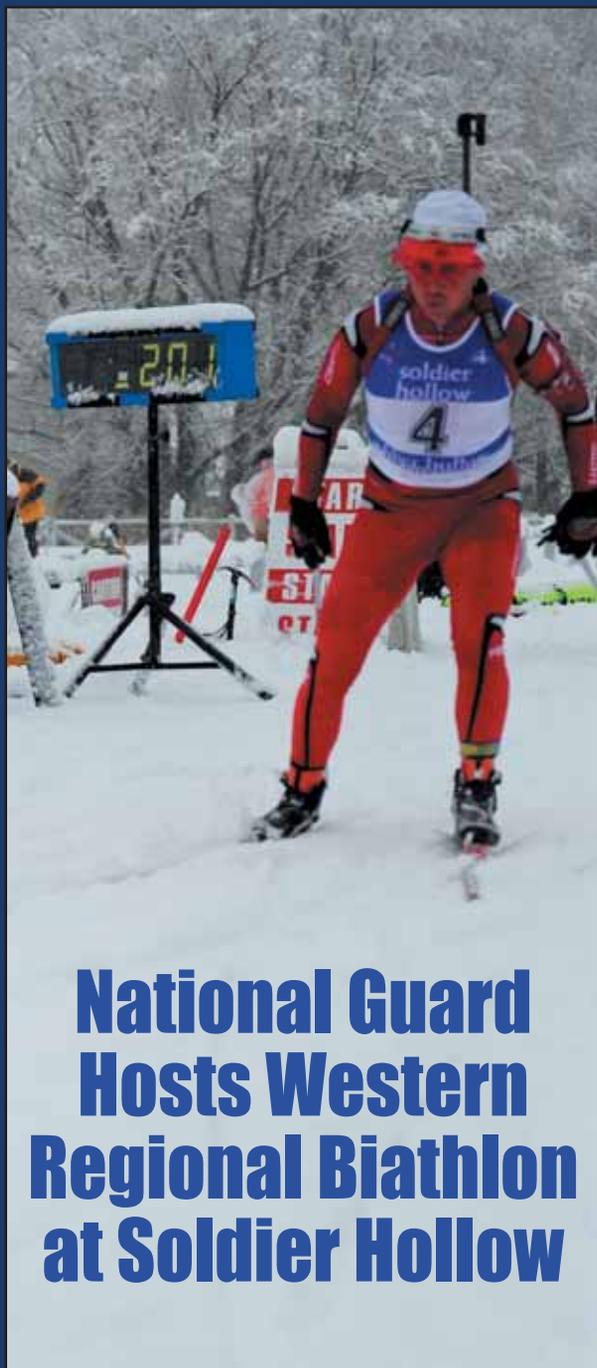
enhancing my broadcasting skills,” said Prax. “This experience allowed me to work with and learn from others in my job field who come from different backgrounds.”

Prax added, “Watching their experiences through the lens of a camera was incredible.”

The Atlas Accord mission in Mali gave Utah National Guard personnel the chance to meet new people, have new experiences, see the world from a different angle and strengthen their capabilities. 🇺🇸



Left to right: Sergeant Lyndsey Prax, 128th MPAD broadcaster, films Soldiers attending rigger training. Sergeant Mark Henderson, a public affairs journalist with the 128th MPAD, speaks with soldiers from one of the partner nations that attended the training. Sergeants Lyndsey Prax and Mark Henderson document Soldiers who attended the opening ceremonies. The humanitarian mission, Atlas Accord 12, began at Mopti Airfield Feb. 9. Service personnel from different nations were trained on various drop-zone rigging to enable them to deliver humanitarian packages to remote areas in times of crisis.



National Guard Hosts Western Regional Biathlon at Soldier Hollow

Story by Lynn Adams

Utah National Guard Biathlete Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Blanke competes at Soldier Hollow Jan. 21 in the Western Regional Biathlon competition.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Kyle Russell and Ileen Kennedy

MIDWAY, Utah — **S**oldier Hollow Legacy Foundation and the Utah National Guard hosted the Western Regional Biathlon races at Soldier Hollow Biathlon Range Jan. 21-22. The cross-country skiing and shooting competition included a sprint race on Saturday and pursuit race on Sunday with 60 competitors from as far away as Vermont and Wisconsin. National Guard teams participated from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, South Dakota, California, Nevada and Utah.

