

# SUMMIT

Information and Entertainment for the Utah National Guard

**Photos:**  
197th STC air-  
drop training

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**Droppin' dimes:**  
Utah Soldiers  
learn LCLA aerial-  
delivery systems

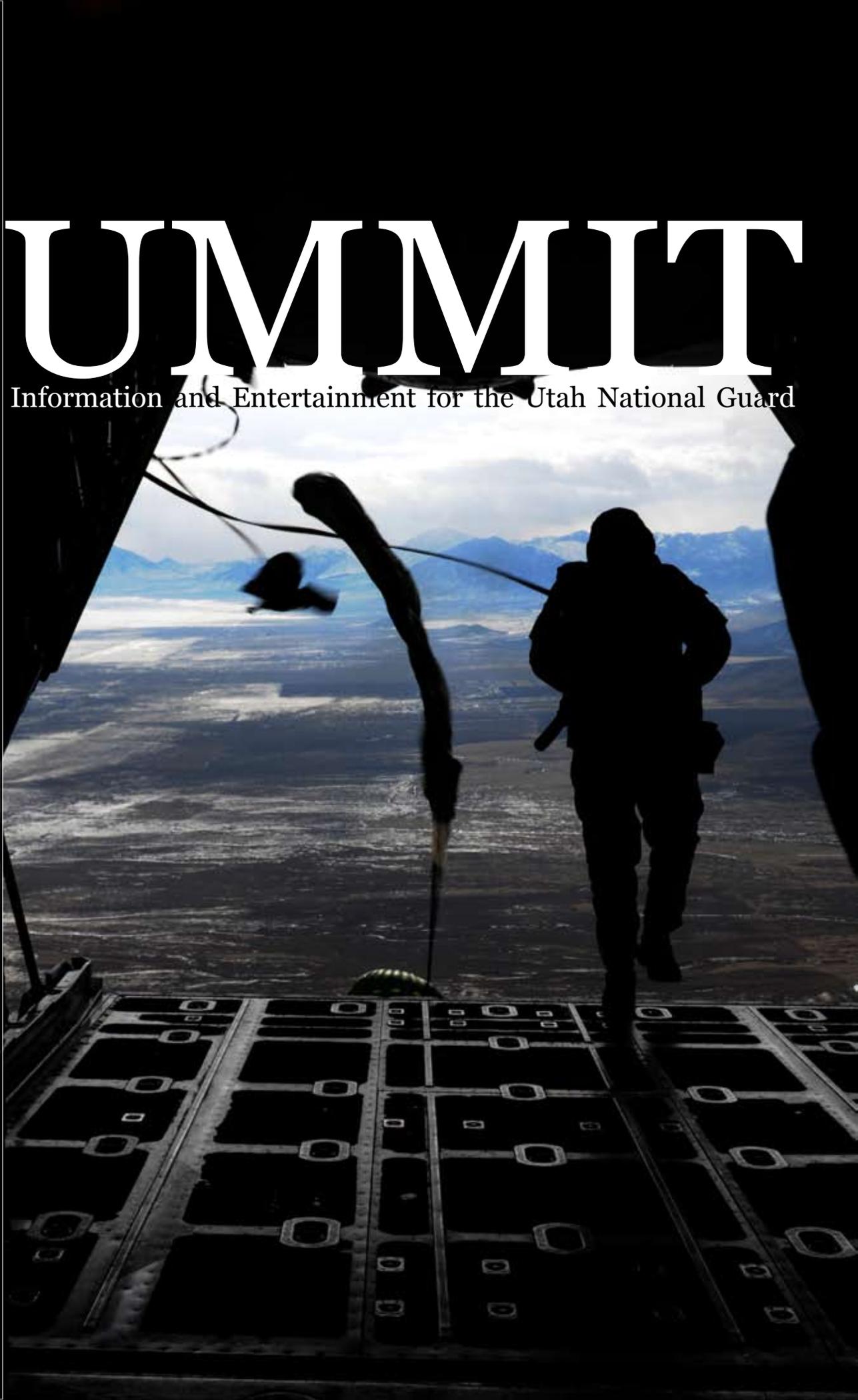
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**A Co. RSP:**  
Preparing  
recruits for life as  
citizen Soldiers

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**Plus:**  
Family  
Assistance  
contact info

February 2011



## Editor's Corner

For all the hard work

I recently attended a planning conference in Cambodia for Angkor Sentinel 11, an annual exercise in which Cambodian and U.S. forces train together and provide humanitarian assistance to underdeveloped areas. I went with planners and leaders from Utah's 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, the unit tasked this year with the responsibility of ensuring the overall mission is accomplished and for making sure everything goes smoothly, from planned construction projects to free medical clinics to Soldier well-being and safety. By the end of the conference I had a new appreciation for the hard work that goes on behind the scenes of this and every mission.

