

S

SUMMIT

News and Information for the Utah National Guard



Photos
Atlas Accord,
African Lion
2012
pgs. 4-7

Remembered
Japanese-
American vets
recognized for
WWII service
pg. 8

Utah's Best Warriors
pg. 12

Editor's Corner

Recognition

“Go out and do great things.” How often have we heard that from various leaders in our lives?

We, as Soldiers, often do great things that many people in our community never hear about or see. I am not referring to our regular day-to-day or M-Day soldiering; I am referencing the Annual Trainings or real-world humanitarian or disaster relief missions to outside countries or states. Part of the cause for the lack of knowledge about our missions around the world falls on the mainstream media that usually only picks up the stories that are often sensationalistic and appeal to the general public's need for more blood, like the Romans of old. As a result, our service members do not get the recognition for the “great things” they do.

In this issue of the Summit we cover stories about Soldiers doing “great things” in different countries and circumstances. From the country of Mali, Africa, our Soldiers provided medical and humanitarian support training to the service members of that country and surrounding countries; to the country of Morocco where our Soldiers participated in a joint exercise that included tactical, medical, dental and several operational training opportunities for all involved. Included in this issue are celebrations of Soldiers careers and accomplishments, highlighted through pictures and articles focused on retirees and the Soldier of the Year competition.

For the most part, Soldiers display an immense amount of caring, kindness, technological know-how, cultural experience, courage and hard work that often goes without detection and appreciation. The professionalism of our service members is outstanding and should be showcased and valued. Therefore, we present many “great things” by many “great beings” in this issue and more of a focus on the core, the soul of the Soldier. **S**

By Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins, 128th MPAD



Summit

June 2012 • Vol. 2, No. 2

128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020-1776

- COMMANDER: Maj. Wencke Tate
- FIRST SERGEANT: 1st Sgt. April Rylander
- SENIOR EDITOR: Capt. Ryan Sutherland
- MANAGING EDITOR: Sgt. 1st Class Brock Jones
- EDITOR: Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins
- STAFF: Staff Sgt. Whitney Houston
Sgt. Rebecca Hansen
Sgt. Mark Henderson
Sgt. Ashley Baum
Sgt. Nicolas Cloward
Spc. Ariel Solomon

Summit is an authorized publication for members of the Utah National Guard. Contents of Summit are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, National Guard Bureau or Utah National Guard.

All editorial content of Summit is prepared, edited, provided or approved by the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Utah National Guard.

Summit welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the editor at 128thmpad@gmail.com and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information.

Summit reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the magazine.

Please send questions or comments and any requests to be on our distribution list to 128thmpad@gmail.com.

Contents

- Page 12
- Page 4
- Page 6
- Page 8



Cover: Spc. Joshua Vazquez during the 2012 Regional Best Warrior Competition. Photo by Sgt. Ashley Baum, 128th MPAD.



Recent changes in the TRICARE Dental Program resulted in about 8,000 National Guard and Reserve members to pay dental premiums directly rather than through automatic payroll deduction. Deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity, Army Brig. Gen. W. Bryan Gamble said the affected beneficiaries are aware of the current issue and will not lose dental coverage. Instead of the automatic deduction, beneficiaries will receive paper bills through mail and make dental premium payments by credit card, electronic funds transfer or check.

Metropolitan Life Insurance (MetLife) became the new contractor for TRICARE Dental Program. Both MetLife and TRICARE Management Activity are currently working on solving the payroll deduction issue, allowing service members to continue the payroll deduction option.

Guard and Reserve members who think they may be affected by the TRICARE Dental Program changes should check their leave and earnings statements and call MetLife at 855-638-8371 if a premium payment is not automatically deducted.



President Barack Obama met with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai to discuss the U.S.'s role in the country's near future. The two leaders signed a deal illustrating the decade after the U.S. troops withdrawal in 2014. The agreement stated the U.S. would not build permanent bases or patrol Afghanistan villages or mountains, however, would remain in counter-terrorism and continue training the Afghan military.

The President's secret Afghanistan visit coincided with the anniversary of the Navy SEALs raid that killed Osama bin Laden. While in Afghanistan, President Obama awarded ten purple hearts at the Bagram base hospital.



Over 200 wounded or injured service members, Veterans and almost two dozen British troops competed in the 2012 Warrior Games from April 30 through May 5. The U.S. Olympic Committee hosted the annual event at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Athletes competed in seven events including swimming, shooting, archery and wheel chair basketball. Although many participants fought for the coveted gold medal, the overall tone of the Warrior Games emphasized positive attitude, healthy recovery and to prove life can continue after a life-altering military-related injury.