Due to a severe winter storm, Saturday's 10 km race was one of the most difficult races many of the competitors could remember. The storm turned Parley's Summit into a parking lot, and made sighting in rifles, shooting and skiing very difficult.

"It was snowing so hard before the race that we were unable to zero our rifles, as you couldn't review the targets with a scope," said Capt. Dan Morken, of Park City; and the 1457th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company commander. "Comically, I fell 10 feet after the start of the race and proceeded to fall three more times due to the very narrow groomed trail and heavy snow."

Soldier Hollow hosted two other races that same day—the Utah Nordic Alliance 10 km race, with more than 220 competitors, and a Nordic Combined race with ski jumping at the Olympic Park in Park City and cross-country ski race at Soldier Hollow.

Saturday marked the first time since the 2002 Olympics that these three sports were held on the same day at Soldier Hollow. Not a bad way to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 2002 Winter Games!

The top three Soldiers in each category received medals, and the top three teams at the end of the pursuit race received plaques. The Utah Army National Guard Biathlon Team took third place behind Colorado and Montana, despite one of Utah's three Soldiers, Lt. Col. Eric Petersen of Salt Lake, being unable to ski on Saturday due to a broken hand. He skied on Sunday with the use of only one arm. His determination lifted the Utah team to third place, as the other two skiers on the team, Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Blanke of Spanish Fork, and Capt. Dan Morken, skied very strong races.

"In contrast to Saturday, conditions on Sunday were ideal," said Morken. "The pursuit format is very cool, as the start order is dictated by the results from the previous day. My time was a bit slow, so I started farther back than I had hoped to. It was a fun race with no falls, and it was gratifying to make up some time and get a medal."

Local Olympian and World Cup competitor Jeremy Teela led both races by a large margin. In the Senior Men's class (age 40 and over), Brent Parcell of Heber earned a third-place bronze medal in the 12.5 km pursuit race on Sunday, and Lynn Adams, also of Heber, took a silver medal on Saturday in the 10 km sprint race.

The Utah National Guard Biathlon team would like to thank all of the sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible and helped it run smoothly. The Soldier Hollow staff prepared an excellent race track. By Sunday the track was very fast and worked well for hosting so many races in just two days. For anyone interested in tryouts for the team contact Capt. Dan Morken or Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Blanke.



1-211th ARB Post-Mobilization Training

Story by 2nd Lt. Chad Marden

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he 1-211th Attack/Recon Battalion (ARB) deployed Jan. 16 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Our first stop was a short, four-month stay at Fort Hood, Texas. We are going through the Unit Field Training Program (UFTP) as a new AH-64D Apache unit, as well as validation for a combat deployment. This mobilization is not unlike any other: we all had to bid farewell to family and friends, leave behind the luxuries of home, make a new home out of our temporary fighting positions and adapt to the growing pains of a close-quarters environment, not to mention a climate change.

Challenges are to be expected. Leaving the comforts of Utah and how we do business at home, coming to Fort Hood, the Army's largest installation, posed a formidable challenge from the very beginning. Being a square peg in their round mobilization hole (RC units are usually here only 60 days or less) along with constant changes to Army policy due to the ever-changing environment in theater has also been a blunt reminder that we are not at home. Even before ramping up for this deployment, expectation management was an integral part of our preparation. It has provided us with the adaptability to hurdle obstacles outside the realm of our core mission of shoot, move and communicate.

We are two months into UFTP and deployment validation, and in the words of Lt. Col. Greg Hartvigsen, our battalion commander, "We are doing great things."

We have completed all the preparatory collective aviation training and have only the final field exercise left before completion of UFTP. Additionally, during lulls in the UFTP training by 21st Cavalry Brigade, Combat Aviation Training, 1st Army filled those gaps with Southwest Asia Warrior training such as weapons ranges, language training, risk of isolation and personnel recovery, etc. The pace has been hectic, but busy Soldiers are happy Soldiers.