Most of us in the National Guard, and in the Army for that matter, go to drill and Annual Training and overseas training missions without any understanding of the planning and preparation that go on behind the scenes, months before we show up at the armory for weekend drill or board a plane for a mission in Morocco, Germany or Cambodia. The work of pulling off this year's Angkor Sentinel literally began as soon as 2010's exercise was over, if not before, and will continue until every Soldier is back to his or her home station safely. In fact, planning and preparation for

next year's mission in Cambodia have already begun and this year's mission hasn't even started.

We all have specific military jobs that, for the most part, we take pride in doing well. In any operation we all have our small but vital piece of the larger puzzle, and we count on each other to do our various jobs. Mission success comes when everyone focuses their specific efforts to accomplish a common goal. Unfortunately, it is our ability to concentrate on our little piece of the larger Army puzzle that often keeps us from seeing and recognizing the hard work going on all around us. We come drowsily to morning formation the first day of drill, never giving thought to how many hours unit leaders have already put in to make sure we aren't wasting our valuable weekend time. We travel overseas to train with a foreign military or to do some other mission without a thought about the months of planning that has gone in to getting us there. Sometimes, lost in the tasks at hand and in the stresses of military life, we even forget the work our wives and husbands and families do for us when we are gone for a weekend or two weeks or a year.

One of the things I value most about my job is that not only do I get to see the work

# Summit

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of others, I get to write about and make public that work. The reason my job exists is because your jobs exist: the grunts, the Redlegs, and wrench turners, the men and women in personnel or operations or logistics jobs, the translators, interrogators and aviators. My job is to watch you do your job, take a few photos and write a few lines in the hopes that others will see and appreciate what you contribute to the giant puzzle that is the Army National Guard. Hopefully this and every edition of *Summit* does just that, bringing greater awareness to the hard work going on all around us.

By Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones

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## Utah Soldier killed in Afghanistan

Sgt. 1st Class James Thode of Kirtland, N.M., a member of the 118th Engineer Company (Sapper), 1457th Eng. Battalion, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, died Dec. 2 when his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan. Thode is the sixth Utah National Guard Soldier who has died since 9/11. He was on his second combat tour for the U.S. Army and is survived by his wife, two children and his parents.



## Ready, set... GoArmyEd!

National Guard Soldiers are scheduled to begin transitioning to GoArmyEd! in June, the website currently used by the Active and Reserve Components for all Soldiers' education needs. According to a National Guard Education Team email, "You will be able to identify courses that advance you toward your degree and view your tuition assistance (TA) balance for the year. You'll also be able to review

your individual degree plan, student record, course history, grades and other information necessary to reach your goals. In addition, the GoArmyEd portal will enable you to withdraw from classes or request military withdrawals, resolve recoupments and holds and request reimbursements for courses not offered through the portal... all online." For more information, pay a visit to your National Guard education liaison.



## Dozer operators honored

The Utah National Guard honored three bulldozer operators who assisted with the Herriman fire this past September. Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, presented three civilian men with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service in December 2010. According to Army Regulation 672-20, this award is given to recognize exceptional service of major significance to the organization or local community. Kevin Williams of West Jordan, Shawn Wright of Taylorsville and Roger Frantz of Kamas cut firebreaks above Herriman to protect homes

and property from the six-square-mile fire.



## Utah Guard receives \$15,000 donation

TriWest Healthcare Alliance presented the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust with \$15,000 Jan. 6. The Charitable Trust was established in 2005 as a way to aid Utah military families in need during financial emergencies.

Brig. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Army assistant adjutant general, Utah National Guard, accepted the donation from TriWest, a Phoenix-based company contracted by the Department of Defense to administer the U.S. Military's health-insurance program, TRICARE, in 21 states. Since the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust was established in 2005, TriWest has made a number of donations to the Trust.