"I get goosebumps just thinking about

what we're out here doing," said Army Veteran Margaux Vair, who was injured from an improvised explosive device in December 2006. "We're all struggling with our own demons, but out here, everyone is smiling and relaxing and we're not thinking about anything else right now.



Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 145th Artillery Regiment and the Republic of Korea Army's 628th Artillery Battalion conducted a joint artillery live-fire training mission during Foal Eagle 2012 at Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex, South Korea last March.

Both Battalions launched 155mm self-propelled artillery rounds close to the Korean Demilitarization Zone. The exercise allowed Utah and Korean Soldiers to hone their skills while overcoming language barriers and strengthening ties between American and Korean forces.



More than 700 Utah National Guardsmen and over 930,000 Utah residents participated in the state's largest simulated earthquake exercise on April 17 through April 19. The Great Utah ShakeOut was a state-wide event aimed to prepare Utahns for a possible 7.0 magnitude earthquake along the Wasatch Fault Line. After the hypothetical earthquake, Governor

Gary Herbert activated the National Guard to aid in the state-wide emergency. The mass earthquake drill allowed Guardsmen to focus on improving their Emergency Communication Plan and the deployment of troops and communication in a state-wide disaster.

Guardsmen, medical hospitals, first responders, schools, police agencies and other volunteers reacted as they would in a real life earthquake scenario. The 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 65th Fires Brigade, 300th Military Intelligence and 19th Special Forces Group simulated a live earthquake scenario in local communities throughout the state to assist local and state authorities in communication, medical and logistical needs.



Utah National Guardsmen, family members and local residents mourn the loss of one of their own, beloved Army Staff Sgt. Roderick Denzel Hunt. Hunt honorably served the 2nd Battalion 222nd Field Artillery (Triple Deuce) since joining the Utah Army National Guard in February 2000. He was also a highly regarded Warrior Leader Course instructor at the 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute at Camp Williams where he educated and trained future leaders of the Army National Guard. Hunt had recently returned from a year long deployment to Iraq with the Triple Deuce earlier in the year to help in winding down U.S. forces in the country.

Hunt's untimely death on April 30 at the age of 31 will affect the Utah Guard for years to come. Those who served along side him knew Hunt as an outstanding Soldier, leader, husband and dear friend. **S**

Atlas Accord 2012



February 2012 U.S. troops joined seven partner nations in Mali to train each other in air drop techniques for humanitarian purposes and disaster relief. Atlas Accord is an annual exercise that invites troops from all over the world and is hosted by a different African nation each year.

African Lion 2012

Photos by Sgt. Nicolas Cloward, Sgt. Quentin Hendriksen & Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham, 128th MPAD



Members of the Utah Army National Guard deployed to Morocco in April in support of African Lion 2012, an annual joint-combined exercise designed to improve readiness and interoperability between the U.S. and Moroccan forces.



Japanese-Americans honored for service in World War II

When old men talk of war, they often don't say much.

Silence spoke louder than words possibly could for the few dozen Japanese-American veterans who gathered at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City in February to be honored for their extraordinary service during World War II.

Many volunteered to fight for their country even though they suffered terrible discrimination from their government.

"They served even when their country wasn't faithful to them," said one family member.

The "Nisei," or second-generation Japanese, veterans were members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service in World War II. Soldiers of Japanese descent were dismissed from the active-duty military assignments, and Japanese-American civilians were relocated to detention camps under a military order in 1942.

The Japanese Soldiers were sent stateside and reorganized as the 100th Inf. Bn. Military-age men from the camps volunteered to fight and joined the newly organized 442nd.

Now it is left to a younger generation to

speak on their behalf. On February 18, hundreds of people gathered to offer words of gratitude and praise for a group of men whose valor and service speak for themselves. At least four generations participated in the event. Approximately 40 Japanese-Americans participated in the event organized by the Japanese American Citizens League.

Caden, an 11-year-old whose great-grandfather served in the MIS, didn't know much about the man, but he understands the significance of his service.

"My great-grandfather deserved this award. He was treated badly because he was Japanese. I would like to thank him for making it possible for me to be here."

Caden and others were there to see the vets formally honored with the

highest civilian honor possible, on par with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. By an act of Congress, the Gold Medal was awarded collectively to the members of the 100th Inf. Bn.,



442nd RCT, and MIS.

