A close-up photograph of a soldier in a yellow hard hat and sunglasses, focused on operating a chainsaw. The soldier is wearing a camouflage uniform and has a gold ring on his left hand. The background shows a bright, cloudy sky and some trees.

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah Air and Army National Guard

Volume XI No. 3

Fall 2011

222nd deploys to Iraq

**141st MI, 19th SF and 118th
Sappers return safely home**

**211th flies to Kuwait for a
yearlong deployment**

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*The Adjutant General
Major General
Brian L. Tarbet*

The Adjutant General's Corner

DRAPER, Utah — **A**s we recognize the 10-year anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, and the attack on freedom of that fateful day, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the privilege and honor it has been for me to serve as your adjutant general during this historic time. Over the last 10 years, the National Guard has funda-

mentally changed from a reserve force with second-rate equipment which was occasionally called upon to respond to a natural disaster, to a highly trained, agile, first-rate force armed with the latest technology and a wealth of deployment experience.

In 10 years, the Utah National Guard has deployed more than 6,500 Soldiers and Airmen, many of whom have two and three deployments to their credit, and continues to do so. As I have traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo and many other areas of operation around the world to visit Utah Soldiers and Airmen, I am continually moved by the dedication, commitment, and professionalism of our troops, often in the most austere conditions. It is on these trips that I have experienced events that will stay with me for the rest of my life and are among the most moving and cherished of my memories. I am profoundly humbled to represent the incredible Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of Utah for the last 11 years.

You have trained and fought through the most significant time for the National Guard since the early colonists formed a militia and rallied behind an inspired document. That document has spread the concept of freedom and democracy around the world on the shoulders of your sacrifice and selfless service. It is through your understanding of the basic principles of life, liberty and the pursuit

of happiness for all mankind that you demonstrate your quality. Freedom is often paid for by the blood of patriots—men and women like you who have done exactly that for the last 10 years.

In the years that we have been at war, I am continually awed and inspired as young men and women come forward, raise their right hand and pledge to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to defend our country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. They do so not for the college money, but with certainty that they will deploy in support of our national interests, the defense of our citizens, and the most basic human freedoms that all people deserve. Some of these fine Soldiers and Airmen have been wounded in action and too many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The country is indebted to you and your families for your sacrifice, and I will never forget. In the words of Abraham Lincoln speaking to the 164th Ohio Regiment on Aug. 22, 1864, "I am greatly obliged to you, and to all who have come forward at the call of their country."

In the week prior to Sept. 11, 2011, I read some accounts in the newspaper that said we should move on, we should forget, we should get over it. We should never get over it and we should never forget. Those who sacrificed that day—the firefighters, police officers, civilians, and those that in the subsequent 10 years have given of their time and their lives to keep us free—we will never forget.

This has been the legacy of the Utah National Guard for the last 10 years. The events of Sept. 11, 2001, did not crush our spirit; they hardened our resolve and strengthened our beliefs. As vile as 9/11 was, it is the strength, compassion, and greatness that you have demonstrated in response that I will always remember.

As I begin my last year as adjutant general, I am strengthened by your accomplishments, inspired by your spirit, and humbled by your sacrifice. I will continue to serve this great organization to the best of my ability. I will cherish every moment, and I will always be proud of the men and women that represent the Utah National Guard. 🇺🇸



The 2011 Utah Healing Field Memorial featured the dedication of a new monument titled, Hope Rising. The monument depicts the three firemen who raised the American flag at Ground Zero after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.



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UTAH MINUTEMAN

Thrice-yearly magazine for members of the Utah National Guard

Contents:

The Adjutant General's Corner	3
Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments	5
Triple Deuce Departs for Service in Iraq	6
Welcome Home 141st MI Soldiers	9
118th Sappers' Homecoming from Afghanistan	10
19th Special Forces Return from Iraq	12
Eight Blackhawks Begin Their Journey to Afghanistan	14
U.S. Military Biathlon Team Competes in Chilly Chile	16
Utah, Arizona and South Carolina Air Guard Deliver First F-16s to Morocco	18
Freedom Academy Celebrates 50 Years.....	20
Vehicle Maintainers Keep Transit Center Moving.....	22
Promotion of Brigadier General Wayne Lee.....	23
Angkor Sentinel 2011: MPAD to Cambodia with MEB.....	23
African Lion 2011 Mass-Casualty Decontamination Exercise a Success	26
TAG Visit to Morocco.....	28
Utah Guard Seals the Levee Breach, Stopping Floodwaters in Weber County	30
In Memoriam	31
Bosses See Their Soldiers in Action	32
Utah Cross Awarded for Saving the Life of a Child	34
Utah Soldiers Bring Hope and New Medical Facilities to the Dominican Republic.....	35
NGB Volunteer of the Year	37
Immediate Response 2011	38
Building Makeovers Improve Utah Guard Armories.....	40
Family Assistance Centers	41
Leave a Legacy	43
Army Promotions.....	44
Air Promotions.....	46

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Cover Photo:
Cambodian and U.S. Army engineers from the 544th Engineer Company, 52nd Eng. Battalion, 555th Eng. Brigade work on the Taing Sia Village school May 16, 2011.

Photo by SSG Whitney Houston



Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

DRAPER, Utah — **B**y the time this magazine comes to print, we will have observed the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. As I look back and reflect on what has happened and what the Utah National Guard has accomplished during this unprecedented period of time, my heart swells with pride for our Soldiers and Airmen. Our ranks are filled with members who have never known anything but multiple mobilizations. They have joined an organization, knowing that they will be called to serve in a hostile environment. They have no idea what the Guard was like during the Strategic Reserve days when our main mission was to prepare ourselves for the day “if and when the balloon went up.”

Like everyone else, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when we received the news that we were under attack. All of us realized that life as we knew it in the Guard would change forever.

I have witnessed the dedication to service by our members in many areas around the world. I have watched them serve in hostile and harsh environments, knowing they are on the front lines protecting our families and loved ones. They continue to protect our great country and state from those that wish us harm. Our Soldiers and Airmen have served with dignity and selfless service in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan and many other places around the world helping to train other nations’ armies.

We need to remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate price for their service to a grateful nation. Please join with me in a moment of silence to remember our fallen



Photo by Greg Cullis

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

comrades: SPC Ryan B. Stark, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery (2003); SFC Ronald Wood, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery (2006); 2LT Scott Lundell, I Corps Artillery (2007); CW2 Clayton Barnes and CW2 James Linder, 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Helicopter Battalion (2008); SFC James Thode, 118th Sapper Company, 1457 Engineer Battalion (2010).

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these great Americans. Their sacrifice and legacy to this nation can never be forgotten, and they will live on through the memories of family and friends.

I am very proud of our Soldiers, Airmen and the families that support this organization. We truly do have the finest people serving in our ranks.

The accomplishments you have achieved and your reputation around the world can never be questioned, but remember that we can never live on our past accomplishments. We must always strive to do better, be more professional and be able to continually move the ball forward.

I can never thank this organization enough for all you have done around the world to promote peace, and the humanitarian missions you have participated in can never really be measured. The countless acts of kindness and compassion have made a difference wherever you have served. It is a pleasure and honor to serve with all of you. God Bless. 🇺🇸



LEFT TO RIGHT:

- SPC Ryan B. Stark, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery (2003);*
- SFC Ronald Wood, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery (2006);*
- 2LT Scott Lundell, 1st Corps Artillery (2007);*
- CW2 Clayton Barnes, 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Helicopter Battalion (2008);*
- CW2 James Linder, 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Helicopter Battalion (2008);*
- SFC James Thode, 118th Sapper Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion (2010)*



Triple Deuce Departs for Service in Iraq

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

CEDAR CITY and ST. GEORGE, Utah — **T**he approximately 475 Soldiers of the Utah National Guard's Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, left Utah June 4 en route to a 12-month deployment to Iraq.

The Triple Deuce departed in groups from the Cedar City and St. George airports, respectively, and families and friends turned out en masse to say their goodbyes and wish their Soldiers well.

The mission of the Triple Deuce, which is comprised of units based in Cedar City, St. George, Beaver, Fillmore, and Richfield, and commanded by LTC Brad Fuller, will be to provide security for Coalition forces in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

Among those in Cedar City to see Soldiers off was LTC Steve Esplin, deputy commander of the 65th Fires Brigade, parent unit of the 222nd. Esplin was there to say goodbye to his son, PFC Kass Esplin, of Cedar City, who recently returned from an LDS mission in the Midwest.

"It's sad to leave my family, but it's the next step in life," said the younger Esplin. "I always knew when I joined that I would go."

The senior Esplin explained that nearly every male member of their extended family has served in the military. He himself served with I Corps Artillery (Forward) in 2006-2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Having been in Afghanistan, there were some difficult and scary times," he said. "I know his unit will face the same things. It's easier for me to face them than it is to know that my son will be facing them."

Seeing her Soldier leave for a second deployment was Sandie Boardman, wife of SFC Levi Boardman, of West Jordan.

"I'm a little more prepared this time, but it's still hard with the kids," she said. "Levi believes in what he does, so it's important that he gets the job done that he wants to do."

Boardman first deployed to Iraq with the 1-145th Field Artillery, the sister battalion of the Triple Deuce, in 2007-2008.

"I know what to expect this time, but that doesn't make it any easier," said Boardman with emotion. "It's hard to leave each time, but I come from a long line of Soldiers."

Boardman explained that his uncle was killed in Vietnam, and his father spent 42 years in the Guard. Five of the seven children in his family served in the Guard.

"We really enjoy our freedoms and have had instilled in us a sense of duty," he added. "I have a great love for this country and a great love of the citizens."

During a brief program at the departure, Utah Governor Gary Herbert spoke to Soldiers and families.

"We recognize the sacrifice you give, and there is a great deal of admiration and respect for your service," said Herbert.



Utah National Guard Senior Leaders, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, along with family and friends of members of the 222nd Field Artillery say their goodbyes at the St. George, Utah, Airport June 4.



“Times will get tough, but remember that people do love, care about, admire and respect you. Maybe that will help in some small way to get you through the tough times.”

Congressman Jason Chaffetz was also at the ceremony and thanked those in the crowd for the difficult things they were about to do.

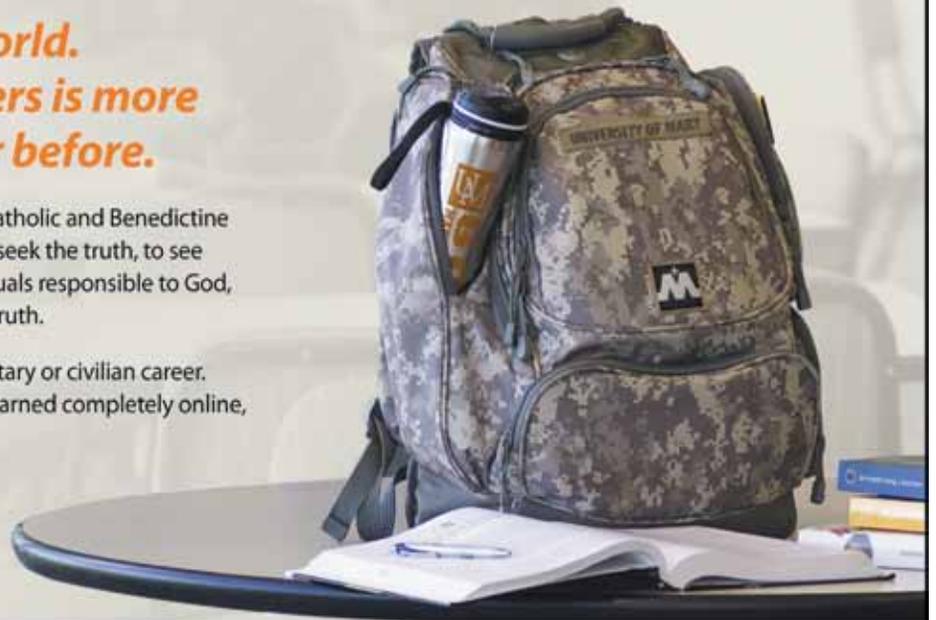


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“Generations of people have stood up and said we are going to be part of the solution and not part of the problem,” said Chaffetz. “Your service will make this world a better place. We pray for your safety.”

And offering his trademark straight talk to Guardmembers and loved ones was MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

“This mission will be as challenging and as dangerous as any in this unit’s history—including Korea,” said Tarbet. “Soldiers: I need you to have your heads in the game at all times. Families: support them, love them, and pray them home.”

Soldiers and families had all too little time to say goodbye, and then

Soldiers lined up—many wiping their eyes—to board charter planes bound for Camp Atterbury, Ind., where Soldiers would receive several weeks of mission-specific training before heading to Iraq in early August.