The battalion has exceeded not only our own standards but also the standards of those whose mission it is to scrutinize and ensure that the 1-211th ARB is a reliable and skilled weapon of war. We have been called "the most administratively organized unit in memory to come through Fort Hood" and that "typically, units are struggling to hang on to the tail boom (aviation talk for behind the power curve) with these training scenarios, but scenarios are being written to keep up with the 1-211th." Compliments like these bring us back to expectation management: nothing less than outstanding is expected to be said of a Utah National Guard unit preparing to honorably represent our great state and serve the Land of the Free. 🇺🇸



Biathlon requires competitors to combine the speed of skiing with the accuracy of rifle shooting.



Triple Deuce Soldiers, Families Honored During Freedom Salute

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Whitney Houston

ST. GEORGE, Utah — On March 4, 474 Soldiers serving with 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, gathered at the Dixie Center in St. George, for a Freedom Salute ceremony honoring their most recent deployment to Iraq.

Freedom Salutes are National Guard-sponsored ceremonies that recognize Soldiers for their overseas service and assist returning Soldiers in the reintegration process back into civilian and family life.

“The Freedom Salute is part of a program that the National Guard sponsors for Soldiers returning home from a deployment,” said Sgt. Maj. Ron Dooley, operations sergeant major for the 65th Fires Brigade, who assisted in coordinating the event. “It encompasses the family, because the family sacrifices the most when a Soldier is away. So when a Soldier comes home he has to go from a militarized mindset back into a family and civilian mindset.”

“Freedom Salute gives the family more of an elevated status, as a supporter of a Soldier, rather than a spouse and dependents,” explained Dooley.

As part of the Freedom Salute, Soldiers, families, and Family Readiness Group leaders were presented with encased flags, rings, future Soldier kits for children, flowers and other gifts in recognition for their service.

The 222nd, also known as the Triple Deuce, was addressed and welcomed home by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and Utah National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet.

“We appreciate the work you’ve done and the men and women of the Triple Deuce,” Herbert said. “I would just like to add that not only do we appreciate you for what you’ve done,



Governor Gary Herbert greets members of the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery at the Freedom Salute held at the St. George Dixie Center March 4.

but how you’ve done it. You’ve made Utah proud. We’re proud of you and your service.”

The Triple Deuce had a variety of missions during their time in Iraq. One of the battalion’s main missions consisted of route security and transportation.

“Their mission is what we call a nonstandard mission,” Dooley said. “The 2nd of the 222nd is a Field Artillery battalion; they are specifically trained in providing fire support. But as a combat-arms unit, they are very resilient and adaptive to tasks required of them. Their job was to provide security for certain routes, and they also provided armed escorts in the Green Zone and other areas around Baghdad.”



Larry H. Miller Group Donates to Sunrise Hall Chapel Fund

Story and photo by Maj. Bruce Roberts



Gail Miller, left, widow of Larry Miller, and her eldest son Greg, present a \$250,000 check to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust for the building of Sunrise Hall.

SALT LAKE CITY — Board members of the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust gave a short presentation regarding the Sunrise Hall Worship Center project to the Miller family at the Larry H. Miller Group corporate offices Mar. 1.

Gail Miller, widow of Larry Miller, and her eldest son Greg, now run the family business, which incorporates a vast enterprise of ventures.

The Utah National Guard Charitable Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity established in 2005 for the purpose of offsetting financial hardships endured by military members and their families during deployments. Sunrise Hall is a project sponsored by the Trust to build a nondenominational worship center on Camp Williams. The current chapel on Camp Williams is an outdated old building that once served as a mess hall.

“Our hope is that it (Sunrise Hall) will serve as a place of spiritual renewal for Soldiers and their families for many years to come. It is built facing the sunrise, which symbolizes hope and new beginning,” said Col. Scot Olson.