Though the award is a civilian one, it is often given to members of the military, most notably George Washington (its first recipient in 1776), Ulysses S. Grant, Douglas MacArthur, and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Though they join an elite roll of heroes, the Nisei vets had already ascended to the pantheon of U.S. military legends. The 442nd is the most decorated unit in Army history, and has 21 Medal of Honor recipients.

The Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, presented two Bronze Stars at the reception, one to Misao Doi, and another to the son of a vet who had passed away. Tarbet recognized a third vet who had already

received his award at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

Despite their high honors, not a hint of boastfulness or bitterness could be sensed among the vets. The reception featured local dignitaries, religious leaders, and a video address by President Obama.

"I'd ask him about the war. He would often respond with silence," said Bishop Scott Hayashi of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, about his father, who was a soldier in the 442nd.

Another local religious leader, Bishop John C. Wester of the Salt Lake Catholic Diocese, remarked that, "God created us human beings because he loves to hear stories. Their [the Nisei vets'] stories are remarkable and for the ages."

But they were left for others to

tell, and remember.

The state legislature declared Feb. 18 the Utah Day of Remembrance in honor of the Nisei vets and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Utah State Rep. Curtis Oda, himself a Japanese-American, summed up the reason for the event: "The story of these men shows that it's not the appearance of a person or his race that determines loyalty. It's the love that is in his heart." **S**

Above: The honorees gather for a group photo following the ceremony. Left: Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general, Utah National Guard, speaks to those in attendance at the ceremony.

Utah Soldiers document U.S. mission in Mali

Four Soldiers from the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 97th Troop Command, Utah Army National Guard, provided media coverage of Operation Atlas Accord in Mopti, Mali, Jan. 31-Feb. 15.

Operation Atlas Accord is an annual multi-nation partner-training mission with troops from Mali, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Canada, Nigeria, Tunisia, Senegal, and the United States. The purpose of the training event is to improve interoperability in providing humanitarian aid with different aerial-delivery methods to drop food, water and medical supplies by air in an event of a disaster for remote areas in Africa.

Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins, noncommissioned officer in charge of the PA contingent, along with Sgt. Mark Henderson, PA NCO, documented the various events of the operation by taking photographs and writing news and feature articles. Sgt. Lyndsey Prax, PA NCO, provided media coverage by creating video stories and shooting raw video to document the operation. Cpt. Choli Ence was the officer in charge, as well as the media escort for civilian journalists.

"It is important we produce media products to document and tell the story of all the service members from all the partner countries and different units in the exercise," said Hutchins.

During the mission, the MPAD Soldiers not only

told the story of the operation, they were also able to fine-tune their public affairs skills, and their skills in working with people of different cultures.

"We were able to work with the Malians and the partner nations. It was interesting to interact with them and learn about their culture and language and also get to know them as counterparts," said Prax.

Annual Training missions are usually geared toward real-world missions so the National Guard Soldiers can be proficient in their jobs.

"Even though things didn't always go according to plan, we worked together as a team and had a successful mission," said Henderson.

"Prax and Henderson did awesome over there," said Hutchins. "They stayed on task and had a good idea of what the focus was and stayed engaged while being resourceful to be able to accomplish their missions."

All in all these Soldiers were able to put their media coverage skills to work in the field while working alongside people of other cultures.

"The mission was a great experience to work with members of the partner nations and experience the culture in Mali," said Henderson. "The Malian people are one of the nicest people I have met. I am very grateful to have been able to work along side them and I hope one day to return to Mali." 



Top: Staff Sgt. Shana Hutchins moves in for the shot. Sgt. Mark Henderson (center) and Sgt. Lyndsey Prax (left) shoot the breeze with Malian Soldiers.

Show me your Best Warrior Face

Utah Soldiers represent the state in the Region VII Best Warrior Competition



Utah Army National Guard Soldiers proved they're the best of the best at the 2012 Region VII Best Warrior Competition at Camp San Luis Obispo, April 22-26.

Spc. Joshua Vazquez, small arms repairman with Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Pace, human resources non-commissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, competed against Soldiers and NCOs representing Arizona, Colorado, California, Nevada, New Mexico and the territory of Guam, all contending for the coveted title of Region VII

Best Warrior.

California Army National Guard hosted the event where participants pushed themselves to excel in physically and mentally exhausting tasks and skills in day and night land navigation, marksmanship, combat readiness training, physical readiness training, hand-to-hand combatives and a six-mile foot march.