Families lined wrought-iron fences in Cedar City and gathered on the sprawling tarmac at the new St. George airport to watch their loved ones in uniform give a final wave at the top of the aircraft stairs.

“Faith.” Esplin said, in response to the question of what keeps Soldiers’ families going. “This is the best battalion in the Army. Kass has close family and good friends going with him. They’re going to be taken care of.”



Welcome Home 141st MI Soldiers

Story and photos by SGT Ashley Baum

SALT LAKE CITY — Tears of joy, relief and love flowed freely as hundreds of family members and friends welcomed their local heroes from the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion. Children proudly held homemade signs plastered with messages to their mothers and fathers declaring how much they were missed, while husbands and wives waited eagerly to embrace loved ones again.

“There is a lot of anxiety and nervousness,” said Stefanie Faddis, wife of SFC Scott Faddis, Operational Management Team 50 noncommissioned officer in charge and a Woods Cross resident. “It’s surreal. Is this really happening? It hasn’t hit me yet. There is a great sense of relief.”

Approximately 175 Soldiers arrived by charter plane to Salt Lake Air Base June 15, after serving a yearlong deployment in Iraq. Their mission included providing intelligence and support to Coalition forces in Iraq.

“I am just excited,” said Alexis Dellos, wife of SPC John Dellos, human-intelligence collector. “It’s been a long year. I’m just happy that he’s back. I’ve been excited all day.”

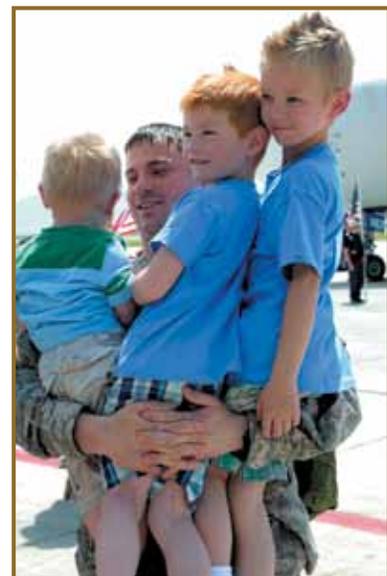
Family members weren’t the only ones excited and anxious during the homecoming. Some Soldiers expressed their nervousness about returning home after the long deployment.

“[I felt the] butterflies,” said SGT Brayton Doxstader, human intelligence collector from Salt Lake City. “I was just ready to come home. We’ve had a lot of flights, stops and delays, so I’m just glad to be back.”

As the charter plane pulled into the air base hangar, the Utah Patriot Guard Riders and Air Guard security contained the excited crowd from rushing out to greet the Soldiers on the tarmac.

“We could see the air base as we were flying in,” said Dellos. “We could see the whole group of people cheering us on. It is a great experience to actually get off that plane and see all the support that we have waiting for us.”

“I have flown troops in both directions,” said Mark Iogha, charter-flight captain. “It’s far more humbling to bring them back home. It’s very exciting, and I’m glad we do this service.”



Members of the 141st MI return to smiles and hugs from family and friends at the Utah Air National Guard Base June 15.

118th Sappers' Homecoming from Afghanistan

Story by SFC April Rylander

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he morning was very warm, yet no one seemed to mind the heat. People milled about restlessly, pacing as the minutes ticked slowly away toward the moment they were all waiting for. There was anxiety hanging in the air, an anticipation that could only end with the landing of the plane.

The fire trucks were in place, the band was ready to play and the flags were waving gloriously in the wind. The Patriot Guard Riders were in line with their hands over their hearts as they are any time Servicemembers come home.

Applause and cheers erupted from the crowd as the aircraft carrying the Utah National Guard's 118th Sapper Company finally touched down from their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan July 10.

Through the happiness and tears, everyone was saying a prayer of thanks that their particular Soldier was home safe. There was gratitude but also a lingering feeling of loss. Nearly 120 Soldiers exited the aircraft but they all missed the one who wasn't there.

"Dealing with the death of SFC James E. Thode was the biggest challenge we faced in theater," said 1SG Charles Barkey, first sergeant for the 118th. "The biggest challenge we face now is getting the guys to get the help they need to deal with the grief and reintegrating with our families."

The mission of the unit was to provide route-clearance support to Coalition forces in Afghanistan. One member of the unit, SFC James E. Thode, of Kirtland, N.M., died Dec. 2, 2010, in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

"For many of the Soldiers, the war isn't over even now that they're home. They have to deal with the psychological and emotional wounds they have—some of those wounds stemming from being separated from their families for a year," said Gary Broadbent, director of psychological health for the Utah National Guard.





“I’ve taken a lesson from history and I know that for many, the big problems are just beginning,” Barkey said. “Family counseling is a must! We are not the same people we were when we left.”

The reintegration process requires time, effort and patience. For some, it also means having the courage to seek help as issues arise such as PTSD, divorce, substance abuse and other symptoms of not coping well.

“I will use all the programs the Guard has to offer, and I am encouraging my Soldiers to do the same,” said Barkey.

The Utah National Guard has many programs to offer Servicemembers and their families in times of need and crisis. For more information about available resources please visit the Family Programs Web site: <http://utng/C6/Family%20Support/default.aspx>.

“We will never leave a fallen comrade! Not in the field or here at home,” Barkey said. 🇺🇸

*Members of the 118th Sappers Company return to a hero’s welcome by family and friends at the Utah Air National Guard Base July 10.
Photos by ILLT Ryan Sutherland*

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19th Special Forces Return from Iraq

Story by MAJ Bruce Roberts



SALT LAKE CITY — Soldiers of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) returned to a throng of well-wishers and loved ones at Salt

Lake International Airport April 21.

Elements of the 19th Group Headquarters Company and Group Support Company spent the last year in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of 5th and 10th Special Forces Groups, respectively. The main element of the Group was located at Joint Base Balad, supporting the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF), with detached elements supporting other Special Operations Task Forces (SOTF) all over the country. The 19th provided support to Special Operations Forces (SOF) in the areas of administration, supply, maintenance and unmanned aerial systems, among others.

The 5th Special Forces Group has responsibility for Iraq, but the active Army has been stretched pretty thin supporting the mission.

“The group-support piece represents the most deployed Soldiers. There was a real strain supporting the CJSOTFs, so the Guard groups were needed to relieve some pressure on SOF support,” explained COL Michael Turello, commander of the 19th. “The amount of support personnel needed for continuous operations in support of the Special Operations Teams is

significant. I think there is a greater need for the support guys.”

SSG Trevor Thomas worked out of the Baghdad area in variety of supporting roles.

“I started out in admin, then moved to supply and ended up in air movement,” recalls Thomas.

He says that, like many deployments, it often seemed like “Ground Hog Day” in that every day was similar, yet busy and rewarding in its own way.

“The air-movement mission was different; we moved personnel and cargo all over Iraq to the different SOTFs,” Thomas explained.

When asked about the future of the mission in Iraq, Thomas doesn’t know about the politics, but he said the locals were always happy to see them.

As in any deployment, families and loved ones back home bear the most difficult burden. Among tearful reunions, spouse and mother Shauna Howlett has an even greater reason to be thankful. She had both a husband and son deployed to Iraq at the same time in different units. While her husband, CW2 Sam Howlett, was deployed with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, her son, SPC Justin Howlett, served with the 19th.

“It’s been a challenge,” said Shauna. “With my husband [gone] I lost my support; with my son gone there is more worry for him. It’s all emotional.”

Father and son served on the same base and were able to see each other a couple of times a month which helped Shauna feel better about having them gone at the same time.

“I am proud of them both,” she added.

The deployment was a success, bringing everyone home safely. The unit received praise from the Active Component (AC) and the leadership of the Utah Army National Guard.

“They blended in and did a great job with no discernible difference between Guard and AC,” said Turello. 



Members of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) arrive in four separate airplanes to the Salt Lake Airport after a yearlong deployment to Iraq April 21. Photos by Ileen Kennedy



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Eight Blackhawks Begin Their Journey to Afghanistan

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Eight UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters flying in formation carrying pilots and crews of the Utah Army National Guard's Alpha Company, Second Battalion, 211th Aviation, departed Utah on the first leg of their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan June 22.

The approximately 65 Soldiers, deployed from the Utah Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan in their UH-60 helicopters, were bound for Fort Hood, Texas, where other members of the unit joined them later the same week. At Fort Hood they will receive several weeks of training for their assigned mission to transport personnel and equipment in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Prior to leaving for Fort Hood, the unit began training in Utah on mountain and high-altitude flying techniques. Afghanistan's higher elevations create a significant challenge for helicopters, but there are still a few similarities between the mountainous terrain in Utah and Afghanistan.

"The environment is one of the dangerous things over there," said CPT Noe Vazquez, commander of Alpha Company.

This unit boasts many seasoned Veterans, where more than half have deployed before. In fact, many are leaving on their third and fourth deployment. CW4 Mike Pluim, whose call sign is 'Grumpy,' is deploying for his fifth time, and this will be his third deployment to Afghanistan.

"The major problem in Afghanistan is the environment and terrain; it's not the enemy," explained Pluim. "It plays a very big factor because it's hostile and austere. It looks a lot like Utah, only the mountains are twice as tall, the wind is worse and the blowing sandstorms are bad."

The sand causes both maintenance and visibility problems. Storms can form quickly, which can abruptly disorient a Soldier, so their training has to take this challenge into account.

"I try to get them to think in the proper terms and not take this thing lightly," said Pluim. "They're not prepared for what they're going to see, so we have to keep them thinking about what's going to happen."

Leaving on her second deployment didn't make it any easier on SGT Jacqueline Skougard, a Blackhawk crew chief originally from Delta, Utah, now living with her husband in Lehi. She is one of two women on the deployment.

"We have a really good group going," said Skougard. "I know we are going to kick butt over there and do our job and come home."

Unanimous sentiments from the departing crew members show they are geared up and ready for this deployment.

"These guys are all good, competent and reliable people," said Pluim, "and they have trained as much as they possibly can, given the conditions they have."

The seasoned members of this Blackhawk unit are experienced, trained and equipped for their duties. Some of their mission will include escorting aircraft and transporting personnel between bases and throughout regions in Afghanistan.

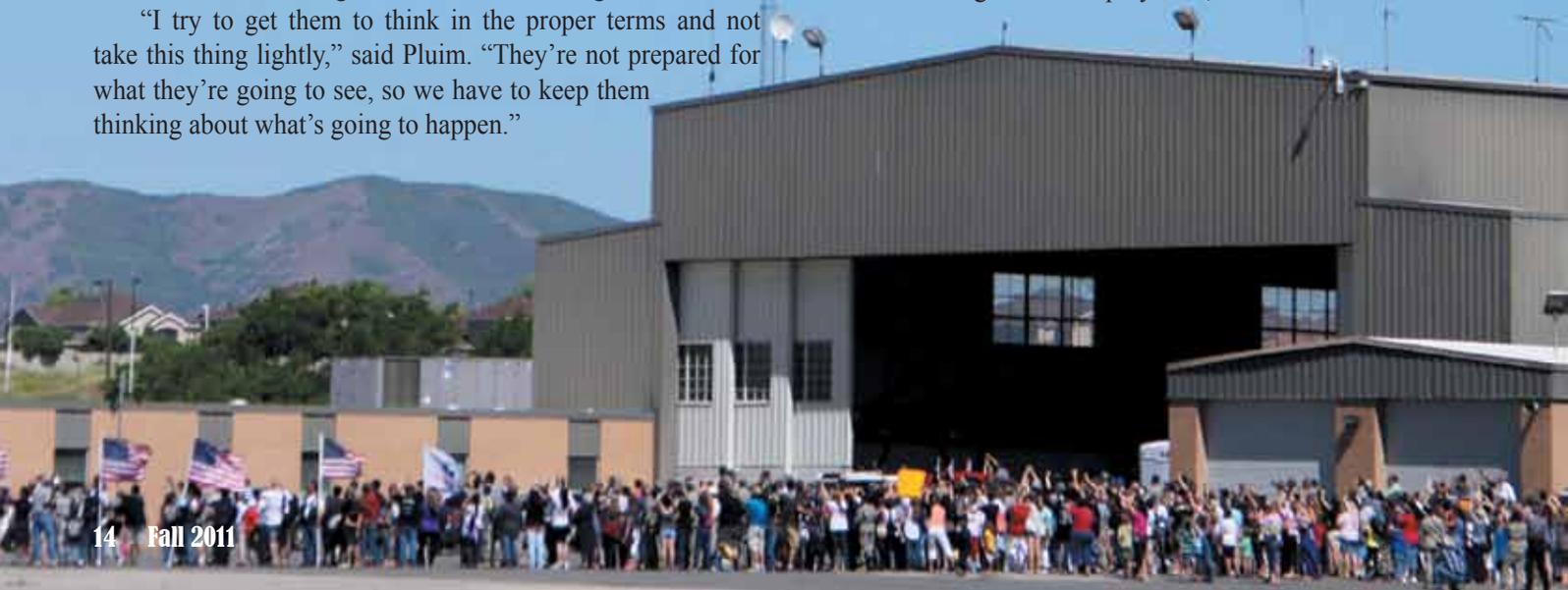
"I know we will continue to do good things once we get over there," said Vazquez. "For the families, we appreciate all the support they've given us and [want them to] know they are in good hands."