## All in good time

A ceremony was held in January to present the Bronze Star Medal to Spanish Fork native Samuel D. Banz, a veteran of World War II. Banz served in both Germany and France as an infantryman for the 242nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah Guard. Tarbet also formally presented Banz with the Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with attachment, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Honorable Service Button and Sharpshooter Badge and Rifle Bar.



## Open for business

The Utah National Guard recently finished remodeling two armories, one in Fillmore and one in Vernal. The Fillmore armory is home to Detachment 1, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, and is finally

open after 10 months and \$750,000 of updating and remodeling the 80-year-old building. Improvements range from new carpet to a new communications and data-system infrastructure.

The Vernal armory is home to Detachment 2, 624th Engineer Company, 1457th Eng. Bn., and is finally open after 12 months and \$300,000 of improvements. The facility is 20 years younger than the Fillmore armory and received similar upgrades.



## Utah SFSS conference

Utah National Guard's Servicemember and Family Support Services, an arm of Family Programs, UTNG G1 Personnel Directorate, held a conference Feb. 22-24 in Sandy. Family Readiness Support Assistants, Family Assistance Center coordinators, youth leaders, Yellow Ribbon program coordinators, the Community Covenant team and others from around the state met to discuss ways in which they could better serve Utah's Servicemembers.

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# Photo Journal

Text and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones, 128th MPAD

Soldiers from the 197th Special Troops Co., Utah Army National Guard, and the Ugandan Peoples Defense Forces, train on low-cost, low-altitude aerial-delivery systems at the John S. Browning Armory in Ogden, Utah, Feb. 7-15. With instruction provided by cadre from the U.S. Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Va., U.S. and Ugandan forces trained on the LCLA systems in preparation for Atlas Drop 11, a joint U.S.-Ugandan exercise scheduled to take place later this year in Uganda.



Photo by Spc. Nicolas Cloward, 128th MPAD

# 197th STC gets the drop on LCLA systems

Soldiers from 197th Special Troops Co., Utah Army National Guard, and Airforce C-130 aircraft crewmembers, prep a load of rations to be dropped via a low-cost, low-altitude aerial-drop system, above Camp Williams, Utah, Feb. 8.



National Guardsmen from Utah and Georgia, active-duty Soldiers from stations as far away as Germany, and officers from the Uganda People's Defense Forces stood in the open doors of a C-130 aircraft at the Provo Airport Feb. 8 rehearsing a cargo drop that would take place within the hour.

They had gathered in Utah to

participate in nearly 10 days of training on low-cost, low-altitude, cargo-drop systems in preparation for Atlas Drop 2011, an annual U.S.-Ugandan military training mission scheduled to take place in Uganda later this year.

Hosted by the 197th Special Troops Company, Utah Army National Guard, parachute-rigger instructors from the U.S. Army

Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Va., and experts from the Natick Soldier Center in Natick, Mass., came to Ogden's Browning Armory to conduct training on the use of LCLA drop boxes, copter boxes and free-drop boxes. These low-cost, aerial-delivery systems are currently used in Afghanistan to get needed supplies to troops living or operating in austere ar-

eas. The training the Soldiers from Utah and elsewhere received on the LCLA systems will be passed on to their Ugandan counterparts during Atlas Drop 11 later this year in the hopes that Ugandan forces will be able to employ the LCLA systems in their own operations.

These LCLA systems can be used to provide rations, ammunition, medical supplies and other items to receiving ground forces, said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Caoili, airdrop noncommissioned officer in charge, 197th STC, Utah Army National Guard.

"The main objective of (the) training was to effectively deploy low-cost, low-altitude parachutes in a garrison training environment," said Caoili.

Having received the training and proved their efficiency in using the LCLA systems, the U.S. Soldiers will be better prepared to train their Ugandan counterparts on the same task when the time comes.

"Today was basically the execution phase to make sure they flew correctly and to make sure everything held up the way it was supposed to," said Capt. Marc Cooper,

executive officer for the 197th STC. Before actually pushing the LCLA systems out the door of a flying aircraft, Soldiers performed a lot of rehearsals to help them overcome hurdles of the unknown, he said.

Riggers were trained in a classroom environment on how to prepare and rig the various versions of the LCLA cargo-delivery systems. They then put that knowledge into action during actual air-drop missions over Camp Williams.

When it was finally time to put the training to the test, the Soldiers got seated in the aircraft and the cargo doors closed. The air crew inside the plane made their rounds preparing for the flight. The aircraft began rolling down the airstrip, then began to climb.