The designers of Sunrise Hall, EFT Architects, Inc., showcased graphic designs and a small, scale model of the project during the presentation. EFT Architects contributed all their time and effort toward the project pro bono.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Larry H. Miller Group generously donated \$250,000 to the Charitable Trust on behalf of the Sunrise Hall Worship Center. 🇺🇸

This mission adds to the unit’s rich heritage in campaigns protecting freedom around the world.

Tarbet spoke of the Triple Deuce’s heritage and its Southern Utah roots.

“When I think of this unit, I think of its heritage,” Tarbet said. “In the last decade alone you’ve had three deployments, and that’s not counting the Olympics. We’ve worked you awfully hard. But every place you have been, you have improved the lives of Soldiers around you and of the people you went to serve. Take enormous pride in that.”

When speaking of Southern Utah, Tarbet said, “The soil from which you come raises remarkable Soldiers for some reason. It’s an honor to serve with you.”

The ceremony concluded with Lt. Col. Bradley Fuller, commander of the Triple Deuce, expressing his gratitude to the official party as well as the Soldiers and their families. 🇺🇸

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Utah Guardmember Goes to NASA

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham

PASADENA, Calif. — **S**ergeant Nicolas A. Cloward, a member of the Draper based 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, traveled to NASA's Joint Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., to participate in an engineering project May 1-3.

Cloward applied last year to the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program, aimed at students with an interest and aptitude for mathematics, science, engineering or computer science. The competitive process for acceptance to the program included submitting an abstract, timeline with budget, full proposal and line drawing of an original design for a Mars space rover. Cloward's idea was for a rover that would test deep-surface samples for differing levels of methane seep. Scientists are interested in areas emitting high levels of methane to determine if the source is geological or biological—indicating potential life on Mars.

Ninety-two nationwide finalists, including two from Utah, were chosen to participate in the program's culminating event, a hands-on training experience with NASA scientists. Finalists were separated into smaller groups headed toward either Johnson Space Center in Houston, Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, or JPL in Pasadena.

At JPL, finalists were given a tour of the facility including a stop at mission control and an up-close look at life-size models of Mars rovers currently in use. The group was then further broken down into teams of ten and given the assignment to act as an independent contract company proposing a rover design to NASA. Each team worked together to develop a concept, proposal, model and presentation to "sell" their idea. Cloward's team placed second at this final competition level.

Cloward was inspired by the chance to meet actual NASA scientists and engineers who had designed machines sent into space.

"You never get to meet those kind of people," Cloward said. "That's the real thing, not science fiction."

Cloward said he enjoyed the chance to meet his peers, fellow students with similar interests that he may one day work with.

Cloward is still early in his educational path, and still working toward his associate's degree, but the experience with the aerospace scholars program and NASA has left him excited to continue with his education.

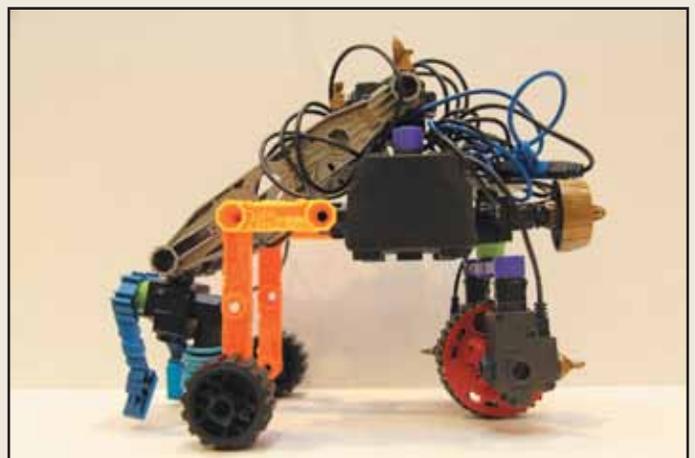
"There's no reason I couldn't get to that point and be on a team that's part of a future mission," said Cloward. 🇺🇸



NASA scientists display a life-size model of the interior of the Mars Curiosity rover. The actual rover is currently traveling to Mars, expected to arrive on the planet in August 2012.



Sergeant Nicolas Cloward (far right) and a team of aerospace scholars show off a model of their rover design.