The average age of the deploying Soldier is 26, with 50 unit members listed as married. These young Soldiers are dealing with a wealth of new emotions omitted from previous deployments because with this deployment they have newborns and young children to also leave behind.

"We have a lot of young guys on this one," said Vazquez. "A lot of new babies and a lot of little ones. A lot of guys have kids under three."

Just returning in September from a yearlong deployment, SPC Bleu Hawkley leaves behind his seven-months-pregnant wife, Mickaela, and their 13-month-old daughter.

"He came home the end of September, switched units and now we're doing another deployment," said Mickaela.





Hawley returned just in time for his daughter's birth, but he has chosen to miss this next one, opting to return home on leave closer to the halfway point in his deployment.

"He was able to come home three days before she was due and was home for her birth and for a couple of weeks after that, so that worked out great," said Mickaela. "We have been married three years and our whole marriage has been Basic, AIT, first deployment and now another deployment, so we're kind of just like, 'We're good at it.'"

One father with a lengthy military career has said goodbye to thousands of deploying Soldiers as he served for more than a decade as the Utah National Guard's adjutant general. Major General Brian Tarbet's son Chris pilots one of the eight deploying Blackhawks.

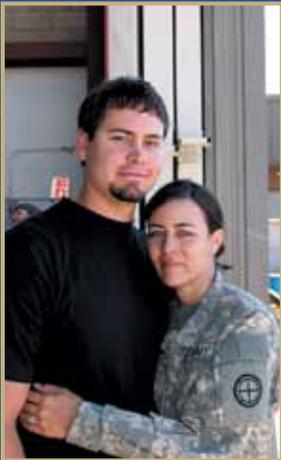
"He's a Soldier's general," 1LT Chris Tarbet said about his father. "He says my number-one job over there is to take care of

my guys. He's always told me that and that's going to be what I focus on."

"Every one of the pilots in command that have served in Iraq are just amazing pilots," added Chris. "I have confidence knowing that we are going to stack up against the active duty and be able to do our job well and take care of people. I have the best commander and the best first sergeant. All the other pilots and crew chiefs have so much experience that it takes that little bit more weight off my shoulders as a platoon leader. I can trust my guys."

"We have one of the best groups we've put together, aviationwise," summed up Vazquez. 🇺🇸

Family and friends gather at the Utah Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan to watch as their Soldiers fly eight UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters en route to Afghanistan.



U.S. Military Biathlon Team Competes in Chilly Chile



Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

PORTILLO, Chile — **H**igh in the Andes Mountains, the U.S. National Military Biathlon team competed for Western Hemisphere bragging rights at the 12th Annual International Military Ski Championships held Aug. 5-10.

The Chilean Army's Escuela de Montaña (Mountain School) hosted the event, which included biathletes from Chile, Argentina, Brazil and the following members of the U.S. team: SFC Shawn Blanke, Utah Army National Guard; CPT Ernst Visscher, Montana Army National Guard; MSG Greg Wohlfeil, Minnesota Air National Guard; SFC Mike Zeigle, Wisconsin Air National Guard; 1LT Barbara Blanke, U.S. Army Reserve; SPC Andy Wilkens, Colorado Army National Guard; SFC Kent Pulst, North Dakota Army National Guard; and CPT David Cunningham, Alaska Army National Guard.



Biathlon combines the athleticism of cross-country skiing with the precision of marksmanship, as competitors try to cover a given distance as quickly as possible while maintaining shooting accuracy with .22-calibre rifles that they carry on their backs.

Coaching the U.S. team was veteran biathlete SGT John Kurtz of the Minnesota Army National Guard. This was a homecoming of sorts for Kurtz, having competed as a biathlete 10 years ago here in Portillo.

Traveling for more than 24 hours to get to the venue was just one of many challenges U.S. biathletes faced in Portillo, explained Kurtz. Other hurdles to clear included setting up to compete within hours of arriving, acclimating to subfreezing temperatures after leaving the summer of the Northern Hemisphere, blowing snow and a nearly 10,000-foot elevation.

"Athletes that are in shape and in great condition still suffer at these altitudes in ways people just can't imagine," said Kurtz. "And here they are competing in races totaling over 50 kilometers (30 miles) of racing in just five days, which is pretty amazing."

The four races held in Portillo included the 20K (Men)/15K (Women) Individual, 10K/7.5K Sprint, 15K/12.5K Mass Start and the 25K/15K Military Patrol event.

The first two days of competition saw bitter-cold temperatures, thick flurries and constant wind gusts.

"Blowing snow and wind make it difficult for marksmen to acquire their targets," said Kurtz of the difficult environment. "[But] our shooters did a good job given those conditions."

The altitude also took its toll on U.S. athletes for the Individual and Sprint events, seeing them finish in the middle of the pack; but the Americans broke through in the Mass Start with 1LT Barbara Blanke netting the bronze, missing silver by just 12 seconds.

In the waning days of the competition, the altitude and the heavy race schedule pushed U.S. team members to their limits.

"The demons of 'Quit' were riding hard on my shoulders," lamented Wohlfeil after the Mass Start race.

"But there is that part about our training that says you're not going to quit," he added, explaining why he kept pushing himself to the finish instead of giving up. "You just get back into your happy place if you can find it. Nobody is going to drop out of a team event, so it's just dig in deep and keep it going."

Going into the competition, which took place during the traditional summer off season, U.S. athletes knew it would be a long shot to make the podium as a team. The final results reflected those expectations with Chile winning gold, followed by Argentina and Brazil.

In addition to Barbara Blanke's bronze-medal finish in the Mass Start, U.S. team members also felt good about what they accomplished as athlete-ambassadors.

"It's the most important part about being here for this event," said Kurtz. "These athletes are special because of their values and their demeanor. They represent the best of what we have in the U.S. It's key to the mission's success."

"The Chileans were willing and eager to speak English to us, so we tried to speak Spanish to them," added Shawn Blanke, Barbara's husband and fellow competitor. "Everybody tried to learn each other's language, everybody took pictures of each other, and year after year we recognize the same faces. The Chileans were phenomenal hosts."

"This venue was fantastic!" said Barbara Blanke of the overall experience. "They did a good job with grooming, and we saw some Chilean ingenuity. The conditions were challenging at best, and they came up with a great race every time."

The "ingenuity" that Blanke referred to was Plan B for preparing the race course. When the Pistenbully, the high-tech, track-grooming machine, threw a track, a platoon of snowshoed Chilean soldiers were pressed into service, linking arms to tamp down the snow with Bunker, the camp St. Bernard, following right behind as if he were marching the troops on their emergency mission.

The ability to work with each other was also a huge plus for the U.S. team as they prepare for the upcoming 2011-2012 season.

"This was a group that barely knew each other before coming here, and they came together as a unified team," said Kurtz. "To meet the other teams and form lasting friendships in a span of just a few days was an incredible thing to do."

"I hope we get to see Chile, Argentina and Brazil at our Guard Championships," said Wohlfeil. "It would be really awesome to have them there."

"These are great people to be with," said Zeigle, who is retiring from the military. "Joining the Guard was the second-best thing that happened to me, other than marrying my wife. It's been a great experience." 🇺🇸



Members of the U.S. team: SFC Shawn Blanke, Utah Army National Guard; CPT Ernst Visscher, Montana Army National Guard; MSG Greg Wohlfeil, Minnesota Air National Guard; SFC Mike Zeigle, Wisconsin Air National Guard; ILT Barbara Blanke, U.S. Army Reserve; SPC Andy Wilkens, Colorado Army National Guard; SFC Kent Pulst, North Dakota Army National Guard; CPT David Cunningham, Alaska Army National Guard, compete at the U.S. National Military Biathlon's 12th Annual International Military Ski Championships held in Portillo, Chile, Aug. 5-10; Camp dogs of the Chilean Mountain School, Hannibal and Beethoven.

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Utah, Arizona and South Carolina Air Guard Deliver First F-16s to Morocco

Story and photos by MAJ Krista DeAngelis

BANGOR, Maine — **A**irmen from the Utah, Arizona and South Carolina Air National Guards recently participated in the historic delivery of the first four F-16s to their new home in the Kingdom of Morocco. Morocco purchased 24 F-16s (Block 52) in 2008 from the United States at an estimated cost of \$2.1 billion. The aircraft are scheduled to be delivered over the next two years.

As part of the first ferry of aircraft to be delivered to Morocco, Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah ANG, provided KC-135 air-refueling support for the historic mission, while F-16 pilots from the Arizona and South Carolina ANG helped fly the desert camouflage-painted planes to their final destination.

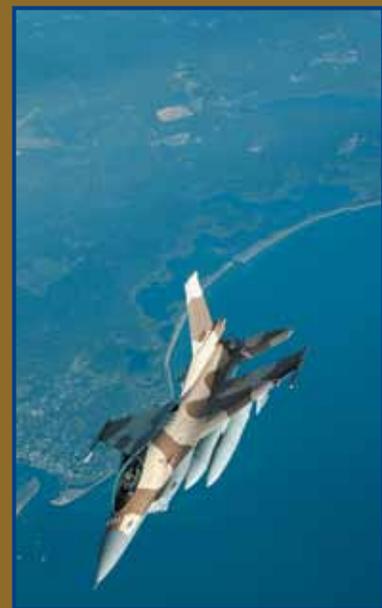
“Our mission took off out of Little Rock Air Force Base moving the four F-16s—two C Models and two D Models—to Bangor, Maine,” explained Capt Jake Johnson, Utah ANG KC-135 aircraft commander. “We refueled them three times en route to Bangor and then passed them forward to a KC-10 that dragged them the rest of the way to Morocco.”

The mission required a significant amount of fuel to prepare for the overseas journey.

“We started off with 150,000 pounds of fuel and offloaded about 62,000 pounds to the F-16s,” said MSgt Dave Hudson, one of the two boom operators supporting the KC-135 mission. “Our first air refueling was in the dark about a half hour out of Little Rock and each event was spaced 45 minutes apart.”

In addition to the American aircrews that assisted with the initial delivery, two Moroccan observer pilots flew in the back seats of the two D-Model aircraft.

“The two Moroccan pilots were recent graduates of the international F-16 training program in Tucson,” said Maj Damian Panajia,





OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN:

Four F-16s head to the Kingdom of Morocco as part of the first ferry of aircraft to be delivered to the country. 1st Lt Dave Palmer, a KC-135 copilot with the Utah Air National Guard, runs through his checklist in preparation for an air refueling mission July 30. An F-16C flies eastbound over the United States on its way to its new home in the Kingdom of Morocco. Morocco recently purchased 24 F-16s from the United States at an estimated cost of \$2.1 billion. Airmen from Utah, Arizona and South Carolina Air National Guards helped deliver the first four fighter aircraft to their new overseas location.

SAF/IA. “There are 10 Moroccan pilots graduating in the F-16 training pipeline in Tucson who will serve as the foundation for Morocco’s F-16 Fighter Group. The new F-16 Fighter Group will be located at Benguerir Airfield near Marrakech.”

The Moroccan Air Force purchased the advanced U.S. aircraft to integrate into their current fighter fleet and to assist with their national defense.

The delivery of the first fighters is especially significant to Utah, due to its State Partnership Program with Morocco, which originated in 2003. The SPP is one of 63 programs throughout the globe and is one of only eight in Africa. Utah’s partnership with Morocco has been one of the most active partnerships on the continent and has conducted more than 100 significant events since its inception.

“It is very exciting to have our Utah tankers participate in this historic event,” said Maj Karen Nuccitelli, Utah SPP director. “It has a special significance to us because of our close relationship to Morocco. In addition to our relationship with the country, we are also focusing on strengthening the partnership between Morocco and South Carolina, which will now have a common aircraft, the Block 52 F-16.”

A ceremony was held on August 4 in Marrakech, Morocco, to celebrate the arrival of the first four F-16s.