Soon after takeoff, the cargo doors of the C-130 slowly began to yawn. A chilled wind at 1500 feet above the ground began to spill thought the fuselage of the large bird. This was the riggers' cue. Soldiers silhouetted against the snow-capped Wasatch moun-

tains began to position themselves around the rigged cargo, readying the loads that would soon be pushed from the aircraft.

When the plane was over the drop zone, the cargo was pushed from the back of the aircraft. The first load disappeared below the door. Soldiers cheered as the open parachutes became visible in the distance and the cargo made its descent to the earth below.

"This (first drop) is only phase one of a three-phase operation," said Caoili, "Phase two involves the deployment of copter boxes and phase three will be the deployment of free-drop boxes."

At the end of the ten days of training the riggers and Soldiers had proven their proficiency in deploying the three separate LCLA aerial-delivery systems, each with its own limitations, specifications and uses.

"I feel like we came back with some good learning points, a lot of lessons learned using LCLA. Stuff that we can bring with us to Uganda," Caoili said.



# RSP prepares recruits for Guard life

Army National Guard recruits from around the nation participate in the Recruit Sustainment Program which introduces soon-to-be Soldiers to life in the Army and the Guard and prepares them for the training they will receive.

Company A of the Utah RSP, which falls under the state's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, is a prime example of the national RSP mission.

"When I got in, I was given a mop and told to lift this heavy thing," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Perry, Co. A, RSP, Utah Army National Guard, about his experience of entering the Army years ago. "(The RSP) gives them a purpose and a mission and keeps them motivated to go (to Basic Training)."

RSP companies hold drill once a month for two days where recruits learn and practice Soldier tasks.

During a recent drill weekend, the cadre of Utah's Co. A issued simulated rifles to the recruits to carry through the weekend. After they had their "weapons," recruits were divided into red and blue phase groups. Red-Phase recruits were those who hadn't yet been to Basic Training and were attending drill for the

first time. Blue Phase was a mix of both Soldiers who had been to basic training and recruits preparing to go. While Blue Phase left to learn and practice first aid and Combat Lifesaver skills, Red-Phase Soldiers were introduced to basic mili-

and anyone that comes and watches would be amazed at the cadre and the Soldiers," said Pvt. Jason Willoughby of Co. A.

The cadre of Alpha Company took the lead during the weekend, showing,

explaining, and demonstrating skills and often joining the recruits during corrective training.

"The cadre lead by example. They won't ask us to do anything they are unwilling to do themselves," said Willoughby.

As written on [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com), "The RSP indoctrinates ARNG Warriors with the

skills required to successfully MOS qualify and return to their units fit, trained and ready to deploy in support of the ARNG mission by ensuring all Soldiers are: Mentally prepared, Administratively correct, Physically fit."

Co. A's recruits showed they were motivated to learn what their NCO's had to teach them. They followed instructions, answered questions posed by the NCOs and asked questions to better prepare themselves for their training ahead.

"I think the RSP is the best program the Army has come out with in a long time," said Perry.



Opposite: Recruits in the Utah Recruit Sustainment Program learn the enlisted-rank structure at Camp Williams Jan. 29, 2011. Recruits were preparing to ship to basic training.

Top: A noncommissioned officer from Company A, Utah RSP, leads a group of recruits in corrective training push-ups.

A recruit stands watch over weapons during lunch at Camp Williams.

Right: Co. A Soldiers practice first aid skills.



tary knowledge.

"I think it's great to get a good head start on the things I need to know," said Pfc. Joshua Nacey, Co. A, RSP, UTNG.

The recruits moved quickly from place to place in buddy teams, often being reminded by senior recruits and cadre to keep the muzzles of their weapons in a safe direction. Down time was spent going over military ranks, customs and courtesies. Blue Phase had to perform the added drills of evaluating a casualty and providing first aid for common battlefield injuries.

"(The RSP) is a great learning tool

# Parting Shot

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones, 128th MPAD

Dressed to the nines, Col. Robert Dunton, commander, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, looks on during the opening ceremony of the Angkor Sentinel 11 Final Planning Conference held at the Phnom Penh Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia Feb. 14-17. Soldiers and leaders of the 204th MEB will return to Cambodia later this year as part of the Exercise Control Group. Sensitive to the host-nation preference of conducting important business in non-military attire, and as co-director of AS 11, Dunton wore a suit for the opening ceremony of the FPC.