Model of a Mars rover designed by a team of National Community College Aerospace Scholars, including Sgt. Nicolas Cloward.



The new Salt Lake City Fisher House was dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the campus of the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center Feb. 29. Bottom left: Lt. Col. Brent Baxter, Ken Fisher, Brig. Gen. Michael Liechty and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Vogl inside the entry of the new Fisher House. Bottom right: The beautifully designed common kitchen area.

New Fisher House Dedicated in Salt Lake City

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — A dedication ceremony was held on the campus of the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center for the newly built VA Salt Lake City Health Care System Fisher House. The Salt Lake City Fisher House is the 57th home built by the Fisher House Foundation. This facility is a much-needed resource that will serve patients and families traveling to Salt Lake City for decades to come.

A Fisher House is a home away from home, where families of Veterans and Servicemembers can stay without charge while their loved one is receiving specialized medical care due to illness or injury.

The Salt Lake Fisher House is the largest of all of the Fisher House projects. This 16,800-square-foot home consists of 20 suites, each with a private bedroom and bath. Families share



a common kitchen, dining room, laundry facilities, sitting room and library. The Salt Lake Fisher House is at a medical center serving 125,000 square miles in the highly rural, Intermountain West region including Utah, Southeast Idaho and East Central Nevada; however, guests from all over the West will be received.

Ken Fisher, CEO and Fisher House Foundation chairman, said that to date the Foundation has hosted 160,000 families and accommodated four million nights of lodging. Plans are in the works for an additional 28 Fisher House projects, including one in the United Kingdom.

“Too often we forget the strain on military family members when a loved one serves, and worse if they are injured or need medical attention,” said Fisher. “There are still bills to pay, children to raise, and this facility will lessen the burden on our military families to accommodate them to stay together with their loved one at no cost to them.”

As soon as you walk through the front doors, the atmosphere is more like a home than a hotel, bringing comfort and relief of stress during a difficult time for families.

“They help each other on the bad days,” said Fisher. “They share joy on the good days. They’ll help each other cook and clean.”

The Salt Lake Fisher House represents the tireless efforts of both the Fisher House Foundation and the Department of Veterans Affairs and their ongoing commitment to America’s heroes: our Veterans, Wounded Warriors and their families.

“We have a mission that we have committed ourselves to, and that is to support our Troops,” said Fisher. “They deserve the best we have, and we’ll be there as long as we’re needed.”

The dedication ceremony concluded with the ceremonial presentation of the Fisher House key, a tradition that symbolizes the transfer of each new Fisher House from the Fisher House Foundation to those who will make this house a home: the employees of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System. 

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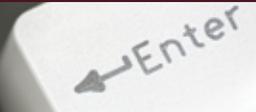
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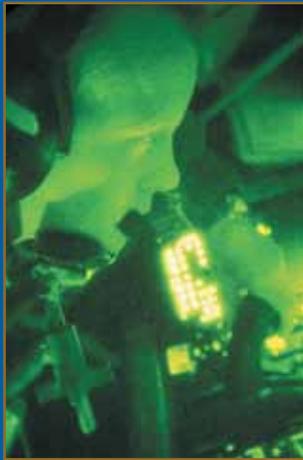
Story and photos by Master Sgt. Ben Bloker

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he 191st Air Refueling Squadron is part of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing and routinely supports air operations across the western United States. During night operations, Lt. Col. Scott Larson and Lt. Col. Brandon Taylor, both pilots from the 151st ARW, navigate toward an EC-130H from the 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron for refueling near Albuquerque, N.M., Mar. 21. 



Lieutenant Colonels Scott Larson and Brandon Taylor, 151st Air Refueling Wing pilots, navigate toward an air-refueling rendezvous point Mar. 21. An EC-130H from the 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron conducts refueling-contact training from a 151st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 during a night operation near

Albuquerque, N.M. Master Sgt. Kurt Armstrong, a boom operator from the 191st Air Refueling Squadron, refuels an EC-130H at night over Albuquerque, N.M. Lt. Col. Scott Larson controls the throttles of a KC-135 during final approach into Salt Lake International Airport.