The F-16 is used by 25 nations, and more than 4,400 have been delivered worldwide. 🇲🇦

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Freedom Academy Celebrates 50 Years



Delegates and counselors at Freedom Academy took a tour of the state Capitol. Students learned about the state legislature and being a government leader. Photo by AIC Emily Hulse

Story by AIC Emily Hulse

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard, in conjunction with the Honorary Colonels Corps, hosted high school students from across the state at Camp Williams during the annual Freedom Academy July 31-Aug. 5. When it originally started in 1961, there were four delegates. This year there were 103 student delegates, many of whom are current high school seniors preparing to be student leaders in the upcoming school year.

Each year, Freedom Academy delegates get the chance to spend a week learning about the freedoms they share through visits to the State Capitol building, State Prison and Utah Air and Army National Guard bases. They also participate in team-building exercises like the Leadership Reaction Course at Camp Williams, while getting the chance to get to know each other and network with other student leaders.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Academy program. Utah Army National Guard MAJ Matthew Badell said that the milestone is a stepping-stone for the future of the program and the partnership with the Honorary Colonels and the National Guard.

“As the 50th anniversary of Freedom Academy, it certainly is historic,” said Badell. “It’s an opportunity for us to celebrate that, and the fact that the Honorary Colonels have been so supportive of it for so many years is a testament to the Utah men and women who have literally sacrificed to make sure this event continues to move forward.”

SFC Dustin Boyack, from the 197th Special Troops Company, said he has participated in the program for six years. Boyack said Freedom Academy was a “good, solid program,”

and he was glad to see it was continuing through its 50th anniversary.

A reunion picnic dinner was held in honor of the 50th anniversary on July 30, before Freedom Academy 2011 began. Delegates from past years, as well as counselors, were invited to catch up and renew friendships. Delegates came from not only recent years, 2009 and 2010, but from as early in the program as the 1970s.

Utah Air National Guard Lt Col David Osborne, program director for Freedom Academy, said that Freedom Academy has been an experience that has changed him. Osborne said he has been involved with Freedom Academy for 17 years, and said he hopes to see the program continue.

“It’s given me renewed hope in youth,” said Osborne. “When you’re around delegates that are talking about being doctors and changing the world, it’s very refreshing, and it’s very satisfying to know that the future is in good hands.”

Janessa Lamb, a senior at Valley High School in South Jordan, said she enjoyed the team-building exercises. “The reaction course was really difficult,” she said. “I looked at some of the obstacles and wondered how we were going to do it. There were some that we didn’t accomplish, but after we finished the course our counselor got us together to talk about what we could have done better.”

Badell, deputy director of Freedom Academy, said he originally was involved in Freedom Academy as the pilot that flew in the Apache helicopter at the end of the week. He said that Freedom Academy influences the lives of students involved, which indirectly influences and benefits their high schools.

“It brings a lot to the individuals who attend,” said Badell. “The perspective that they get on our freedoms, the perspective that they get on our military, especially our National Guardsmen, is a huge influence on their lives.”

Enlisted members from both the Army and Air National Guards spend the week as counselors, getting the chance to get to know delegates and teach them more about freedom regarding military service.

SFC Ross Greaves, from the 115th Maintenance Company, has participated as a counselor for seven years, all of his children having gone through the program.

“It’s a great chance to work with kids,” said Greaves. He also said the program is based on the good students that participate.

Army SGT Lorrinda Christensen said that the military members involved get just as much out of the program as the students do.

“[Guardsmen] get that warm-fuzzy feeling knowing that you’re being a good influence on other people, possibly

steering them in the right direction,” she said. “For me, it’s the feeling I get after being with the kids, being a good influence and working with them.”

Delegates took a tour of the State Prison Aug. 1, and many students said that was the highlight of the week.

Miranda Robison, a senior at American Heritage of South Jordan, said she enjoyed the prison tour the most. “I really wanted to see the prison. It was a good experience to learn more about the inmates. They are normal people, and we should forgive them.”

A tour of the State Capitol was arranged Tuesday, during which the spokesperson for Governor Gary Herbert presented a proclamation that declared Aug. 2 “Freedom Academy Day” in the State of Utah, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the program.

Badell said that he thinks the high schools that send students to participate benefit indirectly through the delegates’ participation.



*Delegates unfold the flag as part of a flag-retirement ceremony during Freedom Academy, where high school students from across Utah spent a week learning about freedom.
Photo by PFC Ariel J. Solomon*

“The perspective that they get on our freedoms, the perspective that [students] get on the military, especially our National Guardsmen, is a huge influence,” said Badell. “Indirectly, the students go back to their schools with a broader perspective of the world and of our freedoms and the way we are able to maintain those freedoms, and I think that the school benefits because they get great ideas from each other and this program on how they can improve their school.”

Activities were punctuated by speeches and discussions with local speakers like Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist; Vocalocity, a local a cappella vocal group; and former Senator Jake Garn, a retired Utah Air National Guard member. Some students even had the opportunity to be on television with Channel 2 KUTV news personality Casey Scott.

“There is nothing else like this,” said Badell. “It’s important for the Utah National Guard to continue to support this. It’s important for all those who are involved in any way to continue to support it, or else it is not going to continue to be as great as it has been.”



*Air Force SSgt Seth Mayer helps fold the flag after the morning’s flag ceremony where students participated in raising the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as they spent the week learning more about the meaning of freedom.
Photo by SGT Shana Hutchins*

Vehicle Maintainers Keep Transit Center Moving

Story and photo by TSgt Tammie Moore

TRANSIT CENTER AT MANAS, Kyrgyzstan — **I**t takes the work of several career fields to meet the Transit Center's mission of providing onward movement; however, without a qualified crew of vehicle maintainers it would be impossible to move troops downrange or return them home.

Vehicle maintainers at the Transit Center manage a fleet of more than 350 vehicles ranging from buses to refueling trucks and forklifts to aircraft de-icers.

"Their job is to keep the operation running so people further downrange can get their jobs done," said CMSgt Anthony Lebel, 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron chief.

A team of 30 maintainers from the total force of Guard, Reserve and active-duty Airmen keep the gamut of vehicles here running.

"The Guard brings different things to the plate because they have their outside jobs," said the chief with 28 years of service. "What this does is give a bit of diversity to the field. They bring a lot to the fight. They really can help out the team effort."

The total force team faces the same challenges in keeping the mission moving as their counterparts throughout the area of responsibility.

"The most difficult part of the job is trying to get parts here," Lebel said. "Vehicles aren't like airplanes. All KC-135s have the same parts. With vehicles, there are so many different types of manufacturers and the Air Force has so many different contracts, virtually every one has different parts. All it takes is one year—you have a 1998 and a 1999 Humvee; they will have different parts because technology changes."

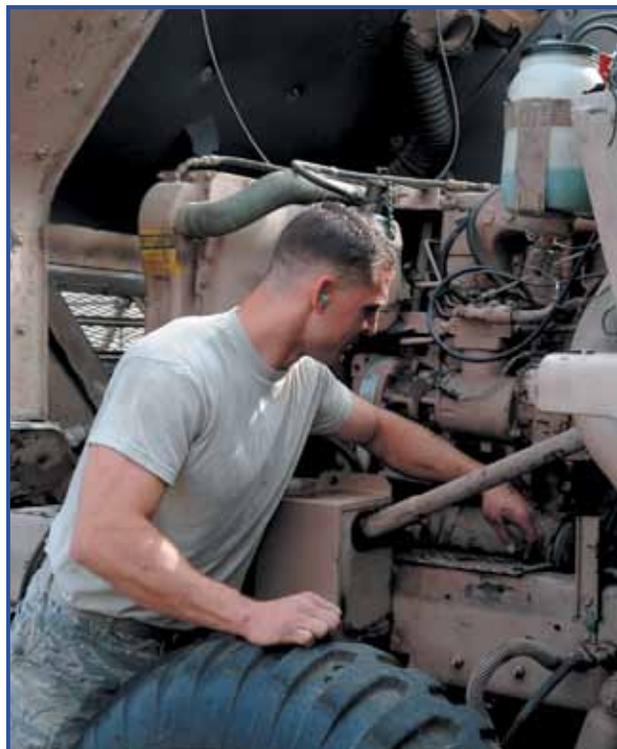
If replacement parts are ordered, they take about two weeks to arrive.

"Sometimes we have vehicles down for weeks at a time for something that might be done in a day or two at home station because they have to send parts to us from stateside," Lebel said. "If you get the wrong part for whatever reason, then you just doubled the amount of time the vehicle will be down."

These vehicle-maintenance Airmen take great pride in their role of supporting the onward-movement mission, according to the chief.

"When they see their vehicles moving, that is the most rewarding part of their job," Lebel said. "For a refueling guy, he knows he just repaired something that is now out there pumping gas for records—that is a rewarding thing for a refueling mechanic."

TSgt Adam Heath inherited a broken-down M-series wrecker when he arrived here. Since May he has been working on the Transit Center's only tow truck capable of moving a disabled heavy-equipment vehicle.



TSgt Adam Heath, Utah Air National Guard, examines a high-pressure oil line while working on an M-series wrecker at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, July 26.

"The most rewarding part of working on this is completing the starting system repair," said the 376th ELRS vehicle maintenance journeyman deployed here from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard. "It was an electrical nightmare. I spent four or five days tracking down every little single wire to find out where the short was coming from. I found out the starter was shorted out, which almost fried the whole truck."

In vehicle operations there is no lack of job satisfaction, according to TSgt Darnell Roberts, the 376th ELRS vehicle-management superintendent.

"The best part of the mission here is seeing firsthand the results of vehicle-management's support role to the mission of the Transit Center," Roberts said. "Just yesterday, we returned a 60-K cargo loader back to aerial port flight, and I just saw it driving down the flight line with a load of cargo to an aircraft heading downrange. Whether you're in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines or an allied force, the Transit Center provides first-class service to Servicemembers going or returning from downrange."

"I always feel good that I can deploy and be a crucial part in the Wing's success," said Roberts, deployed here from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. "This is why I joined the Air Force." ■

Promotion of Brig Gen Wayne Lee

Story and photo by Capt Wayne L. Lee

SALT LAKE CITY — Brigadier General Wayne E. Lee, assistant adjutant general, also serves as the commander of the Utah Air National Guard. He is responsible for the command, control and operations of plans and programs of more than 1,500 Utah Air National Guard personnel located in Salt Lake City.

In his comments following the pinning, Brig Gen Lee mentioned he was humbled by the incredible faith and confidence bestowed upon him. He vowed the Utah Air National Guard will continue to honorably meet its missions in the future.

Brig Gen Lee began his career as an enlisted member of the United States Air Force in 1968. He has served in a variety of command and supervisory positions including operations training officer, weapons and tactics officer, standardization and evaluation officer, and director of operations. He was the commander of the 106th Air Control Squadron from 1992 to 1995 and commander of the 299th Range Control Squadron from 1997 to 2004. He has deployed to several locations for



LEFT TO RIGHT: MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general; family members Joshua Lee, TSgt Chester Lee; Brig Gen Wayne E. Lee, Utah Assistant Adjutant General for Air; Tweet Lee; Jade Lee; Rachel Hufstetter; Heather VanWagenen at the promotion ceremony Jan. 8.

military operations including South America, the Caribbean, Italy, Iceland, Germany and a 2005 AEF cycle to Bosnia as the director of Strategic Studies/Senior Military Advisor to the commander NATO Headquarters, Sarajevo. Prior to his current position, the general was the director of C4ISR, Salt Lake. 🇺🇸

Angkor Sentinel 2011: MPAD to Cambodia with MEB

Story and photo by SFC Brock Jones

KAMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, Cambodia — Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and U.S. Soldiers from the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, worked side by side during the Command Post Exercise of Angkor Sentinel 2011 at the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces, Kampong Speu Province, May 17-26.





The CPX was a three-phase exercise designed to prepare both U.S. and Cambodian militaries at the battalion level to operate during U.N. peacekeeping operations.

“We start off in the first phase with academics focused on U.N. peacekeeping operations,” said Steve Schowalter, who works for U.S. Army Pacific out of Fort Shafter, Hawaii, who led the CPX. “We go from academics to a staff exercise, during which we have three battalion staffs learn to prepare an operations order.”