"It's probably the most difficult thing I've ever done," said Vazquez. "It was exhausting. Every time I went to bed at night, I was thinking, 'Man, am I going to wake up in the morning? Will I be able to do anything?' But I'd wake up and think, 'Alright, let's go. Let's do this next event.'"

Vazquez and Pace had little time to rest in between many of the events. In the Military Operations on Urban Terrain event, competitors were evaluated in hand grenade knowledge and throwing tech-

niques, engaging in enemy targets in urban settings, successfully firing the Army's newly minted M320 grenade launcher, evacuating a 180 pound casualty uphill, and calling in a medical evacuation. After completing the tasks, Pace and Vazquez immediately traded their combat boots for a pair of running shoes and ran nearly four miles through various terrain from the ranges back to post.

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

The mystery event caught most Region VII competitors by surprise. Pace and Vazquez had to sink or

swim as they were tested in water survival in a freezing cold swimming pool. Tasks included treading water for five minutes while keeping their earlobes above water, retrieving three, color-coded canteens in a specific sequence from one side of the pool to the other, and lugging a floating, 30 pound rucksack and rubber M16 assault rifle the entire length of the pool.

Once competitors dried off and changed clothes, they seamlessly transitioned to the next BWC event: the unknown-distance foot march. With a 35-pound rucksack and an M16 in hand, the Utah Soldiers trekked on paved and dirt roads for nearly six miles. During the event, Pace and Vazquez not only had to battle the heat, humidity and sun, but also a massive hill that seemed to go on for miles.

"That ruck march was extremely difficult," said Pace. "That hill was insane. I knew it was going to be a

Opposite: Staff Sgt. Matt Pace, after the water survival event. Below, from left to right: Pace struggles to drag a human dummy; Spc. Joshua Vazquez and Pace during the APFT event; Vasquez trots toward the finish line.



long trek up that hill, but I kept moving and just told myself I'm not going to quit."

Pace snagged first place in the march, completing the event in one hour and 24 minutes.

"I just tried to keep the same pace the whole time," said Pace. "I always focused on the guy ahead of me...and taking as many steps as possible to catch up to him. (Once I passed him), I'd focus on the next guy and then the next until I passed everyone. Then I pushed myself to gain distance ahead of everyone."

Vazquez finished first in the M4/M9 fire event, a

timed move-and-shoot scenario where he alternated between the M4 assault rifle and the M9 pistol and tested his aiming, firing and breathing techniques.

The BWC concluded with a Region VII awards banquet. Nevada's Spc. Julian Batz, 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Regiment, was announced the Soldier of the Year, and Colorado's Staff Sgt. Eugene Patton, 117th Space Battalion, was named the NCO of the Year.

Although Vazquez and Pace won't continue on to 2012 National BWC, they both said it was an honor to represent Utah as the Soldier and NCO competitors in Region VII.

"It's a character test for yourself," said Vazquez. "(When you compete in events like this), people look up to you."

"I think it's a great motivator for NCOs and Soldiers (to participate in these competitions)," said Pace. "Not only do you get to represent your state, you're representing your chain of command and your leadership. I think it's important to showcase the abilities of the National Guard and show Big Army that we can compete on their level." **S**



Above: Vazquez threads his way through the Weaver, a wooden structure with a ten foot peak, during the obstacle course event. Opposite, top to bottom, left to right: Pace grimaces as he drags a casualty. Vazquez keeps his head above water. Pace with a grenade launcher. Vazquez tires to choke out an opponent. Bottom: Pace and Vazquez, trophies in hand, flank Command Sgt. Major Bruce Summers along with loved ones, sponsors and command reps.



Mentorship

About a month ago I read an article online about Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's speech to Soldiers at Fort Benning, Ga., in early May, in which he addressed recent incidents of misconduct involving U.S. service members. We are all familiar with the incidents he was referring to: Marines urinating on the dead bodies of enemy fighters, Soldiers tossing copies of the Koran confiscated from prisoners into a burn pit, an Army staff sergeant charged with 16 counts of murder after he apparently left a base in Afghanistan and killed villagers in their homes. The article quoted Mr. Panetta as saying that such misconduct can "impact the mission that we're engaged in, they can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale and they can damage our standing in the world." There shouldn't be any doubt about this fact: When one of us in uniform screws up, we all lose. In the same article, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, is quoted as saying that these kinds of misconduct can "impact the mission that we're engaged in, they can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale and they can damage our standing in the world." No doubt.