Air Promotions

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Niederhauser Nathan L

CAPTAIN
Butler Philip E
Gines Steven B

FIRST LIEUTENANT
Asay Aaron S
Deagostine Keith M

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Davis Laine W
Pierson Charles N III
Robles David
Whitney Douglas Emerson

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
Anderson David E

Bird Nathan R
Cook Patricia Anita
Mulder Mary C
Strack Richard L
Young Randy L

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Carter Ryan Mel
Castleton Scott G
Fleck Jeffrey D
Garr Anthony R
Harrison Bradley Clifford
McEntire Michelle V
Rudy Cory Marshall
Urbick Christopher R
Wahlin Kevin C
Whetstone Jacob M
Wood Kyle M

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Blunck Samuel Leonard
Bortkewicz Kristyl M
Clark Scott Phillip
Cooper Toby Lynn
Deschamps Michelle
Dowdin Wesley Allan
Eagle William R
Edwards Brittany M
Ferguson Casey G
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Mackey Stuart D
Mar Travis J
Mayer Seth L
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Nichols Brian Allen
Weaver Bruce Edward Jr
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Huff Jon Curtis
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Mccombs Jason M
Nielson William D
Ruhnau Darren S
Stumm Timothy A
Young Paul S

SENIOR AIRMAN
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Chavez Brenda Lee

Cooper Ryan C
Evans Martin C
Farley Michael A
Hale David M
Hoover Sara L
Hughes Jeremy D
Jacobson Travis L
Keele Jesse Alexander
Lance Joseph S
Lund Colter James
North Christopher J
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Filoso Christopher Mark
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Peters Paul Stephen
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Kerbo Martin Wayne
Orellana Edward Andre
Silver Michael Glen
Stevenson Jeremy Hale
Stewart Brandon Vannoy
Workman Kendall Drew

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Daley James Daniel
Garner Keith Benjamin
Hicken Matthew Darrel
Mangum William Brent
Marsh Spencer Kimball
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Nearman Nathan Dewayne
Nelson Daniel Oliver
Rasmussen Cody Lonn
Smith Lucas Joseph
Sutherland Ryan Reade
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Judd Derik Saun
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Vogl Stephan Paul

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Criswell Rene Henry

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Sorrels Steven Earl Jr
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Vielbaum John Robert
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Bertele Philip Michael
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Caldwell Rick Chaltes
Carroll Andrew Scott
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 Berdan Heidi Ann
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Bevan Robert Tyler
 Beveridge Jacob Scott
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 Brown Jonathan Rudy
 Butler Spencer Grant
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 Canady Austin Kyle
 Capel Benjamin Jacob
 Carrico Nathan Sebastian
 Carson Tyler David
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 Dau Zachariah Gordon
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 Moss Devin Kari
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 Noorda Jeffrey Scott
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 Allred Joshua Lyman
 Atwan Shelby Joseph
 Ballard Kenneth Ray
 Bess Zachary Grant
 Brandley Benjamin Aaron
 Brink Everett Thomas
 Brost Brook Aaron
 Brown Taeja Ray
 Brown Vincent Walker
 Browning Dennis James
 Brunson Colby Max
 Chavez Dante Enrico
 Christiansen Danny Lee
 Chuprajak Panuwatr
 Collier Quinton Bryce
 Crooks Zachery Todd
 Dalley Austin Robert
 Davis Kimberlie Sue
 Durfee Todd Coleman
 Fagan Conner Mckowen
 Fellows Cory Jake
 Flavel Michael Thomas
 Gardner Tory Christian
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 Hartman Geoffrey Ethan
 Hatch Venoy Manuelito
 Haywood Joseph Hyrum
 Helquist Blake Leland
 Hirshfeld Spencer Philip