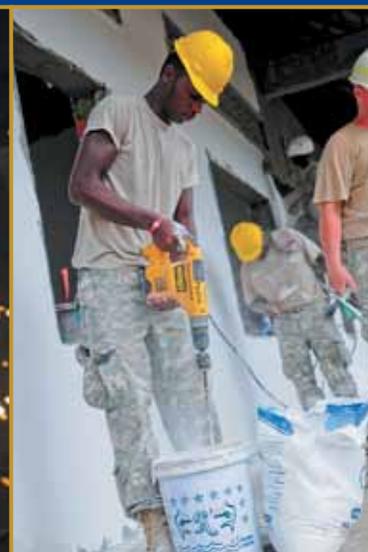
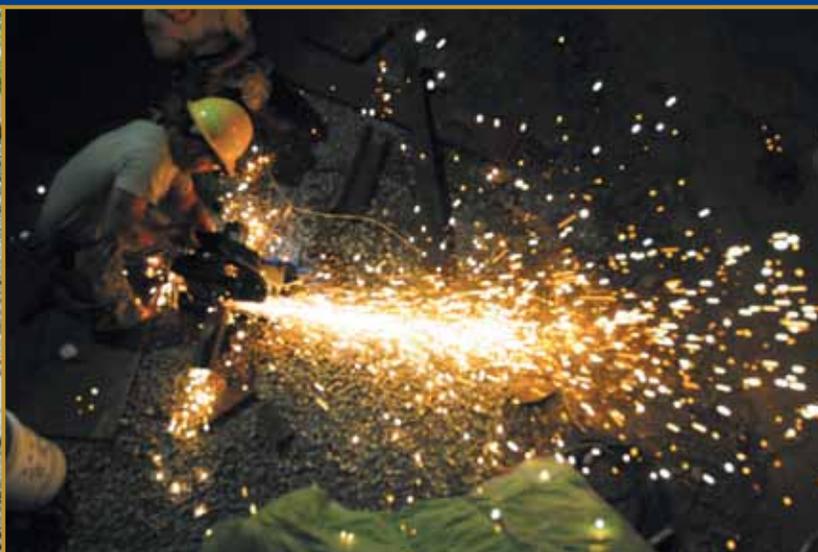
In the last phase, the three battalions were put through a live exercise where they dealt with notional situations of real-world scenarios pertinent to U.N. peacekeeping mission protocol.

This year’s CPX missions were especially meaningful and important to the RCAF as they become more involved with peacekeeping missions around the world.

“One of the main reasons that these missions are so important is that this country is likely to deploy on peace-keeping missions,” said Colleen Ruru, a native of Wellington, New Zealand, who serves as a CPX subject-matter expert with the Center for Civil Military Relations, USARPAC. “We need to train them as to what the procedures actually are.” Ruru also said the exercises increase the participants’ versatility in working with other countries.

“These operations are vital for the U.S. military in preparing Soldiers to go into stability operations such as Iraq, Afghanistan or any other future operation,” Schowalter said. This type of exercise is also useful to U.S. Soldiers as they are often deployed to various parts of the world, including combat zones.

“The exercise allowed me to hone in on the skills that I’ve been trained on,” said 1LT Jason Goode, a native of Orem,





Utah, serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, 204th MEB. “It increased our ability to work with foreign forces as well,” he said.

Giving Soldiers from the U.S. and Cambodia the opportunity to learn from each other and build on each other’s strengths was one of the CPX’s main outcomes.

“It’s nice to get experience from another country and benefit from U.S. knowledge and experience,” said CPT Leam Visale, who serves as an administrator with the RCAF.

Exercises conducted during the Angkor Sentinel 11 CPX were part of a bigger mission which contributes to a regional peacekeeping training capability in Asia and fosters an important worldwide peacekeeping capacity.

“In today’s world, we have a lot of responsibility in working with the civilian-national communities in these

peacekeeping operations,” Schowalter said. “The most important thing that both militaries can take home with them is an enhanced capability to plan and execute U.N. peacekeeping and stability operations at the battalion level.”

The Multinational Peacekeeping Operations School in Kampong Speu Province; portraits of children during the Medical Civic Action Projects of Angkor Sentinel 2011; Utah National Guard Soldiers from the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade work alongside Royal Cambodian Armed Forces soldiers on the construction of a school as part of the training mission during Angkor Sentinel 2011. Photos by SFC Brock Jones and SSG Whitney Houston



African Lion 2011 Mass-Casualty Decontamination Exercise a Success

Story by SFC Nichole Bonham

AGADIR, Morocco — **M**embers of the 151st Medical Group, Utah Air National Guard, joined a team of Royal Moroccan Armed Forces medical professionals in Morocco for a mass-casualty, chemical-decontamination exercise May 20 as part of African Lion 2011.

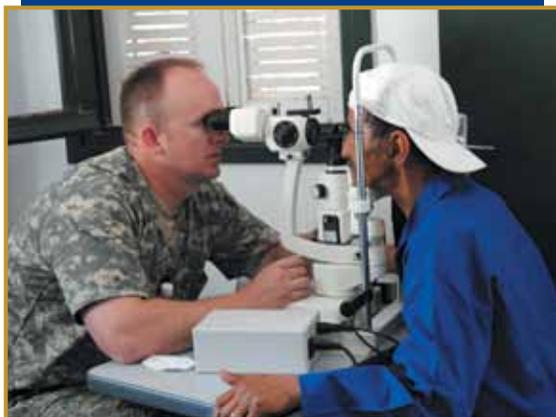
The decontamination training simulated conditions and injuries likely in an industrial incident involving an explosive chemical hazard. Participants used four tents and a setup that included supplies and equipment from both the U.S. and Morocco to move Servicemembers through a decontamination line.

Major Micah Smith, from Pleasant Grove, Utah, an emergency medicine specialist with the 151st Medical Group, described how the tents were used as stations to disrobe contaminated casualties, bathe them in a decon shower and then dry and reclothe them before doctors in the treatment tent could provide a more thorough assessment of injuries.

In an attempt to make the training as realistic as possible, some participants dressed up with injuries created from latex and paint to play the part of contaminated casualties. Other participants donned Level C protection suits, designed to guard against liquid contaminants, and provided initial triage as they guided or carried patients to the decon site.

One of the litter carriers, SrA Jon Huff from Layton, Utah, approved of the hands-on training with the equipment saying, “I’m a learn-by-doing kind of guy, so this benefits me by being in the suit and touching the litters.”

Lt. Cmdr. Brett English, a Navy Reserve officer from Nashville, Tenn., and a member of the training-



assessment team, watched as the Airmen in their bright-green, Level C suits performed initial triage.

“Realistically, responders at the initial site would be in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA),” said English. But, he explained, the point of this day’s training was the decon site. By the time casualties were brought to a similar site in a real-world environment, the decon team would be in the Level C suits modified with filters specific to the type of contaminant they were facing.

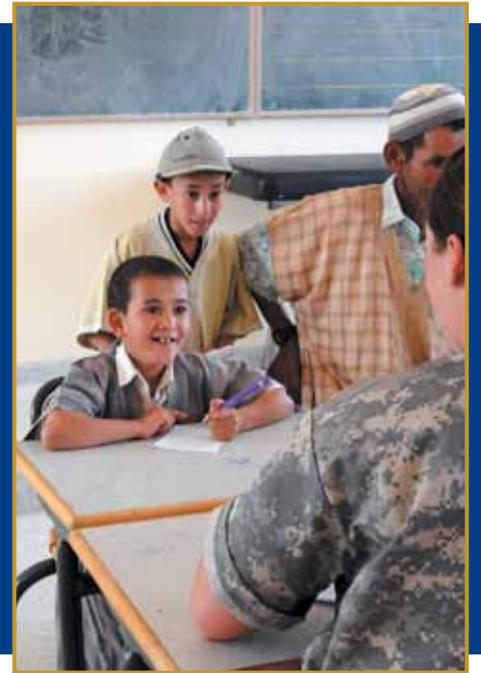
TSgt Scott Peltier from Salt Lake City, the acting first sergeant for the 151st Medical Group, said some of the factors involved in determining a real-world site for a decon mission included the location of the initial incident, local water supply, gradient of the terrain for runoff, wind direction and changes in weather.

“Once you’ve determined the hot zone, anyone in it is considered contaminated,” explained Peltier. “That’s why determining and securing the hot zone is so important—to avoid further casualties.”

At the end of the day many complimentary remarks were passed between the members of the 151st Medical Group and their Moroccan counterparts.

“It’s very clear the Moroccans have an outstanding medical team,” Smith concluded. “Every time I work with them, I’ve been very impressed with their capabilities.”

Exercise African Lion is an annually scheduled, bilateral U.S.-Moroccan exercise. This year’s exercise, the 8th annual iteration, brought together nearly 2,000 U.S. Servicemembers from multiple locations throughout Europe and



North America with more than 900 members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. It was the largest exercise within the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility and was designed to promote interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's military tactics, techniques and procedures. All U.S. forces returned to their home bases in the United States and Europe at the conclusion of the exercise. 🇺🇸

*Members of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Medical Group support a mass-casualty, chemical-decontamination exercise in Morocco May 20. Working alongside Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, both teams of medical professionals brought medical and veterinarian services to the Moroccan people.
Photos by SGT Rebecca Hansen*



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TAG Visit to Morocco

Story and photos by MAJ Wencke Tate

RABAT, Morocco — **I**n 2003, the Utah National Guard forged a relationship with the Moroccan military and started the State Partnership Program. Since that time, Utah Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet has invited a group of senior leaders to Morocco every year to experience the partnership firsthand and to continue to build relationships that have lasted the past eight years. This year, 11 were selected from the Utah Guard and National Guard Bureau to represent and continue the tradition.

“The trip was what I expected and more. Meeting the people and getting to know them was the best. I loved it,” said MAJ Jalal Malik, Africa desk officer at NGB. “What is great about the Guard’s involvement is we bring focused attention from one state, with enduring relationships and that is invaluable.”

“We have one of the best partnerships of the eight partnerships the Guard has in Africa,” said Maj Karen Nuccitelli, Utah State Partnership Program director since 2008. “I always get great feedback.”

Nuccitelli’s most rewarding part of the Morocco trips is going to the orphanage.

“Being able to introduce a group of 10-15 people every year to the work that Rita Zniber’s foundation does in the LeNid

orphanage is extremely rewarding,” said Nuccitelli. “I’ve been able to help the program by continuing the visits, and I hope that this will always remain as a part of the annual TAG visit. Our involvement has resulted in numerous donations and several adoptions.”

The TAG visit is usually planned in conjunction with the exercise African Lion. The Annual Training exercise deploys almost every year to Morocco in two- to three-week tours where the Utah National Guard sends equipped medics to travel to remote Moroccan locations to treat thousands in need of care. This allows Tarbet to visit Utah troops working during the exercise and to view the relationship between the Moroccan military and our troops and the local community.

“I thought it was really good that TAG cares so much about the Guardsmen that he took time to talk to the people involved with the mission, and I really liked seeing that,” said SPC Chloe Barnes, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. “It made me feel really good and proud to be a Guardsman and proud of the work we do, and it makes me feel good that TAG appreciates our work.”

When Tarbet addressed the Utah troops, he beamed with pride and admiration for the Soldiers that he leads and made sure each would be awarded with a partnership coin.

“When our troops are involved with the Moroccans,” said Tarbet, “I think they are our very best ambassadors.” 

MG Brian Tarbet and a small group of senior leaders attend meetings and observe members of the 151st Medical Group as part of the State Partnership Program exercise to Morocco.





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Utah Guard Seals the Levee Breach, Stopping Floodwaters in Weber County

Story by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — About 15 homes were threatened when a breach in the Weber River levee in the rural community of West Warren, Utah, left a 20-foot gap June 9.

“We couldn’t afford to let it get any worse,” said Mike Caldwell, Weber County Commission public information officer. “We had homes and a lot of people’s livelihoods that could have been affected.”

After the breach occurred, the Utah National Guard provided air and ground teams to assess and help stop the water flow in the flooding situation in West Warren.

“The National Guard provided a unique resource to a county in need of immediate flood response,” said MAJ Chris Caldwell, director of Military Support for the Utah National Guard.

“We met with the mobile operations center and did a feasibility assessment,” said SFC Eldon Davis, readiness noncommissioned officer, 197th Special Troops Company. “We went out and looked at the area, and based on our skill sets and equipment we determined what we could do to assist.”

Early on June 10, members of Second Battalion, 211th Aviation, flew two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters with slingload capability to move sandbags onto the levee.

“This operation was proof of the National Guard’s adaptability,” said Chris Caldwell. “Slingloading sandbags with a helicopter is normally a nonstandard mission for Guardmembers, but our Soldiers were able to adapt to the needs of the supported agency and accomplish the task.”

Soldiers, pilots and crews worked closely with Weber County emergency officials as they placed approximately 50 one-ton sand bags to alleviate pressure on the levee and close the breach.



Members of the 197th Special Troops Company and 211th Aviation help place 50 one-ton sandbags in two locations along the Weber River in Northern Utah.