And then the article quoted Gen. Dempsey as acknowledging that "mentoring has suffered a bit" during the last decade. As I've thought about it, I think Gen. Dempsey is right on: Mentorship has been left behind in the dust of multiple combat tours. Deployments have been the focus for 10 years now, and if a unit isn't currently deployed, they're either prepping to go overseas or just coming back. We've been focused on MOS skills, basic Soldier Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, on our wives and

children and families. We've been meaningfully taking care of very important tasks, engaging as it were the 50-meter targets, the Fast Freddie's, before moving on to the more distant silhouettes downrange. But the Fast Freddie's just keep popping their heads above the berm and we keep on knocking them over. But being unable to effectively shift our focus to the more distant targets, we have lost sight of those more distant targets, the ones less prescient but just as important in the long term, targets like mentorship.

Though Gen. Dempsey didn't expound much on what he meant when he said that mentorship has suffered, what I think he meant is that we need leaders—women and men who stand for something other than self, who uphold some sort of ethical standard, who take care of others first, and who can see past the hatred and misperceptions and racism that can become embedded in a Soldier's heart from so much war and fighting—to stand up and become mentors for those around them. We absolutely need Leaders with a capital L now in the Army, perhaps more than any other time in our history. We certainly need officers and NCOs who are highly skilled, knowledgeable and proficient in their various jobs; more importantly, we need officers and NCOs with strength of character to help mentor others to be the same. We need leader-mentors.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a mentor is defined as "a person who acts as guide and adviser to another person, especially one who is younger and less experienced." It also says that a mentor is someone "who offers support and guidance to another; an experienced and trusted counselor or friend." Guide. Advisor. Support. Guidance. Trusted counselor. Friend.

Those words should resonate in all we do.

Mentorship in the military has to go deeper than simply telling subordinates what to do. Mentorship is not simply corrective in nature, but is rather an act of nurturing. A true mentor will uphold standards and be honest with the expectations they have for their subordinates, but he or she will also act as a trustworthy guide, through both action and example, teaching the "why" and "how" behind their actions. The relationship between that of mentor and mentee is a close one of mutual support and trust. The relationship between mentor and mentee, dare I say, should also be one of mutual friendship.

The Army Leadership manual (FM 6-22) discusses mentoring in Chapter 8, and provides its own definition: "Mentorship is the voluntary developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect" (pg. 8-14). What strikes me about the Army's definition of mentorship is the use of the word "voluntary." According to the Army's definition, true mentorship cannot be forced or coerced. It can't be demanded or required. The mentor/mentee relationship doesn't exist due to duty assignment or chain of command, nor can it be ordered or commanded. FM 6-22 even goes so far as to say that the "focus of mentorship is the voluntary mentoring that goes beyond the chain of command" (8-14, italics added). Mentorship exists when both parties enter into and maintain the mentor/mentee relationship mutually, voluntarily, and respectfully.

I have worked with many leaders during my military career, as well as with leaders and bosses in the civilian world, and though I would love to say that they were all great mentors, that would be an obvious

stretch. I have run into some amazing leaders who have taught me, helped me, and yes, who have been mentors to me. But they are certainly not the majority. Out of those leader-mentors who have impacted my life in wonderful and unexpected ways, both military and non, the few who stand out most not only taught me about whatever job I was doing, or about being a good Soldier, but they also taught me about what it means to be a good, honest, kind person since they were, first and foremost, great people themselves, intent on helping me become better than they were.

I know that when I leave the Army for good, I want to leave some sort of legacy behind. We all want that, in some form, whether in our civilian lives or as Soldiers. A legacy of being a hard worker or a highly skilled professional or of being a solid NCO would be great; I hope that such is the case. But on top of all that, I hope I leave behind a legacy of being a good person who has tried to help others in his care be better than he has been, who has tried to be a mentor both as a Soldier and as a human being.

My definition of mentorship may or may not jive with Gen. Dempsey's when he said "mentoring has suffered a bit," and it doesn't matter if they coincide or not. What matters is that all of us both seek and provide mentorship in meaningful ways, and that we do so with attitudes of respect, trust, friendship, and may I even say, with love. **S**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, left, meets with Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, the commander of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 23, 2012. DoD photo by D. Myles Cullen.



Parting Shot



The sun goes down over the Niger River in Mali, Africa. Many Soldiers were able to experience this sight at the end of the day during Atlas Accord 2012, a humanitarian training mission sponsored by U.S. Army Africa. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shana R. Hutchins, 128th MPAD.