Hoff Emily Shannon
 Holmquist Michael Tyler
 Hood Christopher John
 Hoover Corey Bryan Wayne
 Jamerson Demetrius Jamaul
 Jensen Curtis Blaine
 Jolley Samuel Christian
 Jonas Lacie Rose
 Josie Cassidy Sage
 Julian Robert Allen
 Kinsman Kolten James
 Kleinman Jacob Moroni
 Kline Cody Robert
 Kocherhans Braden
 Langi Paul Tonga
 Leany Kurtis Theron
 Lindsey Benjamin Talo
 Lindsey Shiann Taylor
 Lopez Adrian Lawrence
 Loua Garley Leilua
 Lozano Trexton Joel
 Madorin Paul Ian
 Martin Kelsey Laree
 Mason Derek John
 Miller Chase Bradley
 Morgan Luke Young
 Morris Taylor Cloy
 Peer Joshua Brian
 Pendleton Stuart Joshua
 Penrod Weston Darius
 Plato Zachary Ryan
 Pyle Michael Alan
 Quezada Drago Javier Rojas
 Rasmussen April Lyn
 Rhinehart Ryan Taylor
 Ruelas Lucio
 Schenker Frederick William
 Schramm Keenan Robert
 Skinner Riley Jeff
 Smith Alexander Ray
 Soerensen K Spencer James
 Spencer Meagan
 Summers Johnston James
 Tashiro Jared Matayoshi
 Taylor Jesse Scott
 Taylor Kaitlyn Anne
 Thornton Adrian Jonathan
 Tingey Nathan Wesley
 Verquer Kyle John
 Vigil Dominic Aaron
 Walker Joseph Lloyd
 Wells Zachary Ryne
 Wilkinson Kyle Louis
 Williams Christofer Cody
 Wood Baylee Michelle
 Zander Adam Ingo

PRIVATE (PV1)

Baker Gregory Harman Pribyl
 Barlow Quincy Theodore G
 Barton John Robert
 Beaver Kyle Gordon
 Benson Thomas James
 Bernard Sapati Vai
 Bird Braxton Stanley
 Bjelland Russell Garrett
 Bleazard Robert Wyane
 Boulden Mackenzie Claire
 Bracken Raina Lorraine
 Browning Michael Scott
 Buhler Easton Nickalous

Chaney Nathan John
 Chappell Trae Daniel
 Christensen Cadry Glen
 Christensen Shane Evan
 Conder Kayli Ann
 Cutler Christian Todd
 Dixon Roscoe Davis
 Dwight John Michael
 Ehlers Dallin Porter
 Ek Riley Alan
 Ellsworth Angelo Christian
 Fitzpatrick Devin Alexander
 Garrard Benjamin Colton
 Griego Santos Santiago Soto
 Hale Kaia Marie
 Hare Gabe Charles
 Harris Vincent Charles
 Hensley Sean Michael Joseph
 Hunter Zachary James
 Jones David Paul II
 Judd Kimberlee Shai
 Kemner Ryan Nicholas
 Long Tanner Benson
 Lucas Brenton Ford
 Luck Ashleigh Avery
 Lynd Steven Charles
 Madson Joshua Tyrell
 Marble Steven David
 Marshall Michael Prentiss
 Mateos Erick Alberto
 McGookin Michael Conner
 Meacham Cody Scott
 Memmott Colton James
 Mendoza Dakota Sioux
 Merrill Justin Cade
 Miller Sean Robert
 Morgan Shyanna Jo
 Niesporek Kyle Kay
 Ochoa Anthony Ramon
 Ornstead Michael Jared
 Pantos Brayden Coy
 Peterson Brandon Derek
 Pinilla Christian Andre
 Ramsay Derek Pete
 Riedthaler Adam Wayne
 Robison Daniel Christian
 Roland Kaden Mitchel
 Ross Erik Tyler
 Senko Victoria Rene
 Stamper Hayden William
 Stanton Sydney Faw
 Steab Taylor Scott
 Taylor Malachi Orion
 Tervort Derrick Jade
 Thompson Victoria Christine
 Thurman Jordan Colt
 Tyree Paul Wesley
 Tyrell Desmond Saovale
 Vanbeuge Chandler Christian
 Vargas Jose Luis Jr
 Vergara Melanie
 Welch Michael Ford
 Wells London James
 Williams Alexis Marie
 Williams Ryan Austin
 Wilson Kasey Ray
 Wolfe Joseph Lee
 Woolston Shane Trent
 Wright Zachary Clint
 Zapien David Nava
 Zimmerman Jonathan Raymon