Photos Courtesy of 197th Special Troops Company (A)

“We worked really well together,” said Davis. “They looked to us as the subject-matter experts for this project. They looked at what resources they had, and we looked at the resources we had. We gave them our ideas of what we had to stop the flooding and they listened.”

Soldiers of the 197th Special Troops Company were on the ground to assist Guard pilots by slingloading sandbags provided by Weber County Public Works. Floodwaters spilled across 50 acres of farmland, but no evacuations were ordered and no homes reported damage.

A second Blackhawk helicopter crew responded to help stem floods near the West Warren Cemetery before waters could weaken the levee any further.



Ssg Ryan Lewis, (left) and Ssg Kristi Rivera survey the damage caused by the breach in the Weber River levee.



Ssg Ryan Lewis helps secure the overflow of water in the rural community of West Warren, Utah.

“We were at two locations simultaneously, doing slingload operations in both areas,” said Davis. “We had nine people on the ground with three different teams of three.”

“The objective was to stop the flooding and seal the breaks, and we were able to move 50 one-ton sandbags into place,” said Davis. “Those did seal both breaks, which stopped the flooding.” Operating under the direction of the lead state agency, one of the key missions of the Utah National Guard is to provide support to local authorities during times of natural disaster when tasked to do so by the governor. The Guard’s primary focus during relief operations is to save lives, protect property, mitigate suffering and facilitate response operations.

In anticipation of a call to assist with flood response, Soldiers of the Utah National Guard closely monitored spring runoff in Utah for weeks prior to the West Warren breach, and they were postured to provide support to civil authorities when requested.

“We found out how important it is to build relationships with our state, counties and cities prior to receiving a request for assistance,” said Chris Caldwell. “A big lesson learned in this operation was the importance of conducting a site survey on location at the incident prior to deploying. This isn’t always possible, but in this case it made a big difference in our response and added efficiency to the operation.”



“I talked to a number of citizens affected by the flooding who said they were thankful to have the Guard’s help,” said Chris Caldwell.

“We had some of the best, most experienced [people there],” said Mike Caldwell. “If there was a solution to be had, we had the right people out there working on it.”

Members of the 197th Special Troops Company direct members of the 211th Aviation on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to position a slingloaded, one-ton sandbag along the Weber River in the northern Utah rural community of West Warren.



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In Memoriam

SPC Brian W. Steed
B Battery, 2nd Battalion,
222nd Field Artillery

Bosses See Their Soldiers in *Action*



Employers of members of the Utah National Guard's 2-222nd Field Artillery pose for a photo in front of a KC-135 Stratotanker.

Story and photos by SSG DaleAnne Maxwell

CAMPATTERBURY, Ind. — **E**mployers of members of the Utah National Guard's 2-222nd Field Artillery (Triple Deuce) spent time with their Soldiers during a Boss Lift to Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 26-28.

The Boss Lift program is sponsored by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, and is designed to give employers a taste of what their Soldier-employees are doing in preparation for deployment.

The Utah National Guard Adjutant General, MG Brian Tarbet; COL Richard Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff – Personnel; CSM Bruce Summers; members of the Utah National Guard Family Programs staff; and ESGR Utah representatives joined employers on the trip.

Landing in Indianapolis, the group traveled by bus to Columbus, Ind., where they had time to freshen up and prepare for dinner with leaders of the Triple Deuce.

The event proved to be a great success, as the 40 employers mingled with leaders and listened to them explain what the Soldiers of the 2-222nd will be doing during their upcoming deployment. It also gave leaders an opportunity to explain how important employer support is to Soldiers.

In his remarks, Tarbet likened employers to the third leg of a three-legged stool, the first two legs of which consist of Soldiers and families.

"If we have a problem with any one of those [three legs] we are not going to have a successful Soldier," explained Tarbet.

After dinner, employers returned to the hotel for a short night's rest, needing to leave at 5:30 a.m. in order to meet Soldiers for breakfast at the Multipurpose Range dining facility.

Early the next morning, employers and Soldiers were served a warm breakfast of corn dogs, eggs, potatoes and corned beef hash, served up by Tarbet, Miller and Summers.

After breakfast, employers traveled to the range tower to watch Soldiers shoot at targets from .50-caliber machine guns mounted on their vehicles.

Shortly after watching Soldiers on the range, employers headed to the virtual-simulation facility to view the vehicles, weapons and gear that Soldiers have been training on. By actually seeing, handling and wearing some of the stuff Soldiers use, employers were able to gain a better understanding as to how tough the training can be.

"It's been very enlightening to see the equipment and understand the sacrifice that Soldiers are making," said Jason Godfrey, a resident of Santa Clara, Utah, and a supervisor with Allied Waste. "[It's life changing] to look the guys in the eyes and understand that they are faced with a situation where they might not come back, and they are willing to make those kind of sacrifices due to the love of their country and sense of duty."

After the hands-on experience, employers listened to several speakers and leaders explain that even with the drawdown of troops there is still a lot of work to do.

"The mission is a extremely varied," explained COL Scott Campbell, commander of the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. "There are a lot of sub missions within the overall



At the Virtual Simulation Facility, employers David Hinds (left), Zions Bank, and Rosie Gracia, Kolob Care & Rehabilitation Center, handle and wear gear their Utah National Guard 2-222nd FA Soldiers were being trained on, giving employers a taste of what their Soldier-employees are doing in preparation for deployment.



security-force mission. Even with less than 50,000 Soldiers in Iraq, it still takes a lot to ensure they are taken care of.”

Once the briefing was complete, employers ate a fabulous lunch of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) with the troops. They needed the energy refuel as they would be heading to the Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED) range, where they would learn and see firsthand the IED threats their Soldiers will be facing during their deployment.

Employers also watched their Soldiers in action as they conducted an operations-order briefing and executed the order in a training exercise that included simulated explosions and casualties.

After an exciting afternoon, employers ate dinner with their Soldiers at the Clam Shell dining facility and toured the barracks where Soldiers live during their time at Camp Atterbury.

Members of the Triple Deuce include Soldiers from several small towns throughout Southern Utah, and because of this, many of the employers were not only visiting their employers but also their family members.

“This type of opportunity right here is a blessing,” said Lawrence Acheson Jr., owner of Acheson Enterprises and father of SPC Lawrence Acheson III, a gunner with the Triple Deuce. “It’s one thing to say he is a partner in my business, but he is also my son. It just brings us closer and I am very proud of him.”

LEFT TO RIGHT: Soldiers with the 2-222nd FA train at the Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) range where employers were able to observe firsthand the IED threats Soldiers face during their deployment. Employers of members of the 2-222nd watch as Soldiers demonstrate skills they are learning during training exercises at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 26-28.



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Utah Cross Awarded for Saving the Life of a Child

Story and photo by Ileen Kennedy



SGT Jessica Hyde

DRAPER, Utah — **D**uring an outing to the American Fork public swimming pool, Utah National Guard Soldier SGT Jessica Hyde’s heroic actions saved the life of a child.

For her act of heroism, Hyde, of 97th Troop Command, was awarded the Utah Cross, the second highest medal the State of Utah can bestow.

While swimming in American Fork on July 31, 2010, Hyde observed a child lying face down at the bottom of the pool. Without regard for her own personal safety, Hyde assisted in pulling the unconscious child out of the pool and then immediately performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Once emergency medical personnel arrived and continued administering CPR, Hyde then turned her attention to the child’s mother and was able to render comfort and support to her.

According to SFC Angela Street, 97th Troop Command, Hyde’s quick response in rendering aid saved the life of the child.

In recognition of her actions, Hyde was presented the Utah Cross by Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet at a ceremony May 16.

“It’s great to recognize a fine Soldier,” said Tarbet. “This is no idle accomplishment. Thank you for being a great Guardsman and helping that child.”

“[Hyde’s] heroism and combat lifesaving skills reflect great credit upon herself, the Utah Army National Guard and the United States Army,” read the award citation. 



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Utah Soldiers Bring Hope and New Medical Facilities to the Dominican Republic

Story and photos by SMSgt Sterling Poulson



SMSgt Sterling Poulson (center) interviews Antonio Rojas (right), the landowner who donated his land for a medical clinic to be built to service the locals of Cacheo, Dominican Republic.



Utah National Guard members provide dental services to locals in the Dominican Republic.



MAO, Dominican Republic — **D**uring the first six months of 2011, members of the Utah National Guard deployed in waves to participate in a mission called “Beyond the Horizon 2011.” The goal was to build medical facilities in rural areas of northwest Dominican Republic, and they were welcomed with open arms by local citizens in desperate need of medical facilities.

The Utah National Guard joined with U.S. Southern Command at a forward operating base in Mao, the head municipality in the Valverde Province. With a population of more than 50,000, Santa Cruz de Mao is the largest city in the northwestern part of the country.

SOUTHCOM began the project in 2010, working with local officials to determine the best location for the new clinics, and planning the medical care that would be offered to the local citizens of the province. Two small towns were selected as construction sites, Boruco and Cacheo.

The beautiful countryside is filled with banana plantations and other food crops, rolling hills and lush green vegetation. The people are happy, and most rely on strong family support to work through the everyday challenges of life in a tropical climate. Jobs are scarce, and wages are low in the outlying areas of the province. Thousands of Haitian refugees from the 2010 earthquake have tipped the scales on job availability, and many are living a third-world existence in the streets. This is in sharp contrast to the modern living conditions about an hour away in Santiago, founded in 1495, as the Europeans colonized the island.

“It’s a great thing,” said 92-year-old Antonio Rojas, who donated the land for the clinic in Cacheo, “If I have a headache, I have to run to Esperanza, a nearby town, but with the clinic here, you can go and get immediate treatment.” Mr. Rojas is truly an example of a person who has learned to meet the challenges of life head on.

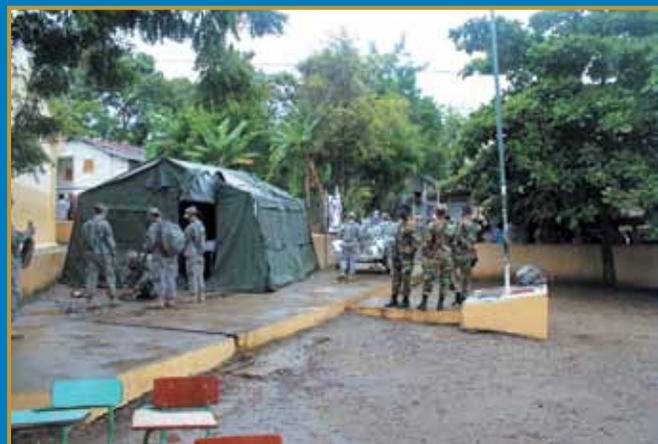
Communicating with the local population was also a challenge, but members of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade did a fantastic job of bridging the gap. One of the interpreters, CPT Benjamin Webster from Kaysville, Utah, said after interpreting for the doctors who were providing temporary medical care in nearby towns, “It’s unfortunate when there are still cultures that exist where kids can die of flu or dysentery.”

The Utah National Guard was tasked to support the mission in several ways. Two-week rotations were planned to provide food and water to the FOB, and in addition, forward support and engineer units to interface with the local officials and the Southern Command, in construction of the clinics.

SFC Jason Green, from Sterling, Utah, NCOIC of Forward Support Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, summarized their task. “We coordinate all of the movements and make sure all of the equipment makes it from Point A to Point B, and make sure the troops have proper food and water. It’s great to see what an impact we are having here.”

The mission not only had a significant impact on the local citizens, it also impacted the Soldiers. SFC Kerry Salee, platoon

Members of Det. 1, 624th Engineer Company, deployed to the Dominican Republic in support of Beyond the Horizon 2011. Utah Soldiers mix cement to build a medical clinic and flag pole base in Cacheo, Dominican Republic.



sergeant with Detachment 1, 624th Engineer Company, said, "I think it's a pretty good mission, and hopefully people will get a lot of use out of the clinics." Salee works at the school district bus garage in San Juan County when he isn't with the Guard.

Normally a hot and rather dry part of the country, having fresh water available 24 hours a day posed a significant challenge. The hot, humid weather could quickly dehydrate the hardworking Soldiers. Medics were always at the construction sites to support any medical issues, including intravenous rehydration.

Most of the rotations experienced normal weather conditions, but during the first 10 days of June, the day ended with thunderstorms and torrential rain. This slowed the construction, but didn't halt the overall progress. Rivers were swollen, minor flooding occurred, and many bridges were close to being compromised. There were a few instances of trucks sliding off muddy roads, and keeping the construction areas free of mud was a major challenge.

The construction of the clinics is uniquely suited to withstand the harsh tropical weather, which can unleash hurricanes, tropical rains and steamy conditions that can cause rot and mold. The plastic and cement construction is strong and sturdy and should allow for serviceable medical facilities well into the future.

One of the great benefits of the Citizen-Soldier is their ability to jump in and help, using their civilian skills. CW2 Ronald Butler from Magna, Utah, with the 624th Engineer Company, brings the point home. "It makes it easier for us to be more comfortable, it also makes us more valuable. You can always find a welder, you can always find a cook, or somebody in the unit can do just about anything because of the civilian trades."

In addition to building the clinics with leftover materials, several humanitarian projects were completed. Much needed repairs and the construction of a wheelchair ramp at the elementary school in the small town of Boruco brought cheers from the students. In Esperanza, modifications were made to the residence of a young man injured in a swimming accident, which rendered him a paraplegic. Doorways were widened, the shower was modified with hand rails, and a ramp was installed. With a brand new donated wheelchair, he suddenly was able to be outside and have increased mobility in his home.

Engineers from the Dominican Army worked side by side with U.S. Soldiers, building relationships and trust. LTC Louis A. Feliciano, commander for the Partnership and commander of the 393rd Combat Services Support Battalion in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, is hopeful that we made a significant difference and congratulates all of the Soldiers and troops involved in the success of the operation. Thanks for a job well done. 🇩🇲

NGB Volunteer of the Year



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gen Craig R. McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Melissa Spencer, 489th Brigade Support Battalion Family Readiness Group Leader; and MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general. Photo courtesy of National Guard Bureau

Story by Sherri Workman

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**elissa Spencer, Family Readiness Group Leader (FRGL) for the 489th Brigade Support Battalion, won the Family Member of the Year award at the National Guard Bureau's National Volunteer Conference held in Louisville, Ky., on July 24-28, 2011.

The nominations were reviewed and awarded through a specific selection process with NGB. Recipients' qualifications were to be active volunteers who represent and enhance the quality of life in support of Servicemembers and families. Among hundreds of nominations that came from 54 states and territories, Melissa Spencer was selected for Region 8 Volunteer of the Year and was presented an award by Gen Craig McKinley and MG Brian Tarbet.

As a company FRGL, she volunteered, planned and executed all events and activities supporting the unit with more than 100 Soldiers and their family members with very little assistance. Her efforts in pushing for major unit family events at least twice a year has established a strong Family Readiness Group program within the battalion that is a model for other organizations throughout the Utah National Guard. She has brought a strong feeling of camaraderie and continuity to families.

"Melissa has always been a self starter and never afraid to take on a challenge even if she knew that she would be doing much of the work herself," said CPT Kendall Workman, 489th Administrative Officer. "When she heard of a Soldier in one of the subordinate companies who was having a difficult time during the past holiday season, she made a personal effort to make sure that the Soldier and his family were taken care of."

"Melissa goes above and beyond her responsibilities as a volunteer," continued Workman. "Her efforts and energy to get the job done are second to none." 



A great family effort from three brothers serving in the Utah National Guard: SGT Bradford, SPC David and SSG Ivan Carr, their mother, Lisa Carr, and members of their hometown Blanding Rotary Club and club president Elaine Borgen, organize a humanitarian drive to raise school supplies and sporting equipment for children in Mao, Dominican Republic. School children in Mao love the camera held by SMSgt Sterling Poulson.



Immediate Response 2011

Story and photos by SFC Stacey Berg

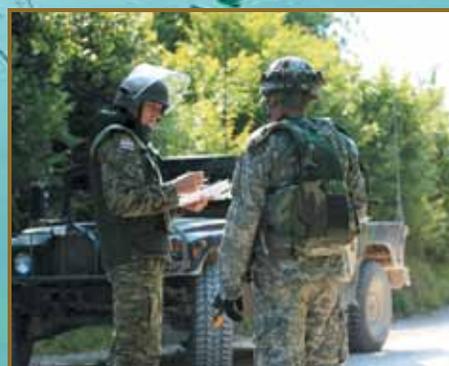
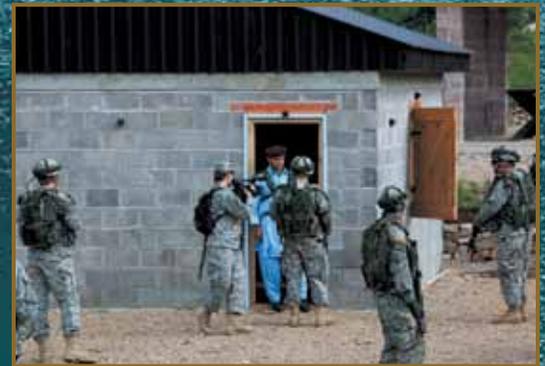
ZAGREB, Croatia — Soldiers of Headquarters, 489th Brigade Support Battalion, Utah Army National Guard, deployed to the Republic of Croatia in support of Operation Immediate Response 2011 June 4-17.

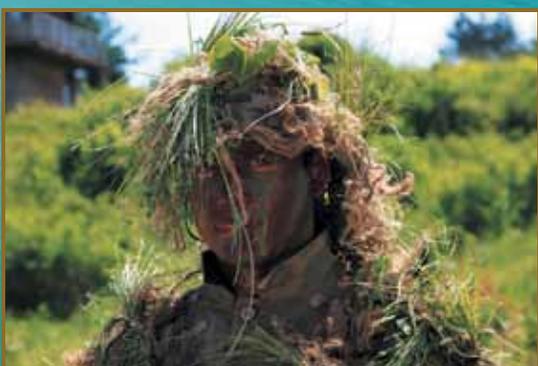
The exercise included more than 1,000 participants from the Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas and Utah National Guards, U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Air Force and military members from Croatia, Montenegro, Germany, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia and Serbia. The main purpose of this exercise was to improve combat readiness and interoperability for NATO-led counterinsurgency operations.

Specific responsibilities for the 489th included taking care of Soldiers' needs in a nearby military base in the town of Slunj. There were many carefully coordinated supply runs between Zagreb and Slunj for water, rations, finance missions and travel for various dignitaries arriving at and departing from the airport.

"Our mission here is to conduct a mayor cell," said CSM Derek Dimond, of the 489th, who served as the cell's senior noncommissioned officer. "Our mission is absolutely paramount; nothing happens until something moves. There has to be fuel for vehicles and food for Soldiers."

Dimond worked closely with leaders from multiple organizations, including the Croatian military, to coordinate logistics and ensure that all operations were running smoothly.





As part of an ongoing partnership with Croatia, the 489th was able to effectively support the logistics, personnel management, supplies and services for the headquarters of the exercise, including rations for its Croatian military counterparts involved in the exercise.

Many Utah Soldiers worked closely with Minnesota National Guard Soldiers, as well as Croatian military members in various areas of operations. Croatia has partnered with Minnesota under the State Partnership Program since 1996; however, this is the first multinational exercise Croatia has hosted.

During their fortnight in the Balkans, Soldiers of the 489th were able to develop professional relationships and build mutual confidence for future multinational experiences with Croatian forces. At one point, guests were invited for a demonstration between the Minnesota National Guard and the Croatian forces. Among those in attendance was Ivo Josipovic, president of the Republic of Croatia.

“The support role in this exercise was vital to the success of the mission,” said SPC Charles Johansson. “Without our support and coordination, no resources would have been available for the mission to operate.”

Immediate Response 2011 marked the first time that U.S. and Croatian Soldiers have combined their efforts to simultaneously train at the company and battalion level.

“Our responsibility in the mayor cell was to stay flexible and on task, and learn from the experience,” added Johansson, “I feel that we accomplished that.”

Members of Headquarters, 489th Brigade Support Battalion, support Immediate Response 2011, a multinational Military Operation on Urban Terrain exercise in Zagreb, Croatia June 4-14. Back photo: Plipvicka Jezera National Park.

Building Makeovers Improve Utah Guard Armories

Story by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard reopened three remodeled armories during 2010. Two ribbon cuttings were on the same day, Dec. 13, for remodeled armories in Fillmore and Vernal.



Vernal Armory

Vernal Armory

The half-century-old Vernal Armory renovation was completed over a seven-month period at a cost of approximately \$300,000. The facility received new paint, carpet, floor and ceiling tiles, heating and cooling system, ADA-compliant restrooms and building-access ramps and communication and data-system infrastructure with minor improvements to the exterior of the building and landscaping.

“We started the remodel almost two years ago,” Scott Potter, project manager for the Vernal Armory, told the Vernal Express at the ceremony. “We’ve replaced the HVAC system, made the structure more energy efficient, painted the floors, replaced the ceiling and refurbished the landscaping, among other things.”

“Most of Vernal was cosmetic, it didn’t require a lot of structural integrity or bracing,” said COL Scott Olson,



Construction Facilities Management director. “We put a new front on it; the approach is very different than it was. We want the community to look at that armory and have a sense of pride in it.”

One of the challenges units face during a renovation project is housing the unit displaced by the remodeling.

“It creates a real strain on the unit because we don’t have additional buildings to put those units in,” explained Olson. “They have to double-bunk somewhere during that year that we are working on that building.”

Some units have to relocate to another armory location during certain stages of the construction. For units in remote locations, this can be an additional travel cost for Soldiers. Soldiers with Detachment 2, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical), are pleased with the look of their remodeled armory.



Fillmore Armory



Fillmore Armory

The Fillmore Armory was originally built in 1938 and has significant historical character that was preserved during the updating of the interior and exterior of the building. One area of the historic building the contractors maintained was the architectural shape they preserved when installing the new energy-efficient windows.

“We had to contract specifically to match the window architecture energy-efficient glass,” explained COL Olson. “We maintained the appearance but increased the efficiency of the building.”

The project was completed in 10 months at a cost of \$750,000 and included new stucco, landscaping and building-access ramps for the exterior, and new paint, carpet, flooring, drill floor, restrooms, ceiling tiles, heating and cooling system upgrades, communication and data-system infrastructure for the interior.

“In 1983-84, Dennis Stevens and I asked ourselves: ‘How can we make this armory more pleasing?—More efficient?’” Commissioner Bart Whatcott, a retired Guardsman, told the Millard County Chronicle Progress. “We asked for new windows, new supply rooms and more. Now it has happened.”

Currently, the armory is home to Utah National Guard Soldiers with Detachment 1, Charlie Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery.

“We must never change the quality of the Soldiers who join the Guard in Fillmore,” said MG Brian Tarbet. “They serve with distinction. They are tremendous Soldiers. Some of our best leaders come from here.”

The Fillmore Armory not only serves Soldiers training for their military service, but it is also used by the community.

“We are glad the community enjoys the building. We are glad you can use it. The armory’s primary function is to provide the community with a safe haven in case of a catastrophic event,” said Tarbet. “The armories are needed for helping in case of natural disasters. They are needed for community events. They are needed.”

Family Assistance Centers

By Katrina Rhinehart

DRAPER, Utah — What is a Family Assistance Center?

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) are designed to assist the families of military Servicemembers during peacetime and during 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).

Family Assistance Centers provide “one-stop shopping” and resources to help family members cope with any issue they encounter as a military dependent. Locate your local FAC and contact them today.

For more information, visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family/index.htm.

What services are provided by a FAC?

Basic services provided by FACs include the following, regardless of location:

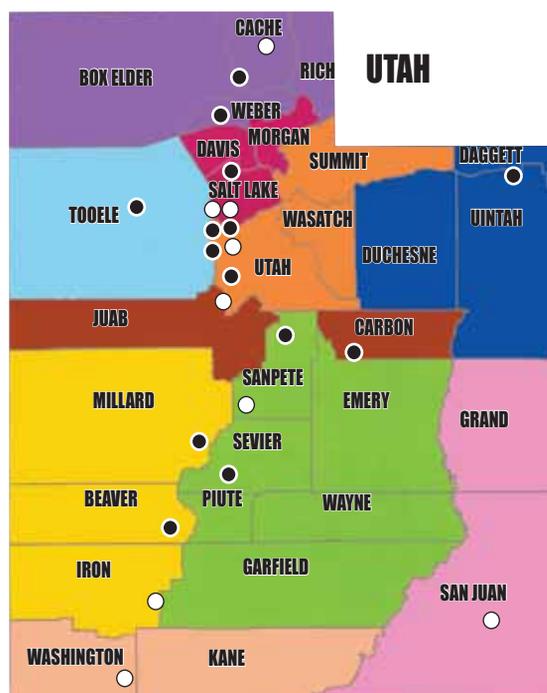
- TRICARE/TRICARE Dental assistance • Financial Assistance/ Counseling
- Point of contact (POC) for legal and pay issues • ID Cards referral
- POC for community support • Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling Support/Referral • Family/Household Emergencies
- Family Care Plan Information • Site for family communication
- POC for Casualty Assistance Information, Referral, Follow-Up and Outreach
- DEERS information (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System)
- Support FRG programs

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

Utah FAC Locations

○ Armory and Family Assistance Center Locations

- Armory Locations
- Region 1 • Logan (435) 753-3155
- Region 2 • Riverton (801) 878-5037
- Region 3 • Salt Lake City (801) 560-0864
- Region 4 • Orem (801) 722-6913
- Region 5 • Vernal (435) 789-3691
- Region 6 • Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011
- Region 7 • Cedar City (435) 867-6513
- Region 8 • Manti (435) 896-4326
- Region 9 • Blanding (435) 678-2008
- Region 10 • St. George (435) 986-6705



Springville Armory

The Springville Armory was rededicated Sept. 23 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by MG Brian Tarbet along with local leaders participating in the rededication.