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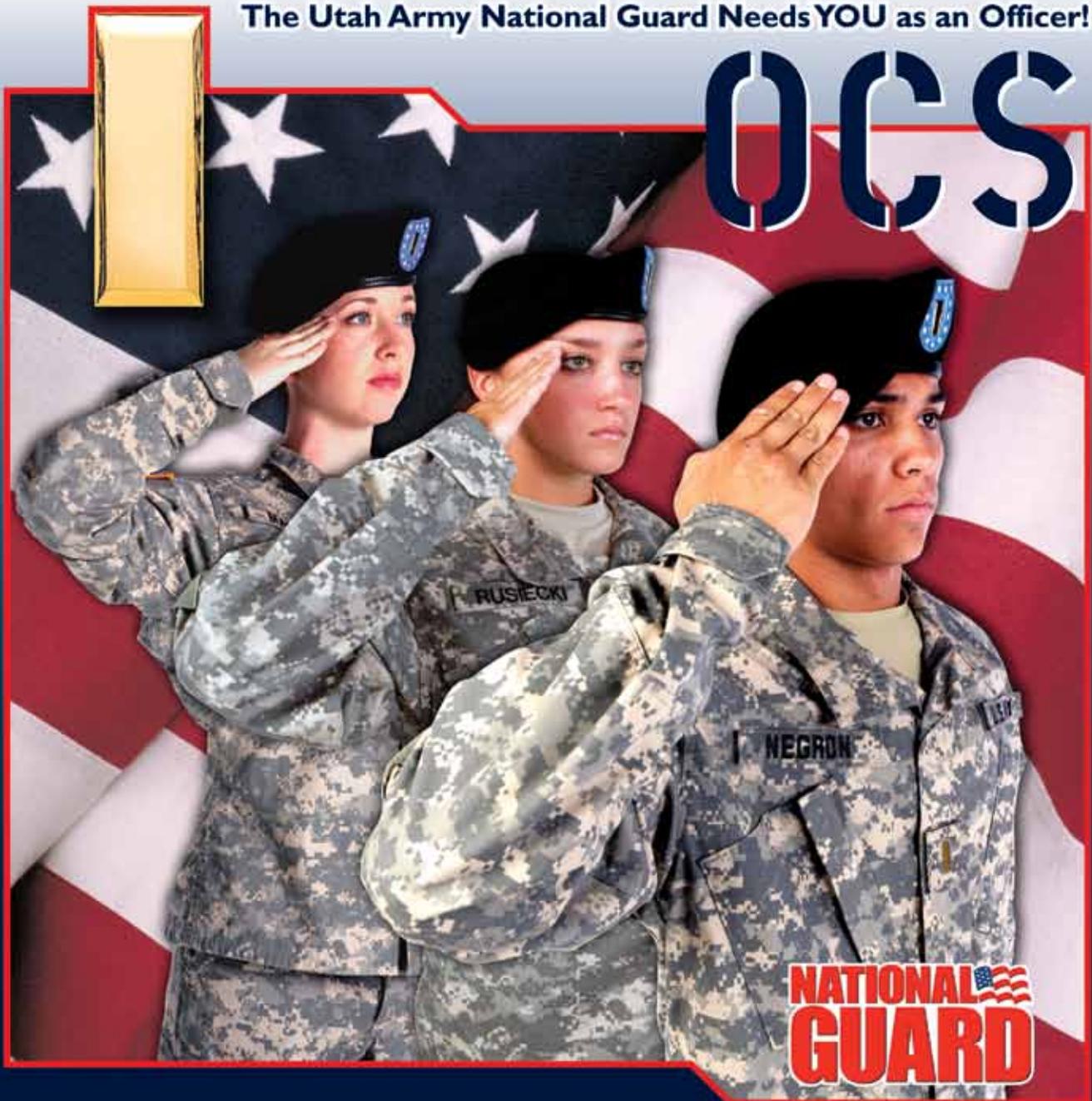
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