“I thank those,” Springville Mayor Wilford W. Clyde told the Daily Herald, “particularly those who have to leave families and normal employment that dedicate time to the protection of our country.”

Built in the late 1950s, the Springville Armory underwent a 10-month, \$1.3-million renovation project which included new paint, carpet, floor and ceiling tiles, drill floor, windows,

heating and cooling system, replacing and updating wiring, communication and data-system infrastructure, installation of new ADA-compliant restrooms and building-access ramps, landscaping, and a new updated kitchen with all stainless-steel appliances.

The finished product was completed on time and on budget and will continue to be the headquarters of the 624th Engineer Company (Vertical).

“What you guarantee is our presence for the next 20 to 25 years,” COL Scot Olson said of the state-funded renovation and community support.

Photos by Greg Cullis



Springville Armory

BIG NEWS

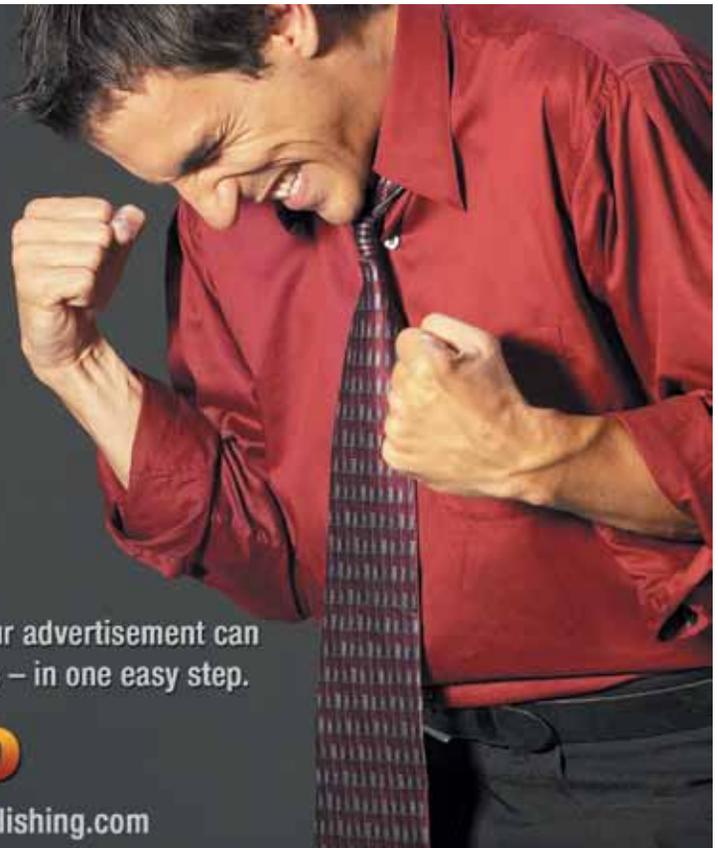
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Brigham City Armory

The Utah National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the remodeled Brigham City armory June 22. Currently, the armory is home to Detachment 1, Alpha Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery.

The Brigham City armory was built in the 1950s. The \$1.1 million project included improvements to the exterior and interior structure, new restrooms, offices, building access ramps, loading dock, heating and cooling system, covered storage facility for M109A6 Paladin howitzers and new parking areas.

In conjunction with the ribbon-cutting, local elected officials signed a Community Covenant, a formal commitment of support by local communities to Servicemembers of all military branches (active, Guard and Reserve) and their families as well as former members of the military.

It is designed to foster and sustain effective community and military relationships and to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families. 

The Daily Herald, Millard County Chronicle Progress and Vernal Express contributed to this article.

Photos by SFC Stacey Berg



Brigham City Armory

Leave a Legacy

Story and photo by ILT Casey Staheli

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo —
During July and August 2011, three members of the Utah National Guard's 1st Battalion, 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute, and full-time Warrior Leader Course (WLC) instructors at Camp Williams, Utah, found themselves far from home engaged in a vital mission: to instruct, train and prepare junior-enlisted Soldiers for the roles and responsibilities of noncommissioned officers.

"Knowing I'm responsible for the continued development and training of the Army's future NCOs makes me proud," said SFC Casey Page, WLC instructor from Herriman, Utah. "I know that I'm developing the future leaders of the Army, and so I take my job seriously. The Soldiers that leave my care and training will one day be taking care of someone else's son or daughter."

Page, along with fellow Utah Guardsmen SSG Shaun Tucker from Washington, Utah, and SSG James Churchtown from South Jordan, Utah, arrived at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, July 16.



A Warrior Leader Course student briefs members of his squad about the next training lane mission.

Between then and Aug. 29, they conducted two WLC classes for U.S. Soldiers in Multinational Battle Group East, which is primarily made up of Soldiers from the New Mexico National Guard serving a yearlong deployment in Kosovo.

Page and the other instructors hit the ground running and spent countless hours getting

students ready to assume the mantle of an Army NCO.

"The hours you put in—it is incredible," said Page. "It's about 55-60 hours a week."

The long hours and dedication to the job are why NCOs are often referred to as "the backbone" of the Army. It is these characteristics more than anything else that the instructors would like to see their students remember.

"What WLC students should remember is that they are leaders and they need to act like it," said Page. "They influence Soldiers, for good or bad, by how they act and by their character."

Tucker shared similar advice with his squad. “The most important things to remember are the Army Values,” said Tucker. “Live up to every aspect of the NCO Creed. If you sincerely and honestly do that, the rest will follow.”

An NCO is a military officer who has not been given a commission. NCOs usually obtain their position of authority by promotion through the enlisted ranks. In the U.S. Army, all ranks of sergeant are termed NCO. They are the primary and most visible leaders for most Army personnel and are usually the leaders responsible for executing the Army’s mission and ensuring Soldiers are prepared to execute their missions.

Churchtown, Page and Tucker said Kosovo presented some unique opportunities and challenges for them and their students.

“In Kosovo, it is a little different because the student and cadre relationship is closer as you both live, eat, sleep and operate right on the camp together,” said Tucker. “Here in Kosovo, it also seems that Soldiers are more vested in training due to the close proximity to their unit leadership.”

Being in a deployed environment also seems to add focus.

“One of the advantages of conducting WLC while deployed is the fact that the Soldiers are in the right frame of mind, making training more realistic and keeping the students focused on ensuring their Soldiers stay alive,” Page said.

One disadvantage that Page pointed out, and one the WLC instructors had to deal with, was Soldiers being sidetracked when



SSG James Churchtown, one of three Utah National Guard WLC instructors, conducts an after-action review with WLC students in his squad. A Soldier takes up a perimeter position during a WLC training-lane mission at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

something affected their mission outside of WLC.

During the end of July tensions along the Kosovo and Serbian border greatly increased requiring a number of troops to be moved from Camp Bondsteel to Jarinje Gate in northern Kosovo. Many of those troops were in the WLC class.

“Unrest in Northern Kosovo caused some problems for WLC,” said Page. “It influenced and interrupted our schedule on the first class. I lost students for two days, but on the other hand the realities of being a leader and the lessons we teach fell into place.”

The WLC instructors, by being flexible, were able to use the events in the north to prepare other Soldiers should they be called to the Jarinje Gate.

“We were able to tailor our situational training exercise combat orders to current events and incorporate culture and other aspects of deployed and combat life in Kosovo,” said Churchtown.

Long hours, travel and time away from family are all part of the job, but so are the many rewards that come with it.

“The best part of being a WLC instructor is interacting with Soldiers from all over the U.S. and having the chance to influence their careers for the better,” said Tucker. “I have had roughly 800 students go through my class in three years, and it is a great feeling to know I have had a part in their career development.”

Churchtown agrees. “Not many people have the opportunity to leave a legacy like the one found in teaching,” he said. 🇺🇸

Army Promotions

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Henry Christopher Wayne
Montoya James Anthony
Parsons Robert Meade

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Kawai Russel Paul Hideo
Williams Gerald Elden

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CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

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Shupe Walter David
Slack Justin Robert
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Pacheco Vinicius Resende
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 Patane Keith Joseph
 Peacock Kyle Lynn
 Perea Nicole Cheri
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 Nguyen Tai Hong
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 Plato Zachary Ryan
 Pyle Michael Alan
 Rasmussen April Lyn
 Seelye Alicia Marie
 Simpson Scott Lee
 Smith Brandon Michael
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 Taylor Jesse Scott
 Thompson Jon Theron
 Veals Mark Casey
 Vigil Dominic Aaron
 Wells Zachary Ryne
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Air Promotions

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Hale Brett Lavell
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 Cummings Kelly D
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 Hooper Mitchell Henry
 Jensen Greg J
 Lee Chester H
 Martinez Ray Clifford II
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 Nyander Jennifer L
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 Butler Darrel H II
 Carsey William Wesley
 Eckersley James S
 McFadden Robert J
 Parker Patrick N
 Redder Chad J
 Reiprich Laurie Ann
 Sandoval Steven H Jr
 Stephens David M
 Townsend Jared R
 Valadez Cindy
 Whetstone Fenton B
 Wilkins Marlicia Denise
 Wysong Richard C II

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 Foreman Bobby E II
 Huggins Mary Ruth
 Humpherys Jessica D
 Mallory Jennifer M
 Myhre Kenneth
 Nielson Brent Jan
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 Stanley Alisa Fawn
 Stanley Tyler James
 Valdez Cody L
 Woolley Spencer Allan

SENIOR AIRMAN

Annis Tammy K
 Beh Abraham G
 Christensen Timothy B
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Prepare your motorpool for **DSCA** and **MSCA** with Phantom StormLights™

COVERT TO OVERT

Military vehicles are designed to be covert on the battlefield. Dull paint and infrared lights enhance that requirement on a deployment. When those same vehicles are called to duty on the home front, however, that coventness can lead to catastrophe! Unwary civilians can roll right up on those vehicles hidden by foliage, harsh rain or blinding snow—damaging vehicles and Soldiers alike.

When you are called for a DSCA or MSCA mission, be sure to pack a Phantom StormLight™ kit for each vehicle in the convoy! **These kits include rapidly deployable lighting systems to make sure that the vehicle can be SEEN!**

The Phantom StormLight™ system is comprised of lights that can mount on the windshield (powered by a cigarette lighter/accessory plug or to the BUSS bar underneath the driver's seat). Rear-end collisions are avoided by mounting another Phantom Stormlight™ to the rear bumper, drawing power from the adjacent clearance light.



Pack by Tactical Tailor®

Larger kit options include portable hand held lights, battery powered solid state MightyFlares™, road guard vests, jumper cables and tie down straps. Additionally, kits can be customized for your convenience.



Exterior mount (LEFT) bolts to existing hole on bumper, drawing power from adjacent clearance light.

Interior mount (RIGHT) attaches to windshield with adjustable suction cups, drawing power from accessory plug.

Covert. Tactical. Durable. Phantom.

Phantom Products 474 Barnes Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955
PH: 888-533-4968 FX: 888-533-5669 Made in U.S.A. www.phantomlights.com

**UTAH NATIONAL GUARD
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DRAPER, UTAH 84020-1776**



Taking Care of Our Own

Make a charitable contribution to support Utah's military members

The UTNG Charitable Trust provides assistance to Guard members and their families who find themselves in financial hardship and also supports many military-based events such as:

Travel costs for spouses to the bedside of their injured Servicemember

Unexpected household emergencies

Small loans and grants to Guard members

Veterans Day Concert

Sub for Santa

Youth Programs

Sunrise Hall, Interfaith Worship Center
Camp Williams, Utah



www.utngtrust.org

The Utah National Guard Charitable Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. We strive to keep administrative costs to a mere 1% helping ensure your tax-deductible donation goes directly to help Servicemembers.